

The British Whig  
SEED YEAR.



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A PROVINCIAL DEFICIT.

The provincial auditor used to make out the annual statements for the legislature, and when deficits occurred he showed them. The present government transferred the duty of preparing these annual statements to the provincial treasurer, and lo, the era of surpluses at once sets in. According to Mr. McGarry, there was a surplus last year of \$271,000, and, according to Mr. Bowman, the opposition critic, who takes the same figures and places them in their correct relations, the deficit was \$2,209,348. The revenue for the year, apart from the borrowings and sinking fund payments, which should not be counted, was \$11,629,254. The expenditure, omitting the advances made to the Hydro-Electric Commission and to the T. & N. O. Railway, the special war expenditure, the drainage debenture and municipal sinking funds, was \$13,838,602.

Figures, it is said, cannot lie. They can, however, by a little imprudent manipulation, with which the provincial treasurer is familiar, produce results that are mightily mystifying.

SACRIFICES IN WAR.

The effect of the war on industry in the Old Land has been indicated by recent correspondence. A manufacturer of blotting paper, made in Scotland, wrote to an importer that he appreciated the orders for supplies which he had received, but that he really could not promise the fulfillment of them within a reasonable time. His staff had been badly broken by the war. The mills had called to their aid the women who were willing to perform the tasks of the men, some of them hard and laborious, and to some extent the places of the absent soldiers have been taken. But there are some services which the women cannot do, or do so well, seeing that they involve strength and endurance, and the men are not available. Still the manufacturer does not repine. He surrenders his help cheerfully, realizing the sacrifice it means in business, and feeling that if Britain fails in this crucial hour the business is of no value to him. In Canada the contributions to the war, of men at least, have not entailed losses and sacrifices such as these. The war has not been brought home to some people with the force and effect it should have done and the more is the regret.

WILSON'S CRISIS PASSED.

The president of the United States is to be congratulated in that he has been sustained by the Senate and House of Representatives in the votes which meant his political salvation or political extinction. For a while—and not so long ago—it looked as though the president had come under the forceful influence of the Bernstein faction. This faction had become bold enough to dictate to the state department and flippant enough to write and issue letters to the press. Money, without stint, and cheer, enabled the German element to go a long way towards dominating the government of the day, and only the good sense of the president, recovered at a somewhat late date, saved the situation.

The New York Herald puts the matter correctly when it says, that the mischief in the first place was due to malicious misrepresentation of German-born or German-bred politicians, and in the next place to an unfortunate sympathy of some newspapers which caught the German view point and gave it circulation. Then the senators and representatives over-estimated the German strength and surrendered to it. It was known, says the Herald, that a propaganda

was in progress to control Congress. It was known that this propaganda came from the German embassy. Suddenly the president acted. He was determined that the American government should be free to express itself with regard to the German naval outrages and to forbid them in the interest of the American people. The limit of American vacillation had been reached. Either the president represented public opinion or he did not. A vote was demanded, and it stood 68 to 14 in the Senate and 276 to 142 in the House of Representatives.

Has the danger passed? Not altogether. The men who opposed the president, even of his own party, must be greatly misguided men and subject to correction, or they are abandoned to their evil doing. Public life must be purged of them. All of them must go, and the people may be depended upon to sweep them into obscurity when the time for action comes.

PROVINCE VS. DOMINION.

The finance minister at Ottawa, and the provincial treasurer at Toronto, are combining to teach the people an object lesson of the very greatest value. Both are looking for all the revenue they can find. Sir Thomas White is the hardest pressed in order to meet his engagements because there is no visible attempt on his part, or the part of his colleagues, to retrench or economize. Sir Thomas said his estimates for this year were prepared on the basis of last year's estimates, and they called for nearly \$30,000,000 more than it was intended to expend. The ministers and heads of departments, however, have been unable to specify the items which, in the aggregate, will run up to any large sum. Not a quarter of a million dollars, in appropriations, have so far been earmarked as unnecessary. In taxing the business men, upon their earnings, Sir Thomas is bringing home to them the federal methods of financing as they have not been exemplified heretofore.

Hon. Mr. McGarry goes one better and takes the spendings of the people on amusements. If there is one thing that is unseemly in these war times, it is their prodigality in regard to luxuries. The war may go on—the news of it varies from day to day and the shocks of it are sometimes distressing—but the people dress well and eat well and spend their money and time in diversions more liberally than before the war. What they scatter in this way may be surmised when Hon. Mr. McGarry expects to collect \$250,000 from their amusements this year.

It is well that the two special taxes, in Ottawa and Toronto, are of the same party and political faith, or there would be a collision between them with respect to the right of each to resort to direct taxation. Mr. McGarry says this is a function secured to the province by the Act of Confederation. He will forgive Sir Thomas White for his trespass under present circumstances, but he sends out the warning that eventually, after peace has been proclaimed, he will insist upon an adjustment of the rights of the Dominion and Province with regard to direct taxation. Good luck to him.

THE SOLDIER OFFENDERS.

The reports in the Toronto papers give the fuller details of the strife between the soldiers and the civilians on temperance day, and everyone who reflects on the matter must regret the occurrence. It will be remembered that the present temperance wave, which is submerging the province and carrying everything before it had its origin in the protests of the people against the temptations which were placed in the way of the soldier boys. Many of these young men left homes in which sobriety was a sacred rule of the family, and their parents were grieved to learn that any of them were liable to become drinkers of intoxicating liquors.

The saloon and the bar would have no more attraction for the soldier than for the civilian ordinarily, if the men who have enlisted for active military service had places which correspond with their homes, and the influence, drawing them towards these places were as strong as they might be. The churches have to be commended and thanked for the provisions they have made for the entertainment of the young soldiers. There are rooms open each evening for them, and music and literature and refreshments, some of them free, and all of them costing less than anything which is to be had in the saloon or the bar-room. There are, too, the reading rooms of the Y. M. C. A., and the baths and other privileges which are available by the soldier. So that he is tolerably well provided for and should be able to pass his evenings profitably and pleasantly if he be so disposed.

The agitation for the closing of the bars has been made a personal matter so far as the man in khaki is concerned. He realizes that he is being used as an object lesson, sometimes in an offensive way, and he resents this. Hence the conflict

in Toronto. There would have been no trouble had the banter of meddlesome people been omitted. There is no defence, however, for the rudeness and the roughness of the attacks on the prohibitionists, and the offenders must be, if they can be detected, called to account. The soldier of the King stands, or should stand, for probity in public places, and one who lowers himself in his calling should be severely punished.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A new residence of the lieutenant-governor of Ontario has cost about \$1,200,000. The occupant gets the use of it, rent free, but—

The provincial debt, under Conservative government, has increased from \$11,709,51, in 1904, to \$49,389,36 in 1915. Going some, eh?

Winston Churchill's sudden appearance and sensational speech in parliament, and about the pavy, were characteristic of him. It would not have done him any good to visit London and not get into the limelight.

Lieut.-Col. Mulloy will work the harder to recruit the 146th Regiment now that he has an honorary title in connection with it. But something more than a pleading tongue is now necessary to move the masses. Conscription is getting nearer.

It was Churchill who drove Lord Fisher into retirement by insisting upon something that, my lord regarded as impracticable, and it was Churchill who suggested his recall. Very like the man. He is clever, but very erratic, especially when like our own Senator Davis, he plays off his own bat.

Saskatchewan's opposition is hard to please. It demanded royal commissions, composed of judges, to probe into certain scandals. Now it objects unless it has the picking of the judges. Certain men cannot apparently trust Chief Justice Haultain, though he was formerly the leader of the opposition.

The law does not say that a rich man cannot, while he lives, distribute or give away his estate. The province questioned the right of the late Senator Cox to divide certain stocks among his sons, and if it got a larger succession duty it was because these sons were willing to pay it. That appears in the report of Judge Middleton.

Annual meeting of the Board of Trade this evening. Time some preparation was being made with regard to what will happen after the war. A City Planning Committee has been suggested. Its duty would be to protect public interests and advance them from time to time by helpful suggestions. Something of the kind is very much needed in Kingston.

Six French aviators bombarded German railway depots in Central Belgium, doing heavy damage.

RANDOM REELS

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

THE CABARET.

The cabaret is a playground for married men who have left home in order to avoid being talked to death. It is also frequented by large quantities of married men who could stay away from home for nine months at a time without being missed by anybody except the booze solicitor. The cabaret is a neat French device for preventing the rural patron from leaving town with money on his person. There is something about the atmosphere, as well as the fauna and flora, of the average cabaret which makes a prodigal son out of the village Croesus. Every few days some thirsty, kiln-dried retired merchant from an inland town will stumble into a cabaret with the intention of buying a lemon soda and enjoying the scenery, but will be made so mellow by the music that he will throw 75 cents or a dollar away with the utmost unconcern. This is one reason why no married man should be allowed to visit our large cities without being accompanied by a square-jawed wife with high ideals and brawny muscles. The cabaret consists of a large room full of smoke, three-legged

Rippling Rhymes

BONEHEAD PLAYS

We might, as graveyard we advance, know naught but golden days, if we did not, at every chance, indulge in bonehead plays. For nearly all the ills we know, and all the pains and aches, originated long ago, in our own foolish breaks. Man labors, in his stultic years, and when he draws his pay, he blows it in for long cold beers, and that's a bonehead play. The schoolboy, Mother's Little Pet, upon a summer day, learns how to smoke a cigarette, and that's a bonehead play. The dandelion learns to paint and sing, to dance the night away, but sidesteps every useful thing, and that's a bonehead play. All carelessly man goes in debt for grub and clothes and hay, and knows, when lawyers make him sweat, it was a bonehead play. To buy a gaudy choo-choo cart man signs his home away, and says some day, with breaking heart, "It was a bonehead play." The life of ours should be sublime, our hearts should all be glad; but we pull boneheads all the time, and that's why life is sad.

PUBLIC OPINION

Ground For Cemeteries.  
(Prince Arthur Chronicle.)  
The Germans have taken considerable ground before Verdun, but they need much of it for graveyards.

Some One To Blame.  
(Toronto Mail.)  
The German Crown Prince is said to have a military adviser. He will, therefore, have someone on whom to blame the failure at Verdun.

Mowat the Model.  
(Toronto Star.)  
We are now living in a more strenuous age than that of Oliver Mowat. Still, the younger politicians might not go astray if they would take a lesson in urbanity from their predecessors.

Germany's Banker.  
(London Advertiser.)  
Krupps head the list of subscriptions to the German war loan. They lend 40,000,000 marks with which the country can purchase from them 20,000,000 marks worth of munitions. Good business.

A Wonderful Change.  
(Montreal Star.)  
German tobacco costing 55 marks per hundred weight abroad will have to pay a duty of 166 marks to get into the country. The war's end should see the great bulk of Germany's male population left alive strictly non-smokers.

The Majority Rule.  
(Brantford Expositor.)  
In Manitoba, and in British Columbia as well, prohibition is to be submitted to the electors of these provinces on the bare majority vote. With such precedents before him, it is not easily seen how Premier Hearst, in the approaching referendum for this province, can do otherwise than remove the iniquitous three-fifths handicap.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A. Gunn refused the offer of \$4,000 from the School Board for five lots on Union street.  
W. C. Carruthers and Rev. Dr. Torrance are home from a trip to Cairo. They ascended to the summit of the highest pyramid there.  
There are three hundred men employed at the locomotive works.

COMMERCIAL PRESS.

Hitting Business.  
Journal of Commerce.  
Capital engaged in active business is taxed, while capital in the form of bonds and mortgages is free from the new burdens. A straight and general income tax scheme, with reasonable exemptions, would no doubt have been attended by some difficulties, but one may question whether they would have been greater than those which the Minister will meet in the application of the system now proposed.

Foe Prisoners in Britain.  
London, March 10.—Under-Secretary of War Tennant stated in Parliament that there are at present 13,821 German military prisoners in Britain. The aliens interned total 32,181.

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