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A CRISIS IS AT HAND.

The Canadian navy does not amount to much, and it will soon be a thing of the past—unless the government does something very soon. Naval recruiting does not seem to have been a success. Nothing has been done at it since the liberal government went out of office.

"The situation," says the Montreal Gazette, "illustrates a weakness in the plan of the experiment, of which the Rainbow is one part and the Niobe the other. It is easy to buy warships of certain types, and comparatively easy to build them of any type. It is not easy to get the material for trained crews and to make and keep them efficient. Australia, has gone farther than Canada in developing a navy has found this out, and depends

on Great Britain for about two-thirds of the trained men on its ships. It is a factor which must finally influence any workable plan for common naval action that may be decided upon."
 Improvement can only come when the government declares its policy and has in it some progressive plan of action. The young men of Canada are not going to sea as a profession, unless the occupation is both attractive and remunerative, and unless seamanship has a distinct future for them.

The men in the navy should be as well paid as the men who serve in other capacities, and until they are the naval force will be deficient. There must, too, be promotion, and this cannot be while the ship of state is at sea without chart, rudder or compass.

A SCARCITY OF LABOUR.

Kingston cannot afford to miss any industrial enterprise which is inclined to locate in it, and it has lost one establishment whose promoters saw a difficulty ahead, that of securing a plentiful supply of labour. One manufacturer, on a former occasion, reported that he would be better off by removing elsewhere, and especially to a certain place in the east, but the labour factor was never so much emphasized as at present, and when capital passed by on its account.

A scarcity of labour! Let the curious one make a trip across the city at any time and he will find many men, apparently idle, and in search of employment. These are doing the city a serious damage. They are giving it an advertisement which is exceedingly hurtful. The current idea which is evidently erroneous—is that labour attracts population, and that

the town or the city which guarantees steady employment will be a magnet to the travelling classes.
 The larger the manufacturing institution the greater the anxiety of its managers to secure the help they need. The common concern, it is alleged, is for cheap power. It is a great consideration, but it is not the only one. A greater, infinitely greater, is the question of service, and for men who are willing to work, steadily, cheerfully, with some regard for the employers' interests, and some for the success of the place in which he makes his home.

And the industrious citizen must deplore the fact that his idle men persist in giving it a bad name. Those who work should organize and make those who will not seek standing room elsewhere, and without the right to interfere with its progress or success.

MORE ABOUT FILTERS.

The fact that the city has been making enquiry about filtration, though failing, through any committee, to commit itself to any plan or system, is having some result. One firm, making a mechanical plant of undoubted superiority, has sent its representative here, and he has looked over the ground and equipped himself with information which will enable him later to submit plans and specifications and a definite proposition. It was this system which the board of health examined, and which it was inclined to recommend, though stopping short, according to the chairman of the Utilities' Committee, of taking a stand upon the question.

A Philadelphia firm has become interested in the matter, and before the first of September, will be in a position to talk business to the council. Its system is sand filtration, under pressure, and in a series of cylinders, each one capable of purifying the water passing through it and at the

rate of 500,000 gallons a day. Ten of these will provide for a supply of five million gallons, which is an excess of the present consumption by about 2,000,000 gallons, and the plan of construction is such that the capacity of the plant can be easily and indefinitely extended.

The filters—largely filled with sand and gravel—can be cleaned of their impurities in a few minutes, and if necessary every day. Before the water reaches them it passes through a chamber in which it is treated with a solution of alum. This affects the bacteria and fits them for the filter. This is a feature of the system that is highly commended, and makes it acceptable wherever it is tried. Three Rivers, Quebec, has a plan of this kind in use, and Saskatoon has just installed its duplicate. A deputation from the board of health should be asked to inspect and report upon it. Kingston wants only the best if it does cost \$50,000.

AN END OF CONFLICT.

Toronto is seriously agitated by a decision of the privy council, and to the effect that the radial railway company may put poles in North Toronto and prepare for the extension of its lines without the consent of the municipality. Toronto has received so many reverses on appeals to the highest court in the realm that one more cannot be very surprising, and yet the people are more disturbed than usual, and with good cause.

The trouble in the case, arises from the power which has been granted under an act of the federal parliament. The railway comes under its heading of a work for the good of Canada, not Ontario alone, and the charter is given or awarded by act of the larger parliament. In any event, whether the legislation is of a federal or provincial character, there is little or no regard shown for the rights of the municipality. Some great corporation decides to do something and proceeds to get authority

from parliament, and it usually succeeds. The will of hasty action is indicated in this case.

The Toronto News, with Laurierism in the brain, would hold the late liberal government to account. But his conflict of legislation, or legislation which invited conflict between the provincial and federal powers, is not of recent origin. Its history dates back many years, away into the days when the Macdonald government signed, and when there was a manifest desire for a collision between the political parties.

There has been enough of this thing, and the political parties should unite in declaring for an end of it. There should be no difficulty in determining the relations between the province and the Dominion, and the rights of the municipality should not be denied it. Town planning and town improvement cannot be advanced by the rude devices of the average corporation.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The label on the old Catarauqui bridge, and to the effect that it is the property of the public works department, is suggestive of some thoughts. In its present condition the bridge is not a credit to the government, and the work of enlarging and improving it cannot be begun too soon.

The Odd Fellows' Relief Association is a Kingston institution. It was organized here, and it has had largely the success that has attended it

through the devotion of those who have been connected with its management. Long may it continue to increase in membership and usefulness.

The Orange Sentinel refuses to believe, namely, that the western provinces will not stand for a continuation of present tariff conditions. The loyalty of the western Canadians is not to be questioned simply because they are discontented. The way to intensify that loyalty, however, is

to remove the disabilities from which they suffer.

Henry Bourassa is not making much of a stir. He is evidently hostile to Mr. Borden and the navy, but no premier can be expected to follow him, and he is not likely to become a political dictator. It once looked as if in Quebec he was the man of the hour, but the commotion which he caused has spent its force.

Hon. Mr. Rogers has no use, it is said, for Major Leonard, the new head of the Transcontinental railway. He is credited with having asked a favour which the major declined to grant. Henceforth his usefulness is gone, but only with Mr. Rogers. In the eye of the people the major has shown that he is the man for his job.

The magistrate of Toronto has pronounced chocolate a food, the sale of which on Sunday is justifiable. Judgment was influenced by the fact that chocolate was "sent to the soldiers in South Africa as food." But was it? Was the chocolate not regarded as a delicacy, the presentation of which to the men in the field was intended as a reminder of the affection of friends at home?

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

A Humane Act.

Amherst Record.
 Altogether, the act looks to be both humane and sensible, and worthy of emulation by the legislative bodies of other free countries.

Reason to be Timid.

Ottawa Free Press.
 Hon. Mr. Roblin, to Hon. F. G. W. Haultain, as he contemplates a general election plunges: "I'm afraid this western water is very cold just now for conservative constitutions."

Tactics of Trades People.

New York Herald.
 In its final position the medical profession has adopted the tactics of the trades-unions. It has struck for high pay and expects to force the government to come to its terms.

Grand for Repeal.

Ottawa Journal.
 Talk in Washington is again that congress will repeal the reciprocity offer to Canada. Pshaw, why? Canada let a reciprocity offer to the United States stand open for forty years.

Hard on the Landlords.

Hamilton Times.
 Even when under the restraint of official responsibility, Lloyd-George has succeeded in making high society shiver and fume by his vitriolic speeches. If he should resign office in order to be more free to conduct an agitation in favor of radical reform of the land laws, he may drive the landlords into sanitariums.

The Man On Watch.

The Lampman well remembers the year 1887 when the late town councillor John Carson was elected mayor over the late Edwin Chown. The townspeople, however, favored the gallant young man, then only thirty-one years of age, who made the promise to his friends that if elected he would wed, and he faithfully kept his promise two years afterwards. It was under the late Whig proprietor, Edw. J. B. Pense, that Mr. Carson sat for his first municipal lesson in the town council. Mayor Pense was then only thirty-two years of age, and Councillor Carson, but twenty-five. There certainly was "young blood" in the council in those days.

The present generation was scarcely aware, until they read it in the paper last Monday, that the late William Robinson served the town both in council and in legislature. It seems but a short time to the Lampman since he cast his vote for Mr. Robinson to be Kingston's member at Toronto. When the old gentleman met him two months ago, he told him that the next time he left Kingston it would be for Catacaqui. He felt the end near, and said he had no desire to see more years. It was from this old stalwart that the Lampman first learned about the tory meeting in the town hall, over sixty years ago, when annexation to the United States was broached, and that the large majority of the delegates spoke in favor of it. He had accompanied an old friend to the meeting as a spectator. The words of Mr. Robinson were these: "Finally Ogle R. Gowen arose and declared that the only annexation he

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CONVICTS HIS WIFE.

Atlanta Husband Blames Her for Injuries.

Atlanta, Ga., July 27.—"She is guilty," said Eugene Grace, of his wife, who is to be tried next Monday on a charge of drugging and shooting him in order to get \$25,000 insurance which she carried on his life. Lying paralyzed from the wound, on a cot in his mother's home at Newman, Grace bitterly attacked his wife.

"I am glad she is to be tried," said Grace, "and I am glad I am going to be a witness against her, even if I have to be carried into court on a stretcher."

"I've been here nearly four months, flat on my back, not able to move anything but my arms, my head, my shoulders. I'm half a dead man, and I used to have life in every inch of my body."

"But my wife comes to trial on Monday—on Monday," he repeated, slowly. "And she's the only one who put me here. She put me on my back in this fix. If I were going to die this minute," he went on, his voice rising, "I'd swear she did it bloodily. I'd swear she did it cold bloodedly, for my money, and left me as I am. I want her punished and my story will convince the jury she shot me." "I shall never rest till she is convicted and my name taken from her."

1,000 ISLANDS—ANCHOR.

Steamers Caspian and North King leave at 10.15 a.m. daily for 1,000 Islands points, and at 5 p.m. for Rochester, N.Y., via Bay of Quinte. J. P. Hanley, agent.

TAKES ISSUE WITH CHURCHES.

Liverpool, July 27.—Sir James Barr, the president of the British Medical Association, and a noted authority on various diseases, in his annual address to that famous body here, yesterday, was plain-spoken in his denunciation of the doctrine of bringing into the world a lot of children regardless of the fitness of the parents.

Physical degenerates, he said, ought not to be allowed to add to the race. He knew that such a view would bring him into conflict with some Christian churches, which preached the doctrine of a high birth rate, regardless of consequences, boldly declaring that it is better to be born an imbecile than not to be born at all. "They forgot the saying of Jesus that it were well a certain man had never been born."

Sir James refused to act a part in the made morality of the church. There must, he said, be a higher racial morality, based on utility and the greatest happiness, not merely of the individual, but of the race. If everybody considered his moral responsibility to the race these might, in a few generations be produced a pure, moral and highly intellectual race.

At a special meeting of Sarnia Presbytery, the call to Lemire of Rev. E. E. Horne, of Watford, was sustained. Mr. Horne will be inducted into his new charge at Trenton, about August 13th.

USE CRAWFORD'S COAL

We Have Plenty of Coal Have You?

Gold Locket for Hodgson.

Montreal, July 27.—The city of Montreal will present George Hodgson, the Montreal swimmer, who won at Stockholm, with a gold locket. He will be met on landing by the mayor and other civic officials.

About thirty assembled at the home of L. H. Stover, Camden East, on Saturday, to say good-bye to Mrs. and Miss Homan, previous to their departure to Yarker, and presented them with two beautifully upholstered chairs. Mrs. Homan has been a faithful worker in the Methodist church at Camden East. Only when compulsory is labor a curse.