

The British Whig

82ND YEAR



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CANADIANS IN ACTION.

Frederick Palmer gives a graphic description of the advance of the British on the Somme, and especially of "the most dramatic and picturesque battle" which was fought on the 15th of this month by the Canadians.

It was the most cosmopolitan through he had ever encountered, these so-called Britishers, and made up of the representatives of all the provinces of Canada, and of all the cities, and included a few Americans, who had enlisted with the hope of getting into the big game, and were not disappointed.

There you have in a few expressive words the manner in which the Canadians excelled themselves. At St. Julien and St. Eloi they had surely won distinction.

In Victoria School last year 175 tons of coal were consumed. In the enlarged institute only 125 tons were consumed. It is for the property committee of the School Board to enquire into this matter and put an end to a very apparent waste of fuel in Victoria School.

OUR HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Oswego is going on with extensive improvements in its harbor, under national auspices, in order that it may get the benefit of the increased shipping which may pass through the Welland Canal, Kingston, which should benefit quite as much, if not more, by the completion of the Welland Canal, drags its improvements.

That point must be apparent to everyone, and must be especially apparent to the men who represent the

people in parliament and in the public departments. Kingston has one of the national harbors, and they are designated thus because they have been recognized as filling a plan and purpose in the development of national interests. A splendid beginning was made. The decision was reached to improve the harbor and make it, for national reasons, what it ought to be.

Because a war takes place national enterprise in the way of improving the harbors of the country must stop. Inferentially shipping and transportation must cease or contract, and national energy fall of its purpose.

On dit that the Germans will be more desperate or frightful in the future than in the past, and in connection with the war. Can they be more fiendish or more ferocious?

NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTION.

The government candidates in Carleton County, N. B., Hon. F. B. Smith, and W. B. Sutton, one filling the place of a member of the government who had to resign on account of exposures, and the other filling the seat of a member who resigned in order to accept a public office, have been elected, and the conservative party is entitled to all the comfort it can get out of this fact.

Four years ago the conservatives won a great triumph in the province. They carried it with a sweep. Little was left of the liberal party. It was, for the time being, wiped out. Later charges were preferred against the premier, Hon. J. K. Flemming,

While the bye-elections were proceeding new scandals were exploited. H. M. Blair, formerly the deputy minister of public works, appeared in the constituency and charged that railway contractors had to pay blood money before they could collect from the province the amount that was owing to them for work in connection with the Valley railway.

The revelation does not seem to have created very much of a sensation. No charge, however serious, can shock the people of New Brunswick under the circumstances. The Chatham World's indictment stands. It is that the air stinks from the scandals of the government. It is only a question of time until this government goes down in disgrace.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The School Board has sixty-policies covering an insurance of \$100,000 or more on its ten schools. One would think the Board was running an insurance office, and that its secretary had nothing to do but look after insurance policies.

The United States government will be asked to put an embargo on the export of wheat. Unless this is done it is predicted that flour will be \$14 a barrel in the spring, and bread 20c a loaf. The cause—a great shortage in the wheat crop.

Few students are taking German at the Institute. German is the curriculum, however, and must be taught if anyone desires it for matriculation. It is no longer, however, as one remarked at the School Board meeting, "the language of culture."

The political campaign in the United States is being largely affected by the labor question. The president is the champion of the eight-

hour day. Mr. Hughes is the champion of that independence of mind which "deploras the abdication of moral authority," in the action of Congress.

The Engineer, a British technical paper, depreciates the use of the word disaster in connection with the bridge accident. The first mishap was the result of a defect in the design. The second mishap was the result of a defective casting, "which was no part of the bridge structure."

A professor told the Whig that for a week before the Columbia College opens in New York, every year, members of the staff are in daily attendance, and for hours each day, counselling with the students, "the fresher," with regard to their classes, and books. Would that Queen's inaugurated a similar procedure for the sake of the students who come to college for the first time.

PUBLIC OPINION

Not Much Else Left. (Toronto Mail and Empire.) About the most valuable surviving right of Americans in Mexico is the right to leave it.

Fitting Answer. (Ottawa Free Press.) "After the bar, what?" asks a preacher, and some answers will be to the effect that there's a bottle in the cellar.

Pertinent Question. (Toronto Globe.) Death Valley is a fine, honorable path for the manhood of Canada than Shirker's Alley. If you are of military age think it over.

Well, Why Not? (Toronto Star.) Ottawa city is all flushed with happiness because the municipality finds that it can invest in a million dollars worth of the new Government war loan.

Cost of Bread. (Hamilton Herald.) It's unfortunate that a rise in the price of bread should come simultaneously with the closing of the bars. However, there will now be more money to spare for bread.

Money and Fear. (London Advertiser.) It is misery to be poor, but it must be worse to have \$100,000 lying in safety deposit boxes and be afraid to touch it for fear detectives are on hand. That's what the New Westminster bank thieves suffer.

A Good Move. (Brantford Expositor.) Mr. Brewster, the new Premier of

British Columbia has pledged himself to the utter abolition of the patronage system in that province and it is to be hoped that he will implement his pledge to the letter.

The Millionaire Graftor. (Guelph Mercury.) It has been found that an estate States colonel who has an estate worth \$4,150,000, had been drawing a pension of \$25 a month from the government. He didn't come as high, though, as a certain honorary colonel who was cavorting around Ottawa a few moons ago.

PRICES OF FOOD ARE STILL SOARING

Toronto Mail (Con.) To high prices for the necessities of life the government can never be indifferent. They are now so high that the public are suspicious.

Not long ago Hon. Mr. Crothers, Minister of Labor, threatened action under the War Measures Act against Windsor milkmen, who were holding milk prices two or three cents a quart higher than those prevailing in London, Stratford, and other Western Ontario towns.

That was before the summer drought took full effect upon pastures, and the milk yield. The War Measures Act gives the Ottawa Government plenty of power to intervene for the regulation of prices if they can be proved to be artificially raised.

Proof of that is that exceedingly hard to obtain, however. For instance, during the calendar year of 1915 retail food prices in Canada advanced about 3 per cent., in Britain 20 per cent., in the United States 4 per cent., in Australia 22 per cent., and Italy 22 per cent.

That was not a bad showing. In 1916 prices steadily moved higher, and with the poor summer weather, and crop failures the advances lately have been rapid.

There is no reason to believe that these have been more oppressive in Canada than in the United States or Britain. Of course, in the last decade or two Canada has had the unfavorable distinction of heading the list of all countries in the matter of increases in the cost of living.

J. E. Clark, city auditor, says he will not undertake to audit the books of the city next year unless he gets more pay.

To-day was as beautiful a day as anyone could desire. A new lodge of the A.O.U.W. has been organized in the city.

The King has authorized Surgeon-General Guy Carleton Jones, director of Canadian medical services, to wear the insignia of an officer of the legion of Honor, conferred by the French President in recognition of valuable services.

Random Reels

THE TOURIST The tourist is a hopeful biped whose sole mission in life is to feed currency to the wayside garage.

A few years ago tourists were few and far between, being confined largely to the expert but widely-busted tramp printer, who remained in town long enough to become thoroughly pickled, and then toured to the next stop on the brake rod of a poultry car. With the upspringing of the automobile, however, our roads are deeply lined with a new kind of tourist, who travel among strangers and pay the list price for red inner tubes.

Since it has been discovered that the modern automobile can be run several thousand miles without any more expense than operating a short-line railroad, the practice of skipping from coast to coast in a wobble-legged touring car has become a fixed habit.

The tourist does not need to take much of anything with him except a few extra tubes of money. It is astonishing how fast money will ooze away from a tourist—who has never done anything to his own car except tilt the wind-shield. But no man begrudges the money when he comes back with both lungs full of fresh air, an appetite like a wheat elevator and a coat of tan thicker than a deep sea diver's. Best of all, every tourist is a good roads booster, and he is already pulling a lot of states out of the mud.

Rippling Rhymes VACATIONERS I've been where countless people went for recreation and repose, where forty kinds of scads are spent for motor rides and thinks like those. There were, for those who had the price, all kinds of harmless, cheerful snares, and there was every known device to make a man forget his cares. I sat and watched them, all day long, beneath a quaking aspen tree; to find so sad and glum a throng, a funeral you'd have to see. The tourist plodded on his way, as though he'd lost his dearest friend; his face, despondent, seemed to say, "I'll see this ordeal to the end." With gloom expressed in every act, he went the rounds, where others went, and saw the Rainbow Cataract, or gazed on fakers in a tent. The Windy Cavern he explored, and trailed along some dizzy curve, and all the while he looked so bored the guides and spellers lost their nerve. I saw ten thousand tourists; they jogged along through scenes sublime, and looked as though they'd like to cuss so vain a waste of precious time.

some point where it is a few cents higher. This tends to keep the tourist in a contented and amiable frame of mind, and also encourages the building of stone-front garages which are often mistaken for the hotel.

The practice of skipping from coast to coast in a wobble-legged touring car has become a fixed habit.

Statistics prove that a man can drive his own automobile to either coast for less than it costs to buy a private car rigged up with a shower bath and brunette porter, unless a spark plug gives out.

One nice thing about a long automobile tour is that the tourist gets a chance to meet a great many nice people and learns how the government regulates the price of gasoline.

We have one of the freest forms of government in the world, and when gasoline gets too high in one place, all a man has to do is to drive on to

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OUR HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.