

The British Whig
SOUTH YEAR.



Published Daily and Semi-Weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

J. G. Elliott, President
Leman A. Guld, Managing Director
and Sec.-Treas.

Telephone: 243
Business Office: 243
Editorial Rooms: 252
Job Office: 252

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(Daily Edition)
One year, delivered in city \$4.00
One year, if paid in advance \$3.50
One year, by mail to rural offices \$3.50
One year, to United States \$10.00
Six and three months pro rata.
(Semi-Weekly Edition)
One year, delivered in city \$1.50
One year, if not paid in advance \$1.50
One year, to United States \$3.50
Six and three months pro rata.

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G. S. Ripley, 111 York St.
New York Office: 235 Fifth Ave.
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Chicago: Tribune Bldg.
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A SERIES OF BLUNDERS.

The exploits of Elliott's Horse, a mounted division, organized in Victoria, B.C., at the expense of a local lawyer, are remarkable to say the least of them. The men joined the corps readily and under the impression that they would be attached to the First Contingent going from Canada for overseas service. They were told, however, that they were not wanted, but the officers did not act on the advice they received, and went on preparing for action at the expense of Mr. Elliott. He probably did not know of any intervening difficulty, and met all the expenses of the outfitting. In due time the troops started for England, without any arrangement with the militia department, and any orders, and landed, only to be deserted by the officers and practically abandoned. They will have to return to Canada, to be disbanded, or made use of by the government in the organization of a Third Contingent, of which cavalry will be a distinct unit. The whole experience is astonishing in view of the fact that both men and horses are needed for the war, and that the man's generosity has been abused by a misunderstanding for which he nor the government can be held responsible. The men who officered the troop seem to have blundered all the way through. They undertook to force results, regardless of rule or routine, and they deserved rebuke. But the eighty men who have been deceived and misguided are entitled to the sympathy of the people. The militia department should come to their relief.

SOME CIVIC COURTESIES.

Some of the cities are inaugurating the retrenchment which the times require, and have cut the salaries of the mayor and aldermen. This can be very conveniently done as the said salaries were abnormal, and they represented drafts on the public treasury which the circumstances did not warrant. Moreover the salaries went to the individual advantage of the recipients, and the fact that they were either materially reduced or surrendered meant that they might not have been really earned. The honorarium paid in a city like Kingston is a different proposition. It is not made to the mayor as a kind of refund of the amount spent on his election. It is not designed to cover campaign expenses of any kind. It is, as the late Ald. Allen explained over and over again, the spirit of the man is still felt though his voice has long been silent for such use as the head of the corporation may put it in meeting the extraordinary demand that confronts him. In some places a reception committee extends the courtesies that visitors, distinguished and otherwise, expect, and the cost is a public charge. In Kingston the mayor is the happy medium between the people and the visitors, and he must extend the glad hand and all that it implies. No one out of office can understand how many incidental expenses the mayor must meet, and he will be fortunate, indeed, if the honorarium covers them all.

SANTA CLAUS VISIT.

Last year Mr. Rigney, while still mayor, and as a fitting finale to his term of office, had a Christmas tree in the City Hall, and a visit from Santa Claus. It was the only occasion when the real friend of the little folk accepted a formal invitation and appeared publicly at a function of the most pleasurable character. That reception which Mr. Rigney and Santa Claus gave the children

of the city will never be forgotten. One thinks of it now, on the near approach of Christmas, because the times suggests that unless one with Mr. Rigney's heart and kindness follows his example this year Santa Claus may not come to Kingston. He may be represented by proxy, at some homes, but he will not be present in person and so cannot see the hundreds of children who are supposed to be his special care.

He has suffered, in common with the millions of this world, from the war, and will have to get some assistance if he is to perform the loving service which is so much appreciated at the Christmas season. A committee may be available, to assist the dear old gentleman to carry his plans into effect, if he could be brought here, but that is about all that can be expected in these days of patriotic and poor relief funds.

There ought to be some one with the passion and preference for children of Mr. Rigney, who will be good enough to communicate with Santa Claus and make all the arrangements for his visit. Such a person will flood many a home with sunshine, and bring a fore taste of heaven itself to Kingston's little children.

MAY NOT BE MUZZLED.

A mobilization of troops only takes place, usually, upon some general authority, which is moved with very definite views and in order to accomplish very definite purposes. We have read of the mobilization of troops in Germany and France in the outbreak of the war. According to the systems which prevail in both countries the men who are liable for military duty, under specific conditions, are so registered that when the word is given they know where to report, and the line-up for orders is effected very smoothly.

General Lessard, of Toronto, for a test, which may be commended, ordered a mobilization of the troops, under his command, and the execution of the order caused some commotion. It may have been unduly hurried. The minister of militia said there was a panic, though the Toronto press thinks the word is not wisely used. Major-General Hughes, who turned up soon after, or while mobilization was going on, pronounced it "ridiculous nonsense." At Montreal a similar mobilization has been ordered or held, and to be consistent the minister of militia should call the commanding officer to account. Unfortunately all hands have been called to attention by the general order, from Ottawa, and to the effect that there shall be no more "mobilizations" unless they are ordered by the militia department.

Meanwhile the minister of militia has been castigated by the press. Three of the Toronto papers tell him that he talks too much. He has energy, boundless and free, and in the exercise of it can do a lot of good. But he ought to imitate Kitchener in the profound silence which he usually maintains. One paper goes further and intimates that unless the minister mends his ways the publishers will have to unite, in the public interest, upon a plan, and keep out of print the inconsiderate speeches which the minister is bound to make.

CANADA'S LIBERAL LEADER.

Twenty-three years ago this day, at St. Lin, Quebec, Sir Wilfrid Laurier first saw the light. His was a quiet, uneventful and studious life until he reached the House of Commons, over forty years ago. He was not long in the popular chamber until he had commanded attention by his earnestness and eloquence. He served his country with diligence and, on the retirement of Hon. Mr. Blake, in 1888, succeeded to the leadership of the liberal party. For fifteen years he was the premier of Canada, and when relieved of office could well have claimed the respect which he had earned. But he was as willing to act for his party in defeat as well as in success, and in May last had occasion to say: "Whether it be for twenty years, or ten or five, whatever may be the length of my time in the hands of God, I shall continue to give my best to the service of these principles which we hold so dear."

It is remarkable that the man who in early life was so physically weak that a strenuous career was not expected of him, became so hearty and robust in the course of years that he was scarcely ever absent from the post of duty, and to-day he is erect of figure, alert of action, buoyant in spirit, and so far as we can see, destined to give the nation his splendid service for many years.

The advice Sir Wilfrid gave the students of Toronto, whom he addressed last December, is the advice which all men can take. Said he: "Go out into the world to service. Make the highest thought of service your inspiration. Problems there are—big problems. To-morrow, the day after to-morrow, it will be your turn to grapple with them. Serve God and your country. Be firm in the right as God gives you to see the right. You may not always succeed. Progress is often punctuated with reverses. You may meet re-

verse—but the following day stand up again and renew the conflict; for truth and justice shall triumph in the end." The Whig expresses the heart and mind of every liberal in Kingston, and of many a conservative, when it wishes Sir Wilfrid long life and the greatest happiness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Toronto Telegram says "Canada demands wise speech or wiser silence from Major-General Hughes." The press of Toronto practically demands that he be muzzled.

The Krupps will increase their capital from \$75,000,000 to \$250,000,000, and at the same time increase the output of the armament at Essen. They must be figuring on a succession of big wars, with the kaiser as the chief incendiary.

There are a good many Captains and Majors and Colonels in the United States now. But with the greater army which is contemplated the demand for titles will spread until it affects pretty nearly every man.

The Toronto News is frantic over the naval question, and wants to know where the emergency was in January last? Well, it wasn't in the North Sea, and it is not there to-day. England's greatest fleet is idle because the German boats won't come out and fight.

One man in Russia, Michael Demitrovich Tchelnisoff, has brought about the general prohibition of the use of liquor, and a great empire of 170,000,000 has been reformed. The billion dollars per year spent in vodka will now be devoted to something better.

Cardinal Mercier, of Malines, Belgium, describes the people of his country as famine-stricken. There is neither work nor bread. Starvation stares the people in the face at every turn. Does this appeal to any one who can give on behalf of the Belgian fund?

The United States will have a bigger army of at least half a million, with 200,000 at least on active and regular duty. The kaiser has done more by his war to boom militancy than anything that has ever happened. His great army and ferocity have shocked the world.

The labour unions of the United States protest against militarism and the larger army. There is the position which the socialists of Germany occupy. They didn't want war, but it was forced on them, and physically, mentally, morally, and especially they suffer.

Public Opinion

Should Be "Next."
Brantford Expositor.
A London barber has been arrested as a spy. He should be "Next" in line for being shot.

Canada's Humiliation.
St. Thomas Journal.
Australia, a sea power! Canada thanks to Sir Robert—a congratulatory. Nice comparison is it not?

A Political Fight.
Hamilton Times.
The Toronto News is more anxious to defeat Sir Wilfrid Laurier than it is to defeat the kaiser.

Read It First.
Toronto Star.
Don't believe all you hear. If it isn't in the newspapers you may conclude either that it didn't happen or that it doesn't matter whether it did or not.

Stay At Home.
Belleville Intelligencer.
There may be in your Sunday school fifty or a hundred kiddies who will have a hard job getting supper for collection if you don't help their fathers earn wages by buying the things they make.

Kingston Events
Twenty-Five Years Ago

S. P. Fraser shot a fox weighing twelve pounds, while hunting on Sir Richard Cartwright's farm.
B. McConville, street letterbox collector, walked around this morning gathering the letters. He walked seven miles.
Plans are being prepared for the new Oddfellows building.
The Portsmouth Y.M.C.A. held a fine event to celebrate their anniversary.

Made in Canada.

Toronto World.
Even the Canadian brewers and the men who work therein have joined in the "made in Canada" campaign to some effect. They are able to show that Canadian beer is entirely home made, of Canadian materials, put up in Canadian barrels and bottles, closed in with cork and bottles, closed in with wadkin workmen, and of a quality that comes within the legal definition of a sound and wholesome beverage of that class. A lot of the so-called beer sent in from the States does not come within the definition of beer as set out in the Tariff Act.
Unless a man who claims to have religion, uses it in his business, he has the wrong brand.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

There is plenty of counterfeit money in circulation, in spite of the fact that it is a thing of the passed.

Would you say a woman was merely an echo of her husband just because she always wants the last word?

It's one thing to teach the young idea how to shoot, but quite another thing to supply him with ammunition.

You never can tell. Even the fellow who is stuck on himself has no guarantee against being disappointed in love.

The Open Season For Idiots.
The hunters now will get in line. Their turn will soon be here; And every cow will wear a sign: "Don't Shoot, I'm Not a Deer!"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Woman to the Rescue.
"Are you a native of this place?" asked a traveller in Alabama of a resident.

"Am I what?" was the puzzled reply. "I say are you a native here?"

While the man was still hesitating over his answer, his wife came to the door. "Ain't you got no sense, Bill?" she exclaimed. "The gent'lman means was you livin' here when yo' was born or was yo' born before yo' began livin' here. Now answer the gentleman."

Honeymoon Over.



Mrs. Justwed—Oh, Jack, you haven't eaten half of my biscuits. Really, we have to throw away so many scraps, we ought to keep chickens.
Mr. Justwed—Chickens! You mean ostriches.

Obvious.
Gertie—I wish you to know that I don't stand on trifles.
Helen (glancing at her feet)—No dear; I see you don't.—London Telegraph.

A Thought For To-Day.
The great soul that sits on the throne, of the Universe is not, never was, and never will be in a hurry.—Holland.

Household Spice.
"I loathe the abhorred, despise, Abominable dried apple pie. I like good bread, I like good meat, Or anything that's good to eat. But of all poor grub beneath the skies The poorest is dried apple pie."

Give me the toothache or sore eyes, But don't give me dried apple pies. The farmer takes his garnet fruit, 'Tis wormy and bitter and hard to boot; They leave the hulls to make us cough; And don't take half the peeling off, Then on a dirty cord 'tis strung And in a garret window hung, And there it serves as a roost for flies. Until it's made up into pies But don't pass me dried apple pies."

Quiet Thoughts
It is a grand thing to find joy in one's work.
If you have found that, you have found the heart of life.
Glad service is better than great service, unless that be glad, too.—James Buckingham.

One of Dr. Johnson's ingredients of happiness was:
"A little less time than you want."
That means always to have so many things you want to see, to have, and to do, that no day is quite long enough for all you think you would like to get done before you go to bed.—Helen Hunt Jackson.

It is faith in something and enthusiasm for something, that makes a life worth looking at.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Strength and courage are inseparable, and the injunction to be strong is nearly equivalent to the injunction to be courageous.
"Be strong" can only mean "Rally the strength you have."
"Be courageous" means "Concentrate your strength against danger or difficulty."—Lewis O. Brastov.

Thoughtfulness.
The intercourse of many homes is marred and spoiled by exhibitions of a thoughtless spirit.
Family life should be a blending of all the tastes, dispositions, talents, gifts, and resources of all the members of the household.
In each one there should be a self-restraint.
No household life can ever be made truly ideal by all having always their own way.
Some one defines a gentleman as one who never gives pain to another.

The more children a woman has the fewer theories she has about raising them.
Think before you act is a good motto, but a lot of people think and then fail to act.

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EGO ET DEUS.
Monarch am I in Heaven's own right, A king by divine decree; Woe be to those who encounter the might Of God Almighty and me.
Treaties and pledges are nothing worth, By our own laws we govern the earth, 'Tis the Lord Almighty and I.
Call out my carrion vultures of prey, Quickly the nations shall see, Their fate who hinder or seek to delay, The Lord Almighty and me.
Harry their land with fire and sword, Desolate let it lie; Pillage and plunder, for we give the word, The Lord Almighty and I.
Break down their temples, their altars defile, No need of temples have we; Out of their ruins a monument pile To God Almighty and me.
Ravish the virgin, the matron shame, Outrage and leave to die; I issue the warrant, 'tis signed in my name, And God's vice-gerent and I.
Slaughter the innocent babe at the breast, The child at its mother's knee; Say to the world 'tis the sacred host Of God Almighty and me.
Spare not the wounded or aged, but slay; Mutilate, murder, and maim; Fear not, nor doubt the success of the day, I bring a God to the game.
Demon of war! Can presumptuous pride Soar to such blasphemous height? Tremble at Him thou hast called to thy side, Dread the omnipotent might, Darned like the son of the morning who fell, Hurled to despair thou shalt see, Heights of high heaven and depths of all hell, 'Tis God Almighty and thee. N.G., Kingston.

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