

The British Whig 33RD YEAR



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A MAN OF THE HOUR.

The door of opportunity has been opened to many a man in this war. Those of observation have been the most successful, and by this phrase it is not meant that they are the people with a "pull." There are too many of this kind around. But there are those who have seen where they could legitimately make money, and they set their plans accordingly. These are not all munitions makers, though some of them have been very fortunate. Bliss & Company, of New York; for instance, made \$5,532,000 in 1915 with a capital of about \$1,500,000, and it has just been announced that they have distributed dividends of 22 1/2 per cent. The Whig has in its mind's eye one who realized the demand that was coming for evaporated vegetables, for soups, and launched his scheme. In two years he has become a millionaire, twice over, and has given evidence of his patriotism and plethoric purse by subscribing \$200,000 of Canada's new war loan. He was in Germany when the war started, studying his new business. He caught the idea at the psychological moment. He acted at once, and is today the owner of great riches he has earned.

Experience of the western cities, in Manitoba and Alberta and Saskatchewan, under prohibition, is being surpassed in Ontario. Kingston's record in the last fifteen days—one case of drunkenness, and no cases of disorder—is both unique and remarkable.

A VERY WEAK APOLOGY.

La Patrie has been moved to make some explanation of the small number, comparatively speaking, who have gone from Quebec to the war, or have enlisted for service abroad. Our contemporary recalls that there is not so great a discrepancy as has been made to appear between the contributions of Ontario and Quebec. It has to be remembered (1) that many French and Belgians left Canada early to fight with their respective armies, and (2) that Ontario got the benefit, in the numbering of many who came from the Old Land to Canada in order to enlist here and get the benefit of the higher pay which the Canadian service commanded.

One cannot imagine the difference that this would make. It may be material, and it may not. The Whig does not suppose that the immigrants who enlisted were many, nor has the exodus of foreigners, leaving to join their respective reserves, been so very numerous. Hence this point is not one that need be dwelt upon.

There may be something in the contention that if Quebec has failed to respond to the call to arms it is the fault of the leaders who have not pointed the way nor awakened the spirit of the French-Canadians from the slumber into which they have been lulled by designing people. The leaders may be to blame, but what leaders?

The members of the government and the representatives of the militia department, directly and indirectly, have been trifling with a very serious subject and failing to do the duty of the hour. La Patrie's defence of the situation is surprisingly weak.

The Trades and Labor Congress put itself on record as saying that it is in favor of the license system so far as the sale of beer and wines are concerned. This is decidedly disappointing, because if there is any class which prohibition should help it is the working class.

GIVE US PURE WATER.

Three systems of treatment have been followed in Kingston and its vicinity in order to render the water used for domestic purposes innocuous. There are the systems which have been adopted in the city and at the camp and confined to the chlorinating of the water in order to destroy the bacteria; and there is the system which has been inaugurated at the Royal Military College which not only renders the bacteria harmless, but removes them. Col. Perreault is to be congratulated in that he has successfully prevailed upon the government to install a plant which guarantees to the college and its occupants a good supply of absolutely pure water.

The Board of Health for Kingston has had pressed upon it various plans, some for a rapid cleansing of the water by chlorine and machinery, and some for the purification of it by the use of chlorine and filtration beds. But the board has not had, as it has now, the opportunity for the examination of a plant which is complete and does its work efficiently. The Utilities Commission should join with the Board of Health in an inspection of the college equipment, since it must be apparent to all who are responsible for the water service to the citizens that it is not enough to dope the bacteria, but that, as at the college, they must be removed.

The system, too, of chlorinating the water only is not satisfactory. The distribution of the chlorine is open to criticism. It is sometimes tasted, and some people, on that account, will not drink the water. It can be made tasteless as at the Military College, and the Utilities Commission should aim at this, and accomplish it by the diversion to improvements of some of the rapidly accumulating surplus from the present water rates.

Mr. Wilson, president of the United States, does not expect the German votes. He says he would be mortified to receive them. He may now regret that he did not at the time insist upon a proper reparation for the Lusitania and other outrages.

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

The first offence under the Prohibition Act came before the police magistrate to-day. The first in fifteen days! What a record. Who would have thought that the general suspension of the license system would have been followed so soon and by such remarkable results? The closing of the bars probably worked the miracle. It did not stop the consumption of liquors. Some people provided themselves against such a contingency by filling their larder with the choicest viands. One man is referred to with having so occupied his cellar with his liquor purchases that he had no place in which to store his coal. When the stock of some people has been exhausted it can be replenished.

The closing of the bars, then, does not make any people either temperate or sober. The fact that public inebriation has practically disappeared, that only once in fifteen days has one been found helplessly inebriated, testifies to the most creditable observance of the law. It demonstrates as no other experience can do the value of the new legislation. It was argued—and so recently as last week, before the Trades and Labor Congress—that interference with the social privileges of the people should not have been attempted without a previous expression of public opinion. But the experience of the present, and of the period which must intervene before the war is ended, will go farther than any argument to convince the people that prohibition is even a better thing than it was represented to be. The referendum, when taken, will probably result in the strongest possible declaration by the people in favor of prohibition.

The Whig recalls the events of thirty-five years ago. The city had many taverns, saloons, and restaurants in which liquor was sold. The people drank freely. They could get all they wanted in the licensed places, and yet some bought at the unlicensed places, and there were many infractions of the law.

There has been since then a general approach towards total abstinence. The policy of the party in power in this province was to continue the reduction of liquor licenses to the vanishing point. The war made the sudden termination of the liquor traffic necessary, and many who opposed it and thought it an injudicious proceeding may live to pronounce the act a blessing and a benefit. History is registering its approval of passing events in most appreciative terms.

The net revenue from postage in Canada last year was \$6,900,000. Is this what the war tax yielded? Or is there no telling just what the extra revenue amounted to?

VALUE OF PERSONAL TOUCH.

There are two views with regard to recruiting. One is that the volunteer system has produced the most remarkable results, but that its limits have been reached. It will fall henceforth to rally the men to the colors, and those who have been booming the cause in certain centres

say this, and add that they are now in favor of conscription. The other view is that all the men desirable, at least a good many thousands of them, can be procured for the army, but through a complete change of methods.

Well, what are these methods? publicity heads the list. If anything is to be accomplished in any direction, and in connection with any cause, it must be advertised. From some fountain head there must be handed out in most attractive form the information that throws light upon the question. One has only to scan the columns of the press from day to day and take in the meaning of the casualty lists, the manner in which the ranks at the front are being decimated by the war, in order to realize the necessity of replacements, and without delay. True, there are reserves in England and Canada, many thousands of them, but injuries and fatalities are rapidly reducing the fighting force, and it must be supplemented. The publicity department must know and announce from time to time the needs of the hour, at the front, in England and in Canada, and the response will be the cheerier.

The personal touch. It is necessary, it seems to have men who can be transported from place to place, in every district, with a fascinating story of military wants and military prowess. But it is necessary to have, also, in each military centre, the officers who are to command the battalions and battalions, and, irrespective of politics, they should be men of commanding influence. The most successful recruiting has been done at places where the officers knew the people and personally approached them. There is no better way, and it is the way that will give assurance of success if only fairly tried. Of course when the officers have won the day, when they have personally persuaded their friends to enlist, they should not be displaced as some appear to have been, because that sort of treatment will have its heartbreaks.

The secret of success in recruiting, as it has been demonstrated in the west, is the personal touch, and most of the commanding officers, and probably most of the district officers will bear testimony to this fact if the matter is referred to them.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Belgium has borrowed \$50,000,000 from Britain with which to keep her army in the field and feed her starving people. Belgium, in other words, is bankrupted through the war and in a very sorrowful condition.

Now that the churches are being taxed on account of the garbage system it will be in order to tax them for the Patriotic Fund. The council hesitated about the new departure.

Random Reels

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

THE STYLE SHOW

The style show is a place where women are shown just how they will look six months ahead.

About twice a year, when business is dull, a style show is held in some city for the benefit of women who do not like to wear the same gown more than once in succession. A number of styles which never occurred to anybody in his lucid intervals are draped on a few models in a free and easy manner, and it is decided that any woman present who refuses to wear the same shall be cast into outer darkness. While the style show is intended primarily for women, once in a while some modest husband will stray in, take one startled look and then fade out of the nearest exit carrying a thick, purpling blush from his collar-bone up.

As a rule, the style show does not reach into the rural districts until the vogue has changed and the price has dropped. This explains why so many people prefer to live in the country and wear something that does not go out of style within thirty minutes after it has been taken off of a wire dress-form. It is a great mistake for a husband who hails from the quietest interior to take a curious, high-spirited wife into the style show, for the experience is liable to breed dissatisfaction with the high-shouldered basque and the ornamental, overshot bustle.

Rippling Rhymes

RUBBER TIRES

Some soothing balm the soul requires, when one must fuss with rubber tires. I am a highly moral man; I guard my tongue the best I can; and if, perchance, I cuss a streak, remorse lambasts me for a week. A model I would gladly be, to growing youth and infancy, and ere I got a motor car, my fame for virtue traveled far. But often now I may be seen, all bathed in sweat and gasoline, and spotted o'er with raucous grease, dispensing words that break the peace. I Jack my car up with my lyre, and try to patch a busted tire, and while I labor in the ditch I'm laughed at by the idle rich, who whiz along in pomp and state, and jeer the more unlucky skate. And as I toil with wrench and crank, I keep on saying "Blinky blank," and children toddling on their way give ear to smoky things I say, and as they leave on learning bent, they whisper, "What a sinful gent!"



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but will have less hesitation about this new mode of raising revenue when there was no little protest offered to the step that has been taken.

The garbage system seems to be working very well, but it is too expensive. It costs \$15,000 a year, and some say that \$5,000 might be saved if the collection of garbage were done by contract. Public opinion is decidedly against the continuance of the present order of things.

The Toronto World reports that the federal ministers are off in different directions, sounding the public with regard to an election; which, it is suggested, may take place about the end of November. The idea is that the longer an election is deferred it will be so much the worse for the government.

PUBLIC OPINION

Pursuit In Vain.

(Peterboro Review) "The wicked flee when no man pursueth." But it seems that there was a man, with a subpoena, too, after the Hon. Bob.

Latest Invention.

(Montreal News) The latest kind of a valise "made in Ontario," has a "tank," compartment, which is of cylindrical form with a corkscrew attachment.

What They Gained.

(Hamilton Times) The British naval blockade has done for the States what a protective tariff would not do. It has taught U. S. manufacturers to make dyes.

The Real Question.

(Ottawa Free Press) What shall we do with Sam Hughes is a more perplexing problem to this government than the high cost of living or the dearth of recruits.

A Sign of Weakness.

(Ottawa Citizen) The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is advertising for a Lloyd George to run Canada. Is it already losing faith in the genius of its president, Hon. Colonel Cantley, of Shell Committee fame?

An Awful Thought.

(Montreal Star) That Germany should deliberately infect with tuberculosis defenceless prisoners of war seems incredible, but poison gas, midnight bombs on sleeping villages, and the Lusitania sinking would have seemed incredible two years ago.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Over six hundred students have arrived in the city. A horse fell into the fountain in the market square this morning, and great difficulty was experienced in getting the animal out.

A committee of citizens are bound to have a fair, and to this end are ascertaining from leading men if they will give aid to the proposition.



Many people prefer to live in the country and wear something that does not go out of style.

The style show is intended to make it impossible to wear any of last year's clothes without being commented upon by the neighbors. It is a sad fact that one progressive club member who returns from the style show garbed in new ideas from head to foot can cause more consternation than the first appearance of the stockless bathing suit. Many a husband who is perfectly satisfied with his wife and her wardrobe, has had both his home and his bank account upset for several days by this apparition.



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Somebody is busy. (Toronto Globe) "Construction" says in an editorial that on the day the corner stone of the new arsenal was laid at Lindsay, Canadian manufacturers were down in New York, hat in hand, putting in tenders to an American firm for materials needed in constructing this Canadian public work. It looks as if somebody were trying to make this country an adjunct of the United States.

The Only Want. (Hamilton Herald) With Mr. Rogers acting prime minister it only remains to make Sir Sam Hughes acting auditor general.

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