

**THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR**

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 206-210 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at \$5 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 Daily \$5 and Weekly \$1.50 per year.

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**THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED**

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TORONTO OFFICE—Suite 19 and 20 Queen City Chambers, 33 Church Street, Toronto. H. E. Smallpiece, J.P., representative.

**CRITICISM NOT EARNED.**

A little bit of dialogue, which took place at the meeting held when a branch of the St. John Ambulance Society was formed, is worth repeating. An officer, and a visitor, was explaining in detail the duties of the members of this society.

Its aims or ramifications were not narrow or circumscribed. The member was not only a well-posted man, but he was over on duty for emergency service, in his home, his shop, his office, the field, the back yards, and the way," said he, "the backyards are the dirtiest I have ever seen."

Now this rebuke may have been in some degree earned, but one of the company evidently thought that the city was suffering somewhat from its critics. So he said that the people

here were to be complimented upon their patience. They heard in the afternoon from a visitor that the water passing through the intake pipe, (and because of its defective state), was as bad as the water at Ottawa; and in the evening they were informed, by another visitor, that the dirtiness of the yards was beyond a parallel.

The patience of the people, it was added, was demonstrated by their passiveness under the circumstances, because if they were as irritable as they might be, and as likely to resent reflections as the people of some other places, there would be a demonstration there and then of "first aid for the wounded."

The incident is not without its interest and lesson.

**HUGHES' LOFTINESS OF SPIRIT.**

The answers to questions by members of parliament, and referring to removals, abruptly and offensively, of liberal employees, all over the dominion, indicate that the spoils system has been given a general recognition. Party venom or spite has about exhausted itself.

There was such a clamour for civil service reform when the conservatives were in opposition that some people thought they were really and sincerely desirous of it. The wholesale dismissals—the removal heartlessly of some poor cripples who were dependent upon the government for a living—of servants of all grades and conditions, forever banishes that idea.

At first, too, the presumption was that some cause should be assigned. Then, to facilitate results, for the outs were hungering for government feed, the member for any constitu-

ency passed the word; and next the minister ordered the decapitation of officials without pressing to offer any apology.

Thus the Minister of Militia acts at the idea of having to account for the dismissal of two of the best men that have ever been employed as artizans at the Royal Military College—William S. Burke and J. B. Quinn. He had to charge them with something, and says, "Political partisanship," and so rank is the accusation that one can very readily defy him to produce the proof.

The honorable member does not, however, ask or want the proof. In answer to the question, "On whose recommendation were they dismissed?" he answers: "The Minister of Militia and Defence assumes all the responsibility." The loftiness of the minister is characteristic. It will pass for a while, but not for long.

**COMMISSION FOR THE UTILITIES.**

The proposition is to apply to the Ontario legislature for enlarged powers for the Utilities committee, and we hope it will be vigorously and successfully resisted. The interests of the city do not warrant any extension of the committee system, and for the reason that it does not meet the requirements of the hour.

The business of the city—and especially the business of producing and supplying, light, heat and power—is getting beyond the committee stage; indeed, it has already got beyond it, and this fact can be readily demonstrated. The chairman of the committee for this year has given a good deal of his time day after day to the affairs of the department, and he is our authority for saying that the time has come for a change. A commission of five should have charge of the utilities, and these five

men should be paid for their time, and should give the work of the departments their undivided attention. One of them should be an electrician, and should be able to advise and counsel with the manager, this should be a physician and capable of expressing himself firmly upon all matters pertaining to the public health. The others should be good business men, and it is safe to say that with a combination of that kind the business of the city would be practically and satisfactorily dispatched.

A commission should be tried at once—so far as the utilities are concerned, and the Whig is assured that it would soon establish its merits and win the whole people to its support. A great advance has been made in a right direction when two members of the Utilities' Committee gave openly and unreservedly their vote for a commission.

**APPEAL FROM THE QUAKERS.**

The Whig acknowledges that it is in receipt of a communication from the Society of Friends, of Philadelphia, and is assured that it is a copy of the communication which has been addressed to the press generally. There are several features in the circular letter which we desire to discuss most candidly.

This newspaper is published for profit. It would be absurd to suggest or suppose that many thousands of dollars have been invested for the purpose of diverting, or edifying the community. Journalism, like law, medicine, theology, or science, is a profession in which men, and women, engage, some of them for a living, and all of them as part of a great business in which the people are interested. They use the newspaper, and they read it, and contribute towards the revenue with which it is maintained.

Having said this much, the Whig wants it to be understood by the

Quakers, and all others, that it is very much concerned about the contents of each edition, that it is constantly conscious of its responsibility, and that it rejects again and again, news and advertising matter of a questionable character. What this news amounts to in a year, is not a public matter; but the sum-total is sufficient to satisfy any one that the paper is very considerate of its friends and readers.

The Whig is not boastful of its morals. It leaves the people who read it to pass upon the quality of its work, and its devotion to all tasks and ideals that look to or command its favour. The press is a great power in the social and political world, and the Whig hopes to keep before it the standards of the man who shaped its character for so many years, who, though dead, yet speaketh to his staff with a spirit that is ever present and ever dominant.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Well, there are four men in the House of Commons anyway who think that in the naval question Canada has no right to do what she darn please.—Ottawa Journal.

The tramp of the candidate can now be heard—his into the night. It appears that the man who wants to serve the people must do some humiliating things in order to get elected.

The minister of public works has not yet seen the advisability of apologizing for his slander of Mr. Sullivan, of Saskatchewan. He got a wrong record of the man and has not the willingness to admit it.

And four men, nationalists, who have learned how far they can be ignored by the government which used

them when its leaders were in office and in an undignified and disloyal way for their support.

Mr. Borden does not say that Armand Levergne, the alleged rebel, was not invited to take a seat in the cabinet. Mr. Borden contents himself with saying that the story that appears in the papers is "not accurate." That is as far as he dare go, and it pained him to go even that far.

The idea is being sedulously cultivated that Great Britain and Germany are looking askance at each other, and that, metaphorically speaking, the warriors on either side are ready to jump at each other's throats. But Britain and Germany are co-operating in the Balkan matter and the reflex-

tors of public opinion are speaking most kindly of each other.

The French papers may stand it, but why should they allow the nationalists to rise in parliament and seek evasion for their statements about the navy—their rank and disloyal statements—by denying the accuracy of the reports. This reflection in the reports is becoming too common. The press should resent it, and in no uncertain way.

The justice department has taken notice of the fact that it does not look well to turn ex-convicts out of prison without overcoats. Very good. Now will the Hon. C. J. Doherty wake up to the fact that he is being severely criticised because he does not appoint a warden. Major Hughes has the call and the qualifications. Why is he not appointed?

The promise is made of a summer job to some minister who can spend several months in England and be called on occasionally for a conference with the Imperial Defence committee. Mr. Foster has the call, but the warden of the cabinet is the proper man. The minister of militia must not allow any one to overshadow him in his own department.

Hon. Mr. White denies that he dropped the cement duty for political effect in Saskatchewan. But the change was made a week before it was proclaimed in the Canada Gazette, and Hon. Mr. Rogers was the medium through which it was announced at his pow-wow in Regina, on June 8th. The cement-makers were not notified of the deal until June 15th. Mr. White's sincerity is under suspicion.

**Some Church Endowments.**

Montreal Gazette.  
A British parliamentary paper shows the net annual income from endowments of the Church of England in Wales in recent years to be £290,037, of which £116,287 comes from funds or properties given to it before 1703. By the propositions before parliament in connection with the disestablishment measure £57,136 will be left to the church when its connection with the state is cut off, and £172,000 will be transferred to Welsh County and Borough Councils and to the University of Wales. Besides the sum mentioned, certain parish endowments and lands will also be ultimately transferred to the representatives of the state. The desire for religious freedom which moves the Welshmen in their disestablishment efforts seems to have combined with it a certain amount of more mercenary motive.

**They Have an Arbor.**

A member of the Lunenburg County Council was regretting the lack of art sense displayed by his fellows when they placed an open space at the disposal of the people. He pleaded eloquently for fountains, goldfish in ornamental basins, lions and unicorns in stucco and emerald green garden seats.

"Why said he, in a splendid peroration, "we want something homely and countrylike—a little arbor here and there. If a foreigner came to this country and asked to see one we never have an arbor worth showing to show him."

Then up and spake another member, who, prior to attaining the height of his civic ambitions, had been a petty officer in the navy.

"Oh, we 'aven't, 'aven't we? And what about Portsmouth arbor?"

**To Cure a Cold in One Day.**

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Albert F. Shore told the Philadelphians that he was a New York native, and was endowed with powers of thought. He did not know whether they could fall in love.

We now have an attractive list of homes for sale and at reasonable prices. Drop in and look it over. Howard S. Polger, 14 Clarence street.

Frank Spassio, a foreman on the barge canal contract, was drowned when the coffer dam north of the Broadway bridge at Fulton, N.Y., collapsed.

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