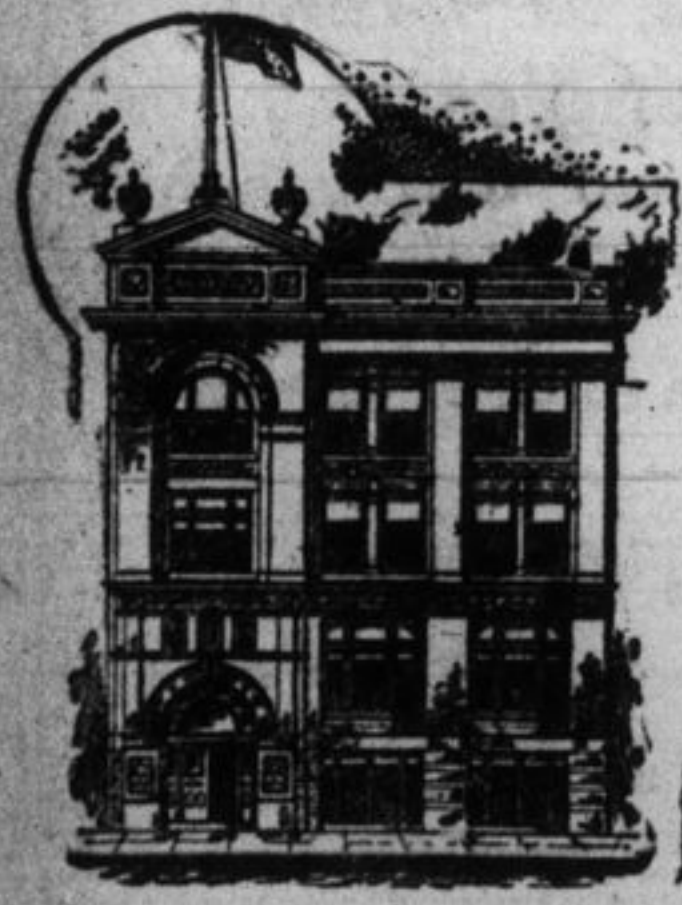


THE BRITISH WHIG 87th YEAR.



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Do your coal shopping early.

Even Job's personal misfortunes did not include a rise in rent and a shortage of houses.

But what we need is the kind of peace that will permit a reduction in the size of headlines.

The desire for liberty never inspired the Slav to the sublime sacrifices he makes in the cause of loot.

If everybody boosted Kingston like Bushel boasts the fair we would soon have a city of over 50,000 population.

Very often a man thinks he is restrained by his conscience when he is restrained by fear of getting caught.

And now Alaska wants home rule. The Eskimos and polar bears up there must have been reading the newspapers.

If Mexico succeeds in demonstrating that Carranza was a private citizen when killed it will doubtless be a great consolation to his family.

Those who sorrow because the next generation will inherit the war debt should cheer up. Present indications are that it will also inherit the war.

Germany's fear that the Bolsheviks will destroy civilization is unreasonable. If Germany couldn't do it, how shall the primitive Red?

There seems to be a false note in Germany's horrified protest against sending troops through a neutral state to get at an enemy.

So far the only logical objection to the Volstead act in the United States has been that it interferes with the sale of whiskey.

Two parliamentary secretaries at Ottawa have been dispensed with, effecting a saving of \$10,000 a year. The public will appreciate such economy.

Advertising pays. The Ottawa government, recognizing this, has inaugurated a publicity department. Like other institutions, governments cannot afford to hide their light under a bushel.

Despatches say that an effort will be made to establish Soviets in Canada. Well, perhaps the sooner the better, if they won't learn any other way.—Toronto Labor Leader.

A chap from St. Catharines, who is a prisoner with the Bolsheviks, says that bar starvation, disease, dirt, desolation and a few minor drawbacks, Soviet Russia is a damned fine place.

A Chicago artist offers to sell his four-year-old daughter for \$1,000 in order to help him pay his debts. If he was a man instead of an artist he would go to work and fulfil his parental obligations.

Opposition to the increase in telephone rates is universal. The action of the Kingston city council is backed by the determined opposition of the mayor and council of Toronto, and now Premier Drury promises that the province will cooperate in opposing a raise in rates.

MAKE THE PRISON UPLIFTING. The view of the Ottawa penitentiary department that the escape of the two convicts from the provincial prison at Portsmouth is a blow to the

uplifters is about on a par with the view that if there had been bars, men who died of drinking wood alcohol would be alive to-day. Will the heads of the penitentiaries tell the people what there is in the federal prisons to make the inmates better? The prisoners' lot is made so hard that even honest guards have been moved to compassion by smuggling them pieces of chewing tobacco. It appears that there is little in the prison curriculum but work and punishment. The uplifters do not wonder at all that prisoners (not necessarily criminals) want to escape from torment. When the federal penitentiaries are made places of reformation and improve the minds and morals of the men and women incarcerated, then the uplifters will be content. Perhaps the recent escape, which has caused some humiliation, may help in the campaign for prison reform.

SAVING A SACRED SPOT. The dean of Westminster Abbey has issued an appeal for funds to aid in the restoration of that historic edifice. His appeal should meet with response from every part of the world wherein the English language is spoken. So many historical and sacred associations cling about this venerable spot that it would be a lasting shame to allow it to fall into decay and crumble into ruin. No spot on earth is more sacred to Englishmen than Westminster Abbey, in which our kings are crowned and for long were buried, and which has now become the recognized sepulchre of our mighty dead, says the editor of United Empire, Britishers in the Dominions Overseas will share that sentiment. It is nearly a thousand years ago since Edward the Confessor raised the first Abbey Church in the Isle of Westminster, but it is with a shock that we realize from the dean's appeal for funds that the present magnificent building, mainly the creation of the third and seventh Henries, is threatened with grave dilapidation, and even, if long neglected, with disaster. One feels that time should have left these stones untouched; the guardian of the immortals should itself be immortal. But not only is the abbey in serious need of repair; it is poor, and with the present prices of materials and labor, has nothing like sufficient money to carry out the necessary work of preserving the fabric. No doubt many in the dominions will be glad to testify their respect for one of the spiritual homes of our race. A steady flow of subscriptions should follow as a result of the dean's appeal.

MOB LAW IN CANADA. The attempt to lynch David McNeal at Thorold, who was under arrest accused of the murder of Margaret Boucock, was a disgraceful proceeding. Never in the history of Canada has mob law reached the point of crime, and it is to be hoped that we may never again see a group of persons attempt to take the law into their own hands. In this case, fortunately, the intended victim was given an opportunity before the noose was adjusted to make an address, and he made such a profound impression upon his hearers that he not only dissuaded them from their purpose of hanging him to the telephone pole, but made of them sympathizing friends determined to see him get a fair trial. Whether he is guilty of the crime with which he is charged will not be known until after all of the evidence in the case is heard, but from the account of the manner in which he overcame the determination of the mob to take his life without a trial, he must be a man of no mean ability. The question that many people will ask is how he did it. There were two things in favor of McNeal. In the first place there was no color or racial prejudice to inflame the mob as in the lynchings that take place annually in the United States. There was abhorrence of his crime, and when he was given the opportunity to plead his innocence, the absence of any statement in support of the charge against him compelled the mob to leave his case in the hands of the proper authorities. Any other course would have been without a shadow of justification on the part of the mob, however righteous their wrath against the perpetrator of a despicable crime. The action of this mob was a blot upon the fair name of Canada, and although it did not take a life, all of the elements of an outrage upon justice were present. Had the scale been tipped ever so slightly by personal antipathy against the victim, there is not the slightest doubt that he would have met with short shrift. We don't want mob law in this country and everything that tends to bring our regularly constituted courts and laws into disrepute should be frowned upon. It is just a question whether or not this whole affair is not a symptom of the condition through which we have been passing during the past two years. There has been altogether too much criticism of our governments and institutions, on the part of political organizers, irresponsible hirelings often who failed to appreciate fully the direct and indirect consequences

of their utterances. It is in the interest of all of the people of the country to uphold the constituted authorities, our institutions and laws, and any political group that carries on a campaign to deliberately discredit its government, parliament, legislature and courts is deserving of something more than censure. To all thoughtful people the Thorold incident will be a warning that no person desires to see repeated.

PUBLIC OPINION

Moderate Profits. (Boston Transcript) Conservative investments, such as mill stocks to yield only about 100 per cent. will now be the order of the day.

England Understands. (Baltimore Sun) Of course, England understands that our politicians twist the lion's tail in the effort to squeeze out a vote.

Life's Merry-Go-Round. (Cincinnati Enquirer) You may not know it, but when you are laughing at a man behind his back some other man is behind your back laughing at you.

A Cordial Invitation. (Ewingham, Kansas, New Leaf) If you do not go fishing or visiting, and have no work to do, and the street has no loafers to interest you, you might go to church, and the churches will be glad to see you, no matter who you are.

MUSINGS OF THE KHAN

Get Thee to a Monastery! Reformers ever go to extremes. When we revolute we revolute too fast and far. When we get religion we get too much, that is, if it is possible to get too much of a good thing, which is a debatable question. We always overdo it, which is almost as bad as not doing it at all.

I was reading some ancient history the other day and I noticed that when this world got too hot to hold some big men and public characters that "he retired to a monastery." Now, there's a good idea that it would be well for us to consider. For instance, we have a great man on our hands who lingers superfluous on the stage. What if we do with him? We hate to kill him. In the nebulous past we are informed that he did the state some service. But what will we do with him? To kick him out is an undignified proceeding for the party of the first part as well as for the party of the second part. Besides, they are generally pretty well advanced in years and an injury to the lower part of the spine would be fatal. If we followed the fine old customs of the ancients we would say to this old fellow— "Get thee to a monastery, and quickly too!"

THEN—if we found him loafing about the premises next day we could go to him with a fence rail or a sawed-off shotgun. THE KHAN. The Wigwam, Rushdale Farm, Rockton, Ont.

Rippling Rhymes

RED YEARS. It is a strange and savage time; there is a carnival of crime, that never stops or rests—the slayer to his victim wends, and voters kill their lady friends and ship them off in chests. Assassinations fill the land; we find dead gents on every hand, they cluster up the mews, and peeters and detectives toll, and vainly burn the midnight oil to thrash out stacks of clues. Here where Pacific billows roar three murdered guys were washed ashore within two weeks or one; and inland other chaps were slain, and no one offered to explain just why the deeds were done. These beastly crimes we all abhor and but the outcome of the war, the years of deadly strife, when men who fought for flag or king soon felt that nature's cheapest thing is stuff called human life. For years we talked of doom and death and every time we drew a breath it seemed to taste of gore; we read of dead men piled in ricks, and all the boats upon the Styx were freighted with corpses o'er. The peoples all have learned to slay, and now, if some one's in the way, you see that some one dies; oh, may we see the times again when gents won't swat their fellowmen, as they would swat the flies!

WALT MASON

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party, and here in seclusion and prayerful quiet these men who once figured in the strenuous world outside would be lulled to sleep. It was a great scheme and our plan can't compare with it. When a gent becomes persona non grata with the great washed and unwashed what we do with him? Nine times out of ten we ought to kill him, but we don't—we "elevate" him to "the bench! Do you call that an improvement on the old monastery idea? Surely not! If there is no room for him on the bench we appoint him as a commissioner or make him a magistrate, or an inspector of something, or a registrar, or sheriff, or any old thing so as to get rid of him—and we don't get rid of him! In the old days when a man entered a monastery he never came out. He bothered, he worried, he dunned the folks no more. It was understood that so long as he stayed in there and never showed his nose outside the gate that bygones would be bygones and nobody would hold spite; indeed, everybody would be pleased to hear that he was doing well. Surely that was a better place than ours? Modern history hath some terrible examples of this folly. To get rid of Napoleon our fathers made him Lord High Executioner of Elbo and let it go at that. But did that satisfy the little Corsican? It did not! He had a whole island a great deal bigger and not nearly so valuable as our island, but a pretty nifty little old island just the same, and he was actually paid—paid to stay there—and he got his dough in quarterly payments just as regular. He owned all the distilleries and jails and ice cream saloons, and picture shows and the baseball team—he had every thing in his mitt. But he made more trouble than he ever made before, so our fathers had to bundle him off to a monastery dedicated to St. Helen—which was a graceful compliment to the fair sex. Some of our once-was-great men step out when they are squeezed out and "re-enter" private life. They don't. They haunt the outskirts of our civilization. Like a lion escaped from a circus they may be toothless and mangy and verminous, but they scare nervous people. I am no coward, but, nevertheless, I wouldn't want any old lion padding about in my sugar bowl. I don't care how harmless he might be. Here's another way of looking at it. It is unkind to appoint some men to the bench and it is an outrage on the public. If we get rid of Smith, Jones and Robinson by putting them on a commission or shipping them off to London and Washington? When old Sir John A. wanted to get rid of some offensive partisan he shipped him off to the Old Country as an emigration agent, and he generally drank himself to death in a few months. Sir John A. will have to answer for this, I fear, on the Last Great Day. No, my friends, you can't get rid of these people by appointing them to the bench. The man who lived a thousand years ago were wiser than us. We will have to follow their example. Our vast charitable institutions and lunatic asylums are practically maintained by the gold pieces we steal from rich men and give. Let us establish a great institution on the principle of the old-time monastery and when we want to get rid of some objectionable monster in our midst we will tell him to "Get there, Eli!" and if he don't, he will have to take the consequences.

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