

THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 206-310 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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CANADA'S PART IN SCIENCE.

The Canadian parliament has been, of course, a public official, and give to interested, through Mr. Gauvreau, in the alleged cure for tuberculosis. The cablegram from Berlin, and to the effect that Dr. Friedmann, of that city, had discovered a serum, from turtles, that checked the disease and eventually eliminated it, is truly, as described, the Christmas gift of science to the world.

The enquiry of the federal government, whether it is to make itself familiar with the facts, and take such steps as will give sufferers from phthisis in Canada the benefit of the discovery, can be answered in only one way. The federal government will be warranted in proving or verifying the report from Berlin, and, finding it correct, endorse some one with the power and the means of introducing the serum and using it in Canada.

Dr. Friedmann will become, of course, a public official, and give to the German empire, and through it to the world, the benefit of his discovery. It is the practice of the German government to watch every development of science, and to secure every discovery and give it to the people, the professional or scientific men being handsomely remunerated.

France has been similarly spirited with regard to some of its scientists. Pasteur, of rabies fame, for instance, became the representative of the government and directed a great national laboratory in the interest of the French people. Canada cannot compete with those older countries, in these things, but it can take advantage of the learning and discovery of Europe and follow the example of Germany and France and England in giving publicity and public aid to the advance of medical science.

HYPOCRISY AT OTTAWA.

The full report of Sir George Murray, of the British civil service, and with regard to Canada's public service, has not been printed, but enough is made public to warrant the conclusion that he recommends a very radical change in the departments. It is assumed, of course, that the premier knew what the British service is and could expect the methods adopted in the mother country to be adopted here—if Sir George Murray's counsel were to be acted upon. It is assumed, further, that he made arrangements while in England for the visit of the imperial expert, knowing the while that he and his party had been following a partizan course with regard to the officials of Canada, and that the decapitation of liberals would continue so long as a hungry conservative hounded the government for his share of the spoils. Sir George recommends that the service be lifted out of politics, that all branches of it be placed under the Civil Service Commission; that a reign of merit be inaugurated, and officials promoted according to their fitness; that each departmental head be as the head of a private business, with power to transfer officials and adjust their salaries.

ALTOGETHER TOO MUCH LAW.

There is a nasty legal muddle in Montreal in connection with the picture show business. The dime or nickel theatres have been opening on Sunday, and because, in a financial sense, Sunday is the best day for business. About thirty convictions were made, under a provincial law which made these Sunday performances illegal. The prosecutions were made mostly in the fall of 1909, but the appeals have only now been disposed of by the Supreme Court, and by the quashing of all the convictions. The contention was that the provincial enactment was unconstitutional; that it was not intended to bring about a change in or annul any municipal by-laws. Moreover, it was argued that legislation on the observance of Sunday was a matter of public general interest throughout the dominion, and appertained exclusively to the federal authority. As this authority could not possibly delegate its

DISCUSSING THE LABOR POLICY.

Let us look at the platform of the labour party. It has cost some men labour in its preparation. They did not frame up certain ideas without meditation, and they may regard all their contentions as feasible. The taxation of land values does not affect Kingston so much as it does other places, and the application of the principles in Kingston would, if possible, be fraught with many difficulties. From the taxation of real estate now certain revenues are derived. Without at least as much revenue from land values the council could not meet its obligations, and there is no plan by which one can figure out the possible results of a change in Kingston. The Assessment Commissioner of Toronto opposes the taxation of land values because he does not see how it could be made productive. The taxation of land values is an academic question for the present. It may become practicable, with more light, and all some municipalities desire is that the Assessment Act be amended so that the change may be tried under favourable conditions. The publication of the assessment by the city is a doubtful and costly expedient. It was tried in Kingston many years ago and no one can recall any benefit that followed the experiment. The publication may enable any ratepayer to see how properties are assessed, but he can see that at any time by calling at the assessor's office in the city buildings. With regard to the meter rents. The water department has \$2,347.73 invested in meters. Is it getting any rental from them? The Whig does not think so. It remembers that many meters were purchased and in-

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Three thousand doctors are working the British Insurance Act, so that Lloyd-George's troubles are over.

Lloyd-George calls the wealthy men of Britain, who oppose the social reforms of the government, as if they were incompatible with national prosperity, blasphemers of the Creator.

F. E. Smith, a conservative leader, has declared in favour of the disestablishment of the Welsh church. He does not favour disendowment, but how can he disassociate the one from the other?

The Windsor Record talks of middle men who are reaching for profits in the Hydro-Electric contract. Our contemporary protests against the payment of a royalty to insiders. What is all this about? The Record should be a little more definite.

The question has been asked, Where are the men to come from for the manning of Canadian war ships? That is the question which troubles one of the secretaries of the Imperial Naval League, who says Britain's naval brigade is now 10,000 men short.

Santa's Whiskers.

Santa Claus gets his cotton whiskers burned so often that one would think he would get shaved. But he appears this season with his side brushes as long as ever.

Essentially Canadian.

Sir Wilfrid's policy of 1912 is his policy of 1909, except that he has expanded it and taken a step toward in the construction of what is to be essentially a Canadian navy.

The Taxation of Foods.

Honor Law will tax food coming into Britain only if after a conference with the colonies "a system of Imperial preference is found to be practicable." Do Canadians wish to bargain with Britain and make food taxes the basis of the bargain?

Cost of the Navy.

Manitoba Free Press. It will cost Canada \$1,400,000 a year to pay the interest charges upon the three Canadian dreadnoughts, while their manning and maintenance will impose an additional charge upon the British exchequer of about three million dollars. It would be money in Great Britain's pocket if the conditions of the gift were reversed—that is, if Great Britain gave Canada the dreadnoughts contingent upon our accepting the burden of manning and maintaining them.

One Day to Size Up Farmers.

Pittsburgh Dispatch. An observing farmer tells the Sylvan Grove (Kan.) News that the following rules may be regarded as tolerably authentic: "When you pass a farm and see a large barn and a small house you may know that the man is boss; but when you see a fine house and a small barn you may understand that the woman has things her own way; and when there is a good barn and a nice house you may take it for granted the woman and man are equals and work together in harmony."

A Joke That Came True.

Correspondence, New York Times. Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec. 20. United States Vice-Consul W. H. Allen was recalling some reminiscences of the time when Woodrow Wilson was here in 1910, before he had been nominated for governor of New Jersey. Wilson and Mark Twain were playing golf, and Wilson made a particularly fine play which put the humorist out of the game. Mark gazed at him with speechless admiration, and then drew out: "Wilson, you will be the next president of the United States." "I'll be elected by one vote, then," said the Princeton president, meaning Mark Twain's vote. Both were joking, and neither had any idea how fully the prophecy was to be fulfilled.

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First News from the Christmas Store

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