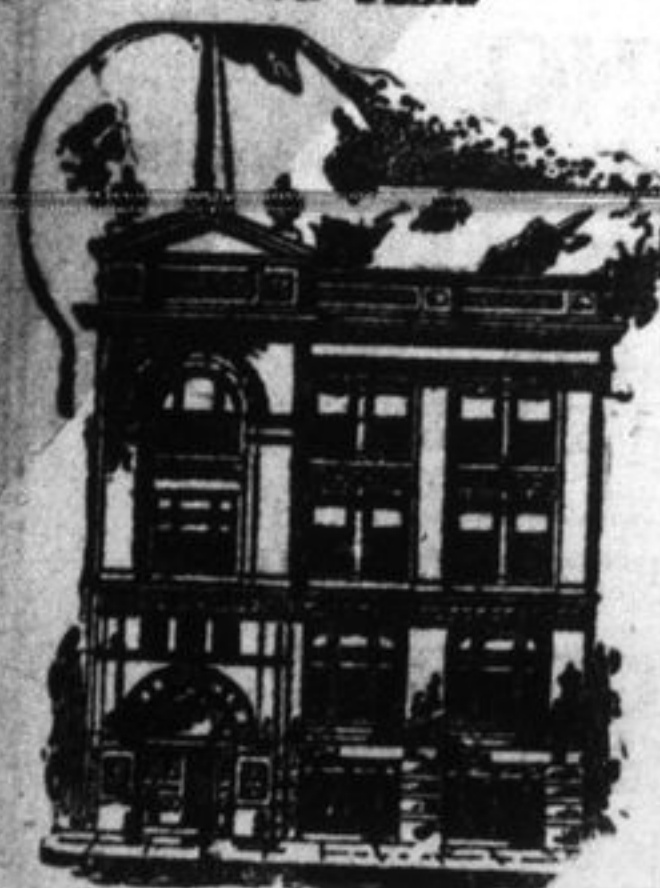


THE BRITISH WHIG  
90TH YEAR



Published Daily and Semi-Weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

J. G. Elliott, President  
James A. Guild, Editor and Managing Director

TELEPHONE: Private Exchange, connecting all departments, 243

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: (Daily Edition) One year in city \$7.50 One year, by mail to rural offices, \$4.00 One year, to United States, \$5.00 (Semi-Weekly Edition) One year, by mail, each \$1.50 One year, to United States, \$2.00

OUT-OF-TOWN REPRESENTATIVES: F. Calder, 22 St. John St., Montreal P. W. Thompson, 100 King St. W., Toronto.

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

Attached is one of the best job printing offices in Canada.

The circulation of THE BRITISH WHIG is authenticated by the A B O Audit Bureau of Circulations

Backbone won't get you far, however, if the knot at the top of it is solid bone.

A hick town is one in which friends smell it on your breath and tell the world.

The idea that Mexico had reached a state of stable government was premature.

In some particulars the world is no better, but you see very few roller towels now.

The most shocking Paris divorce is that one old Omar mentioned, the divorce of old barren reason.

It isn't absolutely necessary to know much about etiquette if you know a great deal about kindness.

It seems unfair. When Eve was the only lady in the land, not a single flower or color was named for her.

The Klan is inactive now, says an American despatch. It's too darned cold to run about at night in one's nightshirt.

Those who doubt the existence of absolute zero, might observe the average man's enthusiasm for grand opera.

Leap year: That one during which a maid is privileged to court a man without making him think he is doing it.

We wonder if fallen leaves wouldn't make good furnace fuel if pressed into small bricks and mixed with slate.

Those churchmen who become aroused over variation in beliefs seem to belong to the "Church Militant."

Correct this sentence: "It's getting thinner every year," said the man, "but I never use any tonic in an effort to save it."

The ex-kaiser may leave Holland. Once before he demonstrated that he didn't have gumption enough to let well enough alone.

A New York policeman went to see Hamlet to learn whether it is an immoral play. In case he found it so, he may have intended to arrest the author.

THE CANDLE OF GOODWILL. A pretty Christmas custom which seems almost unknown in Kingston is that of setting a lighted candle in the window on Christmas eve. In some cities this little spark is to be seen as frequently as window wreaths.

The custom, which seems to have its origin in Ireland, where native poetry moves humble people to so many beautiful practices, is supposed to signify to the wandering St. Mary and St. Joseph that in this cottage they may find shelter and welcome. Our less imaginative age has converted it into a symbol of good-will towards all men. One would like to see this little gleam of friendliness shining from many Kingston windows.

A word of caution, however. Set the candlestick on a low table or on a carpet well back from curtains or other inflammable materials. If there are children in the home think twice about attempting it at all. It is hardly worth while burning up your house for even the prettiest of Christmas customs.

RELATIVITY.

Dr. Einstein has left Germany to live in a land where relativity will not embarrass him. He has been uncomfortable in Germany because the comparisons upon which relativity rests disclose certain characteristics of the German mind that are unpalatable. The doctor cannot abide them.

One of these suggests the action of the German insurance companies after the San Francisco earthquake. The fire that followed this earthquake destroyed two hundred millions of property. All companies that had issued fire insurance policies to San Franciscans either paid in full or deducted from two to ten per cent. from the face value of the policy for cash, and because of the "Earthquake clause" in each policy,—that is, everybody paid except the German companies. None of them paid anything. Even when holders of German policies sent agents to Berlin, the German companies said, "No." The lawyers from San Francisco returned crestfallen, but with an established idea of German honor.

This is quite in keeping with Germany's present antics with her mark. She has been "paying" debts with the greatest complacency, using paper that is now valueless. Here is an instance which illustrates Germany's appreciation of a citizen of United States who believed in giving a hand to a fallen adversary. This man paid \$10,000 gold for German municipal bonds with the idea of helping the Fatherland to make good. In the first year, the bonds fell in value to \$3,000, and the interest at 5 per cent. amounted to less than \$150. In 1920, the bonds were worth \$1,800, and the interest fell to \$100. In 1921, the bonds were worth less than \$1,000, and the interest was under \$50. In 1922, interest \$5.00, bonds \$100. In 1923, the bonds are worth less than one cent, and the interest on the \$10,000 is zero, with the rim removed.

Realizing now what German ethics are, and how closely they approximate the value of the German mark, investors who have advanced Germany some \$20,000,000 on securities that have been tobogganing ever since the purchase, are looking for redress. They have the recent action of the North German Lloyd, and the Hamburg-American steamship companies. These companies borrowed money before the war and have been "redeeming" in marks which have less actual value than a pleasant smile.

Two hundred and seventy-five investors have incorporated as the Association of American Holders of Foreign Securities. They have presented their claims to Secretary of State Hughes. L. A. McGowan, attorney for the association, asks the State department this question, "Is Germany to profit by its own wrong?" (He refers to the Fatherland as "it.")—and goes on to say "Germany's material wealth has tremendously increased at the expense of her creditors. The proceeds in many cases have been converted into public improvements of great physical value, when the mark was four to the dollar, and the borrower now insists on paying back his debt when the mark is below one million to the dollar. (It is below the billion to the dollar, now.) By inflating her currency she loses nothing, but rather gains materially in assets, because Germany parts only with worthless marks and gets dollars or goods in exchange."

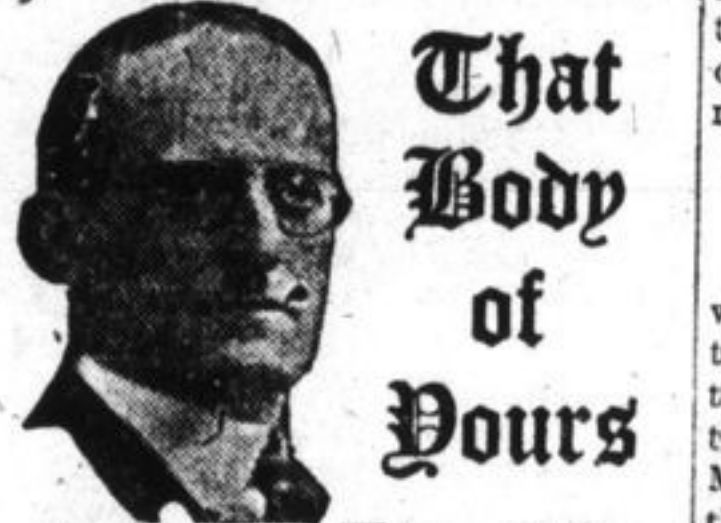
THE GREEK UPHEAVAL.

Once again the sounds of trouble and strife are coming from the Balkans, where, right down through history, most of the wars of Europe have found their breeding place. This time the kingdom of Greece is involved in the turmoil. King George, after a fitful reign as a monarch in name only, has been given his marching orders, and has fled to the sheltering court of the Queen of Roumania. So far, it is hard to judge what the effect of this upheaval will be. There is a possibility that it may be a good thing for the country to have stable rule established, and if it be true that the royal abdication was engineered by the veteran statesman, Venizelos, there is a chance that the government of the country will be stabilized and things may in the end turn out for the best.

The present state of Greece is a striking example of the fate of nations which turn their backs upon their friends. Two or three years ago, Greece was on a basis of firm friendship with Britain and France, and the star of the country was in the ascendancy. Venizelos was surprised in his own country, the Turks were in a state of subjugation, and matters in the Balkans looked more promising than they had done for decades. Unfortunately, the people of Greece were stirred into revolt against the king, Venizelos, and a movement to replace King Constantine upon the throne of Greece was successful. The Allies tried in vain to prevent his return, and intimidated plainly that they would not support Greece un-

der a new monarchy. The warning was unheeded, Constantine returned, and his first step was to undertake a war of attrition against the Turks. The campaign was a hopeless failure, the Greeks were defeated and chased home in utter rout, and the Turks were able to force favourable terms from the Allies. Then Constantine again abdicated, but it was too late, and King George, who succeeded him, was nothing more than a tool in the hands of a revolutionary party which grossly mismanaged the affairs of the country.

King George has gone now, and Venizelos has an opportunity to come back. The veteran statesman of Greece has it in his power to remake his country. Of all the statesmen who have been in power in Greece during the past twenty years, he has shown the greatest understanding of the needs of his country, and has always held out strongly for a firm friendship with Britain and France. Before the Turkish debacle, that friendship was the greatest asset of the Greeks, and when they ruthlessly cast it aside they committed national suicide. From the ashes of the old Greece, the new government has the task of building a new nation. It is a heavy task, but, if the right measures are taken to renew that friendship with Britain and France, and to secure their co-operation in meeting the big problems which lie ahead, there is hope that stable government may be re-established without setting the Balkans ablaze once again.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Yours

A Bulging Vessel. You have seen a weak spot on the inner tube of a motor tire. That tire would have its proper shape and size except at this one point, where there would be a distinct bulging. As you examined the tube you could see that the rubber appeared to be thinner at this spot and so allowed the air in the tube to bulge it out.

Why do I talk about this? Because in the human body the blood vessels are just like the inner tubes of tires. Their walls have actually some rubber or elastic tissue in them. This tissue permits the blood to distend them as it passes along.

Now in the case of the tube the air distends it, and if there should be a weak spot in the rubber you see the bulging. Similarly if anything interferes with the rubber or elastic tissue in the wall of the blood vessel it likewise bulges from the pressure of the blood.

Now this wall may be weakened by various infections that get into the body. They go directly to this rubber tissue and actually will split it so that it loses its power to contract properly. It becomes like a piece of "stretched" rubber. A blow might split the walls of the arteries, and some men actually overstretch the vessels and injure the walls by straining themselves doing heavy work.

Where a large vessel is affected such as the one that receives the blood from the heart, then serious consequences may follow as the "bulge" may actually irritate or interfere with the other tube that is near there, that is the "windpipe." A chronic cough is thus set up, with a suffocating sensation also present.

When the physician locates this trouble he uses the same methods that you would use with an inner tube. In the one you let out some of the air to reduce the pressure and do not drive the car so fast. With the blood vessel he reduces the amount of blood in the system, and likewise rests the patient. By lessening the fluid taken into the body to about a half pint a day, and the amount of food to about three quarters of a pound for a month or six weeks, sometimes some splendid results are obtained.

Where the trouble is due to some definite infection, every effort is made to remove the cause. This is one time where exercise is unwise, and complete rest is an important part of the treatment during the six weeks mentioned above. When the rest and diet treatment fails, then recourse is made to surgical measures.

Many a Santa Claus is in the process of the making.

LIGHTNING RODS.

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

Benjamin Franklin's Lightning rod has disappeared almost entirely. This is no reflection on the philosopher statesman and scientist, of something over a century ago. His idea was correct. Rods are all right, too, but the great majority of persons who used them, misused them. Franklin used one a hundred and fifty years ago. In 1753 he wrote as follows in Poor Richard's Almanac: "It has pleased God in His Goodness to mankind at length to discover to them the means of securing their Habitations and other Buildings from Mischief by Thunder and Lightning. The Method is this: Provide a small Iron Rod (it may be made of the Rod-iron used by nailers) but of such a length that, one end being three or four Feet in the ground, the other may be six or eight Feet above the highest Part of the Building. To the upper end of the Rod fasten about a foot of Brass wire, the size of a common Knitting needle, sharpened to a fine point; the Rod may be secured to the House by a few small staples. If the House or Barn be long there may be a Rod and Point at each end and a middle wire along the ridge from one to the other. A house thus furnished will not be damaged by lightning, it being attracted by the points and passing through the metal into the ground without hurting any Thing. Vessels also having a sharp pointed Rod fixed to the top of the Masts, with a wire from the foot of the Rod reaching down, round one of the Shrouds to the water, will not be hurt by lightning."

Tall Clocks. This started a business in "Rods" which grew continuously for more than a century. In fact, in 1870, there were more than a score of factories turning out lightning rods. Millions of dollars were invested in these works. Not to have protection, especially in the country, was to be conspicuous. It occasioned comment.

But there has been a falling off in rods. The highest opinion says they have accompanied the tall clocks without which no home was complete in bygone days. The double departure brings to mind the lines of the song beginning:

Grandfather's clock was too tall for the shelf, It reached fourteen feet above the floor. He used to take a lightning rod and wind it himself, While he stood on the top of the door.

Pictures of grandpa on the door top, Rod in hand, used to be in the songshop windows.

The tall clock disappeared from rural homes because of a mania for antiques that spread through cities. Like the "flu," the newly rich had to have tall clocks or they could not sleep. Dealers who sympathized enthusiastically with each multimillionaire who had insomnia, sent agents to gather in all the soothing narcotics that pieces they could find. These agents were evidently very ostentatious, in the clock business, and carried samples of their wares, and sometimes supplied with chimes. These dealers would offer these ornamental objects at moderately low prices or would exchange them for "one of them old clocks like you got standin' there in the corner," with a dollar or so thrown in. Only too often the hamlet folk allowed the gilt (guilt) to win, and parted with an heirloom.

So the clocks—the tall ones—disappeared from the country homes, to make way for the atrocious modern substitutes, but no such explanation accounts for the passing of the lightning rods. There is no mania for them. Collectors are not out offering substitutes in exchange. No one but the junk man would offer a ha'penny for rods. The fare has gone. Many a farmer has concluded that they are useless and even fears his friends might ridicule him if he installed rods on his barns.

Perhaps they would, but no less an authority than Sir Oliver Lodge, who summons spirits from the vasty deep of space, says any rod is better than no rod at all. So does the specialist on protection against lightning, Roy N. Covert, of the department of agriculture in Washington. The U.S. Weather Bureau cordially recommends rods on "all farm buildings of importance."

Rods to Return? Dr. Covert has gone into the subject painstakingly in "Farmers' Bulletin" No. 342 giving descriptions, charts and diagrams that show how practically complete protection is possible. He lays the fault

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