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### THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 394-310 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at 4¢ 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. No United States charge for postage had to be added, making price of Daily \$2 and of Weekly \$1.50 per year.

### AMENDING THE ORDER.

The Whig's remarks upon the order, calling city corps to perform five days' drill in camp, or disband, have been fully endorsed by that body of experts (?) the militia council, who have found out that city corps cannot spend five days in camp. Their employers would not stand for it. Any ordinary militia officer could have made them wise to that fact.

draw eleven days' pay, one days' pay less than formerly, but if they spend two days in camp, they will be entitled to thirteen days' pay, and so on, up to sixteen days. As the day going to camp is reckoned as one, and the day returning another, a corps could proceed to camp on a Saturday afternoon, spend Sunday in camp, and leave at say 1 a.m. on Monday, thus putting in three days without the loss of a day's work by the men. What military training is there in that proceeding? None whatever, and it shows how the regulations may be got around.

### THE AXE IS SWINGING.

The slaughter of the innocents has commenced in Toronto, and among those who undertook to do brave things, like his predecessor, Mr. Frupp, is the gentleman who occupies the dual position of member and city treasurer for Ottawa. He had a bill which aimed at protecting a municipality from actions on account of accidents on the street through defects of which the town or city did not have a notice. Kingston, some years ago, had men and legislators who hugged a similar delusion, for delusion it surely is of any city to suppose it can deny its liabilities if mishaps occur.

trouble to give notice of it. Because they never do so I may be injured and I have no redress. It is the business of the municipality to see that the roads are kept in repair. The law should not be relaxed. We are looking toward better and not worse highways. Mr. Ellis looked unhappy when Mr. MacKay sat down and when Mr. Hanna, all compassion, intimated that the bill deserved the axe. Mr. Ellis hastily withdrew it. Will he withdraw the other bill providing for the taxation of land values? It was put in before Mr. Rowell submitted his bill on the same subject. He was supposed to have "dished" the grits, but it may go the way of most private legislation if Sir James says the word. Mr. Rowell's measure will remain, and the house will vote upon it.

### MANITOBA BAR REMAINS.

The people of Manitoba, or more correctly 20,000 of them, petitioned the legislature to give the people a referendum in the abolition of the bar. The issue became a political one, unnecessarily so, because the liquor question should be regarded as social and non-political. The government opposed the referendum. The debate was adjourned once to permit, as Mr. Roblin expressed it, the members time for further reflection. The government had its anxious moments and for a while it was not sure what it should do. Eventually the liquor interests triumphed, and two members of the administration came out strongly in favour of the bar. Premier Roblin led off and condemned roundly the proposal to take a "Banish the Bar" referendum. He contended that the banishing of the bar would create a worse drinking evil than at present existed, and destroy the splendid position attained

by the province in liquor legislation. If the referendum were defeated, which he believed would be the case, it would mean the supercession of the local option law and the forming of bars and liquor stores on all the local option districts of the province. Mr. Caldwell defended the bar as the outcome of a good and kind impulse in the human breast. The abolition of the bar would not end the treating. The liberals were united upon the referendum, and supported it in vigorous speeches. The division was twenty to fourteen against the motion, and two of the members who usually support the government voted with the opposition. The Roblin government has always been disappointing in the temperance question. It may be that the temperance men may eventually vote non-politically and punish the administration according to its deserts, but they are very wonderfully forbearing and forgiving.

### NOT HIS OWN MASTER.

The Round Table (a British quarterly), in the Canadian division, quotes what Mr. Borden said about the navy before the election—that if Canada and the other dominions are to take part as nations of the empire in its defence it should have a voice in the councils of the empire. To this end a permanent policy would have to be worked out. The Round Table sees that Mr. Borden "must impress himself upon the cabinet, and upon the conservative party and the country," and he must educate Quebec. It does not think that there is such a gap between himself and Mr. Bourassa as would appear. He does not seek to establish a French nation on the St. Lawrence, nor to undervalue British connection, nor to make a quarrel between Canada and the mother country. He is the servant of an eloquence which touches the sky and rides upon the air to the delight, rather than the education, of his clamorous audiences. Round Table

was quite satisfied, however, that under Mr. Borden the nationalists would not detract the policy of Canada in relation to the empire. No, but the nationalist party has determined what Canada's policy shall be towards the navy. Mr. Borden has been compelled (that is the word) to direct his appeal to the admiralty, and it will be the better satisfied under the circumstances. The Act is not to be summarily repealed, because there is coast defence depending upon it. There will be a referendum, and according as the people vote the government will be disposed to act. No mandate from the people for Canada to protect itself and incidentally to assist, when called upon, to defend the empire! Does any one suppose that Canada, as a whole, is not clear as to its duty? Still Mr. Bourassa dictates the government's policy, and he cannot be ignored. The Round Table will have to revise its opinion with regard to his absolute independence.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra wants a civic grant of \$5,000 per year—in the interest of education. Now that is going some. All the provinces of Canada will want increased subsidies except Ontario. Sir James wants nothing save the right to sit in Queen's Park and regard himself as the lord of all the soil. The National Bible Association of Britain has receded from its position with regard to the Ross rifle. Which is in some respects the result of Col.

Sam Hughes' last talk on the subject. No Ross rifle no Bisley team. If legislation of the Beck plan be allowed to develop and grow in Ontario the municipality will be shorn of its powers. There should be a limit to the powers of a commission, and Mr. Beck must be made to see this by a ban, if necessary. Roosevelt's reason for coming back is that he finds the people generally very apathetic with regard to progressive ideas. They need some one to stir them up. He and the club can do it.

### FLAYS PETITIONERS

FOR ASKING SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN KEEWATIN.

Godfrey Langlois, M.P.P. Shows That They are Tolerating Evil Conditions in Their Own Parish. Montreal, March 7.—Godfrey Langlois, M.P.P., in an article in Le Pays, refers in scathing terms to the petition to Borden, Pelletier, Monk and Naudet of the 372 citizens of St. Andre de Kamouraska asking for separate schools for Keewatin. "Of course," says the article in question, "the 372 citizens of St. Andre take a great deal more interest in the schools of Keewatin than in those of Quebec, for, as a matter of fact, we have never heard of any petitions coming from Kamouraska asking for the improvement of the schools in this province, although the county of Kamouraska, where these people reside, is perhaps among the poorest in the province from an educational standpoint. Only five years ago there were teachers receiving less than a hundred dollars per annum, and it is said that St. Andre headed the list of parishes too mean to pay the teachers. As a matter of fact, this state of affairs lasted fifty years and longer, yet none of these 372 patriots ever dared to raise their voices, asking the government to give them better schools, a more practical system of teaching, more competent teachers and school books at a more reasonable rate. "Outside of the question of salaries the superintendent shows a fine state of affairs for 1909 and 1910 in the County of Kamouraska, for on page 288 we find that out of the 119 schools there were 44 in a bad state, and 17 in a state of mediocrity, viz., 61, or more than half of the total number, existing in flagrant violation of the hygienic rules established by the council of public instruction. More than that, there were in the same county 45 schools where, according to the expression used by the superintendent of education, 'the methods employed in teaching are not good. "Here, therefore, is a state of affairs which sensible people should strive to remedy for their own good as well as that of their children. But, brave people of St. Andre de Kamouraska, you never utter a word of protest about your own schools, yet to the number of 372 you sent in a petition to the federal ministers about the affairs of Keewatin. By what sort of logic do you exercise your energy about the schools of Keewatin when your own schools are in such a miserable condition?"

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