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Letters to the Editor are published only over the actual name of the writer.

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If you have flags and decorations, prepare to show them now.

Every merchant should take pride in decorating his place of business in honor of the Prince.

If a returned soldier used Billy Sunday's language in public he would be denounced as a blasphemer, declares the Veteran. More than that, he might find himself in jail.

Under Bolshevik rule Petrograd had 40,000 deaths and only 5,800 births during the last six months. Do the Anglo-Saxon nations want this kind of government?

Henry Mills Alden, the veteran editor of Harper's Magazine, died last week in his 53rd year. He was the eighth in descent from John and Priscilla Alden, immortalized by Longfellow in his "Courtship of Miles Standish."

The Veteran, official organ of the G.W.V.A., says that Sir Robert Borden pledged Canada to the last man and the last dollar in winning the war. The last man was taken under conscription, but no suggestion has yet been put forward by the government that a single dollar is to be conscripted.

The Kingston Collegiate Institute loses a valuable and highly-trained teacher through the resignation of A. T. Hatch, instructor of manual training. He served this city faithfully and well during many years, and parents and pupils alike will extend best wishes to him in his new field of activity.

The city buildings are handsomely decorated in honor of the royal visit. The work was done under direction of J. Dowthwaite, of the T. Eaton Co., Toronto. An acknowledged expert working in conjunction with Ald. Corbett, chairman of the property committee. Both men are deserving of praise for the excellent result obtained.

AS OF OLD. How Paris will bear up, under the strain of peace after subjection for sixty-two months to the enervating calm of war remains to be seen. They have just declared peace, in France, announced the demobilization of the armies and removed the chief wartime restraints upon free speech and personal conduct.

THE BOMB PLOTTERS. The revelations from Gary, Ind., in regard to anarchist plotters there are certainly serious enough; but

there is no need to grow hysterical over them until further evidence is adduced that the conspiracy unearthed really is wide-spread, and that the number of persons in the ranks of the revolutionists is large enough to be a genuine menace.

The charge that a great underground revolutionary army is at work in the United States has been made many times in the past year or so, but whenever an individual anarchist is caught he usually turns out to be either a solitary fanatic or one of a comparatively small group of Americans.

Quite a large number of loose-minded, radically inclined people have a habit of talking like revolutionists. Parlor Bolshevism is not confined to people with parlors, but when it comes to the actual making of a bomb or pulling of a trigger we should doubtless find that the loudest talkers would be the first to go up to law and sanity. While it would be foolish to take lightly such a development as that at Gary, it would be equally foolish to lock our doors and pull the window shades down in the expectation that a whiskered, evil-looking face may be expected to appear in the vicinity of every home in the near future, intent on mischief.

KEEP THE COMMISSION. Ald. Graham announces that he is going to move in City Council that a by-law be submitted to the people for the purpose of relieving the Public Utilities Commission of the management of the gas and water departments. On two occasions during the past eight years the Council has asked the people to abolish commission government of the utilities. Both times the Whig opposed giving back to the council the management of the utilities, and the ratepayers by their votes decided that commission management should be retained. If the ratepayers are asked a third time to vote on the question it is hoped they will give the same answer as the people of the province did on Monday last to the proposal to abolish the Ontario Temperance Act, and once again vote no.

According to the provincial act, a municipality receiving power from the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario must have a local commission to manage its electrical plant. Hence the Kingston commission must continue to exist. All that can be taken from it would be the gas and water departments. To divide the management of the utilities would be most unwise. It would not be in the best interests of the plants or in the best interests of the consumers of water and gas. It would also not be to the advantage of the electrical consumers, for the three civic utilities managed by a single commission can be conducted more efficiently and more economically than if the management was divided and the water and gas departments were run by a committee of the City Council.

The Board of Works chairman's reason for wanting to get rid of commission management of gas and water is more imaginary than real. The chairman claims that the Board of Works has been held up in its road paving programme by the utilities management not doing the underground work soon enough. The utilities manager has shown this claim to be wrong. The fault lay largely with the Board of Works in not being more definite about the streets it intended paving during a season. During the present year the utilities manager claims that the Board of Works has not been held back through underground work not being completed. In Montreal, Princess, Barrie and Stuart streets, on which paving has been done, the underground work was completed in good time. Montreal street from Princess to James is not to be paved until next spring, and when the Commission orders him to proceed with the underground work in that street he will start it. The cost of renewals and additions to the gas service will run into the thousands of dollars of course, and most of the money will have to come out of the revenue of the gas plant.

The Whig can see no good reason for abolishing commission control of the city's gas and water plants, and it recommends the mayor and aldermen to think carefully over the matter before deciding to submit the proposal of a change to the people. There is no occasion for it. All that is needed is closer co-operation between the Commission and the Council, and that will depend largely upon the mayor, who is a member of the Commission by virtue of his office.

The Quebec Press

Object Lesson for Quebec. Le Soleil, commenting on returns just published of a shrinkage in the rural population of Ontario, since 1911, a shrinkage which is characterized as "alarming," sees in this fact reason for the formation of the United Farmers into political party. "It will be a matter for rejoicing," Le Soleil says, "if the entry of the farmers into aggressive politics will compel the governments to modify their present policy and pay more attention to the needs of the agricultural classes, instead of reserving all their attention on industrial, commercial and financial enterprises. Let

the example serve as a lesson to us in the province of Quebec."

A Vicious Circle. "While punishment is directed in other countries against the speculators, exploiters and profiteers, Canada only investigates and delinquent. When the inquiry which is now going on is ended, we shall have to begin all over again, because economic conditions then will no longer be what they are to-day. The exploiters will know how to profit by the occasion to revive discussion on all the embarrassing questions of the moment. In the meantime they will accumulate enormous profits which they certainly will not share with those whom they have exploited."

Canada-East and West

Dominion Happenings of Other Days.

An Expedition that Failed. October 1812 brought anxious days to the City of Montreal. War was raging between the British and the United States and on the 17th of that month a large American army, which had been collected at Sackett's Harbor for an attack on Montreal and Lower Canada began to move under four generals with a fifth brigade held in reserve. The embarkation was immediately known at Kingston, Ont. At once a little flotilla of eight gunboats with three field pieces and about 900 men sailed to keep in touch with the Americans. Arriving near Prescott the Americans landed but only to continue their march along the shore while the transports kept near the shore to be out of range as much as possible of the guns on the British squadron.

But as the British continued their watch of the enemy they were continually adding to their numbers until by November over 2,500 men were under the loyal flag. Then it was that they were in a position to make a serious attack on the Americans at Chrysler's Farm a position about midway between Morrisburg and Aultsville. The result of the engagement was a surprise to the enemy for in less than two hours they were defeated and in flight having lost 339 men while the British had suffered a diminution in number of about 180 officers and men. Another hundred men were captured in the battle but there was no attempt at pursuit as the victors were so exhausted by the struggle with its success. The Americans gave up the plan to attack Montreal and retreated to French Mills, not far from Malone, where they entrenched and prepared to remain the winter after building blockhouses and other defences. Other troops returned to Sackett's Harbor—the entire expedition had failed.

Must Get Back to the Land. L'Evenement: "The return and attachment to the soil is a necessary condition of life. An abandonment of the land and a flowing towards the cities is a course more or less slow, but sure, towards the extinction of families, then a race, then a country."

The most dangerous enemy is he who can both smile and plan injury in your presence.

Rippling Rhymes

CONTENTED.

There's one who is contented—the bard who writes this poem—though men around have vented harsh language decked with foam; I like the work I'm doing, the errands I'm pursuing, the kind of rags I'm chewing, the wreath upon my dome. I like the pay I'm drawing—it keeps me out of debt—though other guys are jawing about the wage they get; I like the way I'm dining, the food that comes for whining, although my face is shining and damp with honest sweat. I like my little cottage, it's humble, but it's nice; I like my frugal pottage, composed of prunes and rice; I like the lyre I'm thrumming. I like the book I'm thumbing; I'll have no kick a-coming until I'm placed on ice. I like the kind of leather of which they make our steaks; this world is good to work around and play in, and all complaints are fakes. Oh, evils are existing; but beefing will not cure them, or help me to endure them, and so I just abjure them, and sing my dippy song.

—WALT MASON.

CANADA LAID FIRST CABLE.

Earliest Messages Were Exchanged Sixty-one Years Ago.

The first messages to cross the Atlantic by cable were exchanged August 16, 1858. The first submarine cable on this side of the Atlantic was laid between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, a distance of ten miles; by the Governments of the two provinces in 1851. The second cable in America was also laid by Canadian enterprise between Cape Breton and Newfoundland, a distance of 85 miles, in 1856.

The idea of laying a cable across the Atlantic originated not with Cyrus W. Field, who organized the company that was ultimately successful in the enterprise, but with Frederick Newton Gisborne, an Englishman who came to Canada in 1845 and spent the first two years with his brother, Hartley, on a farm near St. Eustache, Quebec. Becoming interested in electric telegraphy, then showing possibilities of commercial development, the brothers studied the Morse alphabet and secured employment with the Montreal Telegraph Co. as operators in 1847. Frederick Gisborne opening the first office in Quebec.

Some years later Hartley Gisborne went to Egypt, where he became director of the state telegraphs. Frederick became associated with the organization of the British North American Electric Telegraph Association and was deputed to visit New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with the purpose of connecting those provinces with the other Canadas by telegraphs. His representations proving acceptable, he was appointed superintendent and chief operator of the Government lines at Halifax, 1849 to 1851, during which period he became interested in the possibilities of insulating wire in rubber covering to carry the electric current under water. After successful experimentation he prevailed upon the Governments of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to lay short cables under Northumberland Strait in 1852. He then proposed the laying of a submarine cable from Cape Breton to Newfoundland and the further extension of cable service from Newfoundland to Ireland. To enlist capital for this later enterprise, he went to New York in the winter of 1853-1854 and there met Cyrus W. Field. The outcome of the interviews with Cyrus Field was the organization of the New York Newfoundland and London Telegraph Co., and the successful laying of the Atlantic cable in 1857; but Frederick Newton Gisborne was nevertheless the originator of the idea and prime mover of the enterprise. In 1856 he completed a land telegraph line across Newfoundland that was utilized as a part of the first cable system. Up to 1854 Cyrus W. Field was not interested in the possibilities of the submarine cable; before meeting Frederick Gisborne he was a moderately wealthy dealer in paper stock in New York City.

Previous to his failure the bankrupt might have been termed a "good spender."

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There is always a miscarriage of justice when prejudice gets a seat in the jury box. It is getting near the time when people will contemplate Christmas extravagance.