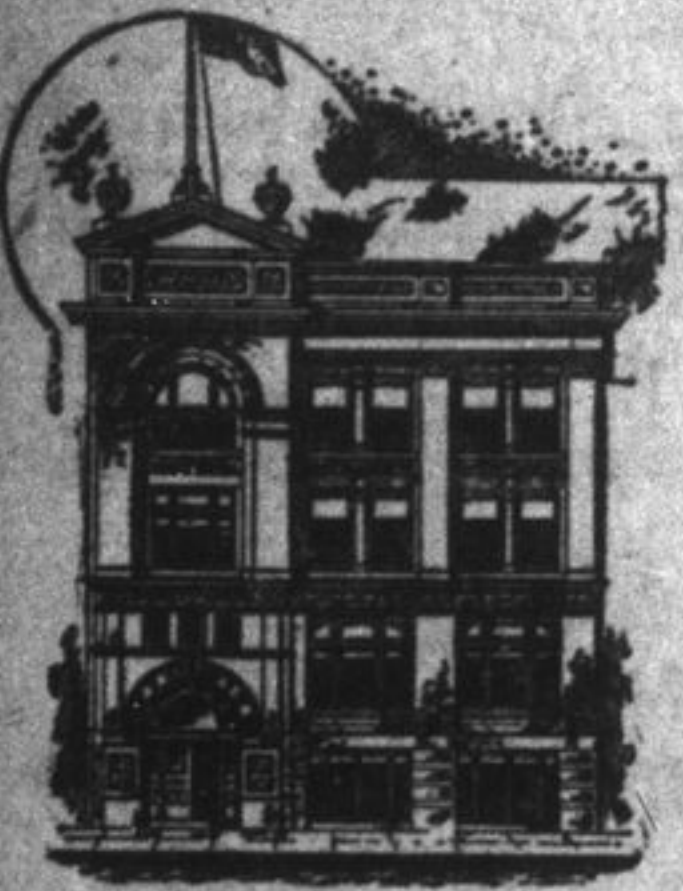


THE BRITISH WHIG 33RD YEAR.



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THE TIDE HAS TURNED IN CANADA.

A document reached the editor's desk yesterday morning which had encouraging news for Canadians. It was the Bulletin published by MacLean's Building Reports on June 1st. MacLean Building Reports are regarded throughout Canada as authentic information on the building trades. The June 1st report states that up to date this year building is 52 per cent ahead of 1925 and that the contracts awarded for the month of May are the largest for any single month in the history of Canada, and reached the astounding total of \$57,139,700.

The distribution by provinces shows Ontario ahead with awards totalling \$23,378,100 or 40.9 per cent of the Dominion total for May; Quebec next with \$19,117,000 or 33.5 per cent; Prairies \$13,067,500 or 23.1 per cent; British Columbia \$1,810,100 or 3.2 per cent, and the Maritime Provinces \$767,000 or 1.3 per cent.

The remarkable record of \$140,000,000 for the first five months of the year, split up into classifications shows a total for residential work of \$42,031,500 or 30 per cent of all contracts awarded. Business buildings include 28.9 per cent of the work or \$40,550,900; Public Works and Utilities \$34,424,400 or 24.5 per cent, and 16.6 per cent for industrial projects totalling \$23,390,400.

These figures indicate that there is a big revival in the building trades which can mean only one thing and that is that business is improving all over the country, and this indicates probably more than anything else that there is a decided improvement in general business.

DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS.

The United States is often represented as a country which is self-contained and which is capable of existing in a state of more or less complete isolation. How far this is from the truth is shown in a book recently published by an American writer. As a matter of fact many of the industries for which the United States is noted would be impossible without the raw materials for which the country is still compelled to depend on the outside world.

Steel is often regarded as America's greatest industry; but before steel can be manufactured about forty commodities must be brought in from about fifty-seven other countries, remarks the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. Shellac is put to so many uses that the list is almost endless, and for the production of shellac the American manufacturer depends on a certain insect which is to be found only in India. The American locomotive is made possible through the co-operation of workers in various parts of the world, including Peruvian Indians and Canadian nickel-miners. Without a supply of jute many American industries would be jeopardized, and jute proper comes from India. Without certain fibres which come from Yucatan, the United States might have an agricultural crisis. Castor oil is employed for many purposes in addition to its use as a medicine, and the supplies come from India, Brazil, Spain and China. "The most irreconcilable" editor, according to the author of the book, "must have his editorials preaching political isolation printed on paper of Canadian origin."

Every knock isn't a boost. It may mean a bill collector.

BIBLE THOUGHT BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN.—1 Timothy, 6: 6.

LET'S FIND ONTARIO COAL.

Canada spends from \$80,000,000 to \$100,000,000 for coal every year, sends it to foreign miners. Premier Ferguson should devote one per cent of our yearly bill, or say a million dollars in an effort to find coal in Ontario. The Canadian government should be prepared to venture a little on its own undeveloped resources; it shouldn't leave all the risk and work and expense to the prospectors and miners. Ontario coal when found, should be a public ownership affair, and Ontario could then cut its coal bill in two. Ontario would save its million dollars in three or four days if coal were found in commercial quantities.

Coal at Sudbury, coal everywhere north of the Soo, and coal in Patricia—they call it lignite there—the Ontario government surely would be justified in putting experts seriously to work to connect up these finds. No move the government could make would be more popular.

CITY MANAGER PLAN.

Recently the University of Chicago announced that Prof. L. D. White of the Department of Public Administration would devote a year to studying the operation of the city manager plan in American cities. By facilitating an independent, impartial report by an expert in this line of research, the university is rendering valuable services both to its own city and community, and incidentally the whole continent. Moreover, its action illustrates in a striking manner the intimate and valuable relation that exists between scientific method and politics in the true sense of that comprehensive term. City government in Chicago and other large cities of its type, says the Waterbury, N.Y., Times, has been notoriously inefficient and corrupt, due happily to the brazenly partisan political influences that battled among themselves to secure control. So far, however, none of the most populous centres has tried the city manager plan, though it has been adopted in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Rochester, and Kansas City, among the places that have adopted the method. These of course, do not rank with Chicago. But no reason can be found, on the surface, why a competent city manager should fail to promote efficiency, economy and public betterment in Chicago if these advantages have been secured in smaller communities. In any event, the researches of a trained scientific investigator should throw a flood of light on the actual working of the managerial system.

The city manager plan has been found profitable in many and diverse cities on this continent. In the United States 363 places have now that form of business administration. The proponents of the plan declare that it spreads fastest in the regions where the most is known about it. Following the lead of Dayton, fifteen Ohio cities adopted it. Michigan has thirty-four cities under such management; Texas, twenty-three; California, eighteen, and Virginia, nineteen. In fact, one fifth of the Virginia population and every city of more than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, with the exception of Richmond, is so controlled. One of the classic examples showing the value of the plan is that which is drawn from Dubuque, Ia. That city elected a council consisting of a banker, a union labor man, a lumber man, a manufacturer and a physician. The council then hired a city manager, whom they took away from Springfield, O. He previously had been manager of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and of Cadillac, Mich.

Only four communities have abandoned the city manager administration plan in the United States. In each case the reason was political pressure, which is used in cities too largely over there. The only serious protests against the new regime, in most of the cities which have hired city managers, have come from old-time politicians. Obviously, the patronage of the local bosses is greatly interfered with, if not abolished, by the city manager's insistence upon business principles. Everywhere the small local man attaining a large office has been prejudiced through his narrow mentality against a man of superior knowledge to himself, but not many city councils have been coaxed into firing city managers for mere prejudice and jealousy. In all but four United States cities adopting the city manager form of government the economical form has been upheld against minority cliques and men not big enough for public office. Just how successful city management is, from the city manager's point of view, is indicated by some of the salaries paid. Long Beach, Cal., pays \$10,000; Pasadena, \$12,000; Stockton, \$20,000; Dubuque, \$18,000; Cleveland, \$25,000; Knoxville, \$15,000, and other salaries of from \$5,000 and up are common. The city manager also enjoys prestige and power in proportion.

THE HEALTHFUL GARDEN.

With flowers trailing the sides of the woods and robins, catbirds and canaries singing their songs and the swallows flitting through the aerial

DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

BY W. L. GORDON

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Don't say "we have an excellent show of winning." Say "excellent chance."

OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: wound. Preferred pronunciation of the ou is as oo in "noon."

OFTEN MISSPELLED: Cincinnati, three n's, one t. SYNONYMS: old, elderly, aged, ancient, senile, decrepit, antique, antiquated.

WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. To-day's word: OBJURGATION; a severe rebuke. "It was an imperial objurgation that brought fear to the king's subjects."

public improvements, and every dollar spent at home increases business and consequently the public as well as the commercial revenue of the city.

Supplies of common food in Great Britain are so abundant that it appears the price level of war years and those subsequent cannot be maintained, says Mayor McLagan, Westmount. A lower standard of prices will have to be accepted and if Canadian farmers hope to maintain their income it will have to be done by increasing production on their farms.

News and Views.

Why Not Collect It? Philadelphia Ledger: Perhaps the happiest thought in connection with the war debt is that Russia owes us only \$133,000,000.

Brains Often Lopsided. Ohio State Journal: Every man who has become famous for something ought to pray for strength not to be interviewed on other things.

Our Veterans. Vancouver Province: The people of Canada owe the returned men a debt they can never repay and they are quite conscious of that. But they are willing to do their best. Heavily taxed as they have been, they have never suggested that pensions be reduced either in number or amount.

On With the Good Work. Bradford Expositor: The Charleston is superseding the hula hula in Hawaii, the tango in the Argentine and the whirli in Turkey. The white race is continuing its civilization of the under-developed peoples of the world.

The Tourist Season. London Advertiser: If the touring multitude find courtesy, consideration and an absence of profiteering, they will spread the fame of Canada all over the United States. There is a rich harvest of good will as well as pecuniary profit to be reaped if Canadians seek to make their neighbors feel at home.

Canada Takes Stock

(New York Sun) Canada has been taking stock and the facts are encouraging. The Dominion's gross agricultural wealth at the end of 1925 was \$7,832,942,000, an increase of \$324,658,000 over 1924. Its total agricultural revenue last year was \$1,708,567,000, an increase of \$264,890,000 over the previous year. By provinces the revenue from agriculture last year was: Ontario, \$477,159,000; Saskatchewan, \$416,022,000; Quebec, \$327,739,000; Alberta, \$245,662,000; Manitoba, \$142,046,000; British Columbia, \$42,444,000; New Brunswick, \$35,506,000; Nova Scotia, \$39,120,000; Prince Edward Island, \$23,869,000.

Returns from sixty cities show the building permits issued in April, 1926, were \$3,545,900, or 23 per cent over those for April, 1925. Immigration records a steady increase. A feature of this particularly gratifying to Canadians is the return of natives from the United States. In the fiscal year ended March 31st there were 47,221 of these repatriated sons and daughters who had been absent for six months or more. Eighteen thousand citizens of the United States accompanied them.

Canadians feel that their immigrants are particularly qualified to develop the agricultural resources of the land. That is the kind of settlers the Dominion desires, and it is in the habit of getting what it desires.

Quebec Viewpoint

L'Evenement urges that politics be kept out of the Alberta school question. "An act of injustice towards the Catholic minority in Alberta would not in any way imperil the British constitution or institutions. On the contrary, it would be of a nature to render them still more appreciable of the descendants of the early pioneers of Canada. In the conflict, which seems imminent in Alberta, it will be the duty of our compatriots to work with prudence by following as far as possible the directions of their spiritual leaders. On a question of principle there can be no possible concession. The right is intangible and indefeasible. It may be, however, that diplomatic action will be better than public action. It is for the episcopate to decide that important point. It goes without saying that in order to obtain full or partial justice politics must be kept out of this affair. In questions of the same nature that have arisen since 1867, the burning intervention of politicians has never had any practical result. On the contrary, it

QUEER QUIRKS OF NATURE

The "Trade" Rat Has Some Old Tricks. By Arthur N. Pack.

One of the oddest little animals in existence is the California wood rat, better known as the "trade" rat. It gets its last name from the fact that though it is a great thief, it never steals anything without putting something else in its place. The story is told of a paste pot which had been left in the assay office of the Silver Queen Mine and which was found in the morning filled with the oddest collection of rubbish. At one time when a trade rat's nest was found in an unoccupied house, the outside of the nest was composed entirely of iron spikes laid

in perfect order, with the points outward. Interlaced with the spikes were about two dozen forks and spoons and three large butcher knives. There were also a large carving fork, knife and steel, several plugs of tobacco, an old purse, a quantity of small carpenter tools, including several saws, and a watch of which the outside casing, the glass, and the works, were all distributed separately to make the best showing possible. None of these things was of any earthly use to the rats. They must have collected them for the same reason that a child hoards up odds and ends with which to play, saving them with no regard for usefulness.

IT'S NEWS

- If anyone is going to build a house or a business block.
If the pastor of your church has resigned or the choir has gone on a sleigh ride.
If anyone has been injured in an accident or the city hall has been burned down.
If any society to which you belong has held an important meeting or elected officers.
If you have had visitors or given a reception.
If the flowers in your garden come out earlier in the Spring or stay out later in the fall than any of the neighbor's flowers.
If you own a very old or rare book or coin or stamp.
If you are going away on a trip or have returned.
If you see any strange phenomena in the air, on the land, or in the water (when you are sober).
If a boat sinks or a train or automobile is wrecked.
If a burglar breaks into your house or store.
If sap is running in your neighborhood or if seeding or harvesting has commenced.
If anyone dies or is married.
If your ball team or hockey team plays a game.
If one person saves another from drowning.
If a presentation has been made to any of your friends.
If you have bought any pure-bred stock or have sold the farm.
If anything has happened which will be of interest to the readers in general.
The British Whig is anxious to print all the news of the city of Kingston and of Eastern Ontario and asks the co-operation of its readers. You know some item of news every day and if you live in the city or near the city The Whig would appreciate it if you would telephone these items into the office. If you live at a considerable distance and the items are of no more than ordinary importance, write them out and mail them. If it is a serious accident or other sensational news, telephone or telegraph in the details at our expense.

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