

THE BRITISH WHIG 85TH YEAR



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The kiddies want to help win the war by introducing schoolless days.

Sentiment in Kaiserland is rapidly changing, judging by the numerous strikes now taking place.

The Italian drive is now going in the opposite direction. That is the sort of reverse one can welcome.

Secretary Baker's defence of the United States war department proves him to be a bigger man than his critics.

Cheer up! The days are getting longer, and the sun is getting stronger. And Madam February came to town to-day.

Returned soldiers are showing a desire to take up farming. Eleven of them are now taking an agricultural course here. That is a hopeful sign.

The automobile, once feared by the railroads as a serious competitor, is now in a position to be their means of deliverance from serious over-congestion.

It is a small contribution on our part to give up bacon and most of our wheat, but it will go far to keep the people of Britain and our Allies from starvation.

"If it came to the worst—if all the rest of the Allies were exhausted and dropped out of the game—Britain and America could," and would, carry on the struggle to victory.—Oswego (N.Y.) Palladium.

The letter, published in the Whig on Thursday, from F. W. Holland, an Amherst Island boy, is one of unusual interest. Fiction would scarcely hope to equal the facts outlined by him touching his many thrilling and varied experiences in the great war.

The new Food Controller urges that every individual should do his utmost in the way of conserving food. Something more than polite requests is necessary to the success of the campaign so far as the indifferent and the selfish elements among the population are concerned. There is still appalling waste in many homes, hotels and restaurants.

Since the war started Canada has manufactured and shipped \$600,000,000 worth of munitions alone. The new industry is largely responsible for the prosperity we enjoy. The day peace is declared will witness the disappearance of this great source of prosperity. Now is the time to prepare against that day of disaster is not to overtake our industrial enterprises.

War, terrible beyond description as it is, has some wholesome effects. The women of the world, while perhaps the greatest sufferers in the present conflict, will prove to be the greatest givers. They have secured the right to vote in England, United States and elsewhere, and have shown their capacity to "make good" wherever there is work to be done.

TAKING THE AIR.

Discouraging rumors have been abroad concerning the ability of the United States to make good its promises of a great airplane service in

season for effective work, this year. Uncalled for boasting probably resulted in stimulating Germany to greater effort. A well-known Canadian officer has been quoted to this effect:

Mr. Coffin, of the Aircraft Production Board, has been more reassuring, though vague. The definiteness his assurances lacked is supplied by information which he has allowed to come out. American airplanes are in the way of coming forward in large numbers. The United States will not contribute a hundred thousand machines, but it will make a great many for use in 1918, and if the war lasts longer the output promises to be adequate.

Every problem of mechanics or materials has been solved satisfactorily with the possible exception of one. That has to do with the world-wide shortage of Irish linen, the best covering for plane wings. In England and France a similar deficiency has compelled the use of other material, and certainly Germany has been obliged to get along without it. In sea island cotton a very good substitute has been found. With regard to the all-important driving power there is no longer any doubt. The Liberty motor is a pronounced success. It works admirably, and in respect of weight for power it is said to have no superior. All of its parts, nearly 3,000, are standardized, and can be made in many factories, thereby insuring abundance and facility of repair. In the vital matters of suitable lumber, properly seasoned, and lubricating oil, the United States has done almost as well.

MOTOR FIRE APPARATUS.

Once again there is talk of motorizing the fire department, in view of the fact that to-day it costs five dollars a week for the keep of a horse. Five or six years ago the question was first broached in the City Council, Ald. Fair being the champion of the scheme, and presenting the case in a vigorous manner. Owing to the fact that Kingstons has such severe winters, the aldermen could not see how a motor-driven fire engine or ladder truck could make its way through heavy roads on a winter's night, else the department would have had motor apparatus installed long ago. A motor-driven engine may be fast, but the horse-driven one was thought, like the tortoise, to be surer of reaching the desired destination. Accidents may happen even to horses on the way to a fire, but as is the case even behind the war fronts, the horse still retains an honored place as a beast of burden, doing work which the motor cannot do.

There has been a big development in the motor truck during the past few years, and it is used in all kinds of power of locomotion, and even heavy snow roads cannot bar its progress. The Fire and Light Committee does well to discuss the question again, for it would appear that the time has arrived when Kingstons must follow in the footsteps of many other small cities and adopt motor-driven apparatus for its fire department.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

At this stage it is as yet hard to fully analyze the forces behind the great Russian upheaval. We have had the spectacle of a huge mass of people throwing off the shackles of an autocracy only to find them drifting back again into an autocratic system of government under leaders who are far from being qualified for the enormous task of setting up some stable form of government for this people who are struggling in the dark.

The story of the Russian revolution reminds one of the old Arabian Night's tale of the fisherman who caught a black bottle in one of his nets. When the bottle was uncorked a thin smoke began to curl out of the neck. The smoke thickened into a dense cloud, and became a huge genie which made a slave of the fisherman. By the exercise of his wits the fisherman finally succeeded in getting the genie back into the bottle, which he carefully corked and threw back into the sea. Kerensky tried desperately to get the giant back into the bottle, and everyone hoped he might succeed. But his career as dictator came to an untimely end, and no man has as yet been found who is sufficiently strong to control the people and bring order out of the chaos which has resulted from the newly found freedom of the Russian people. Up to date there is little to indicate that the giant has begun materially to shrink.

Rheta Childs Dorr, an American woman writer, went to Russia in May, 1917, to study the conditions arising out of the revolution. Her observations have been published in book form under the title of "Inside the Russian Revolution" (Macmillan Company, Toronto). From her story one can surmise that the fruits of the revolution will not be gathered for some considerable time to come. The Bolsheviks are ruling with an autocracy even more thorough than that which existed in the days of czarism. Nothing of

much benefit to Russia can be expected from Lenin and Trotsky, who are exposed as German agents. The Bolshevik propaganda does not express the views and wishes of the Russian people who will yet find their true destiny and will become one of the powerful democracies of the world. No hope can be held out that Russia will again take her place on the side of the Allies as a vital factor in the war. But as the greatest democracies in the world, it is the duty of the British Empire and the United States to be patient with this nation which is struggling to see light out of the darkness, and to be ready to render all possible assistance as soon as Russia shows that she is prepared to establish a stable government. These are the only conclusions that one can arrive at on reading this account of the state of affairs in Russia, written by one who as a firm believer in the Russian people made a careful study of the conditions existing there during the first six months of Russia's freedom.

PUBLIC OPINION

Worth Every Cent to U.S.

Our credits to the Allies have now reached the neat little sum of \$4,000,000,000. But we should not feel that we are getting stung by any means. The English fleet alone have earned that much by standing between us and Heligoland while we ordered our uniforms and rifles.

The Despised Canals.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger) And now it is the despised canals that might have saved the coal situation last summer. But that's the trouble: it is always some person or thing which might have done it that didn't do it which affords cold comfort, since the hard facts of January, 1918, are a little more evident than the rosy possibilities of June, 1917.

The Next Hundred Days.

(Toronto News) The food production of Canada during 1918 will depend a great deal upon what is achieved by Governments and individuals in the next hundred days. If adequate preparations are not made for the breaking of extensive new areas, the Dominion will fail in doing its whole duty by the Allied people and armies. We must produce more and eat less with a view to hastening the achievement of an early victory.

Survival of the Fittest.

(St. Thomas Times) In common with the general business community, newspaper publishers have been confronted with large increases in the cost of the raw material required on the mechanical side of their industry. They have been affected even more seri-

ously than occurs in other branches of production because, in their case, it is more than usually difficult to unload their losses, even in part, on their clientele. At an inevitable result of the growing financial strain, many of the weaker newspapers that managed to eke out a scanty existence in normal times have been compelled either to shut up shop or to sink their identity by amalgamation with a competitor. Indeed, the opinion has been expressed by expert authorities in the newspaper business that the day is fast approaching when even comparatively large communities will be served by only one public journal, since only by so doing can it furnish the news and perform adequately the function it is intended to fill.

ANXIETY FOR DR. ENDICOTT.

Chungking Taken by Yuenese, and Brigands Command the Roads. Toronto, Feb. 1.—There is grave trouble again in West China, and it looks as though Pekin had lost control, according to information received at the Methodist Book Room. There are no telegraphic communications with Chungking, and the whereabouts of Dr. Endicott, of the Methodist Mission Rooms, who is in West China on business of the Foreign Mission Board, are unknown. A cable sent from Hankow states that Dr. Endicott is alive, but there are no particulars of the latest uprising. Dr. Endicott got away from Chungking, the day before it was taken by the "Southern Troops," which term is thought to mean the Yuenese. Great anxiety was felt for Dr. Endicott by his friends here. For certain reasons of private business he was to cable his safety to Toronto by a specified date. That date passed and only after weeks of waiting, following the sending of private cables, was the word of his safety received, and that cable came from Hankow. It is thought that the message had been carried down the river to Hankow from Chungking by messenger, and sent from there in a letter received from Dr. Omar Kilborn, of Chengtu, Szechuan, dated December 3rd, there is a slight clue to the situation.

Dr. Kilborn writes: "Civil war is still raging in the southern part of the province, and brigands are having the time of their lives on almost all the road and river routes. Travelling is becoming more and more dangerous for all sorts and conditions of men. Dr. Endicott is in Chungking unless possibly he left there for Chengtu on the morning, travelling overland. The party will have to have a strong escort of armed men to prevent losses and possibly maltreatment on the way. They will probably come through in safety, but the outlook for the visitation of that region by Dr. Endicott, is not very good."

A board of three has been named to assist veterans in locating on the land, consisting of Major E. J. Ashford, D. S. of Regina; Charles F. Roland, of Winnipeg; and Samuel Maber, of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Robert Henry, ex-Mayor of Brantford, an opponent in several elections, of Premier Hardy, died at his old home, having lived in recent years in Windsor.

Rippling Rhymes

My neighbor reads the papers daily, and he acts gloomily or gayly, according to the news; one day he whoops around ecstatic, the next he sulks in his attic, a victim of the blues. When'er the Allies meet reverses my neighbor sits around and curses, and a grouchy gent is he; and when the allies make a capture, he stands upon his head in rapture, and shrieks of victory. This sort of thing is most exhausting, and many sleepless nights it's costing the jay of whom I write; it's hard on any human mortal to switch around from sob to chortle, from anguish to delight. I sit in silence, calm and queenly, e'en though the Germans, sublimely, may sink a score of boats; no hoarse yells of triumph, as sure as hens lay shells; don't you around me, "we'll get those fellow goats. One swallow does not make a summer, one twinkle does not make a plumber, one scrap won't make a war; some victories the foe is raking, and sundry two-base hits he's making—that's what he's in it for. Let him enjoy his little winnings, we'll get him in the final innings, as sure as hens lay shells; don't worry over small disasters; look forward to the end, my masters, when we'll be wearing bells."

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN



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