

THE BRITISH WHIG 80TH YEAR.



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The presence of one more hour of daylight would aid the cause of greater production.

Germany has taken a ninety year lease of the Rumanian oil fields. The party of the first part is likely to be evicted any day.

Returned soldiers are unanimous in demanding that the alien neutral and the alien enemy should do their full duty or return to their native land. And our boys are quite right.

A neutral report places German losses in the present battle at 525,000. That is a fearful price to pay for the occupation of a few square miles of devastated territory.

The long-range bombardment of Paris has been renewed, the Germans having been encouraged by the fact that they destroyed a church and killed some seventy-five worshippers the first time.

Montreal had hoped that on Monday a step in the direction of better city government would be taken, but on the contrary Mayor Martin was elected by over 7,000 majority. The city's desperate financial position will not be improved during his regime.

"To do the work of true patriotism," says Dean Pakenham, of Toronto, "allied democratic peoples must place greater stress upon the duties of citizenship and less upon the privileges of citizenship. True patriotism consists in a sane and non-aggressive pride of race. This the schools must help to give."

Exports from the port of Kingston for the first three months of this year reached the grand total of \$1,140,699.92, as compared with \$593,393.28 last year. One doesn't any longer hear Kingston referred to as a slow old town. On the contrary, it is a pretty lively burgh.

The Whig has received many compliments upon the large automobile section it published last Saturday. On the same date a newspaper in a city twice the size of Kingston issued a similar edition, but not nearly as complete as the Whig's. The enterprise of local dealers and agents, which makes possible such records, is most commendable.

It is to be hoped that G. H. Bovin, M.P., deputy speaker of the House of Commons, interpreted the correct attitude of the people of his province when, during an address at Toronto on Monday night, he said: "Our province as a whole deeply deplores the conduct of those who set law at defiance. I appeal to our English-speaking fellow-Canadians in Ontario to remember that a mob of irresponsible young men representing one section of one city does not represent the sentiment of Quebec province."

THE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS With Paris admitting that it is being shelled by German guns at a range of over seventy miles, scepticism in this country can easily be overcome. The Paris newspapers cheerfully discuss this latest manifestation of Teutonic ingenuity, most of them remarking upon its expediency and utility and one of them coolly dismissing it as a French invention discarded by the French be-

cause it had no real military value. Paris, the never-to-be-dismayed! Even this seventy-mile bombardment, the announcement of which has proved one of the great surprises of the war, has stirred the French nation less than it has other Allied circles which find it hard to believe. Weapon of terror only though the seventy-mile gun may be, half a dozen of its type pumping shells into Paris at two-minute intervals suggest a carnival of destruction calculated to satisfy the imagination of even a German.

Such a piece of ordnance is bound to be recognized as one of the most astounding products of the war. It would be foolish to belittle it until it made clear how far the Germans are prepared to make practical use of it.

A range of seventy odd miles! And we are told that at the battle of Waterloo the opposing armies, at first only 1,200 yards apart, approached to within 200 or 300 yards "without suffering serious loss from either musketry or gun fire." Half a century after Nelson's time a range of 1,000 yards at sea was looked upon as the limit of distance at which to engage an enemy ship. When Charles VIII. invaded Italy, a French authority relates, the guns were so unwieldy and the firing so slow that "the damage caused by one shot could be repaired before the next could be fired."

Impracticable, the seventy-mile gun! Who'll guarantee its impracticability?

OUR RETAIL MERCHANTS.

At the last monthly meeting of the Kingston Retail Merchants' Association, held on Tuesday evening last, it was reported that fifty-eight new members had been enrolled, thereby bringing the membership up to 101. In view of the fact that this organization is only a few weeks old such rapid growth is something to be proud of. It shows that the Kingston merchants are a live and progressive bunch, and that when they go "over the top" they mean to attain their objective. A strong, healthy and vigorous association, such as they are building up, possesses the capacity of rendering real and effective service to the mercantile trade, as well as being of great benefit to the city as a whole.

The association is active along many lines. Its members have pledged their support to the Kingston Industrial Exhibition. They realize the good work that Manager Bushell has done, and heartily endorse his plans to make this fair one of the best in Ontario. As a result of their co-operation the City Council may be induced to expend some money to put the fair grounds buildings in a decent state of repair. For the past few years they have been an admitted disgrace to Kingston.

The Retail Merchants have also pledged themselves to assist in the campaign for greater production. A portion of their advertising space in the daily newspapers has been given up to this cause. They have also agreed to utilize their show windows for displays calculated to encourage all classes of citizens to produce more food this year. Last year many Kingston merchants devoted every spare moment to the cultivation of vacant lots, and the Whig can bear testimony to the fact that President Rodgers and many of his fellows accomplished splendid results along this line. Their programme for this year is still more ambitious.

The association is also interesting itself in the fuel problem. Prompted, no doubt, by the experiences of the past winter, it is anxious to know what provision is being made to ensure an adequate supply of coal for next winter. A strong committee has been appointed to confer with the fuel commissioner on this important subject.

These are only a few items in the diversified programme of the Retail Merchants. They are displaying a laudable ambition to grapple with the serious problems of the day in a business-like manner. Their experience, their time and their money are being cheerfully devoted to the cause of the public weal; such patriotic endeavors are deserving of every success.

KINGSTON'S CIVIC UTILITIES.

The delay in placing before the City Council the Civic Utilities Commission report for 1917, and rumors of the cause thereof, afforded an opportunity for chronic critics and over-busy faultfinders to wield the hammer. It was not a part of their programme to wait until all the facts were made public.

Commission government is on trial in the court of public opinion, and so far the arguments against it are weak and unconvincing. The members of the commission are experienced business men, having at heart the welfare of the city and the promotion of its interests. They are the chosen representatives of the people, and in close and intimate touch with all the intricate problems effecting the public utilities, and, being large property holders themselves, may be safely trusted to conserve and protect the interests of the city.

The fact that they have asked for legislation to enable them to raise by

way of loans sufficient funds to uninterruptedly and expeditiously carry on their legitimate business has been made the excuse for declaring that the Commission was seeking the power to mortgage the physical assets of the plant—a power which rests solely in the City Council. Such a statement is far removed from fact. The Commission asks only for power to borrow money for necessary and unforeseen expenditure, and for the security of which it proposes to pledge only the forthcoming revenues of the plant. That is purely a business proposition, with which every merchant and business man is familiar.

Supposing, by way of example, that the Portsmouth Penitentiary should ask the Utilities Commission to supply 200 h.p. As a matter of business the Department of Justice would want to know at once what the cost would be and just when the Commission could start the work of installing the service. The acceptance of this order would necessitate the expenditure of, perhaps, several thousand dollars in plant and equipment. At the present time the Commission has no power to accept a contract involving such expenditure until it has explained all the details to Council and obtained its consent. This means valuable time lost, and perhaps the losing of the order as well.

It is in the interests of the Commission—and that means in the interests of every citizen—that the service of the plant should be extended whenever and wherever possible. The Commission is obligated to pay so much for Hydro service, whether it uses all this service or not. It is the duty of the Commission to market all its available power. Capital expenditure, therefore, having this object in view, is sound and legitimate. The "peak load" determines the cost of electric service to the city. But there are times in the day when the requirements fall far below the peak. Any additional power that can be sold during this period brings a handsome profit. Such revenue is all "to the good," and the Commission is quite justified in seeking to market every bit of the power at its disposal.

To supply power to the various industries requesting it involves a considerable outlay, and electrical equipment to-day has advanced markedly in price. This fact accounts in great measure for the Commission's inability to show profits. Every business man knows that he cannot use his revenues to enlarge and extend his plant and at the same time show profits. But if he is a capable and far-sighted business man, he will gladly incur such expenditure

for the sake of the future profits he is sure to realize. That, in brief, is the position of the Civic Utilities today.

The power sought by the Commission to raise money on the security of its revenues must at least stand in abeyance until the next session of the Legislature. There remains, therefore, plenty of time to discuss the subject. In the meantime attention has been called to one object which the Commission has in view, and which has been the cause of public comment. Other matters relating to Commission government will be reviewed in future articles.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Point to Remember.

(Toronto News) The Allied cause is that of justice, mercy and humanity, and it will prevail. It will prevail despite the blasphemous telegrams and harangues in which the Kaiser links his fortunes with the purposes of the Diet.

Quite Cheerfully.

(Ottawa Journal Press) One doubts if the Federal Income tax will ever stop now—and why should it? And the municipalities and possibly the provinces are going to develop public gold-mines along the same line. The crowd has the most cotes and the smallest incomes, and is going to operate cheerfully accordingly.

Winning the War.

(Buffalo News) If we don't win this war, nothing else matters. That thought should be written across the sky in letters of fire, so that we might never lose sight of that.

And this war will be won by us only as we realize that it is a personal matter, and that unless we give to the task the last iota of our energy and power we are slackers.

The Only Recourse.

(London Free Press) The thing that matters most is that our armies are killing Germans. Again and again it has been repeated that this is the only recourse of the Allies—to kill Germans. There must be inflicted upon the enemy such a destruction of human life as will appall the German people and ultimately cause them to turn from the teachings of Bernhard.

Peace Terms.

(Philadelphia Record) Chancellor Hertling says: "There is nothing disgraceful in the peace terms Germany has imposed upon Russia." Perhaps not—at least, where all ethical standards seem to have been removed. But how the terms of the peace can escape the ethical shabbiness of even the thought of a peace with Germany, in the "Kussian" mind, is the question which lies lack of any inquiry as to the honorable or dishonorable character of those terms.

Rippling Rhymes

WORRIED FARMERS



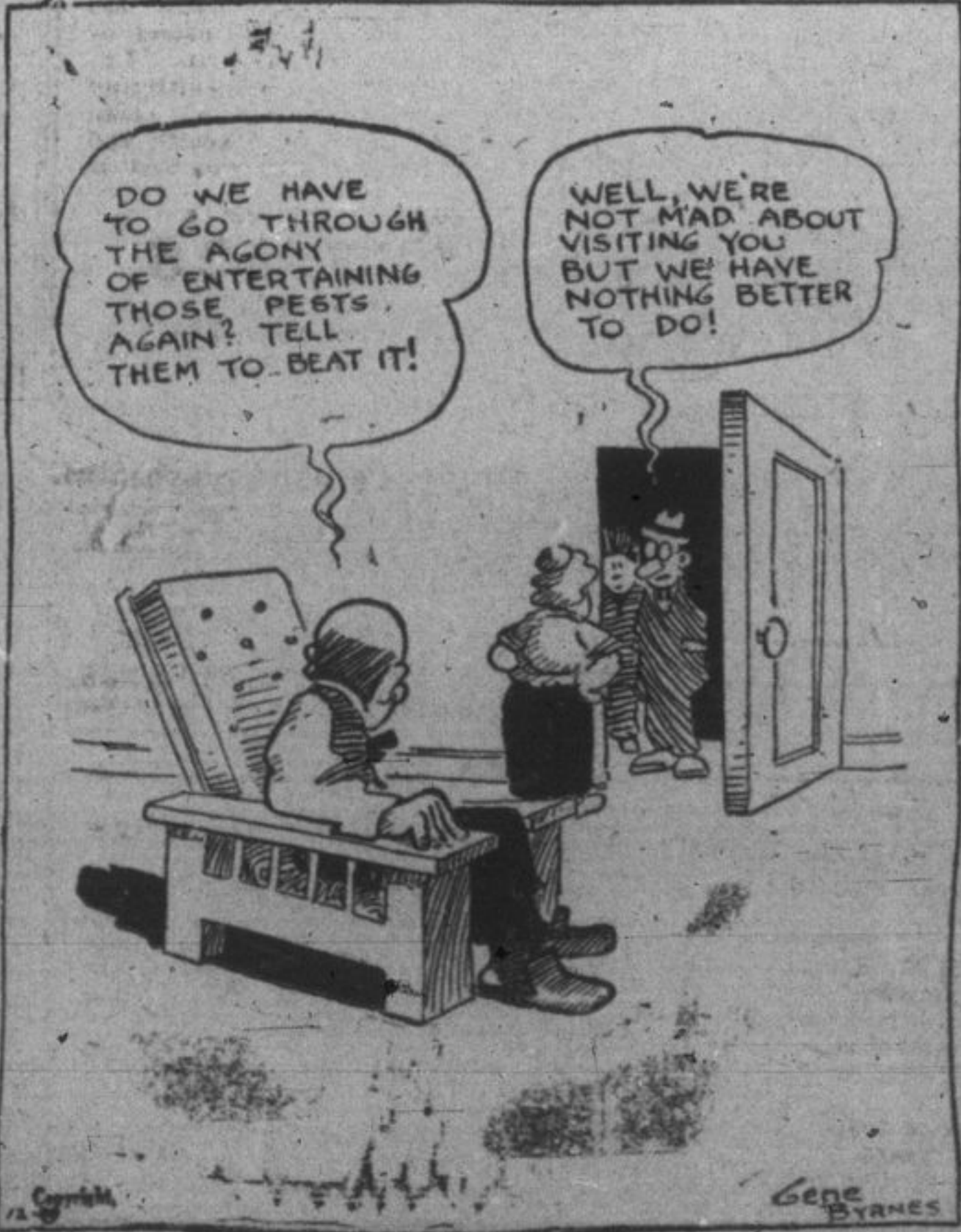
WALT MASON.

The farmers were complaining, the weather was so dry; and then it started raining from out a leaky sky; the rain came down in billows, mixed up with snow and hail; and by the weeping willows the farmers raised a wall. The farmers are allowing the ground to now so wet, they cannot do their plowing which is their one best bet. They're booding and they're roaring, they cannot sow their beans, they have to do their choring in boats and submarines. I've never known a granger who wasn't feeling sick, who was to grief a stranger, who didn't file a kick. The banker and the baker are smiling, cheerful men, and e'en the undertaker will gambol now and then. The butcher and the grocer will raise a glad hooray, when spring is drawing closer, and like the lambskins play. The sexton and the pastor find life is full of plums, and they'll forget disaster until disaster comes. The lawyer and the tinker, the justice of the peace, pronounce this world a clunker and life as sick as grease. But always and forever the farmer's face is grim; the gods all make endeavor to put a crimp in him. A song of woe, untiring, is coming from his throat; the planets are conspiring to gather in his goat. To him there's nothing charming beneath the sullen sky—and if you've followed farming, you'll know the reason why.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



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