

The British Whig



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A CRAZY SCHEME SURELY. There is a demand, originating in Kenora, Alberta, for banks whose purpose would be to lend money to the farmers at a reasonable rate.

The Province of Alberta has a Municipal Commission, and this proposition will surely be held up when it is laid before them.

Now if they cannot run the usual local improvements, safely, with the brakes applied by the banks they do not control, they cannot finance these same improvements with the aid of the banks which they control.

To be called the world's champion Jack-the-Ripper may tickle and please the Kaiser. But he is the only one that he real proud of the title.

SOME PRISON REFORMS. Every one who has read about our prisons, and learned from our Commissions the conditions that prevail in the Kingston penitentiary, will rejoice that there are to be reforms.

Some of the things the Commissioners recommended will be carried into effect. The dark cell will be abolished, the hosing, the stone pile, the close hair cropping, and the indiscriminate herding of the incorrigibles with the novices in crime.

The convicts will be employed out of doors, a good deal more, in the interest of their health, and while they are not to have the freedom, the comfort and the pleasure that are vouchsafed to the convicts under Mr. Osborne in Sing Sing Prison, they are to be treated as men with at least a possible future.

The prison will not be put under an independent Commission, and run without regard to political influence. The management will be dictated from Ottawa, supplemented by the direction of the inspectors.

A REALLY HERCULEAN TASK.

The Toronto World said, some time ago, while the Commons was still in session, that "if the London Government is to survive it must confess, reform, reconstruct." Confess, Reform, Reconstruct what? There is a serious implication in the language of Mr. Maclean, M. P.—for it is assumed, no doubt correctly, that he penned the indictment from Ottawa—and he should bravely amplify it and make it clear to everybody.

He did intimate that the Premier had been deferring some ministerial programme of the greatest importance. He should have got rid of some of his colleagues, and put in better and more capable men; and just one has been dropped, Hon. Mr. Coderre, the newest and weakest of them all, a man of no leadership and influence among his own people.

There were to be more than ministerial changes. In Mr. Maclean's opinion there should be "no more patronage, no more politics in civil service appointments, no more of the leeches that infest and have infested Ottawa for ten years or more, in selling and renting to the Government, supplying the Departments, looking like professional crooks."

And the only answer to this is the announcement of the Premier before the House rose—that there would be a prosecution of all and sundry, without respect to party or place in life, and damned would he be who first cried out "enough." Sir Robert Borden could not attend to this matter while Hon. "Bob" Rogers and his allies worried him about a General Election. But now that he has dodged this issue, thanks to the strong public opinion that prevailed about it, he may be able to apply himself to the herculean task that Maclean has assigned to him.

The German murderer's apologize to Uncle Sam, for the assassination of his subjects, is the climax of war literature. It is without a parallel in history. There may never be anything like it again.

Herman Ridder, of the Staats-Zeitung, New York, declares that "the sinking of the Lusitania will clear the atmosphere. It will teach the British Government that Germany is not bluffing but is in dead earnest—a lesson it should have learned months ago but which even yesterday it seemed not to have grasped in the slightest degree."

More than two thousand unarmed non-combatants, including weak women and helpless children, thrown into the ocean at a moment's notice. More than fifteen hundred lives sacrificed by these naval assassins. This is Herman Ridder's idea of larger game. He remarks incidentally that "the Cunard Company has long advertised that it had never lost a passenger." What has that to do with the matter except to reflect a feeling of envy and malicious delight that German submarines have achieved a brilliant victory.

We are not so sure that this shameful deed will clear the atmosphere; it may make the clouds thicker. It has certainly provided a severe problem for President Wilson. Already a ship flying the American flag had been sunk, and now a large number of American citizens have lost their lives. The Germans claim the power to stand in New York and say, "If you go on that boat you will be murdered, no matter what your nationality or character may be."

So far as Britain is concerned she must go on with the stern task forced upon her whatever the consequences may be. The poisoning of the wells, the use in battle of poisonous gases, dropping bombs on defenceless towns, killing women and babies by firing, without notice, on undefended places, these are part of the programme of those who call themselves noble warriors. The loss of the Lusitania is only the same thing on a larger scale. The New York Sun, writing when the loss of life was not known, says: "That it was premeditated we know; that it was reckless of innocent non-combatant lives we are sure, and 'dastardly' is the word on millions of American lips this morning."

We will wait with interest to see what is the attitude of President Wilson to this new mode of warfare. It does not settle the matter to say, with Herman Ridder, "the American people are not going to protect British shipping from German submarines. That is a responsibility which rests not upon Washington but London."

The atmosphere is not so clear, the question not so simple as that. It may be put in many forms. One of them is this, Has the American Government any responsibility for its own citizens who are travelling on an unarmed passenger vessel?

EDITORIAL NOTES. The Works' Department aims at increasing the efficiency of the Engineer's Department by crippling it. Is that good business? The Council can only hope to induce the people generally to clean up when it makes a start itself. The waste paper nuisance of the city, on the streets, is an abomination.

Japan avoided answering what it purposes to do with Kiaochow, which it took from Germany with an avowed purpose of restoring to China. It now looks as if whatever Japan has she will hold.

President Wilson is waiting for some official report before he can say what he thinks of the loss of the Lusitania. By that time things will have cooled down a bit and the language used may not be quite so scorching.

If by reading of the grafting in Canada with Canadian arms the Germans of Fort Henry were made to revolt what must be the effect of this grafting upon the Canadian electors? It was a good thing the election went over for a while.

France is taking from the United States, monthly, manufactured goods to the value of \$140,000,000 to States, monthly, manufactured goods to the value of \$160,000,000. The Republic is therefore deeply interested in the trade routes of the Atlantic and had better help in their protection.

"In complete unity with all parties and with all quarrels put aside we swear to pursue by every means, and until victory, the end we have in view." The declaration of the French Minister of Finance which was cheered again and again at the Chamber of Deputies.

In order to save 25c in cartage some people burn their refuse in the yards and suffocate the people for blocks around. Is this not preventable under the city by-law? Or has the city at present any by-law which the people are obliged to respect?

Bad Example. (Hamilton Herald.) The Ontario Government in evading the payment of the postal war tax is setting a bad example to the people.

Bullets And Ballots. (Hamilton Spectator.) As to bullets and ballots, honors seem to be even between Italy and the Canadian Government, in keeping the common people in suspense.

Change Of Method. (Belleville Ontario.) Savages of old fought with poisoned darts. The modern savages, to wit, the Kaiser's "Kulturled" brutes, fight with poisonous gases.

The Newest Thing. (London Advertiser.) No one has yet suggested that the next contingent be armed with good Canadian hornets' nests for close in trench fighting.

Indignant Language. (Brookville Times.) Toronto Saturday Night continues its asinine sneering at the Hon. Sam Hughes. Saturday Night is more in its element in recording the pink teas and society flappings of its codfish aristocrats and social "climbers" than in throwing mud at a live man.

Lots Of Nerve. (Hamilton Herald.) The action of that little British trawler turning on a German destroyer, ramming her and putting her to flight, was as surprising as it would have been an attack by a sheep upon a vicious dog.

Something In A Name. (Brantford Expositor.) There is something in a name when a man named Champagne is deprived of the presidency of a Liberal Association in Saskatchewan because of his opposition to the temperance reform measures of the Scott Government.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A Sons of England lodge composed of young men will be organized in the city. C. H. Corbett has been appointed superintendent of the dog show to be held at the fair grounds. Five hundred dollars have been grand prizes.

McKelvey & Birch secured the contract for work at the new asylum in Orillia.

DISTRICT NEWS. Clipped From the Whig's Many Bright Exchanges. W. B. Northrup, K.C., M.P., and Mrs. Northrup, Belleville, have offered their splendid home and grounds to the Government for the use of convalescent wounded soldiers.

This year is the centennial of the town of Perth. It is a hundred years ago this summer that the first settlers of Perth came trooping along and decided to pitch camp there.

On Friday night Harold Bertrand, Alexandria Bay, N.Y., aged fifteen years dropped dead. He had a moment before been wrestling with another lad. He had been troubled with a weak heart.

The Community Movement at Pembroke closed on Saturday. The reason for closing the Movement, was inability to get twelve men to form a board and who would interest themselves in the work.

At Cape Vincent, N.Y. W. E. Stanley's hydroplane is being pushed to completion as fast as possible. The craft will be equipped with a 150 horse power motor, and it is expected that the boat will show remarkable speed. Besides being fast the craft will be of handsome design.

On Saturday Col. W. H. and Mrs. Cole, Brockville, celebrated their diamond wedding, sixty years of married life. Their two children joined in the celebration as also Mrs. Lalonde, Toronto, sister of the colonel, and the only one living besides the contracting parties who witnessed the marriage.

SOFT IMPEACHMENT. To-day when Willie's neighbor Fred, Came over to take tea, He inquired at me and then he said, "Bill's girl is Helen Lee!"

I smiled and studied Willie's face, Which red and redder grew, And wondered if he had a "case", If Fred's report was true.

Yes, this explained his cleanliness, Till now a mystery, His polished shoes, his love of dress, His frequent loans from me.

When Baby Jim took up the cry Of "Willie's girl," with dread I saw a look in Willie's eye That boded ill for Fred.

And Lucy—she should be ashamed To tease her brother so — In gayest banter next exclaimed, "Ah ha, that's where you go!"

I bade her cease. The boys went out And, from the yard below, I heard a sudden angry shout And then blow after blow.

I summoned Willie; he came in, With swollen nose and said, "While he has crossed his bleeding chin, I had to settle Fred."

START THE DAY. Detroit Free Press. Start the day with smiling, Start the day with cheers, Don't begin reviling, Don't begin with sneers, Don't start out with whining, Quit your bed and say, Here's the sun a-shining, Here's another day!

Yesterday has vanished, All its cares have fled, All its envy are banished, Yesterday is dead, Don't begin with scolding, Cares that troubled you, Here's another morning, Bright and fresh and new.

Here's the sun a-shining Here's a day of hope Don't begin by pining, Wait before you mope, Make it is bringing Blessings all your while, Start the day with singing, Start it with a smile.

Censure or praise should always follow investigation, not go before it. The fairest way is to judge others by yourself, not yourself by others. Captain Turner said at the Lusitania inquest that he carried out all instructions the British Admiralty gave him.

PUBLIC OPINION.

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Rippling Rhymes. Welf Mason. UNCONQUERED. Let tribulation's waters roll, and drench me as I don't deserve! I am the captain of my soul, I am the colonel of my nerve.

Don't say my boasting's out of place, don't greet me with a jeer or sneer, I've met misfortune face to face, and pulled its blooming whiskers off. For I have sounded all the depths of poverty and ill and woe, and that old snipe I wear for keeps still pushed my features to and fro.

Oh, I have walked the wintry streets all night because I had no bed; and I have hungered for the cats, and no one handed me the bread. And I have herded with the swine like that old prodigal of yore, and this elastic smile of mine upon my countenance I wore. For I believed and still believe that nothing ill is here to stay; the woody woe that makes us grieve, to-morrow will be blown away. My old time griefs went up in smoke, and I remain a giggling bard; I look on trouble as a joke, and chortle when it hits me hard. It's all your attitude of mind that makes you gay or sad, my boy, that makes you work a beauty grind, or makes it seem a round of joy. The mind within me governs all, and brings me gladness or disgust; I am the captain of my gall, I am the major of my crust.

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John Lemmon We're Proof Against Base Hits. Plumber and Tinsmith. Estimates given on request. All jobbing promptly attended to. Phone 1348, or address 416 Barrie street. Pure Marmalade. Cross and Blackwell Chivers and Son's. In 7 lb. tins. \$41-3 Princess St. D. COUPER. Phone 78. Prompt Delivery. (Coast Sealed Oysters)

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Sympathy With Allies. Rochester, N.Y., Post-Express. The sympathy of the United States will henceforth be indelibly with the Allies, and it is unlikely that any American who counts will attempt any longer to justify war as Germany wages it, without compensation or regard for humanity or international law. As for America and other neutral powers, they will now awaken, if they have not, to the realization that the only hope for mankind lies in such an ending to this conflict as shall preclude for the future the possibility that any power can carry on a war regardless of civilized conventions without rousing the world in arms to fight it to extinction.

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