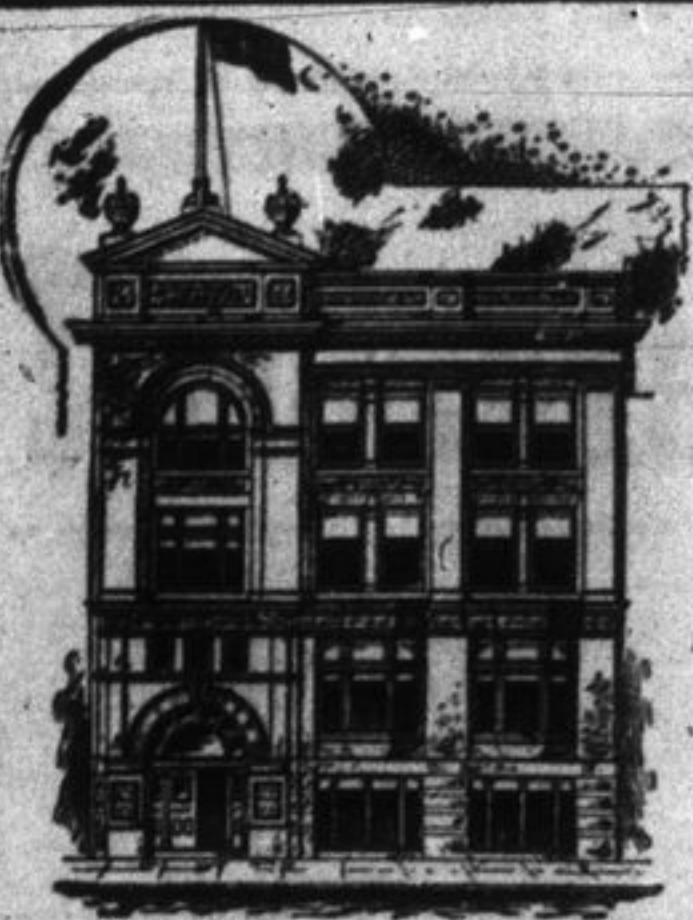


The British Whig



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MISUSING THE CABLES.

The British government will not stand for imposition. The International News Service has been the medium through which much of the European news has been sent to America and published in the American papers. Twice the manager of the London office had his attention called to the fact that statements appeared in the American papers which were grossly untrue and unfair, and he declared that he knew nothing about them. They had not been cabled by him. This meant that certain American papers, pro-German in their sympathies, had deliberately fabricated "news" to the injury of the Allies. When the offence was committed a third time the ban was applied. The International News Agency cannot get anything sent from London through the cables, and is being properly punished for its sins. It can, to be sure, fall back upon the German wireless for its inspiration, and when this fails Mr. Hearst can evolve smudgy sensations out of his inner consciousness. He represents a type of newspaper which is, fortunately, very scarce in America.

Foul smells are said to be emanating from basements of certain houses in various central localities. An inspection once a year by the Health Department, apparently, is not sufficient. That is quite evident.

A PUBLIC SCHOOL PERIL.

The report of the inspector of schools, presented at the meeting of the Board of Education on Thursday evening, will accentuate a condition that has been demanding public attention for several months. This condition was discussed by the board before the holidays. It was looked into by a committee of the City Council, and unremedied because funds were not available. The budget of the School Board was amended by the cutting out of the sum required for sanitary purposes, and with this results which were anticipated. The Board of Health must now act in the interest of the children. Mr. Inspector Stua, writes:

"In view of the effect on the physical health and morals of the pupils, and the disturbance occasioned to good order in the school, the inadequacy of the sanitary equipment in Victoria and Central Schools can hardly be too strongly condemned. Foul odors from the lavatories in Central School are observable, not only in the corridors, but in the class-rooms also."

The secretary of the School Board will, of course, send a copy of the inspector's report to the Board of Health, and this body can assume all the responsibility which must follow a failure to apply the necessary remedy.

Yes, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has changed his mind with regard to a federal election. It has been forced upon him. Too much politics or patronage in the war. The opposition is not responsible for this.

FAMINE AND HIGH PRICES. The Canadian pressmen, regardless of politics, realize that Sir Thomas White has adopted the only course which was possible, under the circumstances, and with regard to the prevailing paper famine. Last week the Canadian Press Association met in Toronto. It was a large and representative assembly, and the decision was unanimously reached to lay their case before the finance minister.

The press, be it known, is not a paper institution. It does not ask for anything which is unreasonable, it simply protests against trade conditions which promise to work an in-

calculable injury, which threaten to deprive the country of some of the most active and useful agencies in the daily and weekly papers. In place of reaping large gains from the world's conflict, as some have supposed they did, in consequence of the increased demand for news, they have been saddled with enormous expenses. In a word the revenue has not kept pace with the expenditure.

It required no special philosophy to make this fact apparent, and the finance minister saw it when the press delegates laid the facts before him. He distinctly sympathized with them. He saw, at a glance, that they were the sufferers, unjustly, and the result will probably be that, as he directs, less of Canada's products will be shipped abroad, and the famine in paper and high prices will subside together.

The Ottawa Journal is troubled over the prospect of a dominion election. It may as well become reconciled to the inevitable.

AN ELECTION AT HAND.

Did the Liberal leader, in the Commons, oppose an election during the war? He did, on two occasions. He felt the responsibility of dividing the people, or of distracting them, during the great campaign. He was not eager for office under the circumstances. He was not anxious, as he said, "to enter the portals of office with a bloody key." But at the same time he advocated economy in the general government of the country, and insisted that if it had been exercised there would have been no call to impose a war tax, the proceeds of which were not used for the purposes of war.

"If patronage had been eliminated from the budget of this year," said he, "from the estimates of the year, it would have made an appreciable reduction. The patronage was there. Patronage is a ubiquitous, omnipresent, omnivorous rover, devouring anything, everything in which there is any public money. It has a voracious, insatiable appetite. Patronage is a plague, and if ever there was a time to be done with it, it is this calamitous time in which we are now living, in which everybody should be determined to have the biggest possible economy, the greatest possible reduction in the burden of the people."

The scandals of the last couple of years need not be recalled. "They have been rank," as the late Mr. Cauchon would say in his very picturesque language, "and smell to Heaven." The government has not dealt with some of them. The judge's report has not been presented. The Allison inquiry has left a bad taste in the mouth. As a result public opinion is running strongly against the ministry. The premier may suggest an extension of the parliamentary term at the next session, and the opposition may not support the proposal, in which case, as the Ottawa Journal has remarked, "an election would seem to be inevitable."

The Liberals have no particular desire to take over the government of Canada at this time, seeing that they would be confronted with grave difficulties with regard to the war, and yet the people will insist upon it as the only way of ending the maladministration which now prevails. Premier Norris, of Manitoba, speaking at the London Liberal Federation meeting, charged that the Borden government had been "playing politics with the whole recruiting policy at Ottawa," and that a change of plan was absolutely necessary in order that the country's full place in the war might be attained. This puts a new meaning upon the question.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir Robert Borden has not yet repudiated Mr. Bourassa, though he has announced himself as in favor of Canadian independence. What is he afraid of?

Why should American papers that grossly misrepresent the Allies, and lie about them, be given the freedom of the Canadian mails? Can anyone answer?

American shippers lament the falling off in trade because of the submarine menace. Yet their government does not see why they should withhold the stamp of its approval.

The pacifists have been given a severe rap by Lloyd-George. He will not listen to any talk of peace now, because the time for it is not ripe, and the proposal for the present would end in failure. It is a military, not a diplomatic, issue.

The Hamilton school trustees have asked the Education Department to eliminate German from the lists of compulsory subjects which are taught in the high schools. Toronto has asked that Russian take the place of German. These are strong indications of public opinion.

Liquor, ordered from outside the province can, if it now declared, be delivered from the bonded warehouses direct to the consumers. The

law, says the License Board's solicitor, "appears to permit of this." So the traditional coach and four is being driven through the latest provincial law.

PUBLIC OPINION

Our Fancy Wines.

(Toronto Mail) Medicated wines may contain a number of ingredients, but the real question is, do they contain delirium tremens?

Bourassa Hissed.

(Montreal News) At a recent French-Canadian meeting, the name of Bourassa was greeted with hisses. The prophet is coming into his own at last.

Their Precious Hell.

(Toronto Star) One cannot help feeling, however, that many good Christians cling to the hope of hell for other people with a desperation worthy of a better cause.

New American Slogan.

(Ottawa Free Press) When the U-53 calmly dropped anchor in a United States port the American slogan seems to have been "Forget the Lusitania." "Twas not always thus.

He Wants Separation.

(Hamilton Herald) Bourassa having come out flatly in favor of Canada's separation from the empire, one knows now just where to place him and how to account for his treasonable utterances.

The Air Is Free.

(Stratford Beacon) A contemporary finds cause for thankfulness in the fact that nobody has yet found a way of getting a corner on the air we breathe, thus adding materially to the cost of living.

Borden's Blunder.

(London Advertiser) Two thousand Canadians wanted to man new British battleships! But Sir Robert Borden has assured Canada that it would be impossible to get men as crews of Canadian warships. Is he right?

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The Josie Mills Dramatic Company is attracting big houses at the Grand. A large number of Kingstonians will exhibit at the World's Fair, Chicago.

Rev. D. Laing and H. A. Calvin, are attending the Baptist convention in Toronto.

MORE TROUBLES BREWING IN IRELAND

(Toronto Telegram (Con.)) Wherein do the forces of disorder

Random Reels

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

CURIOSITY

Curiosity is an effort to secure information which belongs to somebody else. There is a great deal of information lying around loose which would not look well if printed on the front page, and if it were not for curiosity it would kick around on the four corners for weeks at a time without being picked up and woven into a lawsuit. There is considerable complaint about the activity of curiosity, but it probably keeps more people from helping build good roads for the state than the pricklings of conscience.

Curiosity is caused by the nose becoming elongated and prying into other people's business. Many a man has begun life with a nose of normal dimensions, and after becoming addicted to the curiosity habit has sprouted a proboscis longer than the ant-eater. There have been instances where this roving tendency has been resented by its victim, who pushes the nose back to its proper location with an irate fist.

Curiosity should be guarded against, especially in the case of husbands who were formerly in the prize-ring. It is a dangerous matter to pry into the personal transactions of a citizen who carries a left upper-cut and enough ready money to pay his fine. Scores of happy homes have been broken up by the gossip which curiosity has run over the dam and convinced a credulous wife

in Dublin and Montreal during the war differ from the forces of disorder in Belfast? There is no analogy between the drilling and the arming and the agitation in Belfast and the north of Ireland in a time of profound peace and the drilling, the arming and the agitation of Dublin and the South of Ireland in a time of war.

Unionists armed themselves to bring defeat to the Nationalists in the hour of Britain's safety. Sinn Feiners armed themselves to bring victory to Germany in the hour of Britain's peril.

Asquith was unwilling to proceed against the Ulster rebels, because such proceedings would have given these rebels exactly what they wanted—a straight fight in the English, Scottish and Welsh constituencies on the Home Rule issue. The Asquith government placed the Home Rule Bill on the statute books with the help of a majority largely secured by the agitations that had nothing to do with Home Rule.

Sinn Fein agitators in Ireland and racialist agitators in Quebec attempt to weaken Britain in a time of war. The tactics of these forces of disorder cannot be justified by the precedents of Sir Edward Carson's attempt to strengthen Unionist Ulster in time of peace.

BOURASSA'S HAND STRONG AT OTTAWA

(Toronto Star (Lab.)) Oliver Asselin, a well-known journalist and Nationalist of Quebec, split with Bourassa on the war issue. He felt that he ought to fight in this war, and that French-Canadians ought to fight in it. He took the public platform and said so. He notified the Government of his willingness to raise a battalion of young French-Canadians to fight in the war and his offer was accepted. He raised the battalion.

A question that calls for an answer and to which a correct answer will yet be found, is this: How is it that Bourassa and Lavergne were able to exercise in the Borden Government and the Militia Department enough influence to cause Oliver Asselin and his battalion to be banished to the West Indies to do tame and inglorious garrison duty there instead of being sent to the historic fields of Britain, Belgium and France, where they ardently aspired to go?

How was this worked? How did it happen that the Borden Government played in this way into Bourassa's hands, banishing and disappointing Oliver Asselin and his volunteers, who ought to have gone finely to England and from there to Belgium and France, but were, instead, side-tracked to an out-of-the-way corner, where they would be unseen and forgotten and where discontent would naturally grow up in the ranks.

Was this merely a bone-head play on the part of the Government or was it something worse?

Coffee is a bad thing for a man's temper—especially if his wife doesn't know how to make it. When the star boarder marries his landlady he becomes a fixed star.

Does your husband still wear celluloid cuffs—how much money does he earn in a year—did you buy that new cake on the installment plan—didn't you wear that dress summer before last?



An effort to secure information which belongs to some one else

Curiosity at work in this country if people would look inside a little oftener and not worry so much about how their neighbors can afford pork tenderloins twice a week. If nobody would go off his own premises when he feels like doing a little promiscuous prying, there would be better teaching in the church and fewer blackballs cast in the lodge.

Rippling Rhymes

GHOSTS

Often when I cannot sleep, in my dark and quiet room, ugly phantoms round me creep, grinning at me in the gloom. Oft they come in grisly bands, to my clanking chains and breathing flame. Many sinful things I've done, in the days that are gone by; that advantage might be won, I have sprung the vicious lie. Adding to this wad of mine I've been tricky, mean and low, and I skinned a learned divine in a horse-trade long ago. In my scheming for the kale, at no trifles would I stop; when I had some spuds for sale, all the biggest were on top. I've committed many crimes; I confess it now I'm gray; I have voted seven times on the same election day. And when asleep from me recedes, and I lie in bed awake, ghosts of all these evil deeds come and fill me with an ache. Man of his achievements boasts, of the "killings" he has made; but he can't escape the ghosts—spectres which are never laid.

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