

The British Whig



Published Daily and Semi-Weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

J. G. Elliott, President; Lemah A. Gould, Managing Director and Sec.-Treas.

Telephone: Business Office 243; Editorial Rooms 225; Job Office 223.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Daily Edition; One year, delivered in city \$6.00; One year, if paid in advance \$5.00.

Attached is one of the best job printing offices in Canada.

TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: H. E. Smith, 32 Church St. U.S. REPRESENTATIVES: New York Office, 225 Fifth Ave.

CHICAGO: Tribune Bldg. Chicago. Frank R. Northrup, Manager.

POOR RACIAL CRIS.

Let us now and forever abandon these old weapons of the seventeenth century (racial crises). If those who foment such strife could only visit the trenches for a few days what a difference there would be!

POLITICS IN THE WEST.

The Opposition in Saskatchewan has only to define its charges, to make them specific and particular, and a royal commission, or two or three of them, will enquire into the facts. The Premier refuses to accept an indictment against himself since the Opposition will not go into details, and it is a little too general or indefinite to say that his election expenses were related to the extent of \$1,500 by the liquor men in Swift Current.

The liquor men are at the bottom of this latest sensation. They are suggesting some of the charges which will occupy the attention of commissions or committees, and two or three of them have been put under arrest as the best way of holding them for the serious charges of seeking to bribe members of the Legislature. The expectation is that these, in defence, will "peach" on others, and that presently a great conspiracy will be opened up and with far-reaching political results.

The sensation of the hour is the discovery that the files and records of the Roads Department have been tampered with, and that the chief clerk in whose custody they were has disappeared. Following this is the statement, coming from a Conservative source, and to the effect that the money misdirected or misappropriated in connection with the Roads Department runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Who is to blame does not appear for the present, but it is immaterial in a sense as to what their politics are. If plunder be established, it is for the people to see that those guilty of it are given the severest punishment.

COL. CURRIE'S REPROACH.

Col. Currie, M.P., the returned and invalided commander of the 48th Highlanders, gave in Parliament what may be referred to as a thrilling experience of his service at the front. He was in the fights at Ypres and St. Julien. He had his baptism of fire. He read to the House the letter of commendation he had received from General Turner in May, 1915. In this letter he received an extended leave of absence, on account of illness, and at the same time he had the assurance and honorable mentions would be made of his bravery in despatches to the War Office.

"There are," he said, "only two men who stood between me and the decorations and honors to which I was entitled." One was General Alderson, who was six miles away from the firing line, and the other was the Minister of Militia, who was three thousand miles away. This personal reference will have the effect of directing attention to the manner in which honors are distributed, and it may have the effect of causing a greater discrimination in the awards of the King and upon the advice of his war lords.

Col. Currie was not thinking of himself and of the injustice he had suffered, but of all who have gone

out, some of them at great personal sacrifices, in order to serve their country. Col. Currie cannot be accused of talking politics. When, having paid the highest tribute to the manner in which the Liberals had acted, under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he said: "In some way the matter of promotions should be regulated. Boys who went to the front as lieutenants eighteen months ago, and rendered conspicuous services, are still lieutenants, while their comrades who have not been outside of Canada have been promoted time after time, until they are no longer lieutenants, but full-fledged colonels."

Col. Currie wants the promotions in the army to lie with the Canadian Government, since it has to provide the money which maintains the forces in the field. But Canada is not any more injudicious than the Mother Country in this matter of promotions. They come to some young men suddenly and surprisingly. They are lieutenants one day, without service and experience, and captains the next. The officers in Canada reach remarkable altitudes in the preparations for war, while the men at the front, who are enduring all sorts of privations and performing a splendid service, are given little attention, and many are fighting away without any notice and certainly without the promotions which they earn.

CANADIAN SECURITIES.

The Finance Minister has followed up his announcement, in the budget speech, by presenting a bill, the purpose of which is to make life insurance companies invest more largely in Canadian securities.

There are three clauses in the bill in question, (No. 35). The first requires that on Dec. 31st, 1916, 50 per cent. of the increase in the net ledger assets of 1915 shall be invested in Canadian securities, after making due allowance for the increase in actuarial reserves and the increase in loans, liens and premium obligations.

The second clause provides for the investment on Dec. 31st, 1917, in Canadian securities of 50 per cent. of the increase in the net ledger assets for the years 1915 and 1916, after allowing for the increased obligations of these years.

The third clause requires that after 1916, all deposits called for by the Act shall consist of the securities of Canada. There will be two effects: (1) The securities held by the insurance companies will be largely Canadian, which will give them a standing in insurance circles peculiarly their own, and (2) the market for municipals will be restricted somewhat and with the result that they will be less in demand and yield a lower rate of interest. At the present time the municipalities are not issuing debentures at a large extent. Indeed municipal securities have become exceedingly scarce, and the rate of interest has fallen somewhat. This rate will rise again as soon as the National Government issues another loan which will be necessary before very long.

A NOTICE TO QUIT.

The Government print, and called this because of the extent to which it has been remembered in the distribution of Government patronage, announces that the pamphlet which the Ministerial Association of British Columbia put in circulation, and reflecting most severely upon the local Government, has been withdrawn. The inference is that there is something inaccurate in this pamphlet and that its further circulation would be injudicious.

It can be accepted as true that there is a great deal in the pamphlet which will not be withdrawn. On the contrary it will be amplified, when the election is ordered, and pressed home with all the power of men who are bound that the local Government shall go. Sir Richard McBride has shown his wisdom by deserting it and seeking the comfort of a Government office in London. He has crowded Hon. Mr. Turner out of a place he was supposed to occupy for life on condition that he secured a pension. This pension the Government may not be able to carry through.

Meanwhile the best men on the Pacific Coast, the clergymen, the laymen of all professions and callings, and the electors generally, have secured on "Bowserism" which means the incarnation of all that is evil and bad in political life. It has driven the best men of all parties into opposition, and the revolt may be imagined when Sir Hibbert Tupper leads it.

Sir Hibbert has long been dissatisfied with the misrule of the province. He has mildly protested against it, and in vain. Now he is disposed to cast his influence in with those who have given the local Government notice that its reign is at an end.

Charlie Chaplin has many admirers in the city. They are to be seen upon the streets at night, and they seem to be very artful and promising students. The tiny moustache and the cradled walk are very noticeable.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Even the honorable mentions and decorations of the army go by favor. Col. Currie has made an exposure that will be remembered.

Let us hear no more about the decorations of our military men if they are not to be awarded according to merit, and Col. Currie's experience would suggest that they are not.

The Sergeant-Major and the Sergeants who drill the recruits on the Market Square are thoroughly up in their business, but oh the provisional officers! The marvel is that the men stand for the dragooning they receive.

Toronto was seeking a law which will regulate the collections for patriotic purposes and put an end to all seeming impositions. There are too many appeals in every community and they are leading to great confusion.

The Scott Government shows its bona fides by immediately granting Royal Commissions to investigate the charges of mismanagement or malfeasance in office which have been preferred in the Legislature. Mr. Scott's conduct contrasts strongly with that of Sir Rodmond Roblin in Manitoba.

Col. Currie wants the Canadian Government to enquire into some grafting in which the British contractors were engaged at Salisbury Plains. Is not this purely Imperial business? We ask because the Canadian Premier has ruled that one Government cannot look into another Government's affairs. The Sir Knights who manage the military affairs of Canada must be consistent.

Lord Rhonda will scarcely be recognized by some people as the D. A. Thomas, Welch coal baron, who came to Canada and regulated the shells' business. He is now interested in the trading posts and oil wells of the Peace River Company. It is to be hoped that he will realize more handsomely out of his oil stock than some people the Whig knows.

PUBLIC OPINION

Good Act.

(Montreal Mail.) Russia's first act will be to take the "rum" out of "Erzerum."

The Widow's Future.

(Ottawa Free Press.) If the Salvation Army ships 4,000 widows to Canada it's safe betting there won't be 4,000 widows in a short time.

A Sure Cure.

(Toronto Globe.) Lonely husbands in Pittsburg suburb have started a club. Lonely husbands anywhere in Canada will get rid of ennui by enlisting for service overseas.

Among Canadian Troops.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) There were many Germans in the Canadian trenches after the recent fighting near Ypres, but they were all

RANDOM REELS

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Seals; Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

SWEEPING.

Sweeping is a muscular effort which has been attached to household work so that women may not idle the precious hours away. It was originated by some modern Bluebeard who was afraid that his wife might have time to catch her breath between meals.

Sweeping is accomplished by seizing a stiff-necked corn broom in both hands and leaning heavily against every rug in a nine-room house with the small of the back. This is good exercise for the back, which proceeds to curl up in the form of a horseshoe and discharge shooting pains. If a woman has a strong, resolute back in a good state of preservation, she will not hear anything from it until the next day, just prior to dressing for a club meeting, when it will contract a loud, penetrating ache and refuse to move out of the house. If all of the parsimonious husbands now at large could have a stout attack of the corn-broom back ache just once, the dulcet tones of the electric vacuum cleaner would be heard in every home.

Sweeping was introduced to this

country along with the rag carpet, which caught everything that came into the house except the measles.

If it were not for the rag carpet our houses could be swept with a garden hose and our wives would be more contented with their lot, besides having more time in which to be away from home. If all houses were built with cement floors and curb and gutter, sweeping would entirely disappear and married men could be alone more.

As society grew and flourished, until a \$5,000 income would hardly spread over the butter and egg bill, the rag carpet was pushed ruthlessly aside and the ankle-deep velvet rug took its place. The corn broom was also adulterated until it got so that it would not sink over a foot into one of these rugs without displacing the spine of the sinker. This made it necessary to secure something with a longer reach, hence we have to-day the ball-bearing vacuum cleaner, which glides giddily from room to room and consumes dust and electric current in equal quantities.

There is less sweeping now than there used to be, and there wouldn't be any if the men had to do it.

good Germans. That is to say, they were all dead Germans.

All Don't Die. (Montreal News.) No less than 1,200 Canadian soldiers have now arrived back from the trenches, proving that war service does not mean certain death, as so many recruiting orators imply.

Submarine E 13. (Toronto Star.) Another story from the front tells of a sentry challenging a figure coming along the trench waist deep in water. "Who are you?" he demanded and the sentry, "Submarine E 13," came the answer.

A Stiff Task Ahead. (Montreal Herald.) Recruiting figures just given out in Ottawa show that there wasn't much to raise; which means that recruiting has to be done more energetically and systematically than has been done yet.

Who's Responsible? (Ottawa Journal.) Prof. Adam Shortt and Dr. Carter have been telling an Ottawa audience that the German army officers were responsible for the war. Some people think it was the German professors. We guess there wasn't much to choose between any classes of Germans.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Two houses on Johnson street, owned by J. Fisher, were purchased to-day by J. Laidlaw for \$3,500.

During February there were 27 births, 2 marriages and 24 deaths in the city.

Sir John Macdonald is quite ill, but is carrying on his campaign against Mr. Gunn. He has two secretaries employed.

THE DOMESTIC LOAN HAD 24,862 TAKERS.

Over Four Millions in \$100 Bonds—N. Y. Loan Yielded \$44,900,000.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—A return tabled in the House by the Minister of Finance shows that the total number of subscribers to the domestic loan of \$100,000,000 was 24,862. The aggregate of the amount taken in \$100 bonds was \$4,099,500. The amount taken in \$500 bonds was \$8,699,500. The amount taken in \$1,000 bonds aggregated \$58,876,000. The big institutions which took amounts of \$5,000 or over got only \$28,325,000.

The return states that it is impossible to give details of expenses in connection with the loan until the last installment comes in.

In regard to the New York loan of \$45,000,000, the Finance Minister reports that the commission paid to J. P. Morgan & Company, associates for floating the loan, amounted to \$321,250. Other expenses totalled \$47,654. The loan which was issued at 99 1/2, yielded, not counting expenses, \$44,900,000.

At the scrutiny into the local option vote in Wallaceburg, evidence showed that practically every "ivory out" in the town was hired by the liquor men a month in advance. Lt.-Col. Noel Marshall was elected president of the Canadian National Exhibition directorate. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1905.

Bibbys For First Quality Shoes. THIS IS THE PATH YOUR FEET SHOULD TROD! "If your frankness pleases your friend it proves he is your friend." SEE BIBBYS GREAT \$4.00 SHOES—Tans, Blacks and Patents.

Safety First. Safety First as applied to your electrical work means a great deal to you—sometimes even life itself. W. J. MOORE & SON The Electric Shop.

LIBBY'S CALIFORNIA CANNED FRUITS. Pears, Peaches, Pineapples, Apricots, Black Cherries, Royal Anne Cherries, Green Gage Plums.

"KITCHENER" Is the name of the new Electric Iron made by the Canadian General Electric Co. Under the new power rates, it will cost only 2 1-2 cents per hour to operate this Iron.

Told to Wear Simple Colors. Washington, Feb. 24.—Clothing manufacturers of the United States of Commerce after a conference between department officials and officers of the National Association of Clothiers.

Cold Weather is Soup Weather. SNIDER'S TOMATO SOUP. Nothing to equal it in flavor—easily prepared—highly nutritious—10 oz. Tin only 12 1-2c at

WHO SAID "GOTT STRAFE ENGLAND"? These members of the crew of a British destroyer know the answer, but "Jack" must have a cheery message included when he poses for the photographer.

J. R. B. Gage, Phone 549, 254 Montreal St.

COAL INSURANCE. You protect yourself when you buy coal from us. You pay no premium for your protection—our prices are never a penny more than good coal demands.

Rippling Rhymes METHUSELAH Methuselah, that great old gen, saw centuries pass by; the generations came and went, and he refused to die.