

The British Whig



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A VERY CANDID CONFESSION. People in business deals are being ripped every day. The craze for bargains is so great that expenditures are frequently being made by gullible folks.

The Whig's artist has such a gambler in stocks, (shoe stocks), in his mind, and presents a sketch of very great merit. A man who has suffered the greatest tortures for boots that have proven misfits, has made up his mind that he will suffer no longer, and removing his foot covering, he enters a shoe shop, and feels better when he blurts: "Bought 'em by mail. They're nearly killing me. Serves me right. Ought to have come to you in the first place."

An honest confession is good for the soul. Every one does not admit the fact when the shoe pinches. But one bought wisdom with his shoes, and the investment is a good one. He will trade at home in future. He will by his co-operation help to build up the community in which he lives.

OUR DISREPUTABLE STREETS.

The despicable condition of Princess street west, on which so much money was spent, in repairing and in re-surfacing with tarvis, calls to mind the extraordinary differences of opinion which prevails among the alleged experts on road-making.

After every experiment and every failure we get back to the place where the unprofessional men always leave us, the place where we feel that it is time the amateurs retired and let the experts alone. The Engineering Record scores the councils which will listen to men who have something to sell, and often allow themselves to be imposed upon.

"Without a doubt," says our contemporary, "the best method of procedure is to have the city engineer designate the type that must be used. His choice would be predicated on all the factors that should be considered—foundation conditions, traffic, ability of the district to stand the assessment, characteristics, cost, and life of various surfacings."

The aldermen may not be willing to leave the issue with the engineer. Granted that his judgment is not unerring, as a rule he would manage things a great deal better than the average layman.

BALANCING UP ACCOUNTS.

The Germans threatened the Japanese with dire calamities after the war. "Oh, Nippon," they piped, "wee be unto thee when we have disposed of the greater enemy. It would have been better for thee hadst thou not been born." And the more vicious of the visionaries spent their time in imagining the kind of punishments that would be visited upon the little men of the Pacific empire.

going on. An alliance was formed with the Russians for offensive and defensive purposes, and the arsenals of Japan have been turning out the vast stores of munitions which have enabled the Grand Duke Nicholas, General Brusiloff, and all the rest of them, to smash their way through Poland, and Galicia, and Asia Minor, without encountering formidable resistance anywhere. When Nippon has got through with the Germans the account of fifteen years, through which their enmity has been constantly in evidence, will be completely balanced.

A CRISIS IN ONTARIO.

The premier of Ontario, who is not too rugged in health, is going abroad on public business, and he is taking Dr. Pyne with him. The premier will be missed, and by no class so much as those who have been bombarding his office and making it as unpleasant as possible on the prohibition question. Over in England he will escape their importunities, and have a chance to reason out the whole question calmly.

Other members of the cabinet may be disposed to change front and open the license question. It is said that some of them never liked the close-the-bar feature of the government's programme in view of the fact that they had opposed it in the last election, but Hon. Mr. Hearst, though originally a compromise candidate for the high office, between Hon. Adam Beck and Hon. Mr. Hanna, is a man of some decision of mind, and, having taken a stand upon the question, he is not disposed to retire or retreat.

The faction that has caused something of a panic in the party cannot have now the referendum which they suggest. The closing of the bars and clubs and shops, so far as the public sale of liquor is concerned, is precipitated by the war. Nothing must interfere with the recruiting of the troops for the ordeal that lies before them; and the bar-room is pronounced a menace to the soldiers everywhere.

The Committee of One Hundred were not thinking of the soldiers only, and were not moved in their action by the influence of the bars on the troops. They had in mind the general well-being of the community, and they were eager to profit by the temperance wave which was passing over the country. This wave impressed the premier, and he may have acted precipitately. He acted, however, deliberately and in good faith, and he must be true to his professions.

The legislature has fixed the time when the Prohibition Act shall take effect, and when the people, by a referendum, shall say whether it shall be continued indefinitely. Only the legislature can change all this, and Hon. Mr. Hearst is not inclined to summon it for a special session.

CANADA'S SHAMEFUL WASTE.

The prodigality of parliament, in passing millions of dollars unquestionably and for the purposes of war, has been applauded. The idea was not to scamp the government or the Militia Department, in any way, that it had assumed the responsibility of meeting the contingencies of the hour, and that it should be allowed to meet and carry the load regardless of expense.

But neither Parliament nor the people which it represents, have meant that any considerable sum of money should be wasted in profligate business deals, and the Toronto Star, whose information, it is presumed, is trustworthy, makes an exposure which will arouse great public displeasure. The record is astonishing. Here it is, summarized:

(a) Transport waggons unsuitable for the roads of Belgium and France, purchased in hundreds, and four of them crossed the Channel. The rest abandoned somewhere in England.

(b) Machine guns, purchased for the Eaton Machine Gun Battery. A generous and costly gift, piled up at Fulford, England, and unused.

(c) Bicycles, thousands of them, not standardized, unsuitable, and piled up in thousands in England, fit material for the scrap heap.

(d) Boots, millions of them, and costing millions of dollars, regarded as useless and unfit for the cobbled roads of France. One consignment sent to France as an experiment and not yet reported upon.

(e) Leather Oliver equipments, 200,000 of them, stored in England, of no value to the forces, and with 250,000 other leather equipments, which have been bought at large expense only to go into discard.

(f) Ross rifles, thousands of them, and representing millions of dollars, kept in use long after they were regarded as a failure, and now wholly replaced at the front by the Lee-Enfield. A prodigious and incalculable loss.

The patent spade "invented by a young lady in Sir Sam Hughes department at Ottawa," says the Star, "the wonderful spade, which was not only to dig trenches but to offer a shield to protect the sons of Canada—unused and useless, is piled up to the number of hundreds of thousands in England." This is a striking revelation, apart from what has taken place in connection with all the scandals that have been aired in Parliament, in committee, and in commissions, and it must have very irritating public effects. The Star says that most of these great losses have been incurred because the Minister of Militia knew better than any one else, or better than all others, what was needed, and everything had to go regardless of consequences. The war does not prevent the members of the Imperial Parliament from discussing financial budgets, and it looks as if the Canadian members of Parliament must, in the interest of the economy that should be practised, enter a vigorous protest against all further investigation.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. Helen MacMurphy pays a high compliment to the Home for the Aged People, to the management, (under a commission), and to the improvements it has secured. The acting inspector is certainly a competent critic.

Arthur Hawkes, in a letter to the Windsor Record, says he has always been an independent liberal. He certainly declined to vote for reciprocity with the United States. But he was not the only liberal who bolted the party on that subject.

Notice the number of socialist candidates who are seeking election to the legislature in British Columbia. Socialism is evidently thriving at the Pacific and contributing to it has been the selfishness and corruption of the governments under McBride and Bowser.

The conservative candidate in the south west division of Toronto will support the government generally, but on the prohibition question he will be free to do as he likes. A notice, as it were, to the Hearst government, to quit prohibition or the party will be tempted to quit it.

About 400,000 of the railway employees of the United States have voted to go on strike unless their wages and terms of service have been improved. The outlook is serious for the railway companies and men. It may cost something to secure peace, and it will cost a good deal more not to secure it.

The defence of the ex-ministers in Manitoba is developing. The idea now is that if there was a conspiracy to defraud it existed between Kelly, the contractor, and Horwood, the architect. But the politicians got the money. They were the beneficiaries, and receivers of stolen goods are as culpable generally as the men who do the stealing.

A Naval Suspect.

Some are beginning to think the Bremen is a sort of marine "Mrs. Arrid," Sarah Campy's invisible friend, of whom Betsy Prig finally said: "I don't believe there is any such person."

Random Reels

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

GUTENBERG. Johann Gutenberg, who invented the art of printing, included the single-column half tone cut which leaves so much to the imagination of the reader, was a native of Germany. While yet a child he learned to speak the German language with machine-gun precision, seldom getting a verb in the wrong pew or mispronouncing any of the words.

Like all inventors, Gutenberg was constantly beset by grief and flint-hearted creditors, and for several years did not venture out except at night. While thus engaged he was sued for breach of promise by an agrivene young lady who gave his love letters to the newspapers, which printed them from type furnished by Gutenberg, the smallest letters being of the size generally used in the sale bill. When the jury read the love letters and took an unbiased look at the plaintiff, they decided that Gutenberg had been punished enough and refused to cripple his proud spirit with the matrimonial yoke. And yet there are people who would abort the jury system.

When Gutenberg began to discover printing he had no working models to go by. He was not even able to steal somebody's patent and tie up the owner in the courts for nine-tenths of a year, which is one of the most soothing forms of modern litigation. But Gutenberg was a good speller and could repeat the alphabet lying down or standing up, and before long he came out with a font of wood type which could be read with the naked eye at a distance of one mile. His invention, however, did not take. He lived in a superstitious age, and was at once accused of being a witch, which he denied in letters one foot and six inches in height. About this time he sank into debt up to the double cowl which he was accustomed to wear looped over his left eye, and became so despondent that he was about ready to give up newspaper work entirely.

Gutenberg's wood type did not stand up under the sledges which he used in place of a cylinder press, and he then invented metal type. In the spring of 1450 he printed the Bible, including the unpremeditated swallowing of the prophet Jonah, after which he was sued by his partner and left with not enough ready money to buy a haircut. His life at this period was very sad.

Johann Gutenberg was a patient, persevering man, much given to thought and heavy woolen undergarments. He had not been so fully occupied in his odious promissory notes. Gutenberg had all of the troubles of the printer except the delinquent subscriber, and if that had been added to his lot he would probably have died earlier and with much more satisfaction.

Rippling Rhymes

KEEPING COOL

If calm and cool you'd feel and look, while summer heat is blister'n, you'll patronize the babbling brook, the siffle pump and cistern. For tangle-foot and old red ink and bruffice make you hotter; there's nothing better, as a drink, than undiluted water. Discourse, of light and pleasant things, discuss this mighty nation, talk much of cabbages and kings, but not of perspiration. Let such a theme as politics by you be never treated, for arguing and throwing bricks will get you overheated. Be gentle with your patient wife, and say she is a darling; if you get cross there will be strife, and forty kinds of snarling; you can't be cool when angry dames accept the gaze of battle; you can't be cool while calling names that make the dishes rattle. Be calm and placid as you can, hunt up the soft drink fountains; turn on the small electric fan, and think of Greenland's mountains.

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PUBLIC OPINION

Destroying Evidence. (London Advertiser) More Manitoba documents have disappeared like the famous telegrams. Therefore some other skin is saved.

Clocks All Out. (Port Arthur Chronicle) The clocks in Greece have been advanced 25 minutes, but in its attitude to the war the country is 20 minutes late.

Conscription Abroad. (Montreal Mail) New Zealand has adopted conscription, and the report that Colonel Armand Lavergne is going to New Zealand is a fake.

Useless Kissing. (Farmer's Advocate) The Kaiser will have to do a great deal of kissing of admirals of his battle fleet before he can open the sea routes to the German commercial fleet.

Nobody Knows. (Ottawa Citizen) Sir Sam Hughes tells a British interviewer that he does not know why he should be congratulated on the outcome of the fuse enquiry; and most Canadians will agree with him.

An Alternative. (Hamilton Herald) As retaliation for German atrocities Sir Henry Dalsiel would seize all property owned by Germans in Britain. Anybody that would be better than shooting German prisoners, as some Prussianized Britons suggest.

KINGSTON EVENTS

25 YEARS AGO

The police are very busy collecting fines which should have been collected some time ago.

E. O. Sitter and A. W. McMahon rode to Belleville and back on their bicycles. They were four hours and a quarter going and four hours and forty minutes coming down.

GERMANY OF TOMORROW ON WAR.

New York Herald. The interview with Dr. Roese-meier, of the Berlin Morgen Post, which the Herald printed reveals the main thought which is taking hold of the world. What is to be the fate of the German military system and what escape is there from its dominating the world if Germany is to win the war? On this the eyes of all the belligerent and all the neutral nations are focussed.

To the present system of government in Germany the war is due. To that is due the prolongation of the war. To that is due the belief that if Germany succeeds a world dominion on militaristic lines will follow. To that is due the fact that every neutral nation in Europe is consequently on a war footing. To that is due the great appropriations being made in Washington for the army and the navy.

It is not strange, therefore, that the Germans themselves — Germans that have become American citizens, who remain at home, who have gone into exile — should be discussing the need for complete emancipation for Germany itself from the system of government now prevailing.

Dr. Roese-meier thinks it will be a long struggle after the war before the Hohenzollerns can be overthrown and before the arrogant class system which dominates the nation can be destroyed. He believes that Germany may be beaten in the war, but gives no hope for immediate reform within. This means that all the world after the war will have to be on guard.

WHAT HUGHES WOULD DO.

New York Herald. Mr. Hughes was not reluctant to say what he would do as president in other matters in which he criticized Mr. Wilson. He would have recognized Huerta; he would have had American ships rescue Americans at Tampico who were in peril, without leaving it to German and British ships to do; he would have had no such man as Josephus Daniels in the cabinet, but he did not say whom he would have; he would have made Germany understand that she would be held to strict accountability in the Lusitania matter in advance and he would have so held her; he would have a large standing army, instead of calling national guardsmen away from their homes to do patrol duty against bandits; he would as president support the policy of protection; he would build up the merchant marine without putting the government into competition with private capital.

DROWNING BOY SAVED.

Cornwall Man Pluckily Pulls Lad Out of Canal.

Cornwall, Ont., Aug. 5.—W. V. Boyd, manager of the Canadian Cottons, Limited, made a brave rescue. Two young lads were going along the bank when one of them, the ten-year-old son of Maurice Lavigne, East Cornwall, returning home after delivering his father's dinner, fell into the canal. Seeing the danger the lad was in, Mr. Boyd rushed to the coping and jumped in just in the nick of time to rescue him from drowning. After the boy was safe Mr. Boyd was assisted out by some men.

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Bibbys Limited. New Prices August 1, 1916. The following prices for Ford cars will be effective on and after August 1st, 1916. Chassis \$450.00, Runabout 475.00, Touring Car 495.00, Coupelet 695.00, Town Car 780.00, Sedan 890.00. f.o.b. Ford, Ontario. These prices are positively guaranteed against any reduction before August 1st, 1917, but there is no guarantee against an advance in price at any time. ANGROVE BROS. Ford Dealers Kingston :: :: Ontario

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