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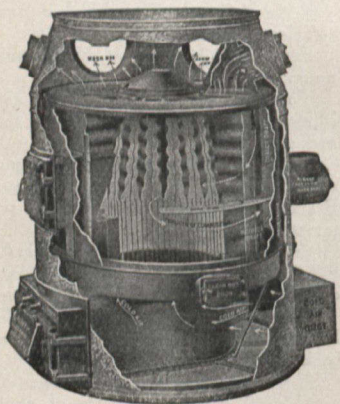
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WHAT CANADIAN EDITORS THINK

LIARS TO THE LIMIT.

(Vancouver World.)

AN ingenious countryman of George Washington has invented an extremely sensitive, but also deucedly uncomfortable, little instrument, which, by an arrangement of batteries, indicates whether a person is telling the truth or not. It seems to show, by the flicker of a flame, the momentary struggle in the two parts of the brain when, for a second, the tongue hesitates to pervert the truth. That is all very well, no doubt, when the tongue does so hesitate, or hesitates from no other cause. Perfectly truthful human animals, driven on a rare occasion to commit a terminological inexactitude, would, in all probability, register their uncomfortable state of mind on the psychometer; but, on the other hand, there are, among those of whom David spoke hastily, quite a number who habitually tell lies, and there would be no hesitation in their brain whatever, unless, for a change, they decided to speak the truth. Even truthful folk may hesitate in answering a question. On the whole, it looks as if, for purposes of justice, this latest product of inventive ingenuity will have about the same value as the old ordeal by fire.

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CIVIL SERVICE BUGABOO.

(Renfrew Mercury.)

PROF. ADAM SHORTT in a public address a few days ago advised Canadians to enter the civil service. The learned professor is but wasting time in speaking thus. Advice of the kind is entirely superfluous. The eagerness of young Canadians, both male and female, to take positions under Government pay is so marked that berths are always outnumbered by applicants. For every vacancy occurring at Ottawa or in any part of the provincial capitals, there are a hundred persons who would fain fill it; while it is a notorious fact that when through the ravages of time a "sit" in the outside civil service becomes open there are dozens of men after it, working might and main to secure appointment. When the author of "The Scarlet Letter" lost a position in the American civil service, he mourned as one having no hope, but pulling himself together he began a career in another sphere which made him famous.

* * *

UP TO GOVERNMENT.

(Kingston Standard)

FOR years the necessity of enlarging Welland canal has been apparent to every one engaged in the shipping interests. If it were possible for private capital to take hold of the Welland Canal, charge canal tolls sufficient to guarantee return for the money expended and get a vote of money as the railways do to aid in its enlargement, we should have had an enlarged Welland Canal years ago. But that is an impossibility. Private enterprise can have no part in the undertaking. It is necessarily a government work, and, being such, with no gain in the building of it to be made by private capital it has been neglected.

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SOLDIERING IN CANADA.

(Bruce Herald.)

WHETHER we like it or not, conditions are developing in Canada that tend to make this country a military nation. We spend a large sum annually in training a militia force, the amount now running up to the neighbourhood of five million dol-

lars a year. In spite of this large sum the training does not extend to any great number of our people, and at best gives but a smattering of military knowledge to the comparatively small number who turn out to the annual camps. Outside the city organisations it cannot be said that an effective military force of any considerable strength exists in the country. The defects of our system are apparent to every one, but how to remedy them without involving the country in ruinous expense for a general military training of the youth of the country, is a problem more easily recognised than solved.

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CANADIAN LABOUR.

(Kingston Standard)

PROBABLY in no other country are labour conditions better than in Canada. Of course unskilled labour must necessarily be at a discount during a month or two in the severest part of winter, but skilled labour is always in fair demand. There is none of that pitiful struggle for a bare existence that is the prevailing condition in the old European countries. Every employee has before him the near prospect of being an employer. Good men are in demand, to be taken as partners, managers, etc. In Canada one does not work for an employer but with him. The man who regards his work as a drudgery and his employer an enemy is soon down and out. "Get out or get in line" is the motto.

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FIGHTING YOUNG CANADA.

(Victoria Colonist.)

WE profess to know something about the point of view of young Canada, and it teaches us that, if there was need for the young men to come to the defence of their country, nothing would keep them back. The father or mother, who does not wish his or her son to become a trained militiaman lest he may some day have to take the field, ought to realise that thereby they are sentencing him to take the field as an untrained man, in such an event, for take the field he would. We are unable to understand why any employer of labour ought to object to his employees serving in the militia, especially as the arrangements which prevail in this city, at least, are such as call for no interference with business hours. Even if there were an occasional slight interference one would suppose that the patriotism of employers would be equal to such a slight strain upon it. Canadians have had so long a period of peace that they have come to look upon the possibility of war as utterly out of the question, and hence to regard time and money spent on military training as so much waste. There may be an awakening some day.

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CANADIAN BANKING.

(Kingston Standard.)

EVERY nation is inclined to boast of its own particular institutions and class them as the best of their kind on earth. Canadians, however, and fortunately, seldom boast, and when they do they usually have reason for it. Once in awhile, though, we overdo it. A case in point is our banking system—for here is illustrated both our right to boast, and on the other hand perhaps a tendency to exaggerate. Lecturers on public platforms have time and again announced that Canada has the best banking system in the world, that it is absolutely flawless. Now, while this contains much truth it nevertheless has in it some of the elements