

## IN THE MIRROR

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WHILE Mr. Seddon's Premiership was distinguished chiefly by audacity in social legislation and the trying out of ideas which had been talked of elsewhere but not put into practice, to Mr. Massey fell the task of piloting the country through the turmoil of the war years, and though the Great War was not in sight when his Premiership began it would have been difficult to find a public man more fitted to the task that fortune allotted to him. His robust optimism, sound commonsense, and dogged perseverance were just the qualities needed through the weary four years of war. Mr. Massey was the captain of the storm; indeed, his whole political career was no bed of roses, first with the long uphill fight in Opposition, then immediately on taking office the big waterside strike, a bitter fight that lasted four months, and then the war and its long aftermath. Mr. Massey had earned easy years, but only in the grave are they his. Nevertheless, as the poet says:

*Sleep after toyle, port after stormie seas,  
Ease after care, death after life,  
does greatly please.*

NATURALLY the question of the hour is who is to succeed to the vacant throne? Who is capable of adequately shouldering the onerous burdens that Mr. Massey bore so efficiently? Probably the choice may be limited to three names: Mr. Downey Stewart, Mr. J. G. Coates and Mr. McLeod—from these three it is almost certain that the selection will be made. All New Zealand knows that Mr. William Downey Stewart was badly injured in the War; indeed, it is a most extraordinary thing that with his physical disability, his mentality has never been impaired. During the Massey regime he was the backbone of the Government regarding all matters of finance, the portfolio of finance having been held by Mr. Massey for years. No one in this country could possibly doubt the fact that the finance of this country has been carried on with notable success. The burden of office during the last days of Mr.

Massey's illness was alleviated by the fact that he had behind him such a man as William Downey Stewart. It is to be hoped that in view of the cable received from New York recently that Mr. Downey Stewart will soon be able to return and take charge of the most important portfolio in any Government, namely Finance.

Possibly, however, Mr. Stewart will consider the load of leadership beyond his strength, though it would indeed be sad if injuries received in the service of the Empire should prohibit his further advancement.

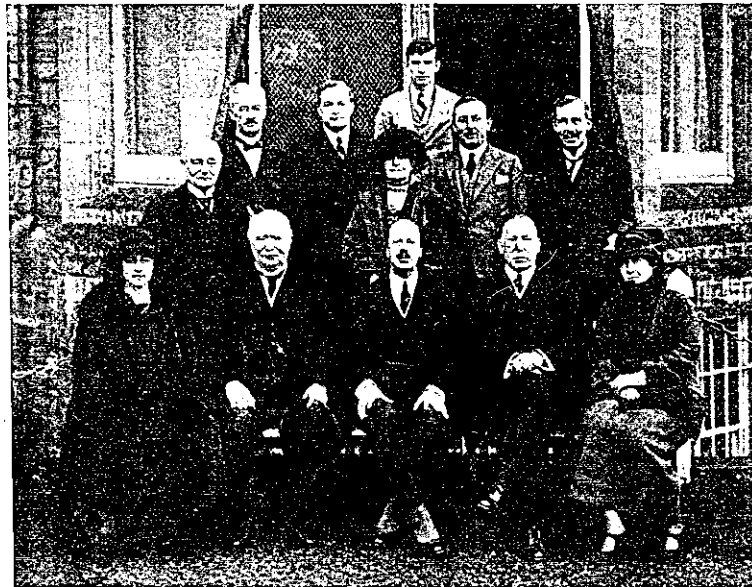
Mr. J. G. Coates' administration of the various departments under his control has been marked by noteworthy efficiency, and his tactful yet firm handling of more than one crisis has proved that he possesses some of the virtues that one requires in a Party Leader and in an even greater degree in a Prime Minister, whilst Mr. McLeod has served his Party and the Dominion faithfully and well in many spheres.



THE PRINCE OF WALES' HOST AND HOSTESS  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone,  
with their daughter, Lady May Cambridge

Topical Press, photo, London



MR. MASSEY'S LAST VISIT TO HIS HOME

Mr. Massey, with Sir James and Lady Craig in Ulster, where he was born. A photograph taken during his last visit Home. Front row—Lady Craig, Mr. Massey, His Grace the Governor of Northern Ireland, Sir James Craig, and Mrs. Chichester. Second row—Sir James and Lady Allen. Third row—Mr. H. T. B. Drew, Mr. Blackmore, Master James Craig, Mr. F. D. Thomson, and Col. Spencer, D.S.O.



WOMEN FASCISTI

Though until recently Italian women took up little interest in politics, to-day they are playing a large part in the somewhat troublesome development of Italy. Our photograph shows a "march past" of Women Fascisti, which was recently reviewed by Signor Mussolini.

It is to be hoped that whoever takes over Mr. Massey's mantle will be endowed with some of his gifts, and also that he will not be faced with the same tasks and problems that the late Leader handled with such energy and foresight. One of the wonders of the British Empire has been that the need has always produced the man and doubtless we shall find it so in this case. A Prime Minister must, however, be more than a skilled party-politician—he must, at times, be ready to sacrifice politics to policy—party needs to statesmanship.

AMONGST interesting events that are shortly to be staged in Auckland are the "Musical Competitions." These are timed for July and we shall have more to say about them in our next issue. We hear, however, that they are embracing a wider field than last year, and are more on the lines of those held in other centres in the Dominion.

THE Extremist is possibly one of the worst enemies a convalescent world has to encounter: the War apparently left his energies unimpaired, and though often we can give him the credit of meaning well—a dreadful indictment—he is a very virulent and potent force for evil. Unfortunately, we seem to veer to Extremism in every direction—no sooner have reformers accomplished their purpose than they in their turn become as dangerous foes to real progress as the evil they overcame.

No one will deny that there were, for instance, many crying abuses that needed redress in the conditions of the working classes a few years ago—now we are threatened by the possibility of labour becoming a harder taskmaster than ever was Capital.

Autocracy had many faults—and when it had run rampant, deserved but little sympathy, but Bolshevism is an even greater peril to the world than the worse menace of aristocratic domination.

To oppose Bolshevism was created, as every force must, by the law of Nature, create, a resisting force: Fascism, and to-day this has become an intolerant, overbearing power, exacting an unjust retribution from any party or person that dare oppose it.

Mussolini and his supporters may have saved Italy from the Bolshevik—but who will save Italy from Mussolini?

### A Three-Year-Old worth Watching

WITH this issue THE LADIES' MIRROR completes its third volume and I think my readers will agree that the promises made a year ago have been most amply fulfilled.

In our next issue will be outlined some of the ambitious plans that are in hand for the coming twelve months; and though I think we can unblushingly claim that, judged on the present issue, we hold pride of place amongst Australasian monthlies—another year will see even more remarkable progress than the last twelve months has witnessed.

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