

# The British Whig

80th YEAR.



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### REFORM COMES LATE.

Carrying the mails, in every season, winter or summer, is hard work, and the men who engage in it should be well paid. The Whig, therefore, rejoices that the posties have been given an advance in pay, and a change of uniform in keeping with the change of weather. The advance of pay is not material, but it is thankfully received. It is an evidence of the appreciation that has been too long delayed.

When a liberal government ruled the Whig assumed to give it advice respecting these posties. That advice the government should have taken. It had, however, officials who were opposed to an increase in the staff or an increase in the pay, men who came here from Toronto and showed no sympathy with the overworked and underpaid men. With a change of government the imperious way and authority of those men—perhaps we should say of one man—disappeared, and now the letter-carriers are having something like fair treatment.

It is regrettable that reform and progress were not possible when the Whig advocated them, but it is glad that they have come, and that they have been so fully earned.

### OFFERINGS FALLING SHORT.

The Board of Education is having its own difficulties. It has been agreed to establish a model school, in September, accepting from the government a grant of \$1,000, which will not cover all incidental expenses. It accepts the stipulation that the department shall express a choice as to the principal, at a salary which the department fixes. It is no easy task, however, to secure the teacher who has the prescribed standard because the appointment has been left off until too late.

Five applications were received. All of them, as a matter of form, were referred to the department. Two of them are passed over, or not commented upon, and two of them are conditionally endorsed. The only alternative is to accept the other, if he is willing on short and insufficient notice to change his location. Now it surely must have been known by the department long before the middle of June, that a model school was to be established here, and why that information was withheld to the inconvenience and embarrassment of the board, one cannot imagine.

The Whig absolves the minister from all blame. It may be according to form that he is referred to as authorizing different things, or approving or disapproving of them, but he is not the man who has to do with the routine which is now suffering for want of prompt attention. The minister is leaving to certain officials routine duties, and these officials do not appear to be measuring up to the requirements. This is about as mild as the matter can be put.

### EVIL OF MALINGERING.

A grievance against the British Insurance Act is that it favours malingering. This means that persons on the sick list, and enjoying sick benefits, are in no hurry about getting off it, and the state and the friendly society suffer in consequence. The London Mail says this is a result of Lloyd-George's haste in starting his insurance scheme, and it quotes the experience of the Germans with regard to their sick benefit scheme, that "sickness and sick pay increases faster than membership, the length of sickness at a much greater ratio, and the cost of sickness at a much greater ratio still."

Malingering is not a new experience in sick benefit schemes, and because it is not, and had been anticipated, the government was anxious, as soon

as possible, to place all the members affected by the Insurance Act under regular panels of doctors whose professional integrity would not be questioned. The certificates on which all sick benefits are paid, lie with the medical men, and to charge that malingering is increasing, at a menacing rate, is to attribute to them carelessness and indifference, and in any case there is a reflection on the profession.

The London Mail refers to the insurance as "the hated act," and hated for two particular reasons: (1) Under it the employers of labour are obliged to keep their employees insured, and pay a part of the cost; and (2) under it the employees pay a part of it. It is all a question of money, and the men who are cursing the Act, and through it the government, and seeking to disgruntle the people, also denounce that government for its extravagance and for not adding to its expenditure on sick benefit account.

At the first the Act was hailed as the greatest social event of the age. It was ever hailed and praised by the people and the press that now defame it. Anything done in the name of a government is sure of misrepresentation; and there are some people who would discount, even a pass to paradise.

### WE EXALT OUR LEADERS.

When the St. Thomas Journal refers to the anniversary of the Canadian Confederation as "the day we celebrate," it lays itself open to a scourging from the Toronto Telegram. This paper has not hesitated to denounce as unpatriotic all and sundry who supported the appeal for reciprocity in the fall of 1911. The 1st of July has been commemorated as that on which, in 1867, the statesmen of Canada sunk all political differences, all thoughts that would create friction between them, in order to give effect to the constitution of the young nation. It has been referred to and glorified in recent years but it was born forty-seven years ago and has been giving evidence of growth and sturdiness which gratifies every genuine Canadian.

The Whig has at different times counselled that the events of Canadian history should be taught in the public schools. It can see how delicately this question of confederation would have to be treated so as to avoid political antagonisms. The fact is that confederation, now so much lauded and magnified, was originally advocated by the liberals. The leader in the agitation was William Lyon Mackenzie, who has been referred to by his enemies as a rebel. Later Sir A. Dorion, in 1856, moved for a union of the Canadas, Upper and Lower. In 1858 Hon. G. Brown advocated the same cause, but the government, of which he was a member, suffered a defeat while it was under discussion. Hon. Alex. Galt favoured a union of all the Canadian assemblies, and entered the government of Sir George Cartier, pledged to the union. In 1864 George Brown, as great a force in parliamentary life as he was in the press, moved for the appointment of a committee to consider the outstanding constitutional problems, including confederation. Sir John Macdonald voted against the report, and when he undertook to form a government both Sir John and the governor-general urged George Brown to enter it, in the interest of confederation, and accepting, Mr. Brown carried with him Hons. Oliver Mowat and William McDougall.

All worked for the union, which was carried into effect in 1867. It included Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, later, Prince Edward Island, and made provision by which the North-West Territories became a part of the dominion. Sir John Willison, who cannot now be accused of any partiality for the liberals, has said: "The liberal leader established the necessity of confederation, the conservative leader accepted the situation which his great opponent had created, and Brown and Macdonald joined hands to effect the union."

With this knowledge of facts how exceedingly silly and imprudent it is of any partisan journal to dub the liberals traitors and deny them the right to honor the anniversary of confederation. It is something which is not in the keeping of any self-constituted or self-appointed guardian, an inheritance in which all true Canadians can share without question and qualms of conscience.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

A public holiday without a public attraction of any kind is one few people seem to want or appreciate. The London Daily Mail refers to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour endeavoring in the Marconi case "to find a non-political solution." Fancy Sir James and Mr. Rowell conferring on the Hanna-Taylor case.

The tramways of London are losing in revenue. Their great competitors are the motor omnibuses. It is predicted that in time the motor busses will put all street railways out of business, unless they are protected by some kind of legislation. The Montreal Herald comments on the spirit of the Witness without the Douglass influence. The Witness, might

retort upon the spirit of the Herald without the Penny or Briarly influence. Great papers represent great ideas or parties, and sometimes they represent great personalities.

A preacher in Rockport, N.Y., is quoted as being in favor of Sunday baseball, after one o'clock. If it is wrong at one hour it is wrong at another. The clergyman makes a great mistake in splitting hairs upon this subject.

The senator who allowed his wife to accept an evening dress from a firm, in recognition of the influence he could use in the awarding of a public contract, has certainly not the sense of honour which prevails in England. The standards of the old land can be copied in Canada with advantage.

The Ottawa Journal shows amazement because it is reminded of what it said about the policy of permanent contribution—that it was rotten. It is suffering from the candid criticism in which the independent paper should be able to indulge occasionally. The Journal does not repeat of what it said, of course.

The New York Times reasons that it is the duty of the parents to instruct the boys and girls on the subject of sex hygiene. Which is all right, when the parents are thoughtful and intelligent persons, who can read the necessary literature and correctly and delicately interpret it. In the absence of this discrimination and knowledge the boys and girls must suffer apparently.

### PUBLIC OPINION

#### A Late Definition.

Guelph Herald.  
The supreme court of Michigan has decided that a razor is not a weapon, but an "implement of the toilet. Then a safety razor must be a toy."

#### Very Possible.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review.  
Some esteemed contemporaries are calling on their readers to bring out the bunting for Dominion day. Perhaps the day will come when such a reminder will not be regarded as necessary.

#### Women Should Propose.

Hamilton Times.  
A Detroit judge said the other day that "women ought to do the proposing. Half the men do not know what they are doing when they propose." So far even the suffragettes have not taken that stand.

#### Holding Down Milwaukee.

Hamilton Times.  
Milwaukee is no longer famous chiefly because of its beer. A judge in that city has announced that "any woman who wears a skirt whose hem is more than twelve inches above the ground is liable to a fine in this court."

#### Killed By Ideas.

Ottawa Journal.  
Because of overwork upon a speech he was to deliver, a French deputy fell dead in the chamber just after arising. During the naval debate in Canada's parliament, if our memory is correct, there were no similar incidents.

#### Inviting a Suit.

Toronto Globe.  
That the Globe "grossly slanders" Hon. W. J. Hanna and Sir James Whitney's allegations of the London Free Press. The courts are all ways open for the punishment of slander. And the gentlemen in Queen's Park need no fiat.

### Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

Six constables are here, so it is reported, to make a charge on the illicit bar near Channel Grove. The carrier pigeon, which left here, arrived in Stratford pretty well used up. The weather was very bad for the birds.

The teachers' examinations are in full progress in the city hall. There are fifteen candidates for matriculation, fifteen for second class and forty-three for third-class certificates. There will be 130 up for the entrance examinations.

Strawberries are very scarce this year. The inland revenue collections for June amounted to \$12,749.19. Confederation Day was very strictly observed. Portmouth, with the exception of the loading of the steamer Algonquin every manner of work ceased.

Rev. G. S. Eldridge preached his inaugural sermon at the Fifth Methodist church.

#### "RED CROSS" BARRED.

Must Not Be Used By Firms in Future.

The "Red Cross," or "Geneva Cross," which is very widely used in advertising medical goods and other articles by business houses, cannot hereafter be used for any business purpose without the permission of the militia council of Canada. Any person or business house disobeying this order will be liable to a fine and forfeiture of the goods upon which the emblem is used. A number of articles on the market will be affected by this order, as there are all kinds of patent medicines and even liquors bearing the Red Cross as a trade mark. We never heard of a rich man who had to advertise for long lost kins. When you meet a man of few words it's a safe bet he's married.

### Wise and . . . Otherwise

"The girls seem to be getting prettier every day," says one paragrapher. The summer hats are giving us a somewhat better chance to see, at any rate.

As a general proposition the less a man has the more children he seems able to afford.

Many of our troubles and most of our misfortunes come from emphasizing the wrong things.

Reason.  
"That boat embraces many points in its stops."  
"That's why, then, it is always hugging the shore."

The Problem.  
When woman, lovely woman, shops, If she is young or old,  
Or rich or poor, or very plain,  
(Of charming to behold,  
I cannot see the reason why  
By crazy caprice led,  
She gets a hat a mile too big  
To fit her pretty head.

Or when she seeks another store  
A pair of shoes to buy,  
With buckles big, and haunting bows,  
And heels so very high,  
Although she wears a number three  
She's certain to refuse  
The proper size to suit her feet,  
And calls for number two.

Bad Enough As It Is.  
"Would you like to live your life over again?"  
"And owe twice as much as I do now? No, sir."

Any Old Seashore.  
From the St. Louis Republic.  
"Going to the seashore this summer?"  
"You betcher."  
"Going to flirt some?"  
"A little."  
"Where are you going?"  
"Oh, I dunno. Any of those places where the flirting is good."

The New Curate.  
The Lady—What's the new curate like, John?  
John—The queerest figure of a little man you ever saw. They tell me as 'low the only wearin' apparel 'e can buy ready-made is his embrely.—Sphere.

Courting Days.  
"Would you mind resting your head on my left shoulder, dearest?" murmured the beautiful girl.  
"Yes; and to further away from the cigars I have in my right pocket!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

True.  
The Male—But how will throwing stones through windows get you the vote?  
The Militant—Don't you remember Shakespeare on "sermons in stones."—London Opinion.

A Daily Thought.  
The sublime and the ridiculous are often so nearly related that it is difficult to class them differently. One step above the sublime makes the ridiculous, and one step above the ridiculous makes the sublime again.—Thomas Paine.

When Autumn Comes.  
Blue will lead the fall color scheme. Most wanted shades are navy and Hage. Purple, shading from wisteria to dark, promises well. Ruby red has a strong position now. Russian green is especially wanted in lustrous fabrics. Strawbery shades are well received for trimming purposes.

Funny Ideas.  
From the St. Louis Republic.  
"Here's something that has just struck me as funny."  
"What?"  
"Hopper and Goodwin never have been the husbands of Lillian Russell with all the marrying of the three of them."

Rushed.  
"Why did you break into the house in the middle of the day?" asked the magistrate.  
"Well," said the accused, "I had several others to cover that evening."—London Evening Standard.

Happened at Harvard.  
"You know who he is?"  
"Yes," replied the other. "He is worth a couple of millions. Is just out of college; was educated at Harvard."  
"Oh, no," rejoined the first speaker. "He wasn't educated at Harvard. He went to school there."

Not Necessarily Chronic.  
"What is a cure for the ailment known as writer's cramp?"  
"All the cases I have ever known have been relieved by an increase in the writer's salary."



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