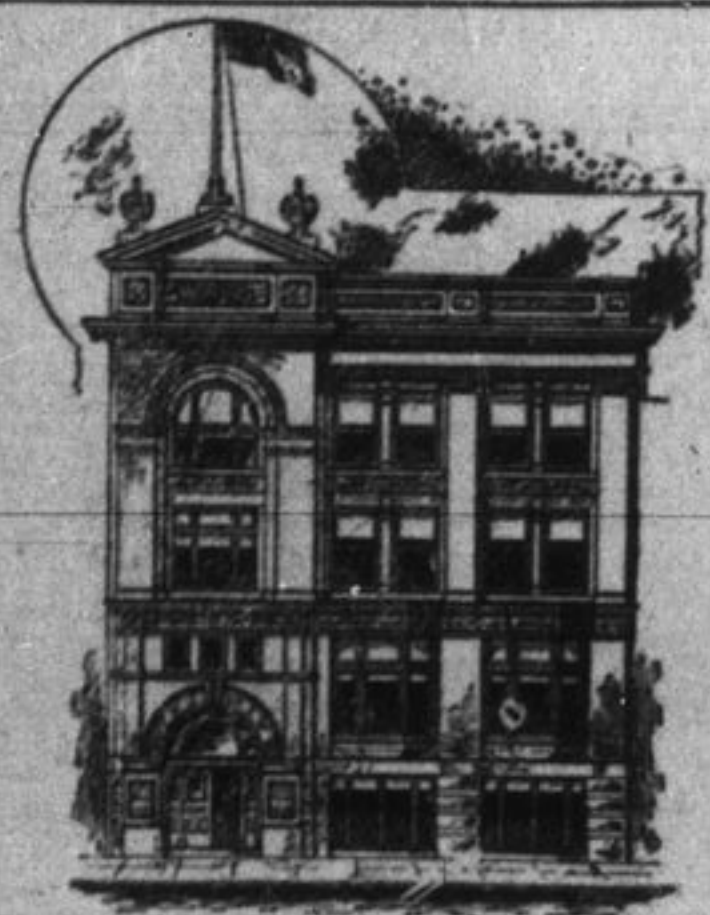


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TOO MANY OFFICIALS.

Sir Robert Borden asked the opposition critic of the budget if he would advocate a reduction in the salaries of the civil servants. This is not necessary, but they could stand a cut as well as the employees of the private companies and corporations. Better to have a lower wage, than no wage at all.

BURDENING THE FUND.

The charges on the Patriotic Fund are increasing. The epidemic of marriages goes on. Women who have been earning, and are capable of doing so, give up their places and marry in order to enjoy the comforts which this patriotic fund provides through the bounty of the government and the benevolent people.

MCGARRY'S INSULT.

The insurance managers of the province have occasion to sharply resent the attack of Hon. Mr. McGarry. In referring to the fact that the life companies had decided to contest the right of the province to levy the additional tax he was positively insulting.

Mr. Kilgour, the honorary secretary, answers Mr. McGarry, in a letter addressed to the premier. He points out that every tax that has been levied on the gross incomes of the insurance companies has been regarded as unjust and unfair, and a protest has been made against it.

So much for the principle which is at stake. Outside of this the insurance companies have shown an active interest in all the patriotic movements of the day, have given generously of their means to the various funds, and of their employees to the several military contingents. To refer to the directors as traitors was offensive in the extreme.

THE DARDANEELLES FORCED.

The most important item of news from the seat of war was that which, on Thursday night, announced the forcing of the Dardanelles, by the British and French fleets.

ABSENT SOLDIER VOTERS.

The proposal to give the soldiers constituting the various contingents, by legislation, votes in any election that may occur during their absence from Canada, has been referred to a special committee. The premier expressed surprise when Mr. Frupp, M.P., submitted his motion. He did not know it was coming up and he had not given the matter the consideration which it deserved.

Mr. Frupp based his proposition on a bill which had been passed by the New Zealand legislature. Its aim was assuredly to enfranchise the members of the expeditionary force, and to provide for their participation in any election taking place during their absence from the colony.

The debate brought out some queer political views that did not reflect creditably upon some of the speakers. Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, did not see how men thousands of miles away could be educated upon the issues of the day.

This is not to the credit of any one, or any class of men. The assumption is that electors are supporters of candidates or parties on their merits. Some, as in the last election, are influenced by financial and trade relations.

It can safely be affirmed that Mr. Burnham does not bespeak the sentiments of the large number of electors when he says they go it blind; that they do not want light and information, and that politically they revel in their ignorance.

OUR PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The provincial accounts do not look well. Mr. McGarry estimates the deficit of the year at \$697,928, and attributes it to three things—shortage in the revenue of the Department of Mines and Lands, refusal of the life insurance companies to pay the tax on them, amounting to \$250,000, and grants to Britain and Belgium, in flour, which was valued at \$297,000.

The life insurance companies have a defence. It is that they are being unduly oppressed. In 1913 they paid \$130,000 to the Ontario treasury, and \$606,000 to the federal treasury. They appear to have now reached the conclusion that they have no right to pay a provincial tax, and the item of 1914, of \$145,000, will be contested in the courts.

Mr. McGarry plans to raise \$1,800,000 this year, by levying a tax of one mill on all assessable property. The municipalities will be obliged to collect and pay over this revenue to the province, which does not seem right.

The manipulation of accounts was shown in the entering of \$544,000 as a receipt of the year, while it was a balance of the previous year, and was preserved in this balance. Mr. Bowman said it was estimated the total receipts, in round numbers, would be \$10,000,000. The expenditure was shown to be \$11,000,000, and putting the statutory expenditure at the same sum as the last two years, the total would be \$16,000,000.

If the resolution before the house goes through the soldiers need not worry about the stamp duty. Mail matter addressed to them from friends at home will be carried free. Thanks to the forethought of Mr. Lamoureux, the ex-postmaster-general.

THE DARDANEELLES FORCED.

The most important item of news from the seat of war was that which, on Thursday night, announced the forcing of the Dardanelles, by the British and French fleets. This notable work was done by the fleets working from the Aegean sea, and the effect will be visible at once on the world's commerce.

The Dardanelles, or Hellespont, or Strait of Gallipoli, is the narrow strait between Europe and Asia, connecting the Aegean Sea with the Propontis, or Sea of Marmora. It is forty-five miles long. In width it varies from one mile to five.

In 1878 a British fleet passed through the strait to protect Constantinople from Russia, and in 1891 the sultan gave permission for the vessels of the Russian volunteer fleet, even when carrying soldiers and convicts, to pass through. During the Russo-Japanese war Russian cruisers passed through the Dardanelles under a commercial flag, assumed their true character in the Red Sea, and stopped a number of British and German ships.

The effect of the opening of the Dardanelles will be soon apparent. Turkey must surrender or Constantinople be reduced to ashes, and it is remarkable that Britain will be forced to lead in this assault. It may mean that Britain will have more to say about the final disposition of this beautiful city.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

About fifteen hundred of the friends of the soldiers, who will leave for the front some of these days, have been in the city during the last week, bidding them "good-bye." The government professes, through some of their supporters, to have a great regard for the soldiers' welfare. For evidence of this one has only to point to the boot, remount, and blanket scandals.

A good many of the wives, mothers and sisters of the soldiers who go to the front with the 21st Regiment have been in the city during the past week, but few of them were among the elect at the social function in the armouries.

"Going it blind" is the manner in which Mr. Burnham refers to the soldiers and their votes. "Going it blind" is the way—the soldiers can refer to the manner in which the government has been giving out some of its contracts. In any case the poor soldier suffered.

Since the conservative accession to power in 1904 the expenditures of the province has been increased from \$5,277,463, to \$15,378,837. Nearly trebled. Can such an increase be justified? If reasonable economy had been practiced there would not now be the occasion for special taxation.

PUBLIC OPINION

An Easy Task. London Advertiser. There should be no difficulty about keeping the Lenten fasts in Germany this year.

Kind Of Him. Toronto Star. Pastor Russell says that "the time of trouble that precedes the millennium may be extended to 1920. It certainly may. The prediction is a pretty safe one."

On Deck Again. Hamilton Herald. The labor party—that is to say, a party of the name of Studholme—has turned up in the Ontario legislature, and Premier Hearst must expect soon to undergo his baptism of fire.

Mystery of Taxation. Montreal Examiner. No government lets the people know just what they are paying in the way of taxation if it can possibly avoid it, because otherwise they become too inquisitive as to the

Can't, You See.

Herr Del Bruck, the German minister of the interior, says Germany cannot lose. "Even if the whole world should be in arms against us." That sounds suspiciously like the small boy who whistles to keep up his courage.

More Wireless Whispers.

"The idea of starving out Germany is absurd" and "harvesting machines are following the German troops." These latest words from Berlin by wireless indicate either that the German government is crying out against Britain's policy of starvation for the fun of it, or does not regard the harvest of snow and ice as wholly satisfactory for the nourishment of the people.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

G. E. Hague was elected president of the Y.M.C.A. Literary and Debating Society.

William Nickle, aged seventy-eight years, father of W. F. and Hugh Nickle, died today.

William Harty has been appointed Canadian manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Company at a salary of \$4,000 per annum, replacing H. C. Dennis, of Cobourg.

TORY MEMBERS AFRAID

OF TAKING ANY DRASTIC MEASURES WITH HUGHES.

For They Know He Is In a Position to Hit Back—Opposition to Him Is Strong in the Party's Ranks.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—While the government forces here are deploring the so-called breaking of the political truce by the liberals by means of attacks on the government's tariff proposals and other legislation and administration apart altogether from the war, these same members are by no means observing any truce as regards their war against Canada's war minister. The opposition within the government's ranks to Major-General Hughes, which has found public vent in many conservative newspapers, and which culminated in a stormy conservative caucus at the opening of the session, is still being continued.

Difficulties with the minister of militia with regard to patronage, war contracts, and the non-partisan administration of the department have been accentuated rather than minimized by the persistent agitation of the past three weeks for his removal, and replacement by a minister more acceptable to the Roger group on the government side of the house. Disclosures which have been foreshadowed as to wasteful expenditures, unsatisfactory contracts, etc., in connection with the expeditionary forces, are causing considerable uneasiness in the government ranks.

While General Hughes himself is perhaps the least to blame for some of the irregularities arising from the misuse of patronage, it is thought by his opponents that political harmony within the party and possibly a good effect on the country might be secured by a change of ministers. The opponents of General Hughes, however, are rather chary about taking any drastic measures with him, for they know he is in a position to hit back, and is in a disposition to do so, as he thinks he is being treacherously attacked.

The suggestion is now made that no objection will be placed in his way if he decides to carry out his personal wish of going to the front and getting into the fighting line at the head of his troops. It is believed that if the way is opened up for a suitable command for him at the front he will wash his hands of patronage and other political troubles here and gladly seek a new world to conquer on the firing line in Europe. The developments of the next two weeks are awaited with considerable interest in parliamentary circles here.

KEPT OUT OF CHURCH

BECAUSE TEMPERANCE WAS ADVOCATED FROM PULPIT.

Prominent Belleville Men Have Kept Away Since the Provincial Elections—J. W. Johnston Made an Attack on the Clergy.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—An attack on the ministers of the province, a defence of the liquor license system and utter opposition to the closing of the bars were the features of a rather sensational speech in the legislature by J. W. Johnston, M.P.P. for West Hastings. It was a much franker statement on the liquor question than usually is heard from the government benches of the house.

Mr. Johnston drew quite a dark picture of church conditions in Belleville since the last election. He said that the ministers of the gospel were supposed to look after sinners and not drive them out of church, but that since the elections last June some of the most prominent men in Belleville, including himself, had never put their foot in a church.

CROWN PRINCE DEAD?

German Court in Mourning—Youth Is Mentioned in Reports. Paris, Feb. 26.—A Geneva despatch to the Excelsior says that for the third time since the outbreak of the war rumors of the death of Crown Prince Frederick William are current in Germany. It declares that a letter from Berlin says that the crown prince died in December, and that the German court is in mourning. The correspondent sending the despatch adds that the lack of mention of the crown prince in the German official reports is significant.

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