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57

THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

Vol. I. 5 NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., FRIDAY, June 16, 1916. Number 15

BREWSTER VS. BOWSER.

Among other bon mots perpetrated by Premier Bowser, in his "triumphant" tour of Vancouver Island, last week, is this alleged answer, given at a Nanaimo smoker, to that portion of Mr. Brewster's writ which raises the question of the validity of the last Legislature after the 14th of March: "Mr. Brewster had occupied a seat in the Legislature and taken a part in the proceedings from March 14th, when he claimed the Parliament ceased to exist, until May 31st, when prorogation took place. He had also accepted his sessional indemnity and $1500 as leader of the Opposition. If the Liberal argument was correct, anyone would have the right to sue Mr. Bowser for the recovery of this $3,100 of public funds."

One might think that it was a half witted school boy, instead of the Premier of British Columbia, that had put forward such shallow piffle as that as a serious answer to a serious question. Anyone can see that it doesn't touch the question at all, and is an impudent insult to the rudimentary intelligence of any audience. Mr. Brewster's position with regard to sessional indemnity is exactly the same as that of any other member, including Mr. Bowser himself, and, to "answer a fool according to his folly," the portion of the session that was undoubtedly legal would warrant the drawing of sessional indemnity. Mr. Brewster does not arrogate to himself to decide that the session of the Legislature after March 14th last was illegal, but he knows, as does Mr. Bowser, that there is a serious question as to its validity, involving also that of the next Legislature—which is even more serious—and he wants the matter squarely met and settled by the courts now, with the least possible amount of demoralization and dislocation of the political and business interests of the Province.

Like a reckless gambler, Premier Bowser, who cannot see an inch beyond the winning of the present election by any and every means, does not care what happens so long as he can sinch his dictatorship for another five years. If he should fail to do that, he would not care what happened either—he would rather than not see the Province tied up in an embarrassing constitutional (or unconstitutional) knot of his own contriving. With the validity of the next Legislature involved in doubt—and Attorney-General Bowser has avoided so far referring to that important point raised by Mr. Brewster—Premier Bowser would be more than content, evidently, to leave the whole matter undetermined until he knows what the political complexion of the next Legislature is going to be. It would be very handy, if the Liberals won, to have the whole thing thrown into the melting pot again, regardless of consequences to the public welfare.

While indulging in light persiflage, instead of seriously meeting a serious issue, with regard to that portion of Mr. Brewster's writ having to do with the validity of the Legislature, there can be no doubt that what gives Premier Bowser much more concern, and accounts to some extent for his affectation of levity over an incidental phase of the writ, while side-stepping the main object of the action, is that main object itself—which is the bringing of Attorney-General Bowser to account for his law-breaking activities on behalf of the P.G.E., to the extent of nearly seven million dollars. That is the barbed hook that sticks in the Premier's vitals, and which he would fain obscure and conceal by an exaggerated emphasis and lightness of treatment of a sufficiently serious but relatively secondary matter.

It would be much more to the point if Premier Bowser would quit his school boy play to the galleries and act as the Premier of a great Province should, by accepting the responsibilities and consequences of his own acts, instead of weakly and cowardly trying to evade them and, like a petty law-breaker hailed before the beak, reviling the policeman who arrests him. There is much more at stake in these actions than the political fate of Premier Bowser and his Government. They cannot and must not be side-stepped or sidetracked, and the sooner they are tried out and determined the better will the public interests be served.

Hon. Wm. Manson, who has been airing his new found honors as Minister of Agriculture by "doing his bit" as one of the chorus in Premier Bowser's "triumphant tour" of Vancouver Island, undertook to explain to a farmers' conference at Qualicum Beach how this paternal Government was going to "accommodate" the farmers, this general election year, in working out the provisions of the Agricultural Aids Bill. "Loans to be made to farmers," he said, according to the News-Advertiser's report, "would be divided into three divisions. A farmer could apply for a season's loan, being sufficient money to tide him over till his crops were harvested and paid for, he could ask for a short term loan extending over a period of from 10 to 20 years, or for a long term loan for a term up to 36¾ years. The interest charges in connection with each loan would be the same."

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

A straight fight between champions of the two historic parties of the United States is practically assured as a result of the Republican and Progressive nominations in Chicago, last week. Charles Evans Hughes, former Governor of New York, and at the time of his nomination Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, received the Republican nomination on the third ballot, which stood: Hughes, 949½; Roosevelt, 18½: Lodge, 7; Dupont, 5; La Follete, 3; Weeks, 3; absent, 1. Total, 987. Senator Lodge was the compromise candidate presented to the Republican convention by Theodore Roosevelt for reuniting the Republican and Progressive parties. The compliment was returned by the presentation of Hughes' name to the Progressive convention, sitting also in Chicago at the same time. There was never a moment's doubt after the convention got down to business that Hughes was the choice of the Republicans by an overwhelming majority, and the Progressives with tremendous enthusiasm nominated Roosevelt by acclamation, without a ballot.

In the case of the Republican nominee, it was emphatically an instance of the office seeking the man. Although his name had been canvassed for many months, Mr. Justice Hughes had scrupulously refrained from any utterance which would give the slightest clue as to whether he would accept the nomination or not. His answer to the chairman of the convention, announcing the nomination and asking his acceptance, was the first intimation of any kind from Mr. Hughes on the subject. "I have not desired the nomination," he said in his telegram of acceptance, sent within an hour of notification. "I have wished to remain on the bench. But in this critical period of our national history, I recognize that it is your right to summon and that it is my paramount duty to respond." Just as prompt, as brief and business-like was the telegram sent at once to President Wilson, his future rival, resigning from the bench in these few words: "I hereby resign the office of associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States." The President's reply to the man who will contest his claim to a second term was hardly less formal: "I am in receipt of your letter of resignation, and feel constrained to yield to your desire. I therefore accept your resignation as justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to take effect at once."

It is to Col. Roosevelt's credit that he resisted the temptation, which to his temperament must be a compelling one, to hurl his hat into the ring at once and make another third party fight for the Presidency, at the head of the enthusiastic Progressive or Bull Moose party. In response to the notification of his nomination by acclamation, Mr. Roosevelt sent a brief message to the convention from Oyster Bay, conditionally declining to accept the nomination—the condition for adhering to his non-acceptance being if the Progressive National Committee found the subsequent statements of policy of Charles Evans Hughes, the Republican standard bearer, such as they could approve. To newspaper representatives who called upon him, Mr. Roosevelt unhesitatingly said that he was out of politics. If he adheres to his determination not to accept the Progressive nomination, it is a safe guess that Mr. Roosevelt will be in the contest as a strong and influential supporter of the Republican candidate.

From the brief intimation already given by Mr. Hughes of his attitude on the foreign policy of the United States, the question of over-shadowing interest at the present time, his views, previously unuttered, would appear to be pretty much in harmony with those of the great Progressive protagonist. In his telegram of acceptance, Mr. Hughes announced his stand for the firm and unflinching maintenance of all the rights of American citizens on land and sea, for an Americanism that knows no ulterior purpose, for a patriotism that is single and complete, and for preparedness entirely adequate and thorough, both in army and navy. His criticism of the foreign policy of the Wilson Administration is vigorous and incisive enough to suit even Roosevelt: "While not impugning motives or underestimating difficulties," says Mr. Hughes, "it is most regretably true that in our foreign relations we have suffered incalculably from the weak and vacillating course which has been taken with regard to Mexico—a course lamentably wrong with regard to both our rights and our duties. At the outset of the Administration, the high responsibilities of our diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations were subordinated to a conception of partisian requirements and we presented to the world a humiliating spectacle of ineptitude. Belated efforts have not availed to recover the influence and prestige thus unfortunately sacrificed, and brave words have been stripped of their force by indecision."

Though at time of writing the Democratic National convention, in session at St. Louis this week, had not completed its work, the nomination of President Wilson as standard bearer of the party was a foregone conclusion—making the Presidential contest for 1916 a straight fight between the Republican and Democratic parties, on the Administration's foreign policy or record, chiefly. Possessing a very strong candidate in Mr. Hughes, and with the Progressive split (the decisive factor in Democratic success in 1912) healed, the Republican party would appear to have more than even chances for a come back this year, especially in view of the unsettled and unsatisfactory Mexican situation and the precarious nature of foreign relations generally. There may be developments and happenings before November, however, that might materially affect the political situation in the United States and the fortunes of both parties in the contest.

HERE AND THERE.

The Premier and his Ministers to-day made a triumphant tour through both Alberni and Comox ridings.—Extract from Government paper. That means, we may suppose, that they got through all right—no "busted tires," bad eggs, or anything of that sort. But it's a little early to talk about "triumphant tours"—the electors are perfectly aware that the Premier and his Ministers are out to beat them, if possible, but it's a little too early to say which wins.

Premier Bowser started his characteristic kind of campaigning in Nanaimo, last week. The admiring organs, without a visible blush, report him thus: "He invited the residents of Nanaimo to urge anything they would like done, and, if the Government could conscientiously do so, they would be very pleased to carry out the suggestion." "Conscientiously do so," is sardonically humorous in that connection. If the Government can "conscientiously" bribe you with your own money, good people of Nanaimo, they'll be very pleased to do so—and to repeat the performance all over the Province.

"The trip of the last few days was in no sense a political one," explained the Premier.—Government press bureau report of interview with Premier Bowser on his return from his Island tour, Saturday night. Sort of a pastoral visit, we suppose. But Bishop Bowser evidently forgot his high mission before he had fairly "hit the pike," and talked the rankest sort of politics from first to last—according to the enthusiastic reports of his own organs. If that "was in no sense a political" trip, Bishop Bowser will certainly stagger humanity when he starts out on the real article. Probably have the whole boodling, plugging, perjuring brigade belonging to his party along with him—making day and night hideous.

Notwithstanding the fact that hundreds of thousands of her soldiers have been away from home fighting the battles of the Empire during the year; notwithstanding the fact that somewhat drastic measures restricting the hours and conditions of sale of liquor have been in force for a considerable part of the year, the British Isles spent more money for drink in 1915 than they did during either of the past two years. The national drink bill in 1915 amounted to over nine hundred million dollars, or an average of about twenty dollars for every man, woman, and child in the British Isles. Some other startling facts are that 1,800,000 tons of barley, hops, etc., were destroyed in the manufacture of the liquor, while it took 1,600,000 tons of coal to brew it. And these materials were worth over one hundred and twenty-five million dollars. And there were nearly a million acres of land devoted to the growing of material for the manufacture of the liquor that the people of the British Isles drank last year. When will Britain shake this enemy off her back?—War Cry.

A "disgusted prohibitionist," writing to the Victoria Times about the Bowser Government's Prohibition Act to be submitted to a referendum, describes the Premier's feat in these lurid words: "By another supreme contortion, he has landed with his feet in the prohibition roost, his head on the soft pillows of the liquor interests, while his heart is—but Parker Williams says Bowser has no heart, which long ago became merged in his gizzard." The "disgusted prohibitionist" concludes as follows: "Beyond the fact that the Prohibition Act stops the open sale of intoxicants in bars and liquor shops, it doesn't do a durn thing to remedy the evil. Exportation and importation are unrestricted and unchecked except by the financial limitations of the importer; it simply means that, instead of having a dangerous river running between two fences which are now guarded by some kind of licensing laws and restrictions, we are going to tear down the river banks and let the whole stream slop over into private homes, co-operative booze clubs and blind pigs."

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SIGNIFICANT UTTERANCES.

The Meredith-Duff Royal Commission inquiry into the Kyte charges in regard to certain fuse contracts let by the Shell Committee, which netted a million in commissions, of which Col. J. Wesley Allison pulled down $200,000, concluded its hearing Friday evening last, after sitting six weeks, with one week's adjournment. During the addresses of counsel, particularly during the address of Mr. J. F. Hellmuth for the Government, some very interesting and significant expressions were voiced by both Commissioners, especially by Mr. Justice Duff.

Mr. Hellmuth, in his final address to the Commissioners, again argued that practically the only question at issue was as to the honesty of the Minister of Militia and the members of the Shell Committee.

Both the Commissioners intimated, however, that they were not disposed to think that their duty was limited to a finding as to the honesty of the parties concerned. They indicated that their report would cover a wider range and would include the connection of Col. J. Wesley Allison with the fuse contracts.

The question of Allison's commission figured largely at the morning sitting, when G. F. Henderson, counsel for Allison, was speaking on behalf of his client.

A portion of the dialogue between the Commissioners and Mr. Henderson relative to the Minister and Col. Allison was as follows:

Mr. Henderson—I have heard the names of many prominent men connected with these contracts, and I think it would have been better if they had been here. You must pardon me if I say that I don't think there was anything illegitimate on the part of Col. Allison in this matter.

Commissioner Duff—The whole thing is that Col. Allison, the confidential agent of the Minister of Militia and Defence, dips his hand in the till to the tune of $200,000 in connection with these contracts.

Mr. Henderson—That is a strong expression.

Commissioner Duff—Of course it is. I intend it to be strong.

To Mr. Henderson's argument, later on, that, if Col. Allison had openly insisted on his right to a commission, he would have been accorded it,

Commissioner Meredith commented—If that argument for commissions had been before the Shell Comptroller to be signed, what would have happened?

Commissioner Duff—If General Pease had seen it, for instance?

Mr. Henderson—It probably would not have been signed. That is an extreme suggestion.

Commissioner Duff—Do you think so?

Commissioner Meredith—We don't want in this inquiry to unduly castigate the small men.

Mr. Henderson—We have to realize that big profits are made on war contracts because of big prices.

Commissioner Duff referred to an incident where Mr. Balfour had been accused on the hustings of making his money out of war profits. Those who said it had to apologize. "Everyone knows," he said, "the odor which hung around war profits during the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean war."

Mr. Henderson—Yes, but the armies must be equipped.

Commissioner Duff—You recollect the incident where General Picton threatened once to shoot a war contractor. The war contractor told the Duke of Wellington, and Wellington told him he had better be careful, because Picton was just the sort of man to do what he said. Don't you think he was justified?

Mr. Henderson—We cannot get along without war contractors.

Commissioner Duff—Then try to make them honest.

HERE AND THERE.

The Mexican caldron, in a state of chronic unrest, appears to be getting ready to boil over again. Anti-American feeling is being fomented in different sections, and the irrepressible Villa is reported to be once more on the war path, having attacked a rear guard force of the American punitive expedition and captured several truck loads of supplies. Uncle Sam will have to grasp the Mexican cactus more firmly, or he'll get stung.

On top of what, with fuller information, has turned out to have been a great and most pregnant British naval victory over the Germans, a fortnight ago, Russia has since won smashing military successes on the Eastern front, from the Pripet marshes to the Roumania border, breaking the Austro-German front for a hundred miles and taking over a hundred thousand prisoners, with corresponding equipment and supplies. The French have continued to make the Germans pay dearly for any small local gains at Verdun, while our own Canadians have borne the brunt of a terrific concentrated artillery and infantry attack at Ypres, and, though suffering heavily have performed prodigies of valor in stopping the German advance and gallanty retaking temporarily lost ground.

Men for the British navy are being sought in Canada. Ottawa advices, before the date of the recent naval engagement, stated that Captain the Hon. Rupert Guiness, M. P., was at the Dominion capital, making arrangements for the recruiting of men for Britain's navy, to take the places in the ships that are building and to be built. Since the great naval battle of the 31st ult., the need for men is not less, though the four or five thousand who gave their lives for the Empire there took greater toll, in both men and ships, of the enemy. Newfoundland has announced her intention of contributing a thousand of her incomparable seafaring fishermen to help maintain and increase the supremacy of the British navy.

Now that Joe Martin has blessed the Liberals, after Baalam's back-handed style, according to an interview in a Conservative paper, and, with an easy breeziness, has declared Mr. Brewster's writ to be "absolutely ridiculous" from a legal point of view, perhaps Premier Bowser will pluck up spunk enough to quit dodging service and let the judges give their opinion. They might approach the subject with more sense of responsibility than "Fighting Joe," who believes in hitting any sort of head wherever he sees it. In the same interview, Mr. Martin condemned the Government for overpaying the P.G.E., said "Bowser is going to have his work cut out to carry the country," and, "If the Liberals should win, who have they got to administer affairs? Why, they haven't anybody!" They can-t have Mr. Martin's services for love or money, anyhow, as he is off for London—on the way—to "mix it up" in the Imperial Parliament for a line or two.

Instead of squarely facing and facilitating the determination of the very serious action that Mr. Brewster has entered against him in the Supreme Court, Premier Bowser is trying to side-step and make political capital out of it by all sorts of silly subterfuges. At Nanaimo, he is reported to have said: "The result of the success of that writ would be perpetuation of a dictatorship greater than that of Russia. I would be an absolute dictator in the Province." Absolute dictatorship would be but a continuation of Premier Bowser's familiar role—that doesn't trouble him at all. But that sort of by-play settles nothing. If, through Attorney-General Bowser's blundering and worse, the validity of both the last and, as Mr. Brewster claims, the next Legislature is undermined, it is only the part of cowardice and crookedness to try to cover up such a state of things, instead of having it cleared up and remedied once and for all, before worse complications ensue. Quit your drivelling and trifling with serious public interests, for mere political effect, Mr. Bowser, and play ball!

The News-Advertiser lifts the veil of futurity and ejaculates in awe-struck tones: "Hereafter Sir George Foster may be addressed as Right Honorable." Lest it might be inferred that Sir George Eulas might feel "chesty" over this, the N.-A. hastens to add: "It is more important to him that under the present order of things he will before returning to Canada meet with the Imperial Cabinet for intimate discussion." Whereat we are supposed to hold our breath again. The key to these mysterious utterances is contained in a London press despatch of the 9th inst., which conveys the interesting information that: "Sir George Foster, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, who arrived in England yesterday, has been appointed by the King a member of the Privy Council. Sir George has accepted the Government's invitation to attend the conference of the Allies at Paris. He will go as one of the representatives of the British Government." As the News-Advertiser remarked, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Robert Borden, and Sir Charles Fitzpatrick are also Imperial Privy Councillors. Premier Hughes, of Australia, was accorded the same distinction on the occasion of his recent visit to England.

Every one knew that Sir Sam Hughes, together with his admitted energy and driving power is possessed of a colossal egotism and an amazing indiscretion and unrestrainedness of speech, especially where political considerations are involved. But he has excelled himself in a recent interview in the Ottawa Journal. "The last time I saw Kitchener," he is reported to have said, "I strongly urged that the Ypres salient be abandoned. I pointed out that it was being held more out of sentimental than military considerations. I told him how the losses among British troops holding this bloody angle had been 10 per cent. Kitchener was deeply affected by what I said. There were tears in his eyes as he spoke of the British losses in this sector, and he was altogether sympathetic with my view. He told me to give him my proposition in writing and that he would communicate it to Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief. Next day, however, I received a cable informing me of the charges made against me in Parliament. There was nothing left for me to do but to come home and face my accusers; the question of holding the Ypres salient remained in abeyance, and our boys were left to hold a position that was almost untenable. Had I remained in England, I believe I would have succeeded in convincing Kitchener to abandon the salient, and the bloody battles of the last few days, with their loss of our best and bravest, would have been avoided." A censorship of Sir Sam Hughes—a gag, or, better still, a guillotine—is needed to prevent such exhibitions of execrable bad taste, to characterize it in the mildest terms.

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59

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Your friends can buy any thing you can give them—except your photograph. Hurndall does fine work at 624 Columbia St. Phone 125R.

The Pacific Highway from this city to the boundary, a distance of 21 miles, is to be given a dressing of crude oil, which will prove a boon to autoists and other users of this important road.

Mr. Harry K. Burnett, law student with Whiteside, Edmonds & Whiteside, and son of Mr. H. J. A. Burnett, has joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in Yancouver, for overseas service.

An advance party of the 131st Battalion left the city to-day, under Lieut. J. G. Knight, for Vernon, to prepare quarters for the main body of the battalion, which will leave early next week.

Students of Duke of Connaught High School, on Monday, presented Mr. Robt. Stephen, of the teaching staff, who has enlisted for active service, with a wrist watch. The presentation was made by Miss C. Netherby and Mr. Percy Smith.

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Four inmates of the Provincial Asylum made their escape Monday. The police were notified and, with the assistance of members of the 131st Battalion, all were recaptured but one man, named Crowder, aged 39 years, 5 feet 7 inches in height, weight 147 pounds, ruddy complexion.

The Italian, Giovanni Gario, alias Jules John, convicted of the theft of a letter from the post office, was sentenced by His Honor Judge Howay, Monday, to one year's imprisonment at Okalla. Nicodemus Simonetto, for forging a change of address slip in connection with above letter, was sentenced to two months.

About one thousand berry pickers are wanted by July 7th to pick raspberries and other small fruits in the Mission-Hatzic district. The pay is 35 cents per crate, and a good picker can make good wages. Sleeping accommodation, fuel, and utensils are provided. Mr. Thos. Turnbull, city labor bureau, has been authorized to employ women and girls for this work.

Closing exercises for the school year for Columbian College were held last evening. During the afternoon the young ladies of the college held a garden party in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund. Music was provided by the 131st Battalion band. A feature of the evening's programme was the unveiling of the college honor roll, composed of ninety names.

Miss Evelyn Major has been elected Queen of the Roses and will preside over the Rose Festival to be held at Queen's Park to-morrow (Saturday) afternaon, under the auspices of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. Her attendants will be Miss Mary Keary and Miss Esther Kirk. Roses and favors will be sold on the streets during the morning and the rose fete at the park in the afternoon. Music will be supplied by the 131st Battalion Band.

The funeral of the late O. A. Crandell took place on Saturday afternoon from the Sapperton Baptist Church. Rev. Andrew Grieve, of the Sapperton Baptist Church, officiated, assisted by Rev. R. McCulloch of the Edmonds Baptist Church. Members of the Orange Lodge, Royal Templars and the 104th Regiment attended. The pall bearers were Messrs. L. B. Lusby, J. A. Drake, A. Sangster, J. O. Henderson, T. W. Haslam, and C. R. Matthias. The late Mr. Crandell was for many years principal of the Queensboro school in this city.

The Saturday half holiday referendum was carried in the three cities, Wednesday, by big majorities. In this city the vote was: For Saturday, 1,036; Wednesday, 191. Vancouver: Saturday, 5,522; Wednesday, 1,654. Victoria: Saturday, 1,853; Wednesday, 1,183. The half holiday Act passed by the Legislature will now become effective July 1st next, which falls on a Saturday and also happens to be Dominion Day, a full general holiday.

Mr. John Oliver was in the city Wednesday, looking quite fit for the impending political fray. Mr. Oliver, as an old parliamentary hand and one of the best equipped public men of the Province, rendered yeomen service to the small but most effective Opposition party at Victoria during the recent strenuous session. He will without doubt—in spite of Mr. Bowser's fervently expressed wish to the contrary—have a seat in the House himself, as member for Dewdney, after the election, and is very confident that the Liberals have a winning cause throughout the Province.

Royal Ice Works.

This seasonably warm weather, there is something refreshing in the very thought of ice. The real article, of the purest quality, made from Coquitlam water, is materialized on the premises by the Royal Ice Works, W. Philpott proprietor, 424 Victoria st., this city, to the extent of twenty tons per day. This is a local industry equipped with the most up to date ice making plant, known as the Frick system, actuated by a 50 h.p. electric motor. By the Frick air system, every particle of dirt and sediment is eliminated from the water in the process of freezing, making the ice blocks perfectly pure. Delivery is made to all parts of the city and a considerable shipping business is done with the district. The works are a model of compactness and neatness and will well repay inspection.

For Church Union.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in session at Winnipeg, declared, Wednesday, by an overwhelming majority, in favor of the organic union proposal with the Methodist and Congregational Churches. The vote stood: For, 408; against, 88; absentees or not voting, 117. Of the ministers voting, 222 voted for and 45 against; of the elders, 184 for and 43 against. The east voted four to one for union and the west five to one for union. Some time must elapse before union can be made effective.

City Municipal Matters.

At the Council meeting, Monday evening, a communication was read from Gilley Bros., suggesting that the Council, other things being equal, should buy local products, and compel city contractors to do likewise, instead of helping to build up the industries of rival centres at the expense of local concerns, instancing the buying of most of the crushed rock used by the city in Vancouver, instead of here, which meant less employment in this city and more in Vancouver. The communication was referred to the Board of Works to report.

The City Engineer was asked to report on the allegation of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company that two of the bents in the Lulu Island bridge leading to Queensboro had settled about two and a half inches, causing cars to rock when they pass over it.

Ald. Johnston reported that A. W. McLeod had been able to secure lower insurance ratings on city buildings, which would effect a saving in premiums of $305 in three years on the Horse Show building, and a reduction on the Market building. The Council expressed appreciation, and will pay expenses.

A petition was received from the residents of Ninth and Milton streets, asking that necessary improvement work, which had been overlooked for years, be done in that vicinity. This was referred to the Board of Works.

It transpired incidentally that no date has yet been set for the tax sale.

City Market.

There was another good market today, and trading was pushed briskly in the earlier and cooler morning hours. The supply of meats was paaticularly large, with good demand in all lines. Early potatoes made their appearance for the first time in any quantities, selling at 6c per lb. Prices generally speaking ruled the same as last week in all lines.

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Make Your Labour Efficient
In war-time do not waste time and energy on unimportant and unprofitable work. Economize labour. Put off unproductive work till after the war, and, if possible, help in producing something needed now. Let us not waste labour. Canada needs it all. If possible help to feed the Allies. Make your backyard a productive garden. Cultivate it with a will. Make your labour count for as much as possible.

Do Not Waste Materials
There should be no waste in war-time. Canada could pay the annual interest on her war expenditure out of what we waste on our farms, in our factories, in our homes. Every pound of food saved from waste is as good as a pound of increased production. The way for a nation to save is for every individual to save. France is strong to-day because of thrift in time of peace. The men and women of Great Britain are not only "doing" but are learning to "do without."

Spend Your Money Wisely
Practise economy in the home by eliminating luxuries. Wasting our dollars here weakens our strength at the Front. Your savings will help Canada to finance the war. Save your money for the next Dominion War issue. There can be no better investment.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA 5
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WOMEN'S WORK IN WAR.

Mrs. Pankhurst, the Great Suffragist Leader, Gives Inspiring Addresses in Victoria and Vancouver.

The Province has been having a visit from the great suffragist leader, Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, who has been delivering most stirring and inspiring speeches in Victoria and Vancouver on different phases of the war, illustrating the necessity for recruiting and descriptive of women's great work in the war. Whatever may have been thought of Mrs. Pankhurst and her methods as a militant suffragist, there can be but one opinion about the splendid, patriotic work she and her associates are doing, in the Old Land and throughout the Empire, in contributing to the success of the tremendous conflict in which Britain and her allies are engaged.

In what the Times describes as a wonderful address delivered at the Old Victoria Theatre, on Wednesday evening of last week, Mrs. Pankhurst took as her subject "Ideals of National Service," which gave the opportunity for a statement of the claims of women, "not for rights, but for responsibilities."

Tribute to Kitchener.

The chair was occupied by Mr. H. C. Brewster, Liberal leader. His introduction of the speaker was brief, and was coupled with a request that the audience stand as a unanimous tribute to the memory of the late Earl Kitchener, "that gigantic figure who had given his all, even to life, that his country might be saved in this crisis."

Mrs. Pankhurst's first words were of the same great soldier. She had been in Oregon on Tuesday when the news of his death came. There, in a neutral nation, she had heard only one expression: sympathy with the nation who had lost so great a leader, so towering a figure. The trust of the common people of the Old Land, confidently reposed even when Kitchener was meeting with the severest criticism in some other circles, had not been misplaced. Time had proved how splendidly he was able to justify the confidence of the masses. He had made an army out of nothing in a country where the people were accustomed to think that it was no particular person's business to supervise "preparedness." And more than that. He had the courage to tell the truth at the very beginning, where other statesmen held back from fear or ignorance. He nad said it would be a very severe, serious and long war. And he was right.

Two Great Acts.

There were two great acts for which the women should and would hold the great soldier in special esteem. First, that at the very outset of the war he had given instructions to the army as to what its attitude was to be with respect to women. In the midst of his duties he had foreseen how much the country's honor depended on the relations of the army to the other sex. Never before had any other army been brought under moral influence as had the British army been in this great and unprecedented war.

A second reason why women were indebted to Kitchener was because of his stand in the matter of prohibition, said Mrs. Pankhurst. The King had been the first to declare a pledge not to use intoxicant liquors during the war. Kitchener immediately stood forth and did likewise.

"Together, to-night, we pay tribute to the memory of the great soldier," the speaker continued with suppressed feeling. "The fact that he has lost his life through a stab in the back and not openly will only serve the more to nerve the heart and mind of those who are fighting."

Spiritual Issues at Stake.

"It is not merely the material existence of the Empire, nor the question of the preservation of our national independence," Mrs. Pankhurst urged. "It goes deeper. There are great spiritual issues at stake in this war. This is not only a man's war. It is a woman's war. It is of the woman's point of view I want to speak now. All that we women have hoped and longed for is in the balance. If we lose this war, the things spiritual and unseen, which the women prize beyond all else, will be lost to the race; civilization based on justice and right rather than on force will disappear; progress will be pushed back. In the first months of the war we heard of German treatment of the civil part of the population in Belgium and France. I was one of those people who hesitated to believe that any army could be capable of such things. But since I have both in England and France seen people who have told me at first hand that they are true. The Germans have been saying since the war began that they have a divine mission to the world. If what they have done is a type of what they consider civilization, then there is a gulf between their civilization and ours which can never be brigded."

British Too Trustful.

Mrs. Pankhurst pleaded for sterner measures being taken to safeguard the nation from betrayal by enemies within its midst. The British were a trustful race, and too easily let spies pass detection. She had been reminded of this in coming back from the United States to Canada. Instead of a rigid cross-examination by the immigration authorities in Victoria she was causually and pleasantly welcomed. "We have been paying for this over-trustfulness ever since the beginning of the war," she declared. "If this last terrible disaster is to teach us the lesson, it will not have been altogether without its compensation."

"I want to make you feel what we at home feel about the possibility of an inconclusive peace," said Mrs. Pankhurst. "We in England are prepared to fight, and fight, and fight as long as there are any of us left to fight. The men and women of to-day will not betray the trust handed down to them by their forefathers. I have heard people say they think Britain has done her part in the war when she provides the great navy. I do not agree. The responsibility is on us to-day a great deal more than on any of the other allied nations, if we are to maintain our place. If little Belgium and Serbia can make the gallant sacrifices they have, we, the British people, the greatest empire on earth, are fully prepared to die for our cause as well."

Woman's War, Too.

"It is a woman's war as well as a man's. You can measure a nation by the position of its women. If women are protected and cherished, then that is a great nation. No matter how rich a nation is, if the women are degraded and coarsened, then that is not a great nation. Germany, with all her great organization, cannot meet the test as well as Great Britain. There is no civilized country where the women's movement has made so little progress as in Germany. It is true that German women in the present war are playing a great part. But it is not a voluntary part. When we women of Britain came into the war, the men were opposed to it. They thought they ought to do all the fighting. But in Germany the women were part of that perfect organization—very efficiently and autocratically organized from the top down. It is a very different matter to organize nations on democratic lines. All the organization you get from democracy is worth having, because it comes from the bottom instead of being forced down from the top. The women in Germany came in under compulsion, five hundred thousand of them engaged in making munitions. The women of Britain asserted their right to work for the country, and they won the right for themselves. They determined to take a part, even if they met with opposition—which they have."

Women as Doctors.

Very rapidly Mrs. Pankhurst rehearsed something of what the women of England are doing in connection with the war. First attention was given to the women doctors, who, as a profession, had been active women suffragists for many years. It was only in recent years that they had won the consent of the authorities to be allowed to practice. Two of the women doctors, Dr. Garrett Anderson, jr., and Dr. Flora Murray, both Scotch women, had been militant suffragists before the war. One had served her term in prison for breaking a window. (Applause here interrupted the speaker.) When the war broke out these two women hrd gone to the Briiish Government and had offered a fully equipped and staffed hospital for the treatment of wounded soldiers. The slow and prejudiced British Government had hesitated so long in giving an answer that the two women surgeons had gone over to France, and in Paris set up a hospital, entirely staffed with women, which became one of the most noteworthy hospitals among the allied countries. After seven or eight months, the heads of the British army medical staff, yielding to the general admiration of the women physicians' work, sent for these two ladies and asked them to equip in London a military hospital in the full sense of the word. This had been done. The officer in charge is Col. Flora Murray. All the doctors are women with military rank and military powers over the soldiers in hospital. With from six to eight hundred soldier patients, there was absolute discipline in the hospital.

Eagerness to Help.

"Some people," said Mrs. Pankhurst, "have looked upon the war as an opportunity for making money or winning personal honor. The women's only idea has been to serve the country. After the war cnme, I have seen women with the same sort of expression on their faces as the old men who stood by the young recruits and wished that they were young again that they might go and serve their country. It was this intense eagerness to help that brought the women together and made them find a way to play a part in this war.

"Last summer, we women went through the stage of ammunition making. In addition to that we engaged in all kinds of work that men used to do. We became train conductors, elevator 'boys,' street cleaners. The latest development is in regaad to agriculture. The Government is now recruiting an army of women 400,000 strong to fight, not in the trenches, but on the land, to take the place of the men." Canada, said the speaker, would have to face an emergency of the same kind, if the war went on.

Caring for the Children.

"We may be losing our charm, so much boasted, but so difficult to fix. But we are remembering the homes and thinking of the children." And here the speaker launched into a description of one of the finest and biggest works undertaken by the women since the war began—the care of the "war babies." While actual statistics demonstrated that the number of illegitimate births were on the decrease rather than on the increase since the war, the question still remained a very serious and terrible problem, the number of illegitimate children annually born in England being 40,000. The militants in England had decided to take the first step in the solution of the problem. The W.S.P.U. babies, "Mrs. Pankhurst's Babies," as they were popularly called, were being brought up on a farm, under the most favorable conditions, and with every regard to the budding talent which was already apparent in some of the children. They were to be trained in whatever way their capacity called for.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pankhurst said it was wonderful how the war had drawn the nation together. All criticism and condemnation was submerged in the remembrance that they were just one family fighting for the great traditions of their race. When the war was over, they were going on as an undivided Empire, to be greater and nobler, a better example to the world than ever before.

A vote of thanks, endorsed by the whole audience, was moved by Very Rev. Dean Schofield, seconded by Dr. Scott, and Mrs. Bowser, wife of the Premier, presented a bouduet of red carnations to the speaker of the evening.

A collection for the War Babies' fund was taken, and the proceeds at the door were divided equally between that fund and the War Emergency Association.

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