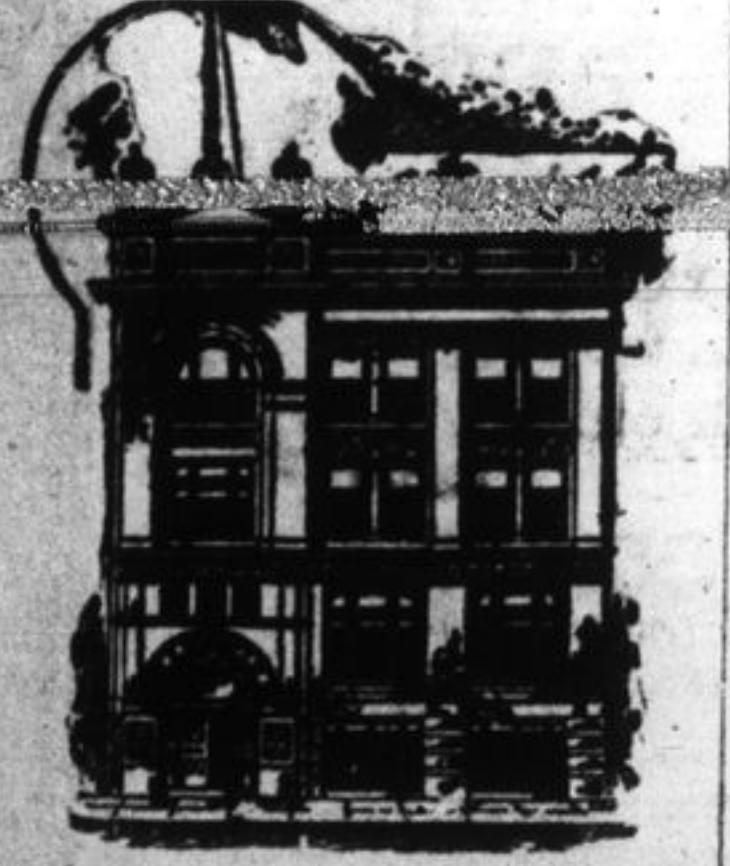


THE BRITISH WHIG 107th YEAR



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A TAX ON GOOD WILL. Christmas is approaching and our American cousins are worrying over the duties they will have to pay on the Christmas gifts sent to them from Canada. With Uncle Sam,

all "take." Last March, Texas newspapers reported that at that time many Christmas parcels from Canada were still in American customs offices, not having been examined and valued for the collection of the duties. Here in Canada, the customs department is lenient with regard to admitting Christmas gifts, the bulk of which are passed through without question. For instance, the Kingston customs office is never choked with American Christmas gifts on which the officials try to squeeze hard-earned cash from Canadian recipients. The country is that much better off through the receipt of gift-goods from foreign countries.

To charge duties on Christmas gifts is simply levying a tax on goodwill. Yet it is impossible to get Canadian gifts at the Yuletide season through the American customs until the recipients have been squeezed for the duties. Hundreds of gifts are returned because the persons to whom they are sent cannot pay the levy. Of course, some of these gifts find their way back by being carried across the border and mailed at American post offices. It is time the American authorities displayed a little of the good-will spirit that prompts Canadians to send gifts to loved ones over the border, and declare a customs "holiday." Even the armies fighting each other during the great war refrained as much as possible from firing on each other on Christmas-day. Washington might emulate the Ottawa customs spirit during the Christmas-tide.

INJURED BY EXPLOSIVES.

The large number of accidents due to the careless handling of explosives, especially to children, has induced Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of Mines, to issue an appeal to municipalities and those carrying on operations in which the use of explosives is required to exercise greater caution in the handling of this dangerous material. In a memorandum just issued by the Explosives Division of the Department of Mines, Mr. Stewart says: "I feel I can, with confidence, invite your consideration of the suggestions made in this memorandum, which have for their object the prevention of accidents, to children mainly, arising from the innocent or foolish handling of explosives. The price so paid by the youth of Canada cannot but make its appeal both to our human sympathies and to our national responsibilities."

"Persons keeping only small quantities of explosives are not required to obtain licenses, and though subject to regulation, may well, as is pointed out in the memorandum, not be heard of beyond the locality in which they may be operating for the time being, until their operations have ceased, or until some lamentable accident occurs. "For this reason I would venture to urge on your consideration the question of the adoption of such preventive measures as may appear efficacious and practicable to you. "While action has been taken in this matter by a number of municipalities, it is hoped that by bringing it to the notice of all, in this manner, a material improvement in the present unsatisfactory annual record of accidents of the class under discussion, may be effected."

In the memorandum a list of accidents to children is given, showing that during 1922, there were 26 accidents due to playing with detonators, in each case one or more children sustaining serious injuries, the loss of portions of their hands being most common. Nine accidents were also caused to children through playing with other explosives. It is suggested that municipal authorities give particular attention to small operations, such as road-work, excavations for foundations, etc., where but small quantities of explosives are used, and insist that every possible precaution be taken that the material is kept in a secure and proper manner.

THE WEATHER.

The mild weather of this autumn has been a source of satisfaction to the great majority of the people as there has been a marked saving in fuel. Years ago people wished for real snappy weather at this time of year in order to help the Christmas trade, but now with motor cars in nearly all farm homes there is no need of worrying about Old Dobbin and the sleigh and cutter. So long as snow comes during the week before Christmas the people are satisfied. It is now the fifth of December and we are having November weather. According to a Boston meteorologist, the first major cold wave is to arrive by the 10th of December and the weather will probably be as cold as it was in 1918. This Bostonian assures us of an "extra cold winter." He prophesies snow for Christmas, which will delight the youngsters,

if not their elders. But anyway we have no ground for grouching if it is a green Christmas, for the weather during the past few months has been delightful.

STINNES.

By Clarence Lodlow Brownell, M.A., Fellow Royal Geographical Society, London, England.

Half Huguenot and half Hebrew, Hugo Stinnes declares himself the savior of the German Fatherland. He expects to do for Germany what Caesar did for Rome, but his means will be the means of big business. Big business is his god. Stinnes cares for nothing else. He detests art and despises the theatre. He has brought up his sons to the same mind. But he loves power. He feels that by his own power of commercial and industrial combination he can reorganize and re-shatter the financial structure of Germany. He has shown extraordinary ability so far, and no scruples.

He has acquired banks, newspapers, forests, paper mills, oil wells, coal mines, iron mines, electric plants, lime kilns, tanneries, sugar refineries, hotels, moving picture studios and theatres, automobile plants, aluminum works, coke ovens, blast furnaces, rolling mills, chemical works. He has immense interests outside of Germany. His properties are in many countries from the Argentine to Canada. He has done much in Russia as well as in western Europe. One of his sons is in United States; now "looking them over."

Stinnes grew up in big business. His father owned coal mines. Mathias Stinnes by name, he had been one of the lords of industry in Westphalia for years, when Hugo began work. He started in for himself as a mine, and after practical work underground, he studied engineering.

A Great Organizer.

He did not work long as an engineer, however, for his bent was for organization and combination of business opportunities. He understood buying and selling. He developed the Luxemburger Mining and Foundry Corporation which now looks as though Henry Ford might have been the promoter. It uses its own ore, its own coal, its own foundries, blast furnaces, mills and factories. It is, in short, complete from the mine to the market.

Much money was essential for this work, and Stinnes borrowed such large sums from the banks that the directors found themselves between the devil and the deep sea. They could not refuse more after they had let him have too much. The war gave Stinnes a tremendous opportunity. The banks saw to carry him and the Imperial Government had great need of the Luxemburger Mining and Foundry Corporation, the only institution of its kind in Europe. Stinnes furnished anything from shells to submarines, besides coal and coke and tonal in immense quantities.

Stinnes made friends with the military leaders and helped in planning such enterprises as commanding the population of Belgium to work in German mills and factories. Even Satan would be a name of tender endearment compared to Hugo Stinnes in the Belgian mind. Having been a laborer himself, he knew how to meet workmen, and how to talk over the question of wages with them. He worked with the men for high wages and with the employers for high prices. The employer and employee working together controlled the situation absolutely. With this power in his hands, he spread out his foundry corporation into the Liemen's-Rhine-Elbe-Shuckert Union that was a sort of universe in miniature.

It is noteworthy that the money that Stinnes borrowed to the tune of billions was continually depreciating, so that the borrower paid back in actual value much less than he had received. George Bernhard of the Vossische Zeitung tells how Stinnes got control of one of the big banks. This particular instance relates to the Handelsgelesellschaft of Berlin. Karl Furstenberg was the director, a friend of Rathenau and of Ballin. A certain Polish speculator conceived the idea of buying up the shares of this bank. He expected to sell them at a big profit. He would get control and then tuffer his interest to Furstenberg. "So far all went as the Pole wished but Furstenberg would not buy. It was not his lucky day, for the Pole went to Stinnes and the next day Stinnes controlled the Berliner Handelsgelesellschaft."

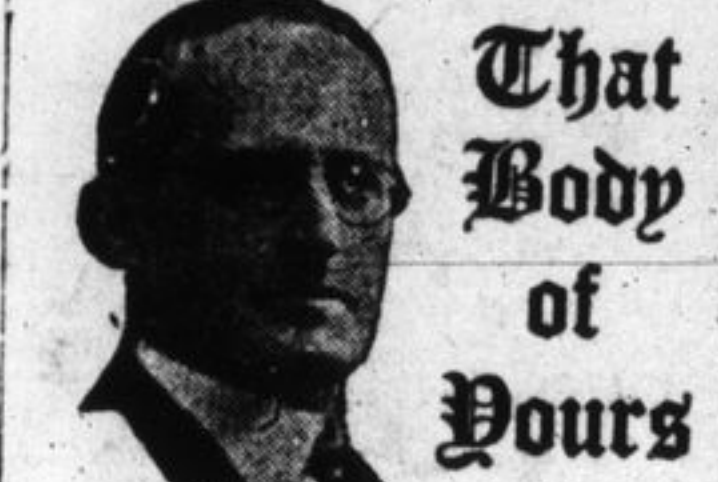
This Bernhard says this put the director of this great banking institution into close financial association with the adroit manipulator. Stinnes advantaged many millions in real money by this transaction. Having the prestige of super-financial power in the Fatherland, Stinnes stepped into politics and entered the Reichstag as a member of the People's Party. He uses his position to further his plans of building up greater industrial concerns that shall be self-sufficient and continuous. He keeps in touch with all nations and all leaders. He is now "looking them over."

Herr Hohenzollern at Doors. He keeps his eyes on the once-upon-a-time crown prince. He visits the French diplomats, generals, and financiers. He talks things over

with London as well as with Paris, Rome, Washington, New York City, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Peking and Tokio.

WHO KNOWS?

Apparently his power, vast as it may be, is still growing. No one man ever went further in combination and development of industries and commercial operations. Possibly the growth is like that of the proverbial snowball which cannot help growing as it rolls onward until it reaches a point where cohesion is insufficient to hold it together and it breaks into fragments. Stinnes, like Frankenstein, may have created a monster and the monster may be too much for him. Perhaps his organization will discover themselves to be of such excellent workmanship that they can "carry on" without their creator. It would seem that Germany needs him as it needs no other man, for he has achieved more than all the other would-be saviors of the Fatherland combined.



That Body of Yours By James W. Barton, M.D.

A Factor in Jeffries' Defeat. When Jeffries, the heavy weight fighter was matched with Jack Johnson the colored fighter, the interest was tremendous.

People who took very little interest in boxing were much excited because it was a white man against a colored man. You will remember that the colored man won. Why? Because the white man realized that he was carrying the hopes of thousands of people, and he began to worry about it.

It was not a case of lack of pluck. Jeffries never lacked that. But that so many were depending upon him, simply got under him to such an extent that he became stale. Why? Simply because he could not sleep. Those close to Jeffries, and those who knew close to Johnson knew this only too well. Jeffries was an exhausted man before he entered the ring. You might well ask why should a man in perfect health have any difficulty about getting off to sleep. Isn't a man in training doing the very thing that will induce sleep—namely tiring out his body with his daily exercise?

Had this been a "private" fight between these two men, Jeffries would likely have slept like a baby. But to be the "white" hope was just too much for him. Now what played out on him? His nerves. Our physiologists have taught us that tiredness of the nerves comes long before tiredness of the muscles.

Had the trainers of Jeffries been able to get his mind off this one idea that the white race were depending on him, he would have entered the ring in fit condition to defend his title. What's the lesson? That sleep, restful sleep is one thing that Nature demands if you are to be at your best, mentally and physically.

Further, that in trying to correct sleeplessness, it is not always enough just to tire the muscles of the body. There must be the calming of the mind by your own self control.

Perhaps by an endeavor to get a wholesome common sense view of the conditions causing sleeplessness, and after working it out, try to dismiss it from your mind. Don't take your worries to bed with you.

Sound Reasoning. It is often observed that Australians are more Imperialistic than the British. We have a right to be. If the Empire were dismembered tomorrow the British would remain white and free; this country would probably be assimilated by an Asiatic Power. We have more than a community of interest in the Empire: it is our common insurance policy, the institution on which all, rich and poor, Labor and anti-Labor depend for their national life.—Sydney Bulletin.

The will is better trained by accomplishing the difficult intellectual problem than in overcoming mere physical reluctance.—Sir Robert Falconer.

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CRAWFORD Phone 9. Foot of Queen St. The Home of GOOD COAL. Vienna, Dec. 5.—Thirty-eight per cent. of Austria's population lives in cities of 20,000 or more, according to the new census. One-third of the total population of the present republic resides in Vienna.