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THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 306-210 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at 6¢ per year. Editions at 2.30 and 4 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 Weekly \$1.50 per year.

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COST OF EDUCATION.

Education is getting costly, though it is the one item of public expenditure which is met with cheerfulness. The following figures, or percentages of increase of the civic appropriations, have been taken from the Ottawa Journal: In seven years the cost of educating pupils in other Ontario cities has increased: Kingston 13 per cent, Guelph 22 per cent, Brantford 27 per cent, London 24 per cent, Peterborough 58 per cent, St. Catharines 30 per cent.

Toronto 52 per cent, Hamilton 22 per cent, Stratford 44 per cent. Thus the average percentage of the cost of educating pupils in nine Ontario cities has in the last seven years increased by 32.4 per cent. Nor is the exhibit a complete one. The figures for Kingston are those of 1911. The budget which is now being prepared for the city council will add about \$5,000 to the expenditure of this year on school board account, and this will materially affect the situation locally.

OUR LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

Of three of the industries in which the people are interested, on which they were asked to vote and for certain considerations, there are tidings from the legislature. The local member has given the bills his attention, and they will be among the first to receive the attention of the private bills committee. The institutions affected are the locomotive works, the new hotel, and the bridge. The legislation is not likely to be opposed, and ere long, as fast as the law-making machine can be expected to move, the way will be cleared for the fulfillment of our plans. The box factory has not been heard from lately, and it is for the mayor,

as the head of the council, to institute such enquiries as will make plain the plans of the projectors of this enterprise. Some costs have been incurred by the city in the submission of certain by-laws to the people. These costs were assumed in good faith, and it is important that the city should be recouped when any scheme is dropped through no fault except of those who are behind it. The one feature about the box factory which is not pleasant is the rumoured sale of its site. The statement is generally accepted, but the council should have it verified and the projectors should be reminded that they owe a duty to the city; and it should be discharged in an open and candid manner.

NOW FRIENDS, GET BUSY.

A local man, returned from Ottawa, says that Kingston will receive due recognition by the government in its desire for harbour improvement. The government is having its plans made, and hence the necessity for that action on the part of our council and board of trade which will see that local interests are fully protected. At the last meeting of the council it was announced that the government had cancelled the M. T. Co.'s lease of the land below the Cataragi bridge, and that it was proposed to build on this land new stables for the permanent force. That purpose of the government must be checked, if possible. It must be done in a proper way, of course. The convenience of stables on the water lot, and so close to the Tete de Pont barracks, is unquestionable. But the government must be shown the unwisdom of this course. Once the stables are erected they will stay there for a considerable time at least. What should be done—what must be done without delay—is to show the militia department and the marine department that the harbour of Kingston will be extended in

to the Great Cataragi river, and that the Queen's wharf and the land now occupied by the M. T. Co. on the west side afford the only available accommodation for the shipping which will surely grow in volume with the enlargement of the Welland canal. The plan for harbour improvement should include the removal of all the shoals from the harbour; the removal of the Martello tower, and the extension beyond it of a large public wharf; the acquisition of the land in the vicinity of the bridge, on either side of the Cataragi river, and the deepening of the harbour above and below the bridge, so that the larger boats that trade on the upper lakes may run through to Kingston and find ample accommodation here. Our public bodies are slow-acting. They mean well, but they hurt the city by their procrastination. It is because of this that the call is for the appointment of a harbour commission, one that will be composed of men with definite ideas. Toronto has such a commission. Kingston must have it eventually. Meanwhile the council and the board of trade are urged to give this matter their serious attention.

THE DEAL HANGS FIRE.

The Electrical News discusses the Trent Valley situation so far as the Seymour company is concerned, and the threatened opposition of the Hydro-Electric Commission. The Seymour company is serving a scattered community and has been charging very low rates, and rates which it is willing to have subject to regulation of even the Hydro-Electric Commission. The commission, however, is disposed to extend its service into Eastern Ontario. "The shareholders of the Electric Power company, apparently have no desire to block the policy of the Hydro-Electric Commission," says the Electrical News. "They recognize that the interests of the district can be best served by one system, and if the Hydro-Electric Commission is not willing that the company should be the distributors, subject to regulation of its rates, they are willing that the company should sell out to the Hydro-Electric Commission, and let it be the sole distributor. Preliminary negotiations to this end have been undertaken, but nothing definite has yet been done. The representatives of the company have expressed a willingness to sell on fair and reasonable terms, and consider that the best way of deciding what would be fair and reasonable can best be settled by arbitration, one arbitrator to be chosen by the Hydro-Electric Commission, and these two to agree upon a third. This commission of experts could examine the property and books of the company, and decide what, in their judgment, would be a fair price, and whatever their decision is, the owners of the Electric Power

company, we understand, pledge themselves to accept. The absolute fairness of this proposition can hardly be questioned." The situation is affected by the fact that the financiers who have been behind the Seymour company, have their own idea of things, and it may not harmonize with the idea of the Hydro-Electric Commission. The company is selling 15,000 horse-power and has 16,000 more in process of development. The commission talks of developing power at two dams on the Trent river, but construction work has not been commenced, it will be two years before it can supply power, and at the limit there can be only 7,000 or 8,000 horse-power developed, and this amount would be inadequate for the demand of Eastern Ontario. "Considering the modern and substantial construction of the Electric Power company's system," says our contemporary, "their facilities for providing continuity of service, their recognized fair treatment of the municipalities they serve, their willingness to arbitrate the sake of their equipment and not least, their ability to hold their own in any kind of fair competition the commission can institute against them we believe the government would be entirely ill-advised in expending large sums of the province's money in a duplicate system." The government would certainly not be warranted in duplicating an electrical system, and in undertaking to drive a company out of business. There is only room for the one system. The government should, if it wants a monopoly, buy the Seymour plant at a fair price.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Irish potatoes—the real thing, and coming to Canada via New York—and selling in Toronto at \$1.80 per bag. Montreal has ordered 10,000 bushels, from Ireland also, and Erin's sons are simply delighted.

Sir Henry Pellatt leaving the Queen's Own Rifles and as its commander. What a loss to the regiment? Few men can afford to lavish his own money on the military as Sir Henry lavished his upon the Queen's Own.

The local government has surrendered on the Western College question. Aid has been refused on two occasions, but now \$15,000 will be given, and the amount will be increased by a liberal government if not by the present one.

The money lender had better now be careful. Attorney-General Foy is promoting a bill which puts the man of undue charges or usury out of court, if not out of business. It's time the big policemen show more concern for the people.

Must the county, under the bill now going through the legislature, have joint ownership of any public refuge in which it is interested? It is acting under an agreement with regard to the care of its poor. Must that now be ended?

Mr. Rowell has intimated that Toronto University cannot conveniently or reasonably teach a larger number of students. The other colleges must do the work, and they must be aided financially. Queen's College will come to its own sooner or later.

A deputation of laymen has been in Ottawa advising the minister of railways and canals about the route of the new Welland canal. What about the surveys which were made by government engineers months ago? Do they not count for something?

Mr. Monk let slip a remark which stamps the enquiry into political offences at its proper worth. The commissioners are allowed \$15 per day and expenses, "and," said he, "some of the cases do not take more than three minutes." A mere sham. Nothing more.

Mr. Rowell wants to know how many councils or municipalities petitioned for a change in the assessment law so that improvements may be exempted. Sir James Whitney is gradually weakening in his opposition to tax reform, he is near the point of surrender.

Mr. Bennett, of Simcoe, charges that certain bogus ballots, used in a certain corrupt election, were printed in Mr. Graham's office in Brockville. In an election some men don't care what they say. Bennett is one of them. The more audacious and daring the more important they think. Is that the general opinion?

Social Hoboken is having an unhappy time in trying to decide if it had reason to be shocked by the classic dancing of a woman wearing a costume, "which wouldn't have been vetted if she had gone in wading up to her knees." It is remarkable that though many of the society people were said to be shocked they all stayed until the performance closed.

Queen's Alma Mater.

Queen's Alma Mater Society met on Saturday night, but the session was a very brief one, as there was very little business. R. S. Stevens was appointed delegate to attend the Alma Mater Society dance at McGill University, tonight. He left at noon, to-day, for Montreal. M. A. McKenzie was appointed as a delegate to the Royal Military College dance, to be held tonight.

Most housewives prefer "King's Quality" flour. There's a reason. Miss Elмира Roblin, who resided on the 3rd concession of Sidney, died last week. Deceased in her seventieth year, was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Roblin, and was born at the homestead, where she passed away.

"King's Quality flour" is what the grocer hears most. W. J. Campbell, Bloomfield, has been having some expensive improvements made in his mill during the past fortnight. For pastry cooking "King's Quality" flour never had an equal. Floor Street Presbyterian church, Toronto, raised \$16,000 in its week's campaign for the schemes of the church.

DR. SOPER DR. WHITE



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NAPANEE ICE RACES.

Each Class Was Well Filled—The Winners. Napanee, Feb. 17.—Thursday afternoon, the Napanee Driving Club held its annual winter races in the exhibition grounds. The weather was ideal and the track was in first-class shape. Each class was well filled, and in the named race it was necessary to run five heats.

2.50 class—Brino Bars, Dr. Benson, 1, 1, 1; Tom Tariff, E. Williams, 2, 4, 2, 2, 2; Flora M., J. Madden, 3, 3, 1, 3, 3; Black Mac, E. Loyst, 5, 4, 5, 4, 4; Phil Sheridan, A. Bruce, 6, 5, 4, 6, 5; Kitty C., T. Cranston, 4, 6, 6, 5, 6, 5; time, 1:13, 1:15, 1:17, 1:12, 1:15.

Mrs. B. C. Macnaughton entertained a number of her parents on Thursday evening. Frederick Pringle, of Chicago, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Pringle, both of whom are quite ill.

TO OBSERVE "FAMINE DAY."

Awful Condition of Starving People in New Republic. New York, Feb. 17.—March 10th is to be observed as "Famine Day" throughout the United States. Ministers of every denomination will devote a part of the time allotted for their sermons on that day to bringing before their congregations the alarming situation in China, where 2,000,000 people are threatened with starvation. A statement issued by the China Famine relief committee, urging the observance of the day, says: "There has never been anything to compare with the conditions now existing along the Yang-Tze valley. Thousands of once thrifty farmers are without a hope of relief. The human mind cannot conceive of the magnitude and destructive force of the famine now depopulating the interior of China."

Alexander Hicks, Crosby, died after six days' illness from double pneumonia. He was seventy-seven years of age. A widow, four daughters and two sons survive. Best pastry and bread flour on the market, "King's Quality." Try it.

TYPHOID VACCINATION.

Sailors on Battleship Object to Inoculation. Norfolk, Va., Feb. 17.—According to reports received in this city there was a big row on the battleship Vermont in Guantanamo bay, bordering on a mutiny, and resulting in 200 men being placed in irons. The trouble, it is said, occurred when the men were told they must submit to inoculation against typhoid fever. Because several seamen had been made seriously ill by the inoculation several hundred men refused to submit to the surgeon's needle and as a result a riotous trouble followed.

The Vermont signalled for assistance from other ships in the fleet, and the Minnesota is reported to have responded. With the arrival of men from the Minnesota the trouble on the Vermont was stopped and the matter hushed.

Efforts to get an official confirmation of the report failed.

HE WAS ENLISTED.

Made to Clothe Woman Tattooed on Arm. Springfield, Mass., Feb. 17.—A stalwart applicant for enlistment in the United States army was rejected because the figure of an undressed woman was tattooed on his right forearm.

Lieut. Fox of the fire department headquarters, an expert in tattooing, clothed the "young woman" in street costume. The man returned to the recruiting station, exhibited his forearm, and was promptly enlisted.

At a meeting of the official board of the Adolphustown circuit of the Methodist church, a resolution of condolence to the family of the late Henry Vanlyck, was passed. A Grand Trunk train returning from Renfrew on Thursday was thrown off the track by the engine striking a cutter on a level crossing.

The floor of the housewives preference "King's Quality."

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