

The British Whig



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SOME CIVIC SURPRISES

If the Audit By-Law were to be carried out, as it was originally intended to be, there would be no surprises at any time, and in the accounts of any civic department. Once a year, after a thorough canvass of all the facts, a budget is passed. According to certain money are set apart for specific purposes. When the appropriations are exhausted the auditor should report the facts to the Council. The Finance Committee has been intercepting these reports and passing statements which the Council has not challenged, because it did not know the circumstances. That should not be. The Council makes the appropriation. It, and it only, should supplement the amount. The sooner this rule is adopted and adhered to the sooner the civic surprises will end.

Champ Clark is in open rebellion to the president of the United States. He does not think that presidential candidates are scarce. As a matter of fact they are not. But the democratic candidates that can win are not to be found at every crossroads, and Champ has had reason to know this.

THE SITUATION IS BRIEF

The Toronto Mail's idea of the army trouble is peculiar. It says that the government, through General Gough, sent out a statement, respecting army orders, which it later recalled. It charges the government, therefore, with "false dealing," and with "repudiating its pledged word." The Whig's understanding is somewhat different, and it has tried to get at the facts by a careful reading of English liberal and conservative papers. This understanding is that certain army officers desired a special interpretation of army orders, which should not have been questioned. The Cabinet Council dealt with the appeal, and its decision was against any modification of the orders. Col. Seely, in communicating with the officers at Curragh camp, added a couple of foot notes without the government's knowledge or consent, and we know the consequences. Col. Seely accepted the full responsibility and tendered his resignation.

The unexpected has since happened. The resignations of the Secretary of War, has been accepted, and Mr. Asquith, as his successor in office, will appeal to his constituency, and the verdict will be an approval or disapproval of all that has taken place in political circles up to the present hour.

This is a courageous act, and one that will invite the support of the people. It is a turn in events that was not looked for. Col. Seely's mistake was a serious one and cost the government a great deal of solicitude. Mr. Asquith's method of correcting it is regarded as a most brilliant one.

Mechanical filtration wins out in Ottawa. In other words the people will be required to consume the water of the Ottawa river, scientifically doped. It won't be pure. And the plant that treats it will cost \$2,000,000.

LESSON FROM EDMONTON

The Bulletin, of Edmonton, announces that only one of the four utilities, owned and operated by the city, has been paying its way, and that the other three have piled up against them a debt of over \$600,000 for which the people are responsible.

And why the people, when commissioners were managing the business? Because the people got what they wanted, and clamoured for more favours, assuming that the plants were as productive of coin as mints, and failing to realize that there was a limit to the burdens these plants could carry. It was known that the street railway was going behind, but

it was understood that the telephone system was making money. Last year in these telephones an illusory surplus was shown. The water system had a deficit of large proportion.

The discrepancies are now accounted for. The plants were being run without the necessary depreciation fund, and equipment will wear out before the bond issue in connection with it matures. The result is an accumulating debt, and a debt for the removal of which no provision has been made.

Is there any lesson in all this for the commissioners of Kingston? Here are five men who were called to office in January last, and who have not yet clearly learned the situation. They are having an appraisal made of the plants; they are having the accounts examined, and with a view to establishing the various funds which should have been in existence since the city took over the utilities, and before the situation has been determined, there is a clamouring for extensions, and a reduction and abolition of rates.

Common intelligence suggests that the Commission be left alone while they are doing their best to put the business in a safe and solvent condition. It does not seem to have dawned on even the Council that the position of the utilities is at all serious, and it joins in the demand for a division of the "spoils," which is another name for earnings as they have been regarded by this august body. The Council in past years has not used the utilities right. They have appropriated its revenues while the equipment has been neglected, and it will be fortunate indeed if the experience here is not that of Edmonton under similar circumstances.

EDITORIAL NOTES

England is having locomotives built in Germany. Why not in Canada and Kingston? The works should be able to compete with the shops of Germany or any other country.

The homesteaders in the west are to be granted easier conditions of occupation. Are they to be relieved of the terrorism of the political inspectors? That is the great and burning question.

There was a good deal of school boy talk at the last meeting of the council. The chairmen of the committees must save the situation in future by knowing and presenting all the facts in connection with their departments.

Would a council of ten members, who studied the municipal situation and understood it, be better for the city than a council of twenty-one, only a few of whom make any attempt to master the details? The council is a school in which some men are not very apt students.

The conservative alarmists in England are appealing to the people to lift the army out of politics, and to dismiss from the mind the idea that the military could indulge in political conspiracy. Who appealed to the army? Who dragged it into politics but the very men who are now protesting against it?

The Hamilton Herald fears for Sandford Evans, (a former Hamiltonian), when he undertakes to report upon the Georgian Bay canal. But there is no ground for the fear. Mr. Evans is not looking for scandal, and not creating it, in which respect his job differs from that of Hythornated Lynch-Stanton.

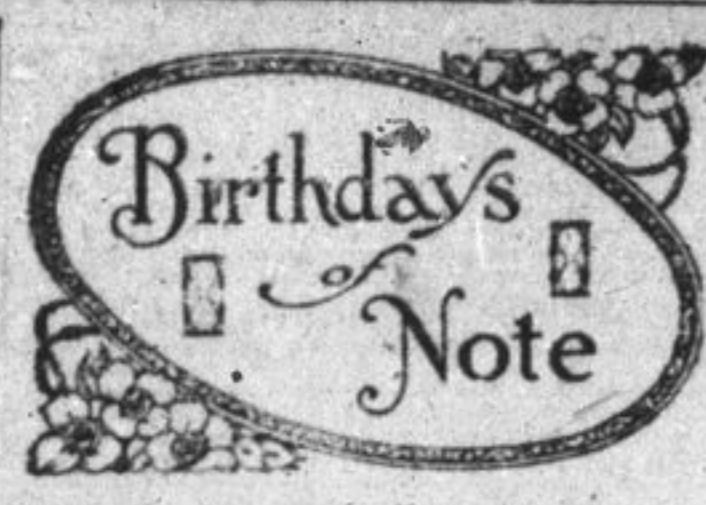
The report is that the unionist party will not oppose the re-election in East Fife of Mr. Asquith in order that he may get back to the house the sooner. The truth is that they do not want to oppose him and lose. The unionists are letting him back to parliament the sooner because they cannot successfully fight him.

The fair grounds did not cost the city \$38,000, or any such sum. The property, then in good condition, and with buildings, some of which were destroyed by fires, was turned over to the city for \$17,000. The land is now worth \$40,000, or \$45,000. It is becoming more valuable all the while. The city cannot afford to sell it and it does not want a fair at Pralick's farm.

Weather Notes

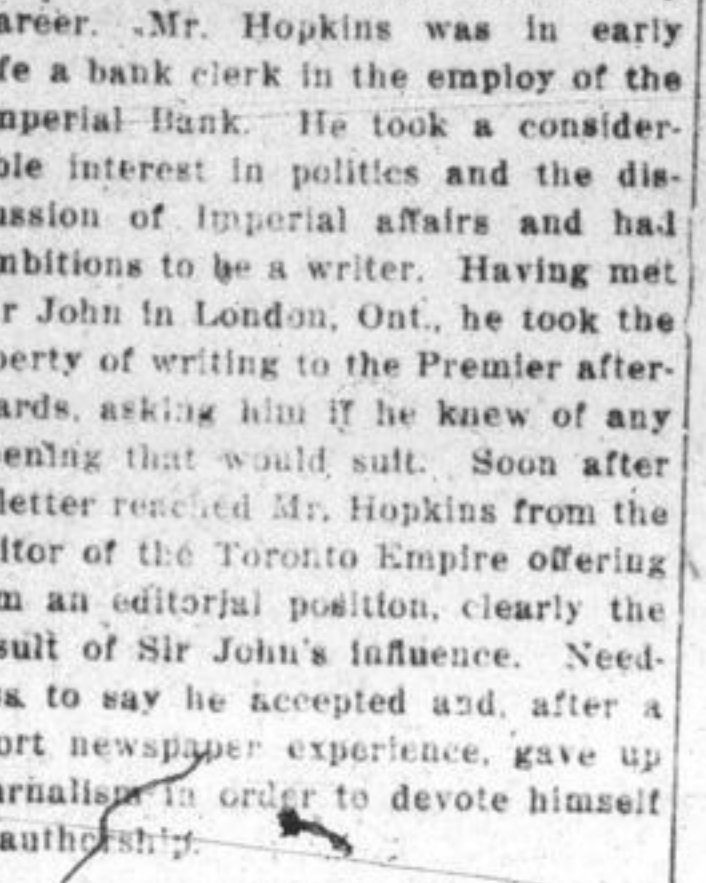
A disturbance which was in the south-west states, yesterday is now moving rapidly towards the great lakes and rain is falling in Western Ontario. The weather is cold and unsettled throughout the Dominion, and there are indications of still colder weather in the western provinces.

John W. Vout, Elizabethtown, met with a severe cold, when his large barn was destroyed by fire, together with its contents. The fire started from spontaneous combustion.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL FIRST

J. CASTELL HOPKINS, the Canadian historian, who is observing his fiftieth birthday today, has probably written more books about Canada and Canadians than any other author. He has now to his credit twenty-six bulky volumes of his own composition and has been editor of over fifty others. It is interesting to note that it was the late Sir John A. Macdonald who started him off on his literary career. Mr. Hopkins was in early life a bank clerk in the employ of the Imperial Bank. He took a considerable interest in politics and the discussion of imperial affairs and had ambitions to be a writer. Having met Sir John in London, Ont., he took the liberty of writing to the Premier afterwards, asking him if he knew of any opening that would suit. Soon after a letter reached Mr. Hopkins from the editor of the Toronto Empire offering him an editorial position, clearly the result of Sir John's influence. Needless to say he accepted and, after a short newspaper experience, gave up journalism in order to devote himself to authorship.



Mr. Hopkins was in early life a bank clerk in the employ of the Imperial Bank.

A WISH.

Mine be a cot beside the hill, A beehive's hum shall soothe my ear.

A willow brook, that turns a mill, With many a fall shall linger near.

The swallow oft beneath my thatch Shall twitter from her clay built nest.

Oft shall the pilgrim lift the latch And share my meal, a welcome guest.

Around my ivied porch shall spring Each fragrant flower that drinks the dew.

And Lucy, at her wheel, shall sing In russet gown, and apron blue.

The village church among the trees, Where first our marriage vows were given, With merry peals shall swell the breeze And point with taper spire to heaven.

—Samuel Rogers.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

The Portsmouth philosopher says a man likes to be sat on by his sweetheart before marriage. After marriage he doesn't.

Many jokes were played on people around the city to-day as it was April Fool's Day.

A game of baseball was played on Ontario street to-day.

When Vapor is Dry.

A popular misconception is the supposition that aqueous vapor and ice are wet. They are in themselves dry, and become wet only when they turn to water. So, dry is aqueous vapor that it will dry and moist objects that it comes in contact with. Superheated steam, before it condenses, is a dry gas. Ice feels wet if the temperature of the hand is suffered to melt it; as ice is dry.

Another misconception is that air can be either moist or dry. It is condensed aqueous vapor in the air that is moist, and it would be moist if there was no air. A given quantity of aqueous vapor confined in a given space will be wet or dry according to the temperature. At 32 degrees for instance, it might be partially condensed and consequently wet, while at 70 degrees, owing to expansion, it would be dry.

Rhodes No Dude

Cecil Rhodes was not much of a dresser. When premier of Cape Colony, he usually wore a flannel suit which badly wanted cleaning, and a dilapidated slouch hat. His successor in office, Sir Gordon Sprigg, who wore a black frock coat even in the hottest weather, once made an effort to enforce the wearing of "respectable" dark clothes in the Cape parliament. But Rhodes would not have that. He said in parliament that if he could not help to legislate in comfortable clothes he would not help at all, and he thought that the members would agree with him. They did.

Mrs. D. H. Fiddall, Trenton, wife of the manager of the Bank of Montreal, passed away Tuesday morning. Death was due to collapse following child birth. Deceased was about thirty-five years of age.

Wise and : : Otherwise

Unbidden guests are often welcomed when going.

Charity is the noblest impulse generous hearts can feel.

The devil can cite scripture for his purpose.

An open foe is not such a curse as a pretended friend.

Experience teaches us that resolution is a great help in time of need.

Honesty once pawned is never redeemed.

A fit of anger is as dangerous to dignity as a dose of arsenic is to life. Don't lose your temper.

Mostly the Last. Professor at Agricultural School—What kinds of farming are there? New Student—Extensive, intensive and progressive—Indianapolis Star.

Our Pampered Pets.



I hear they have the most wonderful performing dogs over at the Vaudeville.

Yes; I took dear Fido yesterday afternoon, and he enjoyed it so much.

A Daily Thought.

There is no one made so great but he may both need the help and service, and stand in fear of the power and unkindness, even of the meanest of mortals.

Unexpected Answer.

Says Fogg, who is a bit of a linguist: "While walking up Commonwealth avenue last night I was wondering to myself what the country at large really thought of President Wilson's watchful waiting policy. Suddenly looking up, I was startled to behold the answer outlined against the sky in illuminated bulbs: 'United States Times.'"

Not Previously "Touched."

Borrowy—Let's see; do I owe you anything? Bangs—Not a cent, my boy. Are you going around paying your little debts? Borrowy—No; going around seeing if I've overlooked anybody. Lend me five till Saturday, will you?

Ruling Out Uncertainty.

Candidate—Now, my friends, when you vote, you don't want to vote for a pig in a poke; you want to vote for ME—and get the genuine article!—London Opinion.

Nothing Gracefully Thanked.

Rector (thanking all who have contributed to the success of the bazaar):—And as for Lady Blank, I should not like to tell you what she has done.—Punch.

Gentle Woman.

"It's a shame to use such a quantity of oppres on the hats. Those beautiful birds will soon be extinct at this rate."

"Oh, do you think so, my dear? Then you must certainly buy me some quick!"—Fliegende Blätter.

Useful Utensil.

"What makes an Englishman wear a monocle?"

"Well," replied Plute Pete, "I once taught an Englishman to play poker, and believe me, son, there's nothing like a monocle to prevent a man's facial expression from slipping."—Washington Star.

Into the Subconscions.

First Irate Gentleman—When I see a man, I remember it.

Second Irate Gentleman—Well, when it's one, I don't.—Punch.

Said by Wise Men.

He who comes up with his own idea of greatness must always have had a very low standard of it in his mind.—Ruskin.

"The despotism of custom is on the wane. We are not content to know that things are; we ask whether they ought to be."—S. Mill.

To know that there are some souls, hearts and minds, here and there, who trust and whom we trust, some who know us and whom we know, some on whom we can always rely, and who will always rely on us, makes a paradise of this great world. This makes our life really life.—James Freeman Clarke.

The influence of custom is incalculable; dress a boy as a man, and he will at once change his conception of himself.—H. St. John.

Character is like stock in trade; the more of it a man possesses, the greater his facilities for making additions to it. Character is power—is influence; it makes friends; creates funds; draws patronage and support; and opens a sure and easy way to wealth, honor and happiness.—J. Hawes.

Men are won, not so much by being blamed as by being encompassed with love.—Channing.

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