

The British Whig



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APPEAL TO THE FRENCH.

The government at Ottawa has a new idea, and one which, it is hoped, will lead to the happiest results. It is to appeal to the French-Canadians through their imagination. They are emotional people. They are emotional as well. They profess to have a profound regard for the Mother Country. They talk of their love for the French nation and the French language. They are British in sentiment and ambition, but they are restrained through that unheroic nationalism which Bourassa and men of his type have preached.

The result is seen in the recruiting. Quebec has disappointed the government and the people in the number of men that have been supplied for military purposes. Now it is felt that the fault lies in the manner with which recruiting has been conducted, and an experiment is about to be tried.

Gen. Leonard is a French-Canadian. He is one of Canada's best officers. No other has a career more distinguished. Can he fire the enthusiasm of his people as the leader of a new division, as the man who will go to France with it and command it in the war?

The movement is a little late in its suggestiveness, but it may succeed, and if it does the credit of Canada will be sustained and a reproach will be removed from the French-Canadian people.

Von Blissing has driven the Belgians out of their country, into captivity, because it is easier to care for them abroad than at home. The brutality from which these people suffer in being transferred from home into oblivion is beyond description.

THE GARBAGE QUESTION.

A great many people, and several of the churches, protested against the taxation for garbage collection. The rate was high—a mill on the dollar. There was a demand for a reduction of taxation, or a reduction in the cost of administration, and with this result: that only one church and one charitable institution put in appeals against the assessment of this year, and the assessment is the basis of taxation for next year.

In these cases there were slight changes in the assessment, but not in the rate. It stands in any case, and it is said to be too high. Of course the revenue must equalize the expenditure, and the incinerator has been eating up a lot of money as well as garbage. Something has been saved of late. The visit of a Toronto man, who can be reckoned as an expert, led to some changes in the furnace, and now more waste can be consumed with the use of less fuel, and the running expenses have been cut down in other respects.

Gradually there is an approach to the minimum of cost, but at the best the institution is an expensive one. It is certainly in the wrong place. At the dump, and with a run-way on one side which would enable the carts to reach the top of the incinerator and there release their loads, the labor of feeding the fires would have been very much lighter. Moreover, the boiler through which steam was to be generated for the power department would have been saved. It is idle. It has never been used. It represents a miscalculation on the part of some one.

Still, with all its defects, the incinerator has been a good thing for the city, and it has contributed more than anyone can estimate to its sanitary condition.

STIRRING UP THE MEN.

The questions which the National Service Commission will require every man unenlisted to answer have been issued. They are designed for a specific purpose, namely, to call out the information with regard to industrial and other engagements of the men. Later this information will be tabulated by the commission, and, if the record be complete, it will have reliable data on which to act.

There will be some difficulty in collecting the facts. Every man will not be disposed to answer the questions printed on the slip and handed to him. It will not be incumbent upon everyone to answer the questions. There is nothing compulsory with regard to the service, and the post-office officials cannot, unless the staff be amazingly large, linger over the delays in certain cases.

After the commission has completed its tasks, and got (as it hopes to do) a fairly accurate registration of the people in each electoral district, there will still be a need of some force to make the recruiting effective. Registration in Britain did some good. It stirred up an interest in military service. It required conscription, however, to bring some men, and the larger number of them, into the ranks. The same experience is anticipated in Canada.

The labor men of Australia deserted Premier Hughes upon conscription; but they failed to humiliate him with a vote of want of confidence. As the strongest man in the Commonwealth he should not be punished because he is true to his vision as to how the war should be ended.

WARDS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The report of the Bruce Commission is being made the subject of an unbiased review by another commission of medical men with a British expert at its head. The whole report will be examined and re-valued, and as a result Canada will know, as it has a right to do, whether the serious charges that have been made against the hospital services are justified.

One feature of the report has been made apparent by passing circumstances. The press has made it clear that many men have been enlisted in Canada, have been clothed and drilled, and then, after a lapse of months, been rejected for medical reasons. It appears that many of these undesirable, medically, reach England, and are then objected to and turned back, after thousands of dollars have been spent upon them, in clothing, in pay, in separation allowances, and in patriotic funds. "It is a crime," says Dr. Bruce, "a shame, a robbery, and the doctors who are responsible ought to be made to pay for the cost or be sent to the Kingston Penitentiary for life."

Several cases have come under local attention, and a searching examination by the militia department should be made into them. Men have been sent to Kingston, invalided, who have not been in the war, who have not seen the enemy and smelt their powder, and are now ranked as wards of the government. Those who have been wounded in battle are entitled to great consideration, and the recipients of it have a way not always present of showing their appreciation. Those who have not been wounded in the war, who have become a burden upon the government, without having rendered any service, should be given to understand that they have no claim upon the continued bounty of the country.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The wards of the government—the soldiers sent to our hospitals—soldiers show their appreciations and gratitude, and some of them appear to be shockingly deficient in these virtues.

The officer who conducted a contingent of sick men, nearly thirty, and suffering from tuberculosis, to the Mowat Memorial Hospital and then gave them permission to go home, deserves more than a gentle reprimand.

Jacob Schiff, New York, differed with his countrymen some time ago as to how certain benevolent work should be conducted. Now he is accused of conniving with the enemy in the interest of peace. Jacob needs to be borne again.

Dr. Bland addressed the Grain Growers, of Winnipeg, and counselled them to send a delegation of twenty odd members to the parliament at Ottawa. All model men, of course and absolutely galleless. All hand-picked, as it were?

The Mowat Memorial Hospital will be a very expensive institution before the war is over. Provision is now being made for two hundred beds, and there will be additions to the establishment before long. It is quite possible that the expenditure will reach \$100,000.

The boycott succeeded in many of the American cities before Thanksgiving Day. Turkeys which were valued at from 50c to 75c per lb.

were disposed of at 30c per lb and less. In Pittsburgh the selling price was 5c per lb. For once the women taught the food jugglers a lesson.

Dr. Miller, of Ridley College, St. Catharines, refers to the expenditure of \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 on the Welland Canal, as useless, because the waterway is not deepened, like the Canal, all the way to the Atlantic. Because great works cannot be completed at once, and from one side of the country to the other, therefore they should not be completed at all. That is Dr. Miller's argument. The school master knows more than the mariner about transportation.

PUBLIC OPINION

Germany Winning. (Toronto News)
The German mark fell yesterday to the new low level of 17 1-8, as compared with 24 at the beginning of the war.

A Drab World. (Hamilton Times)
With the new Governor-General in multi and the new Minister of Militia in multi, this must be a rather drab world.

Women's Boycott. (Ottawa Free Press)
In New York the women have started a boycott to bring down food prices. Over here it's a sort of a forced boycott on many classes of food.

President's Present. (Montreal Herald)
The Kaiser is sending a Christmas gift to President Wilson. Imagine the visions of blood and horror that will be conjured up in the White House every time the President looks at it!

Properly Classified. (Exchange)
Hon. Thomas Crothers seems to be quite correct in classing munition plants as public utilities. The public needs munitions these days just as much as street cars, only in a different way.

Does It, Indeed. (Montreal News)
A Montreal alderman says that one advantage of the present high cost of living is that it makes people economize. Does he refer to those who buy foodstuffs, or those who sell them?

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A farmer was robbed of \$100 on the market today.
A. F. Newlands, has been appointed to teach writing at the boys' night school.
Mayor Drennan went to Ottawa today, to interview the Minister of Marine and urge upon him the necessity of the government giving a grant towards lighting the city clock for marine purposes.

Considering what most people are willing to do for money it's a wonder more people are not millionaires. Very few men appreciate how much a woman appreciates real masculine appreciation.

Random Reels

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

THE FRONT HALL CLOSET
The Front Hall Closet is a place where people put things which other members of the family would give one year of life to locate.

Despite the great advance in architecture during the past century, this dark, hump-backed dungeon is inserted into almost every home by architects who do not care what happens after the contract is let. And what is the result? We see it all about us in the hopeless, despairing look of husbands who after hunting through every room in the house for a pair of last spring's rubbers are obliged to carry to their daily work a pair of cold, moist feet and a nose which trips a sneeze every thirty seconds.

The Front Hall Closet is always constructed about two feet wide and runs back to a neat peak under the stairway. The architect lines the interior with shelves and hooks, so that when a near-sighted husband goes to look for his fur cap he will run into them head on and back out thirsting for revenge. The Front Hall Closet is never lighted by anything but the kitchen window, which makes it a handy place to crawl into on both knees and look for a pair of gloves which are good for another winter.

Rippling Rhymes

OUR DESTINATION

The poorhouse has no Persian rugs, no costly chandeliers; and there we'll dwell and chase the bugs and pie, there's an unshiny price; the cost of coal has gone so high the poor are burning ice. The butchers used to give away the liver of the cow; today they wrap it up and say, "Cough up a quarter now." The poorhouse has no movie stage, no joyous minstrel troupe; and there we'll spend our wintry age, and live on cabbage soup. When o'er the daily sheet we glance, we drop it with a frown; the price of everything's advanced, and nothing has gone down. The printer howls because his stock more precious is than gems. The tailor wets with tears the frock which dearly he hems. Man wears his sweater in his bed, because he has no shirt, and cries aloud, while seeing red, "Oh, whether do we drift?" The poorhouse has no pitterate, no closed or open cars; and there we'll dwell and swat the rats until we climb the stars.

NO REASON COALITION WILL NOT WORK

Because the Coalition Government of Britain or any of the Allies may have their troubles is not an argument against coalition. We will never see a government in power in a free country when there will not be criticism and plenty of it, perhaps. But it will not be partisan criticism; designed to put one party out of office and another in. There has been talk of Ministerial changes in Britain—talk of Asquith or Balfour or Grey or others going out and Churchill or others going in, but nobody talks of abandoning the coalition principle in Britain while the war lasts. All parties have agreed to sink their party differences in the face of the great world crisis, and our Canadian statesmen, we are convinced, are equally as patriotic. Until victory is won, our Empire is at stake—our Dominion is at stake. The Cause for which we are fighting is greater than any question as to whether Conservatives or Liberals should rule. Questions of party strife or party existence we can well put aside while we devote every energy to winning the war.

AFTER THE MILITARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

It is a shame the number of medically unfit men the doctors in Canada have let pass, and it is high time the government took steps to stop it. Figure out what it costs at \$1.10 per day and \$20 per month separation allowance, and then add the cost of equipment and all incidental expenses, and see how much is being thrown into the scrap-heap. It is a crime, a shame, a robbery, and the doctors who are responsible ought to be made to pay the cost or be sent to Kingston penitentiary for life.

You want men in Canada for munition plants, then why not call home all the unfit soldiers and put them where they would be of some service to the country by replacing the single men now employed there? There are hundreds of these men here just drawing their pay, sapping the life out of the Canadian treasury. Why are they not put to work on munitions in Canada?

The Duke of Devonshire.

The Duke of Devonshire's visit reminds us that his uncle, the late duke, was a deeply religious man, who followed the good old practice of having all his family and retainers in to prayers before breakfast. The late Duke of Cambridge, who was Queen Victoria's uncle, and much given to strong language, spent a week-end at Devonshire house, and was much impressed with the brief devotional exercises as wholesome in their influence. The person who knelt next to him heard him mutter to himself: "A damned good custom, this."

Many a self-made man looks as if he might have been greatly improved with a very little outside assistance. And a mean man deliberately talks in his sleep for the purpose of keeping his wife awake to listen. After hearing some men speak we are surprised at the small hats they wear.

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