

The British Whig



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LATE D. D. ROGERS. Death came to D. D. Rogers very suddenly after his return home from attendance at the Canadian Club where he was an interested listener to the address of the consulate-general of Japan.

Mr. Rogers was in many respects a remarkable man. He was an advanced agriculturalist, a great reader, a vigorous thinker, a leader in his class. It is not remarkable that he was able to command public attention, and that he had the honour of representing the county in the parliament of Canada.

THE WHIG HAS OFTEN BEEN IMPRESSED with his presentation of public matters and his associates in county conventions have always been impressed with what he had to say. A call from earthly activity will leave a vacancy in the public life of this district which it will not be easy to fill.

MONTREAL ALDERMAN'S FIX. Ald. Nickle is not the only municipal representative who is in trouble in his effort to improve the public morals. Ald. Blumenthal, of Montreal, after the police for some time, has had an experience of a very irritating kind. He was summoned from a street car to the aid of some countrymen, and when he entered a certain house it was raided, and he was made a prisoner. At once he charged that he had been the victim of a "frame up." It followed a warning he had received, which is the more remarkable seeing that he should have been on his guard, and appears to have walked most thoughtlessly into the trap that was set for him. He has charged that the police of Montreal are tolerating public immorality for a consideration, which is a most serious allegation.

THE MEN IN THE FORT. The alien enemy, represented in large part by the men who are interned in our fort and elsewhere, will be made the subjects of legislation at the next session of the commons. They are labouring under serious disabilities. They are deprived of their liberties, being under suspicion, and they could not, if allowed to go free, secure employment at the present time. They cannot take action in the courts because, as enemies of the realm, they have no legal status. They could be deported, only to seek the fatherland and there become identified with the army. The situation is a serious one, and if parliament can clear it of its anxieties it will be doing well. Meanwhile a large number of the prisoners are doing public duty on the government lands of Quebec and Ontario, and two hundred and fifty of them are guarded in idleness in our fort. They are mostly young men, in the prime of life, restless, alert, capable under restraint. For their sake, and for economy's sake, it were well the war had ended.

A VOICE FROM THE EAST. C. Yada, the consulate-general of Japan, made a most interesting address before the Canadian Club. His theme was a popular one, the social, patriotic, and philanthropic characteristics of Japan, and he surely let in a flood of light upon the subject. One has to thank these representatives of foreign and friendly powers for the judgment they exercise in reflecting their national spirit.

The consulate-general is a most interesting personage. He is affable, courteous, observant, appreciative, loyal to Japan and all its interests, yet most enthusiastic in his admiration of its great ally, Great Britain.

Mr. Yada visited many points of interest while here. He was impressed with its fortifications, and incidental

ly looked with profound regard upon Fort Henry and its present occupants. He had the guidance of some of the officers of the 21st Regiment, and he paid them and the forces they command a very graceful compliment.

SERBIA'S SUCCESS IN WAR.

In the great war the feats of the little power, are apt to be overlooked. Serbia, (or Serbia as it should be called), was the cause of the war. So Austria averred. That was before the evidence was unearthed that Austria and Germany were on conquest bound apart from Serbia's complicity in the death of Austria's crown prince. The foul murder, which has been atoned, gave Austria a cause for quarrel, and Germany ogged her on.

It has remained for a correspondent of the London Chronicle to pay honour to whom honour is due, and to give tribute to the king of the Serbians for a marvellous change in the fortunes of his country. King Peter, in ill-health, had really withdrawn from public life. The cares of his kingdom were resting largely upon his son and government. But when, in the early stages of the war, the Serbians lost, and there seemed to be nothing for it but the extermination of his army, he reappeared.

King Peter's address to his troops was like unto that of the conqueror of Peta to his bedraggled and despairing forces. If any wished to give up the struggle, go to their homes and invite defeat; they could step out of the ranks; he gave them his word that they would be allowed to do so; the rest would remain with him. No one moved. The king then said that the army, being with him, should take the offensive, and never relax their efforts till every Austrian was driven out of Serbia.

And the work was done. It was a heroic task and it surprised the world. Not since has the Austrian army pressed the Serbians, not even when it had been reinforced by the Germans. Serbia is nearly free of the enemy, excepting the thousands who are prisoners and receiving the kindest treatment from the people.

The point is that it is not in numbers that victory sometimes lies. Serbia has a small army compared with Austria's, but it has as a leader a regular Gideon, on whose side the god of battles seems to be, and this army can win if, metaphorically speaking, there are only the three hundred inspired men against the thousands of Midianites.

THE STAIN WILL REMAIN.

If anything were needed in order to persuade the people that the recent charges of Ald. Nickle, with regard to the morals of the city, were extravagant or exaggerated, it is the letter which he has sent to the commissioners. What they desired, and had a right to expect, was an outline of reliable evidence he was supposed to possess, and evidence which they could use reasonably in cleansing the city of its impurities. Mark you, Kingston was said to be very immoral, and without a counterpart in all Canada between Halifax and Vancouver. A strong and very hurtful statement, and founded, it was averred, upon the personal investigations of private detectives.

It turns out that they were given certain suspicions, certain complaints, made to Ald. Nickle, it was said, by reputable citizens, who focused their attentions upon him when there was a police head who should have been consulted. Had Chief Bailie been advised of these suspicions and failed to act it would have been his responsibility, and he would now be dealing with a number of people, who, notwithstanding the disagreeable nature of it, should not be ashamed of their task. For it is no dishonour to any man that he zealously defends and protects the good name of the city in which he lives.

The detectives whom Ald. Nickle employed seem to have confined themselves to the service which he outlined, and one can understand the limited nature of it in the series of questions which are referred to the commissioners. The Whig has read them carefully, thoughtfully, and is bound to say, with due respect to Ald. Nickle, and without a desire to offer him offence, that they do not justify the terrible indictment which he preferred against the city.

The questions addressed to the commissioners do not establish police inefficiency. They do not prove incompetency on the part of the chief of police. They simply review experiences which show that the discovery of wrong-doing did not lie in some cases with the police, but that they were taken by other persons. The military police are credited with aggressive work, for instance, and they were in an exceptional position to perform it.

No one can imagine what the next move of the commissioners will be. They can hardly investigate the things catalogued by Ald. Nickle with such ominous intent. The police system of Kingston may not be complete, (that is the main point), but the city, through the alleged defects of the department, and on its account, was not surely deserving of the foul stain that has been put upon it. This stain

cannot be easily removed. No, the right way of dealing with the situation, of improving police conditions, of remedying any apparent weakness in police administration, has not been followed, and the people will have reason to lament it for many a day.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Thomas Adams, of the London Board of Trade, will visit Kingston in February and talk of municipal enterprises. And a most competent man he is.

The enemy prisoners at the fort have nothing to complain of. They have comfortable places to room and sleep, good food, and all the time they want to discuss the war.

A change of political government in the states has taken Mr. Thaw out of the Thaw case. Which delights the convict very much. He now sees some chance, with a plentiful use of money, of escaping from the jails.

Why should the 21st Regiment be removed from Kingston to Toronto? It is being fitted for service here as well as it can be fitted anywhere. Is this a movement of Toronto to control the patronage of the militia department?

Everything labelled for Germany now, in the way of foodstuffs, can be seized as contraband of war and appropriated. The end of the war is near in sight. Without supplies Germany cannot continue the battle very much longer.

The Kaiser's recognition of the slaughter of men, sometimes unnecessarily, in the mad attempts that have been made to drive a wedge through the Allies, "will be a memorial street made according to a sketch laid before him." Which must be a wonderful balm to the hearts of bereaved widows and children.

The decision of Germany to regard all food, as absolute contraband and to seize it, will enable the enemy to plunder the Belgians to the limit and to the extent of taking even the relief contributions which fall within his control. A sign of the distress that prevails, in spite of Germany's boast that she has plenty and cannot be starved out.

Kingston Events Twenty-five Years Ago

A chess and checker club was organized at the Y.M.C.A., with the following officers: President, George Mills; vice-president, E. C. Hill; secretary, Harry C. Martin.

The race track in the fair grounds was opened to-day.

La grippe is still holding forth. Many citizens are still suffering with it.

WAR BULLETINS.

It was reported in Athens on Thursday that an attempt was made by Turkish plotters on the life of King Constantine of Greece. His assailants were arrested, and international complications are thought probable.

Berlin newspapers print full stories of the North Sea fight, and still maintain that a battle cruiser and three smaller vessels of the British fleet were sunk.

Sanguinary fighting was resumed at several points Thursday afternoon, with results favorable to the allies at most points.

The British admiralty issues a formal denial of the German statement that British warships were sunk in the North Sea Battle. The British cruiser or Aurora fought the German cruiser Kolberg and saw her sink.

Captured German sailors say their comrades on German ships expect nothing but death or capture.

Several more officers of the first Canadian contingent are ill at Salisbury Plains.

There has been more sharp skirmishing close to the Suez canal.

The Germans are hauling new troops against the British near Bethune and against the French near Craonne in an attempt to break through the defences.

The Military "Expert."

The press is, of course, free to criticize, and, no doubt, it needs experts to help it in its task, says the Bystander, of London. But the press should be the master not the servant of the expert, and should take very good care that the hired officer does not use its columns for the grizzling of its own taxes, or the airing of his grievances. The Press Colonel is, in spite of cases out of ten, a conscientious man. He is anxious to prove that everything would have been well had we had conscription, and that everything would be had because we have not. That does not make for fair criticism, and if the censor has been inordinately busy over the "copy" of the Press Colonel it is probably as much because of his animus as of any knowledge he may possess of military secrets.

THE WORLD'S MOTHERS.

Stephen Phillips Expresses Their Grief in Poem, "The Wound."

Here is one who finely champions the woe of the Mother Heart. "In cognito," writing in The London Observer, says that "Philosophy is a fine thing," but there is a voice whose ever-increasing volume will presently shake to pieces the house of cards on which philosophies are built that ignore the one fundamental cause of "depression." Let that voice—Bible, or silent—be once heard, we cry to pray. Let the men who lecture us sit down and ponder the poem in which Stephen Phillips (by some divine inspiration) expresses that uttermost woe which justifies "depression," or what the unthinking call "depression."

"THE WOUND."

"I dreamed that, having died, my soul was brought into the Presence. Many angels stood around, and with delight upon me gazed, and higher I discerned the face of God— Diffusing silent universal bliss. Then moved an angel toward me, and with joy Addressed me saying: 'Come and rest at last, And, having rested, then thou shalt rejoice.' The heavenly company smiled on me sweet; But I unbared my soul, and showed to them That wound which never human word, or hope, Or pity hath ever 'sangued, and at the sight, A strange disturbance on the spirits came, And even a dimness on the Face of God.

Then rose from God's right hand a gentle Form, With silent eyes that said: 'Hast thou forgot?' And He disclosed his branded brow and hands; But I, toward him turning, softly said: 'Thy wounds were many, but Thou hadst no child.'

"Here and there to-day are men who touch, more or less remotely, on that woe of the Mother Heart, seeing Her children so outraged, so desecrated, so wasted to man's insensate rage of ambition, seeing the Divine process of Creation so wasted to ends so futile; and here and there the voice of man has sought to express the sense of Rachel weeping for her children because they are not. But, before the sacredness of the voice itself, the voice of uttermost woe and sorrow, the man who understands stands silent, dumb, stricken with the understanding of that revelation—that here is that which lives beyond words, a depth of agony that no healing power were words can touch.

For the Mother Heart is not the mother of her own sons in a physical sense merely. She nurtures the wasted manhood of every son spent upon the world's battlefields; and, out upon the stormy air of conflicting feelings and emotions goes the cry, more intense because so deeply silent.

Bank's Gold Submerged. The Bank of England has its own water supply. One artesian well, 400 feet deep, gives a supply of 7,000 gallons an hour. As a direct consequence of the high cost of water in London, the bank authorities in 1910 placed a contract to sink another well. This renders the bank independent of the public supply of water. One curious use to which this water is put is not generally known: the bullion department is nightly submerged in several feet of water by the action of machinery. The same machinery is so adjusted that, if a dishonest officer during the day or night should take even one of a pile of 1,000 sovereigns, the whole pile would instantly sink and a pool of water would take its place.

Fighting an Unseen Foe. When people read that armies are engaging each other at 2,000 yards' distance they are apt to imagine that the combatants can see each other; but, as a matter of fact, they cannot. At that distance it is impossible to distinguish between a man and a horse, and even at 1,000 yards, especially where there is any dust, it requires the best kind of eyes to tell infantry from cavalry.

At 900 yards the movements become clearer, although it is not until they get within 750 yards of each other that the heads of the columns can be made out with anything like certainty.

Requires Herculean Labors. Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Robb has been appointed to succeed Sir Alfred Codrington as military secretary. He is described as a hard-headed office man, who has seen through any amount of administrative work with out ever tiring, and he has previous War Office experience, of which Gen. Codrington had none when he took over the duties of military secretary. The white brunt of finding and appointing officers for the new armies falls on the military secretary, whose job, which was formerly a comparatively light one, has now become one of Herculean proportions.

Pugilist in Westminster Abbey. One of the most curious links between church and the prize ring is to be seen in Westminster Abbey—the Hercules, under which reposes John Broughton, the first champion of England. Broughton wished the description, "Champion Prize Fighter of England," to be inscribed on his memorial, but the dean and chapter objected, and the space where the words were to appear remains blank.

Broughton, in his later years, was verger of the abbey, and, that fact, rather than to his pugilistic fame, he owed his distinguished burial place.

Foetion of Steam Bills.

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—George Bradbury, M.P. for Selkirk, has given notice that he will reintroduce his bill for the prevention of the pollution of streams.

Advertisement for Bibbys shoes and suits. Includes sections for 'Overshoes And Rubbers', 'Leather Suit Cases', 'Neck Scarfs', 'Knitted Caps', 'Men's Flannel Shirts', 'Men's Suspenders', and 'SALE OF BOYS' SUITS AND OVERCOATS'. Features an illustration of a man in a suit.

Advertisement for Bibbys shoes, 78, 80 & 82 Princess Street, Kingston.

Advertisement for 'For Sale' of Cheese & Butter Factory. Includes details about machinery and contact information for T. J. Lockhart.

Advertisement for J. E. Mullen, 'NOTICE' regarding business premises at Princess and Clergy Sts.

Advertisement for 'SKATING TO-NIGHT' and 'AUTOMOBILE SKATES'.

Advertisement for Treadgold Sporting Goods Co., Bicycles and Sporting Goods.

Advertisement for 'BETTER GET YOUR MIND ON THE COAL QUESTION NOW'.

Advertisement for Crawfords Coal, 'USE CRAWFORDS COAL'.