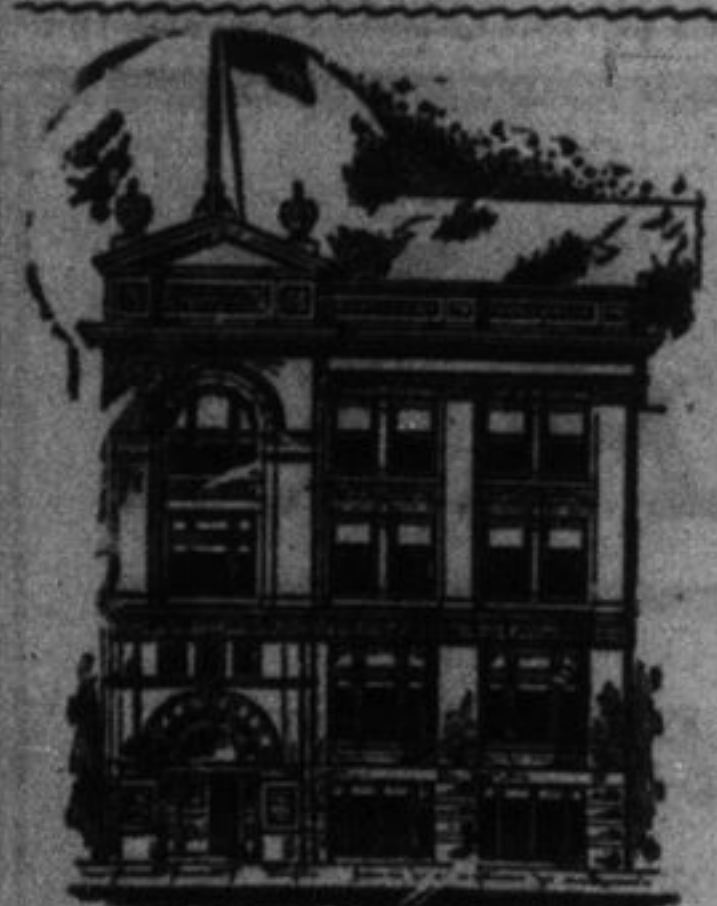


The British Whig  
SEED YEAR.



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WHY A DIVIDED PARTY?

Two remarkable reports emanated from Toronto on Thursday. One was to the effect that the Government had anticipated the Committee of One Hundred with regard to the closing of the bars during the war. The order was that at a party caucus a division of opinion occurred upon the expediency of the proposed legislation. There were some members on the Conservative side of the House who questioned the wisdom of the party moving so rapidly and so precipitately.

It is most certainly one thing for the party to get ahead of the Committee of One Hundred, apparently, and another thing for it to square itself with the liquor men who were its allies, its supporters, and its benefactors, insofar as they could be reached through their generous contributions to the party funds. The Conservative party was flush, very flush, during the last local election, and it was more than suspected that it was very liberally assisted in all its expenses by the License Victuallers.

These men see a vanishing business. They realize that it is only a little while until prohibition becomes general throughout Canada. The License Commissioners of Ontario are acting in an imperious and suggestive way. Public opinion is showing itself through the demand for local option and all that it implies. The Committee of One Hundred is the later interpretation of that will power that, freed from party bias, is asserting itself in an alarming manner.

But why should the Government hasten to do something before it is asked to do it? That is the thing that the License Victuallers cannot understand, and it is intimated that they have paid enough for political favors to command attention at the present time.

THE SPENDTHRIFT MINISTER.

The Finance Minister, who is very superior and very imperious in his ways, received a great calling down from E. M. Macdonald, who is one of the opposition's financial critics. Mr. Macdonald wanted it to be clearly understood that there has never been an honest attempt at a curtailment of expenditure by the Federal Government. With the advent of the Borden Government to power there was a riot of extravagance without a parallel. The revenues of the country fell off, with the depression which preceded the war, and they continued to fall off for some time after the war began. But the expenses went on rising higher and higher each year with the experience of the Government, until there had been in three years, a deficit of over \$50,000,000.

The war tax was mis-named, for not a dollar of it went to the purposes of war. All of the money which the great conflict called for was borrowed. Even at the present time the deception goes on. Sir Thomas White, this spendthrift minister, in his budget speech, says that the estimate was about \$29,000,000 above the requirements of the country, and yet so far as the items of the several departments have been passing there is no sign of economy or retrenchment.

It looks, as Hon. Mr. Graham remarked, at the close of one session, that the Minister will have to admit that his announcement of a proposed reduction in the total expenditure by about \$29,000,000, was a mistake. He could not retrench without the aid of his colleagues, and they simply refused to help him. And this is the Government that Canada must tolerate in this year of grace, 1916.

A CLEAN-UP DEMANDED.

The telegram which was sent to Ottawa some days ago, and announcing that a Federal Minister had been concerned in the Saskatchewan charges against the local Government, was not meant to be sensational. It did convey a certain fact to the Liberal leaders, namely, that the western provincial ministers had their case in hand, and that they had evidence which would be, later on, more disturbing in the east than in the west. A clique or faction, representing or following the men who manage elections, had embarked in a desperate gamble, and the Hon. Mr. Calder was in a position to make revelations.

The Federal Minister became identified with the new political deal legitimately enough. As soon as a member of the Saskatchewan Legislature reported that he had been approached respecting the proposed bribery of members, and had heard enough to advise the Hon. Mr. Calder respecting the plot, the Thiel Detective Agency was called in. Some of its best men shadowed the conspirators from place to place and found them in conferences in which the Federal Minister and his henchmen dominated. A mass of memoranda was laid before the special committee in Regina, and it looks to be a great deal worse against the conspirators than against the men they sought to entrap.

The Liberal papers are invited by the apologists of the Roblin dynasty to come out and demand that no one be screened in Saskatchewan. The Whig has no hesitation in demanding that the enquiry into the Saskatchewan scandals go on. It should be most searching. No guilty man should be allowed to escape. The political life of Canada must be purged and purified, and no offender should be saved from the scorching which he deserves. But charges are one thing and proof is another, and the proof against the Government of Saskatchewan thus far is scant enough.

STARVATION IN BELGIUM.

Frederick C. Wolcott, who has represented the Rockefeller foundation in Belgium and Northern France, has returned to London and declares that there will be a wholesale starvation of the people in three or four weeks if the importation of food into Germany be stopped. He says that in Northern France the percentage of indigent people is even greater than in Belgium because there are virtually no native supplies.

Mr. Wolcott estimates that of the 7,000,000 inhabitants in Belgium about 3,000,000 are destitute and drawing one meal daily consisting of the equivalent of three thick slices of bread and a pint of soup. He says he has seen thousands of people lined up in snow or rain, soaked and chilled, waiting for their bread and soup. He has returned to this station later in the day and found that men and women and children were still standing in lines and later compelled to go to their pitiful homes without the food which they did not get until eighteen hours afterwards.

It is unfortunate that the emergencies of war have caused so many appeals to the people, and appeals which have not been systematically organized. In Canada, as in Britain, complaint has been made about the manner in which these appeals have collided with each other. Indeed, the British Government has been asked to undertake a supervision of all the collections of funds on behalf of the needy Belgians, Russians, Poles, and Serbians.

In Canada there has been a manifest want of the same supervision. Belgium is represented by a General Committee in Montreal, which gladly receives any contributions for the relief of the starving poor, but this Central Committee does not seem disposed for some reason to organize any effort through which a larger sum may be realized in Canada for relief purposes. In this country sums of money have been collected on behalf of the Belgians, but larger sums would be available if committees were organized under the direction of some central authority or committee, and now that the needs of the hour are being made so manifest it is hoped this organization will take place.

One Anglican clergyman, not so far from Kingston, and within the bounds of his parish, has collected over \$100, and he intimates that his parish is not a rich one; on the contrary it is a parish which is not so well off financially as some other parishes which could be named. His opinion is that an organized effort should be made all through the country in order that the money so absolutely needed in Belgium, or the food which it represents, may be supplied at once.

The Licensed Victuallers worked for the Government party in the last election. It seemed to be a question of life and death. The struggle cost them something. It seemed to give them immunity for a good long while, and now the Government is overruling the Committee of One Hundred in its attempts to abolish the bar.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lord Kitchener's last word is, "Save and give me soldiers." Evidently he is not expecting an early collapse of the war.

President Wilson has come to close quarters with the members of Congress. He wants no more fencing on his policy towards Germany. He demands that the representatives stand out and be counted.

Canada is recruiting its armies at the rate of one thousand men a day. At this rate it will take somewhat over a year in which to provide the second great division which the Government has promised to the Mother Country.

Now it is charged that the liquor men bribed some of the Alberta rulers. These liquor men are being advertised as a very bad lot, but are they as bad as the men higher up whom they have been trying to swerve?

Hon. Mr. Oliver says the war tax is only the cloak for the extravagance of the Government. The chief taxer of the Dominion is not, like the late Sir James Whitney, bold enough to be candid and candid enough to be bold.

The British Columbia temperance men and the Hon. Mr. Bowser have come to terms. The Premier has been scared by the result of two by-elections, and is willing to concede anything to the temperance party. They can have a plebiscite right away — if they will only vote for him.

The Ad Club, through its members, are trying to convince the Church that it wants, in order to be fully awakened up, publicity. The "ad," judiciously written and displayed, can do a great deal, but the Church does not think so. It depends on other and less efficacious expedients.

PUBLIC OPINION

How Many?

(Hamilton Times.)  
We wonder how many Englishmen the German Government has in its employ.

Glad Tidings.

(Detroit Free Press.)  
Doc Evans, of Chicago, says that deep breathing is good for cold feet. We'll ask her to try it out.

Only The Talk?

(Ottawa Journal.)  
The Germans say they do not want to fight the United States. "Then why all this talk? The United States certainly doesn't appear to want to fight Germany."

No Iron Crosses.

(Montreal Star.)  
There will be no Iron Crosses for German aviators who conducted the raid in Kent since they failed to wreck a school. No babies, no crosses, seems to be the Kaiser's rule.

German Deserters.

(Toronto News.)  
Hilaire Belloc comments upon the

RANDOM REELS

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

THE MUSTACHE.

The mustache is a successful imitation of a thatched roof which is worn on the upper lip, where it can be reached with either hand, and mangled into a submissive state. This is accomplished more easily by the hand which carries a blue diamond the size of a queen olive, and when this is kept up for three or four hours at a stretch, the effect is very irritating to people who couldn't buy a diamond if the market price were \$3.20 per cwt.

Mustaches are worn for various purposes. Some men are not satisfied with the contour of the lip given them in early youth, and seek to disguise nature's mistake by covering it with a rich, warm, verdure, which has a duotone drooping effect caused by a four-inch overhang. A man who returns to the scene of his birth with one of these mustaches attached firmly in place will be so thoroughly disguised that he can't cash a check with the local barber has run over him lightly with a pair of horse clippers. The first thing an escaped jail bird does is to grow a luxuriant, saddle-stitched mustache, which will stand up and defy the Bertillon system of measurements with a harsh laugh.

Rippling Rhymes

A DEADLY WINTER

It has been a deadly season, which can't be denied; and there was no rhyme or reason in the way men died. I would hear a comrade coughing; "See the doc," I'd say, and he'd leave me, mildly scolding, to cash in next day. I would say, to some one sneezing, "Dope, ere it gets worse!" He would laugh, and then go breezing gravely in the hearse. Nobly did the men of science exercise their skill, using up-to-date appliances, potion, drug and pill; daily, nightly were they waging war against the foe, but the demon Grip went raging, laying people low. All in vain their dark brown bitters, all in vain their pills; sneezing to the last, poor critters climbed the sunset hills. Epidemics are as senseless as is Europe's war; foolish, cruel and defenseless, say, what are they for? What's the use of people dying, croaking in platoons, while the doctors, nobly trying, cannot cure for prunes?



W. H. MASON.

significant fact that German deserters dribble into the British and French lines every day. Germany receives no deserters from the Allies.

Elections And Prayers.

(Ottawa Citizen.)  
The result in Peel county again demonstrates that elections are not won by prayers. Mr. Falls having with him the votiferous individuals who occupied the penitent bench at Bolton and elsewhere.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Women in Politics.  
Men who object to women in politics object for the same reason they object to the extension of the franchise to various classes of men. All franchise extensions raise awkward questions, but if this were a reason for limiting their franchise more of us would have no vote.

There are no more women adapted to politics than there are men, and a woman will not rush into the political field merely because she has a vote. But the possession of a vote will tend to stimulate her intelligence and this alone is sufficient reason to adopt woman's suffrage. It may do no more in this direction than it has done for men, but both men and women display all degrees of intelligence, and there is no contention that can be made about one that does not apply to the other.

Equality of political treatment for one's father and mother, or for one's son and daughter, ought to look reasonable, but there are some people who have no reason in matters political. These may be ignored. The great mass of both men and women are reasonable and they should receive equal treatment on the grounds of their reasonableness.

COMMERCIAL PRESS.

The Language Question.  
Journal of Commerce.

To a certain extent the Ontario Government have recognized the desirability of both languages being so used, for they have made a regulation that provides that a part of the school work, that may be called the French sections, shall be conducted in the French language. The real question is whether this regulation makes adequate provision for the use of French as a language of instruction. The French people say it does not. That difference of opinion ought not to be an occasion for heated controversy or bitter quarrels in Ottawa, much less in other parts of Canada which are being drawn into the battle. Surely there must be, on both sides of the dispute, men who have common sense to promote the cause of education and to maintain the proper authority of those who are chosen to manage public school affairs—men who are willing to think not so much about the abstract legal and constitutional rights as about the desirability of the friendly adjustment of any differences that may arise from time to time between different sections of a community. It should be possible to find such men on both sides of the conflict, who could meet in the right spirit and find a means of reconciling the legitimate authority of the Ontario Education Department with the justifiable desire of French-Canadians to have their children taught their mother tongue as well as the language of the majority of the Canadian people.

Albert Witke, Charleston road, has rented his farm to William Pierce.

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