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SEVENTH YEAR



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The clown prince now thinks he would like to go to England. He would like to last a minute there.

Hearst ought to be in Holland and under guard, too. If he stays in New York he will likely have chills.

How did you come through Christmas? Empty and full; empty in pocket, yet full in spirit and stomach.

With George Bernard Shaw and Horatio Bottomley in the British Parliament we may expect some hair-curling episodes.

Saved by a neck. There were splendid prospects on Tuesday for a green Christmas but that north wind brought snow and saved the day.

If the time taken to explain why a certain thing cannot be done were utilized in doing the act then the foolishness of the thinking would be very apparent.

Some despatches call them Spartacides, some Spartacusians, some Spartacutes. We agree with the Toronto Mail and Empire in saying, "We favor the word with most 'cus' in it."

Just think of these for war prices in London: Eggs, \$2.16 per dozen; potatoes, \$2.50 a bushel. We should thank God we dwell in Canada and can live in comfort. But let us not forget those on the continent who are in dire need.

The Hamilton Spectator puts the whole difficulty in a few words, thus: Philip Scheidemann is calling upon French and British Socialists to co-operate with their German brethren. "What separates us?" he asks. A sea of blood separates them from us.

"Americans fought this war for their own safety," declares Black and White, of Detroit, "but they also fought it with the clear understanding that they might be able to make it the last war." A League of Nations is the only way by which this ideal can be realized.

ASSESSMENT SHORTCOMINGS.

About the first of October in each year, every ratepayer of the municipality is served with an assessment statement indicating for what he is liable in the following year. The statement tells him that he has fifteen days in which to enter an appeal to the local court of revision. Possibly only ten per cent. of the people read those notices from the assessor. When demand for payment of their taxes is made, then they begin to sit up and take notice. Many declare they have been unjustly charged on property or for business, income, statute labor or dog tax. But the time for appeal has passed months ago, and they must pay the tax collector and take the chances of being allowed to make a plea before the court of revision, which they should have made long before. The lesson to be learned is to read your assessment notice when it is deposited in your front door, and not to sit aside as if it was merely the dry goods man's or the newspaper office bill which you have owed for months. When an assessment notice is left upon your premises or where you lodge, it is legally delivered.

This year the appeals to the court of revision were chiefly against statute labor and dog taxes. Because a man has wedded a wife and taken a couple of rooms he is not relieved of statute labor tax. Every man between the ages of 21 and 60 must be assessed, and if not for statute labor, then it must be on business, income, or real property. Many men try to work the tenant game, when in reality they are only lodgers, but the court of revision is wise to this.

The dog question is like a thorn in the flesh for the assessor. When you think you have a citizen "with his back to the wall," along he will come and swear that he has not owned a canine for two years or more, and that the animal seen making itself at home in his house did not belong to him or anyone else living with him. Surely the way of the assessor is hard.

PREPARING FOR PEACE.

The plans which Great Britain has adopted to solve her reconstruction problems and to take care of trade during the days that follow the conclusion of peace are worthy of careful study in this country. The motherland is nothing if not thorough. A tremendous organization including over eighty committees has been created under the Ministry of Reconstruction. Prominent among the questions with which the new ministry is dealing is that of commerce after the war. Fourteen committees are studying trade development. Twenty-one committees are conducting scientific and industrial research; eight committees are working on demobilization. There are six committees on raw materials, six on coal and power, two on finance, four on agriculture and forestry, two on intelligence, six on public administration, two on labor and employment, four on housing, eight on education, two on aliens, three on legal matters and three on miscellaneous questions.

A particular committee advises an expenditure of \$75,000,000 spread over forty years to improve forests and plant new forests. It declares that "the whole sum involved is less than half the loss incurred during the years 1915 and 1916 through dependence on imported timber." One committee is preparing lists of possible manufacturing plants to which the present munitions and other war factories can be devoted. Another committee is preparing to dispose of such military supplies as may be on hand at the end of the war, and will be no longer needed. The close of the war presents tremendous financial problems, and these are being discussed actively by a special committee. It is hoped that the government will be able to furnish funds to factories to help tide them over the period from producing war supplies to peacetime necessities. Since a great rush of building is expected, a system of priorities in building materials is being worked out. Coal mining is being studied to secure universal introduction of the most advanced methods, and the most economical ways of utilizing coal as fuel for heat and power production are to be developed.

We have touched but slightly on the manifold plans Great Britain has evolved to maintain her place in the world during and after the reconstruction period. Her policy is a wise and far-sighted one. The dominions overseas can learn from it much to their advantage. If Canada is to occupy the place and position in the newly constructed world that her resources and her ambition demand then she, too, must study the problems of the day, and, like the mother country, make her plans accordingly. The government is looked to to give aggressive leadership through its department of trade and commerce. The country will be satisfied with nothing less. But will the department, under the direction of Sir George Foster, measure up to its opportunities? Its past record does not furnish much hope that it will. Obsolete, conser-

HAD INTERESTING CAREER

QUEEN'S MAN WAS IN MUCH OF THE HEAVY FIGHTING. Was Acting Second in Command of the Company at the Battle of the High Woods, a Phase of the Battle of the Somme—Served With 10th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

PUBLIC OPINION

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Flower Farms. (Ottawa Packet.) "One farm of 40 acres in California is devoted almost entirely to the growing of violets." If it comes to boasting, think of the number of farms in Ontario devoted almost entirely to the growing of wild mustard or Canadian thistle.

Reform Badly Needed. (Montreal Star.) In this country a man is punished for causing the spread of disease by carelessness; but a person may throw a half-lighted match, a cigar butt, or a smouldering cigarette into a wastepaper basket and cause appalling loss, yet be free from punishment.

News From Morton. (Morton, Dec. 23.—Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Henderson motored to Brockville on Thursday last. Miss Amy Coon is home from Queen's, Kingston, for the holidays. Miss Jennie Henderson is home from Brockville for a few days.

Visiting In Kingston. Mrs. C. English, Alliston, Ont., is spending the holidays with friends on Brock street. She has read the weekly Whig for over fifty years and takes it now. She thinks she could not do without it.

WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE. The thousand things I could not say Before I crossed the sea Dear love, the words I could not speak, And all you are to me; The thousand dreams I could not dream When life for mid-did dance, Are life to me, dear love, since Death Became a dream, in France.

The thousand things I cannot write, The things that I would do Shall all be yours, dear love, when I Go, Shall send me home, to you.

Rippling Rhymes

ME UND BILL

"I'm glad I said, 'I won't be kaiser,' when I was asked, upon a time; 'Bill took the job, but I was wiser, and went on writing deathless rhyme. Bill took up lodgings in a palace, that glittered like a sheet of steel; he drank beer from golden chalices, and had a pile at every meal. His name was known from the Nyanzas up to the farthest wastes of snow; while I went on producing stanzas that brought me twenty cents a throw. He had a boom that was surprising, a sway no mortal king deserves, and meager monarchs watched him kaising, and tried to imitate his curves. Great was his state, and great his splendor, but he would have them greater still, and he remarked, 'I'll bust a fender, or be the whole world's ruler, Bill.' While I, a bard of poor condition, sang madrigals for pork and beans; the limit of my pale ambition was pink cheeks from the magazines. To-night I'm sitting in my shanty, my conscience working as it should; for harm if little good. And Bill is sitting in the shadow, sick, sore-hearted chump; he thought to reach an El Dorado, and only reached the nearest dump. All worldly splendors I'm despising; I love this, but I call my own; I'm glad I didn't take up kaising, when Prussia offered me the throne.

—WALT MASON.

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