

The British Whig 80TH YEAR.



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PUBLICITY REQUIRED.

There is no feature of the campaign which will begin next week, in connection with the patriotic fund, which will be more effective, and, therefore, should be more efficient, than the publicity which should be directed by a competent man. That man is being sought, and he will be found. He can do all manner of things before the people. The auto pressed into the service and every one should be loaned, or put at the disposal of the committee by the owner—the hands should be willing to make music every day, the placards and bulletins produced by artistic brush should find lodgment every place they can penetrate, and every one, merchant, lawyer, doctor, trader, solicitor, preacher, peasant, gardener, mechanic, printer, and newsboy, should feel that he has a part in the movement. This is the people's cause, without exception, and it must succeed. It need not be asked who are the workers. Whoever will may serve, and the who-soever means "you."

DESTROYED THE DELUSION.

The scars of the war are gradually passing away, though the financial strife, remain and become the heavier. The Whig has already noted burdens of it, in the centres of that in some articles, in fruits especially, the British market had a most favourable outlook. To-day another encouraging intimation comes to hand from a leading British firm of merchants, and its wording is so marked that it is quoted: "We have already written advising you that, in our opinion, Liverpool will be a cheaper market than New York for Almeris grapes, to buy in, and we shall know before long whether we are right or wrong. We have some support for our contention already, for it is nearly impossible to give things away here. Talk about England's food supply! Why, with the exception of bacon and sugar, food-stuffs are cheaper, especially fruit, than we have ever known them to be." And this, mark you, so soon after the panic which induced some people to buy up all they could and fill their cellars and larders, under the delusion that they were on the eve of a panic and might starve. The war has removed a lot of delusions, and among others the delusion that when nations dispute over questions of honour everything stands still, trade, transportation, life itself. The disposition of all this is a merciful deliverance.

"BRITISH," NOT "ENGLISH."

A writer in the New York Times corrects the habit which that paper, in common with many others, has of referring to British troops as "English." The Times is reminded that Great Britain represents more than England, and that more than England is represented in the war. There are Scotch and Irish and Welsh, and all are British. These, however, feel that they are not included and not covered by the term "English." The point is well taken. The Whig has not forgotten the reminder it received many years ago from a good Scotch friend, long since called to his reward. He had been reading some reference to the English, and, paper in hand, invaded the editorial room and metaphorically opened fire upon its editor. "Here," said he, somewhat menacingly, "what do you mean by this? I come from Scotland. My clothes will bear the smell of the heather. My ancestors fought and bled and died for the nation, and they were all British. These people you write about are not English, but British, and they include my countrymen."

Please bear this in mind, and in future, Mr. Editor, refer to them in a very respectful way." The Whig has been doing it. Our readers will notice that invariably the word British is used in referring to the empire's troops in France. We have not in so doing forgotten our old Scotch friend. Peace to his ashes.

RIGHT HAS TRIUMPHED.

In consequence of the European war, and all its exciting details, little has been heard about the Mexican eruption in which the United States was interested. When Huerta, the usurper, was in office President Wilson refused to recognize him. When local conditions became really bad, when American interests and American citizenship became menaced, and the American marines were landed in Vera Cruz, the insurrection was still continued. It reached a climax when, following the resignation and retirement of Huerta, the constitutional party came into power through Carranza. Now he proposes to turn over the government provisionally to others, until, in October, arrangements can be made for an election in which he will be a candidate. This election will be as free and independent as it is popular. The electors will be allowed to vote as they feel, and without the threatening presence of the soldiery. The Huerta contest was a farce. He was not the choice of the people and he knew it. He never enjoyed the confidence of the electors, and his surrender and hurried departure eventually were foreseen from the beginning. Carranza has fought for constitutional government, has made many sacrifices, and will probably receive the reward of his service.

MAKING PAPER MONEY.

Windsor, or rather the Windsor Record, which is radical in everything except its politics, has a scheme for raising money for municipal purposes. The city has debentures which it cannot sell. Its credit is good. It has real estate within its boundaries that is assessed at over \$20,000,000, and that is only a partial value. Property is never assessed at its full value. The general debt of Windsor is less than a million of dollars. The net debenture debt is less than half a million of dollars. Yet the securities of the municipality cannot be disposed of. The banks do not want them as collateral. They have all they want of this kind of paper. The financial houses will not bid for them for two reasons: (1) They cannot get the necessary accommodation from the banks, and (2) they do not want to buy debentures bearing interest at a higher rate than the debentures they have on hand, and to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars. What does the Record suggest? The issue of municipal I.O.U.'s, signed by the treasurer on the command of the council, and negotiable as paper currency in local trading and account paying. Has the council any power to go into money making? Can its paper, if legal tender, be handled except through the banks? And suppose the banks refuse it as they would counterfeit coin? It is not clear that the scheme is workable. The Record must explain.

MESSAGE FROM KITCHENER.

Kitchener is a man of few words. He has been called the Sphinx. The face of the minister expresses his temperament. He thinks. He decides. He acts. History recalls the remarkable success of his plans. Hence when he condescends to speak, to send out, as it were, a world's message from Britain, it must be noted with great significance. Speaking to the press last night, and a last word before withdrawing to the inner recesses of his office, he said that he had reason to be satisfied with the splendid work of Sir John French and with the officers and men serving under him. Britain now occupied a safe position in this colossal war. She would eventually triumph. But there would not be an immediate or early demand for peace. His actions agree with his words. He has all along said the combat might be prolonged. He accepted office with this expectation. He has been recruiting the army for any contingency, and he knows the situation. The tremendous slaughter of men, the decimation of the German ranks, the wastage in the British forces, and the overwhelming losses of Austrians would suggest that all this could not go on very long. On the other hand there is an empire whose fate is doomed. It cannot be expected to pass out of existence without a desperate struggle, and the fight of the Germans with Russians and allied powers is indeed a death grapple.

SOME PETTY GRAFTING.

Public officials cannot walk too straight. They cannot be too particular about the manner in which they perform their duties. They can be exacting, and not overbearing. They can insist upon the right without exhibiting any weakness of spirit or of will. One makes this comment on reading in the Hamilton papers the evidence which was offered before Judge Snider in which a local build-

ing inspector is alleged to have become troublesome to the contractors from time to time and been appeased by the passing of a little present. The competency of the man is not questioned, but his morals are certainly open to criticism, and under circumstances that must be humiliating. The result is a feeling of disappointment and disorder. Why should any contractor scamp his work and require the watchful attention of any supervising official. That is the first consideration. Every man who enters into a contract agrees to do certain things for a certain compensation. The specifications lie before him. He ought to follow them freely and to the very letter. Why does he fail? He has a reason, and if given it does not comport with his reputation for honesty. Why is it that the watchdog fails to bark when there is some trespass on his premises, the act of some one that is undoubtedly open to challenge? Because some one throws him a bone and he is engrossed with it to the exclusion of everything else. Grafting has become so common that people are no longer impressed with it. There was a time when the mention of the word, with any individual, carried with it a certain sting or suspicion. That was when the conscience was somewhat active. The fact that the charge no longer produces mortification is very regrettable. It is an unfortunate sign of the times.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Why the deluging of the pavements with water before they are cleaned each day? The city's appliances are lamentably incomplete.

The idle of the city are numerous. That is evident by the number who are inspecting the work in which the few are engaged on Princess street.

The concern of the moment is not how relief may be disposed, but how much may be provided. What is the council doing about the projection of its plans?

Little girls—you who walk Princess street so much in the evenings—do your mothers know you are out? It is time some one did more than ring the curfew bell.

One is curious to know what good a drawing of Fort Henry would be to any one. The war department of Germany has surely no time for the study of a dismantled fortification.

The moratorium, in Manitoba, will save many a one who is hard pressed on land transactions. It does not nullify any debt but carries the embargo one over the present financial depression.

Petty grafting in the municipal service in Hamilton. This thing, like a foul odour, is to be found everywhere. Hamilton is not particularly favoured, though it is not to be congratulated on its find.

How is it that so many men have no faith in themselves? They possess energy, and influence, and good will, and yet in public movements say they cannot lead. They can do all things with a little faith.

The mayor of Montreal has refused to sign a contract which the council authorized, for its finances, with the Bank of Montreal. He is punishing the people for their misplaced confidence and they deserve all they are receiving.

The German army and navy are recruited on the conscription plan. Result—Men have been threatened with violence in the field if they do not fight, and the seamen on the battleships have been driven to service with whippstock and revolver.

Hundreds of people have been arriving in London from the continent armed with bogus passports, issued by American consuls in Germany and Austria. The scandal must be investigated. The alleged Americans give most ridiculous addresses.

The American government has been shamefully imposed upon in the matter of relief. It undertook to help home from Europe all Americans who were in distress in consequence of the war, and the London committee had been imposed on in spite of all its diligence.

The vice-president of the Massey-Harris company says it doesn't pay any manufacturer to reside in Toronto. Some years ago the Queen City spent a lot of money in convincing capitalists that it paid them to locate within it and accept of its conditions.

Commandant Meune, the wrecker of Louvain, is in the hands of the allies and will be court-martialed. He may be prepared for the worst. His identification medal may be sent to the emperor, but that will be poor consolation for the loss of art treasures that cannot be replaced.

The Massey-Harris company is dissatisfied with its assessment of nearly \$1,400,000 in Toronto. The Telegram intimates that if the company is not pleased it knows what it can do. To be sure. It can find a local

ment in Kingston, where the attentions of the assessor are limited.

Dr. Shortt, of Ottawa, thinks that for financial and commercial reasons, war cannot be prolonged. Read what Kitchener says and be prepared for a good long siege in Europe. The Germans are not going to abandon ambitions they have sedulously cultivated for over forty years.

PUBLIC OPINION

Trusting In The Fleet. La Presse. The British fleet guards the empire of the seas. May its silent victory always continue!

He Surely Is. Montreal News. You can say what you like about him, but the czar is a dandy little mobilizer.

He Cannot. Hamilton Herald. Although Kitchener has warned the British troops not to drink too much, he will not object to their going on the spree when they get to Berlin.

A Miracle Worker. London Advertiser. When this war is over the general public will learn of some astonishing transportation feats that prove Kitchener has lost none of his efficiency.

He Cannot Do It. Toronto Globe. Canada would be deeply indebted to Col. Sam Hughes if he would stop talking till after Canada's troops are outfitted and dispatched to the front.

A Heavy Touch. Montreal Mail. The indemnity paid to Germany by France in 1871 was five milliard francs (\$1,000,000,000) and the whole of it was paid in three years. Will Germany be able to do as well after the present war?

Hard To Tell. Montreal Gazette. Russia is reported to be buying great stocks of arms in various parts of the world. The czar evidently expects the present war to last a long time or else he is preparing for the next one.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

While engaged in placing two large pontoons under water to raise the steamer Armstrong at Brockville one of the pontoons came up with such force that it knocked a large hole in the bottom of the barge. Gaskin and she was sunk.

Harold Horsey left for Watertown to-day where he has secured a position as draftsman. Henry Cunningham, skipper of the yacht Lama has left for Boston. Alfred Street is about ready for the street car service.

WANT TO BE PAROLED

IN ORDER TO JOIN THE R.C.D. FOR SERVICE.

Two Prisoners, Gabriel and Mains, Seek Their Liberty—The Minister of Justice Will Likely Release Them.

The minister of justice has been asked to parole two convicts named Gabriel and Mains who are serving time at the Portsmouth penitentiary. The two men want to fight for Britain in France and Germany, if released from prison.

They were sentenced to prison on the charge of setting fire to the stables at the Royal Military College last year. One of the men was sent up for two years, while the other got two and a half years. The prisoners were formerly members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and were attached to the college for duties in connection with horses.

It will be remembered that when the fire took place at the stables the men were suspected of the deed, and a detective was placed on their trail. They were placed in a room at the British-American hotel, where a photograph had been hidden, and by that means the detective was able to bring their guilt home. It is altogether likely that the men will be given their liberty.

GRAFT WAS THE CAUSE

Of the Crumbling of the Forts of Namur.

Antwerp, Sept. 18.—Great and not the bravery of the Germans nor the power of their siege guns was responsible for the quick fall of the forts at Namur, and this also was likely responsible for the collapse of the defense at Liege, notwithstanding the fact that the Liege works held out longer than those at Namur.

It was learned yesterday that the government has been conducting an investigation ever since the Mons forts fell. It is found that while the defensive works were being built millions of dollars were directed from their proper channels into the pockets of contractors and dishonest government officials.

The plans for the forts were laid down by General Brialmont, of the Belgian army, one of the foremost military engineers in Europe, but the materials which went into the battlements were far below specifications. No fault is found with the plans. It is agreed that the fortresses were built upon the strongest positions that existed, but the Belgian ordnance is also beyond criticism, but steel and concrete and stone work were of poor quality.

At Namur it was found that the concrete and stone work were of poor quality. And also it was found that the concrete supporting one steel turret was so poor in quality that a single German shell demolished it. It is further alleged that the builders had not gone to the trouble to construct all of the work which General Brialmont's plans called for.

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