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QUESTION OF COMPETITION.

The Grand Trunk train-leaving Kingston at 6 a.m. and returning at 11.05 p.m.—has been taken off because it did not pay. Before the Railway Commission it was made to appear on appeal from the Board of Trade, that the loss to the company was about \$25 per day. The chief commissioner remarked, near the close of the enquiry: "You have not very keen competition, as Mr. McLean points out, at this point," and Mr. McLean, (commissioner), added: "It, (the train leaving Kingston about 9 a.m.), gives an excellent chance to view the scenery, I should judge, when it takes about all day between Kingston and Toronto."

CANADA'S ACHIEVEMENT.

The New York Outlook, which does not trouble or ponder to any political party, criticizes the Wilson administration's protest against Britain's interference with American trade in searching for contraband of war. The Outlook may have been influenced somewhat by Mr. Roosevelt, who recently castigated the president because of his failure to denounce the Germans' invasion of Belgium. The United States should have protested against that, says the Outlook. It continues: "Belgium suffered, and we said nothing; our trade suffers, and we speak. On questions of honour and obligation we keep silence. We raise our voice only when dollars are involved. And this matter is the more disturbing because the very protest that we launch is against those who are fighting our battle for liberty and democracy. To those who regard their nation's honour as important as its material interests, this incident brings some sense of humiliation, and it brings disappointment to those who felt that they had reason to expect from the present administration an exhibition of idealism."

A POLITICAL PROTEST.

The Review of Reviews prints a symposium on "Democracy and Peace." The contributors are distinguished men, Hon. Ethel But, Hon. J. H. Choate, the Baron d'Estourmelles de Constant of France, and Dr. J. A. Macdonald, of Canada. These differ in sentiment, viewing, as they do, the subject from different standpoints. The most forceful of them all is the paper of our Canadian representative. It is in keeping with his exalted mind and splendid reputation as a thinker and writer. Dr. Macdonald contrasts America's greatest achievement with Europe's colossal failure. Having concluded that the conflict between Britain and America was not what many supposed it to be, a war for independence, but a war for self-government, he remarks that as there was no other way apparent self-government was secured through separation. Canada's aspirations took a different form and direction. They found expression in the federation of the provinces. Through it Canada secured the greater achievement of national self-government within the empire, free from the embitterment of war, and the alienation of strife. This Dr. Macdonald refers to as "a new, an original, an epoch-making thing in the history of the world."

With politics banished from the elections how comes it that there is a political majority in the council, and that it is exciting the solicitude of the party? The new Superintendent of Public Works in New York state proposes to run his department according to an efficiency test. Only the fit will be employed. What heresy is this? Will the republicans stand for it? An officer of the Second Contingent was heard to remark that at the seat of war he would have a chance to learn some French. Is he sure? The men in the trenches have such a lot of time to study literature. Mr. Roosevelt, before the state elections, denounced Penrose, a Pennsylvania senator, and intimated that he should be banished from public life. But a million dollars were spent in his behalf and he is again in Washington and posing as a political purist. The Montreal Tramway Company, a great corporation, offended with the Herald because of its criticism of the road, suffers by the stoppage of two subscriptions to the paper. This is simply awful. Yet it is hardly the way a great corporation would take to placate an enemy. Working men, unemployed, hungry, desperate, made a scene in New York when they paraded, exhibiting many placards. One of them was this: "To hell with charity." It was rude and offensive. But it expresses a great fact. The unemployed want work, not alms. The United States government has appointed a commission which will investigate the labour question. It will call a lot of the captains of industry, the representatives of the great corporations, into council, and ask them to suggest how the situation can be relieved. Some of them may advise a change of government, and this will be very near the mark.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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INVESTMENT BUSINESS.

Canadian Municipal Bond Situation—Outlook For 1915. George A. Stinson & Company, Bond and Investment Brokers, Toronto, Canada, and London, Eng., writes: "The investment business especially in bonds and debentures during the early part of and in fact during the first six months of the year 1914, was fairly good, although in some cases at the expense to a certain extent of prices. The first half of the year, and in fact for some time previous something seemed to be hanging over the market that was almost inexplicable. No doubt it was largely uneasiness in Europe, the outcome of the Balkan war. The declaration of war by England as is generally known not only caused the stock exchanges all over the world to close, which was quite unprecedented, but also practically paralysed all financial business. Disarranging all the exchange market, that is the sterling exchange and New York funds, in a way unknown ever before. Since then there has been practically nothing doing in the English market. Some business has been done in the United States, especially in one or two issues, and that market seems to be improving somewhat. There has been little or no institutional buying in the Canadian market but the private individual all over the country, especially throughout Ontario, has been investing in short term bonds as those of the province of Ontario freed from succession dues, as well as some short term municipal bonds of the larger places such as Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, etc. While we do not look for any great improvement until the war is over, we see distinct signs of moderate and gradual improvement taking place even now. The large financial centres, such as New York and London, Eng., are loaded with money which can be had "on call" at very low rates, but this abundance of money to our mind is more or less superficial, being caused largely by the proceeds of the great war loans being placed in the banks and public depositories until such a time as they are needed. Another cause of this plethora of money is the slackening of trade. Except in a few lines trade is not nearly as prosperous as it was before the war, and consequently less money is required in trade channels. When the war is over trade will doubtless gradually revive and the surplus of ready cash which the large financial institutions now hold will gradually be absorbed. SEA MINES GIVE TROUBLE. Even When Washed Ashore They Present Grave Problem. Amsterdam, Dec. 26.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The sea mine is a problem even after it has been washed ashore, and for those who must destroy it this terrible enemy of shipping offers the same danger it does to the crew of the vessel it happens to wreck. This is the discovery made by the men under Lieutenant C. J. Canters of the Amsterdam torpedo boat station, who has been charged by the Dutch government with the destruction of the mines that are washed ashore along the Netherlands coast. So far no serious accident has come to the men who read the stranded sea mines innocuous by exploding them where they are found. But there have been many narrow escapes, due mostly to the fact that the English mines cannot be taken apart, as can the French and Dutch mines. In case of the latter the shell of the mine consists of two half spheres, united by a flange and rivets while the English mine shell is cast in one piece and then loaded through a manhole. While it would be possible to remove the cover of the manhole, this is considered too dangerous for the reason that the very sensitive initial charge of the mine lies close to the aperture. This leaves but one method in which the mine may be destroyed—explode it, case and all. The fragments of the shell fly far and wide; one of them, weighing six pounds, was recently found 600 yards from the scene of the explosion. Of eighty-three mines on which reports have been made so far by Lieutenant Canters, seventy were of English origin, or nationality as it is supposed to be, were French and eight Dutch, while the remaining one could not be identified. The French sea mine is more easily disposed of. In this case the shell is broken open with a light charge of picric acid; the charge of picric acid is then removed and exploded without scattering a hail of iron in all directions. The operation resembles almost that of opening a walnut with a knife and in a way is just as easy. The Dutch mines, when it can be ascertained that their firing mechanism has been damaged, are disposed of in the same way. The English mines are exploded usually by placing a heavy charge under them. They may be exploded by firing a shot into them. The bullet penetrates the shell easily enough, as a rule, and strikes the charge with sufficient force to produce the shock needed to set it off. In gun cotton, as in nitroglycerin being what is known to chemists as "chemical mixture" explosives, there exists an unstable equilibrium between atom and molecule. This striking bullet upsets and an explosion results. M.P.'S TO RETAIN STATUS. Absence at Front Will Not Jeopardize Seats. Ottawa, Jan. 9.—The status as members of parliament of those legislators who are at the front with the Canadian expeditionary force will, if necessary, be assured by legislation at the coming session. The question has been raised as to the effect on the front might have on the qualifications of members, but it is scarcely thought the matter will be seriously brought up. If it is, however, the necessary legislation to allow such members to retain their seats will be passed.

Public Opinion

Valuable Man. Toronto Telegram. One Kitchener is worth more to the British empire and to the Unionist party than two or three dozen Curzons of Kedleston. Disappointed. Brantford Courier. This is the 155th day of the war, and yet Emperor William has not had the ghost of a chance to call for a toothpick in a Parisian cafe. Change Of Situation. Buffalo Express. With Kitchener's army in sight a British invasion of Germany is far more probable than a German invasion of Great Britain. Time Table Changed. Toronto Globe. The invasion of Britain has been unavoidably postponed, like the capture of Paris, Calais and Warsaw. The German time-table has been withdrawn for re-drafting. Hard On Germany. Hamilton Herald. France is paying \$270 a head for good horses in the western states and takes chances on delivery. Germany can't get them with a guarantee of delivery even at \$300. That's what control of the sea means in war. A Patriotic Spirit. Vancouver Sun. Four hundred members of the Ottawa civil service have placed themselves at the disposal of the government for military service. Their willingness to fight for the country that pays their salaries is worthy of the emulation of the men "higher up."

ENEMIES OF A MINISTER.

The great Kitchener, the biggest soldier in the world, the man with the largest experience and ability, is not suiting some of the little Englanders. They are little, though they pose as big fellows and figure largely in the public eye. Lord Curzon is one of them. He is not pleased with the minister. It was hardly to be expected that he would. He had to leave India because of the man of iron and steel, and he must have felt hurt inwardly when this man was called to the ministry of war. Lord Curzon went to the house this week in order to say something that might irritate Lord Kitchener, and the minister disposed of him, as he disposes of all his enemies; by an adroit move. He spoke first. There are a host of troublemakers in the home guard, the organization which sprang into existence following the German bombardment of the British coast some time ago. They want to be armed and equipped and uniformed, and the minister of war does not smile on all their plans. They are limited, and he is more concerned about the service of men abroad than the service of men at home. Only a few of them will enlist for duty wherever they may be sent, and until they become reconciled to the call of the hour Kitchener will not be impressed. There are others who may be regarded as hostile in their attitude. They are the politicians whom Lord Kitchener does not know. Early in his administration of the War Office he realized that there were combinations at work against him, and that those who composed the combinations had serious designs upon the public treasury. He typified the spirit of John Bull, in that he was willing the soldiers should be given the very best of everything at reasonable cost, but he would not be imposed upon, would not blink at crookedness of any kind. He treated the ministers and contractors as he treated his opponents in war. He suppressed them. The news comes to Canada that there are people who would be glad to see Lord Kitchener leave the War Office. To be sure there are. But he has been given full charge of his department. No one presumes to dictate to him, not even the premier. Independent rule, governed by lofty principle and unselfish purpose, may not suit the politicians, and they may threaten the government. But Kitchener will see the war through, and when he has time he may attend to the little ones who are playing a waspy part now, or he may, which is more likely, pursue the even tenor of his way, and regard them as entirely beneath his notice.

Kingston Events Twenty-Five Years Ago

Frontenac county councillors are: Howe Island, John Driscoll; Bedford, James Wilson; Garden Island, H. A. Calvin; Olden, W. W. Pringle; Clarendon and Miller, B. Watkins; Storrington, W. Gibson; A. Bond; Oso, M. P. Avery; Kingston, W. Lemmon; C. Hay; James Knapp; Pittsburgh, W. Hutton; A. Brown; Hinchinbrooke, H. Godfrey; Portsmouth, J. Fisher; Loughboro, J. Woodruff; J. Stoney; Portland, J. Watson; A. Grant; Barrie, T. Tappency; Palmorston, W. J. Donaldson; Wolfe Island, James McRae, Hiram Davis; Kennebec, still unheard from. Rev. Douglas Laing gave an address at a meeting held in Chalmers Church in connection with the week of prayer. Forty-five persons were received into membership in Bethel Church. The schools are disappointed as a result of a gripe. Canadian Wheat For New Zealand. Ottawa, Jan. 9.—The department of trade and commerce has just shipped 250,000 bushels of Canadian wheat to New Zealand. This is part of the wheat order placed by the New Zealand government some time ago to make up for the shortage in the New Zealand crop. The grain, which is Nos. 1 and 2 Northers, has been purchased, bagged and shipped under the direction of the department of trade and commerce, and is now on its way to New Zealand on the steamer Hesperos from St. John. Another shipment will go from Vancouver.

Bibbys Men's and Boys' Clothing House. Sale Of Men's Shirts, 69c. Sale Of Men's Suits, \$12.50. Regular \$15, \$16.50, \$18.00. Suits, "Semi-Ready and Society Brand". Ready to try on, finished to your order in two hours' time. \$12.50. Sizes, 33 to 40. Leather Suit Cases. sizes 22, 24, 26; black or tan; Leather Cases; 2 straps; \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00 values \$3.95 for. Men's Night Robes. \$1.00, \$1.25 values. Sizes 14 1/2 to 17, for, each, 69c. Big Boy overcoats. Sizes 29 to 33. \$7.50 and \$8.00 garments for \$5. Boys' Military Reefers, English Pilot Cloth, regular \$6.00 & \$6.50 garments for \$4.50.

Farms For Sale. 400 acres Price \$1500. 20 " " 2000. 100 " " 3000. 75 " " 3200. 50 " " 3500. 200 " " 4000. 100 " " 4500. 119 " " 4750. 150 " " 5000. 134 " " 5000. 95 " " 5000. 200 " " 5000. 119 " " 7000. 250 " " 8000. 200 " " 10,500. 200 " " 10,500. 200 " " 2400. T. J. LOCKHART, Real Estate and Insurance. Bank of Montreal Bldg. Kingston, Ont. Phone 1035 or 1020.

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 that 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, Kingston.

SKATING TO-NIGHT. ARE YOU READY? IF NOT, SEE US. TREADGOLD SPORTING GOODS CO. BICYCLES SPORTING GOODS. PHONE 529. 88-90 PRINCESS ST.

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