

THE BRITISH WHIG 80TH YEAR.



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Lenine's league of nations would appear to be making the most progress.

Hun headgear, if the helmet factories keep on the job, will soon be a drug in the five cent stores.

The mal de mer of the air is said to be a revelation to those who have had the sensations of the sea.

It cost the world some \$200,000,000,000 to learn that reposing confidence in German uprightness was a delusion. There must be no leniency in demanding restitution.

Some 259,200 lots are to be sold for taxes in Calgary at an early date. What heart-burnings there are in Ontario homes over the disaster and the eclipsing of fond hopes!

Peace—that angel of our fondest hopes—is still on her way to earth. She has been four months en route. She may be an old maid by the time she reaches the mirrored hall at Versailles.

Hon. W. S. Fielding is a thoroughbred; he said he would stay with the Union government until demobilization and reconstruction is accomplished. He has set a fine example to all Unionists.

The power of the press was demonstrated in the Berlin revolutionary riots. Bundles of papers were used as barricades in the street fighting. Bullets could not penetrate far through the packets.

A vista of tremendous development lies before Canada. A country of immense area—teeming with stores of natural riches—agricultural, mineral, lumber, all needed for the reconstruction of the world.

Hon. Dr. Reid told the house the other day that while ten illicit stills were destroyed last year, there have been 110 for this year. Doubtless there are hundreds of others which have remained so still that they escaped detection.

A reason for everything. Now they say the beauties have been put into narrow skirts so that they cannot run after the returned heroes. And again there may be another reason. Are they directly holding back from those they admire?

This war has created or strengthened a belief that as a general rule there are too many laws, too many restrictions, too much evidence of people being busy regulating the affairs of other people, and the sentiment is very widespread.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

With power and light rates reduced almost to the level of those prevailing in the Niagara peninsula, Kingston's industrial committee ought to be able to land at least a few new industries. Attractive literature, setting forth this city's many advantages, ought to be spread broadcast at once.

Instead of two parties in the house, as in the past, there will be in future several strong groups or parties. Who, then, will draw the \$7,000 a year voted by the government to the "opposition leader"? Leaders of the United Farmers, the grain growers, the labor party, the Conservatives, the Liberals, the re-

turned soldiers, etc., etc., will have equal claim upon the salary.

A Toronto produce dealer has received enquiries from the Rumanian government for food orders to the amount of \$2,000,000. It wants our butter, lard, cheese and bacon. But with butter at the present ridiculous price, and with the cost of other foods in proportion, Canada stands little chance of profiting by foreign markets. The prices of these commodities must first be reduced at home, before we can expect to compete abroad.

INVITE THEM HERE.

Last year Ottawa motorists conducted an automobile run to northern New York and were hospitably entertained at Gouverneur. The Canadian visitors extended a hearty invitation to the St. Lawrence crowd to visit Ottawa. In September an automobile party from Gouverneur responded and visited the capital. Northern New York newspapers point out that this party found the Ottawa crowd too busy to receive them, so they were forced to wander around the streets of the capital for a few hours and return home, a very much disappointed party. What has Ottawa to say to this serious charge? If it is true, it is a sad comment upon its ideas of hospitality. The Canadian motorists were given a hearty welcome by their American cousins, and they should have returned the compliment in kind. The Ottawa club is now planning another tour to the American side, but, significantly, it will visit a different locality.

Such international excursions should be a means of developing friendly relations, and Canadians who lack the graces of hospitality are doing their country a disservice. The Americans have ever been noted for the generous way they have welcomed Canadian visitors, and it is sincerely to be regretted that Ottawa neglected the opportunity to return the compliment. If our cousins across the line had made Kingston their objective, they would have been sure of a royal welcome and a right good time. This city has an Automobile Club that knows how to entertain visitors. The Whig is sure that it would be glad to welcome the Gouverneur autoists, or any other New York state club, and hopes that their next trip abroad will terminate at Kingston instead of Ottawa.

RURAL CREDITS.

Last year 12,000 acres of new land were broken and put under crop in the province of Manitoba as a direct result of the institution of rural credits to assist the farmers. There are thousands of acres of unproductive land in the province of Ontario, and the government has under consideration the Manitoba Act with a view to its adoption for the assistance of our farmers. George W. Prout, member of the Manitoba Legislature, and father of the Rural Credits Act, states that it has been adopted in Alberta and is being taken up in Saskatchewan. Forty-four municipalities in Manitoba are now taking advantage of it as against ten in 1918 and one in 1917, and the total amount of the loans was \$215,581.

Fifteen persons or more may petition to form a rural credit society. Each member takes stock to the amount of \$100, and his liability is limited to that amount. The government takes half the total amount of the stock and the municipality a similar amount. This constitutes the guarantee fund. The society borrows money from the banks at 6 per cent, and loans it to the farmer at 7 per cent, but no money is loaned until the society has secured subscriptions from at least fifty persons actually engaged in farming or who have agreed to engage in it within one year. Short-term loans are secured for the purchase of seed, feed or other farm supplies; implements and machinery; cows, horses, sheep, pigs and other stock; to meet payments on the cost of dairying, ranching and like operations; payment of the cost of preparing land for cultivation.

In addition the society may act as agent for the members in purchasing supplies and selling products and take steps to extend the application of its activities to all residents of the district.

There is nothing new in the scheme as outlined except that the application is broader and enables individual farmers to obtain more ready assistance than is possible through the clubs already formed in Ontario. But the clubs that have been doing business will appreciate any benefits the proposed Act may contain and make possible its wide application in a very short time.

Farmers have always complained that they were heavy depositors with the banks, but the banks, while loaning money readily to business men, scrupled over accepting their notes. While this may be true of individual cases, the operations of the United Farmers' Company in Ontario show that the

banks are glad to advance money upon a collective guarantee.

The government should do everything possible to promote the earliest application of the rural credit system in order that the farmer may obtain help when he needs it. Every farmer cherishes plans for the greater development of his farm by improving his stock, bringing neglected acres under cultivation, adding a silo or putting a basement under the barn, and the realization of his hopes would give him a new interest in his work.

PUBLIC OPINION

One Thing Needed.

(Toronto Star) Now that we have summer time something a little more like summer climate would be welcome.

Differend.

(Savannah News) Six million Germans set out in August, 1914, to make a quick trip to Paris. They are not there yet—though six will eventually land in the French capital. Six survivors of the six millions—and this number will be on business quite different from the programme the six millions had planned.

The O.T.A.

(London Advertiser) Liquor should be completely prohibited or the poor man should be permitted to share with the rich the privilege of being able to secure liquor from a government-controlled vendor rather than a well-stocked cellar. This is the opinion of many Ontario newspapers that have in the past been unswerving advocates of temperance reform. Such papers as the St. Catharines Journal and the Hamilton Times believe that the Ontario Temperance Act has created a feeling of public antagonism that should not be mistaken for antagonism to temperance reform. The Advertiser is repeatedly urging that the Ontario Temperance Act is one of the most unfair and most cruel laws ever placed on the statute books, has done so not as an opponent, but as a friend of temperance reform.

SIR WILFRID'S PICTURE.

The Whig has for sale a number of copies of a splendid portrait of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. These portraits are printed on excellently finished paper and measure 12 1/2 inches by 19 inches. They are especially suitable for framing, and are supplied in strong mailing tubes. The charge made for these pictures, ten cents over the counter and fifteen cents when delivered by mail, is a purely nominal one, and is made merely to prevent indiscriminate distribution. The picture is worth many times the money as a souvenir of Canada's greatest statesman. Order or call early, as the supply is limited, and cannot again be repeated.

Rippling Rhymes

THE FURNACE

I have closed the furnace door till King Winter has returned; and the ashes on the floor represent the coin I've burned; countless tons of costly coal have stripped down my meager roll; oh, gee whiskers, how my soul for the breath of spring has yearned! There's a sort of solemn bliss when we close the furnace door, knowing that till tempests hiss we shall shovel coal no more; many summer days must pass, we shall mow a lot of grass, grow a lot of garden sass, ere we seek the coal man's store. Oh, the furnace has a thirst and a hunger out of sight; 'till you'd think 't would burst, and it still has appetit'; when the winds are cold and raw and the snow is in the shaw, you must feed its greedy maw all the day and half the night. It's a Moloch that demands sacrifices every hour; taking from our weary hands money that we need for flour, money that we need for boots and for beet and parsnip roots; and it doesn't care three hoots that our need is dire and sour. I have pawned my overcoat, put a mortgage on the bull, that the red and glowing threat of the furnace might be full; so I'm glad that stunt is o'er, till again the blizzards roar; Spring is smiling at the door, and she seems to be all wool.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN By GENE BYRNES



An Empire Calendar.

Capture of Badajoz.

April 8.—It is more on account of the desperate nature of the fighting and the splendid courage of the storming troops that the capture of the fortress of Badajoz by the Duke of Wellington, which occurred one hundred and six years ago, is memorable in the annals of the British Empire. From a military point of view its capitulation did not seriously affect the Peninsula campaign, although the fort occupied a commanding position less than four miles from the Portuguese border. Yet the name Badajoz emblazoned among the "honors" of many famous regiments, notably on the colors of the Fighting Fifth, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Inniskillens, is one of the proudest awards of the British army. The history of Badajoz is a history of strife, even the cathedral being built in the form of a fortress. It was by trickery and the bribing of the Spanish commander, Jose Imaz, that it fell into French hands. Three attempts were made by the British to capture it during 1811, but each attempt was abandoned, although the attack led by Beresford was within an ace of success. It was on March 17th of the following year that, before Soult had time to bring up reinforcements, Wellington began the investment of the fortress, which finally capitulated three weeks later. The official records of the battle show that 72 officers and 963 men were killed and 306 officers and 3,483 men were wounded during the assault. This was in the days before high explosives and machine guns, and hacking and clubbing took the place of flame-throwers and poison gas. So complete was the victory that Phillipon, the French general, and his whole army surrendered on the following day.

Strike in Plow Works.

Brantford, April 8.—Some 70 men in the blacksmith department of the Verity Plow Company are on strike. The strike followed the refusal of a member of the union to pay a fine for breaking union rules, and the refusal of the company to dismiss the employe for such action towards the union officials. The blacksmiths and helpers then walked out.

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