

The British Whig



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A MISEUSE OF POWER. The Toronto News put the issue fairly and candidly when it said that T. L. Church, if a liberal, would have been defeated for the mayoralty by 15,000 votes.

In England tarred paper, costing 4s. 6d. per roll, was being palmed off, in army contracts, for felt, costing 18s., and for roofing purposes.

ADVISE THE PROBE. The Toronto World sniffs trouble at the next session of parliament, and because the Montreal Herald, whose editor is a member of the house, has said that some enquiry may be made into army contracts.

The World is quite sure that the liberals of Toronto have been getting more contracts than the conservatives. If there is any ground for this statement—and there does not seem to be much—we can understand how the howl that was made against Major-General Hughes, and the demand for his resignation, is in favour of awarding the army contracts on their merits, and, all other things being equal, to the lowest tenderers.

The major-general has not been saying much of late. He has seen the wisdom of keeping his counsel, or not revealing the workings of his mind. But when the Toronto conservative papers, magnify the remarks he made about Major-General Lessor, at a time when the friction over army contracts were at its height, and demanded the removal of the minister of militia, an unbiased observer can draw his conclusions.

In England the army contracts have been under the severest criticism, and from the liberal papers. The most barefaced attempts have been made to swindle the government, and may have failed, and largely because a non-political attack has been made upon the contractors. It is surely not intimated that any one in Canada is too good to be placed under the searchlight, and that the "truce" must go when any one, with very good reason, probes into the public accounts.

What is the matter with the army boots that went to the Contingent at Salisbury Plain? The question should be asked without raising a political row.

THE DEPARTING ENGINEERS.

To-day the engineers' corps, composed of Queen's professors, graduates and undergraduates, left the city for Ottawa. Later, about the middle of the month, they will go abroad, for service, first in Egypt and later in Europe.

These engineers represent the finest type of Canadian manhood. They are physically and mentally fit for any service in which they may engage. The enlistment of them is worthy of all praise in that it shows that Canada is offering her very best for the support of a most righteous cause. The enlistment is, further, an evidence that in defence of the empire there is no class that is exempt from duty.

The engineers go in advance of the second contingent because, at Valcartier and Kingston, they have been longer in training, and, after an experience in Egypt, will be equipped for the more stirring events in Belgium and France. The Queen's men will surely have a hand in the subjugation of the Kaiser's "cultured" troops. They will bring to the armament of the sword the skill and technique which are so much in demand. They will also serve, there is reason to believe, in the re-establishment of peace on a permanent basis.

Kingston parts with these young men reluctantly. It wishes them God-speed in the performance of their appointed tasks, hopes they will win the distinction that is open to them, and, returning, receive a cordial welcome home. Meanwhile, bon voyage.

PROF. SKELTON'S REVIEW.

A prominent place—as he has been given in the Toronto Globe's Financial Survey on Saturday to an able article by Prof. O. D. Skelton, professor of economics at Queen's University. It is entitled, "Canada, With Peace Declared," and is written in the professor's usual clear and concise style. He forecasts the effects of the present great war, as far as Canada is concerned, and states sound reasons for his optimistic conclusions. It would be foolish, he confesses, to pretend that the war has not worked and will not work great economic injury, but the claim that the silver linings are broad and substantial is based on solid facts.

What are these facts? First, Canada is in a fortunate position. Our crops are not trampled by marching hosts, our factories not shelled by the foe. Over-speculation had brought trouble in its wake. All lands, warping and neutral alike, have been, by this war, shaken to their economic foundations. When we start again, we shall start more nearly on a level—albeit a lower one—than if the war had not come.

Secondly, our equipment for production being uninjured, and our banking system efficient, we are in a position to supply the depleted markets of Europe at war-time prices. What this means to Canadian farmers and manufacturers is self-evident. The unemployment, that must necessarily have developed in any event, is neutralized by the military demand for men for service at home or abroad. While we are in fact borrowing from our grandchildren to pay this stupendous bill, it is, perhaps, excusable, because we are ourselves doing much for posterity in smashing Prussian militarism, lightening the shoulder-breaking load of the armaments of the nations, and establishing freedom and honor and democracy among the civilized nations.

Thirdly, as a neutral people and a great trading nation, the United States stands to gain most by the war. Even after peace is declared, the republic will continue to enjoy prosperity. That prosperity will be reflected north of the forty-ninth parallel, and Canada will consequently benefit, in spite of tariff arrangements or political sympathies.

Fourthly, increasing production will give a new impetus to farming. We must now "deliver the goods." The new sense of the importance of the farms, and of the need for better methods and better means of marketing, will put agriculture on a firmer and a more productive basis.

Fifthly, the war has drawn all classes of our people closer together. Witness the growing co-operation between the western farmers and manufacturers. More cooperation between individuals in the same occupation, as well as between different classes and sections of the community, may well be the best gift of 1914 to the economic Canada of the future.

Thus, it is shown, a great work, calamity may be productive of beneficial results to Canada. The professor's optimistic conclusions will prove heartening to his readers, and the facts appear to prove their correctness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

May the best man win in to-day's contest. The outlook is not very promising for our council. It is a question if it will be any better than the council of 1914. But it will get a fair trial.

Something has happened in Toronto when a candidate who said he did not appeal to the Orange Lodges and did not want their support, was out. Has the new and opposition

A NINE MONTHS WAR

IS WHAT LORD GEORGE SYDENHAM PROPHESIES.

Wheat and Copper Need in Germany. — When World Conflict Ceases, It Will Have Lasted About Nine Months. London, Jan. 4.—Lord George Sydenham, the British military critic, writes of the present war situation. He was the author of "Fortification, Past, Present, and Future," and was a member of the Commission Upon Defence of the Nation and also of that upon the reorganization of the British army. He has served as governor of Victoria and the Bombay presidency and has filled other executive posts. He said to-day:

"I have always believed this would be a nine-months' war. There are so many reasons why it seems impossible that so gigantic a conflict can continue longer than that period that it is difficult to enumerate all of them.

"In the first place, consider the economic conditions of Germany. Already there is a shortage in her supply of wheat, and while it is only beginning it will be felt later. That is a very significant sign in view of the fact that the German government has taken control of all the wheat supply. When it did so it was said that there was sufficient to last the nation for a year.

"All the world knows how badly Germany stands in need of copper and what strenuous efforts she has been making to import that metal from America and other neutral countries. The Germans are short of petrol and oils for lightning purposes, while they have begun to use benzol for motors. There are other very necessary commodities which Germany requires and finds it practically impossible to obtain. But the scarcity of wheat is the greatest danger to her, for no nation can exist long without food. And when in the course of the next two months this fact is driven home to the much deceived German people, I believe there will be a revolution of political feeling in the German empire, which will have a considerable effect in bringing the war to a speedy conclusion."

Complete prohibition of even three per cent. beer and light wines, has been carried, and Russia is now the driest country on earth. The plea, that prohibition would have to come gradually, did not prevail in the councils of Petrograd and Moscow.

Hon. Mr. Meighen's "Historic Foundation of the War," in The Canadian War, is the ablest presentation of the case that has been made by any Canadian minister. Mr. Meighen is the ablest man in the Canadian cabinet, though he does occupy a very minor office.

The financial statement of ex-President Brush, of the New York National Club, shows that he received from his stock, valued at \$348,702, over \$100,000 per annum. In the year in which he died, \$112, Brush's net income from his stock was \$179,736. Is there any business or calling that pays better?

Public Opinion

Approved By Both Parties. London Free Press. The policy of the Canadian Liberal leader was to establish for Canada a navy that would be separate and apart.

Wrong One Hunted. Montreal Mail. Two famous German non-tamers have been killed at the front in France. They went after the wrong lion this time.

Kaiser In Danger. Collier's Weekly. Yes, the Kaiser may invade Canada, but it is our guess that if he does he will hear from the people of the United States, and it will not be to his advantage.

Can't Deny Them Then. Orange Sentinel. If the killing of the men does not soon cease, it will be necessary to give the franchise to women, as they will have to run the government of the different countries.

Heel On Belgium. Toronto Mail and Empire. England may be choking Germany, but as a German admiral declares, but Germany still has its heel on Belgium's neck, and what has been and is happening to Belgium is a good deal worse than choking.

Kingston Events

Twenty-Five Years Ago. James Redden, who is contesting St. Lawrence ward for the City Council, says he likes municipal life and cannot keep out of it.

A bucket shop has been opened here by a New York firm. The hay market looked quite lively this morning. The average price for good timothy is \$9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Kingston Had Good Advice Regarding Debenture Sales. Kingston, Jan. 4.—(To the Editor): In his valuable address Mayor Shaw pointed with pride to the results of our bond sales. There was a showing of financial strategy that was the envy of officials in other places. Thousands of dollars were saved through our financial experts taking time and conditions by the forelock and providing for the financial storms which they saw coming. "We" did it better than others. The "we" means F. C. Ireland and O. V. Bartels, but in the face of such a showing we let F. C. Ireland leave the service of the city because the clerical work was too heavy for him.

A railway company can pension a faithful baggage-man but a city cannot part with its financial adviser in the midst of chaos. Without salary we and the benefit of Mr. Ireland's advice all year.

The treasurer's advice: "Sell your debentures now" or "Wait for a few months," may mean thousands to our city. Yet we pay him the salary of a book-keeper and then make him work his head off, even nights and Sundays, to do the clerical work. At the end of the year the mayor takes the platform and congratulates the city on its splendid showing.

We are not out of the woods yet. We have a large debenture debt to be looked after. We might get landed with part of this at a high rate of interest unless there is exceptional financial stringency.

I am a large taxpayer but I would strongly advise that F. C. Ireland be secured as advisory controller, and that the treasurer be given a salary in keeping with the position. The ordinary rates of brokerage on our "over the counter" sales last year, made by our officials without charge, would make a saving of more than six salaries paid to our financial staff.—TAXPAYER.

A lot of people go without urging or leading into temptation.

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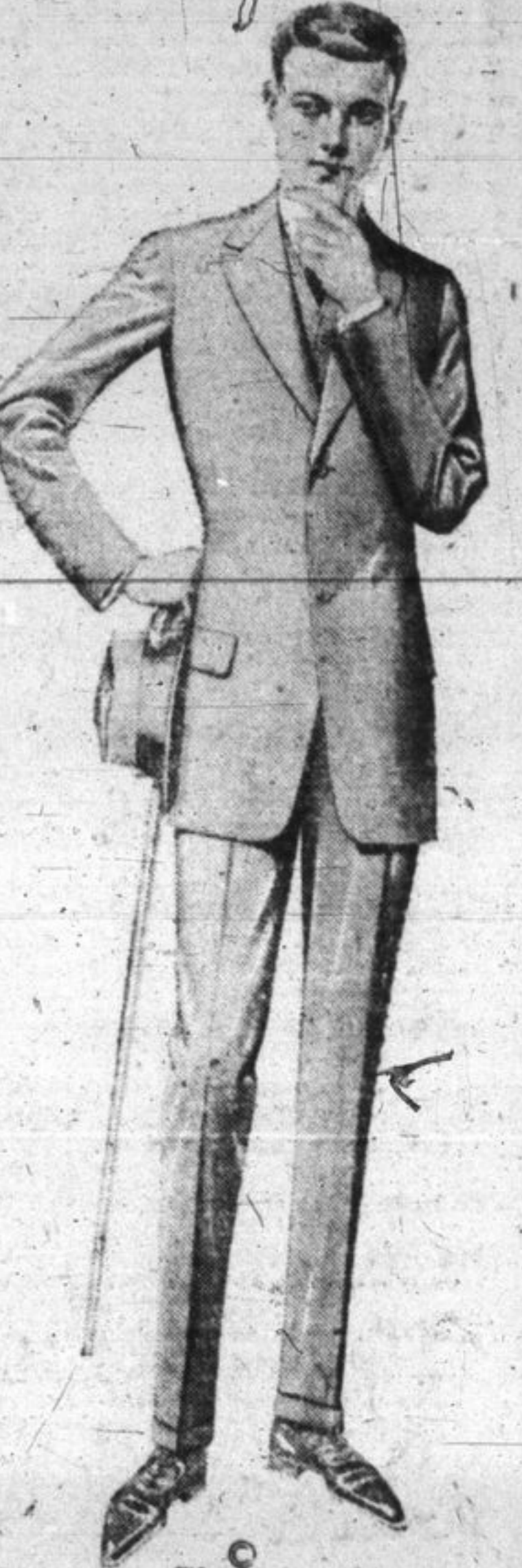
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POLICE THREATEN MUTINY. Ask to Have Freer Us of Nightsticks and Revolvers. New York, Jan. 4.—New York's entire police department, from inspectors down to patrolmen, are threatening an open revolt against Commissioner Wood. William B. Ellison, counsel for the various police organizations, gave out a statement asserting the men are dissatisfied with the rules of the department, and demand a change if they are to wage a warfare on crime.

SKATING TO-NIGHT. ARE YOU READY? IF NOT, SEE US. CANADIAN APPLES WANTED. It is suggested they would be welcomed by Troops. London, Jan. 4.—John Dyer, Hon. secretary of the Vegetables Products Committee, which is doing good service in distributing fruit and fresh vegetables among the men of the front, makes a suggestion to the Canadian Associated Press in regard to the possibility of securing such gifts from the apple-growing districts of Canada. Supplies of apples have fallen off lately through various causes, but nothing is more welcome to the men of the front, and it is suggested that dealers in Canada might be willing to extend their benevolence to the sailors of the empire in this direction.

American Wheat For Belgium. Chicago, Jan. 4.—Close to \$7,000,000 worth of Chicago wheat has been bought during the last month. It was learned to-day, by the Rockefeller Foundation to be sent to Belgium. The plan is to mill the wheat in Belgium to give many in the stricken country work. The outlay represents about 6,000,000 bushels of the cereal; 475,000 bushels of wheat were purchased Thursday.

Favors Military Training. New York, Jan. 4.—Mayor Mitchell favors military training at high schools and colleges, and it is barely possible that some sort of military instruction will be introduced in the public schools of this city.

CRAWFORDS COAL. USE CRAWFORDS COAL.