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SEVENTH YEAR



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BONAR LAW'S CABLEGRAM.

Sir Robert Borden personally appealed to the British government in order to be saved or screened from attacks which have been made upon him in connection with the nickel question. Bonar Law, the colonial secretary, has responded, as he was requested to do. The admiralty, we are told, assumes all the responsibility for shipping nickel to the United States.

Mr. Law does not say that the nickel has been wanted for use in the munition factories of America, and on work for the Allies. It is inferred from his remarks. As for the Mertons the German element, it is said, has been squeezed out of the company, at least as far as appearances indicate. There is nothing new in this assertion. It has been made by others, but Mr. Law speaks with the authority of the British government, and in its behalf. Two points remain unsettled: (1) The metal carried undersea by the submarine Deutschland was of Canadian origin, and it has not been explained how it reached the hands of enemy agents and later became part of the exports for Germany; (2) the allegation that some of the metal going to Germany came from New Caledonia implies French carelessness or criminal incapacity for which there is no atonement.

The federal government is suffering enough from other causes, without being loaded with this nickel trouble. The Law epistle may save it from some criticism. It will not dispose of the fact that the agreement with the International Nickel Company should be ended and that the refinement and export of nickel should be controlled by the Ontario or Canadian government.

The grain growers of the west are becoming a great combination. Last year they ranked with the biggest buyers and exporters of grain, and they are becoming more portentous by absorbing some of the smaller organizations. Good luck to them.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

There was a public meeting, a great concourse of people, in Toronto on Monday evening, when resolutions were passed concerning the cost of living. The government was commended for what it had done in seeking to get all the information possible with regard to cold storage charges, and to put in force the law with regard to combines. But the people, as represented at this great meeting, were surely disatisfied with prevailing conditions. Legislation was urged for the following purposes:

- 1. Municipal stores for the sale of natural and manufactured food products.
 - 2. Municipal coal yards.
 - 3. Municipal monopoly for the sale of bread, milk, coal, and other commodities.
 - 5. Municipal commission to investigate the prices of foods.
- The Bureau of Research, of Toronto, has demonstrated one fact most clearly. It is that many of the municipal reforms for which the people are clamoring cannot be inaugurated or enforced until a municipal department has been organized by the Ontario government. Dr. Brittain, of the Bureau of Research, has intimated that the new department may be an enlargement of the railway commission, or it may be a new department, but that some court like this commission should be organized and have for its purpose the improve-

ment of municipal systems and the satisfactory operation of them. At a meeting in Brantford, which was addressed by a public official a day or two ago, it was stated that the provincial secretary was willing to give this municipal department his consideration, and the probability is that it will be established at an early date. It is not complimentary to Ontario that it is behind Alberta and Saskatchewan, both of which have municipal departments and find them of the very greatest advantage.

The west wants a new party, and one composed entirely of farmers, or men of the soil, with a low tariff, or no tariff, so far as wheat and agricultural implements are concerned. The older parties have no hope of placating these men.

PROSECUTING WRONGDOERS.

The Brewster government, in British Columbia, has begun its career under adverse circumstances. It was hardly formed under the presidency of the man, who has made so many sacrifices in the interest of public honesty, than he faced a new experience. His attorney-general, Mr. McDonald, was concerned or involved in election irregularities last February, and though some explanation has been made in his behalf his own party has not been satisfied.

For the time being, and pending evidence of his innocence, he would have been the better out of the limelight. His ability, however, marked him out for political preferment, and Hon. Mr. Brewster must have been persuaded that he would be able to vindicate himself or he would not have been elected to the government.

The re-election of Mr. McDonald will be opposed, and by the Liberal Association of Vancouver. At its head stands one who has spent thousands of dollars in purging, or seeking to purge, the community of its political offenders. Mr. Brewster assures the people that political iniquity will not be tolerated, and he is willing that a Royal Commission shall investigate. There is this peculiarity in the situation, that the prosecution of the offenders will devolve upon the attorney-general, and he cannot very conveniently or appropriately take action against himself.

The times are good and bad—for some people. The men who produce munitions and food do not worry over high prices. The men of low or fixed salaries are the sufferers.

THE RELIEF OF KELLY.

The counsel for contractor Kelly, of Winnipeg, has petitioned the minister of justice for a new trial, and on grounds which with one or two exceptions are not new. It is said that the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba threatened to dismiss the Roblin government if it did not approve of his choice of commissioners to investigate the charges against it, and that these judges did not follow the rules of the court in taking evidence. Is any commission restricted to the practices of the courts? Its purpose generally is to get at the facts, and the commission in this case has not been charged with following any procedure which was unusual or which the circumstances did not warrant.

It is alleged that Kelly was not given time in which to prepare his case. He did not take advantage of his privileges in this respect. He challenged the right of any court to try him, and eventually, when he called in counsel, did not want his trial to precede those of the ex-ministers, and because the court was unwilling to accept of his plea his counsel refused to act. Every phase of the case, now called into question, has been discussed before the Court of Appeal in Manitoba, and its decision has been given against him.

One new feature has been magnified. The Norris government, by special act, provided for plenty of jurymen for the trial of Kelly and the ex-ministers and it is argued that the Crown was able to summon an unlimited number and set Kelly up against a "hand-picked dozen of Liberal partisans." The minister of justice may be impressed with this assertion, and he may not. He will have the evidence and the judgments of the courts before him, and the country will await with increasing interest his treatment of the case.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Good Fellows' Club! Why should Kingston not have one? There is a great deal of work it can do about this season, and later.

Palmer says the British army will not be its fullest or its best until next summer. When will Canada's army be its biggest and its best?

Now is the time for shopping, not the middle of December, or the week-end before Christmas. Now is the time to do the advertising if it is to have the educative force which is desired.

Frederick Palmer thinks the war will be won on the west side. Eventually, under the constant hammering that is now going on, the Allies will break through the German lines, and

England's population by this popular method.

The governor-general resembles Earl Grey more than anyone who has held his high office. He has a love for domestic life and domestic animals, and showed it at the Guelph Agricultural Farm.

The boycott is the only hope of the Canadian people. The law, and the government behind the law, appear to be helpless to relieve the situation. To deny themselves, or starve themselves, is the only escape from the manipulators of foods.

The Canadian Retail Merchants' Association come into the limelight as the defenders of the middlemen. Secretary Trowern's opposition to the municipal probe into high prices create a suspicion that the middlemen are the cause of the high prices.

The Imperial government gives the Canadian government an object lesson in serving the people. The state acquisition and control of the Welsh coal mines shows what an administration can do which is composed of men who are not afraid of the capitalists.

PUBLIC OPINION

They Will Do.
(Montreal News)
Germany says she will add 3,000,000 men to her army strength. They'll be wee-men surely.

War or Peace.
(The Montreal Mail)
Are we prepared for a political war in Canada in the midst of a world war? That, after all, is the question.

The Borden Family.
(Hamilton Times)
We might as well object to Sir Robert Borden because he once was a Liberal, and because he is the only Borden in his family who is a Tory.

Why All the Row.
(Montreal Star)
Why all this excitement about a safe conduct for the Austrian Ambassador to the United States if, as Germany avers, the British blockade doesn't block?

Poor Reasoning.
(Toronto World)
Mr. Melghe said that a bullet made with Canadian nickel wouldn't hurt a Canadian soldier any more than a bullet made with some other nickel. That amused the crowd, but it will not brighten the homes of people who have lost sons at the front.

Canada Worst.
(Ottawa Free Press)
Quebec milk is being sold in the States; Canadian potatoes are under-selling the native product of Maine; and Canadian fish are sold to Americans cheaper than they can be bought in Canada. Is it any wonder it costs a lot to live here?

Zeppelins Costly.
(Syracuse Post-Standard)
The last Zeppelin raid upon England brings the number to twenty-six this year with an average of seven and one-half civilians killed per raid. It has cost Germany \$3,000,000 in destroyed Zeppelins—more than \$15,000 for each man, woman or child killed. At this rate it would cost Germany \$699,971,070,000 to kill off

KINGSTON EVENTS
25 YEARS AGO

Bets are being made that less than half of the City Council of 1891, will be re-elected.

A night school has been started in Queen street school. Twenty-three boys were present at the opening sessions.

Dr. William Spankie concluded his lectures at the Model school to-day.

ANY COMFORT IN THIS CRITICISM?

New York Tribune.

The German campaign in Rumania is a superb parody of a blow that might have been fatal: it is a brutal disclosure of Allied ineptitude; but it does not win the war or affect the winning of the war. It leaves the issues to be fought out between the main combatants, and it leaves the enemies of Germany no weaker than they were on the day Rumania came in, in numbers or in resources. Rumania is another Gallipoli; it is a new graveyard of Allied hope; but it is not a military success of first order on the offensive side, it is not more significant than Napoleon's great campaign in Spain, that ended only at the sea-coast, because the victory Napoleon sought was not to be found at Madrid. On the other hand, Britain discovered in the Napoleonic instance that she had misjudged her Spanish task, and it took Wellington years to accomplish it.

RIVER FORMED OF PURE INK

Strange Stream in Algeria—Freaks of Nature Elsewhere.

The London Tid Bits.
A river of ink is formed in Algeria by the union of two streams, the water of one being impregnated with iron, and the other, which drains a great swamp, with gallic acid. This combination of iron and acid forms a pure ink. All rivers of Africa seek the ocean that is farthest away from their source.

In Siberia rivers flow over ice, old and solid as a rock. A tributary of the Lena river has underneath the soil which forms the bed of the river a bed of pure ice over nine feet thick. A freak of nature is the lost river in Kentucky. It is known as the Hidden river, because no one knows its origin, and it vanishes into a cave, leading no one knows where. It flows without a ripple, and is of a pale bluish color.

A singing well is one of the natural curiosities of Texas. In fine weather a sound like that of an Aeolian harp is given out by the well. At time the sound is clear; then it recedes, as if far away and then it reaches the ear very faintly. These changes take place every few minutes, and with great regularity. With an east wind blowing the water in the well gets very low, and the mysterious musical sound is faint. A strong west wind causes the water to rise and the sound to increase in volume and clearness. Before a north wind the well plays its wildest pranks. The water rises nearly to the top of the well, which is about sixty feet deep, and gives out wild, weird noises.

A woman is seldom satisfied when an old dress is forced to do her a good turn.

You can't please everybody and no man knows it better than a preacher in a small town.

A preacher's life would be awfully tame if it wasn't for weddings.

Random Reels

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

THE SILVER DOLLAR

The Silver Dollar is a once despised coin which now makes the currency of other countries look like a link of bologna at a six o'clock dinner.

For hundreds of years the best kind of money to do business with was the English sovereign, which was made of gold and weighed sixteen ounces to the pound. When the great war broke out, however, the English sovereign and the French franc and the German mark and the Russian kopeck began to shrink faster than the attendance at prayer-meeting during the dog days, while the Silver Dollar took on flesh and crowded up to the head of the table. As a result the American Dollar will buy more groceries and smoking tobacco and lima beans in foreign lands than any kind of money which has escaped the war chest.

Despite its popularity abroad the Silver Dollar is thought very little of at home. It is the clumsiest form of money we have, and when deposited

in the side pocket a new pair of pants will eat its way through in a very short time. On this account, all the silver dollars coined are shipped west, where people are strong and rugged and can carry them without becoming stoop-shouldered. In the east, the graceful, free-flowing \$1 bill, which can be carried in large wads and looks like real money, has made the Silver Dollar harder to find than a munition maker on a peace committee.

The Silver Dollar can be counterfeited by anybody who has the tools and a desire to study penitentiary life at close range. It is a sickening sensation to proffer a bright, new Silver Dollar in payment for nine pounds of beet sugar and then have a cautious clerk bite into it with his front teeth and discover that it is made mostly of Wisconsin lead. In some quarters this has caused the silver dollar to be looked upon with more suspicion than the stranger who sells mining stock whenever he can tear away from the church service.

Rippling Rhymes

THE BANK ACCOUNT

Oh, happy day when I began to put my doubloons down in brine! While you with fear the future scan, a soul serene and calm I mine. Long was I slumped around by fate, the dregs of sorrow off I drank, before I got my head on straight, and put some guilders in the bank. I used to blow my money in as fast or faster than I was earned, and one could fill a good large bin with iron dollars that I burned. I blew in every kind of puff, the mark the kopeck and the franc, before I tumbled to myself, and put my moidores in the bank. And then I always lived on prunes, was up against the ragged edge, until, to salt down my doubloons I made a large brass-mounted pledge. Since then on rosy paths I tread, and merrily I whoop and yell: I do not fret, I do not dread the dreary old H. C. yell. I buy my car now rubber tires, and pour rich gas into its tank; he has all things that he desires, who puts his rupees in the bank.



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