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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 \$4 and of Weekly \$1.25 per year.
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TORONTO OFFICE.—Suite 19 and 20 Queen City Chambers, 33 Church Street, Toronto. H. E. Smallpiece, J.P. representative.

THE POWER QUESTION AGAIN.

The utilities committee did a sensible thing at its last meeting when it lowered the rates of power, when used during the day, from 5c. to 10c. a kilo-watt, according to the quantity required, to 2c. and 6c. per kilo-watt. The desire is to increase the use of power during the day and if possible to the limit of the plant's capacity, and this aim should be accomplished. The new rate means that a man can use electricity at a cost quite as low as that at which power can be supplied by steam or producer-gas on the premises. The experiment is a good one, and it is hoped it will work out to the complete satisfaction of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Beck, representing the Hydro-Electric Commission, answered a recent communication from the utilities committee, and with regard to a

power contract. The city knows what it can generate power for with coal and steam. It is assumed that power, generated from a water fall, can be produced for less, but the question is how much less? The Hydro-Electric Commission was reminded that the Seymour company had built its transmission lines as far east as Napanee, and a contract could be made with it almost immediately. The answer of the commission is non-committal. It could not be otherwise under the circumstances. The Seymour's business has not yet been taken over or acquired by the Hydro-Electric Commission, but the commission can supervise its power contract, and hence it only wants the request of the council for a contract in order to begin its negotiations.

THE VALUE OF ADVERTISING.

It does not appear that the power department is fully apprized of the value of advertising. It has been pointed out that in one city, with the proceedings of which the Whig is familiar, the gas department has a fine store at which demonstrations are frequently given as to the usefulness of gas. Some expert is employed to give exhibitions, and they are usually with respect to cooking with gas.

Incidentally the department is interested in the education of the people in all that concerns them in heating, and lighting and cooking. The distributing company—for it is a corporation that takes over the gross output and sells it to the consumers—sees the advantages of advertising, and is not niggardly in the use of it.

Kingston owns and operates its gas plant. It has seen the consumption of

gas more than doubled within the last five years, with some pushing on the part of the department, of course, but of an uncertain and spasmodic character. Had the population doubled the increased consumption would have been easily accounted for. The population, however, has been practically stationary. The development of the gas business is, under these circumstances, extraordinary, and it is capable of still greater expansion.

It must be advertised. The publicity branch of the department must be given some aid, and \$100 is a trifling sum for the purpose. Were the gas business in the hands of a company, and under its direction, the general manager would not be handicapped as he is now by a want of appreciation. He would be given a tolerably free hand, and the company would see the advantage of it.

THE FUTURE OF KINGSTON.

The Borden government is carrying out the plans of the Laurier government, and providing for an early enlargement of the Welland canal. What the department of railways and canals plans, with regard to this work, is not apparent. When the subject was under discussion in the commons, a year ago, reference was made to a new cut in a new direction, and the possibility of lift locks that would make those at Peterboro look insignificant. The engineers, presumably, are still engaged upon their tasks, and eventually the government will act upon their recommendation.

The enlargement of the Welland canal, so that the deep-draught vessels that ply upon the lakes may reach Kingston and tranship their cargoes here, means more than any one can calculate. It means much to the country and to its canal system, as it represents the facilities that can be pro-

vided at an early date and utilized in the development of the grain trade. Kingston will be the transshipping harbour, as the only safe place for deep-draught boats, and hence the need of those harbour improvements which should be undertaken at once.

There is talk occasionally of the St. Lawrence river being deepened so that there may be an unhindered and unrestricted traffic into Montreal and Quebec. But that is a dream that is not to be realized for many years, if ever. It ranks with the Georgian Bay scheme in costliness.

With the Welland canal enlargement, which is now assured, Kingston should get the benefit which has been her due. The location of this city, in respect to navigation, carries with it advantages which more than compensate for the disadvantages which it usually suffers from insufficient railway connection.

PRISON REFORMS NEEDED.

Some months ago the manner of releasing convicts, from the penitentiary, insufficiently clad, was made the subject of strong editorial comment. The question became so acute, having been carried into the House of Commons, that it was assumed some very necessary and radical reforms would follow. The incident of that time, and the newspaper comments upon it, appear to have been forgotten, and the old routine continues. Last week those who travelled by a certain street car, on a certain morning, saw two men who had been just released without overcoats.

The circumstances are suggestive of many reflections. What is the purpose of the imprisonment to which so many persons are condemned? To punish them for their misdemeanours and incidentally to correct and to cure them of further offences against society. But imprisonment does not correct some men; it hardens them; it makes them worse, and why? They came into contact with the case-hardened characters—when there is no classification—and their second condition is infinitely more pitiable than the first condition. The parole system is saving some people. It is giving them a chance to redeem themselves, and if the Whig understands the parole officer right it should be satisfied to the end that prison life may be more limited.

Meanwhile, the spirit of parsimony, which has too long characterized the justice department of our government, must be abandoned. Convicts, who have served their time and atoned in part or in full for the wrong they committed, must be treated in a human way. Why should they be turned out of prison close cropped, pale, dressed cheaply and insufficiently? Why should any man be pushed out into the street, in a rainy weather, without an overcoat, and without the opportunity of previously "breaking in" the toggery with which he is supplied? Anything is not good enough for an ex-convict. He may be harder at heart than when he entered the prison. There may be no evidence of reform in his character. But he is a man, and susceptible to the biting winds and biting sarcasm which he must face in going out into the world again.

The justice department will see the wisdom of changing the whole method of treating the convict population. It is time some new ideas were introduced into the management of the prisons, and for this change the Whig will work persistently. The government is appointing in a manner of commissions for all manner of purposes. A commission to look into our prisons and report upon what they need, in order to meet present day conditions, would probably effect reforms upon which the inspectors do not appear to have set their hearts.

Dr. Rutherford, veterinary director-general of the dominion, has resigned. He is an able man, and very independent. He is not willing to have his usefulness interfered with by red tape and the Whig does not blame him.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hon. Winston Churchill will speak in Belfast, but not in Ulster hall. So the unionists profess to be satisfied. They are, politically, a shabby genteel lot.

Britain has invested \$175,000,000 in telegraphs and is managing the business in connection with the post office. And there is an annual net loss of \$5,000,000. If there is any lesson in this it is that Canada cannot afford to buy the telegraph system just now.

The admiralty's policy with regard to the Canadian navy is Laurier's policy. So much the Borden government has learned upon enquiry. It probably regrets now that it made the enquiry. Having sought advice it is not good taste now to decline to act upon it.

The Montreal Harbour Commissioners are holding the fort, though the conservative contingent wants their heads. Here are three men who are serving the people non-politically and efficiently and they must go. That is the command of the brigade which Mr. Monk commands.

The Toronto News, with a show of fairness, now declares that Mr. McGarry, of South Renfrew, should have resigned and faced the electors as well as Mr. Graham. He did offer to resign—to the conservatives and liberals, and there was no possibility of both agreeing to it.

Hamilton, St. Thomas and Ottawa are to oil streets this season. The oil keeps down the streets and saves the metal. But the highways should be cleaned before the oil is applied. That is the conclusion elsewhere, and it will probably be the conclusion of our young but progressive engineer.

The decision of the court in favour of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway company, and in essence that it should not suffer any loss financially by the sale of the federal bonds, is not a reflection upon any one or government. The talk of the Toronto News and Toronto Telegram about Laurier's bludge is very silly.

Thomas F. Grady, so long Tammany's leader in the senate, is dead. Ingratitude is said to have broken his heart. It is not a new experience. The public man is a great one while he is in power, but public favour fluctuates, and it is only a question of time until he is cast aside. The men who go into public life must calculate upon the changes of fortune, and the broken hearts.

The very latest is that Mr. Balfour is attending boxing matches. What he sees in them to attract a man of culture, so deeply occupied with the serious questions of life as not to be able to read the newspapers, no one can imagine. But since he is no longer the leader of the commons, he must have something to remind him of its rights. An Irish contemporary suggests that he may be preparing for the home rule debate.

A Very Simple Experiment.

Brantford Expositor.
The high cost of living is responsible for an interesting experiment, started a few days ago in New York. One of the ministers being impressed by the idea that the retailers are taking too much profit themselves, has undertaken to justify his belief by demonstration. He has caused the opening of a store at which the articles sold may be obtained exactly at the cost price. The experiment has been a great success so far, according to reports. A building has been obtained free of rent; clerks have been secured willing to give their services for nothing, and as every day is a bargain day, the place is crowded with anxious customers.

As to what the experiment will demonstrate, that is another question. The retailer does not get his building rent free. Neither does he get all his help free. The cost of his building and of his help is an important item in his expenditure, which he must add to the cost of his goods if he intends to continue in business. Besides he is likely to look for some profits as a return on his investment, and as compensation for his work and worry.

If the New York minister really wants to make out a case against the retailer he should meet the actual conditions with which the retailer has to contend.

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that certainly surpass in excellence any shoes heretofore offered for these prices.

Then again our Shoes are nothing short of perfection in shoemaking.



Special. Packard Shoe Dressing Half-Price.

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100 dozen Men's Collars. Sizes 14 to 16 1/2. Tooke's regular 15c Collars.

Half-Price

Now 4 for 25c.

Agents for Fowne's and Dent's Gloves for Men

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Items From Chantry.
Chantry, Feb. 3.—William Myers and wife and H. Freeman, of Portland, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Sherwood, on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ripley, of Elgin, were the guests of Frank Seels. John Davis is again confined to the house. Charles Abel has gone to the Brockville hospital, to undergo an operation. Mrs. Vetterfield Trotter is ill. E. A. Sheldon is head server at E. Chant's mill. There is a quantity of logs coming in. Miss Leora Seaman has gone to Delta to nurse a patient for Dr. Chipman.

At Wilbur Station.
Wilbur Station, Feb. 5.—Mrs. Lee, John and little daughter, Lavant, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. Roche, Sunday. T. Richardson has purchased a fine heater from W. Webb. Norval Lee and James Boyd visited Gerald Thomas on Sunday. Ethel and Kenneth Boyd spent Sunday at Wilbur.

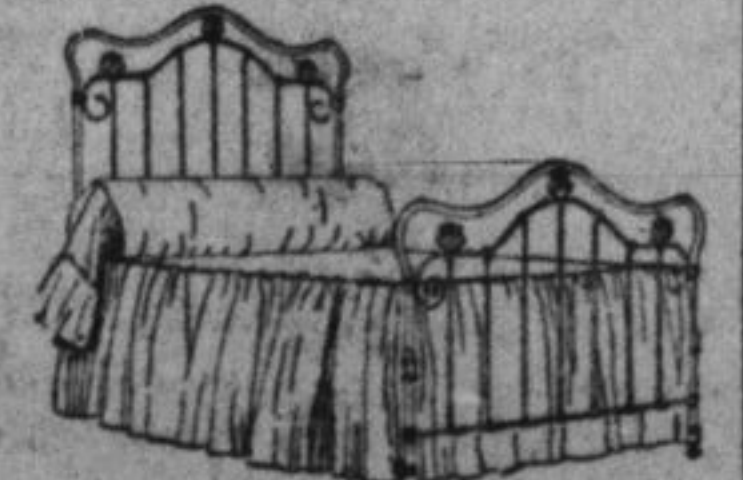
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All the newest shapes in Ladies' and Men's.

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Thomas Copley PHONE 987. Drop a card in 19 Pine Street and we'll want anything done in the Carpenter line Estimates given on all kinds of repairs and new work also Hardwood Floors of all kinds. All orders will receive prompt attention. Shop 43 Queen Street.

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