

The British Whig



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

J. G. ELLIOT, President; Leman A. Gold, Managing Director and Sec. Treas.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Daily Edition): One year, delivered in city \$8.00; One year, if paid in advance \$7.50; One year, by mail to rural offices \$12.50; One year, to United States \$25.00; (Semi-Weekly Edition) One year, by mail, cash \$11.00; One year, if not paid in advance \$12.50; One year, to United States \$25.00; Six and three months \$6.00.

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

TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: H. B. Smallpiece, 32 Church St. U. S. REPRESENTATIVES: New York Office, 215 Fifth Ave., Frank R. Northrup, Manager; Chicago, Tribune Bldg., Frank R. Northrup, Manager.

CHANGE IN THE LAW.

Mr. Parliament — how appropriate is the name — has before the legislature a bill which we hope will become law. It aims at the clothing of the officers in charge of the overseas forces with authority, under the Canada Evidence Act, to witness the oaths which must be taken by soldiers in the war zone. In connection with insurance claims, to say nothing of anything else, it is necessary that the declarations of the soldiers should be taken in legal form. The men in khaki are far from the places where legal men can be found in the practice of their profession. Some one who is competent and convenient must perform the task, and who better qualified in the military ranks than the colonel, major, captain, adjutant, or lieutenant in active service with the Canadian Overseas Service. We hope the bill goes through. The need of it is very great.

The women in Germany want the franchise. Why not? If they must do, on account of the war, the work of the men, they should have equal rights. They deserve the power to vote.

STATUTE LABOR TAX.

The Ontario government is inclined to favor the amendment to the Assessment Act which Mr. Rankin, of the County of Frontenac, has proposed and with reference to the statute labor tax. It has not only been ridiculously low, but hard to collect. A tax of \$6 is easier secured than a tax of \$1, which is so small that the machinery for the gathering of it, at fixed periods, and sometimes not on the dates on which the ordinary taxes are due, is unduly expensive. The agitation for a change in the law has been of long duration. It has been ineffective because the legislature has not regarded it as a matter of much importance. Not assuming that the amendment will be carried, the municipality can afford to expend some energy upon the statute labor accounts and with results which will be appreciated by our young men.

It was announced recently that the Ontario ministry was unanimous upon the prohibition question. It remains to be seen how united the party is when the vote is called on the question next week.

A MISSION THAT FAILED.

Ruston Rustonjee, who made two addresses in the city on Tuesday, created a most favorable impression. He is an educated Parsee, a graduate of the University of Oxford, and a publicist of distinction. His charm of manner and eloquence of speech make him a visitor of the very greatest interest. He stated his mission to Canada, and it is one which all our people must appreciate. It is to interpret the Indian view of the present great war, and after one has heard his explanations he is impressed with the loyalty and devotion of the Indian people. Incidentally he referred, and most directly, to the trouble with the shipload of Indians who attempted to land in defiance of the Canadian law at British Columbia three years ago. These men sailed from India direct to Victoria in a ship which had belonged to the Germans up to a couple of weeks before she entered upon this trip. Then her register was transferred to Japan. There is no doubt, however, as subsequent events proved, that the voyage and the effects of it were planned by German emissaries and for evil purposes. Mr. Rustonjee begged of his Canadian friends not to judge, or misjudge, India by the exploits of these misguided

men. They were engaged in a mission which had failed, and properly so, because of the ignoble scheme under which it was launched.

SOME LEGAL LANGUAGE.

A bill is before the local house which aims, among other things, to amend the Manhood Suffrage Registration Act in that "every village, township and town shall be deemed to be a city" for the purposes of the said Act. The average lay mind will conceive of an amendment which would make the Manhood Registration Act general in its application to any incorporated centre. This would be more comprehensible. It is a little difficult to imagine that a village, or a township, or a town, is a city "for the purposes of an election," and the polling of the manhood suffrage vote. Of course, this can be done. But the amendment is not a finished performance any more than the amendments which some councils make to their by-laws, inserting provisions which are then identified as (a) (b) (c) (d) in a way to make their meaning indistinct. But anything is better to some men than to trouble themselves about changes which are necessary in order to make their conceptions legal enactments.

NO SCANDALS IN FRANCE.

The Mail and Empire refers to the French White Paper and the report in it of a visit to France of a deputation from England. Their mission was a study of the munitions business. The French had made prodigious progress in the production of munitions and the desire was to enquire into the circumstances under which this result had been brought about. The English experts found, says the Mail, conditions very similar to those which prevailed in Canada. Did they?

The Whig fails to see it. On the contrary it finds that the French government did not have over the munitions business to a committee which awarded contracts at extravagant prices, many of these contracts going to the companies in which the members of the committee were either personally or financially interested.

The French government, far from this, sought the employment of every manufacturer possible in the production of munitions, "at competitive prices," and under such conditions as enabled the smaller capitalists to get their share of the business. These manufacturers of munitions, in many cases, put their profits into additional machinery with which to add to the larger results. The conditions may have resembled the conditions in Canada in one respect—the opportunity was very great, and, under proper encouragement, the manufacturers should have been able to get all the contracts they could complete with the highest satisfaction. There have been no scandals in France, and no evidence of political iniquities of which the government in ashamed. So efficient has the French service that the English experts have found it expedient to visit the factories and report to the British government what they have seen. A copy of this report should be put in the hands of every member of the Canadian parliament for his information.

Senator Dandurand, of Montreal, thinks a trio of sensible men, leaders in the educational world, could settle the bilingual question in a way to satisfy the French-Canadians. The Senator should follow this up and submit his suggestion to a practical test.

IGNORING THE FARMERS.

The farmers of the west are likely to be great sufferers from the severity of the winter, and the inability on account of the weather to move out and sell or store their grain. In Saskatchewan there are at least 6,000,000 bushels in the field, covered, of course, but exposed to the changing temperatures and liable to dampness.

The situation is so serious that the minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan appealed to the grain commission to get an amendment to the Grain Act, and one which would give the commission power to deal with the situation by ordering the railroads to remove the grain. Sir George Foster submitted an amendment which went further than the minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan desired, and one that gives the commission power to act when there is an alleged congestion. Hon. Mr. Motherell, of Regina, protests against the proposed change.

Four years ago there was an attempt by the minister of commerce to amend the Grain Act so that the commission could ignore the law respecting car distribution under certain circumstances. But the Senate and the farmers opposed it, and it was dropped. Now the amendment has been revived, and unless it is held up a second time by the Senate it will become law, and the people in whose interests it is moved, the farmers, protest against it. The difference between the minister of commerce and the minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan will be settled by the people. Mr. Motherell, of Regina, will not find it difficult to show that he acted in the in-

terest of the farmers, and if there is great loss by damage to the grain the federal government will be called to account, and very properly so. It is not of much advantage to the country to appeal to the farmers of the west to produce more and more, only to find their increased productions a loss through the inability of the government and the transportation companies to deal with the situation as it requires. There will be less grain raised in this year of grace, and it is probably the year in which the larger production should be desired.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Rev. Dr. Chown's last suggestion, it is said, is that the churches which favor union, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, shall unite and become "The United Church of Canada." It would be all-powerful especially in the west.

The republicans of the United States are again shaping up for a row over the presidency, and that will be Mr. Wilson's only chance for a second term. Judge Hughes does not want a nomination and has positively refused it, and his party does not want Col. Roosevelt.

Col. McMeans, of Winnipeg, says that there are in military district No. 10 as many as 4,000 unattached lieutenants. If there are so many out of commissions in one district, how many must there be in all the military districts of Canada and in England? The English contingents, it is understood, are drawing pay and reporting from time to time for a duty which they do not perform.

Hedley Francis Le Bas, in the American Magazine, shows that the way to make recruiting hum is to advertise. The government evidently does not think so. It may feel it is not getting full value for the thousands upon thousands of dollars that are being spent in party patronage. Mr. Le Bas has demonstrated his theories in Britain successfully and Col. Seeley, the former minister of war, can bear witness to the fact.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Imaginative. (Guelph Mercury.) Some men are just liars, and others again get paid for drawing the pictures in seed catalogues.

Some Omissions. (Ottawa Free Press.) If Sir Sam provided Col. J. Wesley Allison with a special train he might also have added an escort and a brass band.

Some Distance Behind. (London Advertiser.) The Crown Prince is behind the attack at Verdun, and you can gamble your last kopeck, that he is some distance behind.

Trust Her Soldiers. (Port Arthur Chronicle.) Canada can safely trust herself in the hands of her soldiers whether it is elections or battles. The cam-

RANDOM REELS

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

VACCINATION. Vaccination is a painful remedy for some disease that is four jumps removed from the county line. Every once in a while the low rumbling accents of an approaching epidemic can be heard in the distance, when it becomes necessary to puncture the entire community in the left arm and drive the germs in another direction. The germ has never been discovered that can attack a vaccinated citizen immediately after the vaccine has secured a firm hold and live to tell the tale.

Vaccination is caused by poisoning the patient with a penknife and six drops of high-priced lymph. By the proper use of these articles a very perceptible limp can be imparted to the patient, especially when he attempts to lift his left arm above his head. Some people are so constituted that they cannot be vaccinated without swelling up in a threatening manner, so that when they are slapped on the arm by a cordial friend a sense of deep annoyance sets in. Nothing will try the Christian fortitude of a devout church member more than to be vaccinated in the left

shoulder-blade, and then have four or five life-long friends seize the spot in a warm, clinging grasp. Vaccination is good for only seven years, after which it has to be done over again in a dark purple tint. Compulsory vaccination is a variety which has been legalized by law, and springs up whenever somebody on the Pacific coast has been bitten by a mad dog. Whenever a smallpox microbe is seen edging its way over the horizon, school is dismissed and the children are allowed to be vaccinated in order to sweeten their vacation hours.

Vaccination is said to "take" when it takes four strong men to hold the victim in bed the second day after. The only defences of vaccination in this country are the doctors, who were the first to recognize its benefits. Why is it that the average doctor is perfectly willing to vaccinate everybody on the town plat and yet prefers to keep his own arm in an unblemished and shapely condition? If every patient would require his family physician to be vaccinated first, there would be fewer people going around with arms like a captive halloon.

Rippling Rhymes

LEARNING THE AUTO.

I'm learning the automobile; as, trembling, I sit at the wheel, and steer her along, through the hurrying throng, how nervous and awkward I feel! I jolt people out of their lids, I run over chicken and kids; a spurt she will throw when I want to go slow, she scampers, she dodges and skids. I sweat, and I'm weak in the knees, when swift around corners she flies, she whimpers and whines and she gurgles and purs, and runs into fences and trees. My courage she constantly damps by running down bow-wows and tramps; she collided to-day with a big heavy dray, and busted her fenders and lamps. I drive her around for an hour, this engine of terrible power; wherever I stray, on my death-dealing way, of fear there is a shower. At night, when I go to my bed, fierce nightmares abide in my head; I dream my new truck is just running amuck, and leaving a windrow of dead. I run over chickens and goats, I run over roosters and shotes; and oft, in my dream, do I raucously scream, "My auto is feeling her oats!"

AMERICAN PRESS.

"Coming Events."

New low records were reached yesterday in the exchanges on Germany and on Austria. At 11 3/4 cents for four marks the latter are at a discount of very nearly twenty-five per cent, while the Austrian krona or crown at 12.48 cents shows a depreciation of thirty-eight and one-half per cent. While eight drafts on the Teutonic centres were falling to the above figures, the rates for bills on Paris and London were advancing. "Coming events cast their shadows before." The ruinous depreciation in the German and Austrian "exchanges" in general markets is the precursor of the coming economic and financial collapse of the Central Empires. The Dominion Alliance is to work for complete prohibition in the Province of Quebec.

Crothers' Ailment.

(Windsor Record.) Give us some form of compulsory service before we lie down like a lot of quitters, as Baron Shaughnessy advises, or walk around with ice in our shoes, as Hon. Thomas Crothers does.

His Mind Affected.

(Belleville Ontario.) Something ought to be done with the Montreal professor who trifles with the feelings of the public by insisting that "having the grip is a state of mind."

Expensive Spends.

(Hamilton Times.) It came out in the Public Accounts Committee yesterday that the Government paid \$7 per barrel of potatoes. This was the result of the patronage system.

A Smaller Man.

(Toronto Mail.) Toronto is selecting a commissioner of finance at a salary of \$15,000, which doesn't say much for Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General, when there's a kick raised at his haul of \$11,000.

A Queer Report.

(London Advertiser.) Statistics are said to show a decided decrease in the numbers of murderers in Berlin since the outbreak of war. Since so many are on the firing lines it is surprising any murderers are left in Berlin.

LIBERAL PRESS.

"R. B. Bennett's Admission."

(Montreal Herald.) After all the panegyrics of the Dominion Shell Committee delivered in the House of Commons, Sir Robert Borden, Sir Sam Hughes, and others of the Conservatives, R. B. Bennett added his contribution on behalf of the Government. This budding aspirant for ministerial favors said there should be no investigation of the charges against the Shell Committee, because, "When your house is on fire and the hose bursts do you stop to investigate responsibility for the poor hose or where it was bought?" If this is not a flat admission that the Shell Committee, which his friends in the Government have been lauding to the skies, actually and lamentably failed in its duty, what is it? Could there be a more scathing denunciation of the Shell Committee than to compare it to a burst hose at a fire?

Another Charge.

(Windsor Record.) Will the government name a commission to investigate the serious charge by the St. Thomas Journal that liquor interests in that city contributed \$3,000 of thereabouts in the last provincial election on behalf of Hon. F. G. Macdougall, with the assurance, it is understood, that "no measures of prohibition would be given to the people so long as his government remained in power."

Settled For All Time.

(Manitoba Free Press.) Under direct legislation it will always be possible to re-submit the issue of prohibition to the electors of Manitoba; but the prediction may be made that the question will never be reopened. On Monday it was found out the strength of the liquor trade in this province when divorced from political support. In that contest, however, it had the open bars and the free use of liquor—two political influences that, not so long ago, were all powerful in this province. In any future contest these influences would not be available; and without

INDEPENDENT PRESS.

The Carvell Charges.

If the public is impressed by the charges made by Mr. Carvell against the Shell Commission, it is not likely to be satisfied by Mr. Crothers' plea that criticism of the military administration ought to be restrained during the war lest aid and comfort be afforded to the enemy. On the contrary, the Government, notwithstanding the postponement of the elections, can hardly prosecute the war with the greatest efficiency, if it does not inspire public confidence and respect. There has already, we think, been too much restraint. Had Sir Robert Borden held bye-elections at intervals during 1914 and 1915, he would have guarded against many evils and mistakes which it is now difficult to remedy.

After The Slackers.

(Hamilton Herald.) The trouble is that too many of the wrong men are going and too many of the men who could easily be spared are hanging back. There are too many skilled workers in khaki—too many drones still in civilian clothes. Under a well-ordered system of compulsory service the principle of selection would be applied; the men who could most easily be spared would be put into the ranks, and those most needed for work at home would be kept at home to work.

KINGSTON EVENTS.

25 YEARS AGO.

Prohibition petitions were distributed in the churches. A pewholder in Sydenham Street Church ordered two young ladies to leave his pew. Fortunately the ushers found seats for them. As a result of mild weather, holes have been made in the ice bridge. Capt. Joseph Dix will spend \$500 in repairing the schooner White Oak. Funston Wants More Troops. San Antonio, Texas, March 22.—Gen. Funston yesterday asked the War Department for more troops for the campaign against Villa. Troops are wanted to guard a one hundred-mile communication line. A lot of times being sorry falls to repair the wrong.

Bibbys - Limited Your Spring Overcoat. A garment every man should have. See the handsome garments we're now showing—New Slip Ons, New Raglans, New Chesterfields. They are handsomely tailored from Black and Grey Vicunas and Cheviots, Fancy Scotch Tweeds in the neat Pin Dots and Black and Whites. Special Values \$12 \$15 \$18. SEE OUR NOBBY SHOE STYLES, \$4.00 and \$5.00. Bibbys : : Limited

Everything Electrical. Our stock of ELECTRICAL FIXTURES and APPLIANCES is the most complete in the city. The very newest designs always in stock. Largest stock to choose from. Wiring a specialty. W. J. MOORE & SON -- The Electric Shop

How to Save Your Eyes. Try This Free Prescription. Do your eyes give you trouble? Do you already wear eyeglasses or spectacles? Thousands of people wear these "windows" who might easily dispense with them. You may be one of these, and it is your duty to save your eyes before it is too late. The eyes are neglected more than any other organ of the entire body. After you finish your day's work you sit down and rest your muscles, but how about your eyes? Do you rest them? You know you do not. You read or do something else that keeps your eyes busy; you work your eyes until you go to bed. That is why so many have strained eyes and finally other eye troubles that threaten partial or total blindness. Eyeglasses are merely crutches; they never cure. This free prescription has benefited the eyes of so many, may work equal wonders for you. Use it a short time. Would you like your eye troubles to disappear as if by magic? Try this prescription. Go to the nearest wide-awake drug store and get a bottle of Bon-Opto tablets. Drop one tablet in a glass of water and allow it to thoroughly dissolve. With this liquid bathe the eyes two to four times daily. Just note how quickly your eyes clear up and how soon the inflammation will disappear. Don't be afraid to use it; it is absolutely harmless. Many who are now blind might have saved their eyes had they started to care for them in time. This is a simple treatment but marvelously effective in multitudes of cases. Now that you have been warned don't delay a day, but do what you can to save your eyes and you are likely to thank us as long as you live for publishing this prescription. The Valmas Drug Co., of Toronto, will fill the above prescription for you if your drug store cannot. A prominent City Physician to whom the above article was submitted, writes: "Bon-Opto is a very reasonable remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to ophthalmic eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. It can be obtained from any good druggist, and is one of the few preparations I feel should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family." One W. Mahood fills many Bon-Opto prescriptions and will gladly fill yours.

Australian Rabbit in Jelly. 60 cents per tin. Each tin contains 2 lbs. net. —Just Arrived— Jas. Redden & Co. Phones 20 and 990.

THOMAS COPLEY Telephone 987. Drop a card to 19 Pine street when wanting anything done in the carpentry line. Estimates given on all kinds of repairs and new work; also hardwood floors of all kinds. All orders will receive prompt attention. Shop 10 Queen street.



Good Coal is SAFE COAL. Good coal is the only kind we have. We don't keep it in our safe; but we do keep it in a safe condition. It's coal that burns freely yet slowly and furnishes its full quota of heat—concentrated heat. You are safe in patronizing us. CRAWFORD, Foot of Queen Street. PHONE 9.