

The British Whig
80TH YEAR



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

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

Telephones:
Business office 242
Editorial rooms 219
Job office 252

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(Daily Edition.)
One year, delivered in city . . . \$6.00
One year, if paid in advance . . . \$5.00
One year, by mail to rural offices . \$2.50
One year, to United States . . . \$3.00
Six and three months pro rata.

(Semi-Weekly Edition)
One year, by mail \$1.00
One year, to United States . . . \$1.50
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NOTHING TO REFER.

The question of how Princess street shall be paved, at least so far as the track allowance is concerned, will not go to the Maintenance of Ways, Montreal, for the present at any rate. There is a court of arbitration or resort, if the city and the Street Railway company do not agree, and the company has certainly a right to express "approval" as to the material to be used, according to the agreement.

Besides the city has not yet reached its limit in the matter of preliminaries. Mr. Mather was expressly engaged to consult with the city engineer. He has been treated by the works department as if he were the only one to be considered. The city engineer's report, recommending wood blocks for the pavement, after he had heard and read all that was available on the subject, was not even read by the committee.

Under the circumstances, seeing that there was no dispute between the city and company, and no difference reported, there was no alternative but to refer the matter back to the committee. There was certainly nothing to refer to the Montreal engineer.

The home rule question approaches settlement. T. P. O'Connor says there will be a compromise, and he ought to know. Irish control of the post office and customs, will be withdrawn, and they ought to be. No one can imagine why they were made part of the scheme in the first place.

DANGER OF BRAIN STORM.

The father of Schmidt, on trial in New York for murder, tells of the insanity in his family. A nephew and a cousin are "totally mad," and the inference is that the man in the prisoner's dock is a mental derelict and one who should not have been at large. This calls up the statement of Dr. Young, in regard to the number of persons who are insane, or partially so, and who escape detection until they do some criminal act. They are then punished for their offences, and turned loose, only to commit greater depredations. The pastor of St. Boniface church, in New York, recalls the marked peculiarities of Schmidt while he was acting as an assistant, but did nothing to clear up these peculiarities until a terrible crime had been revealed. Apparently much of the crime reported is due to the mental deficiencies of men and women who are not treated until some calamity happens. Dr. Young holds that every convict sent to the Kingston penitentiary—every convict sent to any prison—should be examined mentally and physically, and that if seriously touched with insanity they should be held in custody, beyond their terms, indefinitely, because it is inexpedient they should be exposed to brain storms of the Thaw type. There may have to be an enlargement of the asylum accommodation, in consequence of this cause, but asylums are not more expensive than prisons and the incompetent is the better in one place than in the other.

Mackay, the president of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company, laughs over the proposal of the American government to buy out the telegraph and telephone business and run it. Make a huge monopoly of it, and a joke! The cost would be enormous, not \$900,000,000, as the postmaster-general says, but over \$2,000,000,000, to say nothing of invisible assets which the government would have to buy.

GETTING AT THE FACTS.

The government commission must, as the Montreal Star contends, be thorough if it will not be satisfying in its work. The annual report of the Labour Department indicates that be-

tween 1897 and 1912 the actual cost of living increased by sixty per cent., and what the commission can ascertain, and what it must ascertain in order to prove the wisdom of its selection, is what contributed to this increase. The people who are suffering from high prices are entitled to a searching examination into all the facts, and they have a right to assume that if causes can be assigned for these high prices steps should be taken to remove them. The weekly budget that cost \$12.24 in 1910 cost \$13.63 in 1913, and the commission should determine, if it can, what led to the increase of \$1.39.

The situation cannot be raised by criticism of a more or less reckless kind. Of this criticism there has been more than enough in both the United States and Canada. In congress, for instance, a vicious attack was made upon the government by Representative Mann, who insinuated that the depression and all that it implied resulted from the lowered tariff. The bread line had been established in some of the larger cities, and also the soup kitchens, the usual accompaniment of hard times. The country lay prostrate. This was due to the pursuit by the government of the fatuous policies they had talked on the stump, regardless of their effect on the body politic. "There was no bread line in 1907," said Mr. Mann, "no soup houses, no free lodging houses, no municipal buildings turned over in order that men might sleep on marble floors. I attribute this condition partly to the tariff bill, in part to the threat of the political control of banking and currency, and to a general lack of capacity on the part of the democratic party to govern the country."

This was the republican broadside without going into details, and it stirred up Champ Clark, the Speaker, so that he left the chair and metaphorically threw bricks at his opponent, creating a scene of some excitement. The republicans had their calamity to howl about. There is no city without its idle men, and there never will be, he said. The drought of last summer affected the business of the western cities. There was nothing the matter with the tariff, and nothing the matter with the government. There was simply the theory of the republicans that there could not be good times unless they were represented in the government. And that is the talk of the average politician, and the cost of living should be an economical one.

The Canadian government cannot complain if in the distress of the hour, industrial, commercial and social, there is a tendency to blame it. The conservative party made the most use of hard times against the government of 1877 and 1878, and succeeded to power on the pretense that the times could be regulated by the government. It should meet the cry of the day, therefore, for cheapening living, by taking steps to secure it or show that it is impossible. The array of discontents is increasing, and the government commission should be as thorough and expeditious in its work as the circumstances will permit.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Since the Underwood tariff went into effect fully 150,000 cattle have crossed the line and contributed to the American taste for Canadian beef. The exportation has only ceased because the supply has given out.

Can a Cheap Food Commission (short way of putting it), examine witnesses under oath? Some answer yes, and some no. What is the difference? The commission is not going to deal with people whose word cannot be taken, we hope.

The Asquith government will go a long way to pacify the Ulster people, but, at the dictation of the unionist party, the Parliament Act will not be repealed, and Ireland will not be divided and put under antagonistic governments. Something short of this must do.

A clergyman in Montreal refused to marry a Chinaman and a Canadian girl and has been approved for it. The question follows—How came the Ministerial Association of Kingston to endorse a union of yellow and white? The explanation has never been given, and it is still in order.

Toronto proposes to purchase its street railway and private lighting plant, and to put them under a commission. Why? No committee of council could make the record of the Civic Hydro Commission. By the way, it is proposed that the commission be composed of three men who will hold office for three years, without salary.

The Ottawa Journal pictures Hon. Mr. Rogers as an ideal man—courtous, generous, liberal-minded, big-hearted, the embodiment of all that is manly and robust in character. It is the suave people who are sometimes the most to be feared. The politician with the smile sometimes carries a stiletto.

The idea of working some of the convicts of the Kingston penitentiary in the woods, getting out lumber, looks fine on paper. But would the convicts like it, and if they did not would it go? And would the business be wholly under the criminal class?

es? Would honest and dishonest labour mix? Would the labor element stand for this?

A little girl of thirteen, who killed a companion in Prince Albert, Sask., with a spade, in a quarrel, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Another life lost. The Canadian methods of correcting or reforming young men who offend are seemingly very crude.

"Mr. Lloyd-George and I know each other," said the Bishop of London at a recent meeting; "we are very good friends. If we have starvation wages—which, after all, are at the bottom of it all—and we have allowed people to live in places not fit for dogs, if we have made a hell of the earth it is not God's fault. The policy of silence has failed and we have to face the evil together."

PUBLIC OPINION

No Saw-off.

Toronto News.
The political managers cannot afford to arrange a saw-off between South Bruce and Chateauguay.

Cause For Complaint.

Montreal Herald.
A convict at Kingston says that a guard hit him in the tub. We don't wonder he told the commissioners about it.

A Discovery.

Ottawa Journal.
A man is but a grown-up child. If you don't believe it go and find out by trying to get near the toy-departments in our big stores.

Like Some Politicians.

Toronto Mail.
A flower in the government greenhouse at Ottawa is expected to bloom once and then fade away. Sounds like the biography of some politician.

Instruction Badly Needed.

St. Thomas Journal.
Again, talking of militarism, the young Canadians do not need to be taught how to shoot half as bad as some of the elder ones need instructions as to how to vote.

Hard On the Preacher.

Ottawa Free Press.
Montreal preacher says the churches ought to conduct the dance halls, but how on earth could the minister have time to master the 120 tango steps and prepare Sunday sermons.

A New Society.

Montreal Herald.
A new fraternal society known as the "Camels of the World" has been organized. If membership entails the emulation of the camels' best known specialty, going seven days without a drink, there isn't likely to be much of a scramble to join.

The Small Jabs.

Catholic Record, London.
It is the numberless small vices of social life that make life intolerable to thousands; the petty cruelties, annoyances, fault-finders, neglects, little menaces—the whole flock of individual pests that drive individuals to distraction.

A Great Grab.

Toronto Globe.
Almost a third of the taxation levied on the citizens of Toronto is spent upon education, and that in one department of the educational administration conditions have been disclosed which leave an opening for graft on a huge scale.

Brantford Wants It.

Brantford Expositor.
Kingston is to vote in January on the establishment of a public utilities commission. Brantford ought to have something of the kind, instead of multiplying the number of civic boards by creating a separate commission for every new public utility which the municipality may acquire.

Kingston Events
25 YEARS AGO.

Rev. M. Carey presented an altar, handsome in design and in carving, to St. Paul's church, in memory of his mother. It is made of well seasoned oak.

Principal Grant, home from trip around the globe, was given a grand reception.
The police would like to be relieved of the duty of "lighting the lamps. They do not like "shinning" the posts on cold nights.

A DECLINE IN VALUES

Eber W. Gosnell in Manitoba Free Press.

"I am glad Sir Rodmond told us we were so prosperous. If he had not, we would not have been aware of it. If the Borden government are doing so much for Manitoba, making it so prosperous (as Roblin tries to make out), why is it that farm lands are decreasing in value? Why is city property at a standstill? Why do people have to pay such high rates of interest? Why are there so many out of employment?"

"During the time that Laurier was in power, good farm lands advanced in price from \$5 to \$10 to \$30 and \$35 an acre. Some lands have decreased in price in the two years that Borden has been in power. Why is it?"

"I have lived in Manitoba thirty-three years, and the most prosperous period of that time was during Laurier's term of office."
With his body drawn under the huge knives of the pulp mixer in the Booth Mills and cut into hundreds of pieces, Joseph Boule, 224 St. Joseph street, Ottawa, met with one of the most terrible deaths imaginable on Monday.

Wise and . .
. . Otherwise

The First Question
Wicks—Young Sillicus says his heart is lacerated.
Wagg—Who's the lass?

A Queer Proposition.
Mrs. Winifred Harper Cooley, the secretary of the associated Clubs of Domestic Science, recently said at a pure food show:
"We must, of course, pay more for all pure food than we used to pay."

How It Happened.
"So you broke your engagement with Miss Spencer?"
"No; I didn't break it."
"Oh! she broke it?"
"No; she didn't break it."
"But it is broken?"
"Yes; she told me what her clothes cost, and I told her what my income was; then our engagement sagged in the middle and dissolved."

Robert's Profanity.
Virginia came hurrying home leading little Robert, who hung reluctantly behind.
"Oh, mamma," said the girl, "you just ought to hear what Robert went and said; he swore just awful!"
"Indeed," the mother queried, "and what did he say?"
In an awed whisper Virginia exclaimed:
"He said 'I should worry' and 'I gotcha, Steve'."—Youngstown Telegram.

Just the Man.



Cannibal King—"There's one vacancy on my staff—and if you could fill it I'd spare you. I need a 'Torturer.'"
"Poor Captive—"Then I'm your man. I used to be a painless dentist."

The Silence of Strength.

There is a silence that suggests strength. Perfect friendship rejoices in long silences. They are vocal with the heart's music. There is no tormenting fear of being misunderstood. The silence that will not betray another, that can afford to suffer for the sake of another—that silence is golden. Character grows strong under its control.
There is a brave silence, the monopoly of noble souls—that keeps all its sounds out of sight, that buries its sorrows, and carries a smiling face along life's path. The joy of others is not spoiled by its grief; the light of other lives must not be darkened. This is the silence that appoints its face with the oil of gladness, and keeps its secret. Oh, brave heart! thy father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Thou hast the Master's smile.

A Treat.

"Have a good time on your vacation."
"Splendid. You don't know what a relief it was to me to see my husband spend a dollar or two without grumbling."

No Chance For Her.
"I don't suppose my daughter will ever marry a millionaire."
"Why not?"
"She can't stand the smell of chloroform so she can't be a trained nurse and her father simply won't let her go on the stage."

Not Interested.
"Interested in the Thaw case?"
"No, I'm neither a lawyer nor an alienist."

A Cheerful Giver.
An attorney in Dublin, having died exceedingly poor, a shilling subscription was set on foot to pay the expense of the funeral. Most of the attorneys and barristers, having subscribed, one of them applied to Toler, afterward lord chief justice, expressing a hope that he would also subscribe his shilling.

"Only a shilling!" said Toler; "only a shilling to bury an attorney. Here is a guinea; go and bury 21 of them."

HOW DOES THE SOUL GROW?
How does the soul grow? Not all in a minute.
Now it may lose ground, and now it may win it;
Now it resolves, and again the will falters;
Now it rejoiceth, and now it bewalleth;
Now its hopes fructify, then they are blighted;
Now it walks sunnily, now gropes benighted.
Fed by discouragement, taught by disaster,
So it goes forward, now slower, now faster,
Till, all the pain past and failure made whole,
It is full grown and the Lord rules the soul.
—Susan Coolidge.

Rev. James Strachan, B.A., Gait, extended a unanimous call from the First Baptist church, Brockville, has declined to accept.

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