

The British Whig
83RD YEAR



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AN UNGRACIOUS SNEER.

The day before yesterday Laurier
newspapers were boasting that
the new plans for the Quebec bridge
were prepared during the Laurier
regime, and adopted almost as
they stood by the present govern-
ment. But it seems as if the
Lawrence will have none of Laurier
bridging.—Toronto Mail.

There was nothing the matter
with the plans. They were approved
by the greatest experts the govern-
ment could employ, and they were
carried out with a skill that was
most commendable. Because some-
thing went wrong with the hoisting
apparatus, because one of the jacks,
hydraulically operated, caused an
unbalancing of the great weight, and
an unfortunate collapse of the cen-
tral span of the Quebec bridge, no
member of a government or politi-
cal party was at fault. The Mail
ought to be above the ungracious
sneer in which it has indulged.

An expert draper and milliner,
from France, was offered 15c for a
morning's work in New York, and
made an appeal through the press for
a "living wage." The result is a
heart searching which will certainly
do some good.

UNWELCOME VISITORS.

Is there any plan or scheme with
these American preachers who so-
licit opportunities to visit Canada,
occupy the pulpits, and say things
that are not appreciated? A little
while ago Kingston had one who
went out of his way to explain the
attitude of the United States towards
Germany, and before he got through
had a good many persons, metaphori-
cally speaking, upon his back.

Now it is Toronto which has been
visited by an American preacher,
who trespassed by explaining that
the people of Canada do not hate the
Germans! What does he know about
the sentiment of this country by the
sojourn of a couple of days at any
business centre? This counselling
of the Canadians by men who have
to force themselves upon the people,
through the pulpits, in order to tell
what they know about the Germans,
is distasteful, to say the least of it.
Canadians understand the situation
just as well as any American clerics,
and they feel like resenting the ad-
vice which is so gratuitously offered
to them.

The persistency of the effort sug-
gests that the Germans, or the hy-
phenates, have been conspiring with
the preachers, and inducing them to
do a little missionary work in Can-
adian territory, on behalf of a fail-
ing cause, and Canada will not stand
for any more of it.

It seems but as yesterday since
"Prince Arthur" drove through our
city, and at the city hall, and on a
steamer on the river, accepted the
hospitalities of our people. He has
grown in experience and popularity
since then.

CANADA'S NEW WAR LOAN.

There will be a ready subscription
of the \$100,000,000 war loan which
the Dominion of Canada has put on
the market. It is the second of the
kind, and will be taken up as quickly
as was the loan of \$50,000,000 a
year ago. This was oversubscribed.
Indeed, there was such a response
to the appeal at that time that it
was felt there was money aplenty,
and that for a gilt-edged security it
would be gladly produced. There is
reason to believe that this expecta-
tion will be verified now.

The bonds bear five per cent. in-
terest, and run for fifteen years.
They are selling at 97 1/2. This means
that, with the four per cent. added,
which is allowed for the payment of
the whole amount on the date when

the first instalment falls due, they
will yield 5.29.

They represent a very desirable in-
vestment. They can be converted
into cash at any time. They will
probably increase in value as the
securities embraced in the first loan
increased, so that some investors,
notably the insurance corporations,
made a tidy profit.

The wealth of the community can
never be estimated. When the first
loan was projected a financier said
he realized that the coffers had been
scarcely touched, that in the hands
of the multitudes, and beyond the
knowledge of the bankers, there were
hoards of gold or its equivalent, and
it would be freely offered for the
sake, and in the interest, of the
country.

The loan is being issued in Canada
alone, and is expected to be taken up
by the Canadians, for patriotic pur-
poses. The hope of the finance min-
ister, that his countrymen will save
all they can and lend all they can to
the nation, follows the hope and re-
quest of the British finance minister,
and it will not be expressed in vain.

The Toronto Telegram is correct in
assuming that the daylight saving
scheme is all right. But it must be
backed or authorized by dominion
legislation. It cannot succeed where
it depends on local laws.

THE COST OF FOOD

Some of those who have been visit-
ing England say that the cost of liv-
ing is no greater there than in Can-
ada. "No?" The late London papers
announce that there are public de-
monstrations against the high prices,
and the demand is made that the
government do something to regulate
them.

A few quotations will be illumina-
ting. Lamb is quoted at 1s. 1 1/2 to
1s. 3d. per lb.; beef, 1s. 4 1/2 d. per lb.;
old mutton, 3 for 4s. 9d.; young
mutton, 3 for 10s. 6d.; halibut, 1s. 2d.
per lb.; tarbot, 1s. 4d. per lb.; sal-
mon, 2s. per lb.; Canadian salmon, 1s.
3d. per lb.; haddock, 6d. per lb.;
mackerel, 4d. per lb.; butter, 2s.
per lb.; pears and oranges, each 2d.;
eggs, 2d. each. Any housewife can
judge by these figures whether liv-
ing is dearer in England than in
Canada.

One thing is certain, that the peo-
ple "at home" are worried over the
outlook, and are demanding that the
government regulate the freights,
and in that way regulate the cost
of food. The answer is that Eng-
land is depending on neutral ships
for her supplies, that any attempt to
control the rates would drive these
neutral ships away, and that the con-
sequences would be very unfortuna-
te.

These freights may be realized by
a couple of examples. A cargo of
maize cost \$19,000. The freight
charges were \$70,000. The vessel
earned \$10,000 a week. A parcel of
oyster shells cost in America \$45.
The freight upon it was \$189. Be-
fore the war the oyster shells sold at
2s. 6d. per cwt. delivered. Now it
is worth 11s. per cwt.

All this is the result of the war.
For a time the government did won-
derfully well in keeping down prices,
but it cannot provide ships and it is
a scarcity of them which is respon-
sible for present conditions. Living
in Canada is going up, too, at an as-
tounding rate. What is the cause?
Transportation may have something
to do with it, but there are "corners"
that should be investigated and with-
out delay.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Toronto News says that there
are politicians who insist that the
new parliamentary buildings "shall
be erected on doubtful foundations."
Who are they? Name them.

The Ontario government is going
to have itself deluged with telegrams,
protesting against the closing of the
bars without a mandate from the
people. No one will be deceived by
this exploit.

The Windsor city council asks the
federal government to enquire into
the prices of food stuffs. The alder-
men must be in league with the men
who are gradually turning over the
business of the country to commis-
sions.

The bars need not close at seven
o'clock when they do not contain any
liquor. But the one who keeps his
bar open when there is liquor in it,
after seven o'clock, on Saturday, will
be subject to a very heavy penalty.
Thus rules the Provincial License
Board.

The dope victims are reported by
the inspector of prisons to be less
numerous than formerly. The statis-
tics may take on a new growth,
when, after the 15th, the dope that
people have been licensed to sell goes
out of the market, and is replaced by
something of a more dangerous kind.

Must the government of England
run the railways, as it has been re-
quired to run the industries? It be-
comes a grave contingency in the
face of a possible strike of railway
men. The main advantage is that
the men will receive their due pro-
portion of the earnings of the road.

There is a touch of disloyalty in

the threat of the railway men of Eng-
land to go on strike unless they get
increased wages. They argue that
they should be as well clothed and
fed as the soldiers. There is some-
thing in that, but they are not lay-
ing down their lives for their fellowmen.

The Ottawa Journal questions
whether any political party can have
anything to do with Bourassa. The
Borden party certainly had a great
regard for him some time ago. It
rewarded his help in the last election
by calling several of his associates
to seats in the government. He was
the type of man for whom the pre-
mier had the highest regard.

PUBLIC OPINION

Peary, Too?
(Toronto News)
If Crocker Land, discovered and
named by Rear-Admiral Peary, does
not exist, must he be listed with Dr.
Cook?

The Fox in Danger.
(London Advertiser)
Bulgar regiments begin to mutiny.
Ferdinand the Fox had better have
his cellar residence deepened and
fortified.

Sir Robert Worries.
(Ottawa Free Press)
Perhaps the question of the high
cost of living will give Premier Bor-
den something to worry over until
Sir Sam returns.

Noise Not Wanted.
(Hamilton Herald)
In each of five edgeward notices
published yesterday the announce-
ment was made that the marriage is
to take place "quietly." Evidently
noisy weddings are going out of fash-
ion.

There's a Jibe.
(London Free Press)
The Toronto Trades and Labor
Council leads in a protest against the
high cost of living. It is useless to
ask governments to reduce the cost
of living, when the workers persist
in living anywhere but on the farms.

KINGSTON EVENTS
25 YEARS AGO

There is overcrowding in the city
schools, and the property committee
has the matter under consideration.
Natural gas was found in a well at
Rockwood Hospital.
Domestics are in great demand.
Wages range from \$8 to \$12 per
month, with afternoons and nights
innumerable. It is hard to get help
at any price.

Random Reels

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

THE OVERALL
The overall is a loose, flowing imi-
tation of the Japanese kimono,
which is worn by men who are not
particular about a fit. It is made from
the same measurements as the kim-
ono, but has two hip pockets which
are not included in the latter, owing
to the fact that woman is not allowed
to have any spending money except
for groceries and a milk ticket.

Men who wear overalls do not have
them fitted to their forms by high-
priced merchant tailors with concave
underpinning. It is considered a
good fit when the overalls do not drag
on the ground like a bride's veil. Fas-
tidious people object to the overall
on this account, but if they had to
pull a pair on over several layers of
pants and shirts their attitude would
be more respectful.

Before the great European war op-
ened up there were a great many in-
digo blue overalls with a stout, rigid
complexion in the country. A pair
of these overalls could be sent to the
steam laundry week after week with-
out shrinking around the waist or
looking pale around the gills. This
was because they were vaccinated
with German dyes, which have never
been taught how to run. But as these
dyes have now become scarcer than
toothbrushes in Chihuahua we are
compelled to rely upon a base imita-
tion, which holds its color about as
long as a timid man in a free clinic.

There is a disposition in some-
quarters to look down on the man
who wears overalls, but with the
brickslayers asking \$1 an hour this is
work better than he can, which
poor policy. Why should a man who
wears creased pants and a green
sport shirt and earns \$15 a week not
wear ten cents on the dollar.

Rippling Rhymes

SLOW BUT SURE

Old Britain's rather slow, sometimes, at getting
started; "neath buffets from the foe, when war" is
young, she's smarted. She doesn't make a trade
of warfare, like the Germans; she thinks less of the
blade than of her books and sermons. Her sons, in
time of peace, are not forever drilling, but earn, with
elbow grease, the sixpence and the shilling. They do
not lie awake to think of blood and battle, but ply
the hoe and rake, and milk their blooming cattle. And
so, when sounds the horn that calls to blood and thun-
der, her sons must leave their corn, their hay and other
plunder. And while they're getting fit to fight like
ancient Romans, old Britain may be hit a few times
by the foe. Then foolish people cry, and split the
air with wailing: "Our hopes are doomed to die
— the British banner's trailing!" But quit your shrieks
of woe! Great Britain's getting started — the Brit-
ain that we know, the strong, the lion hearted! Around the flag again the
stalwart yeomen rally: the little streams of men, from every hill and valley,
the men of English blood from either side the ocean, restless as a flood,
when they are all in motion. Your boasting is a sham, oh, Turko-German
blighters! How can you build a dam to stop this flood of fighters?

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PRICES IN CANADA
DURING YEAR 1915.

The great rise in prices during the
war, which became very steep after
the middle of 1915, is shown in the
report just issued by the Department
of Labor entitled, "Wholesale Prices
in Canada, 1915," which also con-
tains information regarding retail
prices and prices in other countries.

In Canada the wholesale prices of
272 commodities averaged over 8 per
cent. higher than in 1914, and 9 per
cent. higher than in 1913, while the
retail prices of some thirty foods
were 2 per cent. higher than in 1914,
and 7 per cent. higher than in 1913,
allowing for the importance of each
article in family consumption. By
December, 1915, however, the steep
rise had brought the index number
of wholesale prices to a point 20 per
cent. higher than in July, 1914, while
retail food prices had risen 10 per
cent. during the same period.

The index number of wholesale
prices stood at 148.0 for the year, as
compared with 136.1 for 1914, and
135.5 for 1913, but by December,
1915, had reached 161.1, as compar-
ed with 134.6 for July, 1914. A
weekly family budget of food aver-
aged \$7.86 for 1915, \$7.73 for 1914,
and \$7.33 for 1913, but for Decem-
ber, 1915, stood at \$8.13, as com-
pared with \$7.42 in July, 1914.

It may be noted that the rise in
prices has continued during the cur-
rent year as shown from month to
month in the Labor Gazette. The in-
dex number of wholesale prices
reached 180.9 for May but declined
slightly thereafter, metals, mechani-
cals and certain materials being low-
er. In retail food prices the weekly
budget reached \$8.53 for August,
there being a decline only in July
when midsummer conditions lowered
prices very slightly.

In other countries retail food
prices also rose steeply, the rise from
the beginning of the war to the end
of 1915 being calculated as high as
113 per cent. for Austria, 83 per cent.
for Germany, over 30 per cent. in the
Netherlands, Norway and Italy, and
44 per cent. in Great Britain. In
Australia the rise was nearly 30 per
cent., as a result of drought, while
in New Zealand it was only 16 per
cent. In Japan prices were lower
than in 1914 and 1913.

In Canada, wheat, oats, flour,
cheese, butter, packed meats, pulp
and paper first felt the stimulation
of increased demand due to war con-
ditions, but these were soon followed
by wool, fish, leather, zinc, copper,
chemicals; New Brunswick, lumber,
linseed oil, and later iron and steel
as well as most metals and metal
products. In the latter part of 1915
the upward movement was particu-
larly strong in metals, chemicals and
wool, while in jute, silk, rubber, etc.,
among imported materials the rise
was marked.

The successful minister preaches
by acts as well as words.

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tell you again that our

SUPERIOR COAL

is proving highly satisfactory
to a long list of steady cus-
tomers
It's clean, burns freely and de-
serves the praise it receives.

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