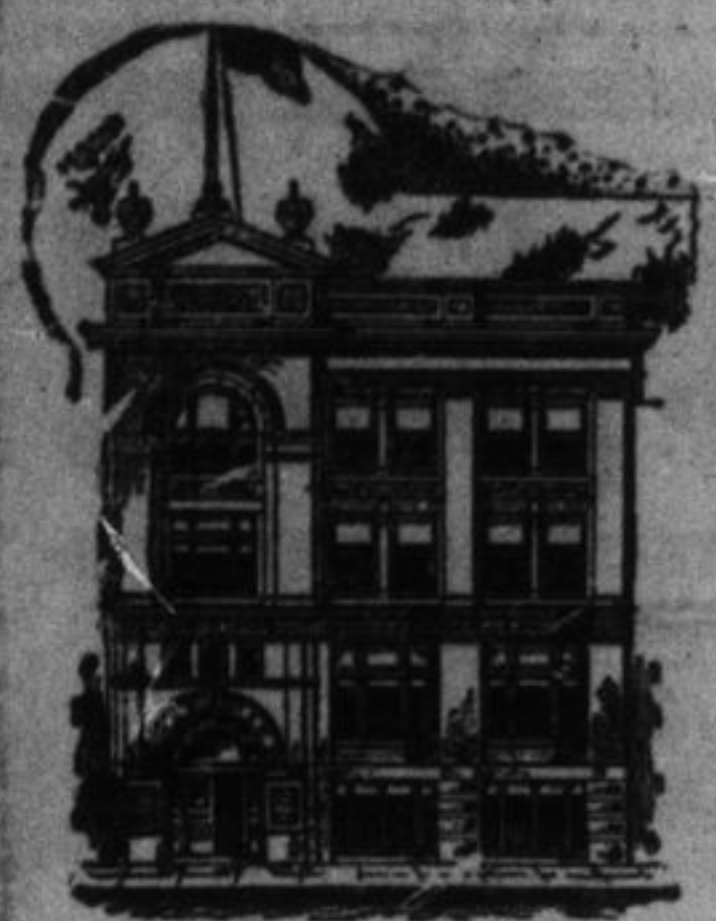


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CITY CHILDREN'S SHELTER.

There is a law which requires every town and city to have its children's shelter, its place where neglected and unfortunate juveniles can be restrained or accommodated and cared for. The Children's Aid Society has felt the need of this shelter, and has made known its views to the council, or the representative of the council on the finance committee. It is realized, of course, that the financial conditions at present make it difficult to finance the project conveniently. There have never been so many demands upon the city treasury and under conditions that are onerous and exacting, and the Children's Aid Society has taken cognizance of them. The representatives of the society are exercising great patience in the face of circumstances that make the shelter the more necessary, but as soon as the straits are lightened they will expect the financial assistance for which the call is so insistent.

The suggestion that the Ontario government invite tenders for the purchase of its bonds and open them publicly in Toronto is all right so far as it goes. But it ends the trips of ministers abroad, and that seems to be a hardship.

PRESSING SCHOOL NEEDS

A deputation from the Board of Education has pressed upon the finance committee of the city council the necessity of providing blackboards and sanitary accommodations with regard to which they made representations some time ago. It is not remarkable that the conditions have changed so far as the blackboards are concerned, because in the older schools the wall spaces for exercises by the pupils are scanty, and the increase will be limited in any case. Very naturally it is asked how it is that the deficiency is now discovered. The answer is that the discovery was made many years ago, and it has been emphasized from time to time as the school regulations have been published. At last something had to be done in order to meet the demands of the hour, and these demands the school trustees have made with a clearness which the council will perhaps appreciate.

The sanitary problem is different. It has occurred in connection with one new school, and under circumstances which are surprising. New Victoria was only opened last fall, and ere it had been fully occupied it became apparent that the lavatory service was lamentably deficient. As a consequence the experiences have been of a trying and irritating character. The recital of these experiences before the finance committee must have left a serious impression. It is useless to discuss what might have been. A new school should be adequately equipped in every respect. The Victoria school is not. Neither is the Central school, which is now one of the older buildings, and the health and the comfort of the pupils make the suggested improvements an absolute necessity.

There will be no paving of streets done this year. So it is announced from the City Hall. The Whig is glad to hear it. This is no time for even seeming extravagance.

FURY AROUND VERDUN

Frank Simonds, who writes for the New York Tribune and for the Review of Reviews upon the war, hastening back from the battlefield in France some time ago, described the siege of Verdun as one of the greatest importance to both sides. The capture of this central strategic point by the Germans would have

two effects: (1) It would re-establish the Crown Prince in the confidence of the people, and (2) it would break disastrously the morale of the French troops. The Germans expected by their large numbers and the fury of their drive to effect the capture of the French fortifications long ago, and in their defeat they have been terribly disappointed.

A British writer, having access to later information, and having traversed the battlefield since Mr. Simonds left it, says that the Germans face a most serious situation. He confirms the heavy losses that have been reported, says that the last resources of the Teutons have been relied upon for success, that since September twenty-two divisions of men have been brought from all parts to Verdun, and that the Kaiser has apparently staked his all upon a victory at this point. Says this correspondent, G. H. Ferris of the London Chronicle:

"It will, perhaps, only be in retrospect, when the war is over, that we can fully appreciate the part played by the army of Verdun and its contribution to the general result. We cannot yet be sure of the exact reason, or balance of reasons, for the German choice. There were certainly dynastic and economic, as well as military, reasons. The many failures of the German Crown Prince here, be given a knock-out blow, whereas another thrust into Russia would not be decisive, even if successful, and any success upon the British front in France was highly problematical."

When over 300,000 Germans had been launched in mass and open formations against Verdun, when every strategy known to experienced commanders had been tried and failed, when the loss of life had been simply appalling, the Germans showed signs of backing up. Again, however, they have advanced; the invading army has been reinforced with many new divisions of men; the fighting has been the fiercest in the history of this war. The French seem to have anticipated the drive of the Germans and have met it with the aid of perhaps 50,000 Russians, the pick of the Russian Empire. Some of these days there will be a crisis and it may end, as it is hoped for, in complete success of the Allies.

The Republican convention has begun its work in Chicago, and will continue until it has produced a presidential candidate. Roosevelt has gone west for a sort of triumphal march towards Chicago. Will it stampede the convention? That is feared.

ATTACK ON KITCHENER.

The criticism of Lord Kitchener by Hon. Winston Churchill is somewhat surprising since Churchill is a colonel of a regiment which is in active service somewhere in France, and supposed to be subject to the higher command. Lord Kitchener is not accustomed to the seeming impertinence of any under official. It is not assumed that he is infallible. Certainly he has never been disposed to put aside his judgment and act upon the judgment of another. His success in the many campaigns through which he has passed, no one to be compared in size and responsibility with the present, has followed the exercise of his own intuition and will. During the South African war many were the occasions on which he ordered men about in his own imperious way, and how he can endure the bawling of Mr. Churchill passes comprehension.

The ex-Lord of the Admiralty is some personage. He has been credited with a rare faculty for collecting reliable information and with a rarer courage for using it. Mr. Churchill charges that the minister of war has failed in many respects, and most of all in the outfitting of the great army which he has collected. People have wondered why the regiments which were sent to the front are kept there, some of them until they have been nearly decimated, when they could be relieved of the pressure and the strain by a few divisions of the large army which is in the making.

Two reasons have been assigned: (1) That of the War Office, namely, that no men will be sent to the front until Kitchener says they are "fit"; and (2) that of Mr. Churchill, who says they are not equipped, that there is not one gun for three men who are waiting for them.

Either reason is sufficient; the second is astonishing in view of the millions of dollars that have been spent in the production of arms.

One thing more is astounding. It is the coolness with which the average Englishman regards all this talk about the army, and its manifest disparagement. By some it is esteemed a sin to attack the government or any member of it during the war. It is contended that everything must go in a time like this because, in the face of the enemy, it will not do to attempt a rectification. That idea does not go in England. There the Northcliffe press has kept up a continual fault-finding with the government, and to such an extent that

its suppression has been suggested. But Lord Northcliffe has continued his assaults, and now some people are saying that he has been about right.

Mr. Churchill follows this up, and Britain has not been shocked. It is, however, somewhat alarmed. The criticism has not been ignored.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Both Austrians and Germans are fighting fiercely on the western frontier of France. Is this their Armageddon?

The Board of Education in Toronto has declined to lengthen the vacation by closing the schools on June 22nd in place of June 29th. Toronto lives up to the provisions of the law. Why not?

Saturday is the anniversary of the king's birth. It will be observed in Kingston on Monday. The king last year discouraged all ceremonies in connection with his birthday. He will probably do the same this year; and some people think there are too many holidays.

The hyphenated Germans of the United States have informed the chairman of the Republican National Convention that they will not vote for Koot or Roosevelt. They prefer Hughes. Which is a very good reason why Hughes should not be the presidential candidate.

According to Dr. Kidd, speaking at a meeting in Toronto, about 40 per cent of the milk cows of Ontario are infected with tuberculosis. Is this the cause of 48 per cent of deaths in 16,000 children of Ontario from this disease? There seems to be an intimate connection between cause and effect.

Hon. Mr. Landry is said to have resigned from the speakership of the Senate. He was out of harmony with the venerables during the most of last session, and because, out of the house, he made a speech which seriously reflected upon the members of the upper chamber. His usefulness seems to be over.

Toronto has sold its civic debentures, over \$3,000,000 of them, at a better price than the province of Ontario received for the bonds it sold not so long ago in New York. Does the secret of success lie in the open and public competition? The journeyings of New York agents to Toronto to rather than of Toronto agents to New York?

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Farmers at Wolfe Island are losing sheep as the result of the attack of dogs.

J. B. Walkers was elected president of the Kingston Kennel Club, R. E. Kent, first vice-president, T. McK. Robertson, second vice-president and C. H. Corbett, secretary-treasurer. C. H. Corbett will superintend the day show to be held.

Random Reels

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

JUNE

June is a mild summer month which is devoted almost exclusively to baseball and brides. During the month of June thousands of hopeful brush league ball teams spring into existence in small but enthusiastic villages, backed by public sentiment and a \$200 guarantee fund, and after fighting for air for two months pass peacefully away, leaving a sad trail of back salaries and unpaid bills. More money is spent for base-ball in June than during the months of January, February and March combined, and every once in a while some of it comes back through the gate.

June has only thirty days this year, but they are all long and usually full of heat germs. It is a very wasteful month with regard to heat, being exceeded only by July and August, which do not produce anything else worth mentioning. Scientists have never been able to discover why June puts out so much heat in a raw and unbottled state, instead of dividing up with some months which have heat in a bottled state. We are told that heat and cold are regulated by nature, but at times it looks as if the regulating were being done by the government, as in the case of the Standard Oil Company. Almost every June a lot of unrestrained and

Rippling Rhymes

THE OLD STUNT.

The time has come to sweat the flies, so brethren, let us arise, and wield our swatters; let's swat away all our wanted flies, and to the work bring ants and aires, and sons and daughters. There is no better exercise, the doctor says, than swatting flies; the doc continues: "It helps the nerves that knew a slump, it makes the torpid liver hum, it strengthens sinews." How sinful are the trifling dubs who waste their time with Injun clubs, and padded mittens! If they would take their swatting-sticks, and show the flies some fancy tricks, they'd feel like kittens. On high trapeze man breaks his back, or trots around a cinder track in clogs and sweaters; he walks ten miles for exercise, and if he'd only swat some flies, 't would serve him better. He soon would have an appetite to make him view with keen delight beefsteak and taters; his rusty whiskers soon would shine, and he could punish eight or nine large alligators.

PUBLIC OPINION

Patriotism Demanded. (London Advertiser.) Lloyd George gives up golf to settle the Irish trouble. Patriotism demands almost superhuman sacrifices.

Britain's Relief. (Hamilton Spectator.) The Belgian refugees living in Britain cost her \$5,000,000 a month. Truly the Old Country is financing her Allies.

Allison's Importance. (Windsor Record.) Hon. Col. Allison associated with "men of big affairs" and charged accordingly when it came to commission on war orders.

Wishing Him Well. (Hamilton Herald.) Poor old Yuan Shikai, president of the Chinese republic, is reported as poisoned, though not dead. With all his troubles, he might well wish he was.

He Was Surprised. (Ottawa Free Press.) J. Wesley Allison says he was quite surprised when told he was to get a commission from Yeakum. Some fellows seem to be always on the right spot for a windfall.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Face the Facts.

Colonel J. Wesley Allison's insinuation that the fuse contracts was investigated by Germans seems to have startled those endeavoring to discredit the enquiry on a regular campaign along these lines. A great deal is being made of the allegation that W. T. Jerome, of New York, who has had some minor connections with securing information, is a pro-German. Amongst other things, it is gravely alleged that Mr. Jerome was once decorated by the Kaiser because of his services in entertaining Prince Henry of Prussia when the latter visited America.

In the early days of the enquiry at Ottawa, Mr. Justice Meredith showed much amusement when one of the counsel for the Shell Committee raised a serious objection to the proceedings based on this "war scare" ground. Of the many subterfuges employed to hamper the investigation, it without doubt the most absurd.

In so far as the Germans are concerned, there are more likely to be hurt by a thorough house-cleaning of this munitions business than helped by the proceedings. Charges made against certain individuals at the investigation must be proved or disproved by facts. What have the Germans got to do with it? Our business, as Father Vaughan says, is to kill Germans. We can do it much more effectively if we clean the rust out of our war machinery. The Germans would be better pleased with an enemy country laboring under a weak munition system than with an enemy country free to put her best efforts into the war.

A fact that is true is not any less a fact because of its origin. Charges based on facts cannot be met with a defence bordering on hysteria. Those on their defence at the fuse investigation, and their friends in the press, should have the decency to face the facts squarely and not endeavor to throw dust in the eyes of the public by pleading enemy interests in the proceedings.

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