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1903-04 We desire to thank our friends for their liberal patronage extended during the year just closed and to assure them of our appreciation of the same and take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

A. P. CHOWN, 105 PRINCE STREET.

THE WHIG—70th YEAR THE DAILY BRITISH WHIG is published every evening at 506-508-510 King Street, Kingston, Ont., at six dollars per year, payable in advance. Advertisements, per line, six lines and over—first insertion, 12c.; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 8c. Births, Marriages or Deaths, one in section, 50c.; two insertions, 75c. Wants, Lost and Found, Personals, Articles for sale, etc., 1c. per word in daily issue, minimum charge, 25c.; three insertions, 50c. Notices in reading columns are subject to special charges. All advertisements and subscriptions are due and payable in advance. Officers of unincorporated associations or societies will be held personally responsible for orders they give. Contracts for a special space are made for long terms for mercantile announcements, but notices of help wanted, for sale, lost, partnerships, tenders or goods or manufactures for sale are excluded from these contracts. In case an advertiser becomes insolvent before the expiration of a contract the advertising shall cease and that performed become due immediately at the rate charged per line for casual advertisements. The publisher will not be responsible for misunderstanding of verbal orders. Written directions should be placed on all copy for insertion. All advertisements are subject to the approval of the publisher. In case of errors or omissions in legal or any other advertisements, the publisher does not hold himself liable for damage further than the amount received by him for such advertisement. THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 12 pages, 84 columns, is published every Thursday morning at 50c. per copy in advance, otherwise \$1.50 per year. Attached to the paper is one of the best Job Offices in Canada; rapid, stylish and cheap work; also improved printing services. British Whig Publishing Co., Limited, EDW. J. B. FENNER, Managerial Director.

THE DAILY WHIG. "Opus per Orben Deorum." MR. BLAIR'S GOOD OFFICE. Hon. A. G. Blair has resigned his place in the federal parliament and accepted the chairmanship of the railway commission. For this the common legislature at its last session. Mr. Blair is the most competent man in Canada for the position. He was the ablest minister of railways the country ever had. He differed with the government as to the Grand Trunk Pacific's eastern section, but that did not affect his standing as an authority on railways, their rights and privileges under Canadian laws. The statute which directs this commission—the statute which in its detail involved an immense amount of labour and a great knowledge of railway matters—was Mr. Blair's creation and his discussion of its various phases in parliament was of the most exhaustive character. Clearly the man who framed such a measure will be the best able to apply and enforce it. Mr. Blair is to be congratulated upon his appointment, and the government is to be congratulated upon securing his services.

ALDERMAN CRAIG RETIRES. The mayoralty contest has undergone a significant change by the retirement of Alderman Craig. He did not do this without considerable thought. He came out as a candidate at the solicitation of personal friends. They recognized him as a man of rare business ability and business integrity. He was not anxious for public office and public responsibility, but he did not shrink from the invitation to enter a campaign for the mayoralty. The difficulties of a triangular contest were presented when Mayor Bell offered for a second term. The favour with which a continuation of office is regarded in other cities did not seem to impress his worship very much until he thought he might run in between Alderman Craig and Mr. Graham. He hesitated yet while he became convinced that these two were settled in their plans. Then he was prepared to make personal and professional sacrifice afresh for the coveted honour. Singular to say in the meantime many wicked stories and roorbacks, injuring Alderman Craig, were given currency. All these fictions could not be traced by Alderman Craig. Some of them were circulated cravenly and privately. His course seemed to be clear, though he wanted to consult his friends. They decided upon his withdrawal, reluctantly, but as the wiser proceeding under the circumstances. The situation may not be so pleasant to Mayor Bell to-day. He ran in between two candidates last year, but he cannot do it again. Some of his political friends applauded the attacks that were made in the city hall on Alderman Craig. With Mr. Craig removed, how will he fare? The reasoning of his friends is not a secret. Mr. Graham was expected to take the labor vote and more liberal than conservative votes, and Dr. Bell was expected to get enough of his own party to give him the election. What about the outlook now? Some days ago it was announced that the conservative party was "bound to do all in its power" for Dr. Bell. It was announced that he was "pushed forward by the conservatives, as a solid phalanx," and there was no apprehension of his defeat! But at that time he had not the conservative labour vote behind him, and it is not behind him now.

Mr. Ross does not seem to be disconcerted about the election in North Renfrew. He has not decided yet to pass over the keys of office to Mr. Whitney or Mr. Gagey.

DR. BELL'S OFFENCE. There can be no objection to the jubilant mood of the conservative party in Kingston over the North Renfrew election. The conservative party has not had much occasion to rejoice in the past, and any little ray of comfort that comes to it must be very pleasant. One of the speakers at the meeting on Monday evening, however, was somewhat indiscreet. Dr. Bell said he was sure of victory in the municipal election, "but it would be humiliating for him to preside next year over a grit council." The remark is specially attractive because it conveys a reflection which ought to be, and probably will be, resented at the polls.

The liberals had no occasion to feel ashamed of the men who have professed the same political faith and had seats at the council board. The liberals who served the people this year in the civic government have been mentally, morally and every other way quite as creditable as the gentlemen with whom Dr. Bell has been allied. Indeed the occasions for offensive language in public places—the instances in which the dignity of the chair, and the men who sat in it, was at stake—were not of the liberals' making. The liberals, on the contrary, poured oil and wine, metaphorically speaking, into the mayor's wounds, and helped to restore peace and harmony. Such being the case—the fact appearing that the liberals sought to make the work of the mayor pleasant in place of embarrassing—he should be above the task of reflecting upon their worth.

The remark which Dr. Bell made on Monday evening, as reported in the press—that to preside over a grit council would be a humiliation to him—is an insult which will be remembered. A conservative authority announces that "the machine must have spent \$50,000" in North Renfrew. How much of it did the conservative machinists dispose of? It is alleged that Dr. Bell has been nominated for a second term in the mayoralty as a means to an end. He has had political aspirations. His defeat now would end them. Mr. Tarte is going to Rouville "to make a speech Rouville is the constituency which Mr. Brodeur represents, and while in office he cannot discuss politics. Is that brave of Mr. Tarte?" Bob Berningham, who managed the conservative election in North Renfrew, alleges that the machine has been smashed and put out of commission. So that it will never be heard of again. Whose was it anyway?

In Hamilton, where the political machine is operated for all it is worth, there are thirteen liberals, sixteen conservatives, and four other candidates in the field. Such a thing as a council of one political stripe is simply impossible.

Elijah H. (John Alexander Dowle) is leaving for Australia and will be away several months. He says he is taking with him only enough money to pay his expenses. "Tis well. Zion City will be safe till he returns. The conservative party in Kingston is not in a position to talk much about parity of elections. The man who alleged that he and his friends had been "beaten at their own game," has especially no call to reflect upon his opponents.

Goldwin Smith advises the dismissal of the Ontario government if it does not resign. The lieutenant-governor is too shrewd a man to act unconstitutionally, and it is unconstitutional to remove a government which has the backing of a majority in the legislature.

The Mail is determined that the Grand Trunk Pacific contract shall cease. But the Mail and its friends are not the masters in this matter. The government appears to be satisfied with the deposit of \$5,000,000 preferential bonds, and the Grand Trunk company goes in with the road.

A Happy Re-Union. Waverville, Dec. 29.—On Wednesday Miss Isabelle Cronk was united to Ernest Bertram, Parham. She will be greatly missed, as she was the organist in the Methodist church at Waverville. On Thursday, December 24th, a grand ball was given at Arden. A merry load from here and from McLean attended it, and danced until five o'clock in the morning. Miss M. McCumber is home from Kingston for a week's visit. On Christmas night a party was given by W. Wager, and a pleasant evening was spent. Mrs. E. Walker is home from Brockville, N. Y., after an absence of six months. On Sunday last a number of friends and relatives spent Sunday at William McCumber's. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. Wager, Mr. and Mrs. McCumber, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wager, Miss A. Wager, Miss Maud McCumber, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Wager. A pleasant day was spent. Christmas brings joys; it also brings grief. On Thursday last Miss M. Johnson passed away after two years' illness. Visitors: B. Cronk at G. Sills'; John Vanvolkenburgh at S. Cronk's; H. Cronk at S. Fox's; D. McCumber at W. Wager's; T. McCumber at A. Wager's.

ABOLISH WARDS ALDERMAN MEEKS' SECOND LETTER ON QUESTION. Experiences in London and Hamilton — The Election System Prostituted by The Political Parties—The Place of The Democracy. II. I now come to the political aspect of an aldermanic election by general vote. I have corresponded with several places and asked for a candid expression of men's minds upon the subject. I have desired no partial statement. I have not wished to deceive the people or myself. I have heard from some points. From others there has been no response. In respect to politics some people have suddenly become very sensitive. They have been the keenest politicians, have looked at most public issues from a political standpoint, have argued and voted politically in municipal elections, and are now the advocates of intensifying this feeling by a change of tactics. No politics in municipal elections! What about the present municipal campaign?

Let me say that I did not expect to see politics' eliminators from the council. I did not, however, look for any more of it under one system of election than under another. The Change in London By a vote of the people some years ago the city had not been learned by one—and a vote that was very large, it was decided to reduce the number of wards from six to four, with three representatives for each, or a total of twelve, as compared with eighteen previously. The aldermen are elected by the whole people, and not by wards, "and, as in every other matter," writes a correspondent, "there are things to be said for and against the new plan. The idea of ex-Alderman Graham, in proposing the abolition of wards, was to prevent ward grabbing, and while this aim has been accomplished it can be said that certain parts of the city are now neglected for the reason that they have elected an alderman in the council who happens to live in those parts."

The council during the last two years appears to have become a political machine, as the following, taken from the Advertiser of the 25th will show: "Last year and this year we have had a council controlled by an outside organization. Municipal appointments have been made by a non-municipal club and the majority of the aldermen have been so many rubber stamps to register the decrees of the wirepullers of the conservative club. The system has been perfected under Mayor Beck, who has shown a new and rabid species of party treason. The aldermanic slate is drawn up in the club, and the names of the machine nominees are printed on cardboard slips for distribution among the voters. The conservative alderman who dares to kick over the party traces knows that he must pay the penalty. His name is left of the ticket as an intimation to the faithful to give him the knife on election day. "The system has its disadvantages and the beses are finding that their chickens are coming home to roost. As a place on the ticket is an assurance of getting the party vote, more or less, a competition has developed in which is very disturbing to the plans of the machine. Some party hoppers, who are not wanted, are pressing for recognition and one or two of the aldermen, who are no strength to the ticket, object to being dropped. It is no secret that a lively row is in progress behind the scenes. "A great many conservatives deprecate the present state of affairs and are ready to support good men, who will not be dominated by either political party. It is a reproach to the city of London, that it has tolerated this machine rule for two years. The jack-in-the-box candidates should be marked for defeat, and if a few men of the right calibre will come out of the independent men in both parties, who regard any connection between party politics and municipal administration as a detriment to the best interest of the city."

Mark you there is not a syllable in all this which indicates that the system of election is to blame. Some people have simply politics on their fatiguation into the council and into all its proceedings. The dominant party is conservative.

Experience in Hamilton. Hamilton has been repeatedly referred to by correspondents. Months ago the Whig quoted from the letter of Mayor Gordon to the Toronto News. He is not an admirer of the election of alderman at large, and there are others. I wanted a criticism from an independent source, from one who is not in the council and not connected with its devices, and I got it. An elector wrote me: "You ask my opinion of the working of the new system. Perhaps it is a conclusion on the subject, but one thing is certain—the change has not wrought the great benefits that its advocates predicted. They asserted, confidently, that it would bring about the election of a better class of aldermen. It has not. "No doubt one reason for this is that a better class of candidates had not offered for election. But it was pronounced as one of the benefits of the change that a better class of citizens would come forward as aldermanic candidates. "To my mind a decided evil resulting from the new system is the intensifying of party spirit, which it has brought about. Under the ward system, it is true, there was always more or less party rivalry, and the council would be sometimes split on party lines, but the elections were never conducted as party contests. "Now the election of aldermen is as much a party affair as the election of members of parliament. Each party organization brings out its ticket, and the faithful are expected to rally to its support. The whole power of the grit and tory machine is brought to bear to secure the triumph of the party tickets. The result is

that all through the year questions are regarded in a partisan spirit rather than on their merits. "The grit minority is tempted to oppose measures proposed by the party in power, and the tories are inclined to look upon proposals emanating from the grit minority as bids for popularity and attempts to manufacture political capital. "However, it must be admitted that so far the civic government has not suffered from the dominance of the tories and their conduct of affairs on party lines, although all appointments have gone to tories, the appointees having mostly been fairly qualified men."

Such as Hamilton's remarkable record, as sketched by an independent pen, and excepting London's it is without a parallel. These are the only instances in which politics have been carried to extremes and under such circumstances, are they to be taken as safe and infallible guides? Apathy of The People. It is the opinion of some thoughtful men that it is the supreme indifference of the masses that makes municipal politics defective. "The bulk of the electors do not concern themselves about the proceedings of the council," said one writer. "They are not, therefore, very much concerned about the candidates for municipal office, and some will not, however capable they may be, offer themselves as candidates."

It was this indifference that caused the Toronto Star, on a recent occasion, to break out in indignant language, and to pronounce the conditions which existed in Toronto as most unseemly. "There is," it remarked, "too much talk to sectional or ward influences and too little appeal to the whole city. It would be different in retention of office was not the supreme object of these representatives of the people. The city needs representatives who will at all times be governed by the popular sentiment of the people, but not men whose sole object is to use every side wind that promises aid to re-election. Eliminate the talk that is spent in the various municipal bodies to secure the support of a street here, and the sympathy of a few ratepayers there, and the transaction of the city's business will not prove an exacting task. "This is an angry protest against the apishness of the best men, and their refusal to engage in municipal life. But incidentally it is a condemnation of the ward system of electing the aldermen. Place of The Democracy. Reference has been made to the fact that the election of aldermen at large would be a decided disadvantage to the property owners. That point has been enlarged by me so that it may not be misunderstood. It is a mistake, however, to picture the manhood suffragists as largely the producers of evil in the political system. "It seems unfitting," says one correspondent, "that one not having similar (fixed) interests should select men to make laws for both himself and those whose interests are quite unlike his own. "It must be remembered that councils do more than levy taxes. They have to do with measures which affect the well-being of the people, and so far as the public health, the order and decorum of the people, the administration of justice and such things are concerned the man of intelligence has as much right to be consulted as the man of wealth. But the council can tax the people until, as the mayor last January observed, they group under the burden, and it is hence desired that the members of it shall, as far as possible, have property interests in the city. At the same time it is inexpedient to offend, unnecessarily, manhood suffragists. "I have something further to say on this matter, and will embody it in one more and concluding letter. —R. MEEK.

A Popular Teacher. Brewer's Mills, Dec. 28.—School closed on Tuesday, with the usual exercises. A large audience assembled to show their interest in the advancement of the pupils. After the exercises the teacher, Miss Berrigan, was presented by her pupils with a handsome glove box and a costly parlor lamp. The address of the pupils was read by Miss N. Murray, and the gifts were handed over by Misses N. Murray and H. Webb. We are pleased to hear that Charles Rochefort, dangerously ill of typhoid fever at Port Huron is improving. Mr. and Mrs. S. Koeler and family, Manitowish, have arrived to spend the winter with her mother, Mrs. Fisher, and his parents in Keelville. Miss L. Fisher, Kingston, is spending holidays at her home. E. J. and R. Murray have returned from Buffalo, where they spent the past summer sailing. They were accompanied by their cousin, J. Murray of Buffalo. Miss M. Berrigan and F. Dunn, Kingston, are spending holidays at the home of the former. Misses C. Rochefort, Vermont, and C. Rochefort, Kingston, are visiting at J. Rochefort's. F. Rochefort has returned from the United States, where he spent the past two months. Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith, Harrowsmith, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Orr and family of Sunbury, spent Christmas with Mrs. W. Fisher.

Look at The Record. The bye-election record for the present Ontario parliamentary term is: Won by Liberals. North Grey North Perth North Norfolk Saul Ste. Marie North York—5. Won by Conservatives. Centre Bruce Muskoka North Renfrew—3.

So far as "the popular wave" is concerned, it can scarcely be said to be with Mr. Whitney. Attacked By Highwaymen. New York, Dec. 29.—Dr. J. M. Otto was found unconscious early to-day on the sidewalk at Fifth avenue and 30th street. The back of his skull had been crushed and he died soon afterwards. To all appearances the doctor was a victim of a highwayman, who had been frightened off before he had time to search the dying man's pockets.

Right Prices Some clothiers think that in order to conduct a retail clothing business it is necessary to advertise day after day, week in and week out: "Men's \$15 Suits and Overcoats special to-day \$10," and "Men's \$10 Suits and Overcoats special at \$5." These values exist on paper only and the customer never gets them; in fact he never expects to find them. People are disgusted with this method of advertising. What Makes Trade? It's the pleased customer telling his friends where he was treated right and where his money was well spent. We treat our patrons fairly—give them scripture measure for their money, and guarantee every article of clothing we sell. One tells another and so our business grows. P.S.—ASK TO SEE Our Chamberlain Overcoat at \$13.50. Our Westminister Overcoat at \$12.50. Our Grosvenor Overcoat at \$10. THE H. D. BIBBY CO. Cash and One Price Clothing House, Oak Hall.

WARM FEET! If You Want Warm Feet Wear OVERSHOES Men's Overshoes, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.50. Ladies' Overshoes, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2. The Sawyer Shoe Store

REMEMBER That we are just as well prepared to serve those of our customers who leave off to do their shopping for New Year's as we have been for those who buy before Christmas. We are sure to please you! Greeting! We wish to thank our numerous friends for the liberal patronage tendered us during the past year and hope they will continue same, and take pleasure in wishing all A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Jos. Abramson, The People's Clothier and Gents' Furnisher, 180 Princess Street. REMEMBER THE PLACE—Between Rodden's and Crawford's.

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STOCK, GRAIN & COMMODITIES We beg to announce that we have opened a branch office in Exchange Street, 114 Brock Street, with direct connections to all the leading stock and commodity markets. We buy stocks outright for cash or on margin, all orders are executed at legitimate exchange. The latest advices from New York, Boston, London and Toronto, are always at our office for the benefit of the stock in the markets. McMillan & Macdonald Exchange Chamber 114 Brock Street Kingston, Ontario and Peterboro.

COMMERCIAL MONTREAL MARKET... NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE... The remains of the late Parillo will be brought to burial. J. S. Hamm, Napanee, was interred today.