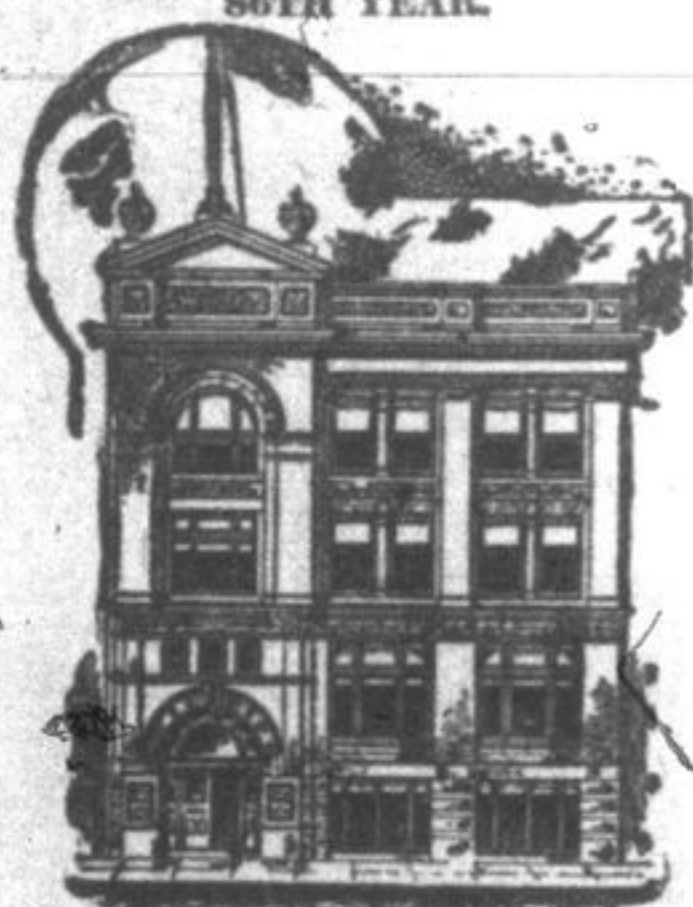


THE BRITISH WHIG 80TH YEAR.



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Col. Peck's defence of the Canadian high command at Cambrai was brief but to the point. He merely said, in backing up his statements, "I was there." Sir Sam was not.

If the strike of government printers results in the doing away with the Canadian Official Record, it will have accomplished something worth while and will have saved the country thousands of dollars.

The government asks for a deposit of ten per cent. from prospective soldier land settlers as a proof of good citizenship. Is not this asking too much from men who have shown their citizenship by offering their lives for their country?

The land settlement scheme of the province of Quebec is one that might with success be copied by the federal government. In the French province no strings are attached to the land which is being given to the soldiers.

It has been suggested that Sir Arthur Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps, be appointed Governor of Malta. The general, however, is not likely to look with favor upon a position which will bury him in obscurity on an island in the Mediterranean.

The committee of the Kingston council which is discussing a memorial for our fallen soldiers would do well to remember that the best possible memorial for those who fell in the cause of freedom and justice would take the form of a free public library.

The bill providing for compulsory education, which Hon. L. A. Taschereau has now before the Quebec house, is a splendid step in the right direction. Education should not only be compulsory, but perfectly free from first to last.

Hon. A. K. Maclean, in defending the secretary of the civil service commission, is adopting an attitude which will meet with the dominion-wide condemnation of the veterans. The soldiers themselves know only too well how the civil service positions are handed out to the favored few.

The Peterboro Examiner publishes a letter from Capt. J. H. Burnham, M.P. in which he utters these significant words: "God established a natural and a moral order, and 'prohibits' nothing. He punishes. For us to seek to improve upon His plan is to attempt to cast reproach upon Him, and no matter how much we are pleased with our own superior schemes for the up-lift of mankind, they can only end in disaster."

Every merchant, every manufacturer, knows that advertising materially reduces selling costs by increasing the demand for and the distribution of the products of thousands of mills. Indeed many of the things we count to-day as necessities or simple luxuries could not be made and sold at their reasonable prices except as advertising has created a broad market for them, making millions of sales at little prices and little profits.

GRAND DUKES WHO TALK TOO MUCH.

One of the annoying features of the Russian problem is the frequent comment by grand dukes as to what ought or ought not to be done for Russia, against Russia or in Russia by the Allied nations.

The latest advice by a grand duke on the subject is that the Allies must—mark the word "must"—march into Russia with engraving armies and proceed to pull Bolshevism up by the roots.

There is a pretty general impression throughout the world by this time that Bolshevism is unqualifiedly bad, not only for Russia but for the rest of mankind.

But a Russian grand duke, whether he be a Michael, a Constantine, a Boris or a Vladimir—is the last person under the widespread canopy of the sky who should consider himself qualified to offer advice on any subject, and especially on the important problem of restoring order in stricken, starving and demented Russia.

Russia in its present deplorable plight is what the grand dukes and their creatures or their masters have made it. Bolshevism is the extreme forward swing of the pendulum of reaction against the soulless, heartless and conscienceless oppression of which the grand dukes—the Michaels, Constantines, Borises and Vladimirs—are the surviving symbols and reminders.

There is no place in the world for the principles of oppression and the acts of nation-murdering which the grand ducal institution recalls. The best that a Russian grand duke can do in these portentous days is to refrain from offering advice as to the best way of remedying the vast mischief which he and his kind have wrought in the world.

TRANSPORT CONDITIONS.

The riots of last week at the Canadian camps in England have brought to a head the complaints regarding the return to Canada of our troops overseas. The cause of the riots apparently was that discrimination against the men with the longest service was being shown in making up drafts for return to this side. Other probable reasons are the delay in sending home the first contingent men, and the action of the government in removing from the Canadian service to the United States of some of the largest vessels engaged in the return of troops. Some feasible explanation should be given as to why the Aquitania, the Olympic and other large vessels should be handed over to the American government while there are still tens of thousands of Canadian troops waiting to be sent home.

The soldiers now returning to the dominion are bitter in their complaints regarding transport conditions. Some of them state frankly that they are herded together like cattle, and while it is perhaps necessary to take these statements with a little reserve, the constant recurrence of the complaints makes one wonder if there is not much room for improvement in the transport of returning Canadians. If Halifax was a good enough harbour during the war for the transport overseas of huge bodies of troops, surely it is now good enough to dock the largest ships afloat. The giant liners sailed from that port during the war with tens of thousands of soldiers, and they should again be utilized for the return of these same troops. Whatever action may be taken, it is obvious that the government must take some steps to improve the conditions under which our soldiers are being returned to their homeland, and to speed up as much as possible the return of first contingent men.

KINGSTON HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS. No. 1.

It is now some eight years since an agitation was started for the improvement of Kingston's harbor, and during that time many schemes have been put forward by which it could be made suitable for the trade which would have come the way of the city had the necessary action been taken at the time when it was first proposed. While Kingston has been talking about harbor improvements, other cities have been taking action, until now the only thing that will be of any use in keeping the city in its proper place among lake ports is an immediate formation of definite plans for harbor improvement, and the carrying out of these plans. While Kingston has been standing still, rival ports, both in Canada and the United States, have been going ahead, and are in a position to benefit by the new trade which will result from the opening of the Welland Canal.

Over on the other side of the border, great improvements in waterways have been accomplished in recent years. The most important of these to us has been the opening of the large canal from Oswego to the Hudson, which was built at a cost of approximately \$150,000,000. This canal has placed Oswego in a splendid position on the lake, and that city has taken advantage of the opportunity offer-

ed, and has undertaken extensive harbor improvements. The harbor has been dredged at a cost of \$300,000, and a substantial sum has been provided for maintenance. This places Oswego in the most favorable position of all the Lake Ontario ports for trade from the lakes to the sea, and Kingston will have a hard fight to keep in line with trade movements.

It is regrettable that the Montreal Transportation Company is leaving the city, for that fact cannot fail to have a bad effect upon the powers that be who have the privilege of helping Kingston in her harbor improvements. These improvements are needed, and are needed soon. The whole future of our city depends upon them, and Kingston cannot afford to stand idly by and let the lake trade pass its doors. This is a year in which public works are being undertaken in order to provide employment for returned and returning soldiers, and Kingston as a demobilization area should have its share. The most pressing public work in Kingston is that of harbor improvement, and some strong effort should be made to have something done in this line as soon as possible. (To be Continued.)

THE FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE HOUSING SCHEME.

Under the provincial housing scheme, by which the municipality has power to borrow money from the government for the purpose of building houses for its citizens, at a rate of five per cent. interest, it is hardly possible for the city to lose a cent. They are entirely safeguarded. Should the council decide to build, say, a hundred houses, these would be sold over again to the citizens, on terms allowing for payment in twenty years at five per cent. Should payments lapse, the house reverts to the city. In this case there is no possible chance of financial loss. Should the house be rented, the return will be sufficient to pay off the principal and interest within the twenty year period laid down in the scheme as proposed by government. Should a citizen of the municipality desire to borrow money for the purpose of building, the property and the house are there as security for the repayment of the loan at the same rate of interest. In every case the municipality is absolutely safeguarded and there is no risk attached to the proposition. The financial aspect of the trans-

action appeals also to the purchaser. Let us take the case of a man who secures \$2500 of this money and builds his house. For the first year his interest payments would be \$125 or \$10.50 a month. Allowing for twenty years to pay off the principal the first annual payment would be exactly the same, making a payment on principal and interest of \$21 a month! The assessment on the house would not exceed \$1,800, which is a very liberal estimate, so that the taxes on the property would probably be about \$4 a year, or \$4.50 a month. To put \$2,000 insurance on the house would cost roughly \$6 a year, or fifty cents a month. All these payments together bring the monthly charges up to \$26.00 for the first year. In succeeding years, the interest would be reduced as the principal is reduced, and within the time limit imposed the man would be the owner of his own house, having bought it by simply paying what he would otherwise have paid in rent into the pockets of his landlord. For the first five years the depreciation on the house would not amount to anything, and after that it would be more than covered by the decrease in the interest charges.

From the standpoint of both the municipality and the borrower, the scheme is an attractive one, and outside of the city's responsibility in the matter, it is a good business proposition, for the increased housing accommodation would bring a substantial return in the way of taxes.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Short History of Germany. (Boston Transcript). German Empire: Founded January 18, 1871. Founded November 11, 1918.

Expert Opinion. (Quebec Herald). One thing certain, if a beer and wine license should prevail in this province ultimately, we should shudder at the thought of mixed drinks.

Our Own Beer Buttons. (New York Sun). No beer, no work; No work, No pay; No pay, no food; Let's all get mad and Starve to death!

Rippling Rhymes

FORGET IT Forgive the grief of yesterday; he is the greatest bore I know who buttonholes us on his way, to talk about some bygone woe. Forget the grudge you've held so long against the gent who lives next door; it's doubtless true you're in the wrong; his head's entitled to be sore. Forget the chances you have missed, forget the hopes that proved a frost; there always is a chance, I wist, as good as any you have lost. Forget your princely pedigree, forget the blue blood in your veins; get out where common mortals be, and match with theirs your stately brains. Forget the grandeur of the past if you're reduced to low estate; get down to tacks and hustle fast, and keep your winning smile on straight. Forget the dark, unpleasant things; we all have troubles of our own; we love the lad who smiles and sings, detest the one who sheds a groan. Forget the ailments you have had, the mumps, the glanders and the gout; forget the truss and liver pad, and talk of tractors, tripe and trout. Forget all weary things that bore, that keep men yawning as you spiel; spring gladness when you have the floor, and tell how **dam-blamed** good you feel! —WALT MASON.



Get the Merchants' Good Will, Manufacturers

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