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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 Thursday morning at \$1 a year. To United States, charge for postage had to be added, making price of Daily \$5 and of Weekly \$1.50 per year.

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OFFICIALS IN POLITICS.

Some time ago, before the inauguration of the social functions at Ottawa, which so diverted the Borden government that its members could think of nothing else, Hon. R. Rogers, during a visit to Montreal, announced that Arthur Hawkes had been appointed a special immigration commissioner. That was supposed to be the last of Arthur as a political agent or author.

He is, however, still the publisher of the British News of Canada, which is not, perhaps, objected to, and he is the writer of the columns of stuff in which he refers to people in a personal and more or less offensive way. It may be that his appointment

ment to a public office does not interfere with his political activities, but it should.

Mr. Hawkes was so eager for collisions with people in the elections that he could hardly expect his reward from the federal government to pass without some comment, and Hon. Mackenzie King will be forgiven for paying his compliments to the special immigration commissioner.

But the way for Mr. Hawkes to disappear out of public criticism is to disappear out of politics, and if he is going to keep up his talk in the British News in Canada he will wear about it again and again, and so will his obsequious masters, the ministers of the federal government.

THE REPUBLIC DECLINED.

The Chinese premier thinks it necessary to send to the American people, through the New York Herald, an explanation as to why a republican form of government cannot be adopted. He says the idea of the government, as conveyed to the masses, is that there will be "no taxes and no government." The embarkation of China on the experiment of a republic "would only lead to the dissolution of the empire, foreign intervention, and the partition of the country." Therefore, he says, without doubt constitutional monarchy is best. This will be a severe disappointment to the men, in press and

public life, who have been congratulating themselves upon the good sense of the Chinese in seeking to pattern their government after that of the United States. The American statesmen have not been read as they wished. Their desire was that they would be regarded as the exponents of the greatest system of government ever invented, while the Chinese regard it as the resort of the spoilsman. There is something radically amiss with the system or the men who exemplify it, and the American statesmen and pressmen will do well to look it up before they again undertake to extol republicanism to the skies.

THE SPOILS OF OFFICE.

The liberal government established the Civil Service Commission—and appointed its members, Dr. Adam Shortt and M. G. LaRoche, for life. Their work was confined to the inside service. They do not select the men for public positions, but they do set the examinations which must be passed, qualifying persons for appointment or promotion.

The idea was to extend the jurisdiction of the commission until it covered all the members of the civil service, both in Ottawa and outside of it. To the extension of the civil service, in this direction, the conservatives are committed, and now they find themselves in an embarrassing situation. There are thousands of applicants for appointment, and there is no way of gratifying them.

To every proposition that man be appointed to office without supplying the evidence of fitness, the commissioners are a bar. They cannot be re-

moved. Their disapproval cannot be ignored. What is to be done? It is suggested that the Civil Service Act be amended, that the commission be enlarged by the addition of three more. These three shall outvote the two that now hold office, in defeating or circumventing the law, or making a farce of it. The extension of the service can only be undertaken when the pressure of the party has been lifted.

The possibility of all this will be made apparent some of these days when the secretary of state presents his amendments to the Civil Service Act, and the premier, the guileless one, shows how far he has surrendered to the spoils men.

The great and good Sir James Whitney undertook office with the intention of ruling as he liked with regard to the civil service, and he had to consent, in chagrin and humiliation, to the work of the headmen.

PEOPLE MUST RULE.

Tax reform in Ontario is nearly as vexatious, in some respects, as tariff reform in England. The premier is emphatically opposed to it, and because he does not see its merits he is determined not to change his mind on any account.

The great objection of Sir James to the proposition, which is advocated by an increasing number in the province, is that an option law would lead to variable results, and he calls it a checker-board system. Tax reform would certainly be differently enforced in different places. A great deal would depend upon the basis of values, and this basis would be remarkably dissimilar.

The basis of assessment is anything but uniform now, and the tax reformers have established this by an analysis of the tax records of the several cities. The discrepancies are remarkable, and they are bound to remain.

The tax system, like municipal government generally, has been worked

to advantage. It has been subject to amendment from time to time, but it is not perfect, and cannot be made perfect, and for this reason that every assessor, in every town and city, has his own ideas of values and his own ideas of assessing them.

The taxation of land values could not be made uniform. The standard differs in every city. It is affected or changed by local conditions, by the boom that is on, or the lethargy or dullness which prevails. It might lead to some disturbance to change from real estate and improvements to land, but the experiment is worth a trial. The places that have tried tax reform are loud in their praises of it.

The greatest of all issues is this: Are the people to have what they want or are they not? The premier of Ontario is a times-wise. Sometimes he is unwise. He may delude himself into the idea that he is infallible, and from that delusion he may be suddenly awakened.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Monk claims that he tried to squeeze bi-lingual schools into the western provinces, and was prevented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Good for the ex-premier. His was a level head.

The idea enunciated by a certain conservative candidate in Ontario—that all the members of the legislature should be supporters of the government—is suggestive. The microbes eat each other when they cannot feed on other things.

If a liberal government had robbed

Ontario of 180,000 square miles of territory, or allowed Manitoba to steal it, with consent, what a mighty roar there would be from Sir James Whitney! When done up by his friends, in daylight, he simply "does not know anything about it." Oh, Sir James!

Sir James Whitney, at Durham, asked what he thought about the agreement between Manitoba and Ontario, said he "knew nothing about it." But he should know. His indifference or unacquaintance with the facts does not relieve him of the responsibility.

MANITOBA AGAIN

SEPARATE SCHOOLS ARE ONCE MORE DEMANDING ATTENTION.

The Schools in the New Territory—What Will be Done About Them—Why the Clergy Have Been Consulting With Mr. Borden—A Crisis is On.

Toronto Star. The enlargement of the boundaries of Manitoba raises the question of separate schools within the added territory. Separate schools were abolished in Manitoba some twenty years ago, and attempts to restore them by legal or political action failed. Provision is, however, made for religious instruction in public schools. In the added territory there are separate schools, and the question arises whether they are entitled under the British North American act to be preserved and continued as a constitutional right.

The British North American act enacts that a province, in its constitution, shall not be prejudicially affected in its rights or privileges existing "at the union," and gives a right of appeal to the governor-general-in-council to a minority which considers itself aggrieved.

When the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created there was a tremendous controversy over the question whether the British North American act applied to new provinces. The result was, in effect, a compromise, acknowledging the right of existing minorities to separate schools, but subjecting these schools to all the regulations governing public schools, including inspection, text-books (in the name), and qualifications of teachers. The settlement was attacked on both sides—in Ontario because separate schools were conceded, and in Quebec because they were regulated in the same manner as public schools. Mr. Bourassa took the latter ground very strongly. He said that the law reduced the guarantee of the minority to almost nothing. "It ensures them neither language, nor faith, nor separation."

The question now arises in a new form—whether, in territory added to a province the same rights and privileges for a minority exist as in the original provinces of confederation, or in territory carved into new provinces after confederation. The matter will be dealt with in the dominion legislation extending the boundaries of Manitoba, and the legislation and the debates thereon will be watched with keen interest.

THE WHIG'S PUZZLE.

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The Great Sir James.

Hon. Mackenzie King at Aurora. Sir James Whitney was quick to grab at a knighthood, in order that he might be taken out of obscurity into the limelight. He got a knighthood, but not the attributes of knighthood. In the first place he is utterly lacking in chivalry, otherwise he would not attack without just cause, nor would he misconstrue a speaker's remarks in order to do so. But the truth is Sir James is not capable of chivalry, and it is not to be expected of him if he had a dozen knighthoods. Sir James was referred to with kindness by N. W. Rowell, in his Massey Hall address. Sir James turns around and refers to Mr. Rowell as a man of putty and wax. He will learn that Ontario thinks more of this man of putty and wax, than of the rumbling and rambling of Sir James. With all his blarney and bluster, Sir James has not even ordinary courage.

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