

The British Whig SEED YEAR.



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GERMAN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

Gustav Heidmann, the private secretary of the Minister of Marine, was very indiscreet in rushing into print in order to ward off as it were the cruel criticism of which he has been the recipient because he is of German birth. He could have safely left his defence with the minister, who was very generous in his praise and very flattering in his confidence.

There is the Chief Intelligence Officer who could, if he would, and were at home, spoil many of the plans of the Militia Department. But he is in the front line trenches with the Allies. Next stands the mechanical superintendent of Dominion Dredging, who is familiar with the location and condition of many of the Canadian harbours. The superintendent, a full-blooded German, was only naturalized as a Canadian after the war broke out. The head of the Mines Department, of the Geological Survey, is a German. So is the chief botanist.

About all of these the Government is concerned because "it is hard," as one critic puts it, "for a man to renounce his fatherland by the simple means of living for a few years in another country." The Government need not dismiss them. It can suggest their temporary retirement from official duties, or the performance of a work in which it cannot be said they can betray the confidences of their superiors.

TRIBUTES TO WORTH.

In several of the churches yesterday fitting tributes were paid to the heroic deaths of Col. Duff and Capt. Richardson. The vision of both men had been very much alike—the vision of duty. It did not take them long to decide what their part should be in the great national struggle, one in which the ideals of the people were at stake. Like a flash the conviction came to them that they were called to fill any post or position which might be assigned to them, and when this conviction became settled nothing could change it.

There were many influences which were calculated to restrain them. They could have served their country most acceptably at home, and in the circle where their patriotism would have been most impressive, but when they heard the call for service they felt that this was a personal appeal to them, and that nothing should interfere with their responses. A great loss has been felt by their removal from the scene of their activities, but a great object lesson has been taught to the thousands of men who have already enlisted, or are about to enlist. The example that has been set is of the most valuable character. The memory of lives consecrated to the highest and noblest of purposes will be as an aroma which can never lose its sweetness.

SCRUTINY OF THE FACTS.

The agreement of Parliament, to extend its life for another year, and even further in order to avoid an election during the war, is well received by all classes of the people. It is a most sensible proceeding, but there is nothing in it, expressed or implied, which can interfere with a demand for an enquiry into the contracts that have been effected in connection with the war.

Investigation into the shell contracts is objected to on the ground that these were of an imperial character, and involved the expenditure of imperial money. Is that any reason why wrong doing should escape exposure? Surely not. The correspondence of the Manufacturers' Association with the Premier last year, and kept under cover until this year, reveals the fact that they were not the only ones of a specious character. There were others.

It was charged that with them there was favoritism; that middlemen had a profitable pull; that many who could tender for supplies were not given the opportunity; that radical changes were desired, and that above all the business of the country, which called for the non-partisan support of the Government during the war, should be conducted according to business principles. The Premier's reply was a general denial of favoritism, of discourtesy, of unfairness. He based his statements upon the representations that have been made to him. He had no special knowledge of the transactions.

Charges and denials will not avail. What is wanted is a scrutiny direct and incisive, into the contracts without regard to the persons who may be affected thereby. For this scrutiny the opportunity will exist, and the country will have its conclusions if it be refused.

NEW CITY CHARTER.

The city of Saskatoon has given other cities in the far west a great object lesson in Municipal Government. The old Council form of Government, without that perfect organization within itself, which is necessary, brought about entanglements of a most irritating character. When things had become badly complicated the Council decided to appoint a Commissioner, and to give him, as an expert, a tolerably free hand in the administration of public affairs.

At the present session of the Saskatchewan Legislature an Act will be passed revising the charter of the city of Saskatoon and defining more clearly the duties of the Council and its Commissioner. When the Commissioner was recently asked for an explanation of the changes in the charter, and the effect of them, he said:

"When your Commissioner first took up his duties it was found that there was no cohesion and co-operation between the various departments; there was no general management of the City's affairs, each department carried on its work separately without regard to each other; in fact there was an entire lack of organization. Works had been planned and the City committed to contracts entailing very large expenditures without regard to the first elementary principles of political economy, with the result that the City was gradually being strangled with its own inexperienced expansion."

"The position to-day is as follows: (1) It is impossible for expenditures to be incurred without the sanction of your Commissioner. (2) By a system of weekly reports made by the head of each department to your Commissioner, the work provided for in the annual appropriations is kept under control. Matters of routine requiring the decision or co-operation of one or more departments are expeditiously dealt with in a systematic manner. (3) By a system of monthly records compared with the annual appropriations the latter are never exceeded. (4) The work of the City is being efficiently carried out with a general Tax Levy of \$229,938.06 (excluding fixed charges) compared with \$591,357.00 in 1913, an annual reduction in expenditure of \$372,419.00, or 63 per cent. (5) The local improvement annual levies have been reduced from \$210,000.00 to \$129,642.00, or 38 per cent. (6) The annual appropriation in stead of being submitted in the middle of the year, after 50 per cent. of the expenditure has been incurred, are always submitted to the first meeting of the Council. (7) The utilities are being operated upon business principles at low rates for electricity and water. (8) The chief reason for the above alteration in administration is the application of experience in municipal work to the administration of the City affairs."

He added: "No business would be a success if: (1) The management was changed every year. (2) The manager was not experienced in the particular class of business which he was expected to administer. (3) There was more than one manager with equal rights, and both of a issuing instructions to the different departmental heads."

Saskatoon will have the next thing to a Council and City Manager. It will have a Council and City Commissioner, this commissioner performing many of the duties that formerly devolved upon the Mayor. Municipal Government, especially in the West, is changing rapidly. The old Council is not billing the bill, but the new Council with a City Manager or a City Commissioner may fill all demands.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Some people in Berlin want to change the name of the city. What some others want is not this, but a change of heart.

A high-school teacher in Brantford, who cannot go to the front because of physical disability, gives half his monthly salary of \$50 to the Patriotic Fund. Here is an example worth talking about.

The Canadian Government should not refuse to accept the resignations of Germans who want to retire from the public service at the present time. Public opinion does not approve of his retention of any suspects in the public offices.

Lord Northcliffe is said to have been offered a seat in the British Cabinet. The idea might be to let him carry out some of his plans and suggestions with regard to the war. To criticize is one thing, however, and to execute is another. The proposal to Lord Northcliffe may be a great bluff.

A New York Symphony Orchestra, led by Dausrosch, a German, and largely composed of Germans, cannot accept any Canadian appointments at present owing to a national feeling which has been manifested against them. Harry Lauder's music may not be so highly praised, but it is very much more acceptable.

PUBLIC OPINION.

If He Only Would. (London Advertiser.) If Canada would only mobilize her honor, colonels there would be no shortage of troops here.

Ontario's Aim. (Toronto News.) Ontario's objective is a complete public monopoly of all water-powers, and of the services operated in connection therewith.

Two Classes. (Montreal Herald.) As Kipling has rightly said, mankind is now divided into two classes—humanity and Germany. Nobody can trust the German word of honor now.

SILENCED BATTERIES.

On the Turkish Shore Batteries Near Vize. (Special to the Whig.) Petrograd, Feb. 14.—The Russian Black Sea fleet silenced a portion of the Turkish shore batteries near Vize during a heavy bombardment on Wednesday and Thursday, it was officially announced to-day.

Honored Von Papen. (Special to the Whig.) Rome, Feb. 14.—Swiss despatches to-day reported that Kaiser Wilhelm has conferred the Order of Red Eagle upon Capt. Franz Von Papen, the recalled German military attaché to the United States.

Graham-White Not Wounded. (Special to the Whig.) London, Feb. 14.—Claude Graham-White, the noted English aviator, to-day personally denied the reports that he had been seriously wounded in France.

RANDOM REELS.

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sculls, Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

FEBRUARY. February is a short, concise month with twenty-nine days and the same number of nights. It is the shortest month in the year, and many people are also shorter while it is going on than at any other time, owing to having met the January bills face to face.

When the calendar under which we are now doing business was being drawn up in Rome it was found that several good, serviceable days were left over, and a bright Roman centurion named Numa devised a method of working into a leap-month and labeled February, which should act as a buffer state between January and March. Thus was enacted one of the earliest specimens of bone-lig legislation. How much better would it have been to have added those remnants to the month of June, for instance, or to Labor Day or the Fourth of July, instead of creating a damp, grippy, sneeze-producing nightmare like February out of them. History relates that when Numa discovered his error, he slunk away and committed one of the most thorough suicidal efforts in the history of the Roman empire.

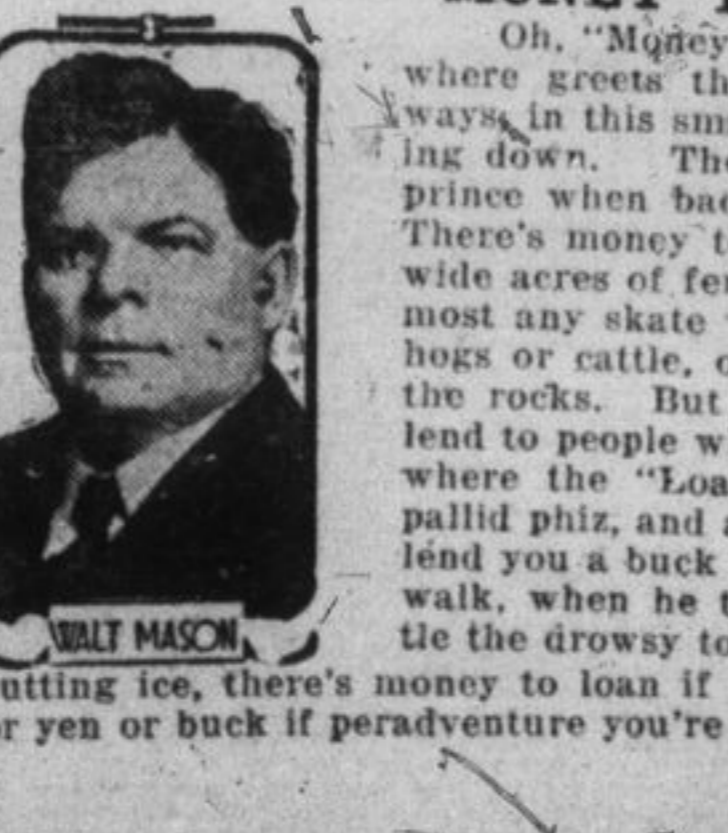
February, particularly in the north, is of few days, but full of trouble which breeds everything from locomotor ataxia and back to the place of beginning. A great many people are never sick except in February, when they are attacked by the climate and have to be stimulated with cayenne pepper tea and chief of the weather bureau always takes his annual vacation in February, as there is nothing to forecast except snow, sleet, rain, hail and general debility. Once in a while, a sun will come out in February and scare the horses, but this is an unusual occurrence.

Despite these drawbacks, however, February has many things to commend it. The coal bill is several feet shorter in February, too, but this is to some extent offset by the feverish demand for the hemstitched other lap toward spring and straw-berries and green corn, and 9-cent gasoline, so let's make the best of it and grumble not.

Rippling Rhymes.

MONEY TO LOAN. Oh, "Money to Loan" is a common sign; it everywhere greets these eyes of mine. In twenty states, in twenty towns, the cheerful legend is hanging down. There's money to loan to the merchant prince when bad collection have made him wince. There's money to loan to the farmer bold, who owns wide acres of fertile mold. There's money to loan to most any skater who has abundance of real estate or hogs or cattle, or bonds or stocks, to be security for the rocks. But not a plunk, or a dollar's ghost, to lend to people who need it most! Go up those stairs, where the "Loan" sign is, oh, busted pilgrim with pallid phiz, and ask the gent you will find up there, to lend you a buck to relieve despair. You will hit the walk, when he throws you down, so hard you'll rattle the drowsy town. There's money to loan if you're cutting ice, there's money to loan if you have the price, but not a rouble or yen or buck if peradventure you're out of luck.

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Get At The Facts.

(Monday Star.) The investigation into the supply of boots furnished to our First Contingent cost the country \$4,500, but the money was well spent. The slightest suspicion of wrong-doing in affairs of this kind makes it imperative that the facts be ascertained, no matter at what cost.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO.

The railways in the back country are blocked by snow.

On the occasion of his leaving for the United States, Capt. Beaupre was presented with a watch, chain and chain by his friends.

There is much distress in the city at the present time. Employers of labor are overrun with applicants for work.

Late James Smith, Westbrook.

The death occurred early Monday morning, Feb. 7th, near Westbrook, of James Smith, after several months' illness of heart disease. Deceased, who was a very healthy man until the last few years, was born in June 4th, 1837, on the farm on which he always resided, and was well known and highly respected. He was the only surviving member of his father's family, and his death is the first in his own family. He was married fifty-two years ago to Elizabeth Eleanor Gates, daughter of the late John Gates, Westbrook, and leaves a large and well respected family.

The funeral service was conducted at the family residence on Wednesday afternoon by Rev. L. M. England, Cataragui, and was one of the largest held for some time in the vicinity, relatives and friends being present from all the surrounding villages and communities, also from Parham and Long Lake.

Deceased is survived by his widow, who is in a helpless condition from heart disease and paralysis of the nerves, and seven sons and four daughters: George A., Parham; Walter and William, near home; Overton A. and A. Victor, North Dakota; Alonzo, Vancouver, B.C.; Frank, Odessa; Miss Eliza, at home; Mrs. James Doyle, Bath; Mrs. Levi Storms, Verona, and Mrs. George Shepherd, Elginburg. All were present at the funeral except two sons, Alonzo and Victor. The remains were placed in Cataragui vault, to be interred later.

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FAILED TO BREAK ICE.

Cobourg Car Ferry Steamers Had To Return.

ICE WAS TOO THICK.

BOATS RELEASED BY USE OF DYNAMITE.

The Boats Got Down As Far As Snake Island And Were In Danger Of Being Frozen In.

After getting within sight of Kingston, the two car-ferries which started from Cobourg to Kingston for the purpose of entering the dock at the Kingston Ship-building Company's plant to undergo repairs, found the ice too thick and were compelled to turn around and go back to Cobourg. The men in charge thought they would have no difficulty in making the trip on account of the ships having sufficient power to go through ice eighteen inches thick. They did not experience any difficulty until they arrived in vicinity of Snake Island. At this point they found that there was about seven feet of solid ice. This ice was caused by the broken ice blowing in on the shore and when the cold weather arrived it froze into a solid mass.

Only one of the ships was under steam on account of the other having broken the propeller wheel. It was expected that the vessels would have arrived in Kingston on Saturday noon. After working all Saturday afternoon it was decided that it would be impossible to complete the trip and for the reason the steamers were turned around and they proceeded on their return journey to Cobourg.

It was a difficult proposition to turn the steamers on account of the heavy ice. The turn was not made until a considerable quantity of ice was blown out by use of dynamite.

The trip from Cobourg was made at a very slow rate on account of men having to go behind the steamers and place bushes along where there was open water. Most of the residents on the different islands who might chance to cross the ice were notified by telephone about there being an open channel.

Sir Hugh Wyndham died at his residence, Rogata Lodge, Petengfield, Eng. Thursday. Sir Hugh was once minister to Brazil. He was born in 1836.

Bibbys Nobby Ulsters The Manitoba. There's no Overcoat more suitable for cold weather than one of our Manitoba Ulsters. Made of Heavy Scotch Tweeds, Cheviots, Chinchillas and Meltons; Shawl Collars, new Two-Way Collars, etc. Prices \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.00. STORM REEFER COATS. Sheep skin lined with fur collar; sizes 36 to 48; special value, \$4.75. WINTER CAPS HEAVY MITTS AND GLOVES SEE OUR 50c WOOL LINED MITT SEE OUR 50c DENT'S KNITTED GLOVES. Bibbys - Limited.

Maclaren's Products. Are being demonstrated in our store: Imperial Jelly Powder, Imperial Peanut Butter, Imperial Cream Cheese, Imperial Prepared Mustard. Everybody Welcome. Jas. Redden & Co. Phones 20 and 990. FAILED TO BREAK ICE. Cobourg Car Ferry Steamers Had To Return. ICE WAS TOO THICK. BOATS RELEASED BY USE OF DYNAMITE. The Boats Got Down As Far As Snake Island And Were In Danger Of Being Frozen In.

Cold Weather Footwear. This is the time to have your feet warm and comfortable. MEN'S FELT BOOTS \$2.00 and \$2.50. MEN'S OVERSHOES \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00. MEN'S MOCCASINS \$1.50 and \$2.00. WOMEN'S OVERSHOES \$2.00 and \$2.50. WOMEN'S FELT BOOTS \$1.50 and \$2.00. WOMEN'S MOCCASINS \$1.25. CHILDREN'S MOCCASINS 65c to \$1.00. J. H. Sutherland & Bro. THE HOME OF GOOD SHOES.

Kindly Fruits of the Earth. The expression in the prayer book, "kindly fruits of the earth," has for most persons no definite meaning because of the difference in significance now attached to the word kindly from that used when the expression was first written. The word kindly in that connection means as nearly as possible "of its kind," and the expression "kindly fruits of the earth" meant "the fruits of the earth each after its kind." -Exchange. It Sounded That Way. The cat settled herself luxuriously in front of the kitchen range and began to purr. Little Dolly, who was strange to the ways of cats, regarded her with horror. "Oh, gran'ma, gran'ma!" she cried. "Come here quick. The cat's begun to boil." It has the "blue blood" of quality and worth. It has the record of good cheer and dependability. It has the "crest" of character, cleanliness, and satisfaction. It is not besmirched with dirt or clunkers. CRAWFORD, PHONE 9. Foot of Queen Street. A man full of hope can always see the stars behind the clouds. The man with a hot temper may develop into a cool friend.