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SEVENTH YEAR.



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HOPING FOR AN ESCAPE.

The London Free Press announces that the Liberals at Ottawa, having exploited the shells scandals, are now eager to end the session and leave for home. This is surely news. The members of the opposition have only fairly begun the work of the session. They have asked for information and have not received it, and they have moved resolutions, the discussion of which has revealed the serious weaknesses of the government.

The Free Press says the country has not taken much stock in the charges against the shells committee. Which shows how inaccurately our contemporary has measured public opinion upon the subject. The liberals have asked for an investigation into many ugly scandals. They have been restricted by the government as much as possible, but they have the facts, are spreading them on Hansard, are circulating them through the press, and even the conservatives have had to admit that the outlook for the party is very bad.

The committees of the Commons are still in session, and, if the witnesses can be induced to remain in the country and tell what they know in place of suddenly disappearing, like Col. J. Wesley Allison, the results will be far-reaching. The government has been most reckless and incompetent, and guilty of iniquities that must bury the ambitions if not the careers of many members of parliament.

Liberals wanting to go home? That is not the information which comes from Ottawa. The men who want an adjournment, as soon as the estimates are passed, who are worried over each day's revelations, are not the liberals, but the members of the government and its followers in the Commons.

MR. KEMP'S BIG ORDER.

Mr. Kemp, chairman of the purchasing committee for the dominion government, has not improved his position by explaining how an order for \$300,000 came to be awarded to the Sheet Metal Produce Company, of Canada, of which he is the president and manager. Mr. Carvell called attention to his good fortune while reciting the manner in which the shells committee had distributed its favors among its friends. Mr. Kemp was one of them.

He was called to a very responsible office some time after the war had broken out, and after the Militia Department had become overwhelmed in trouble in consequence of its imprudence. The patronage list, and the unwise use of it, had entailed more than the usual score of iniquities, and with considerable of a flourish it was announced that a new committee had been appointed and that its purpose was to do business on business principles. This was the committee of which Mr. Kemp became the chairman.

He pleads that though his company got an order for \$300,000 worth of goods he did not know about it. The negotiations had been carried on by the regular officials, and though he was the president of the concern the first he knew of the transaction was when he read of it in Hansard. Now Mr. Kemp has been regarded as a keen business man, alive to all that affects his welfare and the welfare of his company, and his innocent pose in connection with this contract is most impressive.

Mr. Kemp did not know what his wicked partners were doing, but he would have been very mad with some of them—he says he would have condemned them—had they refused

to accept the order of the shells committee, because he was at the head of the company. Of course he would! No one doubts that for a moment. The surprise is that he should apologise for something which he unreservedly approves. The apology under the circumstances is certainly unique.

THE WHISPERED CONFERENCE.

Hon. Mr. Hearst and Hon. Mr. Hanna had great consideration for the deputation of liquor men who dropped into their offices in order to discuss the prohibition question. The meeting was held behind closed and tiled doors. The temperance men had a public meeting with the ministers. They filled the premier's office, the lobbies, and flowed out into the open spaces in front of the parliament buildings.

The Licensed Victuallers may have felt that they were entitled to special attention. They had bled freely for the conservative party in the last election. They had to fight the close-the-bar party with all the power and money they could command. They had a plea to offer, and the government set a time in which its members could hear the story.

The Licensed Victuallers had a number of requests which the government will no doubt consider. They included a referendum after the war; concessions as to the time the prohibition measure would go into effect; the suggested sale of beer and wine by the hotels, with permission to the shops to sell spirits as at present; a referendum, in any case, to annul the effects of all option votes; the cancellation of the percentage on bar receipts, now collected by the province; and compensation for the loss of business and capital.

The promise of the premier and his friend Hanna has not been announced. The attitude of the premier has been indicated by recent reports. Hon. Mr. Hearst is for prohibition without any entanglements or compromises, and the government will go with him as a matter of form. The trade has no hope of a change in its favor. The traffic must go, and there will be a noise in consequence which will be heard all over the province.

APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR.

The federal government will be forced to order an enquiry into the shell business by a judicial commission or he under the imputation of having "shirked it, fearing the results." When Mr. Meighen, the official or legal apologist of the government, admits that in connection with the contract there has been "unwise and improvident expenditures," it can be taken for granted that a probe, vigorously applied, and by an unsparring hand, would lay bare a malodorous mess.

Dr. Pugsley presented a resolution in the Commons on Monday which the premier practically invited. Mr. Carvell scored the Minister of Militia and the shell committee, and gave the proofs of a familiarity with inside affairs which was simply surprising. He was as apt at quotations as if he were the official custodian of the public records. He was candid and clear in his charges, and made the members of the government wince. Still, according to Sir Robert Borden, Mr. Carvell was not specific or direct enough. So he declined to grant an investigation. Dr. Pugsley, in precise and legal form, presented the Carvell charges afresh and associated with them the Minister of Militia, who organized the shell committee and who was acquainted with its work, and also his associates in the ministry, from the premier down, because they were conscious of what was going on. These associates were inclined to let the Minister of Militia get a hammering—the harder the better—and to let the matter go with that, denying all responsibility. The contracts were for the imperial government, they averred. So they were. But Sir Thomas White, not so long ago, admitted that Canada was paying its share of the expenditure, the amount to be adjusted after the war.

Meanwhile the charge is that the wastefulness of the government through its favoritism in awarding shell committee, amounted to \$50,000,000. Let Sir Robert Borden refuse the enquiry into the charges, as at present formulated, and public opinion will pass upon the act and in condemnation of the government. In Manitoba the Roblin government refused an enquiry into the scandals which later overwhelmed it and drove it out of office in disgrace. The lieutenant-governor forced the judicial examination. The liberals in Ottawa may be forced to lay their case before the governor-general for his consideration.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Ontario government gives the Licensed Victuallers a private interview, and engages in a heart to heart talk with them. And "pals" in an election must be shown special consideration.

The provincial government of British Columbia is on its last legs. To avoid any further exposures in wrong doing, if possible, there will be an early appeal to the people. After the election there will hardly

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be enough of the 'precious combination found to identify it.

The liberals at Ottawa are acting like the men from Missouri. They are demanding a show-down. And they cannot be put off. Nemesis is on the track of the Minister of Militia and his friends on the shell committee.

The federal government refuses to meet the demand of the liberals for an enquiry into the shell business, on the ground that the liberals do not really want it. If there is nothing to conceal why is this enquiry not granted?

In Peterboro and Windsor there has been a cutting down of civic salaries. In Windsor several offices have been merged and the occupants of these have taken upon themselves double duties. In some places—not in Kingston, however—the fact is appreciated that a great war is on.

The essence of the charges which have been preferred against the federal government, especially against the Minister of Militia, is admitted by their apologist, Mr. Meighen. He says that the shell committee made "unwise and improvident expenditures." Still a look into the contracts is denied by the government.

Mr. Meighen says the members of the opposition in the Commons are not in earnest. They do not want an investigation, he says, into the shell contracts. They certainly have asked for it; nay, more, they have demanded it. Dr. Pugsley has staked his seat and reputation upon the result. That is not the act of a joker.

When Do R. M. C. Men Go?

Canadian Courier.  
We venture a question: The report of the commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston for the college year 1914-15 shows that thirty-three "gentlemen cadets" have been recommended for special war commissions. Of these ten are named for the Canadian Permanent Force, five for the Overseas Contingent, and eighteen for the Imperial Army. The grand total of commissions taken by R. M. C. men from August, 1914, to June, 1915, was 152. Of these 68 entered the Imperial Army, 40 the Canadian Permanent Force, and 44 our Overseas Forces. R. M. C. is a splendid institution, but there must be a mistake in the report, else why do only five Canadian graduates of a Canadian school join the numbers of officers for the Canadian fighting forces overseas? Why do eighteen go into the Imperial Army and a total of only fifteen take up the Canadian Army careers they have been trained for? Is it because the English pay is greater? Or can it possibly be a reluctance to officer colonial troops? We observe that the R. M. C. cost our country a sum of money. No one begrudges it if the fine teachings of the school are to be allowed to spread among Canadians, leaving the mass. But if we support only a school of snobbery, a school that makes young men seek careers in English rather than Canadian service—it is time the source of that snobbery in the school be removed.

A Philosopher.

(Winnipeg Tribune).  
It's a funny old world that we're living in. Dancing and bridging for war at home, while our boys are shooting and dying at the front.

Forced On Us.

(Toronto Star).  
About 730,000 square miles in Africa have passed from German to British control. We really did not need this, but the Germans have forced it on us.

Should Hush Up.

(Hamilton Expositor).  
Even if Hon. Mr. Crofters has a doubt as to the outcome of the present war, he should keep his opinion to himself. Canada does not expect to find "cold feet" among its public men.

What We Missed.

(Ottawa Citizen).  
The fact that some Canadian firm had placed an order for a hundred thousand Union Jacks in the United

Public Opinion

Optimistic As Usual.

(Calgary News-Telegram).  
This show means another two or three hundred thousand bushels of grain this year, so quit your kicking.

Random Reels

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

The Direct Primary.

The direct primary is a recent invention which makes one man's vote as good as another. It has also raised the price of votes in some states to a point where it costs more to run for Congress than it did to run a ball team in the Federal League. Before the direct primary came into being, politics in this country were conducted by caucus or town meeting method, by which four men in each township decided who should be elected. This was an ideal arrangement, and a deadly blow to the perpetuity of our institutions was struck when it was laid low. Some of the greatest men we have ever had were elected to office with the aid of the township caucus, and yet it was ruthlessly side-tracked in favor of the direct primary. All those who have noticed that the mental calibre of American office-holders has been raised over 2 per cent. by the direct primary will please hold up their right hands.

The direct primary ballot is an imitation of a Chinese laundry ticket, which is voted with both eyes shut. As the names of the candidates appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, it is worth more to a candidate to be born with a capital A at the head of his name than to own four or five daily newspapers.

We would all think more of the direct primary if so much of it was not directed by the present incumbents.

Rippling Rhymes

Fighting and Farming

Since winter on its way is faring, and spring is in again, old Europe's hosts are now preparing to play about a million men. Great husky youths who should be seeding the fertile fields to wheat and oats, will spend the springtime scuffling, bleeding, latent on cutting strangers' throats. The hills of France shall see no tiller, the vales in vain expect the plow, and Death, the dour and dusty miller, is doing all the grist-work now. And Death is measuring the acres where once the shepherds used to bask, to see that kings and kindred fathers have room to do their butcher's task. And Death demands the ox and charger, which used to draw the loaded wain, and everything that will make larger his crimson tally of the slain. Where once the milkmaid drove the heifer, where once the vintner pressed the grape, Death's bloody odor taints the zephyr, Death flaunts his rusty rags of grape. When to your divers gods you're praying, pray not, that either side may win, but for an end to crazy slaying, an end to murder's smoke and din.

States some months ago proved how close we were to a general election last year.

A Hard Question.

(Montreal Star).  
Alphonse Verreille, M. P., wants to know why Jack Read, of Calgary, was given fifteen months in prison for sedition and Armand Lavergne, of Quebec, was allowed to go unpunished. The Government may have thought that somebody might listen to Read.

Not a New Idea.

(Brantford Expositor).  
The Hamilton Herald asks if the liquor traffic is to be suppressed because it is a luxury which can be dispensed with, why not get rid of tea, coffee, theatres, moving picture shows, jewellery, candies, cigars and tobacco, which are also luxuries? There is nothing new in this line of argument, the only novel thing about it is that it should be advanced, with apparent sincerity, in the year A. D. 1916.

Kingston Events

25 Years Ago

The Council of Queen's University selected Judge McDonald, Brookville, to be a member of the Board of Trustees for five years.

The annual report of Dr. C. K. Clark, of Rockwood Hospital, showed that grippe played an important part in swelling the death list at that institution.

Poiger Bros. expect to have the steamer Pierrepont running to the island in less than three weeks.

The Cadets of the Royal Military College were given target practice to-day with nine pounders. The target was set in the ice towards Wolfe Island.

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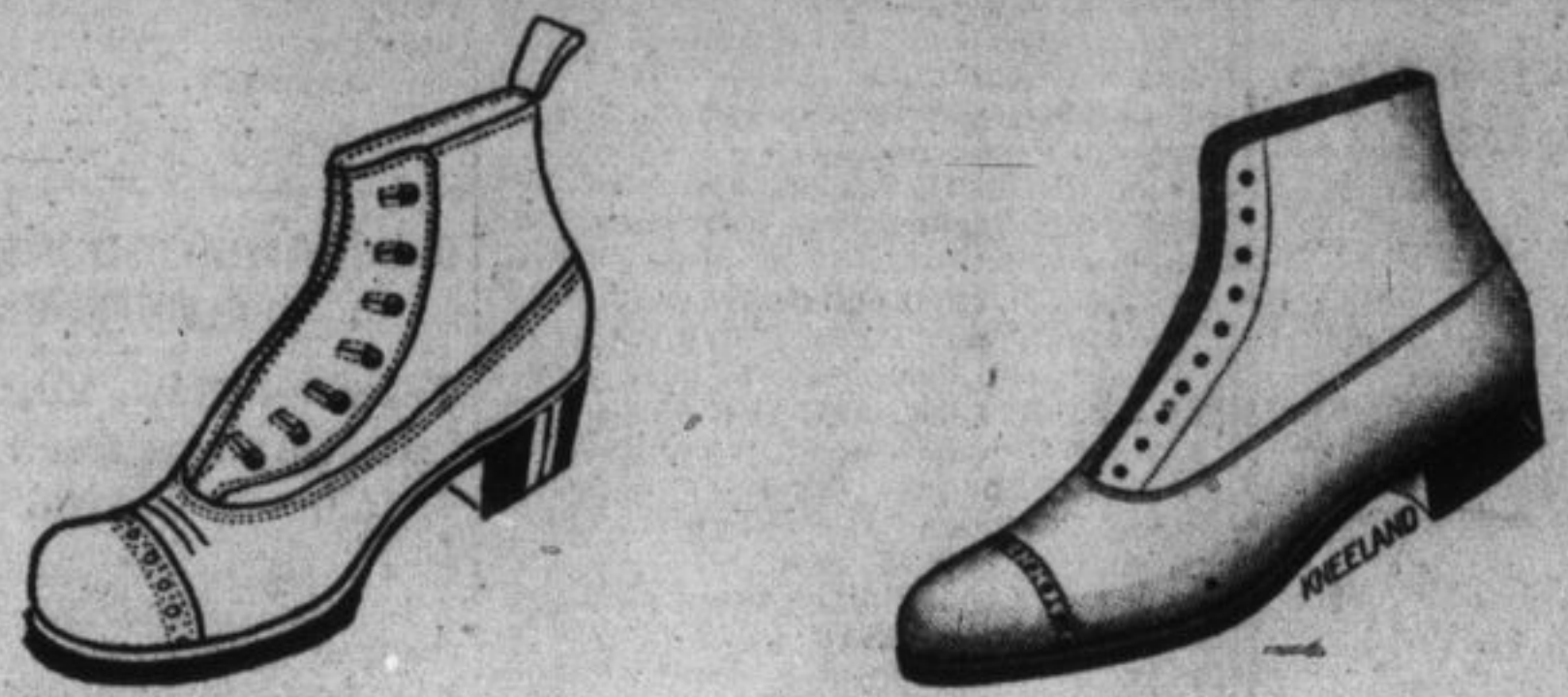
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(Aids to Beauty.) No woman is immune to superfluous growths, and because these are likely to appear at any time, it is advisable to always have some delicate powder handy to use when the occasion arises. A paste is made with some of the powder and water and spread upon the hairy surface; in about 2 minutes this is carefully removed and the skin washed. You will then find that your skin is entirely free from hair or fuzz. Be sure, however, to get real delatone.

Government on Trial.

Toronto World.  
The Vancouver Province reviewing the defeat of the two ministers in the Bowers Government by the two cities, Vancouver and Victoria, professes that they only mean that the people wished merely to emphasize their wish that an opposition be secured in the legislature, and on that is under way the Bowers Government, which has a big majority, will finish up this session, and succeed in the general election. It does not strike us that way. The Bowers Government, and the McBride Government, of which it is the heir, is on trial for its record, for its handling of the government resources, for its financial policy, and it will have to show good in all these respects, or follow in the wake of Roblin in Manitoba and probably Scott in Saskatchewan.

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