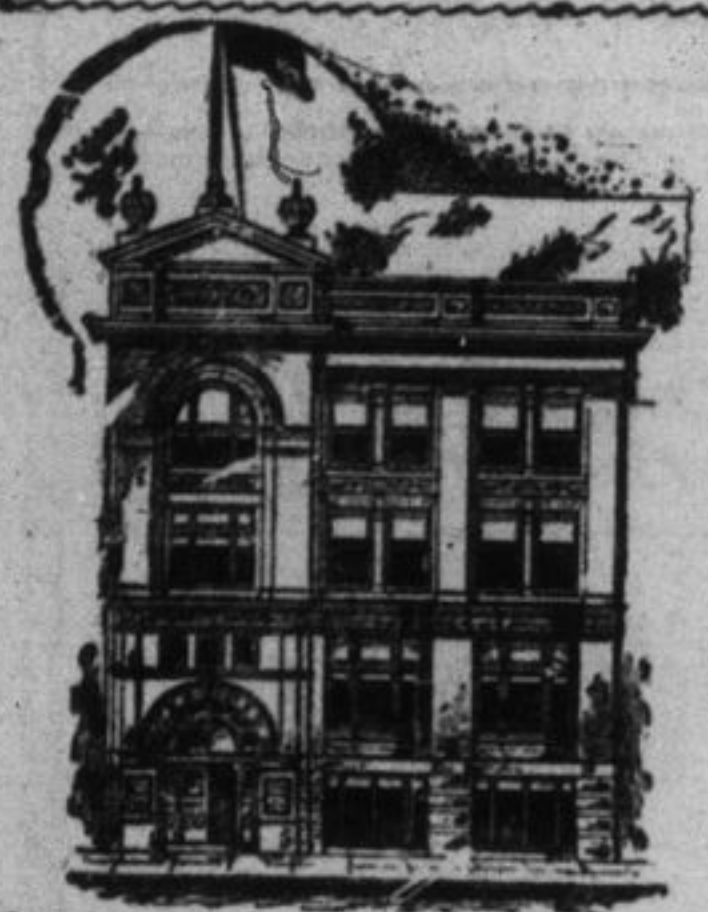


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ELECTION WORTH WHILE.

The Ottawa people, in the last municipal election, pronounced in favor of proportional representation; and, if we understand the result aright, next year the Aldermen nominated for the whole city will be chosen by the Hare-Spence system. The minority as well as the majority will be represented, and by such a distribution of votes as the law provides for. The quota will be fixed by dividing the number of candidates into the number of votes, then distributing the surplus marked for any man over his competitors in the order of preference indicated. Hamilton, says the Spectator, will have an opportunity to vote on the question, but the opportunity is not desired unless the people have been incidentally prepared for it by the education which should have been conducted by the press or platform. Ottawa, through the Forum, which was made up or constituted of a number of thoughtful men, who met from time to time, and occasionally on Sunday, took up public questions and debated them with a great deal of power. The nature of these discussions in all their fascinating and fruitful effects, are apparent by the decision which the people reached with regard to their manner of electing municipal representatives. Every city should have a Forum, corresponding with that of Ottawa, and if its discussions are thoroughly directed, the training of the voters for the most effective service is assured. Our Council could very profitably spend an hour-occasionally in debating municipal reforms. The discussions being attended of course with all the information which should follow reasonable research. Proportional representation next year, for instance, when all the members of the Council go to the polls, would do more, if put into practice, to correct the abuses or defects of that body than anything the Whig can surmise. It would do more than anything else to put the political machine out of business, since it would secure the election of the best men without regard to party.

The President of the United States has put himself on record as against national service. The Secretary of War and the officials of the War Department have come out in favor of National Service. What happens to the Government that, like the house, is divided against itself?

THE POST OFFICE DEFICIT. A deficit of nearly \$3,000,000 in the Post Office Department of Canada is not what was expected. For many long years the Department was not self-sustaining, but in 1902, under the Liberal Government, business principles were adopted and in every year afterwards until 1914-15 there was a surplus, varying in size, and in 1912 amounted to \$1,310,000. The change of Government is responsible for the change in the financial condition of the Department, and because it was exploited for political purposes.

It will be remembered that the postmasters were dismissed by the hundreds and their places filled by the partisan supporters of the Administration. An attempt was first made to justify the dismissals, commissions being appointed to hear complaints against the officials. In no case was there a failure to support the charge, and 1,807 employees of the Post Office Department were dismissed, and 3,850 were induced to resign. There was a total of

5,357 changes, and the new appointments numbered 9,903. Here was a bill of expense of a most imposing kind. The new rural mail deliveries, 695, added enormously to the expenditure under this head, but they have contributed to the favor of the members of Parliament who asked for them, and expenses under these circumstances are a matter of no concern. The revenue of the Department was increased from \$10,482,255 in 1912, to \$13,046,000 in 1915, or 30 per cent. The expenditure was increased from \$9,172,035 in 1912 to \$15,961,191 in 1915, or 75 per cent. The deficit does not require, therefore, any explanation. It is the direct and positive result of turning a useful department into an institution for the distribution of patronage.

The German blockade goes on notwithstanding the protest against it, and in the interests of the neutral powers. These neutrals have been serving Germany long enough. Now the British navy says the blockade running must stop, and it is supreme.

VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENT. The English and Canadian papers, in dealing with the alleged failure of the voluntary system of enlistment, refer to conscription as it was applied, or experimented with, in the American war in 1861-1865. A writer in Blackwood's gives the data and in the contemplation of it one feels that outside of Europe, of Germany, of Austria, of France and Russia, it has not been satisfactory. It may be that the experience of America is neither decisive nor satisfactory, and for the reason that military organization under any plan half a century ago was not advanced or perfect.

America's first army, that is the army of the north, and representing the strength and sentiment of the union, was made up of hurriedly recruited forces. The longest term was three years. The shortest term was three months. All told they numbered less than 50,000 men. Then, in 1861, the President made a call for a million men. A year later half that number had been enrolled. There was a second call. This time for 300,000 volunteers, and in drafting them in some of the States there was resistance and even rioting. An appeal was made to the President, and as a last resort he favored conscription. The law admitted of three alternatives: (1) Personal responses, (2) substitutions, (3) commutations on payment of \$50. In the two years following only 118,900 men had been secured. Of these, 45,000 were conscripts, and 73,000 were substitutes. The history of bounty jumping and deserting constituted a black chapter in the war. Conscription surely was a failure, but it helped in one direction; it put new life into the voluntary system of enlistment, and as a consequence 1,076,558 men were secured.

This is the result exactly of the attempt to enforce conscription in England. The modified plan of conscription, which has been approved, is held in abeyance while another appeal is being made to the unmarried men of Britain, and the effect is satisfactory. All the eligible men will apparently be found, and the next class will be called, and the next class after that, and the recruits found in sufficient number to meet all the requirements of the state. The United States secured only 700,000 effectives in a population of 23,000,000. Britain has enrolled 6,000,000 effectives out of a population of 45,000,000. Hence it may be said to have beaten all records in the success of its voluntary plans, and if Canada can register anything like as great a success in the next year in the enrollment of the second 250,000 men it will have done something which will stand to its everlasting credit.

EDITORIAL NOTES. Bilingualism in Manitoba, will presently be at an end. Thanks to the Winnipeg Free Press. Its campaign of education in 1912-13 was most complete and convincing and paved the way for the promised action of the Government.

Mitchell, of Regina, one of the Government's pets, who committed a series of offences in connection with the Remount Department, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment. When will the others on the Sir Charles Davidson list get their due?

One of the highest authorities in England, and lately returned from the Western front, says the French can cut their way through the German lines at any time and advance into German territory, but with the loss of a million men; and France is not sacrificing her heroes.

A corps of engineers, from the United States' Army, has made a survey of Oswego Harbor in view of deepening it for the trade which is expected from the new Welland Canal. When will a corps of engineers survey the Kingston Harbor and start the work which the Government promised? Without dredging

and deepening Kingston Harbor is not going to get any special benefit from a new Welland Canal.

The report that five hundred Canadians have been hurt, sent out in Saturday's despatches, seems to have been incorrect. There has been no engagement in which any large number of men could be injured. There is, however, a heavy bombardment going on in the vicinity of Lille, and something serious may be the result.

Sir Ian Hamilton, when in Canada, as an advisor on military matters, wanted all the men of military age registered. Gen. Hughes approved of the plan. Why has it not been put into operation? Who has objected to it? Is there any higher authority in Canada on military matters than the Minister of Militia?

PUBLIC OPINION

Make A Swap. (London Advertiser.) Britishers own \$350,000,000 worth of property in Germany, and Germans own \$590,000,000 worth in Britain. Let's trade.

An Army of Colonels. (Belleville Ontario.) Laying all jokes aside, the best way to end this war quickly would be for General Sam to create two million more honorary colonels.

A Dark Suspicion. (Toronto Mail.) King Constantine of Greece protests that he is not pro-German or Pro-Ally, but simply pro-Greek. There is a suspicion that he is chiefly pro-wife.

The Pope Backs Belgium. (Montreal Star.) No talk of peace till Belgium has been reconstituted as a free people. Is the gist of a message from the Pope. His Holiness puts into words one of the Allies' most fixed resolves.

Origin of Grip. (Hamilton Spectator.) La grippe must take its cue from some folks, whom most of us have met, who grab hold of one's hand, and never seem to know when to let go. Of course, if it's a girl's that's a different story.

No More Nonsense. (Toronto News.) It may be necessary for the Ontario Government to dissolve the Legislature and ask the direct judgment of the country on the resolutions to ensure adequate English teaching in the schools of the Province.

Old Pals Arrested. (Manitoba Free Press.) Because Dr. R. M. Simpson will have to return to Winnipeg to stand his trial upon the serious charges set forth in the warrant upon which he was apprehended in London it is not desirable that there should be newspaper discussion of his case at this stage. It is, however, quite in order to point out that, notwithstanding the violent exclamations of the newspaper organs of the right, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Rogers, his not the victim of persecution.

Canada's war expenditure to date has totalled \$145,000,000.

RANDOM REELS

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Seafins, Wax, of Cabbages and Kings"

THE BRAIN. The brain is a small, compact object which is located inside the head and sometimes refuses to venture out. It is given to man to help distinguish him from the brute, but at times falls several yards short of its noble mission.

The brain is cleverly concealed from view by the ears, nose and back hair, and in many instances is so thoroughly hidden that its existence is not suspected even by the immediate relatives of the owner. A great many men who have to use their brain several hours each day unhook it and hang it in a storage room on reaching home at night, where it cannot be disturbed by the conversation of a faithful and loving wife who has not seen anybody all day but the hired girl. A brain which can be detached from its surroundings and put in cold storage without gathering moss is a great boon to a tired citizen who would rather sink out of sight in a popular magazine than discuss the new minister's wife with a kind-hearted but garrulous helpmeet.

The brain is sometimes used to think with, and is a great aid to an earnest thinker who is trying to locate something that looks like a

Rippling Rhymes

THE SNOW. The schoolboy shrieks with exultant glee, when the snow comes down and enshrouds the lee. What fun to wade in the dazzling flakes, without a fear of rheumatic aches!

What fun to sled, till curfew summons the kids to bed, what fun to fashion a ball of snow, and throw it straight as a boy can throw, and see it break on some pig's grim's neck, and hear him quote from the works of Heck! The snow means oodles of wholesome joy snow means grief to the growing boy. But is feeble, whose back is bent. He covets his diaphragm, and all diseases he ever knew, the snow brings back, and some otheas, too. He has to shovel a little track, and he slips and falls and breaks his back, and the snowball thrown by the joyous kid, drives in his whiskers and spoils his lid, and he calls aloud, in a voice of woe, "Oh, blank the blinkety blink blank snow!"

LIBERAL PRESS.

What French-Canadians Are Doing Montreal Herald.

Appros of Archbishop Bruchesi's stirring appeal to French-Canadians in the fight for Empire and freedom, it is instructive to take stock of what French-Canadians are doing in this respect. There are now two French-Canadian battalions in Europe, the 22nd, which has already done noble work in Flanders, and the 42nd, now in course of training in England. In Canada there are in course of formation the 57th, in garrison at Quebec; the 150th, in garrison at St. John's; the 150th, which is being recruited by Colonel Barre; and the 153rd, which Major Asselin is organizing. In addition a French-Canadian Battalion is being formed at Quebec, under Colonel Readman; another at Rimouski, and still another at Trois Riviers. An Acadian Battalion under Colonel Dagle, is being recruited in Nova Scotia and there is talk of recruiting still another French-Canadian battalion at Hull. In fact, it is expected that the French-Canadians will this summer form a complete and distinct division of the Expeditionary Force—this without counting the numerous French-Canadians enlisted in other battalions. At least 2,500 of them went in the First Contingent.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Campaign Fund. Montreal Mail.

The Daily Mail will go farther and assert that if the campaign fund for both parties were taken direct from the public treasury to the exclusion of all other forms of contribution it would be infinitely more profitable from the standpoint of the public interest. Our public men would then be free to serve the public unhampered by the obligations which go hand in hand with the present system.

INDEPENDENT PRESS.

Free Wheat. Weekly Sun.

The grain growers of Manitoba, determined to have free wheat, have resolved, it is reported, to put free wheat candidates in the two vacant Manitoba constituencies. They have also decided, for further deliberation, a resolution for a third, or free trade party. It would not be surprising to learn that this action is meant to rebuke those Liberals who would engage with the Globe's ideas. We are authoritatively informed that the grain growers seek free wheat not only for the advantage of the higher prices which usually rule on the other side, but also to assure another exit. They say that the natural route for wheat is by Great Lakes, and by that the bulk of the crop will always go. But, in years like this, it will be of the greatest importance to have another route.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

About 25,000 bushels of potatoes have been purchased in this section for shipment to Philadelphia. There are one hundred men working in the M. T. Co's shipyard. A night school under the auspices of the Separate School Board has been opened in the Brothers' School and eighty pupils have been enrolled.

Bibbys Limited Headquarters for Men's Warm Clothing. SEE BIBBYS GREAT 50c LEATHER MITTS. MEN'S WARM UNDERWEAR. BIBBYS \$4.75 STORM COATS. PURE WOOL SWEATER COATS. DENT'S KNITTED GLOVES SPECIAL 50c.

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