

The British Whig 83RD YEAR.



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COMMISSION'S GOOD WORK.

The public utilities' members who have been re-elected, Messrs. Rigney and Toye, deserve this consideration from the people. They served the city faithfully and well, and when they are willing to serve it still more should be continued in office. The Whig is particularly gratified with the success of the commission, having advocated the change to it from council management, and defended it, when, through a change of system, an attempt was made to destroy its usefulness. The people in deciding to try the commission still further have no reason to regret it. All the members of the board have had an experience in the council. All of them understand the people's wants. All of them, too, are acquiring a knowledge of the business which will enable them from year to year to advance the interests of the city more effectually. We congratulate the retiring members of this year upon their re-election, and all the members of the board upon their splendid work.

Quebec is temporizing with the liquor traffic. The plan is an imitation of that of the late Sir James Whitney, who undertook to eliminate the business piece meal. Which is preferable, a slow death, as if by poison, or a sudden death by decapitation?

RECKONING SOME DAY.

A commission of the government will have to be appointed eventually to get at all the facts in connection with the Ross rifle. The Ottawa Journal was very indiscreet in charging the liberals with all the faults and defects of this rifle. The liberals did undertake to manufacture the Ross rifle because it was highly recommended, and by so distinguished an authority as Sir Sam Hughes.

For target practise it was a great success. But a returned soldier from France, wounded and invalided, and therefore out of the fight, tells in the Ottawa Citizen how the Ross rifle jammed by quick firing in the trenches, and had to be abandoned as a failure. This returned hero goes further, and in his letter to the Ottawa Citizen intimates that the Canadian soldiers suffered terribly through their equipment with the defective rifle.

There can never be a satisfactory defence of the continued use of the Ross rifle and the continued manufacture of it. The Journal has done a great wrong to the Liberal party in the manner in which it has rushed to the defence of the conservative party, and it certainly cannot offer any objections if the liberal party, in parliament, insists that the facts be ascertained and published.

Some day, according to the returned soldier, the men who survive the war will come home and have it out, at any cost, with those who endangered their lives by improperly equipping them with this rifle, even after it had been demonstrated that it had, in active service, failed to answer its purpose.

A civic blacksmith shop is the latest. It may do in Brantford, where the aldermen will do business by some kind of rule. But in Kingston—don't mention it, please.

MEN FORCED INTO ACTION.

Men sometimes represent ideas which make their elevation a necessity. This is the case in England, where that stormy petrel, Lloyd-George, found himself in the ascendancy, and with his face towards the premier's office. No man had a greater regard for Mr. Asquith than he.

No greater resistance could be offered by anyone to the displacement of his chief. But the inevitable was transpiring.

There was a feeling among those who constituted the inner circle that the premier and some of his colleagues were not expressing the driving power which the war demanded, and it asserted itself presently in an unmistakable way. Lloyd-George became premier, through force of circumstances, and Mr. Asquith bore testimony to the fact that he did not conspire to secure the office.

In Canada we are witnessing the spectacle of Sir Thomas White protesting that he does not want the place of Sir Robert Borden, and insisting that he does not want to bring about the premier's removal. This may be true enough, and it may also be true that there is a movement in Canada for a change of government, and the public opinion may force it in spite of the moral heroics of Sir Thomas White and others.

Sir Thomas may not be as willing as Lloyd-George to let his country use him, regardless of its effects upon political parties. That is another matter, and one which for the time being can be safely left in obscurity.

The liquor men of Quebec are being encouraged to make all the money they can out of the business. The day cometh when they will have to give it up, without compensation. That is the intimation from the government.

PEACE IN THE HEART.

A century ago Sir Walter Scott wrote, in his Marmion, and called for the echoes of a great war, and called for the piling of more wood upon the fires so that in warmth and comfort friends might keep their "Christmas merry still." If Scott could suggest such a sentiment "amid the thunders of the Armageddon, for which Napoleon stood," why should depression overcome us in these days?

There is mirthfulness in the land. Its tide may not be as great as usual. Those at the front cannot be forgotten. There is a pathetic reminder of them in many a household, and there is a remembrance of some who hereafter will live in the memory only. There are others who have sent home cheery letters, while they, like good soldiers, endure the hardships of the battlefield. There is a consecrated service, and on the eve of this blessed anniversary, and on the anniversary itself, the multitudes will pray that ere Christmas comes again the way may be opened up for peace with honor.

Canada is not feeling the effects of the war so much as the Mother Country, for over there the people are more subdued, as they have a right to be, in the contemplation of Christmas and all that it this year means to them. Thousands of miles separate families, and these many miles have been spanned during the last month by messages and gifts that carried to the men in khaki touches of the love that never dies.

Christmas brings its varied experiences. Most people realize that this is a time of strife and strain, of deep anxiety and concern, and the dislocation of trade has brought its blighting hardships. There may, in consequence, be the absence from some homes of the cheer that has marked the memories of other days, but in spite of all the drawbacks there is a kindly feeling extant, and the carol of the angels, "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," can be sung with all its accustomed sweetness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The mayor will call a public meeting next week and discuss the business of the city with the electors. He is to be commended in this decision.

Sacrificing Lansing, who was Mr. Wilson's man Friday, will not atone for the diplomatic blunder of the president. But Lansing is willing to be offered up if he can save Wilson.

The Trades and Labor Council believe the city should use its solicitor more than it does. The labor men do not see why the city council should, in anything, violate the law. Its position is well taken.

What a glist of aldermanic candidates to be sure. A good many will retire this evening, but it is probable that there will be a contest in all the wards, save the one in which there has been an acclamation already, Victoria.

In Peterboro the Utilities Commission is installing sanitary systems in the houses of the people and giving them ten years in which to pay off the cost. Here is a species of government that is most uncommon in Canada.

John Redmond attributes the lack of enthusiasm for recruiting, the world over, to the failure of the British government to carry out its compact with regard to Home Rule for Ireland. Do the army recruiters see the point?

The commissioner of finance in Toronto is the next thing to an absolute dictator. He is the kind of an official that Toronto has wanted for many years. He might be called the city's manager without any hurt; and without inviting a protest from anyone.

More than 1,250,000 children "are slowly starving to death in Belgium and Northern France" is the latest report from G. B. Baker, one of the Belgian commissioners in New York. These poor children should be remembered at Christmas time.

Alderman Hughes does not ask to be elected the mayor of the city for just one year. It is well. If elected he may change his mind. President Wilson wanted election for one term and changed his mind, and because of this lost the support of Editor Harvey, who discovered him.

PUBLIC OPINION

George Did It. (Montreal Star) The Kaiser followed the English motto and left it to George, and look what George did to it.

The Christmas Spirit. (London Advertiser) Some folks are accumulating some Christmas spirit. It's only a temporary affliction. It will be all over next Tuesday.

Cause for Satisfaction. (Montreal Herald) Joy in Washington! The peace offers at least serve the purpose of postponing a decision in regard to the submarine frightfulness.

Need of the Hour. (Toronto Mail) Canada's duty is not wholly discharged by standing behind the men at the front. What is needed is another 100,000 Canadians to stand behind them.

The War and Railway.

The Intercolonial surplus, which it is stated is the greatest in the history of the road, is largely one of the results of the war. Enormous quantities of war material en route to Great Britain are hauled over the Government road.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Malcolm McMillan left to-day for Demerara, West India. The steamer Primfort was obliged to remain in port to-day. It was the roughest day of the season.

S. Bailey purchased two fresh water salmon weighing forty pounds each from Mr. Dunlop, and is sending them to Nebraska as a Christmas gift.

CUBA SEEKS FOE SUBS.

Navy Asked to Examine Keys at East End of Island. Havana, Dec. 23.—As a result of a request made by the Cuban Minister to France instructions have been given the Cuban navy to examine diligently the keys at the eastern end of the island, especially those nearest the Bahama Islands, to ascertain if German submarines or their mother ships have established a base.

THE CHILD FORGOTTEN

It is Christmas time again. Christmas—the day of all days dear to childish anticipation and to him who loves childhood—the day when real happiness, genuine and unspoiled, brightens a world made sombre by unceasing thought of self.

The last Christmas was here just a few weeks ago—was it weeks or days? We had a great time with our own children, in our own homes, about our own Christmas trees. We spent a great deal of money, for us, and incurred a great many bills, but OUR children had everything they could think of or ask for. If so be that one is not with us now, we know that no withholding on our part dimmed the sunshine of her last Christmas.

And yet—the cruelty of Christmas! The children of the wretched shiver in the thin garments of destitution as Plenty and Abundance scurry by. The prodigality of wealth, the oft-times unappreciated shower of gifts and toys and books, but serve to shadow the heart of forgotten and neglected childhood and make for it a mockery of the Christmas-tide. The wistful eyes of unremembered children at the tree, the fortitude of their uncompliment, the uselessness of their joy in the happiness of playmates laden with gifts—these deepen the sting of thoughtless cruelty and neglect.

There is no music in the Christmas chimes for the child who has been forgotten. A tithing of the money wasted in the homes of plenty would make radiant a million childish hearts. Is it to be possible again this year, as it was perchance last year and many a year before, that a single stocking hung by the hands of a child shall be empty on the Christmas morn?

—By Howard L. Rann.

Reprinted by Request.

Rippling Rhymes

THE SILVER LINING

The prices of the things we need are soaring higher, day by day; the man with many mouths to feed discouraged is, and worn and gray. The times are troublous, all agree, the cost of living burdens man; yet some things in this world are free, so let's enjoy them while we can. There are some good things everywhere, for which no hard-earned plunks are spent; I breathe all kinds of wholesome air, and do not have to pay a cent. When I inhale, in hours of ease, the air, I mutter and repeat, "No man can measure off the breeze, and charge me by the thousand feet." The sun gives light as good as that dispensed by wire and dynamo; it brightens up my dismal flat, and not a nickel do I owe. When from my cottage door I look, I see the streamlet, wild and wet; I drink a gallon from that brook and haven't gone a cent in debt. And thus, if we but look around with eyes that search for gratis things, at every turn some boon is found that balm and consolation brings.

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GREAT WAR AND PARTY INTEREST

The brains of the country have not been utilized to advantage. There are many able men within the ranks of the Liberal Party unfit for active service, and who would be only too glad to serve their country, without compensation. In useful capacities, but never have they been given an opportunity, except in a very few isolated cases, where their influence is overshadowed by the weight of Conservative numbers.

By way of illustration we find a Conservative in charge of the Pension Board; a Conservative at the head of the Hospital Commission; a Conservative in charge of the Patriotic Fund, a fund subscribed to by the whole people; a Conservative at the head of the Imperial Munitions Board.

Then look at the Directors of National service, eleven in number, all of whom, except possibly one, are Conservatives; also the directing heads of the Militia Service outside of the permanent officials of the Militia Department are of the same political stripe.

In the City of Ottawa thousands of people have been appointed to the Service to meet conditions arising directly from the War circumstances, and in no single instance has an appointment been made after consultation with the Liberal Party. The patronage of these appointments has been largely dispensed by the Ottawa Conservative Members of Parliament.

And yet the Hon. Arthur Meighan says, "we have not sought to conduct the War for the advantage of the Conservative Party."

DR. J. G. WRIGHT APPOINTED

Medical Superintendent of Kingston General Hospital. At a special meeting of the Board of Governors of Kingston General Hospital held on Friday afternoon on the recommendation of the committee of management following the suggestion of the medical staff, Dr. J. G. Wright was appointed medical superintendent. Dr. Wright is a recent graduate of Queen's, and for the past year or so has been assistant superintendent at Rockwood Hospital.

Collected for Belgians.

At the Christmas closing exercises held in Sydenham school, this city, on Thursday a collection was taken up from among the pupils and their friends. The sum of \$28 was realized, which will be handed over to the president of the Board of Trade for the Belgian Relief Fund.

Threats that the United States Government may develop power on its account at Niagara Falls if opposition continues to its power legislation were made at Washington on Friday.

Lord Sandhurst, Hon. Lewis Harcourt and Lord Cowdray have been made vicereigns; Arthur Dewar, Sir Thomas Ross, J. A. Pease and Sir Edward Partington are barons.

The Montreal Trades and Labour passed a resolution urging the American Federation of Labor to protest to President Wilson against the Belgian slave raids. It is estimated that the population of the United States and territories is 112,444,620.

Sir Sam Hughes is in Ottawa, having just returned from New York.

Bibbys Men's & Boys' Wear Store. It's the old wish we're sending to you and it's the best one. May your Christmas Time be joyous and full of happiness and may the New Year bring all good things to you-- So here's to your health and your prosperity. BIBBYS LIMITED 78, 80, 82 Princess Street :: :: :: Kingston

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SESSION MAY OPEN ON JANUARY 25TH. Government Said to Have Its Programme Pretty Well Prepared. Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Sir Robert Borden will likely return to Ottawa to-day. It is expected that immediately upon his return he will call a full meeting of the Cabinet to decide upon the date of the coming session. At present the indications are that the session will open on January 25th. The Government is said to have its estimates pretty well in readiness and its legislative programme fairly well prepared. It is anticipated that "National Service" will hold a foremost place in the Speech from the Throne.

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