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STAND BY THE AUDITOR.

The Hearst government is amending the Audit Act so that the accountant of the Hydro-Electric Commission will be the appointee of the government and the officer who will be responsible to it for the reports of the commission. Which is not what the situation suggests. The provincial auditor complained that the Hydro-Electric Commission was not conducting its business according to the statute which applied to it, and the answer should not be a change in the law which relieves the auditor of all responsibility. A commission of experts should be asked to report upon the proper routine in accountability, in connection with the Hydro-Electric Commission, and the commission should be forced, by law, to live up to it. That is the remedy which the experience of to-day suggests. The auditor is being humiliated in that he is being deprived of some of the powers that belong to his office. If he is the James Clancy he once was he will not stand for this.

The Orange Sentinel champions the mail order houses. The local paper that does not stand by its advertisers, in community building, must be a curiosity.

LATER SOCIAL STUDIES.

The police of New York are continuing their scrutiny of the bread liners and putting work before them as a test of their sincerity. Only twenty-five out of over five hundred, in one night this week, accepted the employment as a cure for their distress. But it cannot be said that all of the rest were imposters. The men who want food have been called into meetings and heckled a bit, and they in their turn have heckled the representatives of the charitable and municipal aid organizations.

The work offered to some men has been very disagreeable. It has been beyond their capacity. It has been unsuitable for them physically. The employers' agencies have not been showing the wisdom or discretion that has been expected from them. Then there has been in the bread line, lately, a larger proportion of aged men. These have not, in their employment, represented the experience which is valuable at any age. They have not been able to do the work that has been required of them. They have been allowed to go and without any qualms of conscience on the part of their employers.

One gets a different view of life through a study of these reports. It is that the fountains of charity cannot be closed. There is no way of so protecting the livings and savings of the people so as to make them self-supporting, and without the bread line eventually the sufferings of humanity in the great centres of population must be very great. Drink is responsible for some of the wrecks, and the reform that does not come early does not come at all, or comes too late for the salvation of the weaklings.

The garbage system is unnecessarily expensive. Under the contract system, so far as the collection of garbage is concerned, the cost should be much reduced.

PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO.

Prohibition has been ordered, without a division in the legislature, and without a reference to the people for the present. The licenses for shops, hotels and saloons, will expire on May 1st, and will not be renewed. A nominal fee will be exacted from May 1st to September 1st, and then

Ontario will go dry, and probably for good.

Until the war is over there will be no vote of the people upon the question, and the experience of a year or two will be such as to guide the electors in pronouncing most emphatically upon the issue. If the period of total abstinence has not justified the expectation of the electors, they will revert to the license system; if it has justified their hopes and expectations it will not be revived. The chances are that the bar, as the result of an experiment upon which the province is now entering, will never be re-opened.

The war has done more than exemplify its atrocities. It has compelled action by the Allies with regard to social conditions of a far-reaching character. In Russia, France and Britain, drinking will not have the hold upon the people that it once had. With the manufacture of stimulants restricted or repressed, and the people weaned from their social sins, the nations will rise superior to their failings with respect to drink, and become more virile and virtuous.

Canada will surely stand by the programme which the people have been adopting. Prohibition has been sweeping over the country, and with a power that has been irresistible. The achievements in some instances have been surprising. They were not looked for. They came with a suddenness and force, however, which showed that they had been long and quietly contemplated by the people, and that the demand for them only awaited the arrival of a suitable time. All the Province of Ontario will be affected by the general act which has been adopted by the legislature without division or dissent. The final vote will not take place until the soldiers have returned to Canada and been duly registered and entitled to exercise the franchise. Then public opinion will assert itself, and one can have very little doubt as to what the effect will be.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The council is in distress. It is trying to keep down the taxes and they may go up in spite of all its labor.

Oh, the Recruiting Leagues are behind the conscription movement, eh? They had better have a care. The oracle has spoken.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, is full of German reservist officers. What are they doing there? Uncle Sam had better keep his eye on them.

Four years ago when Mr. Rowell proposed prohibition his motion was treated by the Hon. Mr. Hanna as a joke. My, what a change has come over the spirit of his dreams.

It was fitting enough that the Hon. Mr. Hanna, who used to be the champion of the liquor interests, should introduce the bill which kills the trade. His has been a hasty and complete conversion.

Conscription meetings are being held in Hamilton. What is the matter with the people? Do they not know that Sir Sam Hughes is satisfied with the way recruiting is going on without compulsion?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been nominated by the Orange Sentinel as the one all-powerful and dominating leader of the people who can settle the bilingual question. Where do Premier Borden and his Nationalist colleagues come in?

Has the Standard Oil Company any cinch upon the provincial railways? It is charged that it has obtained freight rates over the provincial roads which are not obtainable by any other firm or company. Any ground for the complaint? It should be investigated.

PUBLIC OPINION

Ought To Be Sick.
(Quebec Mercury.)
Von Tirpitz is a sick man. Well, the hellish job he had was enough to make any man sick.

A Great Hope.
(Montreal Mail.)
If Quebec goes dry, the liquor interests will hope that Ottawa be created a federal district without delay, so that there can be at least one place to ship liquor to.

Not Treated Well.
(Toronto Mail.)
Really, if the British navy desires that the German fleet shall come out into the North Sea, its treatment of such vessels as do venture forth is far from encouraging.

Work For Non-Combatants.
(Hamilton Herald.)
Officers who have done good service at the front should from time to time be withdrawn to do such light duty in England as is being done by the non-combatant combatants.

Sir Robert At Bay.
(Toronto Telegram.)
Sir Robert Borden cannot wash his hands of responsibility for his own mistakes with all the verbal soap suds that Messrs. Bennett and Meighen can pour into the basin of their paltry apologies.

Kaiser in Danger.
(London Advertiser.)
Sir Sam Hughes is safe in Eng-

land. We cannot see how the Kaiser can hold out much longer, with Sam on the job. There is a lot of comfort coming to Joffre when he hears Sam has arrived.

Free Wheat Opposed.

(Windsor Tribune.)
Sir Thomas White is a shrewder man than those not acquainted with him might suppose. To the tens of thousands who might regard him as stupid, it may be pointed out that he is the representative in the cabinet of certain interests. He is serving those interests when he opposes freedom in the marketing of grain.

KINGSTON EVENTS
25 YEARS AGO

A large number of citizens are anxious to exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago.

Rural Dean Carey is leaving for England on business for Bishop Lewis, who is in poor health. Mayor Drennan will circulate a petition for signatures asking the Government to locate the camp here for the Kingston district.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Mysterious Col. Allison.

Ottawa Journal.
The one thing Mr. Meighen nor any other Government speaker has satisfied the House upon is the status of J. Wesley Allison. There is, in fact, feeling among Conservatives as well as Liberals that perhaps it would be just as well if the country were without the services of this gentleman, though the truth is that the only thing the Opposition has shown against him thus far, is that he cost the country a \$1,000 for a special train from Ottawa to Morrisburg, his home. This, however, is not a very serious matter, especially if, as Sir Sam alleges, Col. Allison has already saved the country a cool \$50,000,000 and has asked nothing for doing it. Nevertheless there seems to be something of a mystery about Mr. Allison; at least he has thus far shown no disposition to answer a subpoena to give evidence before the Public Accounts Committee, notwithstanding that it was issued some twenty-five days ago.

The Party Suffering.

Montreal Gazette.
There is talk in House of Commons Opposition circles of taking severe measures to compel the attendance before the Public Accounts Committee of Colonel J. Wesley Allison. Colonel Allison is understood to be in New York, and so is outside of the threatened measures, mild or severe. He might well consider, however, whether he would not be wise in returning to Ottawa and facing his accusers. They may hurt him more by the causes they will give for his absence than they could by having him before them as a witness; and their purpose is to hurt him.

Afraid to Speak Truth

Toronto Telegram.
Manufacturers who have been Conservatives all their lives are so stricken by the reign of terror established under the auspices of Sir Robert Borden that they dare not come out in the open and proclaim the truth that ought to be proclaimed in the interests of Canadian industry and Britain's safety. The Shell Committee is the work of Sir Robert Borden's hands. Nobody's head seems to have had any share in the original

RANDOM REELS

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

THE REPORTER.

The reporter is an agile young man who is hired to run down misinformation and turn it into news. Some times the reporter will get too much English on the cue ball and turn in a spicy chunk of misinformation, after which the city editor will be obliged to apologize on the front page in bristling brevity, double-leaded.

Reporters are kept on a newspaper so that people can see their names in print. Some people do not care to have their names appear more than four or five times a week, while others expect to break into every edition in company with a half-tone cut which can be read upside down without destroying the general effect. The reporter who can turn in the most mis-spelled names in a day is sure of steady work, and is of more value to his paper than a piano contest which leaves nothing but dreary memories and a busted bank account.

It is not necessary for the reporter to be educated higher than the knees, but his legs should be kept in good working order, for without them he would be as helpless as a hobo in a shower-bath. Some reporters have

better knee action than others and cover more ground than a flat car. This, however, does not interfere with their control of the English language, which at times is very similar to the world's record for bases on balls.

COMMERCIAL PRESS.

Pilfering And Patronage.
Monetary Times, Toronto.
That expenditure in connection with the war shall be without wastefulness or extravagance and that the Government shall see that this country's money is neither pilfered nor squandered is the demand of the Canadian people. The day is passing rapidly when governments in Canada will be allowed, with little check, to steal the public funds, largely in order to finance a patronage system which has done more harm to the national life than probably any other factor. Naturally the majority of our politicians are still wedded to patronage. Many do not yet recognize that public opinion in regard to pilfering and patronage, in the conduct of our national affairs, is an opinion which is here to stay and to increase in strength. The man in the street is willing to practice thrift for the good of his country. He is not willing to economize so that the patronage system may have its fling with the usual extravagances.

GERMANY GETS AN ANSWER

Defeat Suffered In The Attack On Verdun—Awful Loss.
Everyman, London.
Verdun was to be the German answer to Erzerum. So pressing was the need of a victory in the West as a counterstroke to the disaster in the East, so determined were the Germans to exploit their victory for political purposes, that the capture of the abandoned fort of Douaumont was advertised and celebrated all over the empire as a decisive triumph. But what was to have been a triumph for the Central Powers was destined to become a signed French victory. The whole world has been impressed once more with the staying power of the Republican armies. We rejoice with our gallant Allies in their achievement, and we mourn with them in their losses. But considerable as those losses have been, they bear no proportion to the German losses, and it will be impossible even for the eloquence of the Imperial Orator to prove to his subjects that the slaughter of a hundred thousand British and a hundred thousand German soldiers is not too dear a price to pay for a few square miles of wood and marsh.

Sad News For Mr. Switzer.

Carlton Place, March 24.—A. G. Switzer received a telegram on Friday notifying him of the death of his brother William, druggist, Dresden. The same day a letter arrived from Philadelphia conveying the sad news of the serious illness of his brother Robert, who is afflicted with a malady which is drawing him close to the end of his sands. William was seventy-two; Robert, the next eldest. The twin bolt from the blue was a tremendous shock for our venerable fellow-townsmen, who also seem not far away from the hour when he shall be the last of his race—the sole survivor of a family of four boys and two girls, a family in the first rank among the worthies of Lennox and Addington, after whom the romantic village, Switzerville, near the home-stead, was named.

Rippling Rhymes

ALWAYS SOMETHING

It's hard to save for the rainy day; there's always something for which to pay; there's always something demanding coin; we have to pay for the tenderloin, for the grocer's prunes and the baker's bread, new pillows for the guest-room bed, for a hat for Jane and a shoe for Jake, for seeds and bulbs and a garden rake. We must, for some magazines, and the house needs paint and the window screens, and we need some salve for the springtime corns, and the cow requires a new set of horns, we must hire a man who can prune the trees, and make some stalls for the bumblebees, and haul away all the winter's trash—there's always something demanding cash! A man must study and engineer, who'd save ten cents in a passing year, who'd have a bone for the rainy day, as a rod and staff when he's old and gray, to buy a shroud when the Journey's done—there's always something demanding mo!



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CRAWFORD, Foot of Queen Street, PHONO 6.
The Late William Hawco.
Athens, March 24.—After being in ill health for many months, William Hawco passed away at his home, White street, on Monday. His widow and one daughter survive. The deceased spent most of his life in Plum Hollow, where he was a prominent and successful farmer, and was one of the prime movers in the rural telephone system of this section.
Mr. Hawco was well known in Brockville, being a frequent visitor here in connection with his business as a cheese salesman for Plum Hollow No. 2 Cheese Factory. He was fifty-six years of age.