

The British Whig 22ND YEAR



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RELIGION IN ELECTIONS

The Catholic Municipal Association is the product of recent meetings in Toronto, at which delegates were chosen for an organization that is expected to make its influence felt in local affairs. The Orange Lodge was a good deal discussed in local affairs, and the School Board rejected the lowest tender in one case because it was from a Catholic. These were supposed to be the incentives to the new movement. Yet it is declared that race and religion are not its stock in trade. It supports the best in any case. It illustrates this by endorsing only two Catholics for municipal office, and a number of Orange men, who had proven, by their record, that they were faithful and impartial servants of the people. The County Lodge (Orange Order) issued a slate in connection with the council, and the county master and one other, whose names were signed, repudiated it.

A VERY RARE HONOUR

The Stratford Beacon has just been given a most praiseworthy exhibition of the regard in which it is held by the people of the city. Twenty years ago W. M. O'Brien became the Beacon's editor and publisher, and he at once infused into it much of the spirit and life which characterized his earlier work in journalism. The result was an address of appreciation on the sixtieth anniversary, or diamond jubilee, of the paper, (this week), and an address which was non-political and very laudatory in character. It was signed by representative men of every profession and calling, and it was the more acceptable on that account. It was accompanied with a purse of gold. Politics, (blame them), sometimes brings displeasure to a paper. It can hardly express an opinion of any kind, obsequially, without antagonizing some one, and a paper realizes that in political service it is getting away from its ideals in place of getting nearer to them. A newspaper is, after all, a public institution. It records passing events locally. It magnifies all that is worthy of praise. It collects, at large cost, the news of the day, asserts and classifies it, and presents it in an interesting way. It becomes the people's forum, and in the discussion of all public questions is actuated usually by the highest and best motives.

The model paper is the one that succeeds as the Beacon has done, and the Whig congratulates its editor upon the attainment of an honour so rare and therefore so greatly to be prized.

UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN

The official protest of the United States against the British treatment of American shipping, when contraband goods were suspected, has been given out. It is not what may be called "a most important document." On the contrary it is a summary of the complaints which have been made to the American governments by shippers who were animated by one great motive, "greed," and who did not care for international law or relations, and the manner in which they might be affected, so long as they were personally gratified. When the war broke out there was bound to be, as the American government admits, some friction with regard to trade. As a matter of fact all commerce across the high seas ceased until Britain, their mistresses, cleared them of the German destroyers. The American protest makes no mention of this.

Then the traffic in contraband goods had to be stopped, and this could not be effected without some trouble. The British government gave the American government all reasonable assurances

that regard would be had for neutral interests and that no injury would be done which could be prevented. A search at sea was tried and abandoned, because it was impracticable. Contraband, (copper, for instance, painted or slimed over to appear like iron), was found in the bottom of the ship's hold, and could not be revealed without partial unloading which was done in port. While the inspection was in process, the cruiser and the ship she searched had to get away from the exposure that threatened them from submarines. So much for the protest against the diversion of a cargo, via England, and its detention there.

As for the contention that the industries of America have been suffering. British trade returns, the best in the world, show that the exports of America are better than in a similar period a year ago that in one month alone, (November), they were \$20,500,000 better than in November 1914. At the most there have been only twenty seizures, or detentions, running from one day to two weeks. Not much to complain of. Not much on which to found a great national grievance, and present it to the British government with imposing ceremonial.

One cannot imagine what the answer may be. If made up of all the matters which influenced the British government in its various enactments since the war began it would be very long. It will be very long. It will, in all probability, be long enough to clearly recite the grounds of the government for its action, and for the one definite object which it has in view, namely, to deprive Germany of the raw and other materials which it must have in order to prolong the greatest sacrifice of life the world has ever seen! It may not matter to some men, and especially those who enjoy in part the fruits of the three hundred million dollar orders which Europe has given to America—what are the consequences of war so long as they benefit by it. But Britain is not in the war for gain or for the purpose of fattening the contractors for war supplies, and America itself may see the wisdom of co-operating with her, along neutral lines, in order that peace may be restored as soon as possible.

OUR INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS

Kingston wants industries. Without them it cannot thrive or find employment for the men it has and the others who may come to it for peaceful occupations. But Kingston will want these industries, and for a very long time, unless it bestirs itself, and will at least make a reasonable effort to secure them.

The Industrial Committee, which is made up of members of the City Council and Board of Trade, know how difficult it is to interest manufacturers in a location here. In some communications it is made quite clear that many things are needed, to wit, sites, low taxation, premises free of rent or at low rental, cheap water and light and power. Kingston has made some success, against adverse circumstances, in dealing with these issues. But there is an indefiniteness of public policy here which is certainly not advantageous. The question of sites and taxation is a purely municipal one, and must be developed by the Council. The power question can be made most interesting, at once, by the ratemakers who will vote on the Campbell proposition on Monday next.

It is hoped that the people will vote upon it without any misunderstanding. Mr. Campbell is harnessing up the Kingston Mills, and can, he asserts, from his machinery, produce between 900 and 900 horse power in winter, and about 400 horse power in summer. A good deal of it he has to spare over and above his contract in Gananoque. He has offered to sell what the city wants or can use daily at three-quarters of a cent per-kilo-watt hour. The city cannot produce power at this rate and ought to accept the offer. But while the city dwales over it or the Hydro-Electric Commission, which moves slowly like all ponderous institutions, Mr. Campbell must act. He wants to use his own power at his flour mill, and he says the Hedley-Shaw flour mill can be re-opened if it can be served with his power also. No others are concerned. No others will be affected. The city will not be interfered with in regard to power, and can continue its present course until a crisis is reached—if the City Commission and the Hydro-Electric Commission will have it so.

Do we want our present industries to remain and operate or do we want them closed? That is the question to bring before the people.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

How did you begin the new year? How many good resolutions did you make? How many of them do you expect to keep?

The auto owners will contribute \$100,000 more this year to the revenue of the province. They will pay for their luxuries by the horse-power.

Two of the German professors—Tapper and Bensingler—have resigned. The third has renounced Germany and become a Canadian. Hence the German menace in Toronto University is

at an end. The retiring "profs" may still be proud of the fatherland, but they are not saying anything about it.

If in the war things were reversed, and Britain was supplying Germany with the things that helped her to make war on the United States, wouldn't Uncle Sam be sore?

"Crimping" is, again in vogue. It represents that special kind of service by which men, for money, will smuggle Germans and Austrians and Turks out of Canada. Any Canadian in the business? Well—we hope not.

Both is right. Nothing but a concerted movement, looking to the extinction of the German race, or its complete subjugation, in South Africa will do, and conscription is in order, if necessary, with that end in view.

The land acquired by Germans in Russia since 1870, and valued at \$500,000,000, will be purchased from them by the government, and they will be invited to leave the country. That's better than to appropriate the land and intern the owners. The Russians are proving the cultured people of the east.

If the warden of the Kingston penitentiary imitated Warden Osborne, of the Sing Sing prison, the people out at Portsmouth would forget that they were prisoners. If Osborne succeeds as he expects locks and bars and guards can be disposed with. The prisoners will be like the employees of a great factory, doing the stunts to which they are assigned.

The Brantford Expositor protests against the honorarium in connection with the mayoralty. It says that the mayor should be paid a salary, if he is expected to give much of his time to the public service. Ditto in Kingston. The mayor, who is on the job all the time, who is serving the people with his whole heart, should be paid for his time. He will earn all he is given.

Public Opinion

The Real Sufferers. Montreal Mail. The mayors of twenty-two Ontario towns were elected by acclamation. Heartily congratulations to the long-suffering people.

Kaiser Relieves. London Advertiser. "There will be fountains and flowers in the front yard of hell," wrote a cynical American. The Kaiser will be encouraged to hear it.

Our Imperial Cabinet. Toronto Telegram. Let's see. Wasn't it Hon. P. E. Blondin, now minister of inland revenue in the Borden cabinet, who, opposed a Canadian navy, and was prepared to "shoot holes through the Union Jack"?

An Important Act. Hamilton Herald. The killing of Walter Smith, an American citizen, by Canadian soldiers at Niagara is a most regrettable incident. Even if the shooting were technically justified by the circumstances, it was a very imprudent act.

Disappointed All Round. Toronto Globe. The Germans are said to be disappointed with their fleet. They are not nearly as disappointed as we are. We thought it would make an effort of some kind, and are earnestly hoping it will come out into the open.

Sees Many Russians. Hamilton Times. The Toronto News sees no reason why Canada should not have an election during the war. Is it nothing that Sir Wilfrid called on his whole party programme and has devoted all his time to help the government in this crisis? Is it nothing that the liberals in parliament refrained from all criticism in the house, and bent their energies to helping the government?

Kingston Events Twenty-Five Years Ago

H. Hunter has a stock of large turkeys. He sold one to an American for a large sum. The resignation of Dr. E. H. Smythe as a member of the Collegiate Institute Board, was accepted with regret. He resigned so that he could contest the Sydney ward. Stanley Chown and Arthur Beull are working in the capital of Japan, Tokio, about 125 miles from Shinjuku, where Mr. Dunlop is located.

KITES AS LIFE-SAVERS

Used in Carrying Lines to Vessels in Distress. The employment of kites for extending life lines to vessels in distress at sea have been suggested as having a marked advantage in certain instances over the methods ordinarily followed. Instead of throwing a line to a sinking ship by using a rocket, which sometimes miscarries, it is proposed that this be accomplished by attaching a trailing cable to a series of box kites which from a windward position might easily be directed over the middle of a ship. After reaching the line, it would only be necessary for those aboard a sinking steamer to draw in a hawser with a lighter rope and attach it in a position which would allow the operation of a breeches buoy.

A fashionable fool is one whom all sensible people try to avoid.

POLED TO VICTORY

SIX GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR BELGIAN VILLAGE.

Heroic Self-sacrifice of French Blue-jackets Made Possible Capture of St. Georges.

Paris, Jan. 2.—How the heroic self-sacrifice of six French blue-jackets made possible the capture of St. Georges, a town less than two miles from Nieuport, is described by The Matin's war correspondent in Flanders. He says: "The attackers had driven the Germans from the advance trenches, but taking refuge in the houses in the village, the Germans soon placed their assailants in a difficult position. The situation of a force of Belgians isolated on a strip of land surrounded by a flood became critical, and the artillery alone was able to effect anything against the enemy. The British batteries at Hamscapelle tried, but their shells burst over the French.

"Six blue-jackets then hoisted a three-inch gun on a large punt and poled along the canal behind the village, running the gauntlet of the German rifles. As one was hit another took the pole and continued until he in turn fell, stricken. The sixth man was mortally wounded as with a last push he sent the punt to the bank where the French advance guard was waiting.

"The gun was quickly landed, and a few shots at 300 yards brought the houses on top of the Germans, who retreated into the arms of a battalion of Belgians. The latter completed the enemy's rout.

GERMAN GIBRALTAR.

Chiefs of Heligoland Bristle With Great Guns. New York, Jan. 1.—The first description of the German defences on the Island of Heligoland was brought here yesterday by Richard Wackerow, formerly American consul at Breslau, who was a passenger, together with his wife, on board the Italian line steamship Duca d'Osca, from Genoa.

Mr. Wackerow said that he had been consul in Breslau for the last seven years and that he resigned his post two months ago. Since that time he has been in the eastern and western fronts of the German battle-line and received the privilege of seeing Heligoland, which, he said, he believed was not granted to any other American citizen.

"I have made a circle of the German lines," he said, "and everywhere the Germans express the confidence that they will win. They now have 3,000,000 men in the field and in February there will be 2,000,000 more, and by September next there will be a total of 8,000,000 according to the German statements.

"Two hundred of the latest type of 42-centimetre guns, mounted on disappearing carriages, have been placed around Antwerp and the lines encircling the city have been strengthened with earthworks and concrete fortifications.

"Heligoland is a second Gibraltar. The great cliffs rising sheer from the sea have in their sides concrete emplacements for hundreds of the big calibre guns, and just below, almost under the muzzles of these guns, lies the German fleet. It is impossible for the British fleet to pass the island fortifications. The passage is defended by ten rows of contact mines which are placed beneath the surface of the water at various depths.

"Inside these rows of mines and at the extreme outside edge of the fleet are fifty-one torpedo boats, then a group of 242 torpedo boat destroyers, numerous submarines, and then the larger vessels of the fleet, including cruisers, battle cruisers, and ships and dreadnoughts. There are 364 guns mounted on the island, of which 142 are of the 42-centimetre disappearing type, which were brought out for the first time in December."

KAISER LEAVES HASTILY.

After Witnessing Hysterical Scene at Berlin Opera.

Petrograd, via Paris, Jan. 1.—A despatch from Copenhagen says news has been received there to the effect that when the Kaiser visited the performance of "Lohengrin" at the opera in Berlin the theatre was crowded. As the orchestra began the overture a nervous movement was shown by the audience and when Lohengrin appeared hysterical cries and sobs burst from the public. Many women fainted, and the disorder was indescribable. The curtains had to be lowered and the Kaiser hastily left the opera.

An almost similar scene occurred at the Schauspielhaus. Both royal theatres were closed on the following day.

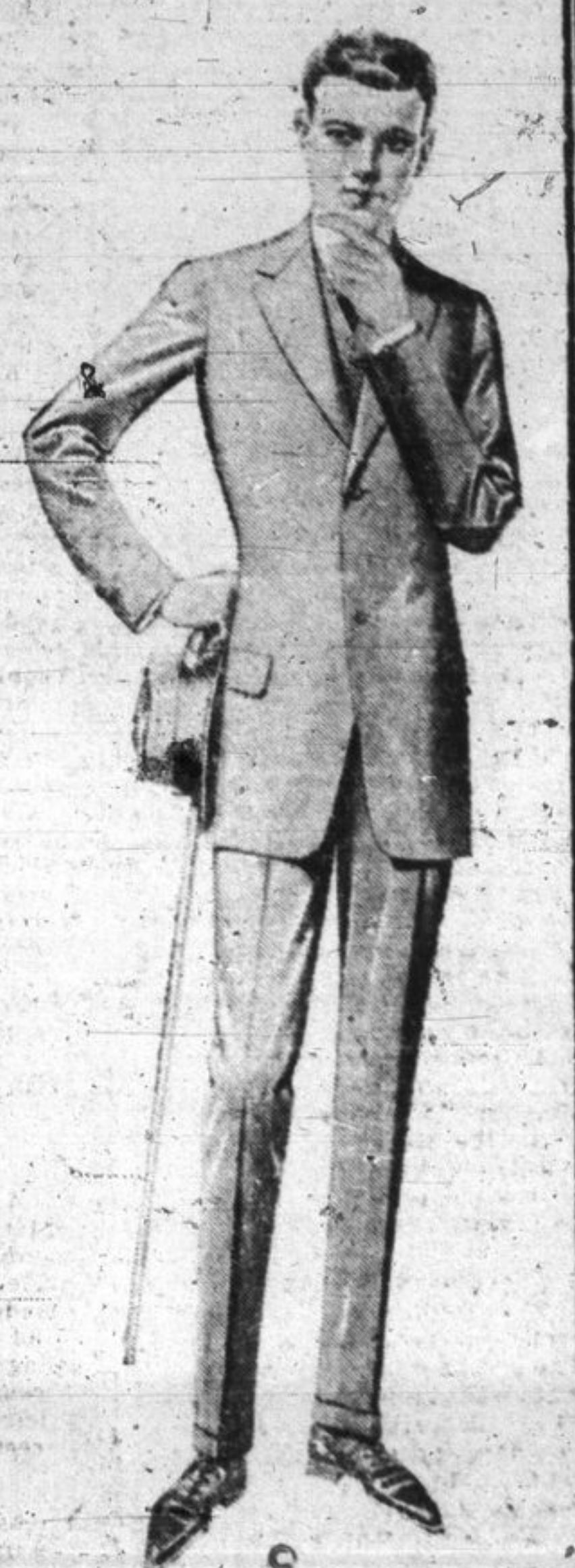
Took Their Photographs.

London, Jan. 1.—A British soldier, writing home of the Christmas truce between the Germans and the British says: "After Christmas dinner nearly all our boys went out in front, where we found the Germans also had turned up in force. The result was a huge mixed crowd of men swapping bits of cigars, etc. "Some of the German officers came up and actually took our photographs while we were all sitting on the ground. "I wouldn't have missed that experience for the most gorgeous Christmas dinner in England." At Vancouver on Dec. 26th Dr. A. E. Bolton died after a lingering illness. Dr. Bolton was born at Fort-Frank, and married Miss Ella Blanchard, Athens, Ont. His wife and one daughter survive him.

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Announcement? As I have decided to vacate my present premises in the early spring of 1915, I am now prepared to make reductions on any amount of stock I have in stock. If it is your intention of purchasing it would be to your advantage to buy now. J. E. MULLEN Cor. Princess and Clergy Streets Phone 1417. Kingston.

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