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COUNCIL'S PATRIOTIC ACTION.

Kingston's City Council, when the war broke out, was eager to encourage the public officials to serve their king and country. It passed certain resolutions, and they remain. One promised the salary for everyone who enlisted for military service and went overseas. Another promised to reimburse, out of public funds, anyone doing home duty of a military character who failed to receive in salary or stipend the amount he received when performing his civic duties. So far there has been no cancellation of these resolutions. One case has come into the limelight, and without much evidence that it has been duly considered. Capt. Peters was forced to attend to his military duties as an officer of the Fourteenth P.W.O.'s Rifles. He is not due to go overseas. Thus the first resolution does not apply to him. He is not suffering financially because of the fact that he cannot leave his post of duty at the present time. His civic position will not, however, be kept for him, and he must either occupy or vacate it at once.

There is, apparently, only one thing for him to do, namely, remain in the military service until the end of the war. There may not be anything for the Utilities Commission to do but fill his office with a competent man. In accepting the resignation of Capt. Peters it will be for the commission and the council to reconsider the patriotic resolutions which have not been repealed, and which place both the commission and the council in an embarrassing position. The resolutions may not now express the sentiments of the aldermen, and they may not reflect the mind of the commission, but they have not been amended or annulled, and until they are the public officials whom they affect should be free from any unpleasant criticism.

Hon. Mr. Patenaude lauds the soldiers of Canada who have been doing such splendid work in France. How many of them has he encouraged to take up arms in defence of their Mother Country?

WHAT A MANAGER DOES.

Toronto is realizing the advantage of having a man who is an authority on finance, and who, as the head of the finance department, is capable of advising it correctly. Thomas Bradshaw, who left a financial firm to accept service for the city at the highest salary it has paid to any official, has set out in very plain terms the position of the city. He has shown that it is running heavily into debt, that it has contracts in hand for millions of dollars, and that it must curtail and retrench if it would not imperil its future.

Mr. Bradshaw stands in the relation to the council of a manager, and of such unquestionable rank that what he says must be respected. Men of outstanding positions in the community, like Sir Edmund Walker, accept the record as satisfactory. They say that it is the first time in the history of Toronto that anyone has got at the real situation and presented it in a way to impress the people. The Mayor and Aldermen have reflected upon the statement, and admit that Mr. Bradshaw's advice with regard to it must be taken.

Every city would be the better of a city manager. This official represents the latest and best model of civic government. A manager is what he represents himself to be. He is an expert in municipal affairs; a man of commanding ability, of experience, of firmness, of energy and power, or he ought to be all this and all the place he presumes to occupy with

success. Then the council has someone to guide it, to get at the bottom of every difficulty, and to deal with it in a practical way. A manager who performs his duty unflinchingly is a God-send for any city and must prove its salvation. There is a lot of sloppy work done in every municipality, because there is no one with authority to prevent it.

The London Mail is opposed to Sir Sam's command of the Canadians in France. It says he is "keeping the Dominion in the limelight," and that is about all he is doing. It's an expensive luxury.

CROOKEDNESS IN ENGLAND. The evils of contract breaking are not in England made the subject of commission enquiries. A charge, when necessary, is laid against an alleged offender, and he is prosecuted in one of the courts. The London Chronicle gives the report of a typical case. A firm was supplying tooth brushes for the army, and found great difficulty in making delivery satisfactory. Case after case of goods was rejected and changed, and later accepted, with very great loss to the sellers. In looking after a new tender the firm was given to understand that the "obstruction" could be removed. An agreement was made under which 3 per cent. of the value of the goods was paid to the inspecting officials. In a year one of them received £1,400, and so far as he was concerned everything was passed. The contributors did not object to the bribes, as, exclusive of them, they made a profit of 40 per cent. The tax paid for crooked work was high, but it was justified on the ground that there were many beneficiaries, and some of them were high in office. The exactions of the inspectors were, however, unusually heavy.

The Judge: "What did you mean by unusually heavy? It suggests you were used to these transactions." Witness admitted that it bore that construction. The Judge (sharply): "And it is true, isn't it?" Witness: "No." "What was your profit on these contracts?" "About 40 per cent, gross profit." "Here was a man in receipt of £200 a year, and in about eight months you were paying him in solid coin £1,400." "I looked upon him as an agent of many." "Were you then trying to corrupt the whole department?" "I was trying to get the goods through."

"And incidentally to get your 40 per cent. profit?" continued the Judge. "You appreciate that it is more luck than anything else that you are where you are instead of being over there?" (pointing to the dock). The Judge asked the witness if he was still on the War Office list. Witness: "Yes."

"What! Do you mean to tell me you are still supplying goods to the Government?" "Yes." If crookedness in Canada were investigated in the criminal courts, in place of by special commissions, there would be less of it.

The knocker has disappeared from Brockville. The Ad Club has taken him to the outskirts of the town, has pointed to the signposts on the concession road corners, and told him to "get." And there hasn't been any delay in his going. The Kingston knocker had better take notice.

AN EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS.

The assessor has finished his work for 1916. His report will, when revised later by the Court of Revision, become the basis for the tax rates of 1917. There are some who think that the assessment and the collection of taxes should be made in the same year, or within it, but that would be quite impossible. The assessment could be made in a shorter time, perhaps, but not by one man, and Kingston has experimented with three men, with two men, and with one, who is the present permanent officer, and one of the most conscientious that the city has ever had.

The population is reported to be 22,546. This is as correct as any computation can be under the system which is pursued. The assessor carefully tabulates the number of persons in each house, or home, or hotel, including the number of servants or employees. He also makes a record of the boarders. There is no doubt a shifting of the population, and to a considerable extent, from one ward to another, from the city and into it, during the months in which the assessment is being made. But experience has demonstrated in connection with the Dominion census that there is very little variation between the enumeration that is made within a few days, and the enumeration that is made within a few months. There is an assessor's increase of 1,221 persons during the year, and there is no reference to the military men who are coming and going, as the recruiting proceeds, or to the women and children who come here in order to be near the soldiers and to get upon the Patriotic Fund.

The assessable property is valued at \$13,340,899. This represents an increase of \$578,060. There is not so much building this year as there was last, and there is an entire absence of boom conditions. The city, in many ways, in the de-

mand for rentable houses, in the improvement of grade, in the success of men professionally and commercially, shows a substantial progress, and the council and the people are to be congratulated. The war promised to make a serious difference in some lines of business, and it has done this. There is a shrinkage in values and profits, but there are other lines which have been helped materially, and there is a prosperity without a parallel. On the whole there is, in the civic returns, evidence of an advancement which it is very comforting to note.

EDITORIAL NOTES. Laurier is to Bourassa what the Englishman is to the Hun. Oh how Henri hates the venerable Liberal leader.

Bourassa's abuse of Laurier should be sufficient to stamp as ridiculous the slogan of the Toronto News, "A vote for Laurier is a vote for Bourassa."

Why does our Federal Government not imitate the government in Australia and submit a referendum as to whether the people want conscription or registration?

New Zealand has a law which enables its government to put into service those who will not voluntarily enlist, and when the voluntary system fails. That would be all right in Canada.

Canada need not worry about the Empire's desires, later, to impose military duties overseas upon her. Canada is doing all that she has undertaken voluntarily. There will never be coercion with regard to her sacrifice.

There are lonely homes in Kingston, and homes that have been sadly bereaved of late. The war is bringing its depressing memories to many of our friends. The meaning of the supreme sacrifice is becoming more and more significant with each passing day.

It is estimated that \$70,000 a week are being saved in Toronto through the curtailed social privileges of the people, and that this money is going into the stores, and for better things than liquors. Will the merchants and their patrons vote for the return of the license system? Not much.

An increase in population, notwithstanding that many of our young men have gone to the war, and that no calculation has been made of the military and their dependents now here, is something to talk about. An increase in the assessment represents a gratifying growth materially notwithstanding the war.

Humility is one of the ingredients a self-made man occasionally forgets to mix with his material.

PUBLIC OPINION

A High Roller. (Hamilton Spectator) The late Pierp. Morgan bought cigars worth \$1.25 each—a pronounced case of sending money up in smoke.

No One Knows. (Montreal News) Apart from being absent from Canada, it is hard to figure out what good Sir Sam Hughes is doing in England.

It Was Cruel. (London Advertiser) Cruel to stop the importation of false teeth into Germany, when the Huns have bitten off more than they can chew.

Thanks To Britain's Navy. (Boston Globe) Trans-Atlantic liners are sailing from New York with their passenger lists as full as in peace times. Evidently the sea is safer.

Joke of the War. (Ottawa Journal) The joke of the war, if there could be any just about such a thing, would be a protest against the war by the perpetrators of poison gas and poisoned wells, Zeppelin raids and murderers of Belgian civilians.

Liberal Government's Act. (Hamilton Times) The Montreal Herald points out that the Quebec Government was among the first to subscribe half a million dollars to the new Government war loan. No other province with the exception of Manitoba has subscribed to the loan. Both have Liberal Governments.

Getting It His Work. (Ottawa Free Press) Hon. F. B. McCurdy, Parliamentary secretary to the Militia Department, is rushing around the country inspecting the military camps. There is good reason for his hurry. General Sam is on his way home and when he gets back there won't be anybody else but General Sam inspecting military camps.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The roller rink has opened, and it is very popular with the people. Mayor Brennan says that he can defeat Aids-McKleiston, Swift, McCammon and McIntyre in the mayoralty contest for 1892. Many people were made ill in the city by eating cauliflower. It was found that Paris green had been sprinkled upon the vegetables. They had a close call from death.

A PRETTY SAFE BET.

Havana Paper Ready to Wager \$10,000 on Allies. New York, Oct. 3.—La Lucha, of Havana, a leading newspaper of Cuba, announces through its correspondent here that it is willing to wager \$10,000 that the Allies will win the war. La Lucha will accept a wager from any part of the world, its offer remaining open until October 7th.

Random Reels

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

THE STOCK DIVIDEND The stock dividend is something which occurs when there is no other place to put the money. The object of the stock dividend is to private gentry board and automobiles with red wheels for citizens who got in on the ground floor. By the simple process of taking a little foresight and wrapping it around a \$100 bill, thousands of people have been able to retire from business and live off of semi-annual stock dividends which have escaped the sinking fund. This is why we see so many people who couldn't keep books in a shooting gallery living in the lap of luxury and wearing thread-silk union suits.

The automobile industry produces a very swollen form of stock dividend, but it is not distributed among the common people to any alarming extent. When Henry Ford started out in business the neighbors would not call on his wife or take any of his stock, as he was considered about 99 per cent. non compos mentis. This forced Henry to take most of it himself, with the result that his yearly dividends make the output of the South African diamond fields look like the earnings of an 12-cream social. This teaches us that there are times when it pays a man to go out in song twice a year in a price-less boon, but it is a poor substitute for good health and a free-acting stomach.

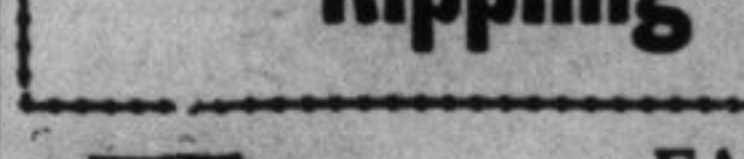
While fortunes are being made in stock dividends, it does not pay to mortgage everything in sight unless



The neighbors would not take any of his stock

kind of stock which fails to survive the teething period. The glittering stock certificate is nice to look at, but it does not always put coal in the cellar and flour in the bin. The stock dividend which breaks out in song twice a year is a price-less boon, but it is a poor substitute for good health and a free-acting stomach.

Rippling Rhymes



FACING WINTER.

Prepare for winter, gentle reader; put by the hoe and rake and seeder; the tool with which you mow the clover may rust a while, it's season's over. In storage put your trusty swatter, until the days again grow hotter. The goosebone seers as one are saying that winter won't be long delaying, and they insist when it's a comer, 'twill be an old time ring-tail hummer. The signs all indicate a season prolonged and cold beyond all reason. The moss upon the trees is thicker; the woodland beams are working quicker to lay in provender to last them till springtime comes again, dogeat them. The southward birds are flying faster, as though they scented some disaster. It is the goosebone seer who's spoken; he has observed the sign and token, and says the winter's coming early, and will be boisterous and surly. So blow yourself with eager ardor, for coal and sundries for the larder; prepare, all other labors dropping, and plan to do your Christmas shopping.

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