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MILITARY BOOT SCANDAL.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto News reports that nothing damaging has come out in connection with the military shoe scandal, or words to that effect. Well, here are some of the admissions from the Director of Supplies: That many boots had been improperly fitted; that the stitching of others had come loose; that after two weeks use they had leaked, become shrunken, and felt like blotting paper; that thousands had been inspected and passed, only to be rejected, and the director confessed that he had not read some of the reports respecting them, and had not reported the defects to any one. Nothing coming out of it, and what do the people think of the men who serve them at high salaries in high places?

PILING UP THE DEBT.

What is the bonded debt of the city? How is it made up?—ENQUIRER. At the present time \$1,607,916.41, made up of five items, as follows: General Purposes \$346,062.15; Schools 94,866.14; Local Improvements 430,565.97; Water Works 179,700.00; Light Works 456,702.15. Total \$1,607,916.41. The interest payable on this debt, this year, amounts to \$75,808.01. On account of local improvements alone the item for interest is \$22,994.57. Some people fail to realize, when they petition for local improvements, or consent to them, their effect on the tax levy. On this account the people contribute in 1915, \$11,086.49, in interest, in sinking fund, \$10,920.32, and in principal, \$1,625. Kingston is not the heaviest debt-laden municipality, assessment and population considered, in Ontario, but it is carrying a big sum, and the ratepayers will sooner or later, and the sooner the better, debate how they may escape some of it, or guard against the further piling up of it. Western cities have been comparing their finances and there is information in the process. The current opinion, that posterity should pay for some of the improvements, is a popular one, with the men who incur the liability, but posterity may have occasion to curse the conditions that made this injury possible and the men who left it.

STILL SLANDERING DR. SHORTT.

Kingston's member, Mr. Nickle, assumed the only position which the circumstances justified when he insisted, in the Commons, that the charges which Ministers of the Crown had made against Dr. Shortt should be investigated by a special committee, or that he should be heard in self-defence at the bar of the house. It is quite evident that Dr. Shortt has crossed the Government in some way, or a reference to the changes in the civil service, as set forth in a return of the Secretary of State, would not have stirred up Hon. "Beh" Rogers and called for his abuse. The statement that there were 2,000 dismissals and 10,000 appointments, may have been irritating, but Dr. Shortt was not the author of it, and the Minister of Public Works knew this if he knew anything; yet he charged that Dr. Shortt had been untrue, unfair, dishonest and dishonourable. Every one of his colleagues, without any evidence, and without wanting any, was prepared to repeat his slander.

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Six Wilfrid Laurier had demanded that Mr. Rogers should prove his statement or withdraw it. Mr. Nickle

look practically the same view. The Ministers should, if they believed the charges, refer them to a committee, to be investigated, or Dr. Shortt should be allowed to appear at the bar of the house and justify himself. That is the only course the Ministers can pursue, honourably. Will they do it? We shall see.

Mr. Nickle knows Dr. Shortt. So does the Whig. For many years he was an honoured professor in Queen's University. He is a publicist whose reputation is superior to that of any of the men who have slandered him. He did not accept office as a party man, for party purposes, and he has performed his public duty conscientiously, without fear, favour and affection.

When a Minister, in petulant mood, felt that he must say something and hinted that Dr. Shortt was influenced by political animosity, he offered an insult to a high-minded public official that will reflect upon himself.

A VERY SUSPICIOUS MOVE.

In the party caucus Hon. Mr. Haana explained his bill for the appointment of a Central License Board. The need of this board has not been publicly explained and it will take a lot of talking to make any unprejudiced person see the necessity of it. Local license boards are not sometimes held in high favour. In Toronto an absolutely independent board, under the presidency of Mr. Flavell, was hounded out of office because it would not lend itself to the schemes of the party hack. Its successor has not been criticized by the Conservative hordes, and the inference is plain that it is working in harmony with the men who run elections in Kingston it is announced that the license board will not brook interference with any one, and notice is said to have been served, before the last election, on the license holders that they were not to contribute to the party funds. They may have done it, nevertheless. The license board has put itself on record as against the subscriptions of license-holders to the party funds.

It is not at all clear that the central license board is a creation of the provincial secretary because he does not approve of the actions of certain local boards. The man who was willing to work prison contractors for election purposes, and accept of their contributions, is not likely to be disgraced by anything a local board may do if it happens to be in wrong; on the contrary if the central license board means anything it is an institution which will forward the party's schemes or it will not be adopted.

A central board cannot possibly make itself familiar with local conditions in order to pass upon them effectively. The local inspector will have a new responsibility forced upon him, or the local member must perform duties of a most irksome character. In any event, and in any sense, the Hanna baby should be strangled at its birth.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The electric department is not taxable. The water department is. The difference between them is that one is under the Hydro-Electric Act and the other is not. It is well to make a note of this.

The fixed charges in connection with the gas department are \$18,638.91, and in connection with the electric department \$20,085.85, a total of \$38,725.76. It is assumed that these are not subject to any modification.

The Manitoba government is resisting the passage of a compulsory education bill. In these days education should be forced upon the young. There should be no literacy when the people are so willing to be taxed for schools.

Mr. Nickle has reminded the premier that it is time he was doing something about the redemption of his pre-election pledges, re civil service reform. Three years in office and not a word about his pet subject while in opposition. What is the matter?

It cost the Utilities Commission last year \$1.09 per 1,000 cubic feet to produce gas at the consumers' meters. The gas was sold at \$1 per 1,000 feet. But for the 10c per cubic feet netted from the meters the city would have sustained a loss of over \$5,000. The meter rents, therefore, cannot be abolished.

Government by commission would be better than government by the Council because its membership would be less subject to change. Its policy would, therefore, be continuous, and the men behind it would be better informed and better equipped for service.

Pervert White, the finance minister, will see that the Liberal papers emphatically condemn the clauses of his budget that provide increased taxes on the necessities of life and on British imports. Hitting the foods and the preference does not find endorsement in any Liberal paper.

Investigation shows that there have been 21,000 appointments by the federal government, up to the date

of the official return, which was some time ago. Over and above all the retirements and resignations, or combined vacancies, most of them forced, there have been in three years 11,000 appointments. That is going some.

Hon. Mr. White—who, like all political converts or perverts, is very vicious in his views—cannot find any Liberal paper in Canada that has discussed his budget editorially. Where has he been looking for them? The usual subscription to "Clippings" would produce more excerpts from the Liberal press than he could read.

Stranded in Panama. Hamilton Times. Visitors to the Panama exhibition are said to be already stranded in San Francisco. This war is hard on everybody.

For Canada's Good Name. Guelph Mercury. The "Made in Canada" stamp is going to count for anything in future they had better put all the evidence about these boots in a safe and then throw the key down the well.

Putting In The Plug. Montreal Mail. A New York man will get a fortune if he remains sober for two years. At the end of that time, by all accounts, he will need all the money to accommodate his thirst.

PUBLIC OPINION

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Fearless Senators Indeed. Montreal Gazette. In Vermont the State Senate has killed the woman suffrage bill, which was passed by the lower house of the legislature. Senators everywhere seem to be a fearless and hardened lot.

A Choice Here. London Advertiser. A Toronto gentleman suggests that Canadians use their front lawns for growing potatoes. Good. Most people would prefer the neighbor's hoe to his lawn mower at daybreak of a summer's morn.

Two Objections. Montreal Mail. The Boston Transcript objects to the British blockade of German ports on the ground that it will not be effective. Germany objects to it on the ground that it will be elective.

Oh, Of Course! Ottawa Citizen. The Montreal Daily Mail is demanding that the odorous Mousseau case in the Quebec Legislature be reopened. This is commendable and the Mail, no doubt, will follow up its auspicious beginning by calling upon the federal authorities to look into the evident jobbery in the placing of army and other contracts and by demanding punishment for the offenders, with political decapitation for those permitting the frauds.

BILL'S DOWNFALL. Denver News. I've got a letter, parson, from my son away out West. An' my ol' heart is heavy as an anvil in my breast. To think the boy whose future I had once so proudly planned should wander from the path o' right an' come to sich an end! I told him when he left us, only three short years ago, He'd find himself a-plowin' in a mighty crooked row; He'd miss his father's counsel, an' his mother's prayers, too; But he said the farm was hateful, an' he guessed he'd have to go I know that's big temptation for a youngster in the West; But I believed our Billy had the courage to resist; An' when he left I warned him o' the ever-waiting snares; That lie like hidden serpents in His pathway everywhere; But Bill he promised faithfully to be keefal, an' allowed.

He'd build a reputation that'd make us mighty proud; But it seems as if my counsel sort o' faded from his mind; Now the boy's in trouble of the very worst kind; His letters come so seldom that I somehow sort o' know'd That Billy was a-trampin' on a mighty rocky road; But never once imagined he would show my head in shame; An' in the dust'd waller his ol' dad-dy's honored name; He writes from out in Denver, an' the story's mighty short; I just can't tell his mother, it'd break her poor ol' heart; An' so I reckoned, parson, you might break the news to her; Bill's in the legislature; but he doesn't say what fur.

Profits Not As Large. H. W. Richardson has been re-elected vice-president of the Dominion Canners. The concern announces that the profits during the past year were not as large as for the year 1913.

The inconsistency of womankind is demonstrated by the society girl, who starts in when she comes out. The counterfeiter makes money dishonestly, but there are others.

21ST MAKE ATTACKS

ON BARN IN THE VICINITY FOR PRACTICE. Ranges in Constant Use—The 21st Includes 698 Old Countrymen—Sunday Divine Service In The Armouries.

The field work that the 21st Battalion has been doing this week is not only instructive but interesting to the men. The plan usually followed is to give out the general idea to the officers and they are responsible for the working out of the details. At some distance, say over a certain hill, is a barn which is to be attacked. The battalion spreads out far and wide, and seeking every possible cover, gets as close to that barn as possible. Then the order to charge is passed along the line and with blood-curling yells the men, firing constantly, storm the desired position.

The ranger were in constant use all Friday and part of Saturday, and the remainder of the men were engaged in carrying out different movements, such as attack in extended order.

A number of recruits are playing football in the Artillery Park square between drills.

In the 21st Battalion, whose total strength is 1,130, there are 698 Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen and Welshmen.

Capt. the Rev. W. E. Kidd, chaplain of the 21st Battalion, will conduct the divine service in the armouries on Sunday afternoon. Detachments will parade to several churches on Sunday morning.

The reason why the offer of the personnel for a stationary hospital from Queen's University was refused is given to be the lack of offering of equipment. Both McGill and Toronto Universities offered a base hospital fully equipped, and supplied with assistants. Queen's offered eighty men only, and this is the reason the offer has not been accepted.

THE NEW FORTRESSES.

Permanent Fortifications Not To Disappear. Paris Correspondent of Army and Navy Journal. The ease with which the Germans successively captured Liege, Namur, Antwerp and the camp retranches of Maubeuge, Lille, Laon-La Fere and Rheims, all very strong positions on paper, has proved rather damaging to the prestige of permanent fortifications. Yet there is no cause for a wholesale condemnation of forts when circumstances are carefully examined. Both Belgian and French fortresses were sadly out of date in armament as well as in defensive organization, and were crushed at long range by an artillery of superior caliber (280, 305 and 420 millimeters), to which they could make no effective reply.

But, of course, reliable information as to the status of fortifications can only be derived from a study of the way modern fortresses have stood the test of war. Now the camps retranches of Verdun, Toul, Epinal and Belfort are the only ones that deserve at all to be called modern, having been the object of ceaseless improvements in recent years, though at the beginning of the war they were not quite up to date in armament, not having received the long-range naval guns that now arm them. And it is a fact that they have up to the present defied the whole might of heavy German guns and the repeated and well-led attacks of the masses of German infantry, especially Verdun, which is yet partly encircled, though at very long distance, over 20,000 yards. These camps retranches, which have been wonderfully improved both in armament and in defensive qualities since the war, have got rid of their civilian population, and are defended by armies animated with the spirit of offensive. They have fulfilled the role expected of them and must be considered as inexpugnable, even should the fortune of war cause them to be blocked.

So fortifications have come to stay, though it is agreed that the present fort will lead to a series of modifications in design and armament. The small fort of circular shape, with its batteries, powder magazines and garrison quarters crowded over a limited area—a true "nid a bombes," said Gen. Langlois—may be considered a thing of the past. The large French fort of the future will aim at being superior to all comers for range, and it ought to be when it is considered that its armament can be transported and fitted at leisure in time of peace. Its long guns of naval type of extreme caliber and range will command, with the help of aeroplanes, a radius of some 18,000-20,000 yards round. They will be placed under impervious armor, and be made proof against any aerial projectiles. An elaborate system of trenches for infantry at long distances from the central position, safe garrison shelters dispersed over a vast area, together with quick means of transportation for smaller artillery, are also to be adopted. But superiority for range over field armies must remain the first desideratum in all places-fortis worth that name.

HEAVY MEAT EATERS HAVE SLOW KIDNEYS

Eat Less Meat If You Feel Backache Or Have Bladder Trouble.

No man or woman who eats meat regularly can make a mistake by flushing the kidneys occasionally, says a well known authority. Meat forms uric acid which excites the kidneys, they become overworked from the strain, get sluggish and fail to filter the waste and poisons from the blood, then we get sick. Nearly all rheumatism, headaches, liver trouble, nervousness, dizziness, sleeplessness and urinary disorders come from sluggish kidneys.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back hurts or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of sediment, irregular of passage or attended by a sensation of scalding, stop eating meat and get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any pharmacy; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate the kidneys, also to neutralize the acids in urine so it no longer causes irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and active and the blood pure, thereby avoiding serious kidney complications. Agent, Geo. W. Mahood.

BIBBYS SPRING APPAREL. Men's Blue Suits, \$15. Men's Tweed Suits, \$10.00. Men's Sample Hats, \$1. Men's Fine Shoes, Bibby's Special \$4.00. Boys' Suits, Special at \$4.00. Men's Grey Worsted Suits, \$15. Men's Tweed Suits, \$12.50. Men's New Hats, \$2.00. Bibbys.

Cook's Cotton Root Compound. A safe, reliable regulating medicine. Sold in three do. gross of strength—No. 1, \$1; No. 2, \$1; No. 3, \$1 per doz. Sold by all druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price, Free samples. Address THE COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor).

Wanted. 1. Loan of about \$4,000 on Farm Property, worth \$15,000, and assessed for 13,500. 2. A purchaser for Farm of 200 acres, about four miles from Kingston. T. J. LOCKHART, Real Estate and Insurance. Bank of Montreal Bldg. Kingston, Ont. Phone 1035 or 1020.

Boots for the Boy. The Boy going to school needs good strong FOOTWEAR at this time of year. WE HAVE THEM. OUR BOYS' BOX CALF AND GRAIN LEATHER BOOTS AT \$2.50. Are All Solid Leather. J. H. SUTHERLAND & BRO. The Home of Good Shoes.

Motor Bicycle Will Fit Your Wheel. Combine business with pleasure. You can attach this motor to any bicycle in five minutes. Will run 20 miles per hour and 100 miles on a gallon of gasoline. Treadgold Sporting Goods Co. BETTER GET YOUR MIND ON THE COAL QUESTION NOW. CRAWFORD'S COAL. USE CRAWFORD'S COAL. Agent, Geo. W. Mahood.