

THE BRITISH WHIG

90TH YEAR.



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The idea some persons have of an independent opinion is one that agrees with theirs.

A man with parliamentary timber, however, just because he qualifies as a sounding board.

It is cheaper to smoke cigarettes than cigars. You don't mind asking a friend for a cigarette.

When some men complain that the day of opportunity is past they mean that jails are more plentiful.

Another good way to keep a fountain pen from leaking in your pocket is to leave it on your desk.

Correct this sentence: "How dainty and graceful you look," said he, "while eating corn on the cob."

Patriotism is the quality that makes it dishonorable to be a pacifist until the fiddler's bill is presented.

There is one nice thing about being a nobody. You can get away with it without consulting your attorney.

The expense did not look so formidable last winter when many persons were planning a summer vacation.

The "Red propaganda" found in colleges for girls may be nothing more serious than rouge advertisements.

Genius has given us many wonderful phrases and beautiful thoughts, but nothing more satisfying than "Attoboy."

Something should be done to protect us from poison-pen letters that begin by saying the account is long overdue.

Most of the time the average man would not have anything worth while to say if he did talk back to his wife.

The law of compensation works inexorably. Gasoline up when flour is down keeps the necessities of life in balance.

As usual, however, the crops irreparably ruined by late frosts will be marketed at a loss on account of over-production.

These are decadent times. Babe Ruth is away behind, and the still-mans don't average more than one headline a week.

A good name may be rather to be chosen than great riches, but the government cannot collect income tax from a good name.

The uncertainty in political fields may be due to the fact that multiplication of leaders has left none to qualify as followers.

An artist says that an impressive painting can be bought for \$100. For that matter, a framed \$100 bill would be impressive.

This vacuum sweeper idea isn't entirely new. As we remember it, the old-fashioned hired girl was a vacuum from the sets up.

REVERSE THE CREAT-OR:—Thou art worthy. O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.—Revelation 4:11.

CORRECTNESS vs. CONVENIENCE

Objection has recently been raised to the use of the term "Anglican Church" on government forms, the substitution of the correct name: "Church of England in Canada" being recommended. "Anglican," it is claimed, is merely a nickname.

The Concise Imperial Dictionary, on which all loyal Ontario children have lately been brought up, does not justify such a viewpoint. "Anglican," it says, comes from the Latin Anglicus, English. The Anglican Church, it adds, is the Church of England and the Protestant Episcopal churches in Ireland, Scotland and the colonies. This, surely, includes the Church of England in Canada, so that "Anglican Church," while a little less definite than the other name, would not be any less applicable.

The situation is somewhat as if a man objected to being called an American and insisted upon the appellation: "Native of the United States." Technically he would be within his rights, since Eskimos and Patagonians are also Americans. But even at that, he would hardly assert that "American" was a nickname, "a contemptuous or familiar name," as the above-mentioned C. I. D. defines it. "Anglican" is not a nickname in this sense, either. Its character becomes plainer when it is contrasted with "Methodist." The latter is a genuine nickname, for it was first used in mild derision of that sect's methodical habits of worship.

"Anglican" contains no such implication. As we have said, it may appear a little indefinite. But its shortness has endeared it to a harassed officialdom. It is so handy, and so very inoffensive, that perhaps we may still hope for its retention.

CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA. There is a curious dissimilarity in reports which come from Russia regarding the condition of the people. From one source, there comes a report that the country is threatened with famine, that four hundred thousand people are threatened with death by starvation, and are living only by eating grass. Almost at the same time, there is a report from Moscow of a great grain surplus, of farmers finding themselves unable to dispose of their crops, or of receiving next to nothing for the grain which they bring to the market. There is a report that the market is now glutted with flour, and that a huge surplus will be available for export.

It is hard to reconcile these two reports. Each of them, possibly, is exaggerated, while each of them may contain a certain amount of truth. The condition of famine in one section and plenty in another is evidence that the trouble in Russia is not the lack of food, but the lack of facilities for getting it into the hands of the people who are in such need of it. The need is not for the other countries of the world to send supplies of foodstuffs to Russia, as they are asked in some quarters to do, but to send along a few transportation experts who will be given the opportunity by the Russian government to put the railway systems in a fit condition to distribute the surplus foodstuffs of one section to the famine-stricken people of another.

The failure of the Soviet government to solve this problem of transportation of grain and other foodstuffs is one of the main reasons for its failure to stabilize conditions throughout the country. It is the biggest problem of that big country, and the government would be wisely advised to call in some who have experience in organization of transportation systems to help in solving it. Russia has all the resources to make it self-sustaining from the standpoint of foodstuffs, and any appeal for relief of that nature cannot carry with it any strong influence while the government is making no effort to supply the means of getting available food to the people who are said to be in such dire necessity.

OLEOMARGARINE

After being suspended for the past six years, the prohibition of the sale, manufacture and importation of oleomargarine in Canada will be renewed as the result of a resolution passed in the house of commons last week. The last stage, apparently, has been reached of a fight which had occupied the attention of the house of commons each year since the conclusion of the war, for the suspension of the prohibition of oleomargarine as an article of food and commerce in this country was intended to be only a temporary measure to be enforced only during the war. In the final vote on the subject, there was an absolute departure from political lines, for some of the Conservatives voted for it and some against, while of the Liberals voted on both sides of the question, and the same is true of the Progressives. That Progressives should vote for the continued sale of oleomargarine, an article which comes into direct competition with butter, seems rather peculiar, but it shows that some of them, at least, are sufficiently broad-minded to let the dairy farmers suffer from this competition if a great body of people is to be benefited.

The prohibition of the sale, manufacture and importation of oleomargarine, however, raised a rather fine point in regard to the commercial side of the subject. There is a demand, and a large one, for oleomargarine. It has had a big sale during the past six years, and has become an article of common use in many households. In most cases it has had no effect on the use of butter for table use, but has simply supplanted it as an article used in cooking and baking. For this purpose it was entirely suitable, and the saving of a few cents on each pound made it worth while. Its prohibition, however, will prevent that saving, and the housewives who have practiced economy by using it are likely to be sorely disappointed if they can no longer obtain it. The whole question is one of the right of individuals to be allowed to purchase the kinds of food they wish to use. There has been no complaint that oleomargarine is not wholesome, that its use is injurious or has had any bad effects. The only reason which can be given for its prohibition is that it comes into a direct competition with butter, an article produced in large quantities in Canada. To the people who have been buying it, this will hardly seem a sufficient reason for forbidding them to use it in the future.

The real effect of the resolution, unless it is nullified by the passing of some new legislation on the subject, will be to give the dairymen of Canada a monopoly on their product. The farmers have been loud in their appeals for free trade, and have been strongest in condemnation of the principle of protection. But in prohibition of oleomargarine, they are given a measure of protection which is far more drastic and far more effective than any protection which might be given them in the way of a tariff. They are given one hundred per cent protection, for the people, even if they desired to do so, are absolutely barred from buying oleomargarine, and are forced to buy butter. This is a restriction which goes a little further than most of the people of Canada will appreciate, for, if used as a precedent, it might lead to further restrictions on the articles of food which the people are allowed to use. It is not the function of parliament to go to this extreme, and, as the question was one which was not decided on party lines, and

bring the same element of danger. Failure in their quest did not necessarily mean death to them, but failure in the attempt of Amundsen and his pilot means a forced landing in a region of ice and snow, with no means of rescue available, and with no reserve food supplies to keep them alive while a relief expedition was being organized and sent to their aid. It virtually means success or death, and for that reason there is something grimly spectacular about it.

The whole project, however, is not one which commends itself to anyone, not even the scientists who are usually behind the exploration projects. There is nothing to be gained in any way by the fact of two men being able to fly across the north pole. Their success would not be useful. It would not open up any prospect of regular air trips from Alaska to Spitzbergen. It would bring no scientific returns worth while. Men have already flown for longer distances than that which they plan to cover, and have remained in the air for a longer period than it would take them to make the trip, so that there is no value in the attempt from that angle. The project is heroic, but it is a useless one, one which will bring only glory to the two men if it is successful, but nothing else. Whether it is worth while to risk death for the mere sake of glory is very questionable. We are living in a strange age, and men are doing unusual things. This is one of them, and while Amundsen and his companion will be showered with praise if their attempt is successful, it will be but a nine days wonder, and the world will be no richer, no wiser, and in no way benefited by the exploit.

That's Different. I don't care if they dock The horses and the boats. But when the boss docks me It surely gets my goat.

Observations of Oldest Inhabitant. The only kind of an "Old Swimmer" Hole" the modern kid knows anything about is the concrete tank in the school gym.

The Annals Club. "I made a lot of good resolutions on New Year's Day and have kept every one of them," confided a man to us yesterday.

Along Life's Detour

BY SAM HILL

It's a Sad Tale. Blinks: "The impossible often happens."

The Limit. Alas! It surely is Enough to make a fellow cry To see them making a Billboard out of the sky.

Speaking of Wild Things. How about—Wild oats, women, waves, horses, nuts, eyes, animals, and old Oscar!

Only Thing in That Line She Had. "Have you any of the overstuffed furniture in your home?" asked the new acquaintance.

If They Can't, Bridegrooms Can. Can any little boy or girl in the audience tell us why a preacher's wife gets more new clothes in June than she does in any other month of the year?

Cools 'Em Down. Hot words and hot water account for the loss of so many men growing cold.—Sam Hill in Cincinnati Enquirer. Hardly ever get any coals of fire heaped on their heads.—"Dusty" Miller.

How Tightwad Member Sees It. "The preacher's job is for the meek. Who warns of life's alarms. He fills the pulpit twice a week With voice and waving arms.—Canton (Ohio) News.

A New One On Him. "Where's that young man who was calling on you?" asked her dad. "He's left in a huff," she replied carelessly.

Would Make It Perfect. "The Egyptians almost live on the products of the date palm, which supplies oil, wine, sugar, matting, palings, roofs, baskets, bags, fans and a variety of other articles."—News Item. Now if it only could produce gasoline and the money to pay the instalments on it, it would solve all the problems for the cost of living, and we all would plant one in our back yard.

Canadian Questions and Answers. Q—What are the present savings in Canadian banks? A—The deposits in Canada's banks on March 31, 1923, which represent the savings in part of the people, totalled \$1,718,000,000.

Q—What was the Treaty of Ghent? A—The Treaty of Ghent, signed in that Belgian city on December 24, 1814, marked the official closing of the war of 1812-14 between England and Canada on the one side and the United States on the other, since when there has been unbroken peace.

Q—Where did the city of Ottawa get its name? A—The city of Ottawa is named from the River Ottawa on whose banks it is situated and the word itself commemorates an Indian tribe from a word meaning "to trade" as they were noted as inter-tribal traders and barterers.

Q—What is the advice the garage man gives you? A—Run your motor with as lean a mixture as possible without causing the motor to buck.

Q—What is the smallest amount of food necessary for the wants of the system? A—Don't misunderstand me. We all like to eat. If we don't we're not normal. In fact we're not well. If food doesn't look good to you and you have no appetite then get busy and create one. It is one of the joys of life to sit down and enjoy your food.

Q—What do you see that body of yours was built to do a lot of work. There are huge muscles on you. Huge organs inside also, capable of much work.

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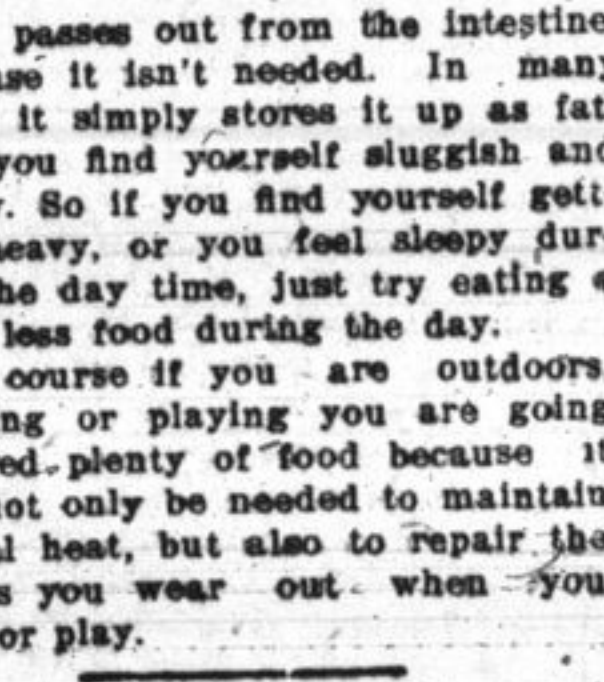
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Doesn't Take Long. President Beatty of the C. P. R. says he has never had time to get married. But it doesn't take long. —Toronto Star.

Lloyd George Needed. There is not a man in this country who has any reasonable certainty, not merely as to what the government is going to do to meet the crisis of the French invasion of the Ruhr, but even as to the broad outlines of its policy on this subject. In six months we have seen this country, which held the foremost position in the councils of Europe, trifled with, belittled, insulted by foreign countries as no country would have ventured to do when Mr. Lloyd George was premier.—London Daily Chronicle.

Russia will have a good wheat crop this year.