

READ

Resign!
Resign!
Mr. Taschereau!
On Page 3

THE AXE

A JOURNAL OF ACTION AGAINST REACTION

EDITED BY JOHN H. ROBERTS

"LAY THE AXE AT THE ROOT OF THE TREE"

READ

Poppy Day
"Poppy Cock"
On Page 3

No. 4

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1922

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"I Accuse Simard"

MERCHANTS' BANK QUESTIONS STILL AWAIT ANSWER

HIGH TIME FOR SOMEONE TO START SOMETHING.

In the first issue of *The Axe*, three weeks ago, we dealt with The Merchants' Bank Scandal. We have since written very fully on the matter and last week we virtually declared that somebody connected with the said Bank had been guilty of making a false report to the Government. We also asked some pregnant questions which, so far, have gone unanswered. In returning to the subject, as we do to-day, we do so because we have a deep conviction that the very foundations of our commercial stability are in danger and that if the Merchants' Bank Scandal is allowed to go uninvestigated and the wrongdoers, if any, unpunished, this country is going to put a premium upon dishonesty and fraudulent practices which will encourage the malefactors of little wealth to emulate their luckier comrades in arms, the malefactors of great wealth.

It appears that some time this month a meeting of the shareholders of this bank is to be held when they will be asked to authorize the sale of the Bank to The Bank of Montreal. As part of the deal it is currently reported that Sir H. Montagu Allan, president of the Merchants' Bank, is to become a Director of the Bank of Montreal. It is a matter of the strongest possible conviction on our part that the Bank of Montreal will be guilty of a profound mistake if Sir H. Montagu Allan is appointed a Director of that institution while the present doubt, suspicion, and unrest prevails regarding the manner in which the affairs of the Merchants' Bank have been conducted. And the Bank of Montreal, mighty financial institution though it be, cannot afford to flout public opinion and add to its directorate, the president of an absorbed bank, the conduct of which has been such as to cause such grave disquietude in the public mind.

Was it True?

To begin with, the Report to the Government of the Merchants' Bank of November 30, 1921, showing the Capital and Reserve Funds intact, was evidently not a true report of the financial condition of the Bank. If not a true report those responsible for making it are liable to imprisonment. What was the measure of Sir H. Montagu Allan's responsibility for this Report?

(Continued on page 2)

We call the bluff of the Liquor Chairman and challenge him to investigate the granting of licenses to property owned by his business partner, Col. Mignault.

To Mr. G. A. SIMARD,

Chairman of the Quebec Liquor Commission.

We notice from a statement in the newspapers that the Quebec Liquor Commission of which you are Chairman is to start an investigation into rumours of graft and undue influence in connection with the granting of licenses by your commission.

All right, Mr. Simard! You have opened the gate yourself and we will walk in.

I accuse you, yourself, of being party to the undue influence which is at work in connection with the granting of licenses. And here we give you the first case for investigation.

Please investigate the cases of the Club La France, McGill College Avenue, and the Summer Garden, St. Lawrence Boulevard and Sherbrooke Street West. You, personally, know all about these. You, yourself, suggested the alteration of the name Carlton Club to something patriotic, so its name became the Club La France. You know that your partner, Colonel A. Mignault was interested in securing these two licenses, pardon; three licenses, one for the Club La France and two for The Summer Garden.

You know that men like Sir Arthur Currie and Huntly Drummond opposed these licenses as did the Sherbrooke St. Methodist Church and a charitable institution and many residents of the neighbourhood. You know that you told Huntly Drummond that his opposition was too late, when the licenses had not yet been granted. You know that the Summer Garden is owned by your business partner, Colonel A. Mignault and you deliberately connived at and took part in the granting of these licenses knowing it was to your partner's pecuniary benefit that the said licenses should be granted. You know that you yourself used undue influence in regard to these three licenses at that. Either directly or indirectly your business partner benefitted because of your influence as chairman of the Liquor Commission.

Investigate these charges Mr. Simard. We are ready to produce proofs and to prove to the hilt everything we have said. Investigate your personal interviews with John Parker over these licenses. Investigate the connection of Eddie Lepage with the transactions. Show to the public that your partner, Colonel Mignault, is able to guarantee licenses to people like these who wanted them for the Club La France and the Summer Garden.

Investigate these cases, Mr. Simard, FIRST!!!

We accuse you of knowing all about them, of using your influence — undue influence, we call it — for the granting of these licenses and of prostituting your high office as Chairman of the Quebec Liquor Commission in the service of your business partner Colonel A. Mignault. Investigate we say. We are ready with the proofs.

You know that your partner Colonel Mignault receives seventeen per cent of the gross takings of the Summer Garden and that you helped him to reap this enormous rental from this night cafe and dance hall.

Now get busy, Mr. Simard, and investigate!!!

BOOKIES' DIRECTORY CREATES A STIR

INFORMATION AT HAND IS
OF GREAT INTEREST.

When we made a brief announcement of the fact that we hoped to publish a Directory of Bookmakers, that is, of men who in and around the City of Montreal make their livelihood by taking bets on horses, we little thought that so much interest would be created as has been the case. Communications have poured in upon us and we have literally been swamped with information. We are now busy sifting this information, classifying the big and little fellows, and reclassifying them according to the parts of the city in which they operate. It promises to be a very interesting compilation, indeed.

The most interesting feature about the whole list is the variety of occupations that are followed by the handbook men, that is, the occupations or businesses which they use as cloaks for their unlawful enterprises. There are many agents, cigar storekeepers, insurance agents, brokers, stationers (in office buildings), and so on, and so on. It seems that any old business serves as a cloak for the merry bookies' little game. It is astonishing also how few of them, that is, of the big fellows you will find entered in the Telephone Directory. How do they manage this? It is bad enough that these gentry should have the use of telephone privileges at all, but to be able to have private phones, well, there's a fishy smell to it! We hope to announce shortly that a new law will be introduced at Quebec, placing bookmaker's phones on the same level as those of houses of ill-repute, prohibiting any known bookie from having the right to use a phone in his place of business.

Big Bettors

Much information has also come to us regarding the class of persons forming the clientele of the handbook men. It would certainly surprise the public if we published such a list. There is one prominent lawyer with an office not a hundred miles from the General Post Office, who is a great plunger. His bets often run to five and six hundred dollars a day. Then there is a milkman with a large and successful business. He also plunges heavily, especially on "sure things." A St-Catherine Street West grocer, too, makes a heavy play. All kinds of men, lawyers, brokers, bank clerks, merchants,—all after something for nothing." What a merry, mad world, my masters". It takes a long time

(Continued on page 2)

Chips from the Editor's Axe

"Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may".

OPPOSITION TO "THE AXE"

The *Axe* has arrived. A new weekly journal is to be launched shortly to fight *The Axe*. The journal will be published in French and edited by a well-known French journalist, who has figured in the political arena a great deal, running as candidate for office under the banner of practically every party in the Dominion and, sometimes, under a banner of his own making. The new paper will be financed by a Quebec Cabinet Minister, who has burned his fingers with this kind of thing before. Well, let 'em all come!

BRING THE BOYS BACK

There are over one thousand Canadian soldiers in England unrepatiated. Many of them are suffering. Their funds were cut off and employment over there is as scarce as here. These fighters should be brought back and looked after until they secure remunerative employment in their own country, the land they fought for. Our late Union Government, it is claimed, saved \$1,500,000 by discharging 20,000 soldiers in England instead of bringing them back to Canada and now the authorities in charge of repatriation begrudge repatriation to less than one quarter of that number. Well, there may be another war some day and it may not be so easy to get men to fly to arms next time. We note that a Canadian soldier has just had his lost memory restored after two and half years loss of it. Some of these poor chaps in England must think that Canada suffers from a loss of memory. May be a violent blow would restore it, if such is the case, as happened to the soldier mentioned.

MR. HERBERT MARLER ON FADS.

A few nights ago a complimentary banquet was tendered to Mr. Herbert Marler, M.P., for the St. Lawrence-St. George Division of Montreal. The scene was the Reform Club of Montreal. Mr. Marler won a striking and sensational victory over the Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, in the recent General Election. He was elected by Liberal votes and sent to Parliament to further Liberal policies. But on the occasion of the banquet in question he chose to read a lecture to other Liberals regarding "fads", seeming particularly to aim at anything approaching a tariff revision in a downward direction. We remember that Canada's great era of prosperity came when the tariff was reduced in favor of incoming goods from England and that as a consequence, we were not annexed to the United States nor did our Imperialism suffer. In

fact, Laurier was more Imperialistic than Borden. This was the Nationalist's complaint against him. It is strange how some Liberals become un-Liberal after election.

THE INFLUENZA SCARE.

There is undoubtedly a deal of influenza about. There always is at this time of the year. But if we have many more scare headlines about it there will be much more influenza raging than at present. The whole matter is largely psychological. The element of fear enters into the matter. Talk about an influenza epidemic long enough and loud enough and there will be one. It should be made a criminal offence for anybody, newspapers included, to indulge in scare talk regarding epidemics. If the people don't know that influenza is around the half of them will never think to get it.

UNITED FARMERS OF QUEBEC

The United Farmers of Quebec have been holding their Convention and from all reports it appears to have been quite successful. One gratifying feature was that the Ontario farmers sent fraternal delegates who brought kindly greetings from the farmers' organization of the sister province. While we do not believe in class organizations, we look upon the organization of farmers in this province of Quebec as one of the most hopeful signs of the times. It will probably do more to end the reign of those at Quebec who have dressed themselves in the clothes of Liberalism, but have not caught the spirit and purpose that animates it. We need a change in this province. The majority in the Legislature is too unwieldy. The minority is too weak. This does not work for good government but to the contrary. The success of governments is not to be judged by bulging revenues. How is the revenue raised and how spent, is a pertinent question. Success to the Farmers' movement.

A NEW CURE FOR LABOR'S ILLS

Because a laborer in the United States has too large a family and cannot find employment, a judge has ordered that he be "sterilized", which means that he will no longer be able to exercise the functions of parentage. What a civilization! The U. S. A. and Canada will spend millions to bring immigrants to their shores, but at least, one of the two countries places a ban on the home product. Countries that the Gods would destroy they first drive mad.

ABOUT THAT CRIME WAVE

Two Montreal Clergymen, both Anglicans, have discussed "The Crime Wave". Rev. Canon Almond says "there ain't no such thing". Rev. Canon Shatford deplors the crime wave in Montreal, saying that crime is committed almost every week, that murders of a brutal character are done, and burglaries and thefts undertaken in the full glare of daylight. So, there you are, folks. You pays your money and you takes your choice.

ARE MONTREAL MOVIES SAFE?

The terrible catastrophe at Washington where the roof of a high class moving picture theatre fell in because of the heavy weight of snow on it should be a warning to Montreal. Probably our buildings are built with roofs much better fitted to bear the loads of snow that gather in our severe winter. But it would ease the public mind if the civic authorities made sure on this point.

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA.

Slowly but surely out of the welter of propaganda there are emerging little glimpses of the truth about Russia. For instance, Colonel Herbert Mackie, of Pembroke, who has just returned from Russia where he accompanied the British Trade Commission as Canadian representative, says, "There are more crimes committed in one night in New York than in the whole of Russia in one year." How different from the other stories we have had fed out to us. Let us have the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The people can stand it even though our Government thinks otherwise.

AMERICAN IGNORANCE OF CANADA

There is a most lamentable ignorance on the part of our neighbours to the South regarding their neighbour to the North. One of the latest instances is of a man in Minnesota who has just written the City Clerk of Halifax, N. S., asking for a list of the names and addresses of everybody in Nova Scotia. He probably guessed Nova Scotia was a suburb of Halifax. The province has a population of 524,579. Since the trend of tourists is now towards Quebec for reasons that are more spirituous than otherwise Nova Scotia has less chance than ever of being discovered by travelling Americans.

Such Rotten Form.

Hon. Adélar Turgeon,
Pres. of the Legislative Council,
Quebec.

Sir:—

We mailed you a copy of *The Axe*, containing our attack on the Quebec Provincial Government, under the caption, "Hands off Montreal". We did this as a matter of courtesy, it being a part of our policy not to attack anybody or institution in the dark. Hence we mail copies of *The Axe* to whomsoever we attack. You are evidently too churlish to appreciate courtesy so you have returned your complimentary copy to us, marked "Refused". We notice from "internal evidence" (as the policeman said about his drunken prisoner) that the copy has been well fingered and evidently well read and pondered. You should try to ascertain if you are really entitled to use the prefix, "Honourable". Do you remember "La Bibite à tibi"? Some day we may retell the story of Baron de L'Epine.

THE AXE.

Happy Man!

"Did you hear about the awful trouble that has befallen Mrs. Talk-alot?"
"Don't tell me she has lost her voice."
"No, her husband has lost his hearing."—*Boston Transcript*.

GET THE AXE

If you want the truth to know —
Get The Axe.
When you find it there its so —
Get The Axe.
Full of stories that surprise,
Hits you plump between the eyes;
Its a "terror for its size."
Get The Axe.

MERCHANTS' BANK QUESTIONS STILL AWAIT ANSWER

(Continued from page 1)

Next, it has been shown that vast sums of money were being lent to Thornton, Davidson and Co., now insolvent, by the Merchants' Bank and that these sums of money were being lent to that firm over a long period while the said firm was insolvent, which fact it was the bounden duty of the Merchants' Bank to know. In fact, the loaning of huge sums to this insolvent company appears to have been the main cause of the Merchants' Bank debacle. Does this experience justify the appointing of Sir H. Montagu Allan to a Directorate of the Bank of Montreal? Quite the contrary, we hold.

Again, it is currently reported that the Thornton, Davidson—Merchants' Bank — mix-up is largely a family affair. Surely this should give pause to the Bank of Montreal. What is more it should give impetus to action by the Federal Government to action in the way of investigation of the whole scandal of the Merchants' Bank which, so far, this journal has stood alone in demanding. If half the things that are said on St. James Street day by day, are true, the Sheldon case, the Ponzi case, and many other similar scandals of the past pale into insignificance in comparison with the Merchants' Bank scandal. Will Mr. Fielding please get busy and investigate or shall it be left to *The Axe* to fight the battle alone. It is worthy of note that under the Bank Act any private individual can institute action. But what have we a Government for?

BOOKIES' DIRECTORY

(Continued from page 1)

to get the inside track in these matters but we're getting there and all in good time we hope to print some "dope sheets" that will be the real stuff.

One interesting feature is the nationality of some of the people under review. In this matter we say if there are to be handbook men we would prefer to see Canada for the Canadians adopted as a motto and the Dumping Act called into action for the purpose of preventing a number of undesirable American citizens imposing themselves on Montreal. Deportation would be a well-deserved fate for some of the fry. Do you get that, Gramsey?

Congratulations, Tommy!

To Mr. "Tommy" Conway, St.
Denis Theatre, Montreal.

Dear "Tommy":—

That was one of the finest bits of showmanship ever put across in Montreal when you got an unofficial Boxing Commission to supervise your bouts at the St. Denis Theatre last Monday night. You deserve the success you won, for you have shown that you want to have boxing on the level. And the gentlemen who served as the Commission on that occasion have also rendered a good public service in so doing. We trust you and other promoters who, like you, are on the level, will get together and make this branch of sport free from the slightest suspicion of taint. This will eliminate the shysters. Again, congratulations!

THE AXE.

IF YOU LIKE

THE AXE

and want to be sure of getting it regularly order it from your news-agent (5 cents) or, better still, send us Two Dollars (Money Order or Currency) for one Year's Subscription.

Address: Publisher "The Axe"

104 Coronation Building,

121 Bishop Street, Montreal.

Uptown 3068.

GET THE AXE!

Quotations of the Week.

"The policy of revenue-raising inaugurated by the Government had lowered the State, and they might say:

"I have taxed the people in order to create an ordinary revenue of \$15,841,512. I have opened the purses, ruined the business houses, discouraged initiative, made enough people drunk, made enough mothers and wives cry, given enough drunkards their fill; caused enough scandals, betrayed enough the cause of temperance, and robbed enough from all the people, to sell in eight months nine millions worth of liquor to give me a net profit of four millions. Was such State control desirable?"

From Speech by the Leader of the Quebec Opposition Mr. Arthur Sauvé, January 30, 1922, as reported in the Montreal Star.

The 'David' Prize.

Hon. L. Athanase David,
Provincial Secretary,
Quebec.

Sir:—

We congratulate you on the introduction of your Bill providing for the bestowal of annual prizes for Canadian literature. This was a happy inspiration on your part and we cordially join with those of your colleagues who expressed the wish that the prize should be known as "The David Prize." We are sorry that no English-speaking member appears to have taken part in the debate on the Bill, but probably the English deputies are not literary minded. May be a course of reading of *The Axe* will help them to appreciate plain, simple, terse, forceful English. You have done well, Athanase, and we congratulate you.

THE AXE.

Splinters and Shavings

"One inch of joy surmounts of grief a span,
Because to laugh, is proper to the man." — RABELAIS.

The Montreal City Council groups its wants under thirty-four heads. This is at the rate of about one for each Alderman. We want Aldermen without wants. Too many of them are "in want".

Members of the Produce Association of Winnipeg are now considering rules to ensure quality of eggs. These people are getting to be too "fresh".

Montreal bachelors are in trouble about the non-payment of the Bachelor's Tax. Marriage does not make much difference, after all.

If there had not been so much burnt Cork in Ireland, things would never have looked so black.

We hear that a number of hen-pecked husbands are busy investigating "beauty powders."

Aldermen criticised the Mayor for breaking the law regarding Tag Days. We'd rather be held up on Tag Days than be the victim of "hold-ups", by desperate and hungry men demanding our roll. The Mayor was right.

It is reported in a dispatch from London that the use of leeches is again popular in England and that there are not enough on the market to supply the demand. We also hear that a number of Montreal property owners have booked passages and secured passports for the old country. Let's hope their tickets were marked "one-way".

Resign! Resign!

Mr. Taschereau

You are unfit to be Attorney-General. — An open letter to the Premier.

Really, Mr Taschereau, you are becoming impossible. You forget that you stand in the shoes of great men who have preceded you. Instead of magnifying your office you belittle it. By your latest *faux pas* you have brought the office of Attorney-General into disrepute. You had better get out!

In a debate in the Legislative Assembly on last Tuesday re the Garneau murder you said that the two men, Binet and Palmer who had been tried by a jury of their peers for the murder of Blanche Garneau and found "not guilty" were the murderers of that poor creature. Let us look at this statement. Here were two men against whom your Department had worked up the strongest possible case. After long delays you finally moved and they were charged with murder. A Judge and jury heard the case. You had your opportunity of proving them guilty but you failed to do so. The two men were acquitted of the crime charged against them, namely, that of murder. Remember, Mr Attorney General, these men were only acquitted after the whole of the resources of your Department had been used to secure their conviction. Now, plainly, either your case was badly presented or these men were innocent. But, innocent or not, it is a fact that a jury declared them innocent and in the eyes of the law and of every fairminded person they are as innocent of the murder of Blanche Garneau as, for all we know to the contrary, you are.

By what right, Mr Taschereau, do you stand up in the Legislature and declare these men guilty? If you had any further proof at the time of their trial why did you not present it to the Court? You have taken cowardly advantage of the immunity which your membership of the Legislature gives you and branded as murderers two men whom the law declared innocent. You don't dare say it outside Parliament. In other words, you have again sat in judgment upon these two men in a place where they had no opportunity to defend themselves and, as Attorney General, you have declared them guilty. Shame on you for the coward that you are. If under British law every man is innocent until proved guilty, it is equally true that every man found not guilty of crimes with which he is charged remains innocent. But you, to flatter your own egotism, to justify your own weak administration, and to restore your waning prestige must indulge in these mock heroics and label as murderers two men whom the whole resources of your department failed to convict.

I suppose these men are poor and that would make a lot of difference with you, Mr Taschereau. You act differently in other instances, where your rich friends or social acquaintances are involved. A few weeks ago there was an apartment house tragedy in Montreal. A man and woman, not married to each other, were discovered dead in an apartment. The man's name was blazoned forth to the world. The woman's name was withheld from publication by your orders, Mr Taschereau, by your orders. Why? Was it from an innate sense of delicacy on your part? No, you have none. Your conduct over the Garneau matter reveals that much. The woman was the wife of a Westmounter and the daughter of a Quebecer. Your action forbidding the giving out of her name has caused such widespread curiosity about her, poor soul, that everybody knows her name and the scandal is the tit bit of every afternoon tea and bridge party in Montreal, Westmount and Quebec. Thus you shield some but, from behind cover, attack others. The old, old story. "One law for the rich and another law for the poor". But be careful, Mr Taschereau, how far you go along this line of covering things up.

You are unfit by temperament and temper to be Attorney-General. Resign Mr Taschereau! The Attorney-General of this province must exercise what are almost judicial functions. A man who, from the shelter of Legislative immunity will brand as murderers two men who have been acquitted by a jury of their fellows when tried for murder has not enough judicial temperament to be judge of a Mock Trial held by students to while away their spare moments. Let us hope that when you retire from the Government it will not be to take a place on the Bench. Your performance in the Legislature last Tuesday over the Garneau affair forever stamps you as unfit for any judicial position.

OH, FOR ONE HOUR OF GOUIN!

Punch, punch, with force and care,
Will bring us back the five cent fare.

Newspaper dispatch from Rochester says that, "Genteel gunmen robbed theatre". We protest against bringing in a question of religion into a description of thieves.

When the Ottawa hockey players can't lick the Montrealers, they either mob them or try to get them arrested.

"The French Doll" went to His Majesty's because of "The Storm" at the Orpheum.

POPPY DAY

"POPPY COCK"

A FIGHTING PLEA FOR CANADA'S FIGHTING SONS.

I have received a letter from a member of the Disabled Soldiers' Employment Association this week about the Poppy Fund, the results of the Tag Day held on November 11th. last. This letter I quote:

"The Advisory Committee of the Disabled Soldiers' Employment Association are holding the same in trust for the said Association, for the purposes of relief during the Spring and Summer, when thousands of physically fit returned men will be given employment, while the disabled men will be turned down".

The letter is sympathetic and complimentary as to the stand which this paper has taken in the article mentioned. But certain situations to-day are undeniable. They cannot be refuted.

Returned soldiers will never be in more dire need than they are now. They cannot be. And yet the sum of ten thousand dollars is held in trust "for purposes of relief during the Spring and Summer" while hundreds of our returned men walk the streets to-day out-of-work and hungry. Relief in the Spring will not feed these men this week. It strikes me that relief and charitable organisations must realise this point. I don't care a hoot if the public did contribute to this fund for a specific purpose: viz:—"for the relief of disabled men only." It is nigh time that we came down to rock bottom and quit flirting with technicality. Any man who is not eating regularly is "disabled."

Just so long as one "disabled" decent return soldier is walking the streets of our towns looking for employment, Canada's debt to the men who fought for her is not paid. Surely to Heaven a chance to earn a decent livelihood is the least that a "grateful" country can do for the sons who fought that she might live.

In sheer human decency Canada's Employers must realise that they play too much with business-like cant and technicality. Here are brother men who fought for those who stayed behind in safety, walking the streets jobless, homeless, hungry. For heaven's sake give them a meal and a job!

I know that we couldn't turn about to-morrow morning and absorb them all on this basis under our existing economic conditions, for I am pretty sure of the fact that the average employer of labour is still going to consider his precious bank-roll before he considers extending a helping hand in the way of jobs to the unemployed soldiermen. I'm dead sure of that.

But let us have action; quick action. Let us for once forget that we are keen, cold, fishy business men. For once let us be erratic, idiotic, any-old-thing-at-all; but let Canada be human! Let her help the boys who served her!! Beside that question what do technicalities matter?

Away with this Poppy Day "Poppycock", this bunk about collecting money for specific purposes. Hunger is hunger, and need is need. Someone told the Honorable Médéric Martin that he broke the law when he permitted a recent ex-Fighting Men's Tag Day to be held. The Mayor admitted it. "And I'll break it it again to feed the hungry" he said. More power to Médéric! That's the stuff!

There are hundreds of Returned Soldiers who need the helping hand of brotherly kindness to-day. To Hell with Technicalities!!!

LESLIE M. ROBERTS.

"The Axe" is published by John H. Roberts, and printed by "Le Matin Ltd."

THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT'S MORAL AND ECONOMIC BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts from the Liquor Commission.		Bills payable:	
May.....	291,084.79	Murders, Suicides, Assaults, Immorality, Prostitution, Unemployment, Poverty, Business Depression, Crime, Insanity, Wife Desertion, Robberies with violence, Apartment House Tragedies, Drunkenness, Child Neglect	Total!—Uncountable.
June.....	536,786.28	Wasted Lives, Ruined Homes, Broken Hearts, Empty Cupboards, Missing girls, Weeping mothers, Red Light Districts, Thugs and Gunmen.	
July.....	761,214.07		
August.....	1,070,851.95		
September.....	1,184,802.43		
October.....	1,294,687.11		
November.....	1,627,293.84		
December.....	2,559,146.13		
Total.....	9,325,866.60		

N.B. — The foregoing figures were supplied by the Provincial Treasurer, Hon. Jacob Nicol.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

It is impossible to strike a balance because on the credit side of the statement dollars and cents are used to indicate values, while on the debit side men, women and children are involved, and their value to the Province of Quebec cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

(Signed) THE AXE, Auditor.

Lords, Ladies and Love

AMOURS OF BRITISH ARISTOCRACY BARED

Belted Earls, Barons and Baronesses appear in Drama of the Divorce Court. A Timely Article aimed to offset the demand for titles for Canadians.

It is always well before a country commits itself to any course of action that the question should be studied in all its bearings. Recently we have heard mutterings of a desire for the reinstatement of the system of honoring (?) Canadians by bestowing titles upon them. Doubtless there are many among the Canadian plutocracy who would be glad for social reasons, and because they are snobs at heart, to see titles flung around lavishly. But, before Canada reverses itself in this matter, it would be well to look at some of the outcroppings of titled snobocracy as they may be witnessed in the Old Land. The following article will serve to show how far the ancient motto, Noblesse Oblige, counts amongst certain section of Britain's aristocracy, and also act as a warning to Canada to beware. It is only too likely that if we bestow titles upon our rich snobs here they will emulate and copy the lordly licentiousness of the titled debauchees they so enviously admire. — Editor, *The Axe*).

When the Courts re-assembled after the Christmas vacation, the judges had before them a number of well-known Society names. Of the 1,046 suits, 872 are undefended, and there are no jury cases. Among the suits is one brought by Major Studley Neville Custance, R.F.A., who married Miss Antoinette Thompson, a pretty Somerset girl, while on leave from Salonica during the war. He cites the Marquess Conyngham as co-respondent. This is not the Marquess's first appearance in a matrimonial tangle. In June, 1919, the Marchioness, in the English Courts, obtained a decree of restitution of conjugal rights, which was undefended. Five months later, the Marquess, in the Scottish Courts, was successfully cited as co-respondent in a divorce action brought by the well known baronet, Sir John Home Purves Hume-Campbell, of Geddings Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. In her restitution suit the Marchioness stated that she was Miss Bessie Alice Tobin when she wedded the Marquess in November, 1914, at the fashionable church of St. George's, Hanover-square, W. From January, 1918, she and her husband had not lived together, and when she wrote on the subject just before Christmas, 1918, he replied:—

Dear Betty,—I have made up my mind that it is quite impossible for me ever to live with you again. I have been, and am now, living with someone else, and nothing will ever part us. I am sorry for any pain this may cause you, and may add that I wish you good luck in the future.—Freddy.

The Prodigal Marquis.

Fourteen days were given him to comply with the judge's order to return to his wife. In November, 1919, before the Edinburgh Court of Session, Sir John Home Purves Hume-Campbell told how, in 1901, he married his wife, the only daughter of the Rev. Robert Digby Ram, formerly vicar of Hampton-on-Thames, where at one time they lived. It was a happy union at first, he stated, and there were two children, both girls. Later, differences arose, and when he returned home from active service, he found his wife's name and that of the Marquess Conyngham were being coupled. Since July, 1918, they had not lived in the same house, and he identified in court a picture in an illustrated paper of his wife and the marquess taken together.—Evidence from the Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds, showed that, at the end of July,

1918, a lady and a gentleman drove up and engaged rooms. The gentleman registered as "Lord Wm. Minster, of Crumlin Lodge, Galway," and the lady as Jane Minster, of the same address. Next morning, before departing, the gentleman, during a chat with the manager, incidentally referred to Geddings Hall in the neighbourhood, which was where Sir John lived. The latter was given a divorce decree.

Lady Conyngham obtained a House of Lords divorce from her husband in June last.

The Countess Wanders.

In the defended list, the Earl of Cathcart is petitioning for a divorce from Vera, Countess Cathcart. He cites the Earl of Craven as co-respondent. The fifth Earl of Cathcart comes of a distinguished military family. His ancestor had three sons, who fell at Flodden four centuries ago; another was one of Marlborough's generals. The present Earl was born in 1862, and had been looked on as a confirmed bachelor until he married just two years ago, Mrs. Vera Warter, widow of Capt. de Grey Warter, of the 4th Dragoon Guards, who fell in action. The wedding took place after a short acquaintance, and its only issue is a son born prematurely in August, 1919. This is little Lord Greenock, the heir to the earldom. The first sign of any matrimonial difference was given last August, when Earl Cathcart's solicitors gave public notice that he had expressly withdrawn from his wife any authority to contract in his name or to pledge his credit. As a result, the countess's solicitors sent a notice to the papers that she had received an allowance from her husband at the rate of 960 pounds per annum, and set forth the items of expenditure, which she had to provide out of that sum. These included travelling expenses and the school fees of her children, as well as her dress bills and doctors' fees. The next week it was reported that Countess Cathcart had won 3,500 pounds in one night at the Casino at Deauville, having staked 3 pounds 10 shillings. The present Earl of Craven lost a leg in the war, and succeeded his father, who was drowned at Cowes, in July last. He married, when Lord Uffington, the daughter of the Town Clerk of Invergoron.

"M. P." — More Pulchritude.

Among the undefended cases is an action for restitution of conjugal rights brought

Why I Publish The Axe

Talking with a business man this week, he said to me, "Your paper is too small in size and circulation to accomplish much." Well, I cannot say it's a big paper in size nor to I claim it has a huge circulation. But it's wonderful how the little sheet is catching on and how the actual paid circulation is growing. I started without any great flourish of trumpets not that I would hesitate to flourish the trumpets if I had them. The only boost the paper received was from *The Montreal Star* which gave *The Axe* and its editor an ad that they could not have got from the *Star's* advertising department for a thousand dollars. Yet many people have told me they have gone to store after store only to be told *THE AXE* was all sold. So it's growing in circulation and soon it will increase in size.

As to its being too small to accomplish any good, just watch things happen. Read Mr. Sauv e's speeches in the Legislature. Notice the discussions in the House at Quebec on the liquor laws. Study Mr. Simard's apologetics in relation to the Government Liquor Commission. Keep your ear to the ground and you'll hear things. I know *THE AXE* is functioning, for already, though its only three weeks old, "the devils fear and tremble".

Do you know that a well-known Cabinet Minister is projecting the publication of a new weekly paper to counteract the influence of *THE AXE*? Well, it's so. Read the story in another column. Of course, he'll spend a lot of money and waste it, too, but it will give him some pleasure maybe, signing cheques and reading denunciations of John H. Roberts. But he'd better save his money. I know too much about him, and how he gets his money, and how he spends it, and as sure as God made little apples I'll print the stuff if he doesn't play the game fairly. Let him hit above the belt, as I do, and I won't care, but no fouls, if you please, Mr. "Image".

There's a place and a work, a great work, for *THE AXE*. I know that many people have a feeling of prejudice against me because of my views on the liquor question and because of the cause c el ebre in which I figured three years ago. Well, as to my views on liquor, doesn't the very fact that I hold them when it would be much more profitable to take the other course indicate consistency? Anyhow, *THE AXE* is not advocating Prohibition; it is seeking to destroy the Government Ownership of the whisky business and place the liquor business in private hands again to be dealt with by the people, and that's something that all decent people can support. As to the libel case in which I was non-sued well, I'm here in Montreal facing my enemies and that doesn't look as if I feared them, does it? Some day, in these columns I'll tell the whole story and there's a story to tell, friend. In the meantime, there's better work to do. In any case my friends will believe in me and my enemies and those who want to believe the worst of me will believe the worst of me no matter what I may say. So, what does it matter?

So, friend, if you think *THE AXE* fills a useful purpose; if you want to see a journal of fearless expression succeed; if you believe in giving a man a chance to do good work for his fellows and the kiddies who will come after us, help *THE AXE*. Send in your subscription or place an order for the paper with your newsagent. Boost the little rag with a word of commendation to your friends. Drop a line to the Premier and tell him what a darn fool he is to get himself and his Government all mixed up in the whisky business. Put *THE AXE* on the track of any good "stories" and go out of your way to help it. It will repay you a thousand fold some day.

JOHN H. ROBERTS.

by Margaret Haig, Viscountess Rhondda, against her husband, Sir Humphrey Mackworth, Bart. Viscountess Rhondda, daughter of the late Viscount Rhondda, and peeress in her own right, probably shoulders more business responsibility than any other woman in the country. Under 39, she is director of 36 companies, and chairman of most of them. Her faith in herself has been summed up in a phrase of her own, "The efficient woman is the woman who gets things done."

Lady Rhondda, married Sir Humphrey Mackworth in July, 1908. Sir Humphrey is the seventh baronet and succeeded his father in 1914. The Mackworth family is of considerable antiquity in Shropshire and Derbyshire, and a members of it fought at Poitiers in 1356. The first baronet, who died in 1791, sat as M. P. for Cardiff.

Bold, Bad, Baron Belper.

Lady E. I. M. Belper is another petitioner for divorce from her husband, Lord Belper, from whom she obtained a restitution decree in July. The marriage took place at St. Margaret's Westminster, in 1911. In the course of the previous proceedings, Lady Belper told how in 1916, after the birth of the third child, her husband changed towards her. Later, Lord Belper avoided her company, and eventually wrote, suggesting that, as they had drifted so far apart, it was better they should part for good. She pleaded with him by letter to reconsider what his suggestion meant, adding:—

"I ask you to keep our home a united one for the sake of our children and what we both owe to them."

"Things have gone too far to be mended," was the gist of his reply. His decision, he declared, was absolutely unalterable. Baron Belper comes of the famous family of Strutt, who made their fortunes by cotton-spinning. He was born in 1883, and his wife is a daughter of the second Lord Aberdare, and therefore a sister-in-law of Miss Camille Clifford, "the Gibson Girl."

Lady Lillian Maxwell-Willshire, formerly Miss Lillian Birtles, a London comedy actress, is another petitioner for divorce from Sir Everard Maxwell-Willshire, Bart.

At one time, Sir Everard was on the stage, and during last summer did not defend an application for a decree of restitution of conjugal rights. Another divorce case — which is defended — following restitution of conjugal rights is that brought by Dame D. D. Huntingdon against Sir Chas. Philip Huntingdon. — In the contested list are the cross-petitions, "M. M. Mourilyan v. W. E. I. Mourilyan — Mourilyan v. Mourilyan and Fazil," the first being the wife's action for divorce, and the second the husband's, Mr. Walter Mourilyan, a solicitor, of Richmond, has cited as

Co-Respondent an Egyptian Prince.

Ibrahim Said Fazil. The case is strongly contested. Of exceptional interest when the re-hearing takes place will be the extraordinary story of the relations between Mr. Lionel Munder, who married Princess Pretiva, a daughter of the late Rajah of Cooch Behar, India. The husband filed a petition charging his wife with misconduct with Reginald de Beer, employed in a Government department. When the case first came on for hearing before the veteran judge, Lord Mersey, the husband told how, about two o'clock one morning, he went to Wellington-court, Knightsbridge, and, having climbed some railings, saw through a window his wife and co-respondent, both undressed, with the electric light full on and the window open. — Lord Mersey thought that the circumstances related were "incredible", and adjourned the hearing for further evidence. Later, the wife asked for, and was allowed, time in which to put in a defence, and the case was placed in the reserve list, where it still remains.

Merely Knights.

A restitution decree is sought by Lady Helen Mary Foster Fraser against Sir John Foster Fraser, the well-known journalist, traveller, lecturer, and politician. Lady Fraser is an American, and the daughter of Mr. F. Lawrence, of Seattle. The case of Lady Spicer, the wife of Sir Howard Spicer, which was in the list of active cases for hearing last term, now appears in the Reserve List. Lady Spicer having obtained a restitution decree early last year, proceeded with a petition for a divorce.

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