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CIVIC OFFICIAL CHANGES.

Edwin E. Horsey is to be congratulated upon his appointment to an honorable and responsible position in the service of the city. As the assessment commissioner he will presently realize, if he does not now, the importance of the task upon which he has entered. But he will undertake it courageously, and make a success of it, as he has made a success of every position he has hitherto occupied.

It may be fortunate that the appointment of a successor to Mr. Gordon was deferred, in that it has brought into the city's employment a man of integrity, of industry and of high business standing, and until the present he was not available. It is to be regretted, however, that the change in office takes place without the preparation which the council long and vainly contemplated. It had often been suggested that Mr. Gordon be given an understudy, but he was not provided, and the assessor, in poor health, has resigned and intimated his purpose to retire at once. Perhaps Mr. Horsey may be given the assistance in the first year of one who is a real estate man and can check up values and aid the new commissioner in reaching sound decisions.

Of Mr. Gordon only kind words can be spoken. From the day he became an employee of the city he has been devoted and conscientious in the performance of his duty. He retires into private life, for the rest he has surely earned, and carries with him the good will and regard of every citizen. He has recommended that the city be divided for assessment purposes, and put under the direction of two men, who could so arrange their movements that one would be in the office each day in order to meet those having business with him and to prevent the closing up on the department for a period of five weeks, or from the beginning to the ending of the period during which the rolls are being written up. This is a recommendation of an officer who has spent over thirty years in the service of the city, and is surely worth consideration.

Where is R. B. Bennett and the methods by which he was going to make National Service go? It is time he was putting his plans into execution, if he has any.

CRISIS IN RECRUITING.

The joint meeting of the aldermen and business men of the city, mostly members of the Board of Trade, in the council chamber on Tuesday evening, was regarded as a serious disappointment. The object of it was to stimulate the recruiting in the district, to hasten, as much as possible, the formation of its several units. The business men of the city have shown their sympathy with the military men, and would be glad to see the district and some officers succeed with their plans. But there is a feeling, which cannot be disguised, that public interest in the recruiting, and under present conditions, cannot be further sustained. The proposition that each business man become personally responsible for five recruits, and stop canvassing only when they have enlisted their men, did not seem to be very popular.

Further, the efforts to secure representative men, Sir George Foster and Mr. Rowell, as speakers at a public meeting, did not materialize,

and the appeal which was contemplated through them had to be deferred. The sentiments of one man, who spoke out his mind, were applauded, and this clearly indicated that others present, perhaps the majority of them, were anxious for a change and one that would bring the element of compulsion into recruiting.

It is quite evident that nothing practical is to come out of the National Service Commission. It has got millions of cards containing information of a varied and valuable character, but the task of analyzing them is prodigious, and months must elapse before the government or the commission can make any practical use of it in recruiting. It is alleged that some use has been made of the information so far as it applies to the railway situation, but to what purpose? The business men of Toronto have called upon the government to take over the railways and operate them in the public interest, and one is left to wonder how the government can hope to manage the railways any better, under the circumstances, than the companies that own them.

Is the desire for an enforcement of the Militia Act to be taken as a testimony that National Service has failed? If men can be made to sign the cards why are they not forced to do so?

CALL FOR MEN.

The Hamilton Herald puts up an untenable argument, and to the effect that a national government should be composed of members of the present parliament. Did the imperial government in its reconstruction confine its members to those who were in the House of Commons and House of Lords? Did it not go outside of these houses, and, approaching strong men in business life, invite them into the ministry to give it strength and stability at a critical time?

It may be that parliament contains, at the present time, the men who can be depended upon to serve their country efficiently. These may possess the necessary qualifications for a unique and special service; but if they are not convenient, and may be found outside of parliament, their choice for, and inclusion in the government would be justified under the circumstances.

The contention that they should represent the house for the time being is not conclusive. They should pre-eminently re-represent the people, and should go back to them for endorsement and re-election. The proposal which is made in connection with their cases, and having for its object the saving of certain associated ministers or under-secretaries from bye-elections, is not generally approved.

A better selection of men will be made when it is known that they must have the approval of the electors. And these latter can be generally depended upon when they are asked to do some big thing, of the merits of which there can be no question.

The British navy is taking care of the British and French liners and large freighters. The United States will be presently reduced to the extremity of protecting her commerce if it is not going to be swept from the ocean.

THE CHURCH: ITS ALMS-GIVING.

A western socialist, Phillips Thompson, who has grouched a good deal in his day, complains that the church is not doing anything for the working men, and is therefore failing in its plans. The church is regarded as a sort of charitable institution, and its existence is justified only on the ground that it is a dispenser of alms. As a matter of fact most charity is promoted by the members and adherents of the church, and for the reason that all their influence lies in that direction. Whatever is undertaken voluntarily in the church is worthy of commendation. True the church is not sustained as much as it ought to be by the sacrifices of the people. They do not give always ungrudgingly, and to the limit of their ability, towards benevolent and worthy causes. They do not pool their belongings, as the early church did, and divide them according to the needs of the hour. That is not a teaching of it, and the conditions of the times do not suggest that it should be.

What the church stands for to-day is ideals that lift the people up, that promote their moral welfare, that make them thoughtful and self-sacrificing, when necessary, that saves them from the degrading practices that would otherwise prevail, and make life worth the living. The church would be happier and more useful, of course, if it had all the wealth it could expend in support of the poor. But it can only give what its members contribute, and these are largely of the working classes.

Col. Cooper, of the Canadian Courier, and the head of a regiment in Toronto, advocates equality of service. He thinks it would be attained through the enforcement of the Militia Act.

CALLING OUT THE MILITIA.

The demand is now made for the enforcement of the Militia Act. The idea is that the militia will be called out and used in supplementing the service that has been halted through the failure, at this date, of the voluntary system. There are some experienced men who do not see that the militia, as that body is now constituted, can do very much for the cause with which it is associated. It has been deprived of most of the active officers and men who desire to go overseas and have passed the necessary medical examination. Of the remainder, few, perhaps, will be willing of able to fill up the ranks and supply the last 10,000 men, whose enlistment may mean, so far as Canada is concerned, the end of the war.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The present system of recruiting must go. It has outrun its usefulness. The Canadian Club of Toronto, by a vote of 700 to 200, voted in favor of a national government in Canada. The folks at Ottawa should make a note of this.

It is strange that the man of great kindness of heart and long suffering is not the recipient of knighthood. Why should Mr. Rogers not be addressed as Sir Bob?

It is time the United States put fast cruisers and torpedo boat destroyers in service so as to protect her trade upon the oceans. Is she afraid to try them out?

In Britain every German is being exposed. He cannot be employed anywhere, as a business man, without advertising his name and occupation. And publicity for him spells discomfort.

It is proposed in Toronto that the public schools be closed for a time and the coal they contain be distributed among the citizens. Here is an evidence of the plight the people are in with regard to fuel.

The teachers' superannuation scheme hangs fire. Why? Is it to be ranked with those schemes that mean something for nothing? Any teacher can procure an annuity on a very reasonable basis and be independent of any superannuation scheme.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Members of the police and fire department received some nice Valentines to-day. There was a great rush for Valentines to-day. The demand is principally for common pictures. The thermometer registered 14 degrees below zero to-day. Block of ice eighteen inches thick are being placed in the ice houses at the penitentiary.

Random Reels

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

THE SNOW SHOVEL.

The snow shovel is a form of tonic which does not cost anything to take except heart failure and a crick in the back. Swinging a snow shovel for a couple of hours before breakfast will bring roses to the cheeks and hardness to the muscles, and physicians unite in saying that it is better exercise than sawing wood, which had ruined so many husbands. Yet most men prefer to have their walks cleared off by some under-sized boy who does not have to pause now and then to see if his breath has found the way back. The snow shovel was designed to make it possible for people living on the same street to get down town after a snow storm without chartering a ten-cent delivery wagon. Some people are more tidy than others and cannot see their neighbors floundering through four feet of thick snow on their front walk without being seized with remorse and rushing out with a long, flat-chested, wooden shovel and cutting a narrow gorge through the same. Others, however, are entirely devoid of remorse and can sit in the front window all day and watch the profane pedestrian work his way through the snow drifts without being moved by thought of the matter. In some localities it is against the law to allow snow to accumulate on the sidewalk and block the frost-bitten feet of the passer-by. If every body who broke this law, however, were to be fined \$1 and costs, the average community would collect enough money during one winter to buy the electric light plant and quit charging for the use of the electric meter which runs a bath of oil. The snow shovel makes a nice Christmas present, and if more wives would retaliate with one when their husbands put a vacuum cleaner in their stockings we would have more confidence in the workings of justice. Anybody can make a snow shovel at home, but it requires considerable tact and energy on the part of a resolute wife to force it into the hands of a reluctant spouse.

Rippling Rhymes

FARM LIFE.

When I was young the farmers' shacks were shy of costly tomes; and only last year's almanacs were found in many homes. I used to work for Uncle H. I plied the hoe with speed; and when night came how I would sigh for something fit to read! A weekly paper Uncle took, and it was always stale, but for a magazine or book he would dig up no kale. We fed the high their luscious steaks, and gave the hens their hay, and never heard the world's great news till it was old and gray. Oh, countless farmers lived like this, in that fine olden time; they held that ignorance was bliss, and reading was a crime. My Uncle H. is now on high—at least I hope he's there; his generation had to die, as men must, everywhere. 'Tis but some thirty years ago since Uncle cashed his string, and faded from this vale of woe to play a harp and sing. How times have changed! The farmer's lair has reading now; to burn; the farmer, in his easy chair, today's hot news may learn. My Uncle H. would find things strange, if he could be our guest. How times have changed—and every change seems awful for the best.

PUBLIC OPINION

Loving the Babies. (London Advertiser) Three babies went down in the California. Germany loves the babies.

Can it Now? (Chicago Tribune) Home Rule for Ireland can wait until Home Rule for Belgium and Serbia has been established.

A Pert Idea. (Chicago Tribune) We must take over a part of the line and see that the line advances into Germany.

Leaving Our Wealth. (London Advertiser) They are going to determine the value of eggs by their age. We have met some eggs that should owe us a lot of money on that reckoning.

German Interference. (Ottawa Citizen) An explanation of the conduct of the Mexicans under Villa is furnished by the statement of the Providence Journal that some 300 Teuton officers have been in that country for some time.

TRIBUTE TO OUR WESTERN LIBERALISM

Mr. Martin, Premier of Saskatchewan, in the Legislature, dealt with the cases of members who had been accused of misconduct which was the subject of an enquiry. One of those held open to censure resigned and on appealing to his constituency was defeated. One was asked by Mr. Martin to resign and did so. One was told that in due course a motion to expel him would be made. One was told that, as he had not heeded a request to resign, he could no longer be considered as belonging to the Government party. There was a time when a cleaning up like this would hardly have been possible, so ready were party men to stick by a party friend. The new order is better for the people, and in time it will be seen that it is better for decent partisans.

RESORT TO SUBSTITUTES IN GERMANY

Woodstock Sentinel-Review. The Government of Canada prohibits the importation and manufacture of any substitute for butter. In Germany they have begun to depend very largely on substitutes for everything, except misery, which is always the real thing, and their complaint is not against substitutes, but against substitutes for substitutes, in a word, against sham substitutes. The German substitute exhibition in the exhibition hall of the Zoo certainly causes the visitor to marvel at the inventive genius of the average German manufacturer. There are bread substitutes and baking powder substitutes. There is an "almond-macaron substitute powder" which is described as being "without milk, without fat, without eggs, without sugar." Certainly the purchaser who procures this article which is evidently "without" anything, could hardly complain of being swindled, but we imagine he might put the money demanded to far better uses. Then there is a sandwich paste, guaranteed to possess the flavor of sausage,

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We do not wish to be uncharitable towards the resourceful inventors of the scores of marvelous substitutes which have been collected, but we do not think that the dictum of a well-known chemical expert is out of place here—"Substitute articles are so called because they substitute for the benefit of the inventor those profits which he rightly should only derive from more honest operations." The attempt to substitute military glory for solid food is evidently not regarded as a complete success by the people, however their rulers may look upon it.

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