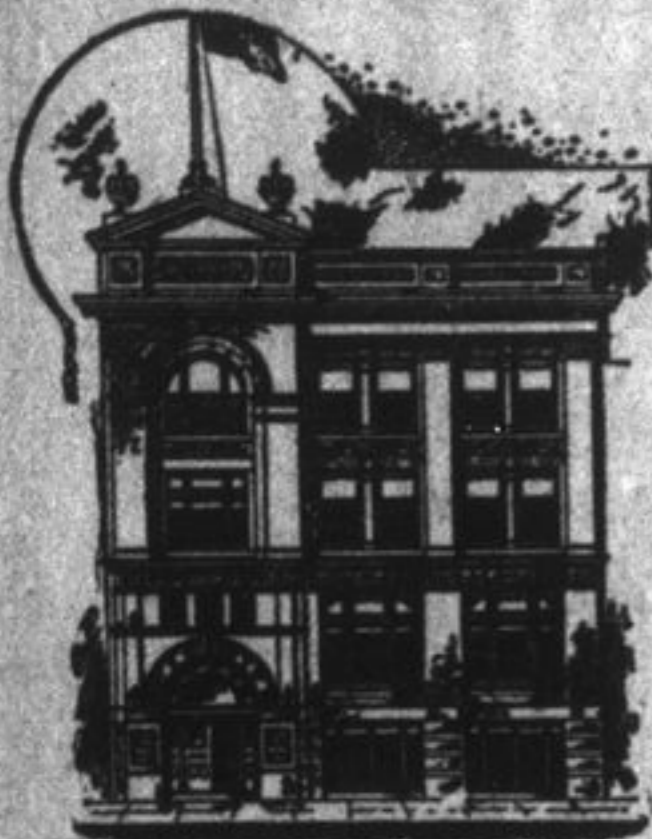


THE BRITISH WHIG  
93RD YEAR.



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

TELEPHONES: Business Office 243, Editorial Rooms 2612, Social 2613, Job Department 2614

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: (Daily Edition) One year, in city \$7.50, One year, by mail to rural offices \$8.50, One year, to United States \$3.00 (Semi-Weekly Edition) One year, by mail, cash \$1.50, One year, to United States \$2.00

OUT-OF-TOWN REPRESENTATIVES: TORONTO—F. W. Thompson, 100 King Street West, Toronto, MONTREAL—F. Calder, 23 St. John Street, Montreal, NEW YORK—Ingram-Powers, Inc., 320 Madison Avenue, CHICAGO—Ingram-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 authenticated by the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW.

Hon. Mr. McCrea is a believer in the potential wealth of our northern mines. Industry is still in its infancy there. He looks for mines going down 6,000 or 7,000 feet with a value of at least \$150 per vertical foot. Vast quantities have been mined, both gold and silver, and the possibilities seem unlimited. Every encouragement should be given to development of the great ore beds. The products of the mines will have a great influence on the industries in old Ontario and on its farming and commercial life.

The minister is convinced that sane, helpful legislation on the part of the Government should result in an influx of capital into Ontario that will spur the citizens to increased activity and increased prosperity. We have great resources, great opportunities, and great responsibilities, and if Ontario turns its thought to the development of its hidden and potential wealth this province will move forward with strides that will astonish the world. With courage, and with optimistic outlook the future is assuredly ours.

FISH CONSERVATION.

Dr. A. P. Knight, chairman of the Biological Board of Canada, has performed a great service to the country by his work in connection with fish conservation. For some years, Dr. Knight has been deeply interested in the lobster industry of the maritime provinces, and has made thorough investigations into the causes of lobster depletion. The fishermen of the maritimes have been instructed by him as to what they should do to maintain the industry, and if his advice, which is based on scientific investigation, is carried out, the lobster industry will thrive. Then Dr. Knight has been studying the question of fish culture and has found that our hatcheries have failed to fulfill their object. His conclusion is that until fish farming is placed on a scientific basis, net fishing in certain areas should be prohibited, because he claims it has been net fishing more than anything else that has slowly and surely destroyed the fishing all over Canada. This is the conclusion of one of the country's biological experts who has made the fishing question almost a life study, and it is no wonder that the Hon. Charles McCrea, the provincial minister of game and fisheries, was most impressed with Dr. Knight's remarks at the fishing conference held in Kingston on Wednesday.

GIVE THE EAST A CHANCE.

Hon. J. R. Cooke, a member of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and member without portfolio of the Ferguson administration, is reported to have commented in a speech at Gananoque upon the "backwardness of Eastern Ontario" and to have expressed dismay because only 25,000 horse power are used upon the Ottawa, St. Lawrence and Rideau systems of Hydro, a circumstance which he attributed to the "slow growth of the public ownership idea in the east."

BIBLE THOUGHT

KEEP BACK THY SERVANT also from peremptory sine; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.—Psalm 19:13, 14.

The Brockville Recorder and Times properly presents the honorable minister's comments, pointing out how inadequately the east has been served by the Hydro-Electric commission. No warmer friends of Hydro or more firm believers in its value to the province as large ever existed than those Eastern men who year after year, in spite of repeated disappointments and heart-breaking reverses, fought the battles of the east for a connection with Hydro. Handicapped by the rates which are in application, the east cannot hope to attain the same industrial strength that prevails in the west, hence, the "backwardness" that Mr. Cooke deplures.

The paper candidly tells the Commission to develop the water powers of the St. Lawrence or of the Ottawa, as has been so long promised and never done; harness the hundreds of thousands of horse power that are running to waste and that the province of Quebec is commencing profitably to utilize; scatter transmission lines over the east in a net-work similar to that which exists in the west; give power that is really cheap and there will be a market for it; give the east the same chance that Western and Central Ontario have had; give what we believe to be our due, and we'll soon show whether or not the east is "backward."

That is putting up the issue in plain and blunt terms. Every eastern municipality will heartily second the statements made and will watch with interest what action the "backward" Hydro-Electric Commission will take.

TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

British West Africa, which consists of the colonies of Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and Gambia, with a total population of 22,493,557 presents an opportunity for selling certain Canadian commodities which is not being taken advantage of, writes Trade Commissioner Harrison Watson, London, and Assistant Trade Commissioner Harry A. Scott, Liverpool, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal.

Most of the West African buyers appear favorably disposed towards increasing their business relations with Canada, although the general view is that the best opportunities are confined to particular commodities, mainly articles of food.

The keynote of West African trade is despatch, and importers are unanimous in agreement that most Canadian exporters have so far exhibited deficiency in this quality, both as regards marketing and transportation. The trade of West Africa is conducted almost wholly on the instant system. This means that the buying operations of the trading companies are almost entirely in response to definite inquiries and orders which reach them from their branches or customers actual resident in the countries which make up British West Africa.

The demand of the native population of practically all the countries is mainly for articles of a cheap nature, which frequently means second grades, and even articles which under most circumstances might be discarded.

A large proportion of the leading Continental and American firms keep permanent representatives in the British Isles, who are therefore immediately available to the corporations when they wish to place orders. Moreover, the buying corporations, themselves buying agents in the various countries on the European Continent and elsewhere, and the local manufacturers and shippers interested make a practice of keeping in constant touch with these representatives. Offers made through the medium of correspondence alone are bound to receive little or no attention.

Commodities in which regular transactions are actually taking place include flour, canned salmon and automobiles. In the case of canned salmon, it was found that one important corporation is buying directly from British Columbia. Bacon and other dried fruit and preserved milk which are imported by all the Colonies seem also to offer prospects, while a leading West Coast house has expressed an interest in possibilities for Canadian leaf tobacco.

GET OUT OF DEBT.

Get out of debt, observes the Ottawa Reformer, as it contemplates the tales told them of unpaid bills by people "who are so care-free that they buy what they want without paying for it and do not worry if it is never paid." These buoyant people appear not to be concerned by debt and if hard pressed, simply borrow from friends in order to pay the accounts which cannot be dodged.

Borrowing from friends, our conferees remarks, except in a formal, legal manner, with security and interest fully provided for, is the simplest and easiest way to lose friends.

Yet a great many people do it. As long as a man in debt can borrow informally from friends and so get along somehow, he never faces the stern lesson which some day he must face. Most of us have relatives who are always behind, are always soliciting petty loans and never think of repaying. The honest man must work to help support these pleasant, good-natured financial infants.

The conclusion is for individuals, municipalities, provinces and nations is to pay promptly or provide for assured payment. Kingston merchants know the difficulties of handling debts, know how cash customers have to bear their share of overhead because of delinquents, and they will heartily concur in the phrase, "Get out of debt and stay out."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Time flies. Two months hence we will have Easter and spring greetings.

The thrifty man is the one who saves his 1925 smoked glasses for the eclipse in 1932.

If rubber prices keep going up we will have to make fewer mistakes so as to conserve erasers.

Henry Ford seems to be dividing his time among flippers, flyers and fiddlers. And don't forget, also Ford!

The drift of population to the cities would be more serious but for the drift of improved machinery to the farms.

Holland is the best foreign customer of the Canadian honey producer. We do not send much but the market is promising.

Many a woman in a street car will think enviously of Rt. Hon. Geo. P. Graham, who is said to have been offered a dozen seats.

For putting things on ice whenever he wants to, the weather man just about has everything else licked to a frazzle, exclaims the Guelph Mercury man warming his feet at the stove burning newspaper waste.

Mr. Doucet, member for Kent, N. B., has an edge over most of the House of Commons in that he speaks three different languages. But many of them do plenty of talking in one, however, adds the Peterboro Examiner.

Measles are epidemic in the United States and Canada. A timely warning is given, get a doctor and do not gamble with the child's life. It will be safer to depend on a doctor than on home remedies or the advice of grandmother or the next door neighbor.

Newspaper writers are afraid that if United States rubber growers had vast plantations in the Philippines the Filipinos would never get their independence, promised them years ago. The status of the rubber growing proposition must be defined by the U.S. Government.

We had to rub our eyes when we saw the headline in the Ottawa Journal: "British Whig Goes Over to the Tory Benches," but we were disillusioned when we found that Sir Alfred Mond had left the British Liberals for Toryism over Lloyd George's land policy.

The Whig, some weeks ago, snatched a good excerpt on "Good Teachers" from the Ottawa Reformer. It has been copied from Dan to Beer-sheba, getting back into the Ottawa Reformer, on Monday, as a clever opinion in its "What Others Say" column. That's going some!

To find the largest Board of Trade in proportion to the size of the town, journey northward from Edmonton to Athabasca, says an exchange. There, in a rough frontier place, there is to be found a Chamber of Commerce just three months old, with 295 paid up members. Part of the membership is drawn from the farmers of the district.

Mr. Raney declares the coming provincial contest is one which will see an effort to "place the brewers once more in the saddle in Ontario." Without going so far as that, says the Ottawa Citizen, it does seem clear that the forces of the west are marshalling themselves with the confident expectation that the Ferguson government will shoot another torpedo into the O.T.A. and bring to the surface strong beer and something else.

Mr. C. R. Crowe is the new chairman of the Guelph Board of Education, a distinct honor to a distinctively clever woman. The Guelph Mercury says it is both a reward and a mandate to assume more arduous duties than usually fall to the lot of the ordinary member. As the first and only woman thus far successful in winning public office in Guelph Mrs. Crowe has shown herself zealous for the cause of education. She has a very clever son who graduated two years ago at the Royal Military College.

LOOKING AROUND

Acclamations may be made in the county council session, but a ballot is taken all the same. The county "boys" meet in caucus before the session opens, agree to make it unanimous for the one who receives the majority vote by ballot, and thus the best of feeling afterwards prevails. In the old days a county warden was elected in open council where the ballot was taken. Now the result of this vote can be kept secret.

Revolutions are going on in many of the rural districts as the attendances reported to be large, people driving long distances in their autos to take part. The open winter has thus helped greatly in evangelistic work.

The record of the new warden of Frontenac county has been given only with regard to his municipal career. But Christopher J. Graham is a great churchman as well. He was a tower of strength to the Salvation Army during his long residence in the city. Now the Caturday United Church has his services as superintendent of the Sunday school. Warden Graham is the man who secured electric light for the people of Kingston township. They used to call him "the father of Victoria ward" in the city, owing to the number of houses he built.

Yesterday, the writer ran into Robert J. Bushell, the Kingston fair man. And by the way, R. J. Bushell also lives just outside the city and is a neighbor of Warden Graham. The latter goes out to help the township folk clean up their municipal affairs, and Robert J. comes into the city to run the fair. Manager Bushell replied to a question about the exhibition grounds in this way: "If you want a man to run a railway you get a railway man; if you want a man to run your utilities you get an expert like Mr. Folger; if you want a mayor to run your city you get a cracker-jack like Tom Angrove; so if you want a politician, as to whether you should move your fair to the Murdoch farm, you get it from an experienced fair manager. Let me say that the Murdoch farm is no place for the Kingston fair. It is too far out, and besides it is not suitable."

On being asked what he thought of the present fair grounds, Robert J. remarked that they were all right if fixed up. Furthermore, a farm adjacent to them could be purchased for the purpose too small in the future. "A big mistake would be made if these grounds were sold and turned into building lots," said the fair manager. "People wouldn't buy the lots when there are many to be had in the west end. My advice to the city is to hold the fair grounds for exhibition and amusement purposes. You cannot replace them."

News and Views.

Lack Public Interest. New York Outlook: With all the popularity that radio has received in this country and in Great Britain, South Africa and Australia won't have it. Broadcasting has been attempted in those countries, but given up for lack of public interest.

Fear The Death Penalty. Flint Journal: It is a noticeable fact, bearing on this problem, that in the countries where the homicide record is lowest, the man who does commit murder is not only nearly sure to hang, but has a prompt and short trial and few or no appeals to higher courts. Yet nobody would say that in England or Canada, if the present men are put to death oftener than here.

Still On Top. London Standard: Japanese railway authorities have been "surprised" to find that the rails which were supplied by mills in England had withstood incessant and hard usage extending over a period of forty years, and they still reveal no trace of wear and tear and no actual defect. On the other hand, American rails are rated as "poor, with a durability of only ten years."

Some Bad Guesses. Toronto Star: The Mail and Empire used to say that the King government would be swept off the earth when the people went to the polls, and it wasn't. It next said it would be swept away when parliament met, and it wasn't. It now says the government will be swept away at the next opportunity if Canada will but have patience. But on the whole we believe Canada is capable of a lot more patience in this matter than is the Mail and Empire.

Boy Is Bluffer. Brandon Sun: Dr. T. A. Clark, dean of men at the University of Illinois, is authority for saying that boys also have emotions. The idea of most people is that girls are more sensitive than boys, that their feelings are more easily injured, that they have a "thinner skin" and are more easily wounded, and that boys have little emotion. "I have come not to believe it," says the dean.

The girl weeps when you hurt her feelings; she reveals at once all her pent-up emotions. The boy bluffer, he gives no evidence of his hurt; he wants, most of all, to have you think he is "hard-boiled," sophisticated, un-moved by emotion. It would not be manly, he argues, to

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reveal tenderness, sensitiveness, or emotional feeling. He fabricates tales of his escapades and indiscretions which are quite as often as otherwise without basis of foundation, and he does this in order that he may give the impression that he has this qualities which he has been led to believe are most characteristic of men.

Astonishing Trade Revival

Toronto Globe. Canada's foreign trade has made an astonishing recovery. The trade returns for December complete the figures for much the best year since the end of the war boom, and, making allowance for the abnormal conditions which then prevailed, it is the best trade year the country has ever had. There was an increase of no less than \$295,000,000 in the country's foreign trade last year as compared with 1924. Total imports and exports (of Canadian goods) in the year, \$2,161,254,202, bring the trade again above two billions, a position previously attained only during the five years of the inflated prices of the warboom.

The total trade during the fiscal year 1914 was only \$1,074,631,222, and when it is remembered that present price-levels are about 60 per cent above those of 1914 the increase in the volume of trade will be appreciated. Furthermore, the value of Canadian exports last year, \$1,270,986,554, was duplicated in only two previous years, 1917 and 1920, when inflation was greater, and in the former year trade was swollen by immense shipments of munitions. The favorable trade balance for last year, when exports exceeded imports by \$392,331,447, was exceeded only in 1917, when, under the double stimulus of inflation and war supplies, it reached \$587,465,180.

Last year's remarkable expansion was not confined to any one field, though naturally the excellent wheat crop contributed substantially to the result. The increase of \$213,933,356 in exports over 1924 included a gain in wheat of \$85,409,353; refined sugar, \$31,705,274; wheat flour, \$10,022,693; rubber goods, \$7,803,402; seeds, \$5,557,136; vegetables, \$4,210,848; cheese, \$12,200,193; meats, \$12,140,321; wood pulp, \$7,688,323; paper, \$7,375,549; automobiles, \$7,029,377; lead, \$6,500,014; gold bearing quartz, nuggets, etc., \$3,074,388.

There was an increase in imports of \$82,123,775 over 1924, mainly in the following divisions: Agricultural and vegetable products, \$19,985,150; animal products, \$4,721,182; fibres and textiles, \$13,873,882; iron and its products, \$28,593,605. While the agricultural products would doubtless be foodstuffs, the iron importations would be in great measure raw materials for Canadian industries, now more in demand with the industrial revival.

Canada's improving international position is shown in the steady gain in the favorable balance of trade. This balance was as follows in recent years: 1921, \$13,215,738; 1922, \$138,768,542; 1923, \$15,498,608; 1924, \$262,467,043; 1925, \$292,831,447. Canadian farms, factories, wood industries and other departments are all sharing in the recovery which is shown by these returns, and which should put an end to the pessimistic talk which has been so popular in recent months in certain political circles.

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