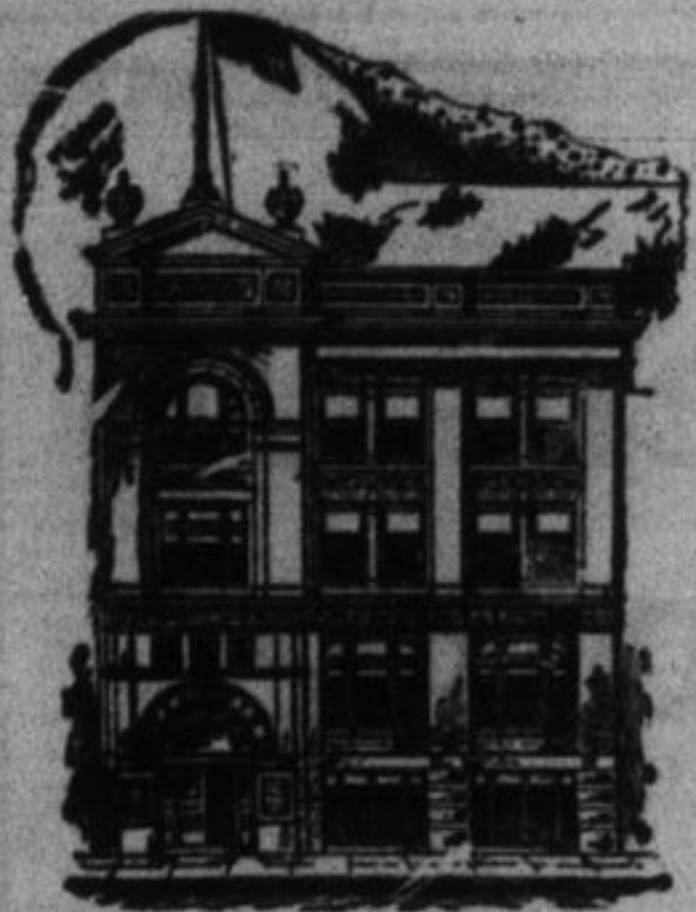


The British Wig SEED YEAR.



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

J. G. Elliott, President; Lemas A. Guild, Managing Director and Sec.-Treas.

Business Office: 243; Editorial Rooms: 229; Job Office: 222.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: (Daily Edition) One year, delivered in city \$6.00; One year, by mail to rural offices \$7.50; One year, by mail to rural offices \$11.50; One year, to United States \$12.50; (Semi-Weekly Edition) One year, by mail, cash \$3.00; One year, if not paid in advance \$3.50; One year, to United States \$4.50; Six and three months pro rata.

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TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: H. E. Smallpiece, 32 Church St. U. S. REPRESENTATIVES: New York Office: 225 Fifth Ave. Frank R. Northrup, Manager. Chicago: Tribune Bldg. Frank R. Northrup, Manager.

"IF GERMANY CONQUERS." "If the Germans conquered they would have their hand on the whole world; there would be only the German power in Europe; only two in the whole world—Germany and the United States. Would the position of these two to each other be that of peace? No; it would be war. Certainly Germany would not be ready at once, but its preparations would continue with the domination of the world in view. If this happened the United States would be obliged to become a military nation. I will go further, if Germany triumphed in this war the United States would regret her neutrality in this war."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Montreal.

CONTEMPT FOR PROMISES. The torpedoing of the Cymric, so soon after the United States had been delivered, with fitting formality, the reply of Germany to the president's note, supplies one more evidence of the contempt of the Teutons for promises and conventions. Von Jagow—the name seems to fit his business—in a long story told the president how careful the Germans would be not to injure or sink the merchantmen that traversed the ocean unarmed, without making sure that all life upon them would be protected and saved.

Mr. Wilson had hardly the time to reflect upon this precious epistle, and especially upon its closing conditions, than this last ocean outrage was committed. The German government may dispute its liability for the Cymric's disaster. In doing this it will be only following the course it has taken in connection with all the submarine attacks. But there are no enemy craft outside of the British war zone except those of Germany, and it cannot deny its responsibility for the Cymric's loss. Thus, at once, and so soon, the president is practically compelled to say to the Germans: "You have reached the limit of forbearance and forgiveness. Your audacity will be no longer tolerated. The United States will now resent your violation of pledges in the only way that is open to it, and take action against you with the Allies or other belligerent powers."

As for Von Bernstorff, it is time that he was unceremoniously bundled out of America without any assurance from the Allies of a safe voyage to the country he has served, in evil things, so lustroously and so long. A RETURN TO KINGSTON. London, it is reported, is interested in the removal of its squadron of Mounted Rifles, the one originally formed in it, and still recruited from it, back from Hamilton; and if the ambitious city is to be no longer a depot for these troops there is no reason why "C" Squadron, commanded by Major Stroud, should not be returned to Kingston.

It is not quite clear what was the primary intention with regard to the Canadian Mounted Rifles; but it has been proven by experience that the three squadrons from London, Toronto and Kingston, could, for present purposes, fulfill all their designs in the centres from which they draw their strength. Thus "C" Squadron, if returned to the place where it was organized, would become a part of the great camp which will be conducted in Barrie during the summer months, and it would be a most desirable feature of that camp. Let it be remembered that the squadrons referred to are no longer qualifying as distinct units for over-

sea's service. They are recruiting units, and as such are performing a most important duty in connection with the war. The units already overseas are suffering a certain and continuous wastage largely through injuries and disabilities, and this wastage must be made up by qualified men. The squadrons which represent the three military districts of Ontario are serving a most useful purpose in accepting and drilling the recruits that in small companies are sent off from time to time to maintain the fighting forces at the front.

The squadron that belongs to this district should, therefore, be returned to it if possible. It will grow the better and the faster in the territory to which it owes its origin, and the Council and the Board of Trade, and the citizens generally, being interested in its composition work, should cordially co-operate towards the same end, and that end the return of it to Kingston.

THE NEED OF INFORMATION. The late secret session of the imperial parliament had the desired effect. It enabled the government to lay before the members of the house such information as it had respecting recruiting, and with the result that Mr. Asquith, who had been opposed to it, gave notice of conscription, and followed the notice with a bill which authorized compulsory service. This bill has been passed through its various stages without much opposition.

There is a need of some such educational proceeding in Canada and for the reason that voluntary recruiting has fallen away so much that even the most enthusiastic believer in voluntary enlistment dispairs of its success. The system has been on trial for a year and a half. It had its splendid start when the flower of Canada's manhood rallied to the colors and enabled the militia department to send off its first and second contingents with remarkable promptitude. Now comes the "tug of war" so to speak. There have been spurts from time to time as one contingency after another has stimulated the service. But there is a decided drag in the business at present, and the recruiting officers are at their wits' ends to make the desired progress. It is proposed to offer some premium to those who enlist. It will not do. A resort to the ancient shilling is a last desperate act.

The situation recalls a caustic remark by the Toronto Telegram. The premier had announced that "the recruiting would be so concluded that the necessary industries and agriculture should not be unduly weakened." Does Sir Sam really know anything about it? The Telegram does not think so. The army has been left to its own devices, and resources. "As soon as the people cease to recruit themselves," says our contemporary, "the truth will be made clear that there is nobody at Ottawa who knows as much about raising an army as he does about raising a barn."

EDITORIAL NOTES. Armand Lavergne, it is alleged, made his farewell address to Montmagny. He has retired from public life. The Lord be praised.

Halifax has adopted the daylight saving scheme. Every place that wants to be regarded as progressive is identified with this new forward movement.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States has been revising its ritual and marriage service. Both may be beyond identification when they have passed from the carver's hands.

The Kaiser has been discussing the terms of peace through his emissaries. He will, it is said, talk peace himself some of these days, and if he cannot succeed through the neutrals he will approach the belligerents direct. Very likely. He must be tired of fighting the world and to no purpose.

A German cruiser in the Atlantic Ocean, the attendant of submarines! They will not be long there, if they are there at all. Some persons infer that the passengers on the Venezia have been dreaming, and are retelling these dreams as a reality. Submarines may be built to cross the ocean, but they have not yet appeared.

The Port Arthur School Board has distributed over 7,000 packages of flower and vegetable seeds among school children who will have their own gardens, largely in the back yards. The idea is to impress on the children the importance of productiveness during the war, and incidentally to develop their usefulness. A good idea. Why is it not acted upon in Kingston?

the expenditure goes on annually, and to the extent of millions of dollars. Which does not appeal to the judgment of the average man.

PUBLIC OPINION

Dubious About Henry. (Chicago Tribune). We should give President Henry Ford just three months to get the country into more trouble than it has seen for fifty years.

Wise Man. (Belleville Ontario). Boss Lundin of Chicago says that the effort of his life is to so conduct himself that he is conscious of being in good company when he is alone. Not a bad expression.

A Good Thing. (Lindsay Post). The Irish (?) agitators in New York are raising hell over the execution of the Dublin rebel leaders. The only thing separating them from a similar fate is the ocean.

Legal Benefit. (Montreal Star). Whatever fortunes may be made or marred by the Kite investigation, it is evident by the long list of lawyers engaged in advance that the legal profession won't come out of it much poorer.

A Kindly Tip. (Ottawa Journal). Chief Justice Meredith's remark that the Fuse Commission is willing to sit all summer if need be must have caused a thrill of pleasurable anticipation among the legal gentlemen getting \$100 a day.

Slow On C. N. R. (Regina Leader). Canada will shortly be spending a million dollars a day in the prosecution of the war. Under the circumstances the Borden Government had better go slow in the matter of further handouts to the C. N. R.

A Stirring Issue. (Guelph Mercury). Five hundred corn doctors recently had a convention in Cincinnati. A bitter discussion took place on that much debated topic, "How can a wife pare her corns and still leave John Henry's razor in shape for shaving?"

A Discovery. (Toronto Globe). Sir Roger Casement's treason has unearthed the fact that decapitation is still a possible means of putting a convicted man to death in Britain. It seems a relic of barbarism, but no further behind electrocution than is hanging by the neck.

What Canada Needs. (Brantford Expositor). Canada does not need conscription, but she does need proper systems of registration and recruiting. Why there should be any hesitation about substituting businesslike methods for the present haphazard, go-as-you-please want-of-method is past finding out.

Suppose We Must. (Montreal Star). We are told by Senator Mason that, of the men we have already enlisted in Canada for freedom, sixty-one per cent. were born in the

British Isles and only thirty-two per cent in our Dominion. Can we let it stand at that?

The Given Condition. (Syracuse Post-Standard). The note of concession is, however, made conditional upon our conduct towards another belligerent. If we would save our citizens from destruction on the seas we must adopt more effective measures than merely writing notes to prevent Great Britain from interfering with our cotton shipments. Germany proposes not a concession but a bargain; she will abide by the rules of nations in submarine warfare, so far as the rather obscure pledge concerning "merchant vessels recognized by international law" is a concession, provided we agree to allow her to direct our policy with respect to Great Britain.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

H. A. Lavell passes his intermediate law examinations at Osgoode Hall. Talk of laying a meter main to the outer station to supply the G. T. R. Fourteen applications received for the position of superintendent of the General Hospital. Police Sergeant Nesbitt appeared on the streets with his whiskers cut leg-of-mutton style.

LIBERAL PRESS.

Where Wilson Stands. (Toronto Globe). Typical Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, are saying openly that firmness now means Wilson in June and November, but if the hesitations or bargains much longer he is lost. Roosevelt they may not wholly trust. Root they may not warmly love. Hughes may still be beyond their call. But—and that deep-toned "but" signifies that the free American mind, insulted by Berlin's repeated evasions, chagrined by Bernstorff's persistent and clever villainies, is now being goaded out of a deep sense of shame into a passionate and resolute indignation. But if the President makes the break that break will be final. It may not mean war, but, for the People, it will mean honor.

INDEPENDENT PRESS.

The Port of Russia. (Montreal Star). A remark by Mr. Lloyd George is illuminating. He said that "until Russia had completed her equipment so as to employ immense reserves of men, it was essential that France and Britain put every available man in the field." This disposes of the flattering theory that Russia is now fully equipped, and that her chivalrous expedition to France is merely the employment of her unneeded surplus. It would be a miracle if Russian equipment had kept pace with Russian enlistment. The truth probably is that Russia is making a genuine sacrifice in sending her armies to France, and that she is making that sacrifice—as she has made other sacrifices in this war—for the common good.

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

MONEY. Money is a medium of exchange which passes from hand to hand and evaporates faster than high-test gasoline in a six-lunged motor car. Although money is made of a hard, metallic substance it cannot be held in front of a spring pattern hat or a new type of puncture-proof tire without evaporating from the human hand with sickening celerity. If some way could be devised to prevent money from jumping out of an alligator purse and leaving the owner with nothing but car fare, the average husband would not object to his wife attending the bargain sales six days a week. Money was invented immediately following the stone age, and nobody has ever had enough of it since. There was more happiness before we had money lying around in irresponsible hands than there is now. During the stone age it was not necessary to make last wills and testaments, for there was nothing to anybody except love and affection and a flint hatchet. Wealth in the stone age consisted of children and long-haired sheep, and there were no merchants whose temples were adorned with gray hair because of the size of their book accounts. The human pest who is always borrowing \$2 and forgetting the street address of the lender was not with us, and the depressing accents of the monthly statement were hushed and still. Those were happy days. The Bible describes the love of money as the root of all evil, but man continues to root for the root with his back bowed like a circular saw. As a rule, men make money in the world except honest affection, loyal friendship and the kind of health which doesn't have to be bolstered up with patent medicine and electric belts. The closer a man gets to eternity the less he thinks about money, but if he spends a little along the road to help a needy brother he will rest easier in his narrow bed.

Rippling Rhymes

THE TIMELY TOPIC. When modern people get together, they do not talk about the weather, as fellows used to do; but each one, in his conversation, describes some painful operation that lately he's gone through. The innocent bystander catches, while listening, disjointed snatches of talk that runs this way: "Oh, yes, I went to Dr. Sidney, and he removed my starboard kidney—his bill I've yet to pay." "The surgeon, in a boastful humor, still quotes my large, gnawing tumor, as worst he ever saw." "When from the chloroform emerged, I clinched my fist and soaked the surgeon a dinger on the jaw." "That old Doc Faker is a wizard; the way that he cut-out my gizzard, was something simply fine." "Doc Chestnut says my system's rusty, and he will take his buckaw trusty, and amputate my spine." "The doc assures me my salvation depends alone on amputation, if I would shake the gout." "I hear that Jeremiah Proctor has hired a famous eastern doctor to dig some organs out." "Twixt them and me the gulf grows wider; alas, I am a rank outsider—I never have been here! When my insides are in commotion I simply mix a drastic potion, and take it with a spoon!"

Bibbys Limited. THE Young Man's Suit. Here's a clean-cut classy looking young man who has improved his appearance by selecting one of our new, snappy Spring Suits. The safe thing for any young man to do is to follow his example and come to the store where he is sure to find just what he ought to have in the way of Spring Outfitting. The young man we clothe this spring will get a lot of joy and satisfaction in wearing our sort of Garments. SEE THE CLINTON SUIT, \$15.00. SEE THE BUD SUIT, \$18.00. Patch pockets, pleated backs, soft roll lapels, high cut vest, English trousers, neat stripes and checks. The smart English style. English Worsted and Cheviots; plain blues and greys; small checks and overplaid; neat stripes. Our Men's Clothing has to pass all sorts of hard "exams"—is criticised by experts who know the "ins" of good tailoring as well as the styles and finish that characterize correct clothing for men and young men. Spring Top Coats. See Our Wentworth Suits at \$20.00. THE BELMONT, \$15.00. THE CHAMBERLAIN, \$12.50. THE SLIP ON, \$15.00. Bibbys - Limited.

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