

The British Whig 83RD YEAR.



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POSTING THE PRESIDENT.

President Wilson, in his address to the neutrals, in the interests of peace, complained that he did not know what the war was about. This is remarkable.

One by one the men who want to see the end of the war by providing the empire with the necessary men to bring things to a head, are announcing themselves in favor of conscription. It has to come.

THE PREMIER'S APPEAL.

"I come to you to-night to ask that such information shall be given to the Government through the medium of the Board of National Service as will enable this country to estimate its human energy and to throw its whole power and weight into the conflict. We do wish for the purpose of organizing our national life, for the purpose of the Federal Government, for the purpose of the Provincial Governments, for the purpose of the municipalities, and for the purpose of all public bodies who will take part in this great work, information so that each man may give his best service to the greatest advantage of the State."

The German theory is that the more barbaric war can be made the more human it is and certainly the shorter. A philosophy of which the Germans seem to have a monopoly.

BASIS OF TAXATION.

The candidates for the majority are in favor of printing and publishing the assessment rolls at intervals for the information which they contain. The effect aimed at by this proceeding some years ago was to enable the assessment department, through public criticism, to detect errors of entry or of judgment and to have them corrected.

Alderman Hughes is clearly mistaken in his idea that the burden of

taxation should be so distributed that the richer the men the larger the amount they would contribute to the city's revenue. The rich men cannot always be reached through the assessor's office. The Whig recalls a case in which the assessor put a value (not its real, but taxable value), upon a new and handsome house at a figure which he esteemed honest and just. The owner appealed to the county judge and had the amount cut down by several thousand dollars, and it is assumed that the judge had authority in law for his decision. There is no hope, then, of the man of large means being touched through the higher assessment of his house.

Nor is very much to be gained by the publication of the assessment records as both the mayor and Alderman Hughes have contended. The need of a general revision may, however, be urged. The assessor has been doing the work for many years alone. He ought to be helped by an assistant occasionally, one who knows about property values, and who has a method of appraisal that is sound. This has been urged upon the city, and once more it is pressed upon the attention of the aldermen.

Some of the papers that decided to cut out liquor advertisements, and not so long ago, appear to have fallen from grace. Choice whiskies, ales, and "new brews" are advertised in conspicuous places. Some modern reformers will not stay reformed.

EFFICIENCY IN DEMANDED.

Industrial Canada is the publication of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and is "devoted to the advancement of the industrial and commercial prosperity of Canada." A glance at the December number, or, better still, a reading of some of its articles, shows how intensely it is interested in the resources of Canada and the best way of developing them.

Clearly it is in favor of mobilizing the industrial resources, and for two important reasons: (1) That their efficiency makes for greater production, and the country that excels in this respect contributes most to the success of the Allies, and (2) that the most perfect understanding is necessary in order that the manufacturers may be unhampered or unstrained in their undertakings.

Some of the munition makers are said to be reaping large profits, but not more than 25 per cent. of them through efficiency; 25 per cent. of them are said to have made a fair profit; 25 per cent. have done little better than break even; and 25 per cent. have actually lost money. In England the revenue of the government from excessive profits has exceeded \$300,000,000. Canada would not reap a very large sum from its munition producers if a special tax were imposed, according to Industrial Canada.

A resort to this test may have a very great advantage. It would lead to a discovery—quite as great as, if not greater than, many the National Service Commission hope to make. It would establish production with Canada's industrial forces organized as they should be. It would remove weaknesses where they exist and put strength in their place. Canada's share in the war demands this efficiency.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir Sam Hughes is in favor of compulsory service. Since when?

The majority campaign is livening up. The electors who believe in recognizing good service are showing their interest in the contest.

The mayor has been a working head of the council all through the year. It is work that tells. It is work the electors should appreciate, not talk.

The Canadian majors and colonels who cannot go to France, except as lieutenants, are thanking their stars. They should be ashamed to wear the uniform.

Why should the troops at the front not be commanded by officers raised from the ranks? Is that not the proper way of awarding Canadians for their sacrifices?

Cardinal Gibbons suggests a truce in the war for a month. That would suit the Germans, and give them the time they want in order to prepare for a bigger and fiercer effort than any they have so far made.

Will Lloyd George dare to propose total prohibition in Britain? He will dare anything according to his record. If he can save for the war \$800,000,000 per annum, the amount now put into liquor, he will do it—as a national necessity.

PUBLIC OPINION

Looks Suggestive. (Windsor Record) The national service card system looks like an effort to stall off conscription until the question of an election is settled.

He Has the Cards. (London Advertiser) A German newspaper wants to

know if Lloyd-George is a gambler. No, he's a cinch better. He has the cards, and knows how to play them.

Woman in Defence.

An American paper records the story of a woman who routed a bounder by jabbing him with a fountain pen. After all, there are some fountain pens which will work.

Deserve the Record.

The Germans claimed the other day that they held the record for staying under water with their submarines. The one just sunk by the French off St. Nazaire, for instance.

A Libeller Caught.

A New York magistrate has been awarded \$35,000 damages from publishers of a novel in which a Tammany judge is depicted with certain points of resemblance to himself. Thus the fetters on literary art are tightening.

Damage in Stocks.

The bear market during the past few days has evidently played havoc with a lot of speculators, but at least they have had the sensation of being rich for a few months, which the most of them were never entitled to, so they really haven't much ground for kicking.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The river is frozen over up to a level with Point Frederick. Alexander Mitchell and F. Raupha have purchased the schooner John McBride from Capt. Acton, Gananoque, for \$200. Physicians object to the medical council adding a dollar to the annual fee and will protest.

GREAT CHANGE IN ENGLAND

So England prefers to live dangerously at home that she may get rid of danger abroad. She prefers to take the risk of dictatorship and an oligarchy that nails its colours to the mast, not caring a copper what political wind may be blowing, to the uncertain politics-as-usual programme that made first mere party government and afterwards coalition a national failure. What this will do to England in the ultimate is not now to be considered. It is the England of today that is in danger. Democracy has seized upon the throne in the elevation of the Radical Lloyd George, who for all we know may yet become a Tory and advocate Tariff Reform along with his radical programme of nationalizing railways, mines and war industries.

The three Winnipeg jails did not contain a single prisoner over Sunday and Christmas, in contrast last season when the disorders occupied many cells.

Random Reels

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

LIFE.

Life is a short journey which people are not consulted about until it is too late to back out. Under our present rules and regulations, nobody is allowed to choose his birthplace, parents, antecedents or future prospects. This condition of affairs works a great hardship upon people who would prefer to have been born into some home where nobody is required to perform any manual labor except to fill out a blank check ever and anon. It is extremely annoying to a sensitive young man with a keen intellect and bulging feet to be born into a home of poverty, where everybody else works, and have to borrow money from an old maid sister who dresses like a young man.

Rippling Rhymes

LIFE IS THUS.

The parents rear a winsome maid, whose name, perhaps, is Rose, and feed her pies and marmalade, and buy her furbelows. They educate her year by year, with knowledge store her mind, although the learning graft is dear, and money hard to find. They hope that when they're old and gray, the damsel will be near, to shoo the dotard griefs away and dry the mistle tear. "She'll surely be our rod and staff," they say, "when we old wights are ready for the epitaph, and other last sad rites." But when the maid is seventeen, there comes along a guy, whose car burns up more gasoline than any man should buy. Oh, parents cut but little grass, when that young man arrives, whose wagon, burning up the gas, puts joy in maidens' lives. Fair Rose is scorching up the road, and hitting hills oh high, and in their silent, sad abode, the old folks sit and sigh. All broken are the hopes and plans which in the years have grown; they know that they are also-rans, for youth must have its own. It is the saddest thing I know—the saddest man can find—when children from the homestead go, and never look behind.

ONE MORE APPEAL AND TO REASON

Toronto World. Premier Lloyd George, referring to the new vote of credit observed that of course such expenditure could not go on indefinitely. Canadians ought to realize that if Germany is not defeated before a halt is called to such expenditures, then the war will end in a defeat for us, or a draw in which there will be a period of preparation, when both sides, arming to the teeth, will await the final war, which, more bitter and more horrible than anything we have seen yet, will decide the fate of humanity. No nation will ever again accept the pledged word of the military rulers of Germany. That is the fundamental evil of the Hohenzollern dynasty and its "scrap of paper" theory of treaties and international obligations. It is true that the German nation is at least as exhausted by the struggle as any of her opponents. Early in the conflict it was said that the last 100,000 men would win the war. There is something in this for Canada to think about. The longer the war drags on the greater the cost will be, and our share of that cost will be a heavy burden. The only way to shorten the war is to supply more men and more munitions. In a few weeks it may be too late and the great opportunity may have gone for ever. Events are moving rapidly. If the minds of our leaders kept pace with them we should not now be so far behind with our efforts to save the British Empire from defeat.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR CANADA

Sir Robert Borden is going through the world but once. He is Prime Minister of Canada in the most critical years of the country's history, and when he talks on the subject of National Service he should consider whether any man can do a greater national service than he can perform by taking steps to set up in Canada a National Government of men from both parties and men outside politics altogether, so that we may hear a war Administration that will not be hobbled by the thousand and one considerations which restrain his Ministry from taking aggressive measures, and which would restrict and hamper any other political organization in office. A political party in office cannot offend this interest or that interest because it must think of the party's future. There should not be a party in office, at a time like this, thinking of the party's future and making of that the main thing. National Service must begin with the Prime Minister in taking the steps to give the country non-partisan National Government.

Munitions at Trenton.

At the mouth of the Trent Valley Canal at Trenton, Ont., the construction of which was commenced by the British Government just eighty years ago, as a military waterway, an extensive plant, which will employ over 1,000 men, is being erected for the manufacture of munition chemicals for the Imperial Munitions Board.

After the war it is intended to manufacture here chemicals and dyes which previously have been made in Germany, and to which the trained scientists of the Allied nations are now directing their researches, to the end that, never again will the industrial world, outside of Germany, be compelled to depend on that country for supplies of these goods.

Thus does the abundant supply of electrical energy produced by the waters of this canal, planned so long ago by the home authorities, bid fair to become a powerful factor, not only in hastening the conclusion of this, the greatest war in which England has ever engaged, but also to materially assist in the industrial war which we are assured is to follow the declaration of peace.

Certain South American chancelleries are tentatively communicating regarding the despatch of a note to the belligerents backing up President Wilson's peace plea.

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Downey's Garage. Open Day and Night. Repair Work of All Kinds. Cars Stored Until May 1st: Small Cars, \$10.00, Large Cars, \$12.00, Cars for Hire. Gasoline, Oils and Greases Always on Hand. We Store Furniture. George Downey, Prop. 124 Queen Street. Phone 366.

Table Waters. Perrier—Splits and Pints, Baden—Pints, Poland—Quarts and Half Gallons, Vichy-Celestin—Quarts, Gurd's Caledonia—Pints, Gurd's Ginger Ale, Gurd's Soda Water, Schweppes' Dry Ginger Ale, Schweppes' Ginger Beer. JAS. REDDEN & CO. Phones 20 and 990.

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