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DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 206-210 King street, Kingston, Ontario, at \$6 per year. Editions at 2.30 and 4 o'clock, p.m.

WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 16 pages, published in parts on Monday and Tuesday morning at \$1 a year. To United States, charge for postage has to be added, making price of Daily \$3 and of Weekly \$1.50 per year.

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## Daily Whig.

### THE DYING YEAR.

The old year dies to-night, and many will watch its departure with all the solemnity that is felt by those who attend the couch of a dying friend. The events of a year are like the events of the individual, some cheerful, some sad, some inspiring, some discouraging, some unlooked for, some anticipated, but all making up a varied and thoughtful experience.

The world is getting older, its population is gradually increasing. Civilization is being vastly extended. The outlook is, therefore, ever widening, and the retrospect is ever depressing. There are greater happenings—in accidents, calamities, cyclones, crimes—the whole constituting chronicles whose perusal is very powerful. One reflects upon the misfortunes of 1908 gloomily. The brightness of its future, as it was welcomed a twelve months ago, symbolized by the youth who was so animated, hopeful and buoyant, has been overshadowed by the reverses of time. Hence the adieu of the old year is, as usual, very touching.

As the midnight hour arrives, and church bells peel out the advent of the new year, however, the heart is cheered again, and every one will fervently wish his friends and fellow men all the gladness and prosperity kind hearts can suggest.

We must read the records of 1908—as given in other columns—for the lessons they afford. Mentally there should be the annual stock-taking of the year the better to understand its successes or failures. Then rising from the contemplation of the past the determination can be the better reached to make 1909 what it ought to be. Life is pretty much what we make it. Let us then, by a new consecration, by a new consideration of our time and talents to good or useful works, make these a benefit to ourselves and a benediction to others.

A man in Toronto who shot his wife, and meant to murder her, jumped into the harbour, but was rescued. Now he finds fault because he was not allowed to drown. The men who pulled him out of the water should be censured.

### LOOSE SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions in the United States, and especially in the larger cities, are apparent in the murders that occur. These crimes follow the brain storms which affect some men. The Thaw case gave rise to new experiences in the courts, in that appeals were not made to the written law and to the justice for which it provided, but to the unwritten law and the protection which it afforded. A revelation came from the jury room, however, and to the effect that the peers of the prisoner gave the unwritten law no consideration.

It has not been abandoned, however, but has been repeatedly referred to for the salvation of men who embroiled their hands in the blood of their fellows. It is being depended upon now for the life of Capt. Hains, of the U. S. army, who at a summer resort some months ago shot down one Hains because of alleged familiarity with Capt. Hains' wife. The Thaw case is being revived to some extent in the effort to secure sympathy for the criminal. The attempt is being made to show that the captain was mentally beside himself, even crazed, by the stories which he heard. The brain storm and the murder followed.

The unwritten law should have no place in the court, and there would be less occasion to resent it if social life were purer than it is. The sins of society are rank, indeed, and the diabolists very numerous. If something does not happen to improve conditions God help the coming generation.

The aldermen who find fault because the pavement by-law was defeated in the council have themselves to blame. Why did they not decide what kind of pavement the city should put down?

### CONSERVING AN HERITAGE.

The Canadian and Mexican governments will surely act on the suggestion of the president of the United States and appoint delegates who will meet in Washington and consider how the vast, the immeasurable, material resources of our country may be conserved. The idea is not to debate the land-or forest policies of the respective nationalities, but to consider how our great national possessions may be saved from undue loss, waste, or destruction.

The specialists who are employed by the governments have been doing their

best to sound a warning note, and, up to the present, with very indifferent results. There is an impression abroad that there is no appreciable limit to our resources, and it is a great mistake. The United States is realizing now the consequences of its improvidence, and its government is doing what it can to guard and protect what remains of its wealth in forest and field. The Canadian governments are not so sensitive on this point, not having been driven by stress of circumstances into a serious reevaluation upon its position.

Possibly the conference may do something to wake up the Canadian people and give them to understand their plain duty towards the heritage which is their's. A comparison of facts, an interchange of experience, a definite knowledge of the situation, may be followed by legislation, the meaning of which may not be fully apparent to the present generation.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

To-night there will be a general closing of accounts. How long will the new resolutions be kept?

The girls are lonesome without the students who are away. Patience, sweethearts. They'll be back on Monday.

So you are going to vote against the road improvement-by-law? Sensible man. The city should aim at something progressive in the pavement question.

Gamey to swear off again? Of course. Perhaps you'll imitate Rip Van Winkle and see that this convivial reminder of old associations don't count.

The chief of police and his deputy, as the chief fire-bug and burglar of Simcoe, is the sensation of the day. And the town was not longing for renown of this kind.

Would Canada have cheaper fuel if coal were put upon the free list? Doubtful. Some wonderful reason would be discovered why high prices should be maintained.

Longboat and his bride had to wait while Flanagan, the manager, chased after the Bense. If Miss Maracle had been looking after the business this incident would not have happened.

The Globe must be careful. It is jabbing the attorney-general of Manitoba real hard, and he has been known to lock the editors up. This is not a nice time for the Globe's editor to go into quad.

Dr. Seath, superintendent of education, is said to be revising the spelling of certain words which will appear in the new school readers. He should remember Roosevelt's fate when he went into the same business.

The men who batten up their windows, to keep out the fresh air, may save on coal, but they lose in health. There is not much advantage in paying less for fire and more for medicine. The accounts usually balance.

Canada may be asked to do her share for the sufferers by Italy's earthquake, and it will be equal to the task. California's disaster was appalling, but the generosity of the world was such that the relief coffers were full to overflowing. A handsome surplus remains.

### An Abundance of Blood.

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### This The Last Day Of 1908.

W. H. Carnovsky, the fruiterer and oysterman, has great pleasure in wishing a Happy New Year to everybody, and his most sincere thanks to his numerous patrons, who have so liberally supported him in his efforts to supply them with good things of this life all through the year, which has been by far the largest and best he has ever had.

### Village Of Bath.

Recove—G. A. Wartman, Councillors—David Ruttan, James Hawley, James Shibley, Robert Stewart. School trustees—Dr. H. S. Northmore, John Forrester, Robert Mott.

### Be Prompt.

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Swift's.

H. F. Metcalfe, principal of the Kingston Business College, is running for school trustee in Rideau ward. He has had some years' experience at the board.

The Dominion Fire Insurance company has been given default judgment against J. L. Day, Kingston, for \$1,196.25.

The year 1908 was most unfortunate in the civic history of Kingston. Smash the road by-law; it does not merit support. Daniel Couper for mayor. Elect him. Yes, Mabel, leap year ends to-night. Imperial underwear is neat. Smash the roads by-law.

# THE WORLD'S HISTORY

## As Recorded in the Year of Grace 1908.

Many happenings of 1908 will go to make world's history. The crisis of monetary affairs in the United States late in 1907, had a far-reaching effect and matters were in a rather chaotic state until after the presidential nominations. Here in Canada the money market was not so tight and the gale was weathered without the loss of canyas. Truly there were failures, but not of the nature to disturb the equilibrium of trade. Three institutions went to the wall, the most important being the Sovereign Bank, but this, subsequent events have shown, was something that would have happened anyway. The other two banks that closed doors were the Bank of St. John's and the Bank of St. Hyacinthe. As regards the general trade of the country, for the first eight months of the fiscal year, ended Nov. 30th, there was a decline in value of \$11,547,200. During the same period the increase in expenditure was about \$11,364,408, which, however, is largely accounted for by payments for construction work on the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Canada was rather free from disturbances during the year. One, however, of worldwide importance, the fire which destroyed the coal mining town of Fernie, in British Columbia. Fire at Pembroke, late in the year destroyed the business portion of that thriving town.

Canada had her proportion of labor troubles, the one of most consequence being the strike of the Canadian Pacific railway mechanics. This was not fruitful in results so far as the men were concerned. The textile workers also went out on strike, but returned to work pending an investigation of the strike's causes, and within two months it is hoped that trains will be running from Winnipeg to Edmonton on the Grand Trunk Pacific. The general elections in October returned the Liberal party to power with a substantial majority.

During the year, at Quebec, the Tercentary celebration in honor of the founding of the city of Champlain. The Prince of Wales, Lord Roberts and Vice-President Fairbanks, of the United States, were among the distinguished guests, and ecstasies were felt by the presence of vessels from the war fleets of Great Britain, France and the United States. Canada showed the way in more than one event at the Olympic games. Kerr, of Hamilton, won the hundred meter race, and Ewing, of Montreal, carried off the trap shooting prize. Longboat failed to show form in the Marathon, but he has since shown his heels to Dorando, who was the first to finish in London, but who at the time was disqualified.

### Great Britain.

The government of Britain began the year with a programme of radical legislation, including old age pensions, intended as a step to socialism, which showed signs of rapid growth along with the increase of the vast army of the unemployed and the underfed. In spite of this concession, the liberals were defeated in a series of bye-elections. The younger and stronger hand of Asquith took the reins April 5, when Premier Bannerman retired on account of continued illness. Asquith carried through the age pension bill, July 20, the plan of which is \$1.25 a week to all over seventy years of age whose income is under \$130 a year, to take effect January 1, 1909. Efforts to pass education and temperance bills failed.

The Asquith government encountered the most persistent and boisterous campaign for woman suffrage, the suffragettes organizing huge parades and rushes on the parliament to attract attention, many women choosing prison terms rather than give bonds for their peace. The licensing bill introduced by the government and passed by the house of commons was defeated by the lords.

Alarm over the signs of coming revolt throughout India has increased with numerous acts of violence against the ruling Britons. In May a border raid of the Afghans was checked.

### European Nations.

The German people will remember 1908 as marking the end of their Kaiser's absolute, personal rule, and the beginning of ministerial responsibility to the Reichstag. This revolution, through the power of public opinion, voiced in the radical press and in parliamentary action of nearly all parties, came to a head in October, the occasion of the outburst being an

authorized interview in the London Telegraph, in which the Kaiser told of his refusal to join a secret coalition against England during the Boer war and of sending war plans to the Queen. It was like the last straw. The Reichstag called Von Buelow to account, and he told his master how angry the people were. William made concessions and the popular movement became irresistible. Prior to this his lone-hand policy in Morocco had irritated Germany.

The increasing solidarity of organized labor was the source of sleepless nights to Premier Clemenceau and his ministerial associations in France, the climax occurring in July, when troops killed and wounded many strikers at Villeneuve. But the general strike ordered August 3 was a failure. The notable new law was that making divorce automatic on demand of either party after a legal separation of three years.

Under the reactionary sway of the Stolypin ministry, the revolution in Russia "went under ground" again and industries began to revive, except where the cholera became epidemic. The third Duma, by complete surrender of its power to the autocracy, managed to hold on. General Stoessel was found guilty of cowardice at Port Arthur, but his death sentence was commuted.

The leaven of democracy showed signs of working even in the European stronghold of autocratic Islam. The Sultan of Turkey saw his army turning from him under the influence of the Young Turk party, and thus powerless, he put into effect the hitherto dead-letter constitution of 1876 and called into being a national parliament at Constantinople. Said Pasha, the grand vizier and Kiamil Pasha heading the reform ministry. The parliament met December 17.

### In The Near East.

On October 5th the whole status of southeastern Europe, as fixed by the treaty of Berlin (1878), was suddenly altered. Bulgaria proclaimed its independence, with Prince Ferdinand as its czar, and at the same time by concerted arrangement, Austria announced that she proposed to annex completely the former Turkish provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia, while the Turkish island of Crete moved toward a union with Greece. War seemed unavoidable and the clouds still lower in the diplomatic sky. The prompt action of the powers, on motion of Russia, in agreeing to hold a conference to readjust the balance in the Balkans, and the military impotence of Serbia and Montenegro combined to prevent an immediate outbreak.

The ferment of republicanism in the Portuguese monarchy found vent in the assassination of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luiz, February 1, while they were riding in the streets of Lisbon. The younger son, Manuel, who was slightly wounded, succeeded to the throne, and the hated Premier Franco fled the country.

The Belgium parliament adopted the treaty for the annexation of the Congo Free State. A law was adopted by the Danish parliament giving the suffrage to all taxpayers, regardless of race or sex.

### Asia And Africa.

On August 24 the oft-repeated story of the defeat of Sultan Abdul-Asiz by the forces of the pretender, Mulai Hafid proved true, and the latter demanded recognition of the powers as the Sultan. That was where the German emperor made a peek of trouble by recognizing Hafid without consulting the nations in the Algeciras conference. France firmly objected, Spain seconded, and the Kaiser came down. Then they all bowed to Hafid together.

The radical first parliament of Persia, at Teheran, on the constitution granted in 1907, was wiped out of existence in a bloody battle with the Shah's soldiers, 400 persons being killed in the streets, the parliament buildings battered down and some of the radical leaders executed. The revolutionists captured and held Teheriz.

On November 13 the unhappy "son of heaven," Emperor Kwang-Hsu, found in death release from his virtual imprisonment, and on the same day his keeper, the old dowager empress, who had been for a generation the real ruler of China, also died. Pu Yi, the infant son of Prince Chun, had been designated as heir to the throne, and the regency was seized by Prince Chun. The awakening of China is now expected to go on more rapidly. (Continued on Page 7).

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