

The British Whig



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A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The Board of Trade is doing the city a benefit in providing an occasion when men with ideas can express them and in a way to influence public opinion.

At the banquet on Wednesday evening, Dr. Robertson, the chairman of the Technical Commission, will speak, and he is expected to say something of the highest educational value.

The other addresses will be timely and suggestive. Mr. Macleay, the Industrial Commissioner of Oswego, will probably stimulate, by his timely remarks, the work of the Industrial Bureau here, and Ald. Harrison has suggestions to make with regard to our tourist trade.

The debate of the session will be that upon the waste of \$100,000 upon the useless jaunt or junket of a military party to England last year—with its sisters and its cousins and its aunts—at the public expense.

THE MONEY IN BONDS The Whig believes in the sale of city debentures to the people at par. In large blocks civic securities cannot be readily disposed of.

EDITORIAL NOTES If conservative England—conservative in the fact that it moves slowly towards great reforms—can tax land values, surely Canada can contemplate the subject without alarm.

Japan has launched a naval programme of prodigious proportions. Twelve super-dreadnoughts at a cost of \$150,000,000. And the United States war department sits up and asks the question that no one answers—Where is Japan getting the money?

The federal government minimizes the labour, or want of labour, crisis, and the finance minister sees signs of returning prosperity. Meanwhile the vision is denied to others and there are thousands in the larger cities in great distress.

The John Doe proceedings in New York, under the direction of the district attorney, and revealing the methods taken by the politicians to enrich themselves, are calculated to

with a little labour, and patience. It may cost Kingston an effort to get rid of the debentures it has on hand, and representing money borrowed from the bank for public works, but think of the saving that will be effected. And the city is in need of all the benefit there is in the transaction.

The city would probably sell its debentures faster to small investors if they were of the denomination of \$500. Birmingham and Manchester, England, many years ago, had popular sales of city securities because they were of £100 each, and a larger number of people could afford to buy them.

TWO YEARS' THAL

The Canadian Courier, from the pen of W. F. Burditt, prints the experience of St. John, N.B., with regard to commission government, not of the utilities but of the whole city. That experience is of a very satisfactory character. Under the old dispensation, council rule, the public service suffered in almost every department. The streets were in a deplorable condition. The water service was ineffectual.

Practically the mains were replaced. Very few of the streets were paved. Under commission government a progressive policy was adopted. As a result the central part of the city has taken on a new appearance.

"All this," it may be said, "might and should be done in any city, and by any city council, be it large or small, which is very true. Yet the people of St. John will say in reply that much that might have been done by the old city council was not done, and that they are getting done better work and more of it, with greater celerity, than ever before.

A further summing up is in these words: "Thousands of dollars have been saved the city, as a result of the better systemization of the water and sewerage department, better control, better discipline, and more efficient service. The first thing the commissioner did was to thoroughly reorganize the department. Sub-heads—a superintendent of works, and a chief clerk—are directly responsible to the commissioner, and each subordinate official learned that efficiency instead of 'pull' is the password to advancement. Similar remarks would apply to other departments."

It has been asked whether commission government in St. John has led to a reduction in the rate of taxation. No, and it was not to be expected. What the people clamoured for they received, better government and greater value for their money. The city has not yet had a second election under commission form of government. The personnel of the commission may be changed, but it is hardly likely. The members have made good. They have been in the limelight of publicity, constantly, and all their acts have been subject to the public view. The one great objection to commission government, in the estimation of Ald. Spence, of Toronto, is lack of publicity, and this objection does not hold in St. John.

"The working of commission government in St. John," says Mr. Burdett, "seems to indicate that its greatest advantage is not so much in any superiority of the personnel which it secures, as in the fact that by providing for the constant and undivided attention of the people's representatives, to the city's affairs, it ensures prompt despatch of business and a degree of celerity in dealing with matters of public concern as they arise from day to day which was never known under the old system. Were the question of commission government again submitted to vote in St. John it is probable that the decision of three years ago would be confirmed by a largely increased majority."

Prof. Carr-Harris is opposed to the kindergarten system of education. He says it is too heavy a strain on the brain of the children.

The ice bridge between the city and Garden Island has now been formed, and is in a safe condition. Horses and sleighs came over it to-day without accident.

During the year the sum of \$6,545.63 was spent on Rockwood asylum.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABLE MEN Tuesday, January Twenty-Seventh. G. M. Bosworth, vice-president of the C.P.R., familiarly known as "Boss" Bosworth, was born fifty-six years ago to-day at Ogdensburg, N. Y. He is the supreme head, under the president of the traffic department of the big system, and as such has to look after the transportation of something like sixteen million passengers and thirty million tons of freight every year. Yet he bears his heavy load without complaint and is always ready to assume added duties. Everything that troubles anyone else is usually shouldered off on "Boss" Bosworth, whose capacity for work seems to be limitless. Steamships, hotels and telegraphs, one after the other, were shifted to his department and are now operated under his supervision. He is a most unassuming man, and does each day's work quietly and effectively.

Paris to Athens in 60 Hours Paris Jan. 27.—Within eighteen months Western Europe will have direct railroad communication with Greece by means of a projected line connecting the Piraeus, Athens and Larissa railroad with the Oriental railroad. The contract for the construction of this line was signed to-day by the Greek minister at Paris and the French contractors, in the presence of the Greek premier, Eleutherios Venizelos. The journey between Paris and Athens will thus be reduced to sixty hours.

Wise and .: .: Otherwise

It keeps a poor workman busy looking for a job. A fit of blues will bring out a man's yellow streak. A good cook hardly ever gets hers through a correspondence school. A man isn't necessarily charitable because he gives himself away.

His Elizabeth. The professor was telling the class in English history of the Elizabethan era. He turned to one of the young men and asked: "How old was Elizabeth, Mr. Holmes?" The young man wore a far-away expression. "Eighteen on her last birthday, sir," came the reply.

Ought to know. Dobbs says it's hard to find a woman's pocket. He ought to know. He married for money. Yes, "patience is a virtue." That is, it is unless one is so bent on calm content it looks like laziness.

Value as a Going Concern. "How much for the puppies, laddie?" "One 'arf a crown, sir; 'other's three shillins." "Why is one sixpence more than the other?" "Cos 'e swallered sixpence this mornin'."—Tit-Bits.

Considerate. "I wonder why he never tells the truth." "Perhaps he is afraid he might deceive some one if he did."

Different. "Were that suffragette's arguments plain?" "I am not so certain about her arguments, but she was dreadfully so."

Why? The curate of a fashionable church was endeavoring to teach the significance of white to a Sunday school class. "Why," said he, "does a bride invariably desire to be clothed in white at her marriage?" As no one answered he explained. "White," said he, "stands for joy, and the wedding day is the most joyous occasion of a woman's life."

A small boy queried: "Why do the men all wear black?"

Phillips Brooks. He who helps a child helps humanity with a distinctness, with an immediateness which no other help given to human creatures in any stage of their human life can possibly give again.

The Cow. I like to watch the cow and think of all it means to me. At home when I have milk to drink Or sometimes cream in tea, Because I do not see the cow I never think about it. But on the farm I wonder how We could get on without it.

I stood for quite a while to-day To see how milk is made. I watched a flock of cows when they Were feeding in the shade. And they would eat some grass at first And then they went and stood. Right in the brook to cure their thirst And then they chewed their food.

And most important it would seem Is this strange cud they chew. Because it turns to milk and cream As soon as they are through. At milking time the farmer takes The milk and cream so sweet. And with the cream he often makes The butter that we eat.

So here with milk and cream to drink And butter, too, you see I like to watch the cow and think Of all it means to me. —Punctuated by T. A. Daly.

Flashes. There isn't much hope for the fellow who makes a fool of himself twice in the same way. There are so many other ways.

It's the easiest thing in the world to dope out a lot of reasons why other people ought to be satisfied with what they have. Time is money, but it isn't so scarce. Life is a cocktail in which we must take the bitter with the sweet. Quite naturally an empty head is most easily rattled.

Matrimony has caused many a man to drift with the tide.—N. Y. Times.

Gave It Away. "Did you ever gamble in stocks?" "No. I once thought I was gambling, but the gentlemen who obtained my money knew better."—Washington Star.

Wise and .: .: Otherwise

The Brantford Expositor comments on the fact that there are hundreds of men at large who are a menace to the health and life of the community. To be sure there are, but alienists can be found, as in the Thaw case, to say that they are harmless. They are only detected as dangerous when they commit murder.

England, through her sports, literally wept when Carpentier whipped its champion in a boxing bout. And now Ireland has been prostrated by the ignominious defeat of her champion by the same young Frenchman. The glory of the British Isles has departed. At least some men and papers talk as if this were the case.

The unionists have at last awakened to the necessity of having a land scheme, for the benefit of the tenants. It has come from Walter Long, who has been thinking while Bonar Law has been talking home rule and tariff reform. The wage of the farm labourer is too low. That the unionists are willing to concede, now that Lloyd George has made it plain. They have got busy too late.

Public Opinion Sure Thing. Port Arthur Chronicle. Canadians cannot all be Strathconas, but they may be makers of Canada in some degree.

A Good Advertisement. Montreal Star. Arthur Haykes, who lost \$200 in South Lanark, defends the election deposit. Mr. Hawkes always had a good sense of advertising values.

A Wily One. Woodstock Sentinel. That St. Catharines justice who fined himself a dollar for failing to clear off snow is all right if he did not quietly exercise his magisterial prerogative by remitting the fine after court adjourned.

Prices Rule High. London Advertiser. The supply of beef cattle and hogs in the United States fell off, respectively 5 and 7 per cent. last year. And yet they say there's no market for our live stock across the line.

A Great Collection. Toronto Globe. Billy Sunday, the baseball evangelist, is said to have had collections aggregating nearly \$30,000 in Pittsburgh in three weeks. He would be doing well in baseball if he made that much in a whole season.

A Good Motto. Montreal Telegraph. "Stand fast, Craigellachie!" was Lord Strathcona's message to his despairing colleagues in one of the darkest hours of Canadian history. It was the motto of his life—and the motto he particularly applied to all things Canadian. We as a people will do well to remember it at the present juncture in the development of the country.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO. Prof. Carr-Harris is opposed to the kindergarten system of education. He says it is too heavy a strain on the brain of the children.

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