

The British Whig 33RD YEAR



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A DECREASE OF INSANITY.

The war is leading to some unexpected experiences. A medical expert has made a study of physical conditions, and reports an extraordinary discovery, namely, that insanity in Britain is on the decrease. Soldiers from the front are found to be suffering from shock. There are some, in Kingston, whose nerves are gone, and nothing can repair the damage save a very long rest. The strain of war and the anxiety which attends it would, one supposes, produce serious mental collapses. But the reverse appears to be the case, and when enquiry was made into the facts the discovery followed that many are either lifted out of their melancholy or cured of it by having no time for introspection, no time to think about themselves. Blessed thought! Would that it could be transmitted to those who never have any occasion to worry over the war, and yet manifest symptoms of insanity. Brooding over fancied failures in life are apparently responsible for many of the reported mental deficiencies.

The Bruce Commission estimates that the cost of the Shorncliffe Military Hospital group of V.A.D.'s, irrespective of the cost of the Shorncliffe Military Hospital, is \$132,942.40, for the staff alone. The Bruce Commission regards this as "an entire waste." And the slogan of the government to the people of Canada is "Earn all you can and save all you can," for the country may need it.

ACCUSED OF ROBBERY.

The deputation of municipal men who waited upon the provincial government and saw the premier, the attorney-general, the treasurer, and for a moment the minister of education, indulged in what may be termed a heart to heart talk. The men who have had their ears to the ground, to quote the familiar phrase of the attorney-general, beamed upon the municipal visitors and appeared to be good listeners. The plea they heard was that the province was robbing the municipalities, as one man put it, of revenues that properly belonged to them. The fines which the province demanded were for infractions of the civic laws. Why should they be appropriated by the province?

The members of the government argued that they had not been trespassing upon the municipalities, that they had been simply following in the footsteps of their predecessors, and they evidently thought they were clever when they said the laws of the province were quite the same as when Sir Oliver Mowat was premier. At once an Ottawa delegate came back with the remark that the laws might be the same, but there were orders-in-council which were new, and they were relieving the municipalities of moneys which formerly belonged to them, and should remain with them for civic uses.

The appeal respecting fines is not likely to be favorably regarded by the government. The province must have more money, and will not resort to direct taxation. The ministers will not object if the councils make up for every local deficit or contingency by adding to the annual rates. Upon one point there is an apparent surrender. The government admits that the municipalities which lost in taxes by the acquisition of the Seymour Power plant by the province should be compensated by the Hydro-Electric Commission, and to the extent of \$50,000 this year. But it is Sir Adam Beck who is the prime mover in this matter, and he has posed as a friend of the municipalities.

APPEALS NOT TO REASON.

The political parties in the United States are making many appeals to the electors, but it cannot be said that they are all appeals to reason.

The republicans have issued full-page advertisements, and they are printed in many newspapers. In these advertisements they have addressed certain questions to Mr. Wilson. His attention is called to the statement which he made in a recent speech, and to the effect that hundreds of thousands of unemployed bread winners were put to work in the earlier part of his term.

It is intimated that these hundreds of thousands of persons lost their employment during the earlier part of Mr. Wilson's government through faulty tariff legislation; that the imports into the country exceeded the exports by many millions of dollars; that the loss in earning power has also been many millions of dollars; that the war produced a demand for munitions which gave work to the multitudes afresh; that when the war is over thousands of munition plants will be put out of business; that then, if the Wilson tariff is not repealed, the hundreds of thousands of workers will be retired to the bread line or to the depths of poverty.

The democrats have an appeal which is more taking. It is that the Wilson government has given the country a great deal of progressive legislation—insurance against panic, a lower tariff and income tax, federal trade laws administered by commissions, rural credits, provision against child labor, aid to shipping, the eight-hour day, and a peace policy which is to be preferred to the mailed fist in dealing with other nationalities. The labor party seems to be falling behind the democrats, and it looks as if this means Mr. Wilson's success.

The candidates are being asked hard questions by hecklers wherever they go. One man is being judged by his record. The other man is being judged by his promise. The man of promise should be the stronger man, but he has been singularly non-committal on some questions, and this is a time when plain and candid speech is to be appreciated.

The German government and the United States government have made a contract for the carrying of mails by submarines between America and Germany. Another very noticeable act of deference to the German government. Wilson is doing well.

SOME NEED THE REST.

There is some doubt with regard to the reported reorganization of the Canadian forces overseas, and because so little is known about it. The contemplated changes may be very radical. They may touch every branch of the military service. Of the defects of the medical department something has been known through the trenchant criticism of the Bruce commission. "What is going on in the other departments can only be surmised. It is evident, however, that the Canadian army is being thoroughly reconstructed, and upon plans which must make for its greater efficiency.

Complaint has been made that the units sent from Canada have not fitted into the system abroad. Apparently there is under contemplation, or under way, the changes which experience has suggested. Every man will be put in the place which he fits or where he will do the best service. Every officer should find something to do, in the new arrangement, and every promotion will, or should, be based upon individual merits. It has been a severe reflection upon the military system heretofore that there were many officers in England without occupation. There was a seeming over-manning of the forces in some respects, and a seeming under-manning of them in other respects, and appointments and advancements which were not always approved. Let us hope that the new military council will have but one aim or plan in view at this juncture of the war, and that is to organize the departments so that Canada will be served to the very best advantage.

The proposal to remove from the military establishments of England many who are now employed there, thousands of them, is a good one. Every enlisted soldier was meant for active service. The head of the Record Office, for instance, has declared that he dispensed long since with many men who had been given work in his department, and he could dispense with others. The suggestion is appreciated that those who have been halted in England be relieved of clerical and other service and sent to the front, while those who have been in the trenches, and behind them, for months, be given a desired rest. The new military council may be the means of checking up the lists and seeing that there is an even distribution of the strain of active duty at the front.

Dr. Duncan, of Syracuse, the founder of the home department of the Sunday school, is dead. Every Sunday school with a home department owes him a debt of gratitude.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Flour in Winnipeg has dropped 10c a bag. This news has not yet seemingly reached Kingston, and the cost of bread remains the same.

The United States has not yet heard from Germany the particulars of the Marina disaster. The captain of the torpedoed ship could give an unbiased story if the Germans who took him off his vessel would only let him, and his story would be an illuminating one.

Britain is said to be preparing for an election next year. Canada can follow her example without inviting any shouts of disturbance and disloyalty. It would be a great pity if the Hon. Bob Rogers could not work off the soldier ballots that are piled up in England somewhere.

Now that Sir Sam Hughes has been relieved of nearly every duty in connection with his department, save the ornamental ones, he is going to Quebec to show the government what he can do in the way of recruiting. Good. He will make his Nationalist colleagues in the government ashamed of themselves.

Of all the times in the year, or of the war, the present is not appropriate for higher rents. But the landlords think it is. The current idea is that the people like to pay big prices for everything they want, including a comfortable place where they can sit down, or lie down, and rest occasionally.

The Whig has heard a rumor, which may not be correct, that a certain city does not want recruiting because it makes the living higher. "The early bird catches the worm," it is said. The caterers for the military are certainly very early upon the market, and very alert. Not many bargains escape them.

"Cheer up," says the editor of the Ford Times. The Ford income is a million dollars a month. Any man with a revenue like that could afford to be chirpy. It is when a fellow on \$2.00 a day sets out to buy potatoes at \$2 a bag, butter at 50c a lb., eggs at 47c a dozen, bread at 9 cents a loaf, and milk at 9 cents a quart, that he realizes that the world for him is not so full of sunshine.

PUBLIC OPINION.

A Real Daddy. (Ottawa Free Press) The wife of Quebec's mayor has just given birth to her 28th child. In more ways than one the mayor is a city father.

Time For the Gluttons. (Hamilton Spectator) Now that Ontario bilibulists have been forced to "take their medicine," reform guns might well be trained on gluttons—the vast host who shorten their lives by overeating.

Easy Communication. (Montreal Star) The marvel of these days is the military mail service which enables the soldiers of the Empire to send home 5,000,000 letters each week and to receive 7,500,000 letters and 700,000 parcels weekly. And all this

Random Reels

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

The Tail Light. The Tail Light is something which is attached to an automobile so that the village constable may not run out of work.

When the automobile was invented it did not have any kind of a light except the light of hope. But after a while some bright, tireless legislator decided that every automobile should have a light in the rear, so that the high-spirited plow horses might not run into it and have his features permanently spoiled. As a result of this wise action we have yet to read of the first instance in which a six-sixty touring car has been run down by a fleet grade Percheron and had its spinal column caved in.

The Tail Light is intended to be used after dark, but the only good use which has ever been found for it is to drain the storage battery to its last, flickering dregs. It is connected with the battery by a light-long wire with loose teeth, which

mail matter crosses oceans or seas and channels and international boundaries with a very small percentage of errors in delivery.

Von Hindenburg's Talk.

(Montreal Star) Von Hindenburg says that in another year France will be dead. If all depends, of course, on what he means by "dead." The great majority of Germans were taught to believe that France was dead, before the war started, and yet at the Marne and Verdun she was alive enough to suit any junker in Germany.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The Princess Louise, marchioness of Lorne, has in a very kindly letter, accepted the post of patroness to the Kingston Macdonald memorial. The ladies of the Orphan's home received a big supply of gifts for the children to-day. Several clotheslines in various parts of the city were robbed last night. A young girl is suspected.

CANADA'S ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE

Toronto Globe. That many officers have been given commissions who have been failures as medical men at home is a disquieting declaration in Dr. Bruce's report on the Canadian medical service in Britain. Some, he declares are over age, some are drug fiends, and some are addicted to alcoholism. These are declared to be not only of little or no use as C. A. M. C. officers, but a detriment to the efficiency of the corps. Dr. Bruce also found that discontent, naturally impairing efficiency, exists on the subject of promotion, that in many cases there was no relation between the length of service and ability of the officer, on the one hand and his rank on the other. Doctors had been promoted who, on arriving overseas, compared unfavorably with their juniors. Medical officers of the 1st and 2nd Divisions had served at the front for over a year without receiving any recognition. That this condemnation comes from the Government's appointee makes it all the more impressive.

Governmental incompetence, fear, and favoritism have combined to produce their natural results—a most deplorable condition. The Government's duty has not been discharged when it has secured the condemnation of itself and its work. The wretched state of affairs disclosed is one of many discouraging instances, and it must be handled at once with courage and determination. Can the Government call these qualities to its aid, or are the influences which secured appointments and promotions for incompetents and moral weaklings sufficiently strong to keep them when they are?

Rippling Rhymes

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

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always let go their hold just before the car enters some village with a lynx-eyed constable who knows that the town treasury is gasping for breath when the constable observes the cold, vacant stare of a defunct Tail Light, he leads the tourist up to the nearest justice of the peace and collects enough currency to heat the town hall for six months. As if this were not enough, the tourist is obliged to have the Tail Light torn down from the place of beginning by a crude but well-meaning mechanic who was taught not to move off a walk.

The Tail Light law may be all right, but it should be amended so as to include the top buggy; the lumber wagon and the pedestrian who crosses the street with both eyes shut. If every top buggy were required to carry a sparkling Tail Light, fewer people would be disturbed while spooning in a friendly and amicable manner by having a rear wheel torn off by the light-hearted speed demon.

Rippling Rhymes

HIGH PRICES

Our forebears, whose bright shades are soaring where noble anthems swell, while here on earth did little roaring about H. C. of L. Of simple manners, they went plugging around the mundane scene; they had no wish to go chug-chugging, or burn up gas. To Mother Nature they were closer; they did not spend their brass, for canned provisions, with the grocer, but raised their garden ass. The barber seldom saw their money into his cashbox drop; when hair and whiskers got too funny, their wives would shear the crop. They went to roost at early gloaming, tired by the toilsome day; you never saw our grandfathers roaming along the Great White Way. They read no fiction, light and shallow; they bought no movie shows; they greased their shoes with mutton tallow and wore no underclothes. If they could journey back from Eden, and watch us for a spell, they'd understand, as we went speedin', our fierce H. C. of L.

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FALL IN! The Annual Membership Campaign Kingston Y. M. C. A.

Is On — Nov. 7th to Nov. 14th "Come On In, The Water's Fine"

BOYS AND MEN WE WANT YOU.



SOLDIERS AND STUDENTS WE WANT YOU.

THE "Y" POOL — "Better than the 'Ol' Swimmin' Hole."

Scores of the members of the Kingston Y.M.C.A. have enlisted in Overseas Service of King and Country. Will you help fill the gaps in our membership roll? Some deserving boy would enjoy a membership if you will pay for it. Enquire, Boys' Secretary.

ANNUAL FEES:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Fee. Boys, 10-15 years: \$3.00; Boys, 15-18 years: \$4.00; Men (full privilege): \$6.00; Men (limited): \$3.00; Students (college term): \$4.00; Soldiers: All Social Privileges: Free; Soldiers: Bathing Privileges: Free; Soldiers: Full Privilege Ticket (a good travelling card): \$2.00.

JOIN NOW.

A Public Address!

will be given in the

GRIFFIN THEATRE, Sunday, 3 P.M., Nov. 5th

— by —

Pastor A. M. Graham,

I.B.S.A., Brooklyn, N.Y.

on the subject of

'CHRIST'S KINGDOM'

"When and How Set Up."

All Welcome.

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When we Mention Coffee

we are on familiar ground. Everybody knows our famous Java and Mocha Blend. Pure and Good. 40c lb.

JAS. REDDEN & CO. Phones 20 and 990.

FOR SALE

Farm of 200 acres— 150 acres of good plow land about 8 miles from Kingston. 4 1/2 acres, 5 miles from city, Price \$2,500.

W. H. GODWIN & SON Phone 424 89 Brock St.

Ice cream may be unhealthy, but the wise young man doesn't waste any time in trying to prove it to his female friends.

COAL

CRAWFORD Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.

VALUE

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THE SIMPLEST, SAFEST, SUREST AND QUICKEST WAY TO VACCINATE CATTLE AGAINST BLACKLEGS. No dose to measure. No liquid to spill. No string to rot. Just a little pill to be placed under the skin by a single thrust of the instrument.

McLEOD'S DRUG STORE Brock Street.