

THE BRITISH WHIG 87th YEAR.



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The Prince of Wales is called an expert in lessening the distance between the people and the throne.

In 1916 there were 16,000 millionaires in the United States; now there are 50,000. The war made them.

In these hot days how pleasant it is to think of the price of coal and cause cold shivers to run down one's back.

When the strong covet a thing they may be unable to find a text to bolster their cause but they can always find a pretext.

Sooner or later automobiles will wear cowcatchers in order to toss pedestrians into the gutter and avoid mashing up the streets.

The Bell Telephone company is trying hard to convince Ottawa that talk is cheap. The luxury of years ago is a necessity now.

It cost the people of Canada over \$150,000 for the junk of the Imperial Press Union to see Canada. Was this good business and good advertising?

The ex-kaiser is giving a hospital to Amerongen. Can it be his presence there made everybody sick? In his time he kept many hospitals running overtime.

People are evidently more concerned over the self-imposed starving of MacSwiney than over the war imposed starvation of thousands of Europeans. What an anomaly!

The city assessor has added several millions to the assessed value of the property of citizens. And yet there is no likelihood of a decline in the tax rate; rather Mayor Nickle suggests it may be higher than ever next year.

The automobile prices are falling just when everybody thinks of selling their cars and calling the season closed. Just when coal is most needed the price is the highest. 'Twas ever thus!

As a protest against high prices in the restaurants, Toronto people are carrying their lunches now. Restaurants should be licensed, and when prices are unduly high the licenses could be cancelled.

The farmer says he can turn over his investment only once a year and he needs a good profit in view of the fact that the packers turn over theirs every two weeks and the restaurant keeper every day.

Someone said that in San Francisco as a result of prohibition the banks gained \$666,000,000 in two and a half months. The Cincinnati Enquirer adds: "We don't know whether this is cited to show the advantage of prohibition or the way the bootlegging industry thrived."

THE BILLBOARD HIDEOUS.

The battle which is raging in Massachusetts between the Civic League and the billboard men awakens live interest in many quarters. In the excitement of the war and the turmoil of the period of reconstruction the sign poster escaped general attention, but with the return to normal times he has become again the target for the attacks of various civic organizations.

There is much to be said against the ugly signboard. Not only does it mar the beautiful landscape on nearly every highway, but it has so far invaded residential districts and become so obnoxious in its glaring displays in parks and on buildings that public sentiment is once more

stirring against it. Indeed, the beauty loving citizen is resolved that the country shall not be marred and every lovely spot commercialized and made hideous.

The movement, however, while legitimate and proper, should recognize the fact that the billboard man perform a useful and necessary task and have rights which should be respected. Only harm and injustice can result from a crusade of persecution directed against them with the purpose of taxing their business out of existence, regardless of the manner of exercise. On the other hand, the profession would do well to awaken to the situation and endeavor in every way to keep their activities within the bounds of moderation and good taste.

SYSTEM LACKING.

The present method of conducting harvesters' excursions to western Canada in the summer is very much in need of revision. When seemingly urgent calls are sent forth through the press and otherwise declaring that forty thousand harvesters from the east are needed to gather in the western crops, when in reality there is not work for more than twenty thousand, it is time that a halt be called. The bulk of the harvesters go from Ontario, and it should be the duty of the provincial government hereafter to see that there is not a repetition of the occurrences of this passing season when hundreds of thousands of men who went west could not be placed at all and had to return. Ontario suffers by the loss of so many men at a very busy time of the year. These men are attracted by the western harvest call of eight dollars a day. According to some who went west, the eight dollar offer fell to \$4.50 because the supply was far greater than the demand, and when the easterners were once in the distant west they would have to take what they could get unless they had a fat pocketbook and had gone to the wheat field regions for pleasure as well as work. However, thousands of the harvesters probably took with them little more than would keep them for a few days after reaching their destinations, and many of these men were sorry indeed that they had not remained in Ontario and taken five dollar a day jobs. The labor bureau of the Ontario government should keep this matter in mind next year and take pains to ascertain just how many harvest workers the west needs, and advertise the fact, so that this province may not be depleted of labor for two or three months.

THE JONES ACT.

The policy laid down by the United States' congress in the Jones Act in directing the president within ninety days to terminate all treaty provisions that restricted the right of that country to impose discriminating customs duties and tonnage dues was widely questioned at the time the bill was under consideration. The New York World goes so far as to say that, if enforced, it was clearly foreseen that this provision would lead to general maritime warfare. No nation whose treaty rights were summarily abrogated by the United States could be expected to submit passively to such treatment. It was an invitation to the rest of the world to enter upon a campaign of reprisals. It was a direct incitement to countries with which the United States maintained commercial relations to seek to protect their interests through a policy of retaliation. If the United States undertook to impose discriminating taxes on foreign shipping, then inevitably American shipping must be prepared to encounter discriminations no less effective in foreign ports.

When the United States congress passed the Jones Act and President Wilson signed it they must have known that there was trouble ahead. The attempt to commit the United States to the subsidy system was clumsy and ill-considered. The most appropriate time for the president to have interposed his objection to the repudiation of treaty rights guaranteed other nations was when through the regular means of a veto he could have returned the bill to congress for its consideration. In effect, his present action is a belated veto, of which the immediate consequence is to shift discussion from the provisions of the Jones Act itself to his constitutional authority to set aside the plain instructions of congress. Meanwhile the rest of the world looks on with wonder, and perhaps some degree of amusement, to the political game as it is played in the United States during a presidential election campaign.

Mrs. Stephen West, Beaverton, left the family at dinner and disappeared. The harbor was dragged but no trace has yet been found of her.

The authorities have forced 137 "Black and Tans" to resign for participating in the sacking of Balbriggan, Ireland.

The Fanad Head, a steamer from Montreal, which is docked at Dublin, was raided by Sinn Feiners for arms.

The Welland Tribune and the Telegraph have amalgamated, to be run as an independent paper.

It is reported that Sir Geo. H. Perley will return to London as High Commissioner.

Cabinet decision in the railway rates appeal is withheld for the present. The price of admission to the United States is now eight dollars.

MUSINGS OF THE KHAN

Jupiter Pluvius. It is a blessed thing that we are all Christians. It is a fortunate thing that we have ceased to bribe the gods to be good to us or bad to our enemies. After twenty centuries the old custom breaks out here and there. When we get into a hole we get busy and promise the Lord, or our patron saint, or whoever it is we think has the biggest pull with the Almighty—all kinds of plunder.

It would be worth knowing how many millions of people prayed for rain this summer and how many millions prayed just the opposite. As Christians it was six of one and half a dozen of the other, but I don't believe that Jupiter Pluvius paid the slightest heed to either party. Have you ever stopped to think what rain can do—how much it affects our whole lifetime?

The Junior Farmers held their annual fair on the parade grounds last Monday, and it rained. It started to drizzle about ten o'clock and kept drizzling away, drizzling away all afternoon. It did me no good, but it was hard for a minute, but it was wet. The women crouched in doorways or under anything that would shed the rain, and they were very grave and silent. You have seen a bunch of hens huddled under a wagon during a shower. Well, that's what they looked like. They suffered martyrdom heroically. Each of them stood very erect, like a hen does when it's raining, but they didn't look so very mad. Rather were they inclined to be just to the sterner sex.

"My man told me to stay to home—and I wish I had," said one dame. "My man he'll be tickled to death," said another. "He sowed wheat three weeks ago an' it ain't sprouted yet, an' he's bin prayin' for rain an'—"

"I didn't know that your man was a prayin' body," "Well," explained the poor woman, "he wasn't 'xactly prayin' for rain, but was hopin' for it, an' that's the next thing to it. What's the use in prayin' if you don't hope to get what yer prayin' fer? Well, as I was sayin', he has been canvassin' the angels fer rain goin' on ten days, an' I guess he got a tip it was comin' in' fer he told me this mornin' fer to stay at home. Ef I got drowndid gettin' back and got my death he'd say, 'Let the tall go with the hide, it was good fer the wheat.'"

I am glad that the custom of offering presents and camouflaged brides to Jupiter Pluvius has gone out of fashion, for it would lead to rioting and very bitter feeling among different classes of the community. Knowing how rain affects the attitude of the directors of the great Toronto Exposition would most bitterly resent any attempt of any clique, clan or class of people to induce J. P. to start a day and a half or a two days' rain during Exhibition time. And yet that rain might do good. During the last Exposition the farmers would have been helped vastly by a few days' rain.

If we were asked what was the most miserable time we ever put in we would almost unanimously say it was the time we went to a distant fall fair and it rained all day. It's always cold, too, and the chances are you are wearing your best clothes and they will be ruined. Stand there shivering in some corner of the wretched place you hate yourself and everybody else, and you swear—if you are in the habit of swearing—that you will never go to another fall fair again.

Our grandfathers said they would do so and so, God willing. Our fathers said they would do such and such, health and weather permitting. We simply say we will do it if it don't rain.

It was a bedside scene. The departing one was an unconscionable time dying. "Sar' Ann was somewhat

bored and very tired. She pressed old Bennie Seymppler's hand. "Goodbye, Bennie," she said, "I'll meet you in heaven—if it don't rain!" THE KHAN The Wigwam, Rushdale Farm Rockton, Ont.

Walt Mason THE POET PHILOSOPHER

JOY RIDERS. I'm seated in my fiftree's shade, beside the public highway, and flies assail me unafraid—which is the silly fly way. And all day long the autos scoot, in heedless haste before me; and all day long they honk and hoot, and throw the gravel o'er me. In luxury the riders bask upon the seats of satin; "Does no one ever work?" I ask, in Choctaw, Greek and Latin. Old age is riding there, in south, in limousines that glitter, and at the wheel is glided youth—and I'm the only quitter; for now and then I park my boat and strive to earn a dollar—a scheme from reason so remote that all the passers holler. Oh, drizzling away, the roaders are black, their motors sizzing; they journey south, they scamper north, and east and west they're whizzing. The roads are black with fine sedans, and all the world is playing except some tin-horn also-rans who labor at their haying. The roads are black with limousines, on idle errands going, and wiled are the useful beans—there's none to do the hoiing. The world is busy blowing kale, and thrift's a thing to banish; "Does no one ever work?" I wall, in German, French and Spanish. —WALT MASON.

RUSHING CHEESE STORAGE PLANT

Old Seed House at Cape Vincent is Remodeled—To Cost \$25,000.

Cape Vincent, N.Y., Oct. 1.—Taking into consideration the excellent shipping facilities afforded, which is of paramount importance in the cold storage business, E. W. Coon, of the Coon storage, is rapidly remodeling and rebuilding the old Howard & Underhill seed house, recently purchased by him, and in time will have an up-to-date cheese storage plant, modern in every respect.

The building at the present time is 100 by 40 feet, is four stories high and located on the south side of Broadway opposite the New York Central railroad depot. A spur of the track runs across Broadway and alongside the building, this giving ready access to shipping by rail. Only a few years ago Mr. Coon purchased the Cleveland seed house, located at the foot of Market street, and on the St. Lawrence river. This he transformed into a modern cheese storage house, constructing a large dock affording excellent shipping accommodations by water. The Market street plant and the new one under construction now will undoubtedly make one of the largest cheese storage plants in this section of the country.

Roughly estimating, the cost of remodeling will probably amount to about \$25,000. Both American and Italian cheese will be handled. Mr. Coon purchases practically the entire output from surrounding cheese factories and transports it to this village for storing, curing and shipping. A more advantageous point for storage purposes would have been hard to find.

Mayor Church is likely to be the choice of the Conservatives at the party convention to select a candidate for North-east Toronto in the coming by-election rendered necessary by the resignation of Hon. Dr. J. J. Cody. Backus is to build a mill at Kenora.

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