

The British Whig SEED YEAR.



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"OUR TOWN" WAKES UP.

The Whig's cartoonist, in this day's issue, makes a hit. It pictures "Our Town" as one who has settled himself down in the park. Being aroused from a doze he discovers that a visitor has appropriated a large part of his seat, and in stretching his arm he makes a closed fist come with surprising force against the side of this intruder's head.

There grows upon one as he contemplates the cartoon an appreciation of the manner in which some people crowd into the territory which belongs to others. The trade of the city, for instance, belongs to the local merchants and traders. It is theirs to develop and meet the wants of the people. To be sure, they must be enterprising and tactful, and must, as they usually do, anticipate the wants of the buyers. But having done their best they can very reasonably expect the support of their fellow citizens.

The town trader either must rent or own a valuable property. He pays taxes. He supports the public utilities. He uses the electric light and gas and water. He contributes to every fund, patriotic or philanthropic, and does so with a cheerful spirit. He is ready—as he should be if he is possessed of the community spirit—to put his hand to anything of a public nature and help it along.

"Our Town" may doze occasionally. It would not be surprising if he did, but he has a right to feel hurt when he finds that through the support of the people an intruder comes in to claim and secure and carry away the patronage that should be his. Cooperation should be the slogan of every man, and when it is recognized the community plan is bound to succeed.

A CRISIS IN ENGLAND.

Britain is preparing for a prolonged siege. The Government has proclaimed, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the people must abandon their luxuries, that they must realize a great struggle is on, that the future of the Empire is at stake, and that every wage-earner, every manufacturer, must save, and to the uttermost penny.

The Allies will hold to their agreement and win or fall together, but from them Britain cannot borrow any money. In fact they have been so closely run financially that Britain has had to lend to them. The war can only be continued with money, and it is the Central Powers against the Allies and their resources. Lord Kitchener says, in a few words, that he wants more soldiers, and still more, and without any limit for the present. He intimates that the war will be a long one and that money and men only can win it.

The lesson to Canada is obvious. It is recruiting, but outside of Toronto, slowly enough. A thousand men a day! Of the 500,000 men whom the Government has promised over 300,000 have yet to be secured. The recruiting must be spurred up. But how? Music, the voice of the orator, the allurements of the service, are losing their hold. A little gentle pressure is needed, and later on a little greater pressure.

Meanwhile the expenditures of Government and people must be limited to actual necessities. The \$30,000,000 which the Finance Minister says can be cut out of the estimates must be found and eliminated. The opposition must do more than talk about it. They must call a halt in the discussion and refuse to proceed in committee work until these estimates have been revised and shorn of every unnecessary item. The people must be appealed to. They must be

advised and admonished. They must be pointed to the people of England where all friivolity and wastefulness have ceased, and where organization is being resorted to in order to produce the utmost economy in every respect and in every walk of life.

CHANGING THE LABELS.

The Public Accounts Committee has resumed the probe and already, at the start of another session, some ugly facts are coming to view.

Gen. Allison; one of the Ministers of Militia's pets, is absent. His whereabouts are unknown. His secretary is in New York. The General is mysteriously silent and he was a while ago very busy, very much in the limelight. Now he is wanted by the Davidson Commission and by the Public Accounts Committee and is in no hurry to reveal himself.

The patronage list has had another airing. It is a new exploit. It is not, as a matter of fact, a paper list at all, but a card case which contains a number of addresses. These are added to from time to time and the names usually come from the ministers' offices. The minister of a department is the boss of it. His imprimatur is enough and the names which are suggested in connection with any contract are those of the men that can be called upon and consulted.

When a certain gentleman once, a Col. Morgan, wanted to get the ear of the Minister of Militia, he got a certain room in Ottawa, and it happened to be a favorite resort of Gen. Allison, and here he had the samples of American-made clothing sent for inspection. A competent tailor was employed to remove the New Jersey labels and replace them and then the kit was shipped to Sir Sam Hughes. The man who has so much to say about the deception was very reserved in the witness box. But enough has leaked out to bring home to the Government this last miserable act in the distribution of patronage, and it is one which cannot be defended.

AUDITING OF COLLECTIONS.

The British Government has taken steps to check or control the various organizations which in England are collecting money for patriotic and charitable purposes. In the eighteen months, during which the war has been carried on, about \$29,000,000 have been collected in Britain for benevolent purposes at home and abroad. "Doubtless," says the London Chronicle, "the most of this large sum has been wisely applied, but it is notorious that much overlapping and extravagance have resulted from unco-ordinated efforts and un-audited accounts."

Several relief funds, conducted by English people, are markedly unsatisfactory. In case after case into which one inquired no balance-sheet is issued; there is no audit of accounts; sometimes there is no committee, or if a committee exists it is never called together. Some of these funds have the sanction as patrons of an impressive array of eminent men and women, who have allowed their names to be used without proper enquiry.

A list of imposing names on a relief fund's circulars is no guarantee either of its worthiness or its efficiency. In some instances the working expenses bear an excessive proportion to the sum collected. Per contra: in one conspicuous case the working expenses are exceedingly small, yet most of the money, a very substantial amount, is hoarded, apparently for post-war purposes in Belgium, despite the fact that there are urgent objects for which money is needed now.

In Canada, as in England, there is a call to closer study of the manner in which these public charities and patriotic schemes are being developed. There is generally a deplorable absence of the care and exactness without which there are bound to be mistakes, to call the results by no harsher term.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Russia's war expenses are now \$15,000,000 a day. Where is the money coming from? Russia does not appear to have it.

Hay, oats, and wheat have fallen in price. The people who would not sell these articles a while ago, but held them for fabulous prices, made a very serious mistake.

Ottawa's city auditor insists that the Water Department is unduly burdened with the cost of the engineers' and collectors' offices. Would the auditor of Kingston be justified in putting in the same protest?

Australia led Canada in providing a navy which did her credit. Now she leads this country in providing a plan under which the retired soldiers will be put upon the land and aided there to maintain themselves.

According to Sir George Foster Canada can quite readily supply the Mother Country with a million men. It will take some time to secure them, judging by the slowness with which the recruiting is now going on.

Frank Brunner, the man whom the Licensed Victuallers of Saskatchewan have hired to do their dirty work, turns out to be a German. He

ought to be interned somewhere for the sake of the country and his own safety.

Is the Water Department really required for the water the city uses in connection with its public buildings, its parks and streets? There is so much comment on this matter that the Utilities Commission should give special attention to the subject.

Andrew Broder and David Henderson, veteran members of the Commons, have become Privy Counsellors. They can be addressed as "Hon." Why not make them colonels and nominate them for knighthood, which now appears to be in flower?

The Liberals of Saskatchewan, after showing how baseless were some of the charges made against them, appealed to the Government, and through it to the Lieutenant-Governor, for the appointment of a Royal Commission to sift the scandals to the bottom. Men who lead in the demand for judicial enquiry cannot be very much afraid of the results.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Poor Risk. (Montreal Star.) Our idea of a bad marine insurance risk just at present is that German raider which has been operating in the Atlantic.

Even More Serious. (Detroit Free Press.) Germany is said to be considerably worried about the decrease in the birth rate. The death rate ought to be giving her some concern, too.

Profound Secret. (Ottawa Free Press.) Sir Thomas White still refuses to tell how he's going to change his company taxation bill. Sir Thomas is perhaps planning a submarine campaign on watered stock.

Crown Prince Falls. (London Free Press.) Von Hindenburg and Von Mackensen are said to have advised against the Verdun attack. In which event they seem to have shown judgment superior to that of the Crown Prince.

He Should Know. (Orinda Packet.) Purists contend that the term is not "pacifist," but "pacifistic," says the Port Arthur News. Professor Horning calls it pacifist, and we suppose he ought to know the name of his own family.

Why Not? (Ottawa Journal.) Why in the world shouldn't Ontario, Quebec or any province have a divorce court? Four provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, have such courts. Does anybody notice any of these provinces to be the worse?

Duty of the Hour. (Toronto Telegram.) Manitoba and British Columbia speak to Sir Robert Borden and tell the Premier of Canada in trumpet tones not to run away from the duty of enquiry into the charges against the Shell Committee in 1916, as Sir Robert Borden ran away from the

duty of enquiry into the McGill-Cuddy charges in 1911.

An Easy Job. (Exchange.) Everybody thought the Ontario License Board had a big job on its hands in culling down the number of licenses, but if Ontario is going to vote on the prohibition question about all the board needs to do is draw its salary.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

British Columbia's Fate. Ottawa Citizen. The reckless way the provincial credit has been undermined and the provincial resources thrown away for the benefit of privileged interests, especially the irresponsible practice of guaranteeing bonds and paying subsidies to railway promoters, has brought the province to a state of poverty and economic bondage. Even a traditional Conservative like Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has taken the platform in open opposition in protest. But in spite of all the country has been burdened with, in the form of subsidies to special privilege, the barely elected minister of mines, Lorne Campbell, is actually speeding to Ottawa to urge the federal government to open a new leak in the national treasury; namely subsidies to the ship-building interests!

LIBERAL PRESS.

Prove The Charges. Toronto Star. There is a difference between charges made and charges proved. Any Ministry found guilty of corruption must go. Any Minister found guilty of bribery must go. Any member of a Legislature found guilty of corruption must go. Every charge against the Government of Saskatchewan, or any of its members ought to be thoroughly investigated, and every man found guilty should be punished.

The Roblin Government, in Manitoba, went out of office, because charges were proved. The Scott Government in Saskatchewan must abide by the same test.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Sir John A. Macdonald was elected, defeating Mr. Gunn by a majority of 498.

Eggs sold at 13c a dozen to-day. Leading Conservatives are advocating G. A. Kirkpatrick for the Cabinet.

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Would Bar Them Both. New York World. "Wouldn't a puglist be considered demented," asks the Sun, "who suggested changing the rules of the ring during a fight?" Surely! But to begin with, the rules of every well-regulated ring bar biting, gouging and kicking. Such laws, adapted to war, would bar both the snaking submarine as a commerce-destroyer and the women-and-children-raiding Zeppelins.

Wilbert Dunlop, Lanark, has left to commence work at the new Caldwell Mill at Perth.

RANDOM REELS

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

CHINA. China is a large, overgrown lemon entirely surrounded by missionaries. It is the oldest nation on earth, and is thickly crowded with people who need religion and a manure. Several attempts have been made to change the Chinese religion, which consists in worshipping broken-nosed idols, but all have failed, much to the astonishment of Americans, who worship money, clothes, society and somebody else's wife.

China is inhabited by a hardy race of people who live on rice and laundry work. Every year China sends to this country thousands of expert laundrymen who speak English on their fingers and compete with the steam laundry. If it were not for this practice thousands of American communities would not know what a Chinaman looks like and would be more inclined to increase their contribution to the foreign missionary movement.

China is very rich in natural resources and every year raises a bumper crop of heathen. It is not a warlike country, and could be overpowered in about thirty minutes by a regiment of German soldiers. An attempt was once made to take a census of China, but the growth in population kept so far ahead of the census-takers that it was abandoned. The chief products of China are opium, rice, superstition and sleep. It grows more sleep to the acre than any other nation, unless it is Spain. For some time China has been operating as a republic, but a vote of the upper classes was taken recently and it was decided to change back to a monarchy. The Chinese mind prefers a monarchy, as it was never able to get used to the Australian ballot or the voting machine. The habit of voting the straight ticket originated in China, and when they took the circle off of the ballot everybody became dissatisfied with a republican form of government.

The foreign nations have been using China as a meal ticket for several years, coming in through the open door and retiring choked with plunder. Just now Japan is taking a few copious bites of Chinese territory, all of her neighbors being too busy with other matters to protest over China, and while she is at it nobody else gets any of her money. This teaches us that there are some things worse than a standing army, with an unprotected hen roost.

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Rippling Rhymes THE LUCKLESS MAN I heard a fellow say, this morn', "I've had hard luck since I was born." Yet he was fixed with hands and feet, and health so good 'twas hard to keep. While he bemoaned his gloomy fate, and tried to keep his grouch on straight, and while some maudlin tears he shed, an ailing cripple forged ahead, ambition glowing in his eyes, and gathered in a handsome prize. A blind man, groping in the dark, in human annals made his mark. A sick man, totting with his pen, produced a book that drew from men so loud a burst of honest praise, as cheered the balance of his days. A thousand brave, undaunted chaps, borne rugged steep, too full of hopeful plans to weep. How pitiful the man who stands, with active lungs and idle hands, complaining of the luck he's had, since he was but a knee-high lad!



WILT MASON

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