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NOT GIVING EVIDENCE.

Fourteen Conservat' ve members of the Legislature alleged, in a petition which they presented to the Royal Commission in Winnipeg, that overtures had been made for a deal between the Conservative Government that was, the Roblin dynasty, and the Liberal Opposition. They averred that for a consideration of \$50,000 the probe of the Commission was to be dropped and that sufficient of the Conservative members were to resign in order to permit the Norris Government to carry on the business of the Province. The facts are suggestive. The probe was not stopped. The Conservative members did not resign. The Kellys, the contractors, were said to have given a large contribution to the Liberal campaign fund and the Liberals should have favored them. Yet the Liberal Government is after they and they are applying to the courts for protection because they are in danger of civil suits and criminal prosecutions. Notice further that the Counsel for the fourteen Conservative members submits the names of several persons who are supposed to be able to give light upon a dark transaction, but not one of them is an ex-member of the Government or a Conservative member of the Legislature. Comment is not in order while the case is under enquiry, but the position of the fourteen members of the Legislature is remarkable to say the least of it.

CHALLENGE TO CONSUMERS.

Canada, through her great producers industrially, has been challenged to show what she can do. She may not have yielded the best, in the exercise of her talents and capital, but she has made some articles that adorn and wear and satisfy, and that is a great achievement. Next to bracing up the maker of goods and helping him to spend his money, in this country is the ability to buy at home. Why should not our merchants get the benefit of every purchase which can be made in Kingston? "Oh," says some one, "but we cannot get some things we want at home." Has such a one tried real hard? A merchant puts the issue in this way: "I may not have the identical thing that some one asks for. It may not be in general demand. You know we buy what we think the people want. Occasionally we do not rise high enough in our appreciation. We have not anticipated a call for some expensive goods. But we can buy things as cheaply as the enquirer. We can get what he wants as well as he can. We are in touch with the trade and have options which only the trade can control. So I like the idea which you are advancing, buy at home. Buy everything, and see what the effect will be on business." The Whig hopes to follow up this theme in a series of special illustrations which have cost it some thought and considerable money. It believes that there will be a ready response of the people to the points as they are made. It is assumed that the effect will be as good here as it has been elsewhere, and, let us add, confidently, that the record is one that has gladdened the heart of everyone wherever it has been tried.

DEMAND FOR ORGANIZATION.

Organization is the watchword of the hour. In this war only the German Empire has been perfectly organized for aggressive action. It was organized many years ago. The aim of the Government and the aim of the Emperor, who has been made upon this point, is the excellence of the army and the excellence of all

that contributes to its supremacy. It has been perfect in all its parts and appointments, and when war began it simply had additional power applied in order to produce more men and more munitions. And the machine is still in operation, and with an increasing velocity. Britain has seen the necessity for organizing her army and her industries. She may have been late in getting into motion with the speed and power which are called for by a great emergency; but the speed has been at last attained, and the productivity of her industries is being amazingly increased. Britain has the men and the resources. It is only a question of using them skillfully and energetically in order to realize expectations. France is feeling the force of current circumstances, and is rapidly increasing her industrial activity. Every man who can work, and so contribute to the sum total of the explosive power which is needed at the front, to blast a way through the German lines and fortifications, is put where he can do the best service. Even this skilled labor of France, as of Britain, is being recalled from the trenches to be more usefully employed in the workshop and at the forge.

The same movement is going on in Russia, and it must go on in the British Colonies if they are to do their best and hope to bring the war to a speedy termination. Of peace there can be none while the lust for blood remains unchecked in the German army. That lust must be effectively destroyed. To that end Australia is called upon to organize her forces. The latest information is that the Government is calling to its counsels the leading men and manufacturers, the captains of industry, all indeed who can help in building up a great plan which will develop the industrial and military power of the Commonwealth.

The same thing must happen in Canada. The Premier and the Minister of Militia are going to Britain to consult with the War Department with regard to the situation. Let us hope that they will return presently to follow the example of Australia, to put politics completely in the background, and to organize the human energies of this country so that every class, every talent, and every resource will be worked to the utmost, with the highest degree of efficiency and with the very best results.

THE PEOPLE BE HANGED.

Z. A. Lash, K.C., has been severely criticised because he assumed the grave responsibility of destroying the telegrams which passed between certain persons who were concerned in the Winnipeg Parliament Building scandal. Some of these telegrams were produced by the C.P.R. when they were wanted, and the real meaning of them, though they were signed by factitious names, was easily read. Some of them were compromising in their character, especially the one that was sent by a public official to another specifying the spicy terms which Mr. Salt required in order to evade appearing before the Public Accounts' Committee and giving evidence.

The telegrams which were in the office of the G.N.W. Company, at Winnipeg, were sorted out of the files during a recess of the Commission and burned. The instruction was ordered by the President of the Company, because he was personally, and perhaps politically anxious that there should not be a publicity of "confidential information belonging to the rulers of the country." The "rulers" were Ex-Ministers who had been ruthlessly repudiated by the party, who are down and out of public life, in whose behalf not the feeblest defence has been made. Another was the Hon. Robt. Rogers, who was telegraphed to by an Ex-Minister, advised that he was as much, if not more, concerned in the scandal than the Provincial leaders. And Mr. Rogers seems to have interpreted the "tip" aright, and according to later telegrams which were not consigned to the flames and oblivion, busied himself in securing counsel for the Kellys. Chief of the Staff is Ex-Judge Phlippen. He is the specialist of the C.N.R. The interest of this road in the exhibit was further displayed when copies of the destroyed telegrams were supplied to the Western Manager, though they were confidential and belonged to the aforesaid "rulers" of the country.

Mr. Lash has invited a pretty cautious criticism of himself by the learned profession. Members of it see in his action that which brings him into open conflict with public opinion. He may gratify the "rulers" of the country, and may have acted upon their initiative, as they knew what the telegrams contained, but as the head of a corporation which controls a great public franchise, he cannot assume a defiant attitude. He cannot say as the Ottawa Journal observes, in effect, if not in words, as the late Elder Vanderbilt once did to his subsequent chagrin and regret, "the public be damned." Sooner or later this airy attitude will suggest a remedy or a provision in law that will prevent a repetition of the act. The Ottawa Journal is

right when it says that if Mr. Lash's performance is legal it should be made unlawful in future. "And if the Company's action is lawful, the Company should be made to pay the penalty." Meanwhile it is assumed that Mr. Lash has written a powerful brief in favor of state ownership of telegraphs.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Where two Royal Commissions are at work digging up political scandal in Winnipeg, the air must be bad. Can the work not be put off until after the war?

Hon. "Bob" Rogers is attending to the registration of voters in Winnipeg. He does not control the registrars. He may not have a clench upon his present seat in Winnipeg. But if beaten or driven off, he can find a lodgment in Carleton where the highly perfumed Garland must go.

Mr. Lash would have fared better in the public esteem, had he, when justifying the burning of the telegrams sent by members of the Roblin and Ottawa Governments, refrained from reflecting on the Royal Commission. Extraordinary corruption necessitates an extraordinary cure.

Sir Charles Davidson has requested the Auditor General to report any suspicious circumstance or transaction which he has encountered in the performance of his duty. Sir Charles' Commission had better be made a part of the audit system. There is work for it to do. It will be remembered that the Auditor-General, before one of the Parliamentary Committee's last session, said he could usefully employ of corps of detectives. Perhaps a Royal Commission would look better and have more power.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Cost Of War. (Ottawa Journal). Canada has voted \$150,000,000 for the war; Britain spends that amount every fifteen days.

No Reason At All. (London Advertiser). Mr. Bryan says the war is a "causeless" one. But is that any reason why we should permit the Hun to walk over us?

Not At All Kind. (Hamilton Spectator). Count Zeppelin is reported as seriously ill of bronchitis. No serious objection would be taken at this juncture if he coughed his old head off.

Not Fast Colour. (Owego Times). Although the manufacturers are complaining of the shortage of dye stuffs, it is believed they can color their goods so they will last until the first wash.

They Are, Friend. (Toronto Globe). Manitoba's Provincial Architect said he was told by the Premier that the contract operations were only politics. To some minds politics and grand larceny are synonymous terms.

Tramp's Experience. (Guelph Mercury). Two tramps stealing a ride on a freight train made the mistake of getting into a refrigerator car at Denver and were nearly frozen before they got out. The police arrested them, but did not consider it necessary to put them in the town cooler.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

In the Central school out of 177 candidates, for promotion 171 passed. Capt. McKay, a graduate of the R.M.C. has been appointed an English surgeon at \$1,000 a year.

Women. "Women are dreams," murmured the sentimentalist, gazing on a group of them in silk attire. "You bet they are," the practicalist snapped back at the murmuring one, "and dreams go by contraries, all right."—Judge.

No man will admit that he is half as jealous or suspicious as he really is.



WASTED MEN.

Old Europe now has tasted the grim results of war; her sons, forever wasted, are lying near and far; the night dew's cold, but colder the wasted men who molder by every tree and boulder, on every knoll and tor. Still Europe goes on killing her sons, with Bedlam mirth, as though a bogus shilling were all the lads are worth; her red repeat she munches, her brave young men she crunches, as though they grew in bunches, from out a second earth. Old Death, the grisly reaper, is king beyond the seas; he says, "Young men are cheaper than things that grow on trees; know all men by these presents, boys cheaper are than pheasants, and in the blood of peasants I'm wading to my knees." Does any one remember why nations went to war, last August or September—what are they fighting for? A ten cent duke was smitten, and all the kings flea-bitten, reared up and yelled, "This written than blood must flow, be got!" No cause could be tremendous enough to justify that agony tremendous out where the dead men lie; but, saith the grisly reaper, "The blood is flowing deeper and human lives grow cheaper—come forth, young men, and die!"



WISE AND OTHERWISE

Bunions are nobby things in shoes.

A babe in arms worth two armed with toy pistols.

Many an illiterate man is able to make his dollar mark.

Her Desire. Said Mrs. Hippopotamus, "Oh, I'll be happy when The fashions grow more sensible And hips come back again!"

The Rolling Waves. A New York man was crossing the Atlantic with an army officer who suffered greatly from seasickness.

On entering the stateroom one particularly rough day, he found the officer tossing in his berth, muttering in what at first appeared to be a sort of delirium.

Stooping over to catch his words, the friend heard him say: Sergeant Major . . . Sergeant Brigadier General . . . ugh, Lieutenant General . . . a-a-ah!

"What are you saying?" asked the friend in some alarm, as the officer looked piteously up at him after his last gasping "a-a-ah!"

"Assigning the waves their rank," said the military man, rolling toward the wall again. "There have been eight Lieutenant Generals within the last 20 minutes."—Everybody's Magazine.

Gems Of Thought. It is the petty vexations that often finds the weak spot in a strong soul.

The New Testament is the account of Jesus, who dominates all Christendom to-day, who is the most powerful influence in civilization two thousand years after leaving this earth.

Esau filled his life with regret for trifling one day; Esther was full of glory for one day's courage. Peter slept one hour and lost a matchless opportunity; Mary's name is fragrant forever for the loving deed of a day. Do you best now.—Malville D. Babcock.

The charity which will simply pitch a ten-dollar gold piece into a poor widow's lap is not charity. The charity that binds up and sympathizes with and puts its arms around and helps a brother—that's the charity that takes us close to heaven.—Billy Sunday.

The tendency of human nature is downward and backward and you can trace its origin where you may.—Billy Sunday.

Time To Love. "I love my love in the springtime," Declared a poet mild, "I need not buy her roses high, For then they blossom wild."

"I love my love in the springtime, It suits us poet men; For poets poor, you may be sure, 'Tis better loving then."—Kansas City Journal

Reached His Limit. The styles are stunning this year," said the enthusiastic young woman. "Are they?" rejoined the bashful man. "Haven't you noticed?"

"No. After observing the stunning styles of last year I'm afraid to look."—Washington Star.

Looked New To Him. Randolph—Is that Buxton's new girl with him? Sylvester—Oh, no; that's just one of his old ones painted over.—Pudge

Ample Reason. "Then you are not going to the house party?" "No." "Why not?" "I went to a house party once."—Kansas City Journal.

Hard On Father. Thomas A. Edison, on his recent birthday, said:

"Shall I talk to you newspaper boys about our wonderful American inventions or about our wonderful American extravagance? I disagree with John D., in most things, but I'm with him in his blame of our extravagance, waste and living beyond our means.

In an Orange school, in celebration of one of my birthdays, a teacher asked a little girl:

"What is the most wonderful thing a man ever made?" "A living for his family," the little girl promptly answered.

Much Cheaper. "I'm going South for the rheumatism." "It's cheaper to get it here."—Boston Transcript.

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