

THE BRITISH WHIG 80TH YEAR.



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Just now nobody cares how the ex-kaiser looks, or how he feels or what he says. He has suffered a total eclipse.

The British government has presented the Dominion of Canada with two submarines. That is some start to the Canadian Navy.

The members of the newly formed committee of the Soldiers' Aid Commission in Kingston are waiting patiently for the first meeting to be called.

Sir Thomas White announces that the bacon market is quite satisfactory to the producers and packers. That probably means that there will be no drop in prices in the near future.

By keeping unemployment out of the country, Bolshevism will be kept out. Is it not, then, worth while to commence a large number of public works in the cities; in Kingston, for instance?

The question of the disposal of the ex-kaiser is still undecided. The Whig repeats its suggestion of some months ago, that he be tried by a British court of justice and given the maximum penalty for murderers.

A good rule for a newspaper office is that criticism is good for business. The Whig does not mind being criticized for progressiveness or for urging progressive action. Good causes have always met with opposition when first suggested.

The yearly expenditure of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is twenty-five million dollars. Before this expenditure can be justified many changes in the personnel of this department are necessary, starting at the head.

The Whig would like to mention that note is being kept of the mayor's election promises and the way in which they are being fulfilled. Two months of the year are gone, and still things drift along lazily without a sign of progressive action.

We would like to inform J. H. Sinclair, M.P., that the "prodigious sons of Liberalism" will come back to the fold when the problems of repatriation and reconciliation have been settled, and that threats will not induce them to return before that time.

Kingston's stores are centres of energy and influence for movements calculated to improve local conditions. When you spend money with the home stores, instead of sending it out of town, you add to the power and influence of men who are working every day for the good of Kingston.

We still have men in the city council who object to garbage collection, who object to the housing scheme, who object to giving the firemen a living wage and to almost every other project that is introduced. A city will never make much progress if these habitual objectors are listened to.

The Toronto Harbor Board will spend \$2,000,000 on the harbor, beginning work just as soon as the weather permits. Thus employment

will be given to thousands of men. In the meantime representatives are touring the United States with the object of interesting outside manufacturers and shippers in the new opportunities that will be created. This is the kind of activity which the Whig would like to see manifested in regard to the Kingston harbor.

Ald. Armstrong, in council, objected to the city spending \$15,000 this year for garbage collection. If it results in a cleaner, healthier city, as it must, the work would be cheap at twice the price. Other cities recognize the value of a good garbage collection system. Brantford, for instance, has just voted \$35,000 for this purpose. Friend Armstrong neglected to take all the facts into consideration.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP. If public control of municipal utilities such as waterworks, gas and electric plants, etc., is commendable—and no one will question the fact that it is—then, in the name of all that is reasonable would not the public control of national utilities, such as telephones, telegraphs, railways, etc., be equally as "justifiable"? Public ownership of all these national utilities is sound economics. The only question is, as to whether we in Canada are far enough advanced in democracy to efficiently manage such large enterprises. The principle of state-owned control of all public utilities is logical, but its practical application in the past has not been such as to make the thinking man very optimistic as regards the future.

CANADA'S MINES. Mineral production in Canada in 1918 rose to \$220,000,000 from 1917's total of \$189,646,000. That is nearly a 20 per cent. increase, but it is only a hint of the future possibilities. In mineral resources as well as in her lands and forests this country is enormously rich—how rich no one knows, as the surface has no more than been scratched. What treasures the western mountains hold can only be guessed, but there is known to be plenty of iron and coal, as well as the "precious" minerals. Alberta has coal fields of enormous extent, as yet unexploited.

Coal and iron in quantity mean industry. The day will come when this young country's manufactures will surpass her food products in value and importance. Canada is the land of the future in all lines of opportunity, and offers more room for growth than almost any other civilized section of the globe.

A RECEPTION TO OUR FIGHTING UNITS.

Montreal, Ottawa and other cities are preparing for monster celebrations when their fighting units return from the front. The first of these units, the 42nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Princess Pats, are now on their way home, and in Montreal a public holiday is to be declared when they arrive, so that the whole population of the city can turn out to greet them. Things are being done in a style which is in keeping with the glorious work done by these splendid units.

Here in Kingston we will have returning to us at an early date two units whose records are every bit as glorious, and who have played a great part in the winning of the war. As an infantry unit, the 21st Battalion had no superior, as the fighting at St. Eloi, Courcellette, Lens, and Cambrai showed, and no batteries of artillery can claim greater distinction than those which represented the R.C.H.A. on the firing line. These two units will soon be home again, and it is up to Kingston as a city to give them a tremendous reception as they march through the streets of their home town. No time, then, should be lost in making preparations for their reception, and we once again suggest that a citizens' reception committee be formed with a view to arranging the details of the celebration that is to take place when Kingston's own fighting units return to Canada.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING OF THE YOUNG.

The programme of the religious training of the young mapped out by the recent Sunday School conference cannot be too highly commended. It is a laudable enterprise, and calls for consistent effort on the part of our religious leaders who are alike alive to the need of the individual and the need of the state. The object is to produce men and women courageous enough to do their duty toward God and man. This calls for the inculcation of divine precepts and moral ideas, but it also demands the practice of the virtues in public and social life.

Great emphasis was placed upon the training of the child and the loss of the adult was deplored. The loss of the adult calls for serious study, for the solution of this problem may furnish the means of remedying the unsatisfactory situation. The power of the church should be represented by the character of its adult

members and its influence upon the lives of those members. The church is bound to be an active force in the lives of men and women, and any failure on their part is its failure. When this is recognized, then true growth may be said to begin. Its moral force must be constantly employed in support of its ideals, for the adult mind will suffer no inconsistencies. The more thorough his religious training has been the more insistent will he be in demanding the highest measure of fulfillment on the part of his church.

We do not know how far the German people really follow the lead of their churches, but we do know that the churches were subverted to political ends; and there is little doubt but that the people were not blind to the fact, and treated religion with contempt. There is overwhelming evidence that such was the case. The lesson is one of historic significance.

Britain's Part in the War.

No. 8. British Agriculture During the War. What has the British farmer done towards winning the war? The reply can be seen immediately by glancing at the food production reports showing the acreage curve. This curve represents the total acreage under wheat, barley and oats for each year from 1870 to 1918. The curve falls almost steadily year by year right down to 1914, 1915 being the lowest year on record with the single exception of 1908. In 1914 there was only a slightly larger acreage than in the former year, but in 1915 there was considerable increase. This was the first year's harvest after the outbreak of war, and farmers, impressed by the needs of the situation, had naturally increased, as far as they possibly could, the area under crop. But in the next year there was a decided drop. This was directly due to the shortage of labour, nearly one-third of the male agricultural population in England and Wales having left the land for the army before the 1916 harvest was gathered.

Many more men were taken after that date, and one would naturally expect the downward curve to be continued for the harvest of 1917, and still more so for the harvest of 1918. But the facts are the reverse. At the beginning of 1917 the government started its campaign for increasing the home production of food. The time was short, but, even so, it was sufficient to effect a noticeable change in the direction of the curve. An increase of three hundred thousand acres in the 1917 harvest marks the result of a ten weeks' campaign. But this appears insignificant when contrasted with the line which represents the notable advance in 1918. There the curve goes right up to the

1870 level. The curve indicates how in forty weeks the nation had recovered what it took forty years to lose.

The great increase in food production was achieved under exceptional difficulties created by shortage of labour. Right up to June, 1917, men were taken from agriculture for the army. The process was then stopped by the government, but the new military situation created by the German offensive in March last made it imperative for the War Cabinet to demand a further contribution from agriculture for the military forces. Nearly 30,000 men were taken from the land in the course of a few weeks, but this was counterbalanced by the provision by the government of some 60,000 soldiers of low medical category, 16,000 prisoners of war, and 2,000 released aliens to undertake work on the land. The actual figures of war time production in Britain have been very largely affected by the flow of labour, but they show how great a contribution to the cause was made by the British farmer.

The tillage area of England and Wales in 1918 was 2,500,000 acres more than in 1916. Wheat showed an increase of 750,000 acres, and the crops were sown at which date the wheat crop was 2,665,000 acres, the highest on record since 1882. At the same date oats showed an acreage of 2,820,000, being the highest on record by 23 per cent., while the acreage under potatoes was 445,000, being no less than 217,000 acres above the 1916 area, and the highest on record by 27 per cent. The total acreage under corn and potatoes at the time of the census taken in the early summer was 3,502,000 acres, showing a net saving in shipping of 1,500,000 tons for this year. This, then, is the answer to the question with which this article opened. The British farmer has taken a large part in the winning of the war, and deserves a fair share of all the credit which goes to the industrial armies of Britain.

Educate Them. (Guelph Herald) Disarming the foreigner ought to be one of the first requisites to making a new citizen of him, but it ought to be followed up by a system of compulsory education, to teach him the meaning and duties of his new citizenship. Allowing these people to absorb as best they can the laws of Canada is poor business.

Would be Delighted. (Ottawa Journal) We don't know whether the country would favor raising seasonal indemnities to \$3,500, but the country wouldn't object to an eight-hour day for Parliament if the production of oratory was curtailed some.

In Need of Preachments. (Toronto Star) "The silk-hat church must go," says a Hamilton preacher. Ah, but who need preachments more than the silk-hatted folks!

Rippling Rhymes

HOUSE CLEANING. House cleaning! Spring house cleaning! You'll soon be here again! Oh, words of frightful meaning to weary married men! For spring we keep imploring when winter's blasts are roaring, forgetful of the choring that is in order then. We think of sunshiny glowing, through waving branches screened, on babbling brooklets flowing to oceans submerg'd; alas, we are forgetting the soap-suds and the wetting, the toiling and the sweating, in shacks that must be cleaned. We think of tuneful zephyrs from some bright summer sea, of sportive lambs and heifers that gambol on the lea; and we forget the mopping, the sloshing and the sopping, the cussing and the yawping of husbands tired, oh chee! The Springtime is approaching, already she has smiled; the green grass is encroaching where late the snow was piled; but naught my gloom can sweeten; the rugs that must be beaten, cold beans that must be eaten—the prospect makes me wild! Fair spring will soon be strowing her flowers along the world, her gems for mortals' viewing, the crimson and the gold; but I'll be packing pillows and beating rugs with willows 'mid suits in sootling billows, while women stand and scold.

—WALT MASON.

Fish! Fish!

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OVERHEARD. PLACE—PRINCESS ST. TIME—5 O'CLOCK. 1st Lady—Oh yes! I have quite recovered from the flu, you know. My doctor gave me a prescription for a good tonic and— 2nd Lady—Where did you have your prescription filled? 1st Lady—Why, at Chow's Drug Store, and I always go there now because whenever I get anything there it seems to do the work intended. Just a chance remark perhaps, but it gave me a pleasant thrill and we assure you that your wants will be attended to in the manner at Dr. A. P. Chown's Drug Store 185 Princess St. Phone 843 Sick Room Requisites

FOR SALE. 1.—Brick dwelling, Alfred street, south of Princess, 10 rooms; hot water furnace; lot 66 x 132. Price, \$5500. 2.—Double Frame Dwelling, Barrie street, nearly new, 7 rooms each; in good repair; good cellar; garage. Price, \$4200. 3.—Brick dwelling, Rideau street, 7 rooms; furnace; electric light and gas; good concrete cellar; in good repair. Price, \$3250. T.J. Lockhart, Real Estate and Insurance, Phone 7052 or 10206, Clarence Street, Kingston, Ontario.

Chestnut Coke. How To Use It (Continued). When the fire is once started, shut off all the drafts, especially chimney draft, to keep the heat from going up the chimney. Do not shake or poke a coke fire half as much as you would a coal fire. Keep the bed of the fire deep with coke well piled up. Sold Only by Crawford Foot of Queen St. Phone 9 (To be Continued.)

LIBBY'S. Asparagus Tips . . . . .30c; Mammoth Green, large tins 50c; Salad Dressing . . . . .30c (Coast Sealed Oysters). D. COUPER 341-3 Princess St. Phone 76.

The Canadian representatives refuse to agree to a proposition made by the British Government to pay for the transportation of Imperial soldiers to any part of its overseas dominions. Bavaria and Prussia are on the verge of another upheaval which may spread over the entire unoccupied Germany. Queen Marie of Roumania and her daughters have arrived in Paris.