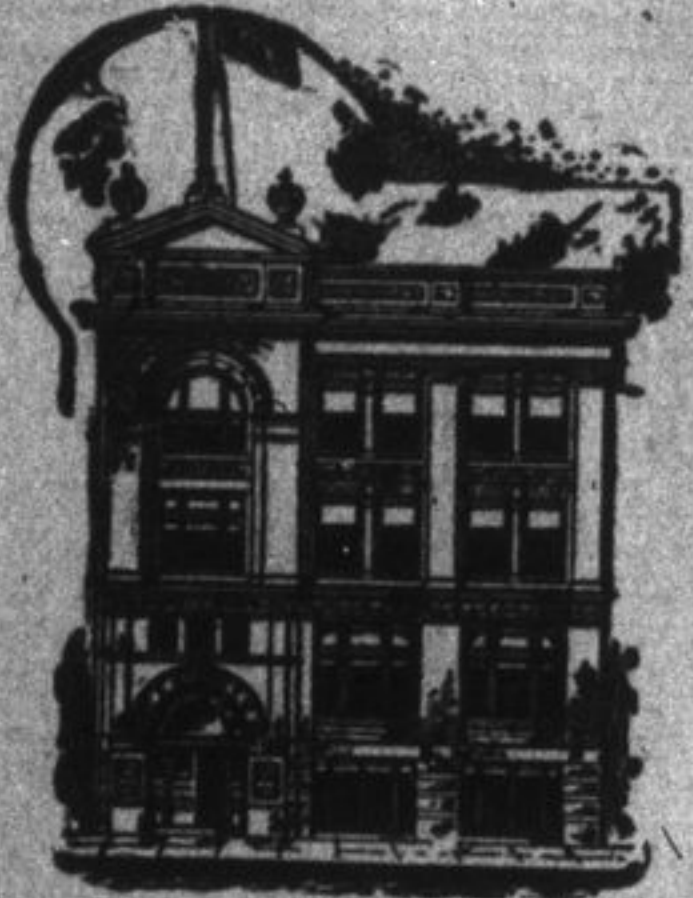


THE BRITISH WHIG SIXTH YEAR.



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The hired man on the farm has had his vacation real early this year.

Higher wages is the burden of the manufacturers. Higher prices for necessities is the burden of the workman. So there you are!

That dear friend who is always knocking a mutual friend to you is sure to make you a victim when he is talking to somebody else. We know them.

The old rhyme about "grasping a nettle" applies very aptly to the labor troubles in the west at present. Only firm handling will relieve the situation.

The airman who tries to distinguish himself by acrobatic feats in the air may be gaining notoriety, but so long as they are not accomplishing any useful object by their stunts, they should be discouraged.

The Sinn Feiners are a greedy lot. Not only do they want an Irish Republic, but they also want Great Britain to finance it. That sounds like a victorious general dictating terms to the defeated enemy.

According to latest reports, Russia is being redeemed by the Russians themselves, which is the only possible way. As we have repeatedly stated, the Russians must work out their own salvation.

Canada at present has great need of a wise leader, and Premier Borden faces a crisis in the country's history. It is to be hoped that he will rise to the occasion and manage the affairs of the nation in a safe way.

The strikes at Edmonton and Calgary have resulted in the newspapers having to suspend publication. When the press has to close up because of the actions of the strikers, then it is good-bye to their hopes of success.

The Canadian Senate proposes to deport all who believe in upsetting constituted authority, according to an amendment made to the Immigration Bill, whether these agitators be Canadians or not. This seems like a sensible action, but to which country are the Bolshevik Canadians to be deported?

A great controversy is going on in the Toronto Times regarding the hanging of Frank McCollough, the notorious murderer who recently escaped and was recaptured. Our opinion is that he has forfeited all right to public sympathy and that he is a decided menace to the public.

It has been noticed that since the trouble with the G.W.V.A. over the appointment of the garbage inspector, there has been an entire absence of any promises in the speeches made by the mayor in welcoming the returned troops. We hope that his worship is learning that it is deeds and not words that count.

As another argument to show that the American army was not the whole cheese in winning the war, it has just been stated that from July 16th, 1918, to November 14th, 1918, the American army captured 43,500 prisoners and 1,450 guns, while the rest of the Allies captured 765,000 prisoners and 8,734 guns. In the light of these figures, we wonder what the Germans think of the subject.

WHY REV. BEN SPENCE WAS PUNISHED.

In the issue of the Whig for May 6th, there appeared an editorial note upholding Magistrate Kingsford, of Toronto, for passing sentence on the Rev. Ben Spence for violation of the censorship laws of Canada. N. A. Asseltine, an Odessa reader of the Whig, took exception to this attitude on our part, so a further editorial was published, explaining that the Whig did not in any way discuss the merits or demerits of the book, but simply took the stand that the Rev. Ben Spence was bound by the laws of Canada just in the same way as any other citizen, and that if he chose to break the law he must be prepared to suffer. Another letter was then received from Mr. Asseltine, continuing the discussion. This letter, which appears in another column, was withheld from publication until the Whig could thoroughly study the facts of the case, and be in a better position to give the fullest statement as to whether justice had been done or not. We have now secured the complete facts, and publish them herewith, so that there can be no misunderstanding as to where the Whig stands in this case. Mr. Asseltine can judge for himself whether or not his own views of the matter are correct.

"The Parasite," the book which was the cause of the whole controversy, was simply a rebash of a book which had previously been banned, and it bore a striking similarity to the banned book. On its being received by the censor it was decided to ban it for distribution in Canada, which was exactly the same action as was taken in Great Britain. The Rev. Ben Spence was prosecuted for having had it published, but the first prosecution fell to the ground on some small technicalities. Soon after, the Chief Press Censor received a communication from the Peterborough Branch of the G.W.V.A., through official channels, urging that Mr. Spence be prosecuted for his offence against the censorship laws, and asking that he report upon the case. As duty bound, the censor reported to the proper authorities, recommending that the Rev. Ben Spence be prosecuted, and backing up his recommendation by a considerable quantity of official correspondence, including copies of letters addressed to the Prime Minister, the late Sir Mackenzie Bowell, other senators and members of the House of Commons and the chief press censor, written by the Rev. Ben Spence at the time when the first of the Mee books, upon which "The Parasite" was based, was placed under the ban, announcing that he was defying the government and the censorship authority, enclosing copies of the banned book, and announcing his willingness to take the consequences. Attention was drawn in the censor's report to the fact that such open and insolent defiance of the censorship on the part of Mr. Spence made it extremely difficult to enforce the censorship law in cases where similar offenders quailed at the immunity which Mr. Spence had enjoyed in the case mentioned.

The law in respect to the censorship states that it is an offence to "write, print, publish, deliver, receive or have in his possession or on premises in his occupation or under his control, any letter or other writing, or any newspaper, tract, periodical, book, circular, or other printed publication, or any photograph, plan, sketch, model or other representation containing or consisting of objectionable matter." (Sub-section 1 of section 2 of order 2 of the consolidated orders respecting censorship.) It was clearly proven in court that Mr. Spence printed, published and had in his possession in premises in his occupation or under his control copies of the so-called "Spence" edition of "The Parasite," and the court therefore decided that his action was illegal.

In regard to the particular case of "The Parasite," Mr. Spence was quite aware that this book bore a striking similarity to the two Mee Books which had previously been banned. Nevertheless, although he was in receipt of the regular press censorship circulars in which editors and publishers were repeatedly invited to consult the chief press censor when in any doubt, he ordered a large edition of this book printed by the Methodist Book and Publishing House. When this book was nearing completion, the English edition was banned, and an announcement to this effect was made through the public press. When the Methodist Book and Publishing Company saw this paragraph, they refused delivery of the printing, and advised Mr. Spence to refer the matter to the censor. Ignoring this sensible advice, Mr. Spence ordered another edition from the Atwell-Fleming Company, and the order was one of the "hurry-up" character, so much so that the machine work was distributed through a number of job offices. This Atwell-Fleming edition had been completed and delivered to Mr. Spence several days before the censor heard of the transaction, and he then wrote to the Atwell-Fleming Company asking for proofs or copies

of the book before distribution. The company informed Mr. Spence of the censor's request and forbade him to distribute the books. Mr. Spence then sent the censor a copy. Yet Mr. Spence states that he had no intention of evading the censorship, and takes credit for having submitted a copy to the Chief Press Censor before circulation. It has been said that the Canadian edition of the book, as printed by the Methodist Book and Publishing Company, is not identical with the British edition. It requires very close scrutiny indeed to reveal any difference. The colored cover is the same, and the greater bulk of the letter-press is identical, and in addition, some of the new matter introduced includes some of the worst features of the two books of Mr. Mee previously banned.

These two Mee books received the patient and careful consideration of members of the government before they were banned. In investigating the case, it was brought to the notice of the Whig that the chief censor took the advice of the chief of the general staff, the chairman of the Military Service Council and the Food Controller respecting the character of "The Parasite." The opinion of these responsible officers was that the circulation of the book would interfere with the prosecution of the war by interfering with the discipline and recruiting of the army and by encouraging the enemy propaganda devised with a view of retarding the efforts to secure greater production and conservation of food. In the letter written by Mr. Asseltine, he attempts to pay tribute to what Mr. Spence did to help win the war, and to belittle the work of the Press Censor. It has yet to be found just what Mr. Spence did for the cause, but so far as the press censor is concerned, he has received the general commendation of the press of Canada as a whole and of some of the highest personalities in the government of Canada. He has been complimented by the censorship authorities of several of the Allied countries, including Great Britain and the United States, and his name has been drawn to the attention of the Secretary of State for War for services rendered. He has always retained the full confidence of the government, in spite of the repeated attacks made upon him by the Rev. Ben Spence.

As to the banning of the book in question, Mr. Spence and the Toronto Globe, as Mr. Asseltine states in his letter, "may know more about public requirements than do the members of the government and the public officials who were responsible for the pronouncement in this matter." The law, however, provides that after the issue of censorship warrants by the secretary of state, the fact that the publication is objectionable cannot be questioned. The issue of censorship warrants is not in the hands of the chief press censor, and that official is merely one element of an intricate piece of official machinery concerned in the actual direction of war operations. That "The Parasite" was objectionable and contained dangerous matter was the opinion of all the high officials to whom the book was referred, including, besides the Chief Press Censor, the Canadian Food Board, the Secretary of State and the Censorship Committee of the Privy Council, as well as the military staff officers referred to above. These responsible officials had in their possession information as to enemy propaganda and other matters which could not possibly be in possession of Mr. Spence or the Toronto Globe. Among other things, these officials knew that enemy propagandists were interesting themselves in the circulation of "The Parasite," realizing that the book was calculated to bring Great Britain into disrepute and to retard the efforts being made on behalf of food production and conservation throughout America. Therefore it is quite reasonable to suppose that the government of Canada and its officials entrusted with its various war measures in this country were as well able to form an opinion of

the character of this book as would Mr. Asseltine be able to do in his wisdom at the present.

As to the remark made by Mr. Asseltine regarding the supposed unmerited reflection on the intelligence of the Canadians, it might be interesting to him to know that there was very little circulation of the book outside of Great Britain and Canada. Its circulation, had it been large, outside of Britain, in any European Allied or neutral countries, would have done no harm, for they knew from actual experience of the virility of the British people, and the efforts they could put forth, and they were not looked to to contribute to the food supplies of the British people. As to the United States, there was no official action taken in that country to suppress the book, because there were no censorship laws in the United States during the war, and it is not known whether the United States Post Office Department exercised any censorship. The attention of the Canadian authorities was first drawn to this book by the British censorship officials, who realized that this book was unsuitable for circulation in Canada under the circumstances. One can readily understand why the book was for a time allowed circulation in the British Isles. The British people knew exactly how to appraise the statements contained in the publication, as the book referred to conditions supposed to exist in their midst, and as they knew that their existence depended largely upon food conservation and production they were not likely to give ear to the enemy propaganda slogan used in Canada.

"Why should we submit to food rations and attempt to increase our production of food, for the purpose of supplying grain to be made into beverages for the beer and whiskey-soaked people of Great Britain?"

In this reply to Mr. Asseltine's letter, the Whig has been careful to put forward the real facts of the case, only after careful and judicious enquiry and study. In this study, we have found nothing to make us alter our standpoint that the Rev. Ben Spence was rightly punished for his transgression of the censorship laws of Canada. What we have learnt, however, was that the book was really an objectionable one and that the censor acted wisely and in the best interests of Canada in suppressing it, and in recommending the prosecution of the man responsible for its production and distribution.

An Empire Calendar.

Union of South Africa, 1910. May 31.—To-day South Africa will celebrate Union Day, for it is just nine years ago since the self-governing colonies of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony were united in a legislative pact under the name of the Union of South Africa. The day was a memorable one in South Africa's history before this statesmanlike act became law, for on May 31st, 1902, the territory which had been formally annexed to the British Empire on Sept. 1, 1900, was finally made an integral part of that Empire by the signing of the peace terms at Pretoria. The fighting that necessitated this peace began in October, 1899, as the culmination of the discontent among the Outlanders, of Johannesburg at what they alleged was unfair treatment at the hands of President Paul Kruger and the Boers. The government of the Union is different from that of Canada, as under the Act the Governor-General, who is appointed by the Crown, nominates the Executive Council, and also has power of appointing not more than ten ministers to administer the various departments of state. The Senate was appointed for ten years and the Lower House cannot sit more than five years. A Minister of State may sit and speak, but may not vote in a house of which he is not a member. Only a British subject of European descent who has resided at least five years in the Union is qualified to sit as a member of the Legislative Assembly. While there still remains some racial feeling between the older Boers and the new settlers from Great Britain, yet the Kaiser never made a greater mistake when he counted on a revolt against British rule following the declaration of war against the Empire. General Botha in South Africa and General Smuts in England did wonders to

Rippling Rhymes

DRY TIME DRINKS

What will we drink when comes July? We hear the thirsty people cry, the friends of old John Barleycorn, who'll sadly miss the frothy beer. In time they'll hit the babbling stream whose waters in the sunlight gleam; at some far day that drink will please, but they would reach it by degrees; a sudden change from gadszooks, to snifters from the babbling brooks, would give their works too hard a jolt, and cause interior revolt. But there are drinks for every case, with which that great tapster, Tobacco, sauce is rich and hot, and hair restorer, hit the spot, remove from weary hearts the care, and sometimes grow pink whiskers there. And there are divers colored inks which some regard as tempting drinks. Good writing fluid, blue or black, sends pleasant thrills along the back, and makes a man so full of vim he'd cut a bobcat limb from limb. When I quit booze I often yearned for something strong that jarred and sampled all the drinks in view, from luscious oil to liquid glue, and finally was reconciled to lapping up the waters wild. And now I would not trade my well for all the booze this side of Hannibal, Mo.

—WALT MASON.

Advertisement for Bibbys Boys' Suits. Features the text 'Smart Clothes for Chaps Between 16 and 60' and 'OUR CELEBRATED \$35 SUITS ARE REAL BEAUTIES.' Includes an illustration of a boy and a man.

Advertisement for McClary's Gas Plates. Lists prices for 3 Burner Steel Frame and Oven (\$10.00), 2 Burner Steel Frame and Oven (\$5.50), 3 Burner Cast Frame and Oven (\$9.00), and 2 Burner Cast Frame and Oven (\$8.00).

Advertisement for Ripe Olives from California. States 'We have just received a large shipment of lovely ripe Olives. The Olive connoisseur will use no other kind. In tins at 20c, 45c, and 85c. Olive Mince for sandwiches, 20c tin.'

Advertisement for Fresh Garden Seeds. Promises 'Flower and vegetable. In package or bulk. Every seed fresh this year from the best seed houses. Special selection of sweet pea and aster seeds.'

Advertisement for Farms for Sale. Offers '50 acres, 5 miles from city, fairly good buildings, about 30 acres under cultivation, some good garden land, nice maple grove. Possession at once. Price, \$2500. 100 acres, about 9 miles from city, nearly all first class tillable soil, excellent buildings. Price, \$8,000. Money to loan at current rates on real estate only.'

Advertisement for Chestnut Coke. States 'The ideal fuel for household purposes. It is coal with all the smoke and gas producing substances removed—leaving pure carbon—no dust, no soot, little ash—lots of heat.'

Advertisement for Dr. A. P. Chown's Drug Store. Located at 188 Princess St., Phone 648, Sixt Room Registration.

Advertisement for T.J. Lockhart, Real Estate & Insurance. Located at Clarence Street, Phone 1055 or 1088.

Advertisement for Friendship's Choice Groceries. Located at 210 Division St., Phone 648.

Don't think that a bluff is a good substitute for an education.