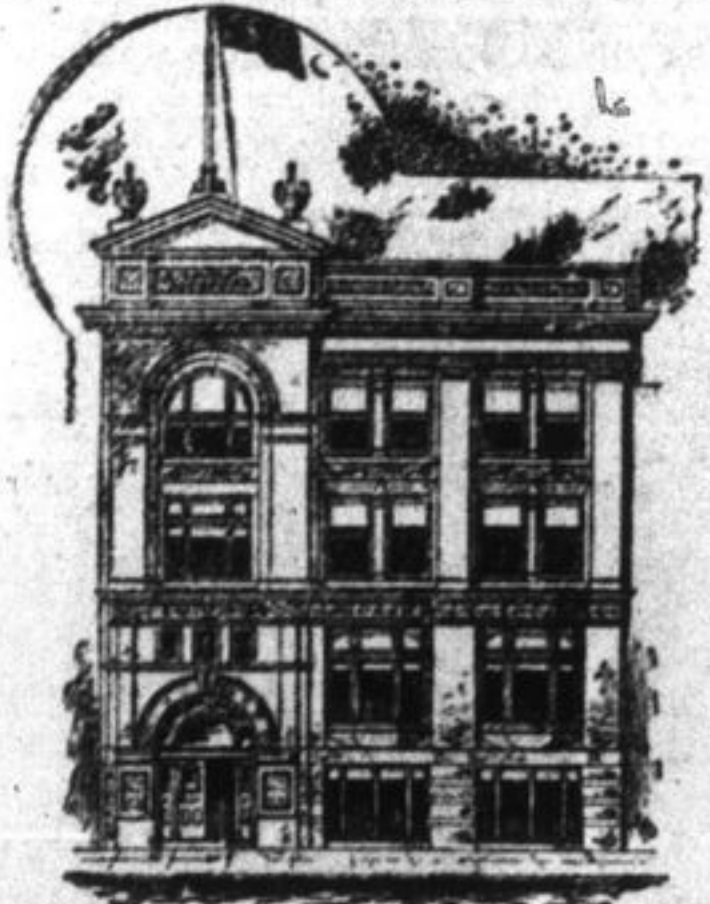


The British Whig 83RD YEAR.



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CHEAPER ELECTRIC POWER.

The Utilities Commission is to be congratulated, and also the manager and his operating staff of the power department, upon the very excellent report which was laid before them at the meeting on Monday. There is bound to be improvement, with continued or guaranteed good management, and with these the commission has been favored during the last year.

The essential feature of the report is the announcement that there has been increased output of power during the eleven months of 22 per cent., and a reduced cost of production of 23c per kilo watt hour, without the advantage which must accrue later through the use of Hydro power. The delay in connecting the power for which a contract has been made with Mr. Campbell will be more than made up by the better service in 1917. The arrangement with the Hydro-Electric Commission cannot be consummated for some time. Witness the period that has passed in getting into touch with the Campbell system, and from this figure upon the period which must elapse before the power generated in the Trent can be utilized here.

Meanwhile the fuel question will become a more perplexing one. The cost of coal is bound to increase, and the Hydro power from Kingston Mills will fit into local conditions and act as an equalizer of expenses. The exhibit of the present is very good, exceptionally so, but it would have been better had the Campbell current been turning the wheels of our industries all through the year.

There are fifty millionaires in the United States to one in Great Britain. The Allies have helped to make this exhibit by pouring their millions into the United States for industrial achievement during the last two years.

VAIN APPEAL FOR PEACE.

The German government was quite spectacular in its presentation of peace proposals, and under circumstances which made their acceptance impossible. All the members of the Reichstag were required to be present. Chancellor Bethman-Hollweg had been with the Emperor rehearsing his part. It bore, therefore, the stamp of the all-highest. At the same time, or somewhat in advance of this, the neutral forces had been notified that Germany was willing to discuss the terms of peace.

It is significant to notice that while this was going on in Germany there was before the world the unpardonable cruelties of German oppressors. Two things seemed to influence or impel the Teutons in their invasions. One was to keep the Allies as far as possible from the Fatherland. To lay siege to it, or any part of it, meant the collapse of the campaign. The second thing was to plunder the invaded territory, to rob it of its men, wealth, and natural resources. Belgium, Serbia, Poland, and Rumania, have been stripped, in turn, of everything.

To talk of peace in the face of this, and to suggest, as some one has done, assuming to interpret the mind of Germany's war lord that the war can be ended now, and that Europe be restored to its former condition, is absurd. There can be no restoration of this kind. There can be resurrection of the dead. There can be no recovery of conditions which existed prior to the war. The declaration of Mr. Asquith, on behalf of the Allies, and repeated with increasing emphasis, is that the destroyers of life and property must atone for their sins to the

fullest extent, that they must account for the deluge of blood which has swept over the eastern continent.

The appeal for peace is not seriously regarded. It may have been prompted by the steps which are being taken in France, England, and Russia, for a more vigorous prosecution of the war. The import of them all is that younger men are being pressed into the national service, with the command of the Allies, with the desire to infuse into the conflict a power and energy which will surely lead to victory.

Every member of the new British government has resigned the directorships which he had in business corporations. The imperial instinct is very keen on points of honor.

CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT.

It is disloyal to criticise the federal government, to intimate, however mildly, that it is not representing the mind or temper of the people? The question is asked because men have been called to account because they have paused in their speeches to say that the conduct of the war, so far as Canada is concerned, is not satisfactory. The Whig hesitates to say even this much in view of the savage way in which Mr. Rowell and Mr. Graham have been attacked by conservative papers because they have dared to intimate that the government at Ottawa has been tried on this war issue and found wanting.

There is something assuring to the press in the trend of events in England. For two years the London Mail and London Times, owned by Lord Northcliffe, were unceasing in their criticism of the Imperial government. They were so pitilessly pointed in their attacks that at times, according to other papers in London, it was a question whether the government should not suspend the Mail and Times and lock the publisher up somewhere for safe keeping. But the knocking went on, first on one side and then on the other. The government was declared to be inefficient and incompetent. The papers saying this were refused admission to some houses and public places. In other instances they were burned in order to express public resentment. But the assaults went on. They became very direct and forceful. There was no parrying them. The government changed. It became national in place of liberal. The admiralty lost some of its distinguished heads. The war office found a new director. He was of Northcliffe's nomination. He was criticised later and forced to divide his duties with another. One phase of the war was disposed of only to find that another had arisen so that it was attracting public attention in larger measure. At last a crisis occurred—a crisis that has only passed—and Northcliffe has been proclaimed a great leader as well as a great dictator!

There is a moral in all this. It is that this is no time for timid men and timid thinking. It is notorious that the conduct of the war is as faulty in Canada as it has been in England. The press may be accused of mischief-making if it call attention to this fact, and yet the more direct and emphatic the demand for change or reform the sooner it will come to pass.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If the municipalities are to be so heavily burdened by Hydro-Electric enterprises, why should they not be represented upon the commission?

The radial railways may be opposed by the steam railway companies, but they are sure to come. They would pay very handsomely in Western Ontario.

The war will be presently in the hands of the young men in all the nations. It is only a question of time until Von Hindenburg strikes the trail for his retreat.

The Germans have never seen the inside of a tank, (the new British fighting machine), but they have invented a very good substitute. It is more like an automobile than a Leviathan, but it is fast and ugly in action.

Saskatchewan has done the only safe thing under the circumstances. It has abolished the dispensaries. Now liquor cannot be got anywhere except for medicinal and industrial purposes. Its sweep from the province has been complete.

Joffre to be retired? But will he be object? He is an old man. He was called out of retirement when the war broke out, and will be happy, he says, when he can retire to his little farm near Paris. He has done a wonderful work during the last two years, and will leave a name in history that can never be forgotten.

Small Coins Useless. (Waterbury Times) The Government is considering whether or not it would be worth while to coin a two-and-a-half cent piece. No, don't do it. By the time the present high cost wave reaches its crest, people will be looking at coins no smaller than quarters, and nickels and dimes will be finding places in museums.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Queen's Y.M.C.A. has donated \$500 to the support of a missionary in heathen lands. R. Moore, Wolfe Island, has a three-year-old colt sired by "Donald Dinnie," Amherst Island. The colt has done his fall ploughing and weighs nearly 2,000 pounds. Rev. Dr. Wild lectured at the opera house last night on "Destiny of Britain and Canada." So crowded was the house that a number of gentlemen lost their hats in the crush leaving the building.

PUBLIC OPINION

Santa a Joker. (London Advertiser) Seems funny to pick up an advertisement showing a bewiskered old gent like Santa Claus handing some one a safety razor.

Away With Churchill. (Ottawa Free Press) Lord Northcliffe says Winston Churchill will go to the States to give lectures he will have the support of the Northcliffe press. Just a mere question of banishment.

Asquith Admired. (Exchange) Asquith has refused an earldom. We always admired Asquith, and his refusal has not made us mad a bit. In fact, we are quite pleased with it.

Need of Revolt. (Montreal Star) One hundred lieutenant-colonels from Canada have been found enjoying themselves in England on full pay. The recent noisy militia administration has a lot to answer for.

Queer Partnership. (Toronto Mail) Of all the strange partnerships the war has brought about none is stranger than that of Lloyd-George and Lord Milner. It is to be hoped the latter has forgotten what Lloyd-George said of him at the time of the Boer war.

A REVIEW OF THE MILITARY SITUATION

London Chronicle. The prime military responsibility in the Rumanian theatre has rested with Russia and Rumania. The roles open to the other Allies have been secondary ones. They have been fully discharged by General Sarrail, who has detained on his front at least as many enemy troops as he was ever expected to detain; by General Cadorna, whose fine victory on the Carso was most admirably timed; by Generals Joffre and Haig, who have done the Germans busy in France; and by the extensive dispatch of aeroplanes, guns, and technical services. There is no occasion for us to reproach ourselves. In some quarters we are told that the only way is to send General Sarrail half a million more troops. Have the advocates of such a course reflected on the transport that would be required? From this country to Salonica is 3,000 miles by sea, through waters in some of which the submarine danger is greater than anywhere else. Shortened in respect of

Random Reels

THE DIAGNOSIS. The Diagnosis is something which takes place just before it is decided to operate on the purse and person of the patient.

Medical science has made wonderful strides in the country in the last fifty years, but when it introduced the seven-day diagnosis to a suffering constituency it took a great load off the minds of millions of sufferers and also increased the sale of doctors' couplets. Before the search, fine-tooth comb diagnosis was put on the market few people knew what was the matter with them. Thousands of patients were treated for something they did not have and were given medicine which did not fit any better than a cravenette coat on a bird dog. This created great dissatisfaction, and caused the medical fraternity to be referred to in slighting terms by people who paid out good money to be cured of some ailment which belonged to a near neighbor.

It takes time to make a good diagnosis, and it should never be attempted unless the patient is in the best of health and has called in all his loans. The modern diagnosis starts with the soles of the feet and winds up with the discovery of a whistling noise in the top of the head. All of the symptoms which the patient carries about with him are collected together and shaken vigorously, after which he is pinched, slapped, pounded, rolled, probed and pumped until he begins to realize that under certain circumstances death is a precious boon. He is then informed that if he will consent to bid farewell to his appendix, after long years of close association with it, he will be allowed to return home and eat anything that his stomach does not object to.

The beauty of a thorough, painstaking diagnosis is that when it is over the patient is not in fear of death or anything else. There is something about a diagnosis conducted by nine surgeons with Van Dyke beards, which will reconcile a man to anything, unless it is prompt payment of the fee.

Rippling Rhymes

HIGH AMBITION

I'd like to be a fighter, and with the fighters stand, and whip some other blighter, to music by the band. The fighter's life is sunny, when he has reached the top; some forty kinds of money, at intervals he'll cop. He gets a roll that's bigger than you could carry out, when he consents to figure in tin-horn sparing bout. The most of us are striving, each day, the whole year long, that we may be surviving, and dodge the poorhouse throng. We must be most adroit, sir, and slave the livelong day, if we would earn a kreutzer or salt a yen away. Great men of skill and knowledge, can hardly earn their slaw, professors in the college, and people learned in-law, and scientists and thinkers, and eminent divines must feed their children clinkers—but how the fighter dines! He works when he gets ready, and then for half an hour; the money comes in steady, a brilliant, golden shower. I'd like to be a fighter, but I'm too fat to scrap; and so, as hungry writer, I'll serve my term, maybe.

shipping, to support 500,000 additional troops at the end of such a line is out of the question. On purely military grounds the eastern theatres have many advantages over the western. What ties our main effort to the west is a dire problem of transport, but since it is unalterable, we had surely better resign our minds to make the best of it.

FIRE LOSS IS VERY LIGHT

KINGSTON HAS BEEN LUCKY SO FAR THIS YEAR. Loss To Date About \$12,000—The Fire Committee Actually Has a Balance of \$417 on Hand.

The members of the civic Fire and Light committee, which met Tuesday afternoon, were very much gratified at the result of the year's work of the fire department. According to Chief Armstrong's report, there has been to date a fire loss in the city of only about \$12,000. Kingston has been lucky indeed during 1916. The committee also learned that after the year's operations it would have a balance of \$417 on hand from its appropriation. Of this amount \$287 was saved from firemen's wages, as the brigade has been under strength for various periods during the year owing to resignations.

Ald. Corbett did not think it very creditable to have a balance on hand. He thought it should have been given to the members of the fire department who were not receiving a fair remuneration. The recent schedule increase adopted by the City Council was very paltry.

Chief Armstrong reported in part as follows: "To date we have received and answered ninety-nine calls, three of which were for the 'pumpmotor' and four for fires outside the city limits. As far as I have been able to learn, the loss of fire within the city has been \$10,744.37, on which there has been paid insurance amounting to \$7,779.39, with the insurance at risk was \$26,150. There are three fires where I have not yet learned what the loss was. These will not exceed \$1,200 so that the total loss to date will not exceed \$12,000. The loss for last year was \$63,864. The most serious fires of the year were March 25th at the Frontenac Hotel, July 19th, Government yacht Senator, and October 20th, Boyd's garage. These fires entailed a loss of \$7,033.

"In only four calls did fire spread after the department arrived and in one case did it spread to another building."

"The year just closing, has, I believe, been without exception the worst in the history of the fire department in regard to changes in its personnel, there having been one death, one enlistment for overseas and thirteen resignations. For horses, having become unfit for fire services, were sold and four others purchased.

"There are some miles of outside wire that needs to be removed, and when finances will permit, the old alarm boxes should be discarded and replaced with reliable up to date ones."

In conclusion the Chief spoke warmly of the admirable support he had received from Chairman O'Connor during the year. The chairman had devoted a great deal of time to the affairs of the department.

Representatives of the Reliance Moulding Company were present to ask that a light be erected near their plant. The committee members agreed that a light was much needed down there, but referred the

Bibbys Dents Wool Lined Dog Skin Glove \$1.75. See Our Silk Knitted Scarfs for Ladies and Men, \$1.00 to \$5.75. USEFUL GIFTS FOR BOYS. See Bibbys Boys' Sweater Coats \$1.00, \$1.50. See Bibbys \$4.00 Pure Wool Sweater Coats For Boys Sizes, 28 to 34. Boys' Knitted Toques Special values 50c. Boys' Shirts Soft roll cuffs. Special value 75c. Boys' Bath Robes \$4.00 each. \$7.50 Boys' Overcoats Sizes 28 to 33. Good warm ulster, with new two-way collar. \$12.00 Boys' Overcoats Special Values, Real classy sort of ulster, shawl collar, belted back, blue, brown and grey chinchilla cloths, fancy Scotch tweeds. Splendidly tailored. Sizes 29 to 34.

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