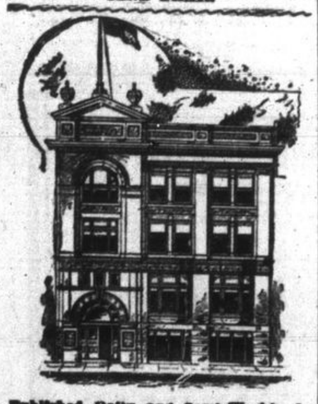
The British Whig

82ND YEAR.



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NO MONEY TO SPEND.

The Mayor is to be thanked for calling the attention of the Board of Works to the untidy condition of Princess street on Sunday. It can be made presentable every day, and especially on Sunday, if two things be done: (1) a by-law passed, and enforced, making it an offence to throw paper and waste on the highway; (2) if waste paper boxes or receptacles be placed at the corners of certain streets for the reception of this waste. One thing is certain: the main street of the city cannot be kept as it ought to be while present conditions prevail. It is a surprise to have the Chairman of the Works Committee declare, with his usual unction, that Princess street cannot be maintained free of litter because he has no money for this purpose. Yet his committee is said to be so flush of funds that it can spend hundreds of dollars more on asphalt than it need spend by accepting a higher and rejecting a lower tender. This is the way the Council would have run the Utilities had the people been foolish enough to vote for the abolition of the Commission.

The Conservative party of Manitoba has, through its executive, repudiated the men who represented them in the Government. Roblin, Coldwell, Montague, et al were wise in announcing their retirement from public life.

ANTICIPATING COMING EVENTS.

The voters' lists in Manitoba are being prepared as a necessary precaution. There is no apparent desire to use them in a provincial election, since the Norris Government does not want to go to the people until the political house-cleaning has been made complete. A session of the Legislature cannot be held with a membership so evenly divided that business cannot be done, and a session is really not looked for until the scandals have been thoroughly exposed.

The voters' lists may be wanted for a Federal election, which is still under consideration by the Government, notwithstanding all the protests that have been offered against it. The old voters' lists were notoriously incomplete, and notoriously unfair, so far as the Liberals were concerned, and the Norris Government while probing the scandals to the end will see that the Hon. "Bob" Rogers does not get any advantage by the use of them.

The Manitoba voters' lists have no special significance so far as the local Legislature is concerned. They have a serious significance only so far as the Rogers' machine is concerned.

A Winnipeg K. C. has it that $50,000 were paid to the Liberals after the last election by the Government in order to escape election protests and election trials. Assumption is one thing and evidence another. Let us have the proof.

ACCEPTS THE HIGHER TENDER.

Some criticism has been offered because the Board of Works has accepted a high tender for asphalt in preference to a lower one, and with the result that the order calls for an expenditure of several hundred dollars more for one than for the other. The Texas asphalt would have cost 6.84c per imperial gallon, while the Aztec cost 13 8-10c per imperial gallon.

The Committee appears to have been somewhat undecided while the Council meeting was in progress about the tenders, and because the information with regard to the asphalt was not as comprehensive as it might have been. For financial reasons, the lower tender submitted by a citizen, and with a guarantee of his company behind him, should not have been rejected unless the Committee had the most positive proof that the asphalt he had represented was inferior in quality. Granted that the evidence was not present as to the satisfaction the Texas asphalt had rendered elsewhere, the data was available, or it could be had by the writing of a few letters. Why should an offer which involved a large sum in a war year, and suggesting a large saving, be declined without the fullest consideration?

The Committee's defense, as stated by one member, is that the chemical analysis of a Kingston man favored the asphalt that was chosen at the higher price; but on the next morning the chemical analysis of a New York firm of chemists came to hand, and nothing could be more favorable than it to the Texas asphalt.

The Committee and the Council may be able to defend the transaction, but it will require a lot of explanation before it can be fully endorsed.

The local Y. M. C. A. deserves the support of our people. The cause generally is worthy of assistance, but the institution that specially serves the young men and boys of the city appeals to the heart and pocket.

THE DAILY SENSATION.

The Conservative members of the Manitoba Legislature have become impatient of results so far as the Royal Commission is concerned. It was appointed to investigate all the facts in connection with the Parliament building contracts, and it has by no means exhausted the enquiry. It has been hindered in some ways; it has been delayed in other ways; so that all the truth with regard to the scandal has not been learned.

Enough is known, however, to satisfy anyone, Liberal or Conservative, that political conditions in Manitoba have been very bad. They have surely been without a parallel in Canada. That is saying a great deal, conveying some idea, though an inadequate one, of the depths of the iniquity and the disgrace into which the Conservative leaders have fallen.

The fourteen members of the Legislature, who are now in action with an intense passion for purity, were, while the Roblin Government reigned, willing enough to profit by their associations. They stood by the Government in the face of the fiercest charges. The present Attorney-General in the Norris Government did his best to make clear the wrong-doing of that Government, and they would not listen to him. It was only when an appeal was made to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Royal Commission was appointed and the fate of the Government was sealed.

Now it is charged that the Liberals entered into an agreement by which the change of Government was to take place, with resignations from the Conservative side to permit of the new Government carrying on business, and with election scandals hushed up on payment by the Conservatives of $50,000. It is sufficient for the present to know that the Attorney-General denies the whole story and declares it to be a fabrication. That, of course, does not dispose of it. The Royal Commission must be enlarged to cover these new charges, or a new Commission must be appointed to investigate them. There is not a decent Liberal in Canada who can wish or want to whitewash the Liberals of Manitoba — if they be guilty of wrong-doing. There is not a tittle of evidence against them thus far, and the man who fyled the charges on behalf of the fourteen Conservative members of the Legislature admits that he may find it difficult to prove them. As a sensation, they have probably served their purpose for the day.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Russian failures to advance in Germany are due to two things: the activity of the German spies, and the lack of ammunition. Of the two, the spies create the greatest anxiety.

Montreal taxes every patron of the theatres and picture shows a cent each per evening in the interests of the charities and hospitals: One way of making every one contribute to a worthy cause.

A certain Chinaman was most obliging during the Patriotic Fund campaign. He gladly signed four different cards for $10 each, and then disappeared. A heathenish trick. It is hoped that he did not get it from any Christian.

The country is being threatened with an election because the Liberals have not been muzzled during the recess, and the noisiest and busiest disturbers of the peace are the Finance Minister and Solicitor General of the Government. The Premier had better call them in.

Hon. "Bob" Rogers is said to have been at the bottom of the new Conservative movement in Manitoba. The old leaders are to be shaken or sacrificed as a wicked lot, and new leaders chosen. Anything that Rogers suggests must be pure and undefiled.

Henry Siegel, formerly merchant prince of New York, has gone to State Prison for a period. He would not settle with the depositors in his bank. He offered to pay them a certain proportion of his indebtedness. They differed as to the amount they should receive, and got nothing.

The local Patriotic Fund collections are now slow. A small percentage of the subscriptions may be lost — on all subscription lists, there are certain amounts uncollectable — but it will be very small if the signers of these lists remember the sacred nature of the trust.

The Mayor says there is a missing link between the Commission and the Council. Not if he does his duty. He represents the Council on the Commission, and should be able to give the Council all the information it wants or needs with regard to the Utilities. Yes, he is "the missing link."

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The furnishings at the police station are incomplete. Locks are needed for the cells. At present handcuffs are used in the cell doors in place of locks.

Trinity College defeated R. M. C. cadets at cricket to-day.

MADE THEM NOTORIOUS.

And Mrs. Pipe Sought and Obtained a Divorce.

Ft. Scott, Kansas, June 23.—Mrs. Mary Pipe was granted a divorce here from Harry D. Pipe on her allegation that she received undesirable publicity when her husband made his way into Buckingham Palace in London, England, several months ago.

Pipe scaled the walls of Buckingham Palace, and, eluding guards, entered the building, where he remained several hours before his presence was discovered.

Elections In War Time.

London News and Leader.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has intimated his readiness to support, from patriotic motives, the Government of his opponents, provided there be no attempt at a dissolution of the Canadian Parliament during the war. In Australia and New Zealand, whose patriotism is as little suspect as Canada's, there has already, on the other hand, been a general election since the declaration of war. In this country the problem is complicated by the Parliament Act and the political truce, and it is true, of course, that there is a difference between a change in the Imperial and a change in Colonial Government. But it is in essence the same. The real objection to a general election here — as presumably in Canada—is the considerable proportion of electors who could not owing to the war record their votes. Even if it were not the farce that those opposed to it maintain, the defeated party would be sure to claim that it was, and the utmost rancor of party conflict would be excited at a time when nothing but evil can result from it.

Which?

A little man with a little brain
Went forth in his little car,
He hummed a song as he bowled along,
Content with the things that are.
A mighty man with a mighty brain
Whizzed past on the swift highway
Too spent and old to enjoy the gold
Exchanged for his youth's brief day.

The rich man's car was an eager thing
Which leaped to a hireling's hand,
The poor man steered down a road, unfeared,
Through a kind and a joyous land.
Oh, who will say which the wise man was,
And which was the fool of the twain
The one grown old with his bags of gold,
Or the one with a little brain?

—H. S. Haskins, New York Sun.

The Spanish Cabinet has resigned, the Government considering the failure of the recent loan to be equivalent to a vote of lack of confidence.

The Prince of Wales attained his majority on Wednesday. There was no public celebration. The Prince is in France.

Mrs. Lucy Freeman, an elderly and esteemed resident of Athens, died on Monday after an illness of several weeks.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

A man always feels contemptible when he lets a girl kiss him against his will.

"In union there is strength"—so a meek and lowly man with a strenuous wife says.

Lawyers are the people who work with a will after doctors go ahead and prepare the way.

But it is human nature to desire to be equal to your superiors and superior to your equals.

Unkindest Cut.

Harduppe—"Flubdub is pretty mean, isn't he?"

Borrowell—"Mean? Why, say, that fellow is mean enough to have his name engraved on the handle of his umbrella."

Defined.

"I feel like a Chinese junk," remarked the guest at a Southern winter resort.

Politely we bit.

"I am boarded by pirates," he answered to our query.

Try This.

"Does your wife ever scold when you have been out late at the club?"

Dibbs—"Never! She merely gets up at four o'clock the next morning and practises on the piano, and I daren't say a word."

Gems Of Thought.

To speak wisely may not always be easy, but not to speak ill requires only silence.

Self-conceit blinds; self-will destroys; self-oblation consecrates; self-sacrifice saves.

A wise man sets his face according to his time. Early speed gives margin for slackening toward the end.

Aim at perfection in everything; though in most things it is unattainable; however, they who aim at it and persevere will come much nearer to it than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable.—Chesterfield.

The presence of religion in politics might be salutary. The presence of politics in religions is a menace to morality.

Gifts of money, articles of dress, flowers, food, souvenirs and the like, will wear out; but a lovely thought cast into the heart of a friend will abide, enriching the heart.

Commiseration.

Regular Customer—"I shall want a large quantity of flowers from you next week for my daughter's coming out."

Flower Woman—"Yes, mum. You shall 'ave the very best for 'er, pore dear. Wot were she put in for?"

Qualified.

Billy Mooney, after running a barber shop in Centerville for two or three years, decided to become a dentist. His uncle, Si, upon hearing of his decision, dropt in to talk it over.

"Yes, Billy," said he. "dentistry is about the easiest new job you could tackle. You know how to work the chair already, so the rest ought to come easy enough."

The Price.

Jean longed for a kitten, When illness made it necessary for Jean to go to the hospital, her mother said: "I will make a bargain with you, Jean. If you will be a brave little girl about your operation, you shall have the nicest kitten I can find."

Jean took the ether, but later, as she came out from under the anesthetic, she realized how very wretched she felt. The nurse leaned over to catch her first spoken word.

"What a bum way to get a cat!" moaned the child.

Lucky Victim.

A "cub" reporter on a New York newspaper was sent to Paterson to write the story of the murder of a rich manufacturer by thieves. He spread himself on the details and naively concluded his account with this sentence:

"Fortunately for the deceased, he had deposited all of his money in the bank the day before, so he lost practically nothing but his life."

The Danger Sign.

Pretty Cashier—"You might give me a holiday to recruit my health. My beauty is beginning to fade."

Manager—"What makes you think so?"

Pretty Cashier—"The men are beginning to count their change."

Rippling Rhymes by Walt Mason

THE IDLE RICH.

I'm fond of coin, but I don't itch to be among the idle rich, who have long green to burn; their wealth I could not well employ, for I could never much enjoy the bone I did not earn. Oh, every coin of mine is wet with honest, rich, transparent sweat, until it has been dried; it represents no sire's bequest, no buried miser's treasure chest, no "multi's" pomp and pride. I grind my anthem mill at home, and every time I make a pome, I take in fifty cents; I get more pleasure blowing in this hard-earned, sweat stained slice of tin, than do the wealthy gents. Their coin comes easy as the rain, it represents no stress or strain, no toil in shop or den; they use their wealth to buy and sell, like taking water from a well; the hole fills up again. We do not value much the thing which, like an everlasting spring, wells up, year after year; if you'd appreciate a bone, you have to earn it with a groan, and soak it with a tear. I'd rather have the rusty dime for which I labored overtime, and sprained a wing or slat, than have the large and shining buck that Fortune handed me, or Luck; get wise, rich lad, to that.

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