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EDITORIALS

It seems useless to go over a discussion that has already been decided and done with; yet in view of the crowding of the City Finance Minister it might be well to reiterate a few pregnant facts in connection with the city hydro-electric undertaking. In the first place the people who opposed the scheme did so from expediency and not as a matter of principle. In the next place the fears expressed by a good many people in connection with the undertaking have been amply realized. It was contended that the city was not strong enough financially to undertake it. What do we now find? The city has its electric plant but there are two million dollars of treasury certificates almost due and the funds cannot be had to meet them. Besides that, the amount of taxation for which this city is liable is so large that a great many people cannot pay their taxes. It is not good business for a city any more than for an individual to create liabilities that are greater than can be borne.

The people who favored giving the Prince Rupert Hydro-Electric Company a temporary franchise had in mind bigger things than the mere supplying of electric light. They wanted

to secure the assistance of all the possible outside capital in the development of this district. With the restricted franchise which was to be given the city was left free to take care of its immediate liabilities and in the course of time could take back its franchise. In the meantime we would have the advantage of a large amount of foreign capital being spent in our midst while all the interested capitalists would be bound to assist our advancement. With all the city's money tied up in our electric plant, it will be years before the city can install its sewers, as well as other necessary works.

Looking back over the whole argument, therefore, it can be said with confidence that the opponents of the scheme were right. Everybody knew that the city could install an electric plant and that is all the Finance Minister brags about. But can the city afford it? Everybody would like to own a motor car and a pleasure yacht, but it is a fool who would mortgage his home to pay for it. It is good business to get necessities first and to go in for speculations or investments after this is done. The remarks, therefore, of the Chairman of Finance have no

NO ALUM



bearing whatever on the situation.

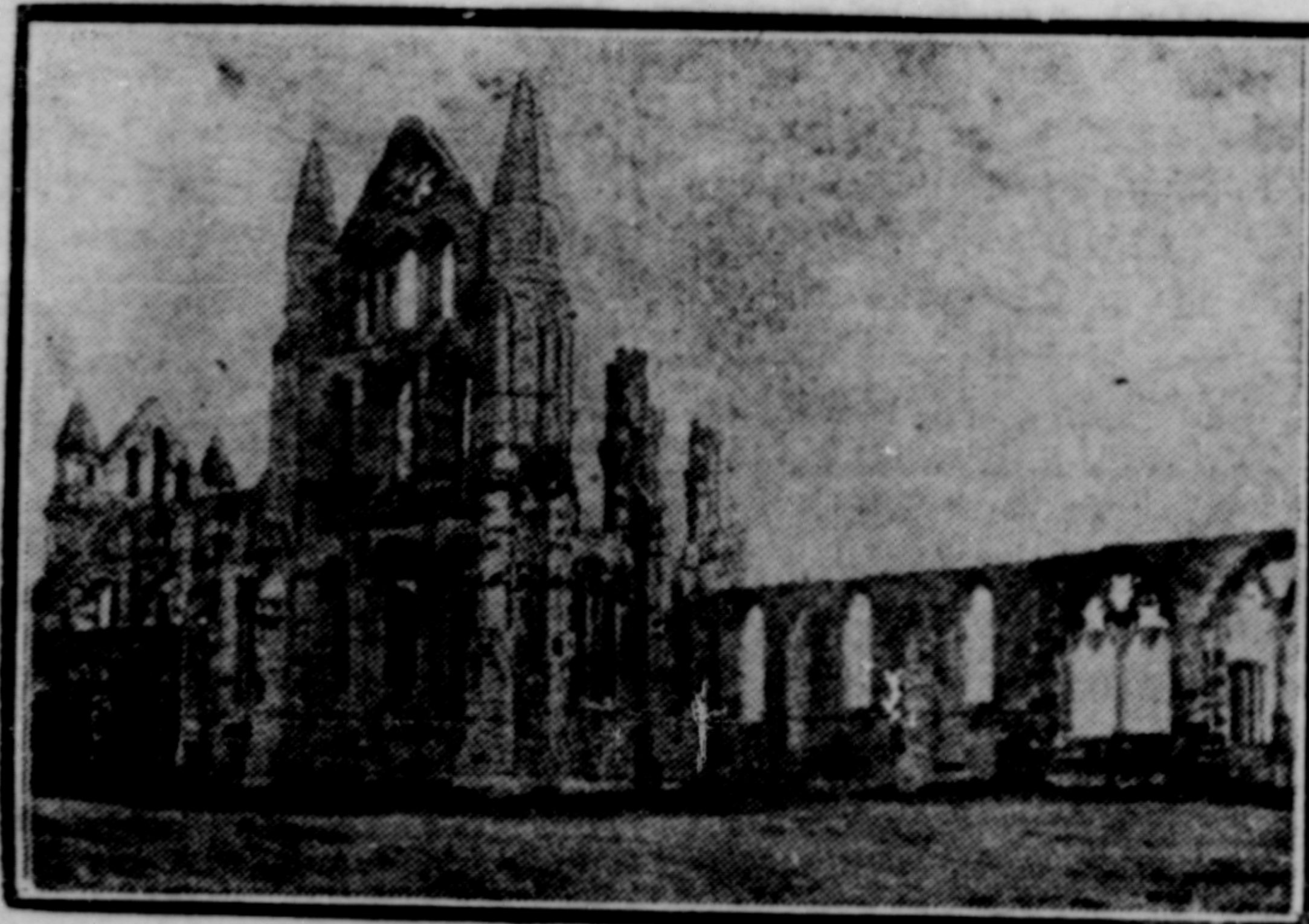
The people who find fault with the local papers for clipping from the Vancouver papers and other periodicals should remember that with the present telegraph rates of a cent per word it is impossible to get all the news by wire. There is only a small percentage of the local people who read the same articles in other papers and the rest must be supplied with the news. Prince Rupert is probably the only place in the world where newspapers refuse to co-operate in securing telegraphic news, with the result that the telegraph office gets an additional fee for making out a carbon copy of the same news. Were it not for this the amount of telegraph news could be doubled. In the meantime "somebody" prefers to cut off his nose to spite his face."

TORONTO PASTOR IS SHOT.

Presbyterian Clergyman Seriously Wounded by Mission Worker Who Had a Grudge.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Rev. R. McP. Scott, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church, was shot and seriously wounded on Broadway Avenue here by Harry Asher, a mission worker from Montreal, who has been in Toronto about a week.

Asher's motive, according to his own statement to the police, was revenge. Mr. Scott, he declared, had injured his mission work. Asher was arrested.



WHITEBY ABBEY PARTIALLY DESTROYED—This ancient and historic ruin is said to have been wrecked by German shells. The abbey is 1,200 years old. The Danes laid waste a portion of it over 1,000 years ago, when they invaded England. The ruins, before the German bombardment, comprised the choir, the north transept and part of the nave.

UNITED STATES EASY MARK FOR ENEMY, ASSERTS OFFICER

New York Fortifications a Menace and Not a Defence, Is Col. Heistand's View.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Military service during the youth of every male citizen of the United States was suggested here as a means of providing a sufficient reserve army in a public address by Col. Henry O. S. Heistand, U. S. A., adjutant general of the Central Department of the army.

Colonel Heistand said the United States was totally unprepared for war, urged that the regular army and the national guard were inadequate and protested against what he termed false history taught the country.

"If at this minute," he said, "every one of the 90,000 regular soldiers in the United States, cavalry, infantry, and coast artillery, were assembled in New York, there would not be enough men to man the guns on a war footing."

New York's Guns a Menace.

"And if every one of the 112,000 national guardsmen were assembled in New York City there would not be enough to protect those guns from attack and those guns, as they are now situated are a greater menace to New York than a protection, because all a foe would have to do would be to turn them around and point them at New York City and begin shooting."

"For the purpose of defence, I would have every male citizen of the United States in the early period of his life give a sufficient time to the United States army to qualify himself in the essentials of a soldier. I would have him learn how to shoot and have him learn how to march. I would have him learn how to take care of himself in the field, how to pitch and roll up his tent, how to ride his horse, how to cook his bread and bacon and take care of his health, and, above all, to submit his will to his commander. And I would have him do that with very small pay."

Blames False Teaching.

"But the trouble with our people is they are suffering from false teaching and preaching."

"In our school history we teach

that in the War of the Revolution we whipped England; that in the War of 1812 we whipped England; that in the war with Mexico we whipped her and that in the war of our own rebellion we rose up from the fields and the farms and marched right out and put down the rebellion.

"True, we whipped Mexico. We whipped Spain. There is a slang phrase about taking candy from a baby, and that is what we did. We did not whip Great Britain in the war of the revolution. Great Britain was busy at home and quit because she had not the slightest idea of what kind of real estate we had here."

"Mobs" in Civil War.

"In the war of 1812 we were humiliated and our capital burned, and Great Britain, because she was busy at home, quit without insisting on her rights."

In the war of the rebellion two great mobs of the finest citizenry that ever stepped up to the cannon's mouth stepped up to the front without knowledge of organization or warfare for four straight years, and at the end, the one with the longest purse and the greatest number of men triumphed. It was scarcely a war. It was a conflict of mob organization."

"What we want today is to teach our people that we did not really ever in the history of the world whip a foe worthy of our steel, for we never have done so. But we have in the United States power, for there is not a really good American who is not ready to die for his country."

Wants Training for All.

"I plead for a training of every citizen, so that if the time ever comes when we need to defend these institutions under which we live so gloriously, he will be able to do so, and instead of dying a foolish victim of the foe, he will have given a good account of himself in the defence of his country."

DEFERRED LAND PAYMENTS.

Interviewed upon his return from the interior, the Minister of Lands said that there were owing to the government \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000 as deferred payments on land purchases, and it (the government) had been criticized for not taking the purchasers by the throat and making them pay. At the last session of the House legislation had been passed providing for payment in four instalments, the first of which was due this year, but in view of the war he did not know whether much would accrue from this source. "However," he reported of the interview says, "if the holders of the lands on which money was due did not pay, he, personally, would say, 'let them forfeit them to the Crown.' Government policy did not stipulate this, but these were his personal feelings."

MAXIM SENDS FIVE TONS OF BEANS TO CANADA'S TROOPS

London, Dec. 29.—Sir Hiram Maxim sent five tons of pork and beans as a Christmas gift to the Canadians at Salisbury.

Two heads are better than one—in a kissing match.



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