

The British Whig  
SEED YEAR



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**CONVICTS USE OF DOPE.**  
The Whig has always had a pro-  
found sympathy with those who are  
addicted to the use of drugs. These,  
in their thralldom, suffer at times the  
torment of the damned. Druggists  
are standing witnesses with regard to  
the number of persons who have cul-  
tivated a taste for narcotics and are  
willing to sacrifice anything in order  
to gratify their appetite. Some med-  
ical men, who from education and  
experience know the dangers of dope,  
are fixed in their opposition to it, and  
will not prescribe its use under any  
circumstances. But men have been  
known—men who ought to know bet-  
ter and whose offences are most se-  
rious—to smuggle dope into the pris-  
on and for use by its unfortunate in-  
mates. The prescribed punishment is  
altogether inadequate for a crime  
against the individual and society.  
The life of a convict is hurt by his in-  
carceration in prison. It is spoiled,  
hopelessly when he destroys his intel-  
lect and physical powers with drugs.  
And he is assisted in this demoraliz-  
ing pursuit by men who should be  
above it, whose misconduct is heinous  
and who practise their subtlety to  
very little gain.

The men who would enlist, and  
cannot, for physical reasons, are to  
be badged by the government. Given  
public credit, as it were, for their  
good intentions.

**PUBLIC OPINION UNCHANGED.**  
The license commissioners are not  
disposed to tolerate any violations of  
the law. Various pleas have been  
advanced—the necessity of the case,  
the difficulty of making a living un-  
der the restrictions of the hour, the  
need of a long time in which to sell  
off the large stock of liquors, and so  
avoid ruin—but to no purpose. The  
commissioners feel that they have  
been appointed for specific purposes,  
that under the circumstances there is  
great need of impartiality, and there  
is no wavering in their decisions. The  
prohibition which sets in on Septem-  
ber 15th is a war measure. So it has  
been proclaimed. It is for the good  
of the soldiers, removing temptations  
from their way, and no man who is  
observant of passing events will ques-  
tion the wisdom of it. After the war  
the returned soldiers, will vote on a  
referendum, and if they express them-  
selves as the people of Manitoba, of  
Alberta, and Saskatchewan have  
done, there will not be a return to  
the license system. It is well to  
say this, and remove the impression  
which some politicians have labored  
sedulously to create, that the people  
in a bye-election have expressed  
themselves against prohibition, or the  
promise of it, as a temporary mea-  
sure.

The government or the official who  
undertakes to prove, by statistics,  
that not a pound of the Deutsch-  
land's cargo of nickel belonged to  
Canada, has its hands full. A mono-  
poly that is not treated as a mono-  
poly, in dealing with the enemy, is  
sadly mismanaged.

**WE ARE THE PEOPLE.**  
Mr. Hearst's explanation, and to  
the effect that his government has  
been handicapped on the power ques-  
tion through the imprudent deal  
which was made by a previous gov-  
ernment, does not carry much influ-  
ence in the controversy. The World,  
which is independent enough though  
conservative to tell the truth at any  
cost, declares that the situation is  
one which can be remedied by the  
present provincial and federal gov-  
ernments.

The Canadian Niagara Com-

pany," says our contemporary, "has  
never made any attempt to supply  
power to Canadian consumers, al-  
though the franchise of the company  
stipulates that not less than half of  
the power produced shall be avail-  
able for Canadian consumption."

The legal adviser for the company  
claims that there has been an under-  
standing between successive govern-  
ments that the company will not be  
required to carry out its agreement.  
Why? It can sell its power to the  
Americans at a higher rate than that  
which the commission has been will-  
ing to pay.

The power should not belong to  
private corporations. When the  
Hydro Electric Commission under-  
took to negotiate for power and sup-  
ply it to the municipalities the gen-  
erating outfit of one of the companies  
should have been acquired; or the  
plant of both of the companies if  
necessary. In this way there would  
have been provision made against  
such a contingency as that which has  
now arisen to the very evident and  
serious injury of business generally.

The development of the commis-  
sion's interest, demand that the orig-  
inal arrangement with regard to  
power with any company must be  
carried out, and coincident with it  
the export of power must be prohib-  
ited, and the authority to bring this  
about lies with the federal govern-  
ment.

Sir Adam Beck was checked in his  
plans by the local government dur-  
ing the last session of the legisla-  
ture. He was given to understand  
that the ministers could and would  
do wonders in the power line. They  
have now the opportunity to show  
what they can do, and what the peo-  
ple expect is not an apology for inac-  
tion, but an announcement of suc-  
cess, realizing that the men who are  
now in power have assumed to be  
equal to any emergency. "We are  
the people," seems to fit in with their  
boastful spirit as a rule.

Some of the nickel which, when re-  
fined in the United States, is sent to  
Germany and smuggled into that  
country, is said to come from New  
Caledonia. The French government  
can be depended upon to give that  
story the lie.

**ONE'S RISE TO POWER.**  
Mr. Hughes, the Premier of Aus-  
tralia, is one of the men the war has  
made. He was called to England  
soon after the conflict began, or he  
felt that he should be in the heart  
of the Empire during the stormy  
times that were sure to follow. He  
was not long in the Old Land until  
the people took notice of him. He  
is an Englishman by birth and an  
Australian by training. As a laborer  
on the docks, and the president of  
the union to which he belongs at the  
present time, he does not seem to  
have begun life with much of what  
we call education. But he resembles  
a Scotchman who rose in Canada by  
force of his ability until he be-  
came the Prime Minister. This man  
was the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie.  
Hughes, like Mackenzie, is clever,  
gifted, studious, strong in mind, and  
strong in speech.

Referring to him, in a banquet  
that was tendered on the eve of his  
departure for Australia, via South  
Africa, Mr. Bonar Law, the Colonial  
Secretary, admitted that Hughes was  
unknown when he reached the Old  
Land. He was simply recognized as  
the Premier of Australia. "Now,"  
says Mr. Law, "we know him. We  
know it is no small thing to obtain  
the first place in the Commonwealth  
in Australia without adventitious  
circumstances, and actually hindered  
by certain physical defects." He was  
essentially typical of the manhood  
that had grown up under the south-  
ern cross, "with its self-reliance,  
its independence and its want of dis-  
cipline." This last remark of the  
Colonial Secretary recalls the occa-  
sion that Hughes discussed certain  
questions with the Imperial Govern-  
ment in such vigorous English that  
the cartoonist pictured the assem-  
ble as disappearing man by man until  
all had retired excepting Mr. Asquith  
and Mr. Lloyd-George. The Prem-  
ier was made to say: "Speak to  
him, David, in Welsh and see if you  
cannot mollify him."

The glimpse one gets of this man,  
who forged to the front in the labor  
party, who by sheer force of his  
ability reached the premiership, and  
who in England astonished the  
people, even the statesmen of the  
day, with his ideas and forcefulness  
of expressing them, shows that the  
world is at the feet, metaphorically,  
of its brainy men. There is no bar-  
rier to the rise of any man who uses  
his talents aright.

"Mr. Hughes is a tonic to the  
whole people," said Boner Law in a  
tribute to his worth. "My only  
fear," said Lord Northcliffe, "is that  
when Mr. Hughes has retired to Aus-  
tralia no one will be left in the coun-  
try to carry on his work." What  
that work was, and where Mr.  
Hughes has left it, may be dealt  
with in a subsequent article.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**  
Sir Mackenzie Bowell must have  
been sending to his paper, the Bel-  
leville Intelligencer, some notes of his  
travels in the west, since he comes  
out unreservedly for the general pav-  
ing of the streets. Paving in the

Intelligencer's opinion, is the one un-  
mistakable sign of progress and pros-  
perity.

Even the soldiers in England, and  
hailing from British Columbia, can  
be depended upon to give the Bowser  
government a knock-out blow—if  
they are not, through some irregular-  
ity, robbed of the franchise.

Ten battalions will be removed  
from Camp Borden in order that  
they may find elsewhere the reason-  
able comforts and conveniences to  
which they are entitled. What they  
have endured meanwhile, physically  
and spiritually, none but the angels  
know.

The voting in the British Colum-  
bia elections, so far as the soldiers  
in England are concerned, begins on  
August 3rd, and continues for six  
weeks. This gives time for a man-  
ipulation of votes, and the McBride  
machine in England may be depend-  
ed upon to do all that the law allows,  
and a special act has been framed to  
cover some desperate work.

Some one has discovered that the  
dandelion is good for medicine and  
for food. And annually the great-  
est of all crops is allowed to go to  
waste. It is time some scientist  
came along and by ocular demon-  
stration proved that nature in its opu-  
lence has offered the people some-  
thing worth many millions, and that  
they will not have it.

One day it is announced that the  
power supply of the province from  
Niagara is held up through the im-  
provident contracts which were made  
by a liberal government. The next  
day it is declared that the trouble is  
over, that upon the demand of the  
federal governments the power corpo-  
rations surrendered, that one will  
give the commission 50,000 horse-  
power now, and a larger quantity  
later. Everything depends on the  
men who are in office. Either they  
will not act or they do not know  
enough to act in some emergencies. In  
any case the responsibility is theirs.

**PUBLIC OPINION**

**Hard Lines.**  
(London Advertiser)  
When a volunteer army has to be  
kept in camp by a guard of mounted  
regulars, there can't be no two  
opinions about the camp.

**A Sniper's Shot.**  
(Windsor Record)  
Has the government changed its  
mind about appointing a "comptrol-  
ler" of hydro-electric, or was the pro-  
posal merely a sniper's shot at Sir  
Adam Beck?

**Treating the Convicts.**  
(Globe)  
Physical culture will be tried on  
convicts at Sing Sing. American ex-  
periments give encouraging evidence  
that the public are not entirely satis-  
fied with present methods of treating  
convicted persons.

**Jackson's Action.**  
(Hamilton Spectator)  
The Mayor of Windsor, who ob-  
jected to a banner with the device,  
"One flag, one school, one language,"  
for fear of offending some of his

**Random Reels**

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

**THE DOG DAYS.**  
The dog days are a period which is  
given to the human race every sum-  
mer in order that man may have a  
foretaste of what it is store for the  
sinner. This period continues for  
forty days and nights, starting with  
July 3 and ending with August 11,  
by which time everybody is reduced  
to repentance and the wearing of  
sheer tissue underclothes.  
The annual visitation of the dog  
days is due entirely to the action of  
Sirius, the dog-star, which encour-  
ages the sun to produce more heat  
than at any other time of the year.  
If there were some way to suppress  
Sirius by act of Congress and pre-  
vent him from inclining the sun  
murder, more people would remain  
at home during July and August, in-  
stead of cantering off to some \$30-a-  
day summer resort and idling away  
precious hours which could be used  
in canning fruit. There is probably  
some good reason why Sirius should  
be allowed to bob up during the tour-  
ing season and destroy the happi-  
ness and inner tubes of inoffensive  
people, but science has never discov-  
ered what it is.  
Before condemning the dog days,  
however, we should remember that  
without them the corn crop would  
dog days are all alike when they get  
a bigger failure than the manu-  
real dogged.

**Rippling Rhymes**



W. H. MASON

**JAMES J. HILL**  
Jim Hill is gone to his repose, out where  
the weeping willow grows. While on this earth he asked  
no rest, this empire builder of the West; through all  
his days he strove and fought; by night he planned,  
by day he wrought. Men used to say, "Where'er he  
goes, he makes things blossom as the rose; along his  
traek the cities rise, and chimneys point toward  
the skies, the forges blaze, the hammers ring, and buoy-  
ant workmen smile and sing." He was the captain of  
a host, but slaying men was not his boast. His armies  
stormed no fort or town, and tore no famed cathedrals  
down, and where his mighty legions swept, no wid-  
owed women wailed and wept. It's good to contem-  
plate Jim Hill, the general who did not kill, now that  
the world is roaring mad, from Mexico to Petrograd,  
in canning fruit. There are probably fifty thousand years of war, this mighty  
captain lies at rest, his monument the whole Northwest.

constituents, is entirely out of place  
as the executive head of any Ontario  
community.

**The Question of All.**  
(Ottawa Journal)  
It's all very well to talk about how  
nature does wisely, but in view of the  
nuisance of shaving these hot morn-  
ings—or any morning—why the  
dickies didn't Nature make chins go  
bald first?

**Apprenticeship Revived.**  
(Belleville Ontario)  
The apprenticeship system is be-  
ing revived in Great Britain, so the  
boys they learn their trades prop-  
erly and thereby complete their in-  
dustrial education so that when the  
war is over the country will be in a  
position to supply the demands of

**Don't Be Impertinent.**  
(Ottawa Citizen)  
The Lee-Enfield having now ac-  
quired some of the characteristics of  
the Ross rifle is good enough for the  
Canadian troops, according to Sir  
Sam. But what we would like to  
know is why the Ross did not ac-  
quire some of the characteristics of  
the Lee-Enfield.

**KINGSTON EVENTS  
25 YEARS AGO**

J. E. Smith purchased a fancy  
cocker spaniel from Mr. Geddes, of  
Ottawa, for \$75.  
The Merryweather fire engine is  
out of business, and will have to  
undergo extensive repairs.  
Merchants are complaining about  
a great depression in trade.

**LIBERAL PRESS.**

**The Honorary Colonels.**  
Montreal Herald.  
In the Canadian militia list, cor-  
rected to April, 1916, the names are  
given of 332 honorary officers of the  
Canadian forces. Of these 49 repre-  
sent appointments from the time of  
Confederation up till the present  
Minister of Militia was sworn in, and  
include the names of H.M. the King,  
Lord Kitchener and others. During  
the last two or three years the titles  
have been distributed with the lavish  
hand of a generous provider by Sir  
Sam. In fact, the ordinary ones be-  
came so numerous that he was made  
an honorary general after the war  
broke out. Thus it will be seen that  
our Minister of Militia has a kindly  
feeling for the honorary officer, and  
will not have a button taken from  
their uniforms nor a click of heels  
ordered by the saluting Tommies.  
By the way, for 17 years, the Right  
Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G.,  
P.C., has been an honorary lieut-  
colonel of the battalion in which he  
was an officer and won an active  
service medal years ago, but he goes  
about delivering his earnest, en-  
thusiastic and loyal addresses in  
muff, instead of swaggering about  
the country in uniform demanding  
military recognition from all and  
singular.

**CONSERVATIVE PRESS.**

**One Has His Faults.**  
Toronto News.  
No doubt the Minister (Sir Sam)  
has his faults like the rest of us. He  
is not always judicial or judicious in  
his utterances. We have not been  
able to share his confidence in Col.  
Minister W. imagine also that the  
Minister of Militia should be the  
mouthpiece of the army and not its  
commander. He is not wise when  
he roughly disciplines soldiers to  
whom he should hold only a political  
relation. The minister makes strong  
friends and strong opponents.

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