

The British Whig

90TH YEAR



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A CALL TO BIG MEN

The Works' Committee finds itself in a serious dilemma. It wants to commence the work of paving on Princess and King streets as soon as the weather will permit, and it finds itself handicapped or held-up by their inability to get favours from three or four persons who own property on the main thoroughfares.

These will not consent to easements which are necessary in order to transfer the telephone wires before arranging for the removal of the poles. The company will not use any conduits. These have not been provided for it, and at did not desire underground accommodation.

It can be forced, it is assumed, to remove the poles and wires, but only when the city has supplied the means by which the change can be effected. Most people were under the impression that all the plans had been made for the paving, and it was the last thought of the last year that came as a surprise—that no understanding had been reached.

The men who now object to the hurried schemes of the city are under no obligation to meet the views of the Works' Committee. Unless it can be shown, however, that the desired easements will become a trespass and a detriment to their properties the three or four persons who have not consented will be larger citizens by waiving their objections.

It is simply damnable that the progress of the city can be retarded by the unpatriotic action of any one, but it is the price that is now being paid for the unwise and stupid work of other people. The parliament of Canada did an atrocious thing when it gave any private corporation a right to obstruct the streets, and what parliament omitted to do in this respect the city did of its own accord.

The fool legislation of other days cannot be revoked, but the citizens who can be magnanimous, and facilitate the city's schemes by graceful concessions, will rise higher in the public esteem and earn the public gratitude.

Six seats have been lost to the Asquith government through the butting in of labour candidates. The labour party can, if it keeps on, help to defeat the government, and when it has completed the work it will have completed its destruction at the same time.

THE QUESTION OF POWER

According to the Toronto World, and to the talk in which Hon. Mr. Beck has indulged on late occasions, there is something big afoot in power propositions. The contract with the Hydro-Electric Commission has with the Ontario Niagara Power company is for 100,000 horse-power, and this limit has been almost reached. It is necessary that the commission should extend its usefulness for two reasons—that it may be in a better position to deal with the power consumers and guard against fruitless and unwise competition.

The World has it that the commission may, backed by the government, acquire the Canadian power plants at the Niagara; the Cataract power plant at Hamilton or DeCew Falls; and the Toronto electric light plant. The demands of the province for more power for railway and manufacturing purposes are such that something must be done, and Southern and Western Ontario have certainly no right to complain of the manner in which the commission has been serving them.

The east is not in as much luck. It has practically been preserved. The petty service which is being undertaken from Morrisburg for Brockville, in the absence of any larger scheme, does not promise much. There are powers in Central and Eastern Ontario which can be secured and developed.

ed. What is the commission doing with regard to them?

"There is one way," says the World, "by which the Dominion government could greatly aid this proposition: It controls the water of the Welland canal, has a jurisdiction of some kind over the Niagara river, and the export of power, and probably has in view an immense development of public power in connection with the St. Lawrence from Kingston to Montreal, either as a Canadian proposition or as a joint proposition with the United States; and certainly the whole trend of public opinion these days is in the direction of public ownership and control of the bulk of water powers in connection with the Niagara and the St. Lawrence waterways."

In the west the power question is paramount. It conduces very much to the lowered cost of production. It is the factor in every business man's plans. Power at \$15 per horse-power is a consideration that settles the location of many an industry.

The liquor men made the mistake of their lives in supposing that Mr. Rowell could be silenced through the exposure of Mr. Evanturel. The liquor men did not take much stock in this man before the election. They have less faith in him now. They showed their alliance with the conservative party by turning over his begging letter for party capital.

COMPULSORY TRAINING

There was a spirited debate in the Convocation Hall of Queen's University on Friday evening, between the representatives of Ottawa and Kingston Collegiate Institutes. The subject was the necessity of compulsory military training in Canada.

In essence the argument on the affirmative side was that history showed the wisdom of compulsory training, especially on the Swiss plan, and that the nations that depended upon voluntary military service suffered. So eminent an authority as Lord Roberts had said that Britain should adopt it in the interest of efficiency and economy.

The argument on the negative side was based on the experience of countries that had made military service a compulsory matter, and protests had been raised against it. Why? It operated to the serious disadvantage of the people, socially, agriculturally, and industrially.

Canada surely does not need to copy the spirit and practices of European countries, and it may well be hoped that the day will never come when the military system will have the oppressive effects which it is said to have abroad.

The debate on its merits, however, was very much enjoyed, and one can see how the high schools of our land are doing a splendid work in educating their young men to use, readily and effectively, their scholarship to the best advantage.

The Ottawa team was proclaimed the victors, and no one questioned the decision of the judges. Their award was due to two considerations—the presentation of the case, for the affirmative, was in excellent taste and form, and it was supported by the second speaker in a clear, concise, and forceful way.

It may be surmised that the Ottawa contingent got its inspiration from the honourable the minister of militia. This would be an absurd conclusion. The Whig has heard Col. Hughes speak on several occasions. It has read many of his addresses. He never, at any time or place, discussed compulsory military training as did the leader of this debate, and a young man in his teens. Col. Hughes should ask for a copy of this speech and study it.

The secretary of the Hotel Keepers Association says that Mr. Evanturel wrote him several letters upon the license question. Evanturel was very eager to sell his vote and influence. And he won't resign his seat. The attorney-general should see that he does, and at once.

A WOMAN IN ACTION

The London papers contain a report of the appeal of Mrs. Katharine Warham against the decision of the lower court on what is called the "Toy Chicken Case." In April 1912; she was accused of taking three toy chickens from the counter in Selfridges' department store. Toys were found in her bag, but she claimed to have bought them before she entered the store and that her long life of truthfulness and honor should protect her from conviction under merely suspicious circumstances.

The interest in this case centered in the manner in which she conducted it herself. She had not studied law. She was not familiar with the routine of the courts. She had no experience in cross-examination. But she astonished the judges and the lawyers with her ready wit, her method of attack, and her eloquent summing up of the evidence.

She spoke for hours, intelligently, persuasively, pointedly. She lost in the first place, but she was equal to the strain of an appeal, and was encouraged in it by the voluntary testimony of two hundred of her

friends; and their contributions of £20 towards expenses, the money being collected in three and six penny pieces.

Addressing the Court of Appeal she said she did not ask for favours, but for justice. The Selfridges were in the wrong and she proposed to use all the intelligence that had been given to her by her Creator to establish this fact.

Women in England have not been favored in the legal profession. A few have studied law and been allowed to practice it, but so far they have failed to reach success, because the way has been barred, and they have not shown the talent which the English courts required.

Mrs. Warham has surprised the legal fraternity, however. It would take very little training apparently, in addition to the education she has received, to qualify her for distinction at the bar.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Farmers' Bank stockholders will not be recouped for their losses. Are the depositors to receive any consideration? Is the premier going back on all his promises?

Evanturel expects to be a candidate in the next election. Very likely. He thinks the people will condone or swallow anything. But will they? Are they more abandoned than he? Surely not.

If the Swiss military system is perfect in its application and results, the minister of militia should know all about it. But so far he has not said anything about it. The debaters for the Collegiate Institute can give him pointers.

The first thing the minister of militia knows he will have to fight, and Canada's war department may be left without a head. The colonel may thank his stars that he is not living in Europe where the people will not take offence from any one.

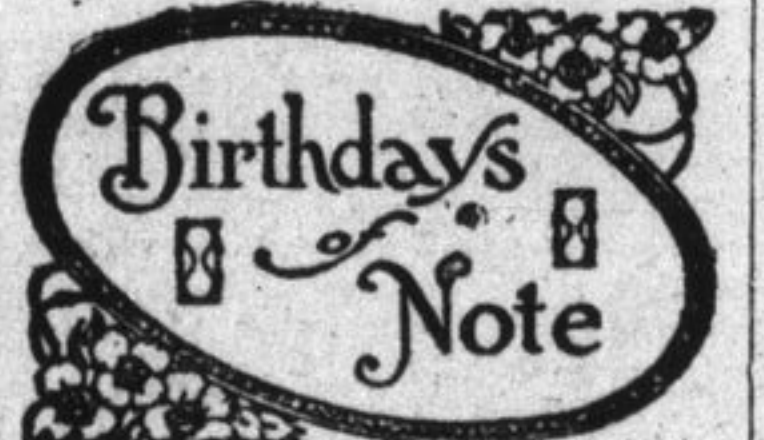
How much capital was spent on the public utilities last year? How much was provided by debentures? How much was taken from the earnings of the year? The statements which have so far been handed out are to be ranked as "financial fiction."

Why should parliamentary privileges save any man from the effects of his slanderous statements? A criminal libel should be treated the same inside of parliament as out of it, and the member who dodges his liability because he cannot be reached is a moral coward.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

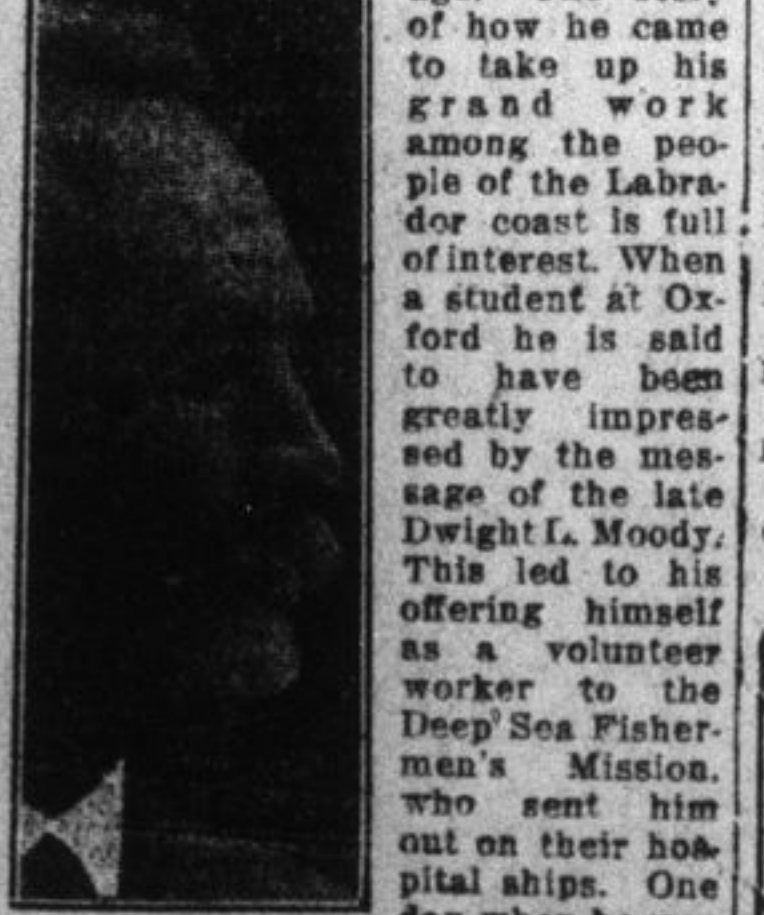
The police say that the drunkards of the city are young men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-two. A race has been arranged between horses owned by G. Metcalfe and J. McConnell.

Last year ten million feet of gas was consumed in Kingston, an increase of nearly three million feet over that of the previous year.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH

This is the natal day of Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell of Labrador, who is now forty-nine years of age. The story of how he came to take up his grand work among the people of the Labrador coast is full of interest.



One day when he was on duty in London, a friend came to him and began to tell him about his experiences whilst on a trip to Labrador. As he described the hardships endured by the inhabitants and their lack of medical attention, his words so affected the young doctor that he exclaimed, "That's the place for me," and forthwith made ready to set out for the scene of his future labors.

SUNDAY, MARCH FIRST

The Hon. J. P. B. Casgrain, Dominion Senator, who is fifty-nine years of age to-day, has constituted himself one of the authorities on the transportation problems of the country. He was originally a civil engineer and for some years was chief engineer of the Montreal and Pacific Junction Railway. He is today interested in a number of companies and takes a prominent part in politics in Montreal. A few years ago he ran for mayor of the city but was defeated. He has been a member of the Senate for fourteen years and has acted as chairman of the railway committee.

Wise and :. :. Otherwise

The only way some fellows are ambitious to make their mark in the world is with the dollar mark.

Occasionally you meet a woman who is almost as much afraid of her husband as she is of her cook.

Don't jump at conclusions; but on the other hand it doesn't do much good to jump away from them, either.

Here's one more thing to be thankful for: This is the closed season for picnics.

Very Sensitive. "She's getting rather plump." "Yes, but don't you dare tell her so. She nearly sued her husband for a divorce on account of her plumpness."

"Why, he isn't to blame." "No, but she heard that he was complaining that he had an elephant on his hands, and she thought he meant her and he only meant a house he was trying to rent."—Houston Post.

Sweet Innocent. "Mrs. Youngbridge (to an butcher)—I want two pounds of beefsteak, and have it rare, please."

Exactly. Doctor—You are all run down. You ought to quit business entirely. Patient—In other words, doctor, because I am run down I ought to wind up, eh?

The Occult Refusal.

With feelings of great perturbation, Mr. Smith (that was all of a quake, he thought to the lady's location) the vow that he wanted to make—And then with a mental vibration she gave him the shake.

Easy to Please. Big Sister (who wants to be left alone a moment with her sweetheart)—Fritz the house feels so stuffy; go into the next room and open the window, will you?

Fritz—The window is open. Big Sister—Oh, well, shut it again, will you?—Flegende Blatter.

To Try Something New. Doctor—Your ailments seem to be quite different this year. I suppose you didn't like Wiesbaden, where I sent you last season.—Exchange.

Pa Did It. The train of cars that Santa brought is out of kilter now. While Pa was showing how they went he broke the string somehow. They used to run around a track, at least they did when he would let me take 'em in my hands an' wind 'em with a key. I could-a had some fun with 'em, if only they would go. But, gee! I never had a chance, for Pa enjoyed 'em so.

The ortermobile that I got that ran around the floor was new, but it won't go no more. Pa wound it up for Uncle Jim to show him how it went. An' when those two got through with it, the running gear was bent. An' now it doesn't go at all. I mustn't grumble though. Coz while it was in shape to run my Pa enjoyed it so.

I've got my blocks as good as new, my mitts are perfect yet. Although the snow is on the ground I haven't got 'em wet. I've taken care of everything that Santa brought to me. Except the toys that run about when wound up with a key.

But next year you can bet I won't make any such mistake. I'm goin' to ask for toys an' things that my Pa cannot break. (Edgar A. Guest in Detroit Free Press)

THE EARTH AND MAN.

A little sun, a little rain. A soft wind blowing from the west. And woods and fields are sweet again. And warmth within the mountains' breast.

So simple is the earth we tread. So quick with love and life her frame. Ten thousand years have dawned and fled, and still her magic is the same.

A little love, a little trust. A soft impulse, a sudden dream, and life as dry as desert dust is fresher than a mountain stream.

So simple is the heart of man. So ready for new hope and joy. Ten thousand years since it began. Have left it younger than a boy.

—S. A. Brooke.

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