

The British Whig 83RD YEAR.



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A CALL FOR SYSTEM.

It would pay Kingston to have an official with duties akin to those of a city manager, but a manager the city cannot have under present conditions. The mayor, as the supervising officer of the council, cannot spend enough of his time in the city offices each day to see what is going on and check whatever, in the way of expenditure, is not authorized. Until there is some sort of direct inspection of the work there will be irregularities.

There is no way at present of guarding against these irregularities. Emergencies arise. They have to be dealt with. Some official acts, in conjunction with an alderman or committee, and expenses are incurred. They have to be met. They may be criticised. They cannot be repudiated.

The Whig applauds the recommendation of the Trades and Labor Council. It asks for a judicial enquiry into certain expenditures, and only the county judge can make an impartial investigation into all the facts. He can lay bare the defects of the present routine, and give the council the tip it needs in order to guard against further lapses.

The Trades and Labor Council has, in the past, opposed the contract system in connection with civic improvements. But it is undoubtedly in favor of any course or policy which will guarantee to the city the fullest value for all the money it expends in public improvements.

Mayor Richardson is entitled to a second term, and he will get it from the independent electors. The men who are endorsing his candidature can elect him.

A DEMAND FOR GINGER.

The Toronto Star was attacked vigorously by a government paper, (that is, a paper which has enjoyed large perquisites from the government and is under obligation to defend it), because it lamented that the National Service Commission was unattended so far by very definite results. Many thousands of cards will be sent through the mails to the men between seventeen and sixty-five years of age next week, and these cards will call for a great variety of information. It will bear very directly upon the industrial situation. It will not help recruiting very much, however, if it will help recruiting at all.

Industrial Canada deals practically with the labor question. There is a scarcity of the skilled article. Machine hands are in great demand, and many have become machine hands by a daily repetition of certain acts. The tendency is to cause or create a competition that is disturbing in its tendencies, and if a registration of the shop hands will guard against this it will accomplish great things. But the government is greatly to blame for its indecision, for its political timidity, for its fear of consequences when courage, boldness, even audacity are required.

Industrial Canada calls for more ginger in the government, and in all the departments of the public service. Industrial Canada is non-political. It reflects the mind and opinion of the great industrial classes. The press has been very slow to say anything in criticism of the government because it did not want to appear as unympathetic with anything that has been done in the interests of the war. But the outlook is such that neither the press nor parliament can afford to let matters drift any longer. Ginger must come from some source, and it is for parliament, when it meets, to insist upon this.

WANTED, BUSINESS ACTS.

Alderman Hughes wants the mayor's office, (for a year?), and his friends boom him for it on the ground that he is a business man. He has made a success of his own business, says a friendly critic. Therefore he must make a success of the people's business. Now the private affairs of any man are not a matter for public discussion. But what Alderman Hughes does for the city, or claims to do for it, is another matter. There are three outstanding items in his public career:

First. He does not attend to the meetings of the civic committees of which he is a member as he ought to do. He was identified with the finance committee during 1916, and could only attend about half of its meetings. It cannot be said that he was heavily burdened with its duties and responsibilities.

Second. He was the chairman of the property committee, and handed over to the works committee the building in the fair grounds on which nearly \$2,000 was expended without the authority of any committee. He cannot evade his responsibility on the ground, that he had nothing to do with the work. He ought to have had something to do with it. He should have held control of the property, and, if it needed improvement, supervise this in a business-like way. Putting all the blame for an irregularity on Alderman Peters will not do, though Alderman Peters must bear his share of it.

Third. Alderman Hughes' committee undertook to buy the coal which was wanted for the City Hall and the schools. He made a contract for the delivery of a cargo at one of the wharves—not upon it. When the coal arrived there was no way or plan for unloading it. Several days were spent in useless or fruitless negotiation. Then Alderman Hughes abandoned the job. He was tired of it. The city and school officials got the vessel unloaded eventually at a dock near the old distillery, and the expenses, including the demurrage, (which was only recently settled), ran the cost of the coal up to over \$7 per ton.

Now, Alderman Hughes, it is safe to say, does not run his own business in that way. He looks after it. He does not let some one else do what he should do for himself. He does not contract for fuel, or anything else, for the broom factory as he contracted for the coal supply of the city. As a business man he is not making his claim good for the support of the citizens.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The United States Army Department is drafting a Universal Service Bill. Will it pass Congress? This is very doubtful.

The members of Congress are balking over the Military Service Bill. They see in it the nearest approach to the militarism which the democratic party so unreservedly condemned.

Kingston never witnessed so little intemperance as during the last week, and embracing the alleged festive season. The Whig did not detect a single case of drunkenness on Monday.

The British premier—the little man who has tackled so many difficult problems—may assume to put the liquor traffic under government control. Is this the first step towards prohibition? Looks like it.

Ontario will never know what prohibition in its entirety means until the federal house legislates against the sending of liquor into any province which has voted against the traffic. Will the federal government be equal to the duty that devolves upon it?

Quebec will see what it can do in the way of suppressing the liquor trade by rigid legislation and shorter hours for sale of liquor. One year of this will do. Twelve months hence will see the legislature ready for prohibition.

The Ontario government contemplates the prohibition of liquor advertisements in the newspapers of this province. The Whig has no worry coming to it on this score. It abolished the liquor advertisements because it was really a part of the Rowell policy for a suppression of the bars.

That was a clever member of the W.C.T.U. who remembered that a Kingston paper advocated a reduction in the number of licensed places some years ago. If she had gone a little deeper into the subject she would have discovered that with a demand for the abolition of the bars the Whig supported the closing up of all the licensed places. This was some years ago, also.

TO RUN FOR GRENVILLE.

Asked to Contest Riding Against Hon. Dr. Reid. Brockville, Dec. 28.—It is currently reported in Prescott that Hon. George F. Graham has been asked by the Liberal executive of Grenville riding to contest the county against Hon. Dr. Reid, M.P., in the next election. Mr. Graham is well known there and in the county, as he spent most of his younger days in that vicinity.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Different Jingle. (Grandford Expositor) There is more jingle in the air today and less jingle in the pockets than there was a few days ago.

National Government. (Windsor Record) The fact of opposition coming from both parties is an argument in favor of, rather than against, a national government.

The Only Shrink. (Montreal Mail) The Premier says that Canadians will shrink from peace now. It's about the only thing they will shrink from where the Germans are concerned.

War With Germany. (New York Times) If, as Mr. Lansing said in his first statement, afterward discreetly notified, that "we are drawing nearer the verge of war ourselves," it is war with Germany.

Will Require Plenty of "Jack." (Ottawa Citizen) The owner of the Havana race track has bought a newspaper in New Orleans. Here's where the racing magazine will appreciate, for the first time, that money is needed to make the mare go.

Great Profits. (Toronto Mail) The British tax on excess profits produced \$255,000,000 up to December 1. The tax is, moreover, not on all profits, but on excess over \$500 more than the average for the three peace years before the war.

Mail by Air Line. (Chicago News) The Postoffice Department has asked Congress to appropriate \$100,000 for experimental aerial mail service by the government. Under consideration is a plan for regular aeroplane mail service between New York and Chicago.

MORE GINGER IN GOVERNMENT

Industrial Courier, Toronto. England provided herself with a coalition government at the outbreak of the war; Canada hasn't achieved that progress yet. England had conscription a year ago; Canada will make an appeal for voluntary national service on the first of January. England solved the munition labor problem long ago by enlisting her munition workers and bringing them under control and discipline; in Canada thousands of dollars are being spent on newspaper advertising in an effort to alleviate the labor problem of the munition manufacturer by a short-sighted plan that will more likely add to his difficulties than lighten them. England long since took practical steps to enforce thrift; outside a couple of war loans, Canada so far has done nothing but talk. England has taxed every income in excess of \$600. In some cases the levy being over 50 per cent.; Canada is apparently satisfied to delegate the major portion of her share of the expense to posterity.

At Ottawa the Ginger Group is conspicuous by its absence. Suggestions pour in by the score, but in nearly every case a good excuse can be supplied why action is impracticable. Conscription is not to be thought of because of the large percentage of foreign born, and the

excavating a last resting place for \$18 worth of labor and material. This is a simple process and does not hurt the purse any more than to gaze on the bill. After the hole has been made large enough to comply with the laws of the state dental association, a dummy inlay is made out of wax, and the patient is allowed to depart and carry the hole with him. When he returns the real inlay is installed with a mallet wielded by an inhuman female office assistant, who could earn more money swinging a sledge in a round-house. Some people object to the shiny, conspicuous appearance of the Gold Inlay and prefer the porcelain variety, which is set up by a color-blind dentist. It would seem that there ought to be a law compelling dentists to pass an optical test before inflicting the off-color porcelain inlay upon people who are gagged with the rubber dam immediately after landing in the chair.

Random Reels

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

THE GOLD INLAY The Gold Inlay is a painful effort on the part of the dental profession to discourage the sale of false teeth. When man was created he was given a set of teeth which it was intended should last as long as his appetite. It is getting harder and harder, however, to find people who have the same teeth they carried around with them in childhood's happy hours. A man may own a prominent, defiant eye-tooth, which appears to be sound in every limb, and almost before he knows it, some dentist with a prying fore-finger will discover that it contains a cavity which looks like the opening of a drive well. It then becomes necessary to insert something which will preserve the tooth and enable the owner to masticate in a contented, bovine manner, hence the personal popularity of the Gold Inlay.

The Gold Inlay is caused by drilling 400 feet below the surface and excavating a last resting place for \$18 worth of labor and material. This is a simple process and does not hurt the purse any more than to gaze on the bill. After the hole has been made large enough to comply with the laws of the state dental association, a dummy inlay is made out of wax, and the patient is allowed to depart and carry the hole with him. When he returns the real inlay is installed with a mallet wielded by an inhuman female office assistant, who could earn more money swinging a sledge in a round-house. Some people object to the shiny, conspicuous appearance of the Gold Inlay and prefer the porcelain variety, which is set up by a color-blind dentist. It would seem that there ought to be a law compelling dentists to pass an optical test before inflicting the off-color porcelain inlay upon people who are gagged with the rubber dam immediately after landing in the chair.

Ripping Rhymes

THEY SAY They say that the Smithman spends his life in dodging bills he ought to pay. They say that Jinx, the dry goods prince, burned down his store, with fell intent. They say that Jasper Julius Quince held up an orphan for a cent. Thus Rumor, with its evil tongue, goes drifting through the busy mart, and baseless, vicious tales are sprung, which wreck your fame and break your heart. The busy scandal monger cries, "Of course the yarn may not be true, but still they say that Reuben Wise steals chickens every night or two." Then Reuben in his native town, becomes a shunned and lonely man; "They Say" has ruined his renown, and made him outcast from his clan. The scandal-monger drifts along, and makes his old accustomed noise: "They say Jane Juice is going wrong; her che's much too friendly with the boys." Then Jane from social scenes is missed, in every glance she finds a freeze; "They Say" has barred her from bridge whist, and banned her from the Purple Teas. Old Booze has scattered woe and sin, and broken hearts, along his way; but he plays second violin, I often think, beside "They Say."

enormous frontier that would have to be patrolled to prevent people leaving the country. The enlistment of munition workers as munition workers is unfeasible because the labor organizations might object. The high cost of living has to be handled with gloves because one of the prime causes is the high price of agricultural produce, such as wheat, milk, butter and eggs, and of course it would never do to antagonize the farmer. Unnecessary public works cannot be closed down because of a reason the censor might forbid us to mention. Canada wants waking up, and wants it badly. The government is to blame for not adopting measures that will force the people to realize the stern necessities of war; the people are to blame for threatening the Government with their displeasure if such measures are introduced. If the German commerce raider now said to be roving the Atlantic would only bombard a few of our ports, and if some Zeppelins would favor our inland points with the same kind of mementos they are accustomed to drop on England, their visits might easily prove a blessing in disguise. But as such intervention is not to be hoped for, apparently the only thing to do is to possess our souls in patience and trust to the slow-moving machinery that the National Service Board will provide.

WILL BRITAIN ADOPT PROHIBITION? Toronto Mail. The breweries required for the year ending last September 1,224,000 tons of barley, 395,000 tons of other grains, 65,000 tons of rice, maize and bye-products; 119,000 tons of sugar, and 41,000 tons of molasses. That is a total of 1,708,000 tons. When foodstuffs are scarce and high in Britain, and labor is short, and economy by every-one absolutely imperative, the spending of \$300,000,000 a year on drink naturally is singled out for attack. The grain used by the breweries is mostly home-grown, but if it were available for other purposes the country would need to import so much less. Official figures put the saving in tonnage from the diversion of the grain and other materials to proper uses at 1,000,000 tons net of shipping. This represents about one-thirteenth of the net tonnage of the marine.

NATIONAL SERVICE AND ITS DEFECTS Toronto Star. National service cards will be distributed in a few days. The object is to take a census of effective men between sixteen and sixty-five years of age—to discover what these men are doing, and what they are willing to do. All right so far as it goes. Let the questions be answered, and let everyone show his willingness to help. But all depends on the use that is made of the answers. Merely tabulating them will not be enough. Men must be shown what to do, where they will be most useful. More men are needed for the Canadian army, others are required to make munitions, others for the production of food and other necessities of life. Which men should be assigned to each of these duties? It is for the Director-General and the Government to say.

A girl is never in love if she knows why she is.

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