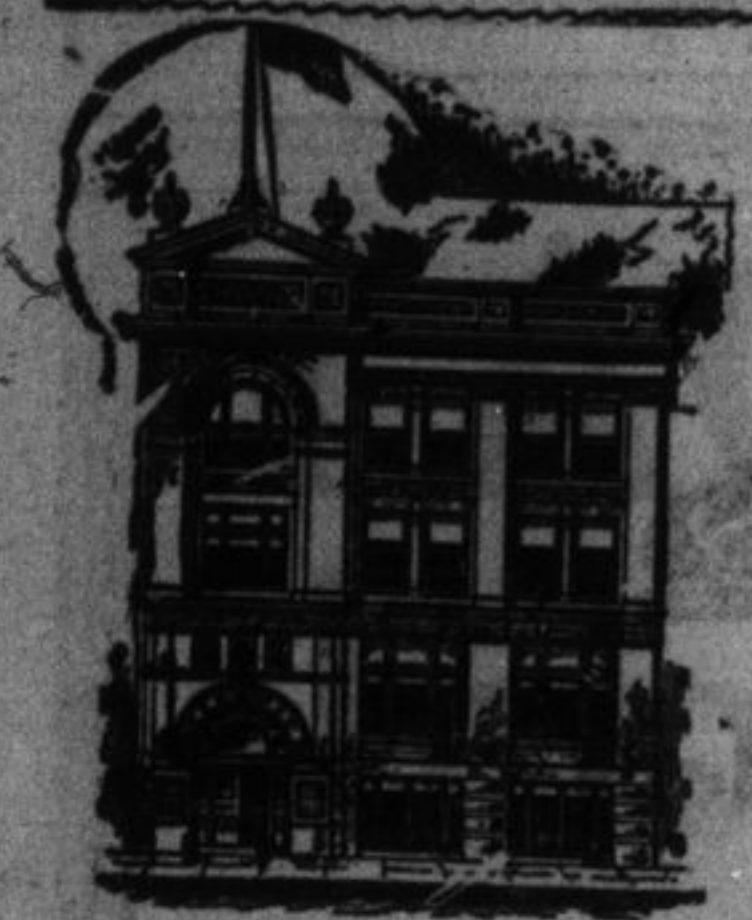


The British Whig



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A CATALOGUE HABIT.

Our cartoonist in to-day's issue of the Whig illustrates a very common failing. It is the eagerness with which some people, about this time of the year, consult the literature of the mail order department houses. They seek ideas respecting house decorations and spring fashions.

The catalogue habit is the worst. It gets on to one's nerves and he surely cannot shake it. He forgets for the time being that the department stores have their own artists and printers and advertisement writers, and it is the duty of all these to make everything look the best in printed announcements.

The community builder has told in his experience about the way he deceived himself and the way his wife allowed herself to be lulled into unwise investments. He has told how the children were humiliated by having to wear the things that have been imposed upon them through the catalogue habit.

Illustrating is a powerful attraction to the mail order houses. They make great use of it, and it literally carries some people away. Not exactly as the cartoonist put it, but literally so and to their great chagrin.

When the catalogue can draw people after it, the evidence is applied that it has hypnotized them, and there is no telling what they will do. It is a safe practice to cut the catalogue as much as possible. As an annual visitor it is harmless. As a regular caller it takes possession of the house and the result is costly.

Why should hundreds of thousands of dollars be spent or squandered in immigration when during the war, and for a long time after it closes, there will be no immigration. Yet the government refuses to economize by cutting in half its appropriation and so save about \$300,000.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Yuan Shih-kai has abandoned his ambitions to become an emperor with an indefinite reign in China. He profited by the revolt against the Manchus, and when the people slowly veered towards republicanism, as the form of government which seemed to meet their needs, he became the first president. This was in 1913. He came into office timidly, as though forced to assume a great responsibility, and having been duly installed, and with considerable pomp and ceremony, made a serious pledge. It was that he would act with one object before him, namely, to give the republic the very best government possible.

He had hardly taken up his official duties than he treated with great severity certain of his former friends. Some of them were driven into exile. One of these was his former runner, Sun Yat Sen. Hardly a year passed until there was talk of reviving the monarchy. The republic was Yuan Shih-kai's pet form of government. It represented a political system for which he was prepared to offer his life; and he seems to have permitted the agitation to go along which had for its object the crowning of him as the emperor. The Council of State, where his influence dominated, and where nothing could be done which did not meet with his approval, decided to re-establish the throne with him as its occupant.

Then it became apparent that Yuan Shih-kai had lost touch with public opinion. In the province of Yunnan the people revolted. Later there were signs of rebellion in other provinces, and some of the government troops sided with the rebels. Three of the great powers, Japan, Russia and Great Britain, opposed the re-establishment of the monarch-

chy. The United States refused to offer any advice, though it had been flattered with the idea that China was copying its form of government. Yuan Shih-kai at first deferred his coronation. Later he abandoned it because there was not a unanimous demand in its favor. The truth seems to be that Japan was opposed to the monarchy on the ground that an emperor was stronger than a president, and it does not want anything in China that will make it a menace.

Meanwhile the president of the Chinese republic is nearing the end of his administration, and the turmoil of the year has not strengthened him with the masses. He has, however, no visible opponent in the next election, and may be returned to power.

Mr. McLean, M. P., thinks that what Canada wants is not more judges, of the kind it has, but younger men and men who can do more work. He is against making the bench or the wool sack resting places for many of the worn-out members of the legal profession.

THE PATRONAGE EVIL.

Sir George Foster was surely laboring under great mental pressure, when, in the Commons, some time ago he denounced the patronage system, saying that he did not know of one case that had been helped by its use, that in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred "any laxity in public virtue or any corruption is due to the baleful effects of party patronage." He spoke feelingly and knowingly after an experience in public life of thirty-four years.

That he only spoke for himself has been shown by what followed. Minister after minister intimated that there could not be any abolition of the patronage evil because this evil did not exist, while the records of the house and committees reeked with scandals! Only the postmaster-general, under the severe fire of opposition, admitted that his predecessor in office had contributed to the unparalleled deficits of the Post Office, Department by giving away unduly to the patronage evil. So far as he could he said he would retrace and economize, and in this way atone to some extent for the bad work of his predecessor.

Sooner or later the country will rebel against the most sordid kind of party patronage that has ever been recorded. The seamy side of political life has never been more clearly displayed than in Toronto where the Conservative party has quarrelled over the question of "pup," where war associations have been riven by disputing factions, and where, as a result, the government has been denounced for its wrong doing.

"It does not matter," said one, at a public meeting this week, "how black is a man's character; so long as he is an influential member of the party he gets what he wants." "The whole party in wrong," said another; "you talk of the graft in the west, but yet you need not go outside of Ontario for graft. What about the shell committee?" A third one, who essayed to defend a McGarry appointment, was called a spy, and generally the meeting was against the government. It finished with a large number of those who were in attendance joining the new organization, which is anti-government and anti-machine in its professions.

Sir George Foster is right. The patronage evil is the bane of all political parties, and eventually must go. Mr. Hearst and Sir Robert Borden must realize this in view of what has been happening in the last few months.

Another war is on. This time it is between the moving picture organizations. As a result the favorites before the cameras are in great demand. Mary Pickford is free to accept a new contract, and has been offered \$500,000 a year, it is said. Or is this only an advertisement for Mary?

AN APPEAL TO LAURIER.

H. C. Hocken, the editor of the Orange Sentinel, writes an open letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Conservative press is giving it the widest circulation. Mr. Hocken recognizes the influence of the one man in all Canada who can, he thinks, by reason of his experience, his standing in Quebec and his nationality, restore peace between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario on the bilingual question.

The appeal is quite pathetic. Something must be done to end the racial antagonism which is growing up between the two provinces, an antagonism which may lead to serious and unfortunate results. The leadership of the French race in Canada is being usurped by Mr. Bourassa, and that will not do. Recruiting is being retarded in consequence of the bilingual trouble. Sir Wilfrid, in Mr. Hocken's opinion, should put an end to this by the exercise of his powerful influence.

Sir Wilfrid is pictured as the one great outstanding personality who may be called upon for service in this struggle. But the people who brought about the strife in their po-

litical bungling will have to invite his co-operation. He cannot assume to dictate to the Ontario government whose wobbling on the subject has been responsible for much of the school difficulty. The federal government has to repent of its folly during the last general election in Quebec before the recruiting can be helped. The people who sow to the wind must expect to reap the whirlwind.

Evidently the liberal leader may have to do what he can to heal the breaches between the races in Canada, but he can make no headway so long as those who created the friction show no appreciation of their mistakes and make no effort to correct them. Recruiting has been hurt in Quebec by the Conservative party. Their's is a legitimate reward of the Nationalist campaign which they conducted in 1911, and of which there has been no repentance. The school muddle in some of Dr. Fyne's handiwork and he has not yet expressed any sorrow over his errors.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The war appropriation for the present year will be \$250,000,000. How much of this will go in graft?

Fancy Dr. Pagsley, Mr. Pardee, and Mr. Graham, talking back in French to Mr. Boulay upon the bilingual question. The Anglo-phobes will have to see that this does not occur again.

China, in its changing plans of government, is not making itself strong as a world's power. Japan, on the other hand, now rules on the Pacific Ocean and is determined that no other power shall contest its supremacy.

Where is Sun Yat San, the Chinese rebel who conspired to end the Manchurian dynasty and had to fly for his life when the president of the republic took office? An exile from his country and driven from it by the man who helped him into power.

The prospect is that the civic taxes in 1916 will be very high. They will be higher than at any time in the history of the city—probably twenty-eight mills on the dollar. "War taxes," some one says. Yes, they are surely that.

The Mexicans are true to their traditions. They will quarrel among themselves and keep the country in a turmoil. But as soon as they are attacked they unite against the common enemy. They resent to the attempt of the United States to exploit their riches in land and minerals.

About 4,000,000 less acres will be planted in grain this year than last in Saskatchewan. Why? The farmers have been discouraged over their failure to get their products, in some districts at least, to the market and the elevators. They have suffered in consequence and to the extent of millions of dollars.

RANDOM REELS

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

THE BISCUIT. The biscuit is a small, irritable food product composed of flour, salt, milk and luck. A great many women use the right proportions of flour, salt and milk, but try to get along without any luck, thus introducing into a once happy home several varieties of valve-lifting indigestion.

There are two kinds of biscuits—sweet and sour. The sweet biscuit is one which is made by an old-fashioned cook who has spent years at the trade and never took a domestic science lesson in her life. One of the sweetest sights in life is that of an expert wife and mother making the ingredients together with the careless grace of a cement-mixer, and then have them come out with a golden-brown complexion and as light on their feet as a ballet dancer. The wife who can do this seven days hand running, without ruining a single batch, should be more highly prized by her husband than an endorsement policy which is about to fall due with a loud cackle. Sour biscuits are the kind which are usually fed to young husbands,

Rippling Rhymes

SATURDAY NIGHT.

The days of the week bring labor and care, to keep the pot boiling we wearily jump; and often we feel, with a pang of despair, that, spite of our efforts, we'll land at the dump. There are things without number demanding our men, the high cost of living is surely a fright; but let us can care when the week's work is done, say "Shoo!" to our troubles, on Saturday night. If neighbors come over to gossip a while, don't let them refer to the wolf at the door; don't let them exhibit spring samples of bile, or sprinkle sad tears, by the quart, on the floor. Just tell them you're willing at most other times, to listen to roasts with a fiendish delight, to jump on the plates and their various crimes, but peace is your portion on Saturday night. Unhappy the man who must carry his grouse away from the shop or the office or mart; who takes it along when he goes to his couch, and cuddles it close to his bitter old heart. Unhappy the man who must cannot say "Shoo!" to the phantom of gloom, when he sits in his rocker on Saturday night!

PUBLIC OPINION

The Prince's Goat. (London Advertiser.) The soldiers have mascots, but it looks as if the French at Verdun have the crown prince's goat.

War is Expensive. (Hamilton Herald.) Hudson Maxim, the inventor, calculates that in this war it costs \$15,000 to kill a man. The wars of the ancients were more economical.

Why Rates Are High. (Toronto Mail.) Two thousand merchant vessels of more than 4,000,000 tons are off the seas as a consequence of the war. There is some excuse for increase in freight rates.

Great Selfishness. (Prince Arthur Chronicle.) A Brockville woman has been arrested for having three husbands. When so many men are out of the country, this is a peculiarly gross case of selfishness.

Not For Boarding. (Ottawa Free Press.) Why should anybody but the janitor be given living apartments in the new Parliament buildings? It's a legislative structure, not a boarding house that Canada needs.

Why? Why? (Toronto Globe.) Why are tens of thousands of well-trained Canadian soldiers keen to get to the front held on this side of the Atlantic at a time when the demand for recruits in Great Britain is more urgent than ever?

No Substitute For Blood. (New York Sun.) German chemists may have found substitutes for iron, for manganese, for rubber and other necessities, but the waning force of the drive against Verdun indicates that they have not yet discovered a substitute for blood.

Doesn't Like War. (Montreal Star.) Francis Nelson, former member of the British House, has resigned, and come to live in America. He says he "doesn't like war." Does he think the men who have fought and died to protect him during the past year and a half did it because they liked it?

Canada's Limited Accommodation. (Ottawa Journal.) Sir Sam Hughes, our Minister of War, is reported in a cable despatch from England as saying that volunteering in Canada is going on at the rate of a thousand per day, and that more could be had, but that until spring there is no place to accommodate them.

Other cable despatches the same day tell of Lord Derby telling a delegation that Britain must have every fighting man out, married or unmarried, and must have them now; and the London Times declares that danger exists to the Empire from lack of men to keep the British armies up to needed strength.

In other words, Britain is straining herself to the last man, while Canada although she has plenty of men, is not troubling to get them under arms because she hasn't accommodation or room at present to train them.

Well—we would have thought that Canada, being about the size of Europe, could manage the necessary accommodation if a terrible effort were made.

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