

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

THE DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sundays and holidays excepted) at the Ontario Building, Front Street, Belleville, Ontario. Subscription \$3.00 per annum.

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO and Ray of Quinte Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at \$1.50 a year, or \$2.00 a year to the United States.

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Subscription Rates (Daily Edition)

One year, delivered in city	\$5.25
One year, post office box, or gen. del.	\$3.50
One year by mail to rural offices	\$3.50
One year to U. S. A.	\$2.50

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1917.

EXCESS BAGGAGE

The dismissal of 1750 civil servants from the departments at Ottawa as useless and unnecessary prompts us to inquire why these 1750 appointments were ever made. The business of the majority of the departments is now quite as heavy as it ever was. On many departments the war has imposed a great additional burden. More business on the aggregate is being transacted than ever before. The fact that all these dismissals are taking place as not being necessary to carry on the business of the country shows that they were never necessary.

The fact is that the Borden government, within two years after its accession to office added 10,000 hangers-on to the service. When the Laurier government went out of the power the civil service was already filled to repletion, for Liberalism was also disposed to look fairly well after its "friends." But to add ten thousand to an already greatly over-manned force was a governmental crime. The additional and unnecessary cost to the country of maintaining these parasites was more than \$5,000,000 per annum. To have kept that army of ten thousand supernumeraries in their offices during the stress of war was nothing short of treason.

The action is welcome but it should never have been necessary. Patronage and heelism are the joint curses of Canadian politics, particularly of Dominion politics. Liberals were by no means sinless in this respect, but the corporal's guard of excess baggage on the part of the Liberals became a whole army of hangers-on under the fostering, benevolent care of Robert Rogers and his fellow patriots.

Will we ever have in Canada a government big enough to give government for the people instead of government for the heeler?

SAVE THE POTATOES.

The saving of our potato crop is not only worth while as a money proposition but is a patriotic duty as well. We need the food. We are told that blight is present in many localities in the province. We are also told that the blight is 80 per cent. preventable. The remedy lies in the use of the Bordeaux mixture. The Bordeaux is inexpensive, easily made and easily applied. If you have even a small patch of potatoes in the garden they are worth many dollars at present prices. The expenditure of only a few cents for chemicals will make the patch practically immune from the blight.

Here is the formula approved by the Department of Agriculture.—Apply Bordeaux mixture for the blight, with arsenate of lead for the "bugs", and apply thoroughly. Arsenate of lead may be obtained from the drug store or hardware store in paste or dry form. It should be mixed with water—about a heaped dessert-spoonful of either dry or paste in two gallons of water.

Bordeaux mixture is obtained by dissolving one-half pound of blue stone (copper sulphate) and one-half pound of quicklime (un-slaked), each separately in granite basins in a small amount of hot water. Then both these mixtures should be mixed together and sufficient water added to make five gallons. The arsenate of lead may be added to this mixture in the proportions named above at each spraying. Application should be made in the form of a spray. A watering can will do if there is no spray machine at hand. All the mixture should be used up, and should not be left standing in a metal vessel. Paris green will do instead of arsenate of lead, but is not so persistent in clinging to the leaves in wet weather.

THE INCOME TAX.

In proposing to raise revenue through an income tax the Government is departing radically from the traditions of its party, which prefers raising revenue and other things by the indirect tax of the customs duties. So far as the people are concerned there is little difference in the long run, as the consumer pays in both cases. The departure from

tradition is not important, except as it emphasizes the fact that Canada is at war, and that money as well as men must be raised in any way possible. The Government is to be congratulated in bringing itself to the point of admitting that there is other more than one way of doing a thing, and in taking a step which the Opposition has been urging upon it or some time.

Whether the income tax bill as at present drafted fits the needs of the case is perhaps a matter of opinion, but undoubtedly it will undergo some revision in the committee stage. Few people will regard it as fair in the division of the burden as between unmarried and married men, and as between those of moderate circumstances and the very wealthy. An unmarried man with an income of \$4,000 pays only \$30 tax, while the married man pays \$40. An unmarried man with an income of \$10,000 is left \$9,600 to spend, while the unmarried man with \$100,000 a year will have \$85,200 left after paying the tax. It is only fair to assume that the finance department has considered the fact that conscription will fall heaviest upon the unmarried men, but it is also certain that few unmarried men with large incomes are within the military age.

Along with the enforcement of the act must come the puzzling question as to what constitutes an income. The finance minister promises to make this clear. He does not offer any hope, however, that war profits will be required to pay a higher tax than profits from normal business. Another point which may come in for criticism is the fact that non-residents, although drawing an income from Canadian sources, will escape the tax, which is to be applicable only to residents of this country. This exception is frankly made to encourage businessmen of other countries to invest their money in Canada, both during and after the war, which, after all, is most desirable.

THE FINNISH DIFFICULTY

A Russian, writing in the New York Outlook, gives his country's viewpoint as to Finland. He compares its relation to Russia with that of Cuba to the United States. The American Republic would not tolerate an independent Cuba virtually controlled by Germany. Similarly, Finland, which is pro-German and has been sedulously cultivated by German agents, business houses and tourists for a number of years back, would be a risky neighbor to be tolerated if allowed to become independent.

The Finns have not been forced to serve in the Russian armies for this war. Six thousand of them have fought as volunteers in the German army. If the Finnish government should carry out its plan of a complete secession from Russia, such a move would be likely to be followed up by an alliance with Germany. In fact, the Germans would not wait for an alliance, but would probably start at once for Finland, do some fraternizing and camarading in their usual greasy way, and then poke an army into Finnish ports. The bringing of the German troops in Finland would bring them to within 30 or 40 miles of Petrograd on the northwest. The supposed case of Cuba and the United States is as nothing to that of Finland and Russia in such an event. It would be better for Great Britain to have the Germans in occupation of a seceded Ireland than for Russia and the Allies to see Finland in the enemy's grasp.

Supposing that the Russian armies succeed in stemming back the Teutons in Volhynia and Galicia, the secession of Finland, if un-suppressed, would give the enemy's feet an iron grip on the Upper Baltic and the approach to Petrograd via the Gulf of Finland. It would permit the easy passage of food supplies from Russia through the pro-German state. Clearly the Entente Allies no more than Russia itself can regard the possible secession of Finland as an event to be calmly endured. The Russian Government should assure the Finns, at any rate, of autonomy, while making it plain that independence, for the present at least, will not be allowed.

PROHIBITION AND PROHIBITION

Some time ago the people of Canada were thought grown up enough to be allowed economic independence. But it seems that though capable of self-government and deciding on their own trade or tariff, they are not yet educated enough to be intellectually independent. A brilliantly conducted paper like the London Nation may circulate in Great Britain, but it is barred from Canada, as our minds might be hardly up to it. Mr. Arthur Mee's "The Fiddlers," similarly, is considered a very dangerous book for the immature, simple-minded Canadians, though it is having an enormous sale in Great Britain.

It is not exactly a matter of morality, though the book assails the liquor traffic in the Mother Country. It is not this time the pa-

cularily moral sense of Ottawa that shuts Mr. Mee's book out. The reason one may be fined \$5,000 or given five years in jail for having the book in one's possession is that we are stamped as incapable of the necessary intellectual discriminations. Nothing can be said against Mr. Mee's intelligence, veracity and logic. He smites the booze industry hip and thigh, as it deserves. He is a writer of great ability and distinction, the conductor of the most brilliant of child's magazines, "My Magazine," as well as editor of a Children's Encyclopedia. So here in Canada we are such infants that not even the writing of a specialist in instructing children is considered within the range of our comprehension or proper interpretation.

There is a fear at Ottawa, perhaps, that the exposure of drink conditions in Great Britain will do our cause in France no good with the prohibition people in both Canada and the United States. But the sooner the British beerage, peverage, trades unions, bishops and general public realize the necessity of stopping the waste of food and shipping in the manufacture and distribution of intoxicants, the better it will be for all alike. With bone-dry prohibition gaining ground everywhere in America, there will be a strong feeling against denying ourselves bread, sugar and such "luxuries" in order that whiskey manufacture may go on in Canada, though it has been stopped in the United States, and that beer-guzzling may go on ad lib. over on the other side of the Atlantic. It is not book prohibition we want, but prohibition of that which Mr. Mee so ably and patriotically assails.

DR. MICHAELIS, THE NEW GERMAN CHANCELLOR.

The new chancellor of Germany, Dr. Michaelis, in his first speech as chancellor, has drawn the lines more plainly than ever. It is plain now to everyone outside of Germany, that the war is one between democracy and autocracy. The Reichstag vote against indemnities and annexations does not agree with the chancellor's speech, but the resolution is burdened with buncombe to such an extent that any declarations contained in it, favorable to honesty, have been nullified.

Surely the first crime to be dealt with in our out of Germany is the crime against Belgium. If the Socialists in the Reichstag are honest why not remedy that crime as a first step? Then the outside world might believe Germany was coming to its senses. The former chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, admitted at the commencement of the war that the invasion of Belgium was wrong, but that Belgium would be recompensed. They invaded Belgium because it was the shortest road to Paris, but it failed to prove a short cut. It failed every way, and yet Germany digs itself in in trenches and digs graves for millions of the best men in the world.

Hollweg was doubtless wavering and weakening. The Kaiser and war lords did not think they could rely on his unshaken support of their villainies. It is odd that his successor, Dr. Michaelis, should be described as a religious man, "a mystic in religion." If his first speech is a fair sample, he falls far behind Bethmann-Hollweg as a speaker. The speech reads like a very clumsy production in comparison with the speeches delivered by any of the leaders in France, England or America. So commonplace a man is not likely to last long, no matter how fanatical his religion may be. His speech puts it up to the German people themselves to decide under which government they wish to live, whether they shall be slaves of militarism or free men. The rest of the world is free, and would have Germany free as well. While this is so, the world wonders, too, by what process of reasoning a religious man justifies the German cause, with its invasion of Belgium, its killing of innocent men, women and children, its sinking of the Lusitania, and its long list of horrible crimes.

A MINISTER'S EXCUSE.

"There is an absolutely clear and simple explanation, but Canada does not control the matter, and I am not at liberty to give the explanation. As a matter of fact, it is not in the interest of the public to give the reason."—Judge Doherty, minister of justice.

This was the reply of the minister when questioned in the House as to why it cost more to send parcels to Canadians in England than to those in France. It was the kind of answer to which we have become accustomed during the war, and stood a fairly good chance of acceptance, but Dr. Pugsley really wanted to know the reason, and suggested that it might be communicated to the House in secret session. The suggestion drove the minister out of his defence trench, and, after a whispered conference with other officials, he offered this: "Perhaps the best reason why I cannot explain at the present moment is that I do

not understand it myself."

These are the statements of a supposed responsible minister, speaking to the representatives of the Canadian nation, when they request information as to national affairs. He is expected to be able to answer such questions, but if he is unable to do so he is bound in honor to admit the fact. Instead, he takes the ground that it is a war secret, which must not be made public, this being his idea of statesmanship or diplomacy, in order to cloak his ignorance. Is it such men as this whom Sir Robert Borden is asking the country to endorse?

Judge Doherty should not have hesitated to say, "I don't know." The House has become used to this reply, the favorite of another minister, Hon. Thomas Crothers. It would have aroused no comment and was probably anticipated.

Should we not now have another committee of investigation to investigate the report of the commission that investigated the report of the investigator who investigated Robert Rogers in the first place?

Householders who have laid in their stock of whitewash are fortunate. There is likely to be a famine in the market for some months to come owing to a corner of the supply by the commission to inquire into the Galt report.

Publishers of a Montreal paper were unable to obtain newsprint to continue publication although they offered spot cash for it. Manufacturers of paper are intimating that they expect the Government to permit them to raise prices again, but this is the first instance on record where a newspaper with adequate cash has been forced out of business.

"Give my horse a feed of corn." This order is often given to an hostler in England, but it does not mean necessarily that the animal is to have Indian corn or maize. The term "corn" is used to include oats, wheat, barley and other cereals, hence the "corn production" bill which is now before parliament. Indian corn is grown in only very small quantities in Britain, nearly all of that used being imported.

Is it not strange that the Borden Government chose Mr. Hanna for food controller when Sir Adam Beck was available? The hero worshippers who sit at the feet of Sir Adam must regard it as almost criminal neglect that "the greatest man in Canada" has not been asked to take a big part in the pressing problems of the time. Since his experience with the purchase of horses, or the non-purchase of them, he has not been asked to serve Ottawa in a manner commensurate with his energy. What's the answer? Does he not control Ottawa as he controls Toronto?

SAY NOT GOOD-BYE.

(By Lillian B. Whiting)

Say not good-bye;  
The cool winds play  
Among the flowers.  
Night and day,  
O'er hill and dale they onward hie,  
They say good-night, but not good-bye.

Say not good-bye;  
The birds that sing  
Their last year's song  
Again will bring  
They leave their haunts and southward fly  
They say good-night, but not good-bye.

Say not good-bye;  
The flowers of June  
May hide their faces  
All too soon;  
But while beneath the mould they lie,  
They say good-night, but not good-bye.

Say not good-bye;  
Heart sore distressed,  
For those you mourn  
Are but more blessed;  
Are but asleep, they do not die,  
They say good-night, but not good-bye.

REFORMATION

When once I turned the stubborn soil  
In hopes a fishing worm to find,  
I now bestow my faithful toil  
In quite a different frame of mind.  
My pride shall equal that of kings  
If I raise cabbages and things.

Where once I tried to drive a ball  
The same as regular golfers do,  
And landed it in grass so tall  
It was forever lost to view,  
My humble hoe a garden greets  
Where dwell tomatusses and beets.

—Washington Star.

THE SLIME OF POLITICS

Two members of the headquarters staff of this military district have been notified that their services will be dispensed with at the end of this month. These officers, Cola Wilson and Brown, have been most efficient in the discharge of their duties. The one ranked next to the general officer commanding, and has been responsible for the quality of the work he has supervised, and the other acted as adjutant and quartermaster, and showed a proficiency which was generally commended. Why are they required; at this juncture, to retire from their positions without some indication as to the purpose of it? Without explanation—and an explanation which is acceptable—there will be inferences, and any one of them is calculated to do the officers a great injury.

Cola Wilson and Brown qualified for important offices, and filled them creditably so far in the war. They have helped to fit out and send across the seas thousands of men, and no one can imagine the cause of their displacement unless their political integrity has been called in question. The government wants it known that everyone gets promotion or recognition in the army upon his merits, but the Whig knows better. So do many others who have followed the fortune of friends and realized how difficult it is to get anything without the pull of political allies.

Were Sam Hughes at the head of the militia department, Cola Wilson and Brown would not now be threatened with any humiliation. The meaning of their removal is not apparent now, but it will be later on. Before an election takes place some camp followers of the government will be provided with comfortable places. Others, who have been advanced in service, who have been given honors and emoluments they have not earned, could have been sent into seclusion without hurt to any cause. To make a dead set upon a couple of senior officers, among the best in Canada, for political considerations, is a scandal of the rank and file. Every soldier who has a vote is invited to remember this circumstance when he comes to mark his ballot.—Kingston Whig.

PROTESTANT TEACHERS

The rapid spread of public opinion against engaging Roman Catholic teachers for public schools in Ontario is evinced by the numbers of school boards throughout the province which are insisting upon the appointment of Protestant teachers in the schools. Insistence upon the appointment of Protestant instructors is now generally recognized as the best method of preventing the proselytizing of the children. Proof of the rapid growth of this sentiment is found in the fact that out of 240 advertisements for public school teachers in one issue of The Globe, 135 insist upon the applicant being of the Protestant religion.

Four or five years ago, when public school boards found it necessary to advertise for teachers, no thought was given to the religious side of the question. Thousands of parents, however, have discovered that it is unsafe to leave the instruction of their children to Roman Catholic teachers. The Sentinel has been urging for the last three or four years that school boards insist upon having Protestant teachers in their schools. And it is encouraging to note to what a great degree the citizens of Ontario are realizing the wisdom of our suggestion. The education of our children is too important a matter to be entrusted to Roman Catholic teachers.—Orange Sentinel.

POINTS ABOUT PROFITEERING

The O'Connor report hints at packing organizations other than the William Davies Company in which Sir Joseph Flavelle is interested. Will the investigators pull these out from under the barrel and tell the public all about them?

In the investigation to come, the public does not wish to be befuddled by a lot of complex figures. The question is plain enough. Has Sir Joseph Flavelle, who has been preaching non-profits for others, made money out of this war, and if so, how much?

What is the share capital of the William Davies Company, and what has been the dividends on the same since August, 1914? What melon, if any, has been left uncut in the way of surplus profits so far undistributed to the holders of common stock in the William Davies Company, the chief owner of the stock being Sir Joseph Flavelle?—Toronto Saturday Night.

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