

The British Whig 80TH YEAR



Published Daily and Semi-Weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

J. O. Elliott, President; Leman A. Guild, Managing Director and Sec.-Treas.

Business office, 225 Fifth Ave.; Editorial rooms, 225 Fifth Ave.; Job office, 225 Fifth Ave.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Daily Edition) One year, delivered in city, \$8.00; One year, if paid in advance, \$5.50; One year, by mail to rural offices, \$2.50; One year, to United States, \$3.00; Six and three months, pro rata.

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TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: H. E. Smallpiece, 32 Church St. U. S. REPRESENTATIVES: New York Office, 225 Fifth Ave.; Frank R. Northrup, Manager; Chicago, Tribune Bldg.; Frank R. Northrup, Manager.

CHLORINE IN THE WATER.

The letter of Mr. Weese, some days ago, has not lost its power. How long are the people of the city to be forced to drink chlorinated water? It may be a satisfaction to know that appliances have been provided by which the chlorine will be more systematically or scientifically introduced into the water, but the presence of it is none the less objectionable. A member of the council asks, quite innocently, what can be done? The water in the harbour is contaminated. It reaches the harbour from the upper lakes in this impure condition. Well, there is a partial cure—filtration—and if the local Board of Health is helpless, as it appears to be, the provincial board should act. It has given Ottawa orders to go ahead and do something, and the council at the capital hesitates, though it has spent many thousands in expert advice. It has given St. Catharines orders, and that city will put in a mechanical filtration plant of the gravity type, using storage periods of two hours after the administration of chemicals. Kingston cannot much longer escape the attention that is its due, and it may expect to hear any day from the provincial medical health officer.

The labour element are all concerned with regard to the compensation for injury bill. This passed, and it is expected to do, at the next session of the legislature, and old age pensions will be dealt with. Canada is hardly in a position for this yet. By the way, what has the select committee of the commons done with the question?

THE BY-LAW WAS CARRIED.

The vote on the question of managing the utilities of the city, by a commission, was very indifferently regarded, in the test on Wednesday, and the result is apparent in the smallness of the vote which was recorded. Two conclusions are inevitable, namely, that the majority of the voters for the by-law were business men, and the majority of those who voted nay the property owners in outlying wards. The majority were persuaded that the commission would be an improvement on the committee and council, in the management of the utilities; and the minority represented in some degree those who did not understand the situation and voted against the by-law. They did not know enough about it to warrant them in desiring the change.

There are only two ways in which the people may gain a knowledge of civic government, by council or commission, and these are by study or experience. Commission government is a comparatively new thing, and yet there are books upon the subject in sufficient number to constitute a small library, and there are in every community the men who have read them and have been favourably impressed with their contents. Small as the total vote has been, and smaller still the majority, the enactments of the province have been complied with and the council will be under the necessity of giving the by-law its third reading. This will, no doubt, be done at once, and the nomination and election of commissioners will follow.

The Whig hopes the voters will be influenced by only one consideration, namely, the desire to secure men of the highest qualification and integrity for the commission. The choice is unlimited. Any one, or any body of men, can put candidates in the field, but the people can be trusted to make such a selection from the number as will guarantee a safe and economical management of the public utilities.

A CRISIS IN BUSINESS.

The friends and supporters of the Wilson government have been making a comprehensive study of the business conditions of the United States, and they have been sending out calming assurance. They include what is termed "hope and a warning." The crop returns have been heard from and they show the soundness of the basis of the country's material welfare.

While "boom" conditions are only reported from South Atlantic, Gulf and Southwest groups of states where cotton is king, the "fair" reports from practically all other sections are construed as proof that in the wheat-producing states there is no reason for pessimism over the crop outlook, and that business conditions generally are normal. That this should be the situation in the early months following the enactment of the new tariff law is taken as the best possible indication of a comparatively easy adjustment by business to the conditions newly created.

But there is a warning note. The railways are in a bad way, despite the enormous profits they are said to be making, this exhibit being made by the employees when they demanded, and, after long negotiation, were given an increase of wages. Then the managers declared that there had to be an increase of rates. Business is said to have fallen off from twenty to forty per cent. in the last twelve months. There is not a gilt-edged stock listed on the market, either railroad or industrial, that has not shrunk in value. Twelve of the safest industrial stocks listed averaged 75.77 the first day of December, 1913. Twelve of the best railroad stocks averaged 120.45 November 1st, 1912, and the same stocks averaged 102.81 December 1st this year. This represents a great shrinkage in values but it is no greater than the average shrinkage in all business.

The government does not worry, though it feels anxious, and because, says the New York Herald, its members are confident the Interstate Commerce Commission will come to the relief of the railroads by granting to them the right to make such increases in their freight rates as will save them from the possibility of bankruptcy, dragging with them hundreds of thousands of persons whose hard earned savings are invested, and the manufacturing establishments whose life is dependent upon the railroads. The gross earnings of the official classification territory roads, during the last fiscal year, were \$186,775,000 greater than in the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1910, but the operating expenses and taxes during the last fiscal year were \$203,067,000 greater than they were in 1910, so that the net return, after paying operating expenses and taxes, was actually \$16,311,000 less in 1913 than it was in 1910. And this notwithstanding the important fact that during this three-year period these railroads increased their property investment by a total of \$659,862,000. In other words, they spent this sum for additions, betterments and equipment.

So that, to quote Mr. Willard, of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway, "these companies not only failed to earn any return whatsoever upon the new capital investment, but saved even less from gross earnings, as return upon the original property investment, than they were able to show before their large additional expenditures were made." The argument follows that the refusal of the Interstate Commission to let the railway companies increase their tariffs will precipitate a crisis that would be detrimental, if not fatal, to the democratic government. Mr. Borden and President Wilson have reason for fraterising. They had similar ideas as to what constituted business prosperity, and they are having their experiences.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Peterboro elects Utilities' Commissioners in January, and some of the candidates are among the best men in the community. The commission is always attractive.

The Manitoba government is stealing the main planks of the liberal platform. The old game, and the one by which tory governments have lengthened out their power.

The hotel project has received another push. But it will not get past the talking stage until the men of money have seen their way clear to put a couple of hundred thousand dollars into the scheme.

The Ottawa Journal is inclined to disbelieve the stories about the famous Macdonald election because Mr. Morrison was re-elected by a larger majority. Why did the member resign his seat? Why did Hon. "Bob" Rogers let him? The Journal has become altogether too innocent.

In the British system grand juries are to be abolished. What good are they? They decide that certain cases shall go to trial. The law officer of the crown can decide that.

There may be some excuse for the petit jury, but even it will go eventually.

Two light house keepers in their lonely stations, cut off by many miles from the nearest habitation, prefer this to facing the high cost of living ashore. The government sympathizes with them, and has been reluctantly obliged to let them have their way.

Good Fellows' Clubs are being organized all over the country. What are they? Unions of men whose plan is to see that the needy among the women and children are provided in the Christmas distribution. The assurance follows that the money contributed is wisely and judiciously expended.

"Education is something quite different and apart from the arts of war," says the Ottawa Citizen. "The latter may be learned if desired when the general education of the young student has been completed. To incorporate the military idea in regular university work would surely be a reactionary step." This is another view of the introduction of militarism into the colleges. It cannot be made compulsory, and without compulsion it is not likely to succeed.

Dr. W. D. Cowan, addressing the Canadian Public Health Association meeting, at Regina, said, "It is amazing the indifference shown to dental defects; this particularly on the part of the mother toward her children, between the ages of two and six. Dentally speaking easily ninety per cent. of the children have no mother at all at that age. These children don't need dentists half as much as they do mothers. The great bulk of parents think (and say), 'Ah, well, these are just Mary's first teeth, she will lose them in a little while, so what is the use spending money upon them?' A thought that better be dissipated. Kingstone is being aroused on this subject. The Board of Education does well to deal practically with it as soon as possible.

PUBLIC OPINION

Why Not?

Toronto Star. Will the prisoners at Kingston who gave evidence against their keepers have as merry a Christmas as usual this year?

Some Consolation.

Montreal Herald. The only consolation the "Canada First" party can get out of South Lanark is to be found in that prophetic text: "The first shall be last and the last first."

An Ardent Wish.

London Advertiser. "Mona Lisa" has turned up after a long search, and if Mary Eliza, our long-lost house-cat, will come back, all will be forgiven.

A Terrible Truth.

Quebec Mercury. An ex-convict from Kingston penitentiary says he went forty-two days without a bath. That's not in it with some of the records that are established out of prison.

A New Idea.

Ottawa Free Press. Hon. Mr. White observes that more would be done for the human race by subsidizing golf courses than railways. In other words, if everybody played golf they would walk and the railways would starve.

Option in the West.

Toronto Mail and Empire. Local option is spreading in Saskatchewan, and probably while the hotel-keepers follow the custom of the west by shaking their customers for the drinks, they are doing some shaking in their shoes.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

J. A. B. Smith decided to contest Ontario ward for a seat on the school board.

The earnings of the Kingston and Pembroke railway for the first week in December showed an increase of \$110 over the same week of the previous year.

A Christmas game was very fashionable. The players hunted through their pocketbooks to ascertain how much money they had left. The one who has the most had to buy a New Year's present.

The school board will present Principal Grant with an address on his arrival from Australia.

Selling Turkeys.

Petworth, Dec. 16.—The weather still continues very mild for December. A number from here attended a "Royal Arch" meeting at Harrowsmith on 10th. W. C. Bradford spent Sunday last at W. Huffman's, Moscow. John Kerr, at Edgar Hughes'; Archibald Gowdy, at his father's; J. Gowdy, Moscow. Mrs. Thomas Bradford has returned home from a two weeks' visit at Yerker. W. Goodberry is moving to Verona. Our blacksmith, C. Davy, is doing a rushing business these days. Mrs. J. Lambert is at Harrowsmith. The home of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Kerr is brightened by a young daughter. Mr. and Mrs. T. Bradford at N. Ellerbeck's; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Penn at W. Goodberry's. The farmers who didn't sell their turkeys at Napanee are selling them to J. S. Gallagher, Harrowsmith, at 19c. a lb. Rumor reports a wedding in the near future.

Wise and : : Otherwise

It isn't necessary for a man to have money to burn in order to keep the pot boiling.

Some men try to console themselves with the thought that they could be better if they tried.

At some period in a man's life there is one woman he is trying to get away from and another he is trying to get away from.

If you don't believe a woman can keep a secret, just ask her age of one on the shady side of thirty.

Lucky Adam. When Adam got home from a party. One speech ne'er his pleasure could dock.

For dear Mother Eve never shouted at him. "You villain! Just look at the clock!" —From Judge.

One Woman's Wisdom.



Her Mother—Do you think his intentions are serious? Young Widow—I'm sure they are. His attentions are so ridiculous.

The Mean Brute.

"I've got a letter from Harry," sobbed Ellen Estelle. "He is the meanest brute that ever lived! He is in Florida, and he has written me that he shot an alligator seven feet long." "Well, what of that, sweetheart?" wonderingly required the friend. "I don't see why that should grieve you so terribly." "Oh, don't you?" returned Ellen Estelle, with more tears. "He says when he shoots another one he will have a pair of slippers made for me."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Nothing on Her.

Margery and Helen lived quite near each other and occasionally played together. One day when they met, Helen said boastfully: "We keep a butter."

Margery remained thoughtful for a moment, then suddenly cried, exultingly: "That's nothing! We keep board-ers!"

Said by Wise Men.

Temperance is a bride of gold. —Burton.

Vanity is the poison of agreeableness.—Greville.

The enemy of art is the enemy of nature.—Lavater.

Best men are often molded out of faults.—Shakespeare.

There is nothing that wears out a fine face like the vigils of the card table and those cutting passions which attend them.—Steele.

There are few defects in our nature so glaring as not to be veiled from observation by politeness and good breeding.—Stanislaus.

The art of using moderate abilities to advantage wins praise, and often acquires more reputation than real brilliancy.—Rochefoucauld.

He who feels contempt for any living thing hath faculties that he hath never used, and thought with him is in its infancy.—Wordsworth.

Health, beauty, vigor, riches, and all the other things called good, operate equally as evils to the vicious and unjust, as they do as benefits to the just.—Plato.

What profits us that we from heaven derive a soul immortal, and with looks erect, survey the stars, if, like the brutal hind, we follow where our passions lead the way? —Dryden.

There is an active principle in the human soul that will ever be exerting its faculties to the utmost by the accidents of time and place, and the general plan of education, or the custom and manners of the age and country it may happen to find itself engaged.—Blackstone.

TO THE VIRGINS

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may

Old time is still a-flying

And this same flower that smiles today

Tomorrow will be dying

The glorious top of heaven the sun

The higher he's a getting

The sooner will his race be run

And nearer he's to setting

That age is best which is the first

When youth and blood are warmer;

But, being spent, the worse and worst

Times still succeed the former

Then be not coy, but use your time

And while ye may go marry;

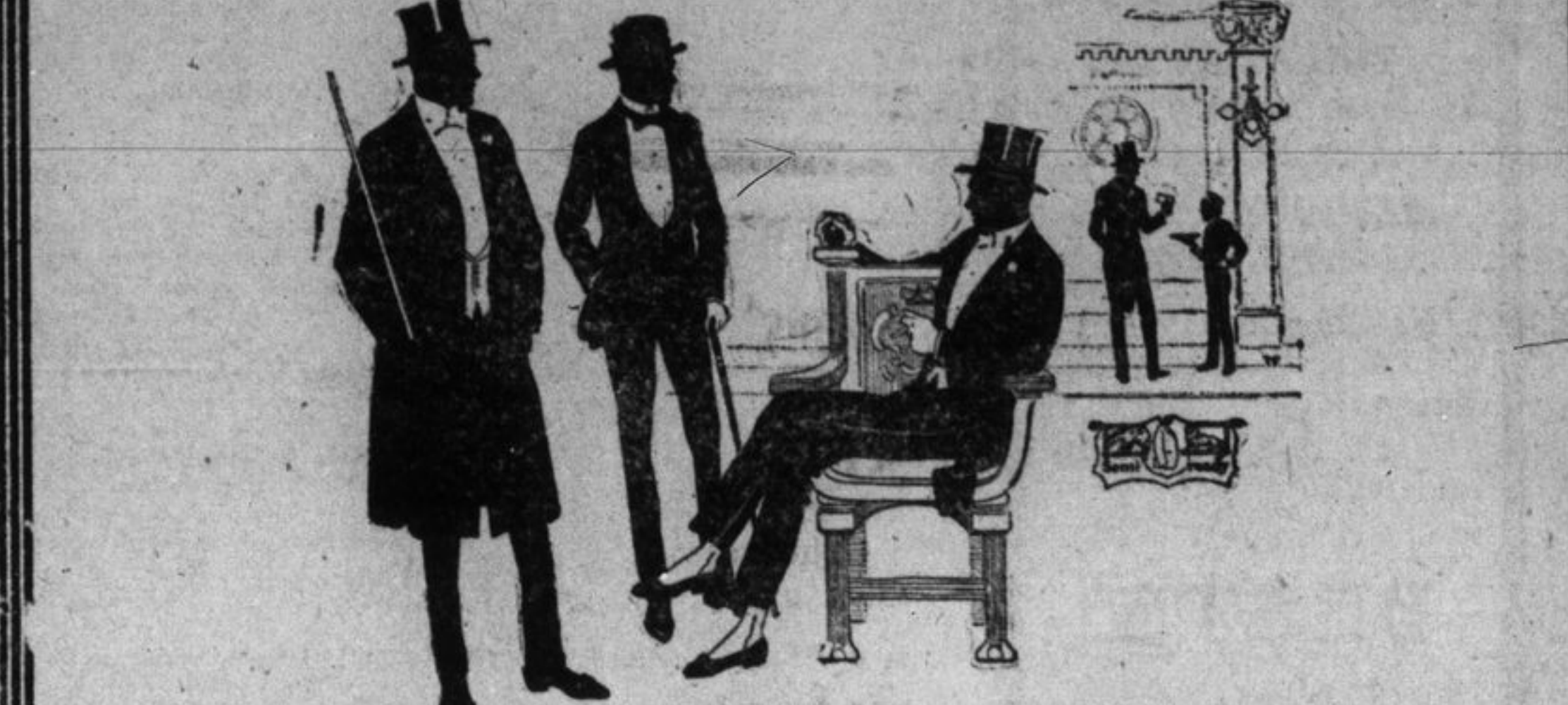
For having lost but once your prime

You may forever tarry

—Robert Herrick.

BIBBYS STORE OPEN EVENINGS

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The season for full dress suits and other outfitting is now on. We are showing the sort of dress clothes that are approved by good form. The most expert designers planned them — men, who are awake to every change of fashion. A man can come in a hurry, too, and be certain of being properly fitted. The materials, trimmings and tailoring are perfect.

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Table with 2 columns: Acres and Price. Rows include 60 acres for \$1800, 410 acres for \$1500, 22 acres for \$2000, 90 acres for \$2800, 150 acres for \$3250, 85 acres for \$3500, 100 acres for \$3500, 105 acres for \$3600, 200 acres for \$4500, 110 acres for \$4750, 100 acres for \$5000, 170 acres for \$5250, 100 acres for \$5500, 130 acres for \$5750, 120 acres for \$5750, 165 acres for \$6000, 115 acres for \$7000, 150 acres for \$8000, 150 acres for \$8500, 170 acres for \$8500, 160 acres for \$8500, 192 acres for \$10,000, 250 acres for \$12,700, 200 acres for \$13,000.

For further information apply to T. J. LOCKHART Over Bank of Montreal, Clarence St. Phone 1035, or 1020. KINGSTON, ONT. ADVERTISED IN THE WHIG.

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