

The British Whig  
SEVENTH YEAR



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MORE CANDID CRITICISM.

W. B. Graham, who was defeated  
for a minor office in one of the To-  
ronto ward associations, when called  
upon to speak at an annual meeting  
recently is reported to have said:  
"If there ever was a time in the his-  
tory of the conservative party when  
the party needed the support, sym-  
pathy and loyalty of the conserva-  
tives, it is now. I have often thought,  
when reading the reports of the so-  
called conservatives, that they were  
not conservatives at all, not true  
loyalists. The sooner these men are  
kicked out the better." Who are the  
men referred to? They should be  
named as unworthy of the party's  
confidence.

It was Sir Sam Hughes who said  
military contracts were held up for  
months while the Ottawa government  
quarrelled over the question of  
patronage. This is a very serious  
charge.

SOME ELECTRICAL IDEAS.

In Hamilton the cost of electric  
light is so low that no one worries  
about it. In a house of six rooms  
the charge last month was 50c.  
Nothing was charged for service. In  
Toronto in a house of a similar  
size the bill was 70c. Nothing  
charged for service. Will Kingston  
ever be supplied at a rate as low as  
this?

The Hydro-Electric Commission is  
backed by the Municipal Union in  
its new enterprise in the west, includ-  
ing the Chippewa Canal scheme, at a  
cost of \$9,000,000. The municipal-  
ities may not mean it, but they  
practically say that they are with  
Sir Adam Beck and the Commission  
rather than with the government in  
the enterprises of the day.

The law regarding the sale of  
power, generated on the Canadian  
side, is very clear. It is that only  
the surplus, over and above the quan-  
tity required in Canada, can be sold  
to Americans. The American pat-  
rons of the Canadian power com-  
panies may kick, but they cannot do  
it to any advantage. It is a Cana-  
dian, not an American, question.

WELLAND CANAL WORK.

The attitude of some persons in  
the west, and especially along the  
line of the Welland Canal, as to the  
completion of its work on account of  
labor conditions, is perplexing. The  
canal is a national highway, and the  
only connecting link between the  
upper lakes and Lake Ontario for  
the shipping of Canada. The canal  
is on the main artery for water com-  
munication between the west and its  
great grain fields and the tide water,  
and in the interest of commerce, valu-  
ed at many millions of dollars an-  
nually, the people without regard to  
class or politics should be eager to  
see the project completed. The argu-  
ment against it is not a financial  
one, which, during the war might  
have been urged, but a local and  
labor one. Representatives of the  
Welland and St. Catharines Boards  
of Trade opposed the resolution  
which was offered on behalf of the  
Kingston Board of Trade on the  
ground that to hurry the completion  
of the public work, to which the  
government is committed, would  
mean a divergence of labor from  
local purposes to canal construc-  
tion. This meant that the local and  
labor issues, the purpose or success

of local plans or district interests,  
were of more importance than the  
commerce of the country as it is  
affected by the Welland Canal. The  
sorriest feature of the experience is  
that enough representatives of other  
boards were induced to join those of  
Welland and St. Catharines to defeat  
the motion, though it was by a small  
majority. It is a result one is humili-  
ated in announcing.

Inefficiency in the federal govern-  
ment must end. That is the com-  
mand in which a good many conserva-  
tives can join these days.

TRADE IN MUNITIONS.

The announcement that Britain is  
seeking, even with costly forfeitures,  
to cancel all its contracts in the  
United States is significant. The  
Mother Country, acting on her own  
account, or as one of the Allies, has  
been willing to pay high prices for  
the emergent service which the Am-  
erican manufacturers have been will-  
ing to supply. But she is no longer  
dependent upon any neutral power  
for the munitions which she needs  
in order to carry on the war success-  
fully. The Allies are able, under  
present circumstances, to cope with  
the demands of the times, and the  
fact that they are a great evidence  
or testimony to their recuperative  
power.

The loss of many millions of  
dollars in orders causes one to won-  
der, whether the ability of the Allies  
to meet their own wants is the only  
consideration. The Allies certainly  
expected a neutral power to protect  
its own trade, and the manufacturers  
of projectiles, and the working men,  
who were so prosperous on account  
of the war, had a right to assume  
that these productions would not be  
exposed through governmental indif-  
ference to attack and loss from Ger-  
man submarines. The United States  
government protested against the  
torpedoing and sinking of ships  
which carried American passengers,  
even though they had on board mun-  
itions for the Allies. Since no re-  
spect has been shown by Germany  
for these protests, and since the  
United States has invited further  
interference and injury through the  
harboring of German craft, the Allies  
have been warranted in adopting  
new tactics.

As America cannot protect her own  
trade she can do without the orders  
of the Allies, and these orders will  
be executed in Britain, Canada, Rus-  
sia and Japan, and in sufficient quan-  
tities to meet the increased demands  
of the times. The American manu-  
facturers can have this matter out  
with the Wilson government, the  
continuance in office of which does  
not suggest any expectation of a  
change of policy.

The liberals have served notice  
upon the conservative party that on  
the subject of loyalty they will not  
stand for any mere jibes and sneers.  
It is well.

DEMAND FOR ACTION.

There is a strange difference of  
opinion among representative men  
as to the military conditions of Can-  
ada. So competent a man as Col.  
Brook, of Toronto, is opposed to  
conscription. He says he favored it  
until he became a member of the  
National Service Commission, which  
with two exceptions, is composed of  
conservative politicians, and he says  
that he has been won over to re-  
newed efforts under the voluntary  
system, and the great consideration  
has been, no doubt, a political one.  
Col. Cockshutt, of Brantford, (hold-  
ing honorary rank,) has not come in  
contact with the same influences at  
Ottawa and so he calls for drastic  
action or drastic legislation, and he  
does it boldly as a supporter of the  
government in the Commons.

Col. Cockshutt may not have had  
before him the illuminating infor-  
mation which is supplied by the To-  
ronto Star. This is to the effect that  
since last June the casualties have  
exceeded the enlistments and in the  
ratio of 41,942 to 39,320. These  
figures teach their own lesson, and  
that lesson is that something must  
be done which has not yet been at-  
tempted, and in the nature of com-  
pulsory action if the situation is to  
be improved. The National Service  
Commission has only power to look  
into and suggest a revision of the  
labor situation so that necessary  
work in the interest of our nation  
and the war, may be continued un-  
interrupted. That is about all it can  
aim to do or accomplish, and that is  
not enough.

Some one has remarked that the  
personal appeal of the premier has  
not reached or touched the consci-  
ence of the average individual; and  
Col. Cockshutt, M.P., (and a manu-  
facturer,) supplies the explanation.  
The people are busy; work is plenti-  
ful; times are prosperous, though  
the cost of living is high. The need  
of the army, unfortunately, is over-  
looked. Something has to be done  
to challenge public attention, to cen-  
tre it upon the war, to make men  
feel that the future of Canada is  
bound up with the future of the em-  
pire, and they must be forced if they  
will not volunteer to do their duty.  
In other words Col. Cockshutt is a  
conscriptivist and does not care who  
knows it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The election message of Hon. A. E.  
Kepp has been described by Mr.  
Harley Dewart as "the death-cry of  
a dying government."

As many as 70,000 Chinamen have  
been engaged to replace labor in  
France and Russia, which can be  
used in the army. Chiga is with the  
Allies, then.

Great Britain is cutting out by or-  
der of the government all feasting at  
Christmas and New Years. If the  
folks at home would only cut off  
their beer they would be worthy of  
our greater admiration.

Hon. Arthur Meighen has it that  
the Deutschland carried away only  
seventy-five tons of nickel on its last  
trip. How does he know? He got it  
from "competent authorities." Cor-  
responding with the enemy, eh?

The Chicago Commissioner of  
Health is demonstrating that he can  
maintain twelve persons in connec-  
tion with his department at \$20 a  
week. The cost per meal will be 8c,  
but the food will be plain and does  
not involve the services of a chef.

The Meighen plea, (and specious  
as usual), is that nickel must be sold  
to the American munition manufac-  
turers in order that they may go on  
with their munition contracts. But  
now that the imperial contracts are  
being discontinued that plea lacks in  
forcefulness.

"A government of inaction and in-  
competence," says Hon. Mr. Graham,  
"defending the flag shooters in one  
province and acting as flag tooters  
in another will not make much head-  
way with the Canadian people at this  
time." Hon. Mr. Blondin should be  
at the next flag raising in Ontario.

The chief of the imperial forces is  
satisfied that in the end the Allies  
will win. But the British people  
need, he says, to be aroused. They  
are as yet not fully awakened: What  
about Canada? Are its people con-  
scious of what they should do upon  
the issues of the hour?

KINGSTON EVENTS  
25 YEARS AGO

Messrs. Swift and Smith canvassed  
in Ontario Ward-to-day for the Mac-  
donald Memorial. Only two-thirds  
of the people were canvassed and  
the sum of \$1,000 was secured.

The City Clerk complains that  
two-thirds of the births which have  
occurred during the year have not  
been registered. There has only  
been 342 registrations.

Hard Question.  
(Hamilton Times)  
It would have been time enough  
for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to join the  
National Service Commission when  
Sir Robert Borden joined it.

A Timely Hint.  
(London Advertiser)  
You have heard much of late about  
the high cost of living. Perhaps Sir  
Sam could give a few pointers on the  
high cost of dying?

Random Reels

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

The Cowlick.  
The Cowlick is a rebellious act on  
the part of a man's hair, and in many  
cases is harder to subdue than an  
outburst of bibulous patriotism in  
Mexico.

While our great physicians and  
surgeons are able to do wonderful  
things with and to the human  
body, such as removing the stomach  
and allowing it to secure a well-  
earned rest, they are completely  
baffled by the Cowlick. Science is  
able to curb the hereditary mole,  
the carmine wart and the roaming  
eyewinker, but in the face of a proud  
and determined Cowlick it is help-  
less. This teaches us that altogether  
too much reverence is paid to the  
medical profession in this country.

The Cowlick is caused by two or  
more hairs growing where there is  
standing room for only one. It be-  
gins to manifest itself in childhood  
and imparts a weird, depressed as-  
pect to the photographs of our youth.  
When once a Cowlick has received  
a good start and has been nourished  
by day with hair oil and dand-  
ruff eradicators, it assumes a haugh-  
ty look and stands in an erect, brist-  
ling attitude. This makes it neces-  
sary to plaster it down before depart-  
ing for some social function, which  
permits several long hairs to rise in  
lonely majesty a little later and  
causes people who have no breeding  
to snicker in a coarse, unfeeling man-  
ner.

It was no doubt the intractable  
disposition of the Cowlick which led  
me to the degrading practice  
of parting the hair in the middle.  
Thousands of men who inherited a  
stubborn and defiant Cowlick were  
able by this means to circumvent the  
same, and go around looking like  
Lydia Pinkham in peg-top pants.

Rippling Rhymes

PROGRESSIVE PIETY  
The old time brimstone preacher, when once he  
waded in, said every human creature was loaded down  
with sin. Beneath his towering steeple, in bitter,  
scathing terms, he roasted all the people, and said we  
were but worms. This poor old earth we cumbered,  
according to his rede, and when our days were num-  
bered we'd have some grief, indeed. The hymns that  
we were singing were of the same grim style, such  
lines as this one springing: "Where only man is vile."  
We all of us were lepers, the baby and the dame, the  
cripples and high stoppers—all soaked in sin and  
shame; the lovely girls were ditto, their beauty was a  
snare, and none of us were fit to pack liver to a bear.  
But nowadays the preacher is willing to confess that  
man is quite a peach, or, at least, a great success. The  
learned and revered thriller no longer says I'm vile, or calls me caterpillar,  
or worm, or crocodile.

TWO STRATEGISTS  
SAYS MR. PALMER

Frederick Palmer.  
"The new British armies are doing  
more than making good. At one  
village which was defended by the  
Prussian Guard an officer among the  
survivors said to the British officer  
who captured him: 'We are not sham-  
ed to be captured. It is no dis-  
grace to surrender to the British  
Guards.' The Briton laughed, re-  
marking: 'We are not the Guards;  
we are just cockneys and factory  
hands.'"

Before leaving the front in France  
Mr. Palmer talked with General  
Joffre and Sir Douglas Haig, British  
commander-in-chief. He said they  
were wonderful men, both very  
much the same type, calm, masterful  
and methodic, living according to set  
rules, in splendid health, and abso-  
lutely confident of victory.

"Before the offensive began," he  
continued, "Sir Douglas warned us  
that it would not break through. He  
said he was just going to pound the  
heart out of the Boches month after  
month until they were ready to  
break. That is what he is doing."

Mr. Palmer said that all major  
questions of the war were settled by  
great councils. "Not many of the  
big problems are left to individual  
initiative. There have been only two  
strategists in the old sense—Hinden-  
burg at Tannenberg and Sastednau,  
now Joffre's chief of staff, whose  
strategy won the great battle in Lon-  
raine early in the war. They do not  
have the chance of showing their  
talents along the old lines, because  
the war is conducted differently than  
in the past.

THE GREAT SIEGE  
BY BIG GUNS

Everyman, London, Eng.  
In July Lloyd-George and Mr.  
Manning, the Minister of Munitions,  
both expressed the opinion that this  
country's increasing output of guns  
and munitions, particularly of the  
larger varieties, was going to be the  
decisive factor of the war. It is in-  
teresting in this connection to recall  
a prophecy made by Major Strahl,  
the well-known German military  
critic, in the Berliner Tageblatt of  
October 26th, 1914. "One constant-  
ly finds anxiety expressed lest the  
Entente, in the course of the war,  
should surprise us with new heavy  
guns. Guns like our 42 centimetre  
howitzers cannot be turned out by a  
wave of the hand. It takes years to  
build the machinery to make such  
guns, and very critical tests have to  
be made to see whether the shells  
will not soon wear out the guns.  
Equally important is the question of  
transport of such monster guns.  
This is a science in itself. These  
problems cannot be solved without  
a long investigation of all possible  
factors. We may assume, with prac-  
tical certainty, that no guns to com-  
pete with ours will appear on the  
enemy's side in the course of the  
war." We wonder what the Major  
thinks about it now.

Mrs. Sarah Lillie Plum Hollow, is  
moving to Athens.

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