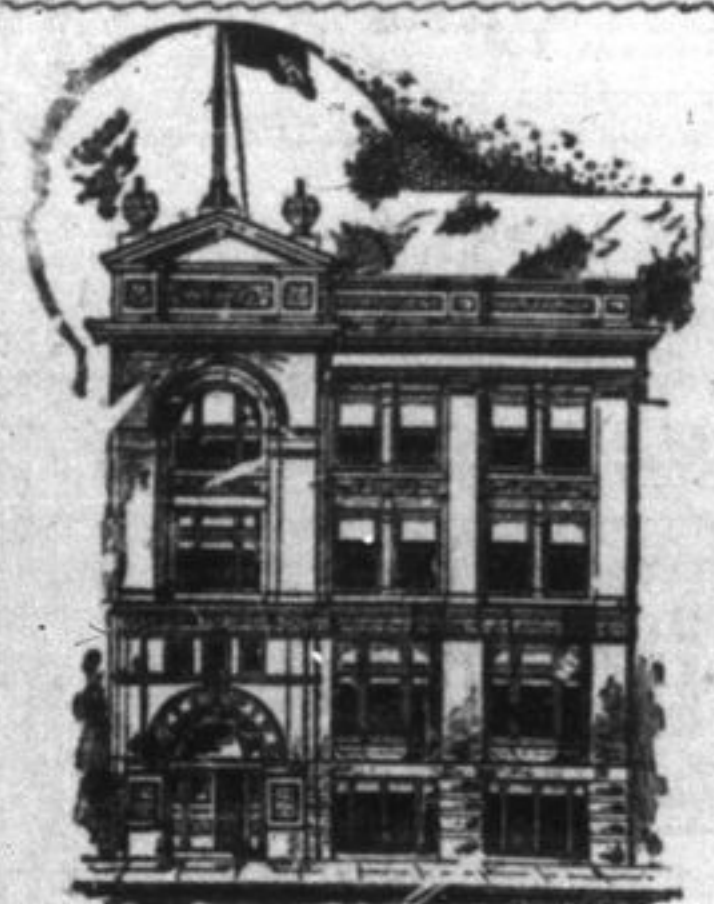


The British Whig 82ND YEAR.



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WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY.

The Lindsay Post emphasizes the wrong doing of the Government in connection with its public contracts. One W. E. Baker tendered for a supply of coal. He was notified that his offer had been accepted and that jointly, with another firm, he would supply the coal required by the Armories.

It is a small matter, but it shows the "patriotic" way in which the Government is carrying on the business of the country in these war times. The Liberals are expected to say nothing in the way of criticism.

It is time that Canada had what it is proposed to have in England, namely, a controller who is capable of organizing the Purchasing Department of the Government, and of enforcing the strictest business methods. One who can bring about the necessary economies in the "public service" would be able to save millions of dollars per annum.

LIFE AND MORALITY.

A case in Chicago has attracted a great deal of attention. It is that of a child born at the German-American hospital and so sadly deformed that the mother has no desire to see it live. The physician in attendance does not think he is guilty of any crime when he stays his hand and withholds the help which he could give.

"I am doing what the parents have given me the option to do," said he, when spoken to about the case, "and what it would take a pretty stiff argument to keep me from doing. I am allowing nature to take her course with the child. We are feeding it some. It is only sensible to discomfort. There is no brain development to register suffering, and pretty soon nature shall make blank her mistake."

The mother of the child said in a faint, but determined, voice: "I have given the doctor permission to do as he wishes with my baby. I don't want it to live. I want it to die. Dying now is better than living with a crippled brain and body. I would not visit such suffering upon myself or my husband, and surely not upon my very own child. I wish that death would take it soon."

It is reported that members of the Humane Society intend to bring the case to court and to prosecute the physician. They may learn then what they do not seem to know now, that nature is allowed to do her best to save life while the medical men give something to quiet the pain. This hopelessly deformed child could perhaps be saved by an operation, and the surgeon stays his hand. He has no fearlessness in confessing the fact because he says he feels and knows that he is right. This opens the way for a great train of thoughts, and leads to all sorts of

deductions. The Humane Society members cannot see the wisdom of leaving this case in the hands of the mother and her physician, and when infinite love cannot find fault, cold, stern, relentless logic cannot make much of an impression.

POINT OF IMPORTANCE.

The Journal of Commerce calls attention to a "lax administration of the Dominion Insurance Act." A young man, carrying a \$5,000 policy, on which he had paid a second premium of \$208.75, (less \$75 for which he had given a note), returned home after an extended absence of six days after the note was due. He found that his policy had been cancelled. The Company refused to revive it, to reinsure his life, though he was in good health and was willing to pay the amount of the note, unless he signed a waiver. It was to the effect that should he volunteer for military or naval service and die three months after the conclusion of peace, his estate would be entitled to but 25 per cent. of the face value of the policy. He would not sign this waiver and he is to-day without the insurance.

The Journal of Commerce writes the Superintendent of Insurance in Ottawa with regard to the case, and the Superintendent cited Section 95, (j), of the Insurance Act of 1910, which provided that a reinstatement can take place within two years from the date of lapse "subject to evidence of insurability satisfactory to the Company." The question is the application of this clause to the case of one who contemplated military service. The Journal of Commerce thinks the stand of the Superintendent is a weak one. He should protect the policy holder if he can, and if the Act be weak in any respect he should call attention to the fact. Not one in a hundred persons is likely to know about the provisions of the law upon this point, and the clause of the Act should not be used without the consent of the Superintendent of Insurance.

Above all the Journal protests against the interpretation which the Superintendent of Insurance has put upon Section 95, (j) and it says that had the Superintendent protested the Insurance Companies would not insist for there is little, if anything, in the law to support their contentions. This is an interesting case and one which affects many insurable persons in Canada at the present time. The Journal is to be thanked for expressing its opinion so candidly upon the subject. The editor, Hon. Mr. Fielding, was Minister of Finance when the Act of 1910 was amended, and he had charge of the bill, in its passage through the Commons. He is, therefore, one who ought to know whereof he speaks.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Toronto Telegram is fully persuaded that the British Empire cannot be saved by talk. Its idea is that Sir George Postef should cease to be Minister of Trade and Commerce and become Minister of Munitions.

The International Waterways Commission is studying the pollution of the Detroit River. They will later study the pollution of Lakes Erie and Ontario. Their report upon the question will be awaited with profound interest.

Mr. Lavergne has been referred to as a nice, well-meaning man. And he is a preacher of sedition. What is there about him and the example he is setting the young men of the country at this particular time? Lavergne is a lieutenant-colonel, who will not don the uniform and fight in the war zone.

The talk of the day is for municipal managers, men who will take hold of the municipal business and carry it through like the managers of great corporations. A manager of some sort is wanted in Ottawa at the present time, and in connection with the War Department. With his aid some of the troubles which are apparent would be avoided.

The war is developing a new experience. The young men of the Old Land who will not enlist must remain to face the dangers of inaction. Steamship companies will not transport them to America, or rather the crews of the steamships will not sail upon them if the young men of Britain are allowed to escape their duty. Conscriptio by another name.

The staff correspondent of the Toronto News, in 1911, when he was serving the Conservative party, referred to Mr. Bourassa as an "honourable, healthy-minded, and independent Canadian, who cannot be induced to sell his principles for a personal or political consideration." Now he is described as one who grows more contemptible as he grows in experience. This probably from the same pen is astonishing.

Beef or Dairy? Toronto Weekly Sun. With beef-cattle selling around \$7 and \$8 and better, and with labor scarce and likely to be scarcer still, there is a strong temptation to switch from dairying and its demand for unremitting labor to beef production, in which less labor is required, and where the call for labor as is required comes at the slackest time

of the year. Even under present conditions, if the help demanded in milking can be in any way provided for, the change would hardly be wise. One is doing fairly well when \$50 worth of beef is produced as a result of two years of feeding and care. A reasonably good cow will produce that amount in cream in a single year, and a lot of skim milk for hogs and poultry in addition. Of course more feed and labor are called for in the latter case, but even at that the advantage is on the side of dairying. Besides, simply because it calls for less labor, the beef end will go the first to be overdone, and consequently the first to feel the decline in prices. The milk cow has been the main element in the prosperity of Ontario agriculture in the past twenty-five years, and will apparently hold that position for an indefinite period in the future.

Soaking the British.

Britain has been charged \$5.15 for machining 18-pounder shells, though they could be machined profitably at \$1. By steps the British authorities succeeded in getting the price down to \$2.90. Even though a responsible contractor offered to machine the shells at \$1.40, the Dominion Shell Committee ordered shell machining at \$2.90. Certain Canadian shells have been costing more than United States shells to the Montreal. In a newspaper interview a Cabinet Minister gave as a reason for the Dominion Government refusing to use the government shops for shell-making, that the government did not want to compete with the Canadian private interests. The visit of Mr. D. A. Thomas to Canada saved the British treasury at least \$15,000,000, by introducing and insisting upon a form of competition among Canadian contractors. Mr. D. A. Thomas also recommended the use of the Transcontinental state-owned machine shops. But a Dominion Cabinet politician says "nothing could be madder" than state use of the government shops. They might compete with private interests.

A wasted opportunity comes home to roost.

Decreased Assessed Values

Montreal Star. There has been considerable herding of the fact that, for the first time in the city's history, there has to be shown this year a decrease in assessed property values. The reduction is set down at fifteen million dollars. While the sum to be uninitiated may seem large, it is in truth a mere bagatelle, and in no wise points to any particular depreciation in property values. In one year alone, from 1912 to 1913, assessments were set up to the tune of over one hundred and forty million dollars. In less than five years time, indeed, the assessments have actually doubled. Civic statistics prove this astonishing fact. From this perspective a very clear idea is got of the unimportance of the fifteen million dollars decrease. What is more remarkable, indeed, than the reduction in question, are the figures showing that the "exemptions" have actually increased this year by one million dollars. The total property footings up the huge amount of two hundred and sixteen million dollars.

The longer a man lives in a community the more money his neighbors owe him—or else the more he owes to his neighbors.

Some men kick when they have a heavy load to carry and some others kick because they haven't the price of a "load."

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The official board of Sydenham Street Church will discuss the call of Rev. W. W. Carson, to a Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

A movement is on foot to form a landlord's Association in Kingston. The names of all tenants who have not paid their rent will be secured printed and distributed among the landlords. These tenants will then be unable to rent houses without paying rent in advance.

W. Dunlop will be a candidate for municipal honors in Victoria Ward.

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Sleepytime Tales

SNOWBALL AND THE BALL OF YARN.

Once upon a time Snowball, the white kitten, was playing in the kitchen while Cook was sitting at the window knitting stockings from a big ball of gray yarn. Snowball wished she could play with the ball but Cook was very cross and wouldn't let her. Finally the ball rolled to the floor. Snowball looked up and there was Cook fast asleep. This was the chance Snowball had been hoping for and, in a minute, she was having a fine play with the ball of yarn.

As the kitten played the ball began to unwind and soon little Snowball was all tangled up in the loose yarn until you couldn't tell whether it was kitten or a ball of yarn that was flying so frantically about the kitchen. Snowball began to be frightened, for the harder she tried to get away from the yarn the tighter it clung to her and her paws were so tangled up that she could hardly walk.

Just then in walked her friend, Spotty the dog, and as soon as Snowball saw him she tried to tell him of her awful trouble. Spotty had never seen anything like a mass of yarn rolling about so he began to fight it, barking as hard as he could and running back when the ball rolled towards him.

Cook woke with a start and as she saw the ball of yarn she sprang. Snowball with a cry of dismay which frightened the kitten even more. It took Cook a long time to get Snowball untangled and, of course, she couldn't use her yarn after that for she had to cut it in pieces to get the kitten free.

This made Cook so angry that she let Snowball go without her supper and she also shut her up in the cellar until it was time to go to bed. Snowball never forgot that lesson and now, if you show her a ball of yarn, she will run as fast as she can under the couch and won't come out so long as the yarn is in sight.

"Low Cost of Living" Menu

Menu for Saturday

BREAKFAST: Baked Apples, Creamed Fish, Toast, Coffee.

LUNCHEON: Rice Soup, Cheese Crackers, Steamed Potatoes, Tea.

DINNER: Vegetable Soup, Boston Baked Beans, Lettuce with Roquefort, Cheese Dressing, Baked Indian Pudding.

BREAKFAST: Creamed Fish—Cream a tablespoon of flour and the same of butter. Stir into two cups of boiling milk. When thick add a cup and a half of flaked sennet haddie, cooked.

LUNCHEON: Rice Soup—Cook half a cup of rice in two quarts of water four hours. Strain and serve with a teaspoon of rice in each cup.

DINNER: Vegetable Soup—Boil half a cup each of raw diced potatoes, carrots, turnips, and parsnips. Dice two stalks of celery and mix with half a green pepper cut fine and one tablespoon of rice. Cover with cold water and boil one hour.

Boston Baked Beans—Parboil one quart of small beans which have been soaked overnight. Drain and place in a bean pot with half a pound of fat salt pork, a cup of molasses, and a teaspoon of mustard and a little pepper. Fill the pot with water and bake very slowly all day.

Lettuce with Roquefort Cheese Dressing—Mix six tablespoons of oil, three of lemon juice or vinegar, and a little salt and pepper. When well blended add a tablespoon of grated Roquefort cheese. Pour over the lettuce.

Baked Indian Pudding—Pour one pint of boiling milk over a cup of Indian meal, a quarter of a teaspoon of ginger and a quarter of a cup of molasses. Turn into a baking dish, add a pint of milk and bake six hours in a very slow oven.

Rippling Rhymes

THE DOOMED BIRD

The day will be with us in a trice—Thanksgiving Day, of grateful glee. Still stands the ancient sacrifice, a turkey roosting in a tree. I wonder why we always eat a turkey and a pumpkin pie, to show we're grateful for the wheat that in the bin is piled up high. We see our larders amply full, the bald-faced hens are laying eggs, the sheep have grown so plump, and much wool that they are spawning in the legs; the cupboard's full of shreds of oats, the pantry shelves have jars of jams, the cows are thrifty and the shotes give pledge of bacon and of hams. All mundane things have come our way, we gain each prize for which we try, and, filled with gratitude, we say, "We'll eat a gobbler and a pie." The turkey roosts in yonder tree, and hopes to dodge the butcher's gaze; but such a boon is not to be, alas, for numbered are his days. So many blessings crown our lives, so many gifts without alloy, that we, and all our aunts and wives, must find some way to show our joy. We find existence full and sweet, each day's the best that e'er went by; and so we fondly say, "We'll eat a turkey and a pumpkin pie."

About Babies.

Sunshine Bulletin. Almost all countries have their superstitions about babies. In Holland, bread, steak, garlic and salt are put into the cradle of a new baby to insure it always getting enough to eat. In Greece, the mother, before placing her child in its cradle, turns it three times round before the fire-singing to it the while, to ward off evil spirits. In Sweden, a book is placed under the head of the baby to make it quick at learning to read, and money is put into its first bath that it may be rich. In Wales, a knife or a pair of tongs is put into the baby's bed to keep danger away. In England, a baby is taken upstairs before coming down "for luck." In Spain, the little one's face is lightly brushed into the branch of a fire-tree, also "for luck." In America, the girl baby must be dressed, with blue ribbon trimming; if a boy, with pink—all for luck.

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