

THE BRITISH WHIG 91ST YEAR.



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

J. M. Campbell, President; Leman A. Guild, Editor and Managing-Director

TELEPHONE: Business Office 248, Editorial Rooms 2812, Social 2813, Job Department 2814

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year in City \$7.50, One Year by Mail to Rural Offices \$8.50, One Year to United States \$12.50

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

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

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

The circulation of THE BRITISH WHIG is authenticated by the ABO Audit Bureau of Circulations

The apex of futility: Asking a woman "Why?"

Hairstyles are so high now that it almost pays to be a musician or a poet.

Correct this sentence: "No news is good news," said the reporter to the city editor.

An actress dresses to suit the plot, and a musical comedy has practically no plot, so—

Something else to worry about: Does a horseradish belong to the animal or vegetable kingdom?

A summer resort is a place where the mosquitoes start in about dark—just when the flies quit work.

Another vital problem. What, if anything, will we eat after all the farms have been converted into golf courses?

The world is getting more seemly. One can keep up a front now without having an overgrown watch chain draped across it.

The knowledge that you didn't break the speed law is small consolation when the other fellow beats you to the parking space.

The problem with gift cigars, is whether to throw them away or grind them up into smoking tobacco—and throw the tobacco away.

When a man loses his money he finds his friends are of two sorts, as a rule. Some of them desert him and some of them think he's got it back.

An exodus from the cities and a "back to the farm movement" may be expected any day now. Golf in the cities has become too expensive.

Most of us find that money doesn't multiply fast enough. Some scientist should invent a way to cross the dollar with the guinea pig.

The prize for pessimism goes to the actor who, when the audience applauded him, muttered: "Aw, they're just doing it for the exercise."

The ash man comes in handy. You can hire him to haul off any kind of old junk that accumulates around the house, except your wife's relatives.

The critic who amuses us most is the one who knocks novels because they aren't true to life and knocks real life because it isn't enough like a novel.

A humorous magazine has started a campaign for "bigger and better" war. Military men may retaliate by starting a movement for bigger and better" humor.

Yes, Ethel, psychoanalysis is a great help. For instance, if you dream of kissing a cat it means that you're subconsciously in love with some man who has a moustache.

BIBLE THOUGHT

HE THAT LOVETH SILVER shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof? saving the beholding of their eyes.—Ecclesiastes 5:10, 11.

CORSETS AND DECORUM.

Since the advent of suffrage women drink more rum and cocktails and smoke more cigarettes than ever before. They walk the streets swaggering with brazen faces; they abandoned their corsets and use more cosmetics than ever before. So wails Mr. A. B. See, a wealthy New York manufacturer. "The young woman of to-day does everything she possibly can to imitate the courtesan," declares Lady Balfour with horror. And of the general accuracy of these observations there can be no question, save perhaps in the minds of the young women concerned.

There is comfort—though perhaps comfort is the last thing these weeping Rachels desire—in the knowledge that this decay of womanhood is not peculiar to this age. In a book which a French knight prepared for the instruction of his motherless daughters about the year 1200, a book which in our day no father would put in the hands of his daughters, motherless or otherwise, we find frequent complaints that whereas in olden times women were industrious, modest and God-fearing, in these latter days these virtues were "right thinly sown." And from that day to this girls have never been the equals of their mothers.

The girls of to-day may be a brazen lot as alleged. But how many of them would crowd to witness a hanging as women did in Kingston in 1850? They may swagger now, but of old many either minced or staggered. Sudden women have lain in our gutters, the sport of a rabble of youths and children, until the police arrived with an open cart and took them off to the lock up. And this within the memory of residents still living. To be sure these were not respectable women. But is it not fair to assume that there is a more general sense of decency in a generation which does not permit such exhibitions than in one which did?

So it seems more than probable that Mr. See is disturbing himself over changes which are not even skin deep. Fashion decreed that his grandmother should appear a little better than she was and she obeyed. Fashion now commands his daughter to appear a little worse than she is, and is she likely to refuse?

THE PRICE OF GAS.

It is time that the public utilities commission reduced the price of gas in Kingston. The war time price of two dollars a thousand cubic feet, with a discount of ten per cent, if paid within ten days after due, is too much. The local gas charge is not the legitimate cost of production. Gas consumers are paying for capital expenditure on the new gas tank, represented in a large bank overdraft, and also for capital expenditure on mains in streets that are being yearly paved. These expenditures appear to be charged up as maintenance, whereas they are rightly capital. Why should the consumers of to-day pay exorbitant gas rates in order to build mains that will last perhaps thirty or forty years? The utilities commission several years ago should have put the tank question before the Ontario municipal board and asked for permission to issue debentures on expenditures that were really on capital account. If our road paving was done on the plan adopted by the utilities commission, there would either be no paving or there would be a huge tax rate. The prices of coal and oil, which enter chiefly in the production of our gas, have dropped very largely; yet Kingston gas consumers are paying the same rate for gas as they paid at the close of the war. Perhaps the commission has a price reduction in mind. The present chairman advocated one a long time ago. Perhaps he will induce his fellow-commissioners to put one into effect before the month of May is upon us.

DISCOVERY.

Its blue cover smacks of the Provincial Legislature and its title, "Forty-Fifth Annual Report of the Agricultural and Experimental Union," lacks that flippancy which intrigues the modern reader. But despite these outward discouragements there is a story within, a tale of adventure and discovery. And the actors are not pith-helmetted magpies nor indomitable sailors, but quiet, busy farmers who take time from pressing duties to measure out plots exactly one rod by two, to sow and tend the experimental seed with care and to forward to the director a report of the results obtained. Enthusiasts who are not afraid to sweat a bit for the common good. And what do they discover? All manner of interesting, useful and curious things. For instance, year after year, seed potatoes from Northern Ontario yield an average of nine bushels more to the acre than do the best local varieties. The fact has yet to be satisfactorily explained. No wonder there is agitation in Northern Ontario to separate from the effects south. Even the famed New Brunswick tubers hang their tops in shame before the northern invaders. Or take the oat, traditional sustenance of mule and Scot. Here is O.A.C. No. 72 which has received

521 first prizes in seven years as against 220 for its next nearest competitor which it surpasses by 10.3 bushels of grain per acre. There is a real prize-winning "Miss Ontario" for you. Space fails us to tell of the higher education which has been imparted to barley, peas, beans, corn, mangels, turnips and carrots. Foreigners as well as natives are being improved. The soy bean, that food of the future, hobnobs with Sudan grass. Mention is made of hairy vetches, which sound uncomfortably like tarantulas or those caterpillars which disorganize picnics. And as to the Common Emmer, it is sufficiently uncommon that our dictionary ignores it. All very dull and countryfied, perhaps. Yet in hope for the human race worth more than a dozen battlefield massacres.

OUR GROWING LIBRARY.

At this time when the question of a public library building is receiving close attention it might be interesting to trace the growth of this institution which has come to play so large a part in the intellectual life of the city. One has faint remembrances of the dingy Mechanics Institute above the drug store on Montreal street, the thumbed catalogue from which one had to choose and the wicket through which the books were in due course thrust out to one. No one but the High Priestess approached the shelves and even she did not find it necessary to do so often, for in the year 1910 there were only 501 paid up subscribers, who borrowed books sanguinely estimated at about 20,000. Nevertheless, the move to the present quarters was objected to by numbers of persons who found various excellent reasons for the continuance of the old system.

Despite this opposition the library was moved and the public soon began to take advantage of the increased facilities and comfort. Year after year the usefulness of the institution increased until in 1920, its last year as a pay library, the 2,003 subscribers helped themselves to 80,513 books.

The question of converting it to a free library had been increasingly acute for some time. There was lively controversy between those who were convinced that a free library was a necessity and those who were not convinced that the city could bear the expense. Finally the council voted for the free library and the public rushed in to enjoy it.

That year there were 4,010 borrowers who took out 110,662 volumes. For last year these figures stood at 7,523 and 185,829. And during the first two months of 1924 there was a still further increase of 6,000 in circulation.

With a library membership totaling almost one-third of its population, Kingston is easily the most literary city in Ontario, and this despite the fact that facilities here are poorer than in any of these cities. Most unfortunately it is the children who are the worst sufferers from this overcrowding which has deprived them of their marvellous map of fairyland and their weekly story hour.

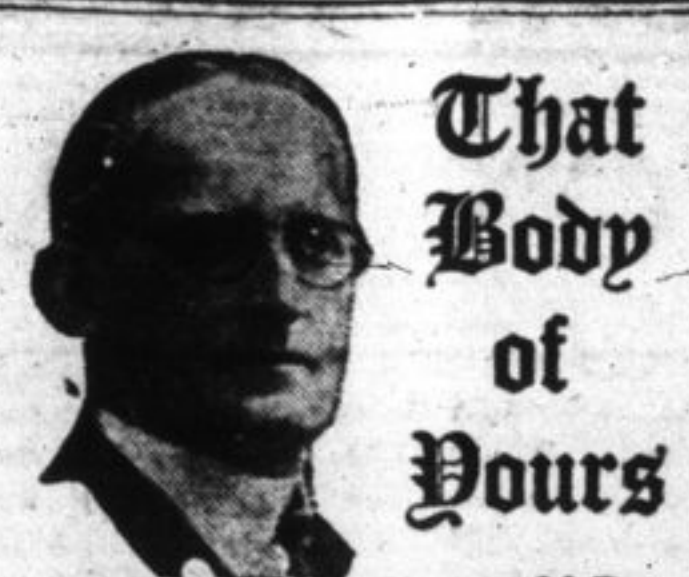
Quite evidently the limit of possible expansion has not yet been approached, a fact which should not be lost sight of. With the increased activity which, judging by the past, is bound to follow the provision of comfortable and adequate quarters, the literary position of Kingston will be an enviable one.

PRESS COMMENT

South Africa in Doldrums. This will never be wholly a white man's country. It may very easily become a colored man's. In the meantime it can by statesmanship be brought to a pass at which white standards will be sought increasingly by those of other than European extraction; and it should be our aim to hasten this end. But nothing will be done effectively that is not done in the grand manner; that is not spacious, generous and inspiring. Nationally we are in the doldrums. The vision has faded "into the light of common day." Most of us have got to the point at which we doubt either the capacity or the will of our leaders to show us a way out of the mission. Yet to remain in it means ultimately to perish.—Natal Advertiser.

White and Colored Labor. When General Hertzog says that "Both races are asking today 'what shall we do with our sons?'" he gets near to the true explanation in complaining that South Africa's economic life is "based on hordes of uncivilized workers." The native worker who remains uncivilized is poor economic material. This, our "best asset," is wasted unless given such efficient and close supervision as practically amounts to joint labor. In any type of work, but especially on the land, five natives and one white man will accomplish more than a dozen natives receiving the apology for supervision, which goes with our obsolete ideas of the white man's dignity. South Africa suffers today from segregation — of thought and effort.—Baluway Chronicle.

Tweddell's top coats \$15.50 to \$28.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Hours

The Irregular Heart. Many mothers who own clinical thermometers have also learned to take the pulse of their children. I often think that this is almost as big a mistake as using the thermometer so often.

Why? Well the mother feels that the child's pulse should be just as regular as the clock, and if it doesn't happen to be just that regular, she becomes alarmed.

Then she feels the pulse, she sometimes notices that the heart seems to be beating very hard and very fast for a few beats, and then seems to become slower and weaker for the next few beats.

That means irregularity to her and irregularity means something seriously wrong with the heart.

Now as a matter of fact, this seeming irregularity in young people is of no real danger.

As suggested in a previous article, if the child holds the breath for a few minutes the irregularity disappears.

A little exercise of any kind will likewise cause the heart to become regular.

In grown people there is also a form of irregularity that is a source of worry. You are feeling your pulse and you find that there are two rapid beats and then a long pause before the heart beats again.

It is this long pause that upsets you. You feel that perhaps your heart will never beat again.

Now while one can't be too dogmatic in a case of this kind, if you, heart is beating anywhere between 70 and 90, there is likely nothing wrong with you. To make sure of it, simply run slowly around the room a couple of times and then try your pulse.

It will be going a bit faster, but your pulse, those dreadful pauses, have disappeared, and your heart is as regular as a clock.

It is unfortunate that in the earlier days of heart inspection, any irregularity of any murmur, was always the cause of the rejection of an applicant for insurance.

And the hard thing about it was that if one were turned down by one company, it was difficult to get the same type of insurance from another company.

However, where the heart is very fast and is irregular also, in a grown person it would be wise to consult your physician as there is a possibility of trouble in these very fast hearts.

But before consulting him just try the same thing as suggested before. That is simply run around your room slowly three or four times and see what happens.

If the irregularity is still noticeable, in fact even more pronounced, then see your physician about it.

It is very likely however that if you have any real trouble you will have other signs than that of the pulse.

You will find yourself getting out of breath very easily, and the feet will swell slightly.

MONEY AT WORK

Brief but Important Lessons in Finance, Markets, Stocks, Bonds and Investments

WHEN BUILDING A HOUSE CONSIDER ADVANTAGE, DISADVANTAGE.

THE LUMP-SUM PLAN AND THE COST-PLUS PLAN.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the two most common plans in building a home, the lump-sum plan and the cost-plus plan. The cost-plus usually works out better.

In the lump-sum plan, the contractor guarantees to build the house for a certain price, provided no changes are made in the plans.

In the cost-plus plan the contractor agrees to build as cheaply as possible, at a certain standard of construction, and take a fixed per cent. of the cost as his profit.

In the first plan there is an advantage in knowing exactly what the house is to cost. However, if the contractor under-estimated the cost, resulting in a poorly constructed house.

Both plans require expert supervision, but the expert can usually get better results from the second method. The house is pretty certain to be well constructed, and the cost is apt to be less, because under the first plan, the contractor is forced to add a very substantial margin in or-

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der to protect himself against any increase in the cost of labor or material that might occur while the house was under construction.

WHY THE WEATHER?

DR. CHARLES F. BROOKS Secretary, American Meteorological Society, Tells How.

Temperatures for Spring Seeding. The various staple crops differ widely with regard to the temperatures most favorably for the germination of their seeds. Spring oats and wheat, for instance, prefer a rather cool soil at planting time, while corn and cotton must have more warmth. It has been found that "a seedling blight attacks wheat seedlings grown in a warm soil and corn seedlings grown in a cold soil."

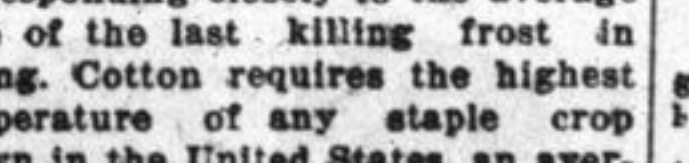
The temperature of the surface soil parallels so closely the temperature of the air, that the date of the beginning of seeding of various crops follows the movement of definite air temperatures northward. Spring wheat can be planted when the average temperature for the 24 hours reaches about 37 degrees Fahrenheit. When the average daily temperature rises to 43 degrees it is time to plant spring oats; and potatoes need only a slightly higher temperature, 45 degrees. Corn should not be planted, however, until the daily average reaches 55 degrees, a date corresponding closely to the average date of the last killing frost in spring. Cotton requires the highest temperature of any staple crop grown in the United States, an average of 62 degrees being necessary for satisfactory germination. In the far south, oats may be seeded about two months earlier than cotton, and when cotton is being planted in the south, the northern states are about ready to start their oats.

Leap Year Laws.

Baltimore Sun. "It is ordained that for each year known as leap year, each maiden lady of both high and low estate shall have liberty to bespeak the man she likes; and if he refuses to take her to be his lawful wife he shall be mulcted in the sum of one pound or less, as his estate may be; except if he can make it appear that he is betrothed to another woman, he then shall be free." These words, quoted from a Scotch law of 1288, are all that the modern maiden needs to justify her in perpetuating the good old custom of leap year. They show that it has the sanction of antiquity; and if they are not enough, it may be noted that France, Genoa, and Florence had similar laws. And

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I will be pleased to conduct Auction Sales in Kingston or the County of Frontenac. Rates reasonable. Arrangements can be made at my office. T. J. MUNRO, Auctioneer, Corner Clarence and Ontario Streets.

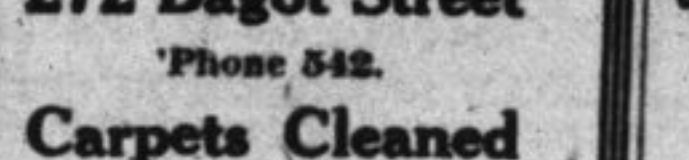
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