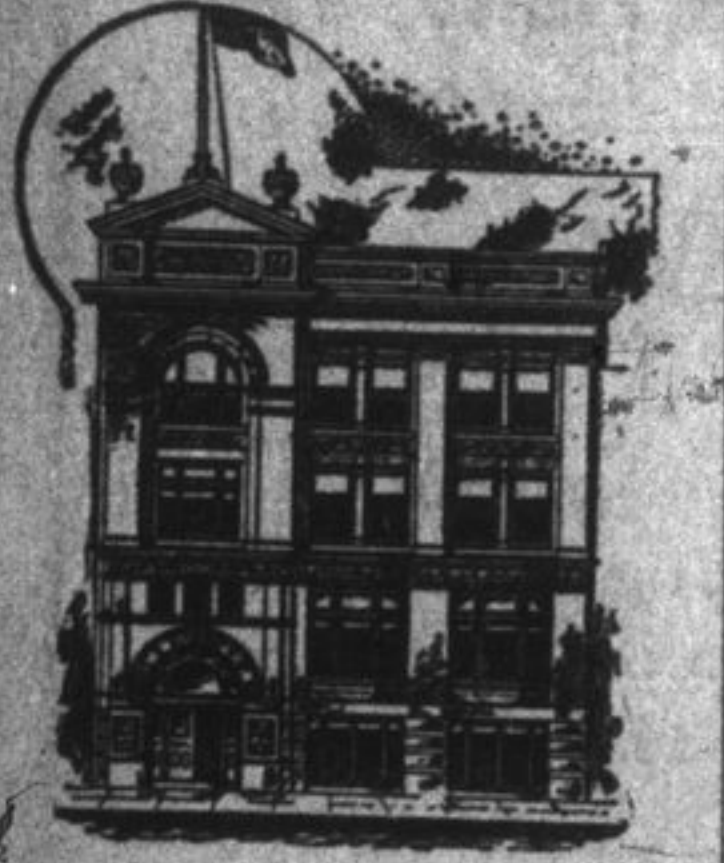


THE BRITISH WHIG 88th YEAR.



Published Daily and Semi-weekly by THE BRITISH WHIG PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED, KINGSTON, ONT. W. RUPERT DAVIES, President

TELEPHONES: Business Office 242, Editorial Room 243, Social 244, Job Department 245

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, in advance, \$7.50; One year, by mail, cash, \$8.50; One year, to United States, \$12.00

OUT-OF-TOWN REPRESENTATIVES: Toronto—F. W. Thompson, 100 King Street West; Montreal—F. Calder, 22 St. John Street; New York—J. Graham-Powers, Inc., 200 Madison Avenue; Chicago—J. Graham-Powers, Inc., 19 South La Salle Street

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

The circulation of The British Whig is ascertained by the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

CARDINAL MERCIER.

The passing of Cardinal Mercier has plunged the whole world into sorrow. His brave fight against disease has been watched with anxious interest, and millions hoped and prayed that he would be spared to further years of usefulness.

Cardinal Mercier will be sincerely mourned by all loyal Canadians, but by none more than the party of Canadian newspaper men who spent such a delightful afternoon with him, in his garden at Malines, in June 1924.

Cardinal Mercier was an outstanding figure during the great war. His pastoral letters which had to be printed and circulated secretly were a source of great strength and inspiration to the Belgian people.

Greatness is not restricted to men of action, and power alone may not be a sufficient title to greatness; but Cardinal Mercier gave undoubted proof of a great mind and exercised a beneficent influence on the current of the world when civilization was on trial.

MISS McPHAIL'S VIEWPOINT.

Miss Agnes C. MacPhail, M.P., has given the Farmer's Sun, of Toronto, her view of the recent vote on the amendment put up in Parliament to defeat the King Government.

"Had Mr. Meighen moved a vote of want of confidence in the Government it would have carried with a very comfortable majority. But what he did say was: That the King Government had violated the principles and practices of British Constitutional Government by meeting Parliament."

"According to the two-party system the largest party governs, but in that case the largest party always has a majority. In this parliament no group had a majority and since the people did not give a mandate to any one party or group it seems quite logical that the Government should meet Parliament before advising His Excellency to call on the leader of any other group."

"In spite of all the uproar we only said: That the Government was constitutionally right in meeting Parliament."

"The Government stated through Hon. Mr. Bolvin, Minister of Customs, that it did not regard the vote as a vote of confidence. 'Suppose in the future three groups, say Farmers, Labor and Independents, had together half the members of the House, yet none of them had the largest group. According to Mr. Meighen's amendment they could not form a co-operative government until the largest group in the House had been given a chance, although its number might not exceed one-third of the members and this largest group might not enjoy the confidence of the House.'"

"My vote did not mean that I have confidence in the King Government. I expressed my opinion on the text of the amendment, thus endeavoring to be true to the thought expressed in my speech that I would vote on each issue as it arose and would not give blanket support to either party as such."

BIBLE THOUGHT

SALT IS GOOD: but if it be too much, it will destroy the body. Have salt to yourselves, and have peace one with another.—Mark 9:50.

CONGRESS SHOULD ACT.

The Washington administration and congress should heed the appeal made by the Great Lakes Harbors Association protesting against any further stealing of the Great Lakes waters by the city of Chicago, says the Watertown, N.Y., Times. The association made a plea for legislation which would permit these lake waters as a navigation highway and forbidding any further diversion by Chicago. It adds: The diversion seriously endangers the success of the St. Lawrence canal. Canada can hardly be blamed for not being anxious to embark upon this big project knowing that it will be jeopardized by this continued steal. There must be assurance of a fairly definite water level if the canal is to be a success. The United States should act and act promptly to put an end to this menace. We owe it to ourselves and we owe it to a friendly neighbor.

CREATION OF THE TANK.

A British court enquiry into the history of the tank declares that no individual was the inventor of that famous engine of war. It was brought into practical use as the outcome of the combined efforts on the part of the army and navy officials. The first tanks which appeared, in September, 1916, were a surprise more than a success. But they laid the foundations of a new arm of all fighting forces in the future, and an arm which is likely to play an increasingly important part. The later British tanks were speedier and more effective in all their primary purposes—which were to provide a bulletproof, armed, machine-gun destroying and wire obliterating machine, and at the same time an agent which would give practical assistance and protection to infantry advancing under fire. In this way, it might be said, the tank is the final development of the shield and of the suit of armor.

The credit for inventing the tank, it has now been established, belongs to no one man. It would be of interest, however, to know who invented the name. Whoever it was, he had a sound appreciation of racy nomenclature. "Tank" is a good name, short and snappy, and very apt.

SAME GREAT ATHLETES.

The secretary of the British Foreign Bible Society, back home from a 75,000 mile tour of Africa, reports the discovery of "the greatest race of athletes in the world." They are negroes living in Central Africa, from six to seven feet tall and big in proportion, and ruled by a seven-foot king.

The Englishman shows a photograph of one of those negroes casually clearing a bar six and a half feet high by at least a foot, thereby unofficially beating the world's record as recorded in white men's contests. Lord help the whites, says the Bible secretary, if those black giants ever break into the Olympic games.

Maybe this signifies a good deal, and maybe it doesn't, comments the Oswego N.Y., Times. The biggest men ought to be able to do the biggest things in athletics, with their advantage in strength and length of limb, though the much smaller Finns might beat them, along with the rest of mankind, in long-distance running, where endurance is the thing.

If athletic prowess were gauged by the size of the contestants, and the smaller ones given a proportionate handicap, say probably should be, the Japs might beat everybody else, though the African pygmies would give them a run for their laurel wreaths.

Yet no part of the human race need plume itself unduly on such prowess. The animals and insects are far better athletes. The jack-rabbit shames our best runners. The gorilla could take our strongest "weight man" and break his back. And if that African jumper were as good for his size as the flea, he could jump over a mountain.

TALKED GOOD SENSE.

Travers Sweetman, K.C., Winnipeg, addressing the Canadian Club of Toronto, called for economy, for a closer watch on our expenditures if we are to compete with the United States and hold our population. The supreme need is for Canadians, in different sections to understand one another's conditions of life and work and try to realize one another's point of view. What is needed is open-mindedness and clear unprejudiced thinking. Mr. Sweetman's conclusions are timely and wisely said. Canadians must get together from east and west and about a common table thresh out our difficulties and in sweet temper reach conclusions that will be real and abiding.

DOBBIN IS DECLINING.

The horse seems to have fallen a victim to the law of supply and demand. He has been displaced for many purposes by the motor, and the mechanical hauler has not yet reached the saturation point. Horses

on farms in the United States declined from 18,767,161 on January 1st, 1926, to 16,555,759 on January 1st, 1925, a decrease of 2,211,402 in five years, and it is estimated that at the present rate of production it would take 27 years to restore the horse population to the figures of 1918. During the five years from 1918 to 1923 horses in Canada declined from 3,609,287 to 3,530,641. This decrease was chiefly in Eastern Canada, Ontario showing a loss of 59,606, while there was a considerable increase in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

SPARERIBS.

How many ribs has a hog? The question is evoking considerable interest among the breeders of swine in the Province of Ontario. At the recent meeting of experimentalists, held at the O.A.C., Guelph, Prof. Wade Toole announced the fact that out of a sated number of hogs slaughtered some were found to have twelve pairs of ribs, some fourteen, some fifteen and sixteen, and there was one with sixteen on one side and seventeen on the other.

A new turn is now taken to the experiments in the development of this branch of live stock, says the Guelph Mercury. It is easy to understand the advantage as a marketable product of a hog with seven or more pairs of ribs over one with only twelve.

Experimenters in field crops have made several blades of grass grow where none grew before, and experimenters are, since the discovery of the multi-ribbed hog, studying the possibilities of increasing the length of the animal for the added profit likely to accrue, thus helping to make farming more profitable.

Probably in the near future hogs will be judged largely by the number of ribs they possess; hence a new field of endeavor is opened that will provide profit and pleasure for the farmers of the future. The hog with the larger number of ribs will be the proudest on the farm.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Kingston fair will, during the fall of 1926, be the greatest on record if signs do not fail.

Too many of those who are responsible for the making of homes are neglecting their duties. Look about!

Investigations are being made to determine the feasibility of connecting American and English telephonic lines by radio.

An old broker says that the reason some stocks go up and down so regularly is that, being mostly water, they rise and fall with the tide.

The latest move of Mussolini of Italy is to impose a tax on idleness. A tax on egotism is not anticipated. As the dictator might find himself ruined.

What forest wealth Canada has should be rigidly conserved and reproduction encouraged. Fifty years hence Canada will need all her woods.

The Ottawa Journal is hinting that the tariff is not a practical issue in politics today. Mr. Meighen should be called up to dispute the statement of his favorite paper.

Probate Judge David Bruce Deem claims the unique distinction of being Missouri's chief knot tier. Judge Deem has married 5,042 persons, or as many as the population of the city of Poplar Bluff, Mo., his home town.

"Be like Byng's Boys at Vimy, who went over the top as united Canadians, and you will be able to accomplish anything," wrote Adam Brown in the last message of his life as he neared the century. It is the best of advice.

Three of the Progressives who voted against the Government have since declared that they had voted for the largest group, but that from now on they would support the Government, since the Government had been sustained.

It is said, modern chemistry assisted by education and suggestion will be able to make over men and women, furnishing them with new characters, and dispositions to suit the needs of advancing civilization. What's your choice?

Charleston classes for business girls are now on the winter programme of the Young Women's Christian Association of Chicago. If the Charleston is on the programme the Y. W. C. A. can well afford to drop all other forms of calisthenics.

In this age of jazz Mr. Henry Ford has undertaken to popularize the old fashioned dance, such as the waltz, polka, Virginia reel and quadrille. Can you recall them and will your knees stand the stately measures? The young folks should get back to them.

The venerable arts building at McGill University is to be raised and

a larger and better structure, possessing appointments more in keeping with the demands of modern education, will be reared. The cost will be \$700,000 and the governors are looking to McGill graduates to come across.

A woman with a muff caused considerable giggling on the part of the younger generation in a street car a few days ago, but the present-day generation are missing a real thrill, says the Hamilton Spectator. There never was a better place to hold hands than the inside of a muff. Ask dad, he knows.

An investigator into Cleveland's administration of criminal law says it does the work swiftly and surely. The courts are always free of criminal cases. He thinks that even Canada, so often pointed to as a shining example in this respect, appears to suffer by comparison with Cleveland.

St. Thomas public library suffers from mutilations and thefts of books. Articles that have appealed to some reader, and particularly fine or attractive reproductions of paintings or illustrations have been ruthlessly torn from books or magazines. Vandals of the ilk are not confined to St. Thomas. Kingston suffers similarly.

Brockville pessimists want the school nurse dismissed to save expense. We agree with the Recorder and Times when it says: "If there is to be any curtailment of the Board's operations, it should start elsewhere than with the school nurse, who has earned her salary a hundred times over by her work in behalf of public health and by promoting the efficiency of the schools."

A vacation in law making is a new plank in United States' political platforms. The head of the Bar Association, Mr. F. C. Dewey, Detroit, is looking for candidates who will pledge himself against new acts and to devote his best energies to defeating as many acts as possible and to the judicious repeal of as many laws as possible. Canada could stand the same brand of candidates.

News and Views.

Seeing Both Sides. Progressive Grocer: There are two sides to every question, both of which are often entirely wrong.

Masculine Conundrum. Detroit News: Why is it a woman, who constantly complains that she has nothing to wear, has to have six closets to keep nothing in?

They Still Drive By. Indianapolis News: Every once in a while, after a fellow has forgotten there is such a thing, somebody drives by with a horse and buggy.

But That's As Far As They Go. Chicago News: Probably neither the United States nor Canada can think of a sweeter or more desirable country to reciprocate with than the other.

Wanted Him To Do His Staff. London Sunday Pictorial: A young lady, on being introduced to a famous professor, exclaimed, "Oh, professor, please do something about-minded!"

Coming Out Soon. Ottawa Journal: Sir Robert Borden, it is understood, is well under way with a constitutional history of Canada; Mr. Lemieux is said to be working on a life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; and Sir George Foster is penning his memoirs. All three works, considering the parts played by the authors, should be of deep interest.

Quantity v. Quality. Kitchener Record: It is the paper age. A single newspaper in New York announces that it will use 118,000,000 pounds of paper next year. That is more paper than had been used in the whole history of the world, for all purposes, when George Washington was born. And yet, there had been paper enough to write and print most of the great literature of thought and imagination that the human race has produced. In certain things, in science and machinery, the last 200 years have done more than all their predecessors. But not in the things that are printed on paper. In these, several ages were great than ours.

Attacking C.N.R.

Hamilton Spectator. Sir Henry Thornton made an effective reply to those who delight to attack the Canadian National system in season and out of season. It is a curious fact, declared the president, that those attacks increase as the position of the railway improves. When the system was showing a deficit of something like \$55,000,000 a year, public concern was not nearly so great as it is now, when the net earnings are over \$26,000,000. It was not, in fact, till the railways began to demonstrate their recuperative powers that the interests thought it necessary to sound the alarm. The so-called "remedies," declares Sir Henry, are in reality schemes to undermine the system. Though it would not be right to assume that all suggestions for the solution of the railway problem are

insincere and based upon self-interest, there is undoubtedly much truth in what the president says.

So long as a steady and progressive improvement in the situation is discernible, the public will be ready to wait patiently for the happy day when the system will have ceased to be a burden and be one of the Dominion's greatest assets. That the day is coming may be confidently predicted from the actions of the critics themselves. Their very perturbation—ostensibly based on concern or the public interest—is a sign that they regard the National system either as a dangerous rival or as a desirable acquisition. The public will be content to hang on till all difficulties have been overcome, confident that the system is in good keeping and that the president is capable of fulfilling his promise of putting it on a paying basis. It cannot be done in a day, and it cannot be done without the loyal support of the public and the willing co-operation of all classes and even rival systems. If a spirit of mutual helpfulness prevails, it can and will be done. It is surprising that such progress has been possible, in view of the strong organized opposition to which the management has been subjected.

Brave Attempt at Whitewashing

Hamilton Herald. So far as this paper knows, the London Free Press is the only Conservative newspaper which is bold enough to attempt a defence of Hon. Hugh Guthrie's open bid for Progressive support. "It is twisting of Mr. Guthrie's words and the meaning of his statement to say that he offered to forego principles of the Conservative party and proposed to surrender to the Progressives if they would support Mr. Meighen," asserts the Free Press.

The party loyalty of the London paper is more conspicuous than its candor in this statement. Mr. Guthrie told the Progressives that if they were to vote the King government out of office and a Meighen government into office, they would continue to occupy a "dominant position in the house." That is to say, they would be in a position to dictate the policies of the government. And Mr. Guthrie, by his invitation to them to exercise domination over a Conservative government instead of over the Liberal government, admitted that Mr. Meighen and his colleagues (doubtless including Mr. Guthrie himself) would yield to that dictation for the sake of gaining office.

It was a more sordid and dishonorable attempt to traffic in votes than the more successful attempt of the government; for the policies of the Liberal and Progressive parties are much more nearly akin than are the policies of the Conservatives and Progressives.

The London paper does not make a convincing defence of the member for South Wellington; and the fact that it deemed it expedient to attempt to defend him against newspaper criticism indicates that it realizes the seriousness of the mistake he made.

France is again ready to discuss a war debt settlement with the United States.

The arrest of Russian railway officials by a Chinese general creates a war fever in Moscow.

BIBBY'S THE MEN'S AND YOUNG MEN'S SUIT AND OVER-COAT STORE DRESS WELL AND SUCCEED Good clothes are a mark of gentility and prosperity. Look your best. We are now giving a demonstration of the superior style and quality of our new TUXEDO SUITS (3 pieces) The Olympic \$40.00 The Varsity \$37.50 The Oxford \$45.00 The elegance that comes through perfect and skilful tailoring will appeal to you in these Suits. DON'T MISS OUR JANUARY SALE Suits and Overcoats At \$25.00 Here is where you can save at least a Ten Dollar Bill. BIBBY'S

A SPLENDID NUMBER. Queen's Has Fine Collection of Bliss Carman's Works. Winnipeg Free Press. Here is the best number of "Queen's Quarterly" that has come my way for some time, albeit that magazine is one of the best two in Canada. If I remember, we used to get the benefit of a contributor's "Who's Who," but now not a word. Therefore I do not know who Lionel Stevenson is that contributes the critical article, "Canadian Poetry and the Universe," nor who Nathan van Patten may be, that tells how Bliss Carman is the first Canadian poet to nourish the passion of the collector.

DRY CHIEF



L. C. Gunderson of Madison, Wis., is the new federal prohibition director for Wisconsin. He succeeds Herman W. Sachse.

Three homes and the contents at Crystal Beach, near Niagara Falls, were destroyed by fire, with a loss of \$40,000.

Arthur Pyke, aged twenty-eight, was perhaps fatally burned in a garage fire in Toronto, which caused property loss of \$10,000.

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