

The British Whig

SIXTH YEAR



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PERMANENT OCCUPATION

In the last ten years Ontario has lost in population, and to the extent of 96,000. Many have gone to the west. They have not been lost to the country. But they make help in this country very scarce. There is a cure for the present stringency in farm service. Men must be engaged for the year, and when they are married they must have a garden plot, and be allowed a chance to make a decent living. A leading farmer in Frontenac informed the Whig that he had had no difficulty in getting good help because he had paid for it reasonably and given the men the advantage of permanent service, and the arrangement was satisfactory all around.

There is to be a federal election next year. The conservatives are preparing for it now, by making week-end excursions into the constituencies and telling of the wonderful things that are going on in Ottawa. These would astonish the natives—if they did not read the papers.

DENTAL INSPECTION

Brantford has been defeated in the inauguration of dental inspection in the public schools because it has essayed to have this inspection on the plan of the Education Department. The Expositor lays the result to the unwillingness of the council to provide the necessary funds. One does not wonder, because the establishment of a dental clinic, according to the regulation, is a costly one. Nor is the council so much to blame, when it is recalled that medical inspection, which has proven so great a success, can be launched in any town or city without the circumlocution and cumbersome regulation that pertains to dental inspection, and that aldermen, and even the mayors, can hardly be seized with a knowledge of what this inspection really means. Kingston has medical inspection in a comparatively inexpensive way. It wants dental inspection on the same plan, and can have it, if the Education Department will only revise and moderate its regulations.

Judge Denton finds that one in the Toronto architect's office was given to favoritism, and that the controllers and aldermen have been lax in the performance of their duty. All hands are silent and depressed at present, but ten days hence they will follow the usual custom and throw bricks at the judge.

THE MACHINE IN OPERATION

Once more the local government—it cannot be called the Whitney administration in his absence, and it cannot be called the Hanna government though he dictates its policy—has collided with public opinion, and on assessment reform. In past sessions this subject has been up and flouted by the government. An Ottawa member, Mr. Ellis, has advocated the taxation of land rather than improvements, and he has been obliged to recede after advancing so far. Toronto has demanded similar legislation in vain.

This session an interesting episode occurred. Mr. Gooderham, at the instance of a special committee which had the matter in hand, presented a bill which purported to give the city options on taxation. It went to a second reading, and then Mr. Hanna called a halt. He rebuked Mr. Gooderham, who had "generally exercised good, sound sense," and, alas, in this matter forfeited his reputation.

The provincial secretary, in an air or spirit that was quite imperious, ordered the withdrawal of the bill, and Mr. Gooderham bowed to the inevitable after expressing his disappointment. Talk about your political machine! Was there ever any-

thing more unfeeling than this? Was there ever more direct evidence that the average member of parliament is an automaton, who is subject to the manipulation of the government and made to be its servant?

The secretary of the Fair Association wants the Hydro-Electric Commission to make an electrical display at the fall show, in the application of power to dairying, farming, etc. And if the minister does not respond favourably, his name will not be Adam, the alchemist, any more.

EMPTY HONORARY TITLES

The return brought down by the minister of militia, in response to the order of the commons, shows that Canada has fourteen new colonels and forty-five lieutenant-colonels, and they dot and decorate every branch of civil and religious life. Several clergymen, and essentially men of peace, who are supposed to preach, and occasionally do preach, against war and all that it implies, are among the honored of this set. And unless there is a brake put upon the honourable minister of militia the list will rapidly lengthen out until every one of note, at least in high society, will be dubbed a colonel, a major, a captain, or a lieutenant. This conferring of honorary titles is being grossly overdone, and it will not be checked until the masses show their disapprobation in some very decided measure. A lot of people, for some reason, like tin-pot titles. They are so fond of these titles as to assume them when they are not conferred. So it comes that in Canada by-and-by colonels and majors and captains and lieutenants will be tripping over each other because they will be as numerous as the colonels and majors and captains were in the United States after the war, and indeed to-day.

The men who earn military titles by service, especially active service, in which they have given some evidence of their capacity and bravery, are worthy of the distinction that is conferred upon them. But the people have precious little regard for the men who have been weighted down with the honorary titles of the militia department, including the forty-two chaplains who hold the titles of honorary captain, fifty honorary lieutenants and five dental surgeons attached to the Army Medical Corps, who hold the honorary ranks of lieutenants.

Cannery men of the province are again organizing or renewing their vows as combusters. And, by George, the same is not to give the people a benefit, but to waylay the consumers, as it were, and clean out their pocket books.

REFORMS IN ENGLAND

The English statesmen—and by the term we mean the men who are thoughtful and forever studying the interests of the people—are leading in judicial as well as social reforms. Two measures of the greatest public value are now before the imperial parliament, and with so much of good in them that they must eventually be adopted.

One is represented by the bill which makes uniform the practice of letting off offenders with fines which they may pay in installments. It is a practice copied from the Americans, and in its support the experience of Kansas City is quoted. This experience is to the effect that of the 285 men who were sentenced in 1913, and to pay fines aggregating over \$5,000, not one failed to pay his weekly instalment, and only three were re-arrested for new offences. Applied to England such a law, impartially enforced, would save 80,000 persons, a large number of them young men, from incarceration in prisons where their characters would be injuriously affected if not ruined. Such a consideration must weigh heavily with the parliament of Britain and induce it to lift the prison system from the low status it now occupies to one of the highest places.

The second reform is the new Poor Persons' Legal Department, with rules and procedure that will enable not only the poorest of the poor, but also those whose incomes can be shown to be inadequate to the strain of a high court lawsuit, to bring their cases into court without cost to themselves and to the manifest advantage of many briefless baristers.

"Some day," says a writer in the London Chronicle, "we shall have to face the problem of defraying the cost of justice out of the public purse, of placing the machinery of the law free of charge at the disposal of all citizens, and of converting barristers and solicitors into a public profession, paid by the state. Meanwhile the Poor Persons' Legal Department ought to go some way towards redressing the disabilities under which the poor and the people of small and precarious incomes at present suffer. We have no idea of the injustices, the wrongs, and the misery which are endured because the legal remedy for them is financially unattainable. If the new department fulfills its purpose, and is made really and easily available for those who need it, it will assuredly not lack

the opportunity of rendering great and unsuspected service.

What next? Some one may ask. The particular reform which will be talked cannot be enumerated, but the world is full of wrongs and injustices, and the best of men, the real philosophers of our times, can be kept busy in dealing with the more pressing from time to time. And all this can be done in the name of that Christian Socialism which is so sane in its principles, and so calculated to win favour as the days go by.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Catharines wants an up-to-date chlorination plant. The dosing of the water becomes a necessity at all our frontier Canadian towns, and it is a contingency that drives one away from the drinking of water. It may be that this will not trouble so many people at St. Kitts.

Hon. Arthur Balfour, fresh from the south of France and its golf links, wants the home rule question referred to the people. A plebiscite is better than a riot or rebellion. But why didn't Arthur get along with his suggestion when, metaphorically, the parliamentarians were pulling guns upon each other.

Dr. Roberts of Hamilton ridicules the idea that the house fly is a pest and should be swatted. The Metropolitan Life Insurance company has engaged specialists and they have issued illustrated literature which represents the fly as the chief disseminator of disease. Who, in thunder is Dr. Roberts that he sets his opinions up against the opinions of all these experts?

The new wing of the general hospital is a great credit to the board of governors, and all who laboured towards its equipment. The building and its adornment testify so eloquently to the sacrifices of the men and women who have contributed to them. They deserved all the kind things that were said of them. One, through illness, was absent. Mr. Minnes, and for his financial service he will be gratefully remembered.

PUBLIC OPINION

"Governing Class" to Go

Toronto Star. Great Britain did not end government by the peers in order to let the peers' nephews in the army exercise the veto the lords had been deprived of.

And Why Not?

London Advertiser. The Whitney government has told the married woman that she must pay taxes but that she cannot vote. She'll continue to rule the house just the same.

A Puckerless Persimmon

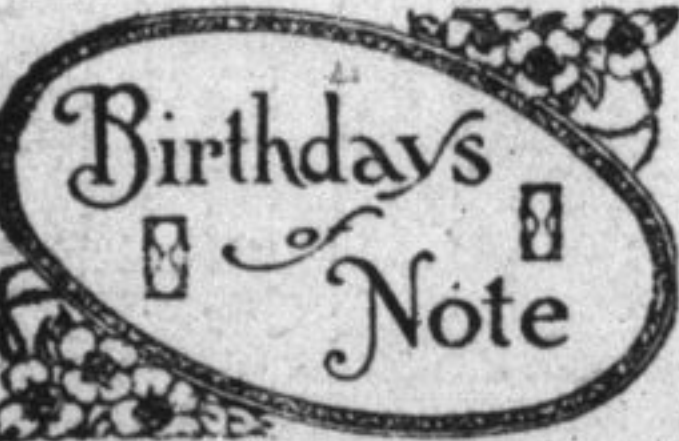
Buffalo Courier. The scientists of the department of agriculture claim to have developed a persimmon that doesn't pucker, but they haven't yet provided the materials for a drunk that won't leave a headache.

Doubtful Compliment

Ottawa Free Press. Champ Clark says he knows his president is instigated by the highest motives, but in the same breath he refers to the president's action as "unquestionable degradation." Like telling a man you always believe him and then calling him a liar.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

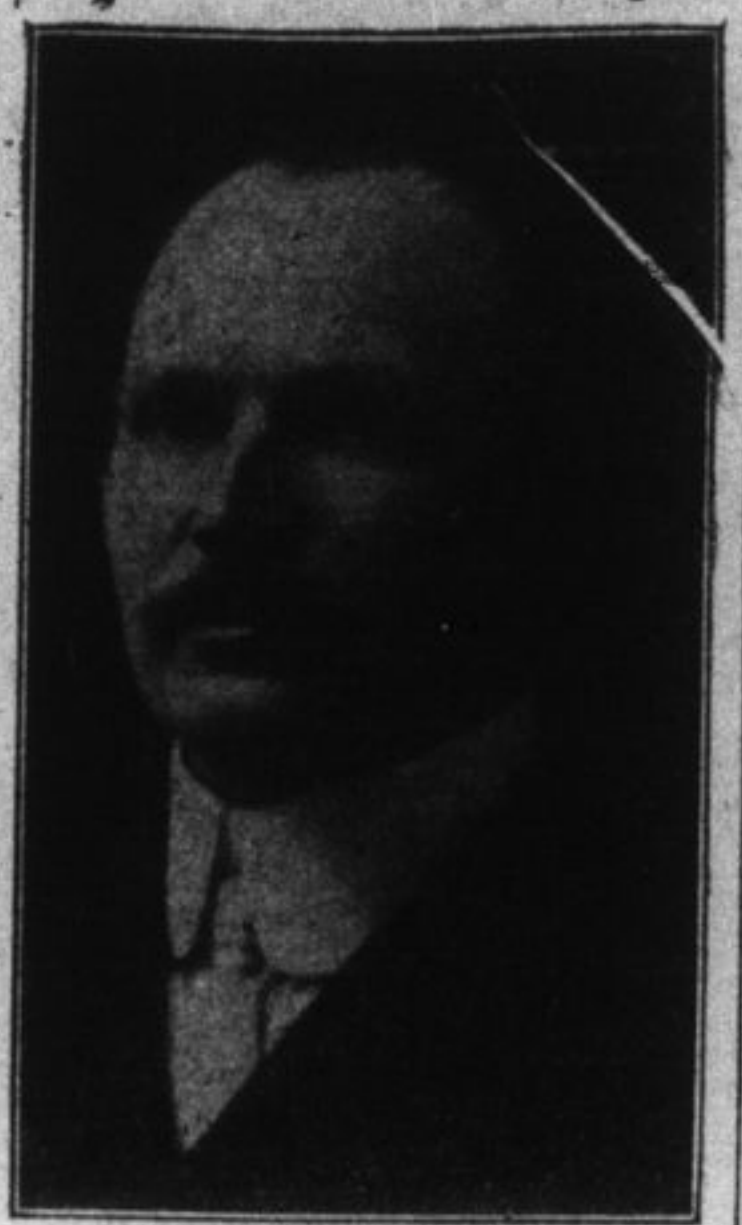
The boom in real estate continues. Many transfers of property occur daily. G. Wilder will supply the milk and Mr. McConville the meat, for the mail line steamers. There were eleven degrees of frost last night. The repeal of the Scott Act was successfully accomplished in Frontenac county to-day.



SATURDAY, APRIL FOURTH

PROFESSOR A. P. COLEMAN, who has been head of the department of geology in the University of Toronto for the past twenty years and who is probably the greatest authority on his special subject in Canada, is sixty-two years of age to-day. As an explorer and mountaineer he possesses a great reputation. There is a story about his prowess in this direction, which is worth repeating. A party of geologists attending an international congress were out examining some rock formation in Sweden. In the evening seated around the fire in an inn, some of them began to discuss the day's events. One of the distinguished men present took occasion to refer to the way a member of the party had always got

GEORGE A. PALMER Physical Instructor at Kingston Collegiate Institute.



GEORGE A. PALMER.

The Kingston Collegiate Institute's annual exhibition which was so successful a week ago was originated by George A. Palmer, the physical instructor, when he first went there about four and a half years ago. The institute is very fortunate in having such a capable and experienced man in charge.

Mr. Palmer was born in Leamington, Warwickshire, England, on January 20th, 1874. After graduating from the Army Physical Training school at Aldershot, with a first-class certificate in physical training and all-round fencing, he became physical director of the Scots Fusiliers, and remained with them for eight years. Later he became physical instructor and manager of the Sandow Physical Culture school in London, Birmingham and Liverpool. He was also physical director at Hamel-Hampstead grammar school, near London, at Bromsgrave grammar school near Birmingham and at Vallyay grammar school near Liverpool in Cheshire county.

After coming to Canada, eight years ago he was engaged as physical director at Queen's university. He remained there for two years during which time he organized the physical department. His system is still being used. He was the first to hold an assault-at-arms at the university, thus being the originator of the event which has brought Queen's so many championships.

His lameness is due to an injury received in England while wrestling. Concussion of the spine resulted which affected his lower limbs. He recovered from this but while at Queen's he fell from the parallel bars and this brought on the old trouble. In spite of this, however, he is just as good a gymnast as before and all the events at the exhibition, with the exception of the tumbling, were taught by him. He hopes in time to recover completely from his injuries.

Mr. Palmer is also a graduate of the School of Drugless Healing in Chicago and has his cadet instructor's certificate from the British army and his physical instructor's certificate from the Ontario government. Mr. Palmer is still lecturer and instructor in physical education at Queen's university.

In His Name

By Helen M. Richardson. What might the Easter spirit bring to those

Who patiently plod on from day to day Wearing the yoke of servitude, with heads bowed to the burden they must ever bear—

Victims of man's caprice and dread command: Poor patient steeds that bear their master's voice,

Only to crouch and quiver "neath a blow? Might it not bring immunity from pain,

Clean stalls, good food, a body groomed with care, Sweet-smelling straw where, at the close of day,

They might repose and dream of pastures green?

All this, and more, could man's diviner self Make possible,—the self that is reborn

Like nature, when she bursts the fettering bonds

That held her captive, and in verdure clad

Proclaims to us her visible rebirth, 'E'en so when man feels rising in his soul

A yearning towards the beautiful and true,

His spirit shall indeed be born anew, If to the helpless things his care

Thy claim,

He showeth mercy in the Saviour's Name.

With an Eye Toward Economy

National Weekly. Mr. Perry had been out for a day's fishing. As he proudly displayed the contents of his basket to his wife, she explained:

"Oh, Alva, aren't they beauties! But I've been so anxious for the past hour, dear."

"Foolish little one," said Alva, carelessly: "why, what could happen to me?"

"Oh, I didn't worry about you, dear," said the woman; "but it grew so late I was afraid that before you got back to town the fish markets would be closed."

Hon. W. T. Crothers III

Ottawa, April 4.—Hon. W. T. Crothers, minister of labor, is very ill at his rooms in Ottawa, and will scarcely be back to the house until considerably after the Easter recess. Mr. Crothers contracted a cold returning from Newmarket recently, and a serious attack of erysipelas was the result.

Advertisement for Bibby's suits and shoes. Includes text: 'We Now Sell JUST WRIGHT SHOES. Bibby's Agents For DENT Gloves. Come in and try on some of the New-comers for Spring Wear! We won't take your money. It's a revelation to some men to see how readily we can meet their every requirement with our excellent garments. See our Ruby suits, \$12.00. See our Harvard suits, \$15.00. See our Oxford suits, \$18.00. See our Master and Poole suits, \$20.00. See our Woodbine suits, \$18.00. See our Yale suits, \$15.00. See our Society suits, \$20.00. See our Collegiate suits, \$12.00. We sell the celebrated King hats for \$2.50. The Just Wright SHOE. We are authorized agents for Just Wright shoes for men. Price \$5.00. Bibbys BOYS' CLOTHES—We carry the biggest range of boys' clothes in central Ontario.

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Farms For Sale. The following is a partial list of farms we have for sale in Kingston district. Table with columns for Acres and Price. For further information apply to T. J. LOCKHART Over Bank of Montreal, Clarence St. Phone 1085, or 1086, KINGSTON, ONT.

USE CRAWFORD'S COAL. THERE'S HEAT IN EVERY LUMP.