

THE BRITISH WHIG 85TH YEAR.



Published Daily and Semi-Weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

Lorna A. Quirk, Editor and Managing Director.

Telephones:

Business Office 242, Editorial Rooms 229, Job Office 292.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Daily Edition) One year, delivered in city \$6.00, One year, if paid in advance \$5.00, One year by mail to rural offices \$2.60, One year, to United States \$2.50 (Semi-Weekly Edition), One year, by mail, cash \$1.00, One year, if not paid in advance \$1.50, One year, to United States \$1.50, Six and three months pro rata.

MONTREAL REPRESENTATIVE: R. Bruce Owen, 123 St. Peter St., TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: F. C. Hoy, 1905 Traders Bank Bldg., UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE: E. L. Northrup, 225 Fifth Ave., New York, P. O. Box 1510, Astor Bldg., Chicago.

Letters to the Editor are published only over the actual name of the writer. Attached is one of the best job printing offices in Canada.

The circulation of THE BRITISH WHIG is authenticated by the ABC Audit Bureau of Circulations.

The Germans now fear that Trotsky is bluffing them. If he can outdo the Huns at their own game he's much cleverer than the world gives him credit for.

King George has offered three of his royal palaces for the use of the nation. The high cost of living is no respecter of persons. If he has one palace left, why should he worry?

A German salient in the Champagne district has fallen before a French attack, supported by American artillery fire. The beginning of the spring offensive is encouraging.

If the fuel and food problem grows much more acute we will be longing for a return of the good old days when the farmers used to pay their newspaper bills in cordwood and vegetables.

Judging by the importance our Board of Trade attaches to the bacon supply, the average citizen might be pardoned for harboring the belief that this war is to be won in the pig pen rather than on the tented field.

Before calling up any further classes under the Military Service Act a speeding up of the machinery operating the first call should be instituted. The deserters and "appealers" in Quebec province should be firmly and promptly dealt with.

Quebec's population is about one-quarter that of the whole Dominion. She has supplied only one-sixteenth of the draft called up. Plainly, our sister province is not doing her duty under conscription any better than she did when the voluntary system was in vogue.

The township of Augusta, near Brockville, has voted \$40 to each Woman's Institute or Red Cross Society in the municipality for the purpose of purchasing wool to make soldiers' comforts. That is a patriotic act that other townships might copy.

D. H. Tolman, king of loan sharks, is dead at Montclair, N.J. He was not unknown in Canada, having had at one time an office in Ottawa. Some years ago prosecutions were instituted against his representatives in Toronto and Montreal. Not a few Canadians remember him with regret.

The Agricultural Representatives Act, just passed by the Ontario Legislature, provides that in every county for which a representative is appointed the county council shall each year contribute \$500 to assist in carrying on his work. An annual report as to the expenditure of this money must be made to the council.

The Whig's proposal that a tax be placed on bachelors as one means of raising additional revenue is meeting with favor. An editorial dealing with this question was read by Chairman Corbett at Thursday's meeting of the City Property Committee, and heartily endorsed. The matter has been referred to the city solicitor. Ald. Norris suggests, "Tax the old maids as well." Why not? If they have a vote they should bear some of the responsibility.

A LAND-LINKED WORLD. Before the Turkish parliament is a bill looking to the construction of a tunnel under the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles to link Europe and Asia,

Great Britain and France now seem to favor a tunnel under the English channel from Dover to Calais. A tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar, joining Europe and Asia, is possible. Before many years the railway systems of North and South America will be united. Adventurous engineers dream of a tube under the sixty miles of Behring Strait.

A Dover-Calais tunnel, relieving Great Britain of a gigantic sea transit burden, might have brought an early victory. In the future it will be a bulwark of peace without weakening the defensive power of either nation, for in the unthinkable event of conflict between them, either could close the end resting on its shores. Northeastern Africa, under French leadership, is likely to renew its ancient prosperity, and its development will be accelerated by getting rid of a sea voyage. A north and south railroad of the western hemisphere will open up a new era. If Behring Strait disappears it will be possible to have through trains from Halifax to London.

Much has been written about the negation of sea power that the submarine implies—the new peril to insular nations or those dependent on sea communication. The answer may be a land-linked world.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Isn't it about time that action was taken looking to a permanent improvement in the city's water supply? Every now and then the water becomes contaminated, and the Medical Officer of Health is constrained to publicly advise the citizens to boil their supply of drinking water. Such a condition of affairs existed again this week. As a consequence of drinking of the polluted supply a great deal of sickness has resulted, especially among children. The service in school buildings was not cut off, as it well might have been, and many pupils, who disregarded the advice of the teachers, paid the inevitable penalty of becoming suddenly ill. At all times the water has to be chlorinated in order to render it safe for use, and this process is objectionable for more reasons than one. What is the solution? If it is an extension of the intake pipe farther out into the lake, where the supply cannot be contaminated by city sewage, then let us take up the problem and solve it without any further delay.

KINGSTON GOES AHEAD.

The increase in a city's school population is an unflinching indication of that city's growth and progress. Judged by this standard alone, Kingston has cause for rejoicing at the advance this city has made during the past few years. Macdonald school, a handsome and commodious new public school, has been erected in Frontenac Ward. A large addition has been built to Victoria school, in Victoria Ward. The new home of Regiopolis College, erected in the north-eastern part of the city, is a large and imposing structure. These recent additions to the school buildings of Kingston are even now totally inadequate to accommodate the increased number of children demanding education. In some of the schools classes are being held in the basements, where conditions are far from satisfactory. The Management Committee of the Board of Education now endorses the recommendation of Inspector Stuart that a new ten-room school building, to take the place of the obsolete four-room school, be erected in Cataragui Ward. This would relieve the congestion in school attendance, the increase of which has been somewhat over 350 since the completion of Victoria school. It is quite evident that the need of this additional school accommodation is imperative. These additions, accomplished or advocated, reveal a development in the city's growth that is most gratifying. Kingston is increasing in population, in trade and in all that goes to make it a hustling twentieth century city.

NEXT WINTER'S FUEL SUPPLY.

With the combined efforts of Kingston's energetic coal dealers and the City Council there should not be a serious shortage of fuel in Kingston next winter. One always looks to the future, and it is not so much the balance of this winter that people are worrying about, but what is going to happen next winter. The local coal dealers can be depended upon to get a good share of the coal that is on the market, and with wood as an auxiliary supply, Kingston should be able to keep warm next winter, for it is fully expected that the war will be over before Christmas and one will want to sit around the fire and hear from the heroes who will have returned. The Board of Works is to be commended for taking up the Whig's suggestion of some months ago to gather in a supply of fuel from the city streets and parks. At last the light is to be let in on some streets which in summertime are altogether too shady and in wet weather too dark. Then there is the City Park which can spare a good many trees to the woodman and his axe. This park needs to be laid out anew. Of recent years there has been some improvement in the way of planting bushes

throughout the park. There is too much sameness in the trees and the removal of a number of them in the interests of greater fuel production and replacing them with something in the way of brush is a move in the right direction. The tree trimming question has been a night mare for the city engineering department for some years, and now it is to be solved by the demand for a greater fuel supply. It will cost the city nothing to have the trees removed and trimmed for the wood will be sold at so much a cord next winter. If the Board of Works can stow away at the fair grounds 1,000 cords of wood by next fall, it will be one of the grandest exhibits that Bushell the fair king could wish for. The greater fuel production and the fuel question must take precedence of everything else in civic administration. Paving and cilling of roads and building of wharves must give way to acquiring an increased supply of food and fuel.

THE MESOPOTAMIA AND PALESTINE FRONTS.

The two brightest spots of the 1917 operations for the Allies were Mesopotamia and Palestine. In both these theatres there has been a record of steady progress. The stigma which rested on the British army after the loss of Kut has been removed and now the line runs some eighty miles northwest of Bagdad. After careful preparation General Allenby has made a series of brilliant attacks in Palestine, and in the latter days of the year succeeded in entering Jerusalem and in clearing it from the rule of the Turks. Thus in these two fields alone did the year end in a blaze of glory. And in these two fields the prospects for 1918 are brighter than in any other theatre of war.

After a long period of mistakes and bungling the army in Mesopotamia has been put on a sound basis. The line now stretches across the Tigris Valley about eighty miles in front of Bagdad. Opposing it is an army of Turks which have been defeated time and again by the British armies, and have been convinced of their own inferiority in men, material and morale. The British army is adequate to meet any turn of events, and merely awaits the return of suitable weather to continue its advance. The British have the necessary material, the lines of communication have been well consolidated, and all facilities for transport have been brought to a high standard of efficiency. The only probable danger lies in the German army which is said to be at Aleppo ready to reinforce the Turks and to take the offensive. But it is not likely that this army is in sufficient strength to greatly hamper the British. Germany cannot spare any large body of men for these side-shows, but is forced to leave them to her less efficient and weaker Allies. Therefore, the prospects are bright for a continuance of the British advance. This will doubtless commence early in the spring, and will have for its aim the conquest of Asia Minor. At one time it looked as if the Russians would take a big part in this conquest. They may yet do so, but the British will go ahead without depending on

their assistance, and the campaign is reasonably certain to be as successful as the 1917 campaign.

The campaign in Palestine is part of the plan with which the Mesopotamian advance is identified. In these theatres the Turks will be crushed and will be eliminated from active participation in the war. In Palestine were scored the most notable successes of the latter part of 1917. After many delays and setbacks, the British army gained the upper hand, and succeeded in driving the enemy northwards. Jerusalem has been captured and made secure as a base for future operations. Already the 1918 offensive has started by an advance north of the Holy City, and by the initiation of a circling movement intended to clear the Turks out of Jericho. The way will then be cleared for a general advance on this front, and it is looked forward to with the greatest confidence. The Turks have been unable to stem the flood which has overwhelmed them, and do not seem capable of putting up a serious resistance. They may be reinforced by fresh Turkish or German troops, but Allenby's victorious army can be looked to confidently to go on from success to success, and will soon be hammering at the gates of Damascus. Although it may seem over-optimistic, it is not too presumptuous to expect that the end of the year may find the Mesopotamian and Palestine Expeditionary Forces united at Aleppo. Thus an effective barrier will be in position to block forever the Kaiser's eastern aspirations. While there is doubt as to the outcome of the western operations, the end of the 1918 campaign will probably see the Allies in control of the Eastern situation.

This ends the review of the situation on all the fronts on land. No where can be found any ground for the pessimism which is rampant at the present time. The military situation is still full of hope, and 1918 will bring the Allies a great deal nearer to the victorious peace for which they are united.

PUBLIC OPINION

No Such Luck.

(Ottawa Evening Journal.) When we were young there was no such luck as closing down the schools for lack of fuel, and that indicate that the schools were always warm either.

Blame A La Germany

(Rochester Post-Express.) An exchange says that one of the peace terms should be an admission of guilt on the part of the nation that started the war. No doubt Germany will object to this on the ground that she does not want to hurt Siam's feelings.

A Fool Habit.

(Quebec Mercury.) No person starved over the weekend because the stores were closed at noon on Saturday. To see the rush down town on the usual Saturday night one would think that starvation, famine, and catastrophe were not far removed. It's a fool habit we've dropped into.

"It."

(Montreal Star.) If France and Britain had done no

Rippling Rhymes

HARD LUCK MEN



We've played in hard luck all our days," explain so many helpless jays. "The Fates were frowning at our birth; the Fates don't care for sterling worth; they take a grudge against a man, and make of him an also ran, no odds how earnestly he tries to harvest wealth or other prize." And it is true that now and then fate hands out prizes to worthy men, and gifts of talents great and rare have wasted them on desert air. (And if this metaphor is bad, produce a better one, my lad.) But it is true that many skates who charge their failure to the fates might better charge it to the truth that they have fooled around since youth. They've fooled around the corner store and trashed old chestnuts over and over; they've fooled around with cheap harrangues, when wiser men went forth in gangs to shuck their crops of early peas and pluck per simmons from the trees. They've fooled around on summer days discussing congress and its ways, when old chestnuts o'er and o'er; they've fooled around with sner men, on active legs, snooped round the barn and found the eggs. Its fooling round, it isn't fate, that puts the lid on tight and straight.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN



MRS. O'TOOLE I CAME HERE TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER NOT YOU - SO WILL YOU KINDLY BEAT IT WHY CERTAINLY

BIBBYS Style Headquarters For Young Men and Men Who Stay Young Good Clothes To make good stylish clothes requires master hands. In the making of our good clothes master designers, master cutters and master tailors are employed. Spring Styles ENGLISH BLUE SUITS, \$20.00, \$22.50, \$25.00, \$27.50. FANCY WORSTEDS \$18.00, \$20.00, \$22.50, \$25.00, \$28.50. See Bibbys Special \$20.00 Suit Values New Style Belter Suits.

OVERCOATS Large Stock to Choose From. \$15 to \$28 JOHN TWEDDELL Civil & Military Tailor, 131 Princess St., One Door Below Randolph.

Nujol for CONSTIPATION \$1.00 Large Bottle A refined, clear mineral oil—Tasteless and odorless. Pleasant to take. Does not upset digestion. Absolutely cures Constipation.

DR. CHOWN'S DRUG STORE 185 Princess Street. Phone 343.

Talking Machines All makes of talking machines cleaned, repaired, adjusted. Part for all machines supplied. Expert workmanship. Prices reasonable. JOHN M. PATRICK 140 Sydenham Street.

If You are Looking for the Best, and the Best is the Cheapest Go to the UNIQUE GROCERY and MEAT MARKET. Our MEAT is Complete. C. H. PICKERING 490 and 492 Princess St. Phone 530.

Our Own Special Blend and our Club Blend at 40c per lb. Compare this with the high priced package teas, and buy while the stock lasts. Jas. REDDEN & Co. Phones 20 and 990.

National Breweries Manufacturers of the Famous Dow's and Dawes LIGHT ALE & PORTER Order a Case from The Thompson Bottling Co. Sole Agents For Kingston District. Tel. 304. 292 Princess St.

WATCH YOUR FURNACE. ECONOMIZE IN COAL DO NOT WASTE. CRAWFORD Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.

Norway Refuses Adequate Pledge. Washington, Feb. 16.—Norway has her reply to the proposals of the United States for a food rationing agreement, by Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, head of the Norwegian Special Mission, offers to guarantee that no American products shall go through Norway to Germany but declines to meet the full American demands for a restricted export of Norwegian products to the Central Powers because, it is said, Norway needs supplies to be obtained from the Central Powers.

Terrorism in Aland. Stockholm, Feb. 15.—Russian soldiers are reported to be committing shocking acts of terrorism on the Aland Islands. A Swedish ice-breaker was started immediately for the islands to be followed by rescue expeditions. The Aland Islands are in the Gulf of Bothnia, between Finland and Sweden, and belong to Russia. Most of the inhabitants are of Swedish nationality or descent.