

The Toronto World

A Morning Newspaper published every day in the year.

Telephone—private exchange connecting all departments—Main office, 1000.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN ADVANCE.

One year, Daily, Sunday included \$2.00

Six months " " " 1.25

Three months " " " .75

One month " " " .25

One year, without Sunday " " " 1.50

Six months " " " .85

Three months " " " .45

One month " " " .15

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Hamilton Office, Royal Court, James Street North, Telephone No. 1000.

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USURPATION.

To-day we publish the text of a second concession from the Electrical Development Co. of Ontario (Mackenzie, Nicholls, Pellatt syndicate) by the Ontario Niagara Falls Power Commission. All this document conveys, we do not quite know, but it looks as if it is a concession of the kind which has been made in this art, and which has been signed, sealed and delivered by the PUBLIC, WHO ARE THE OWNERS OF THE CONCESSION CONVEYED, AND WHO HAVE THE GREATEST INTEREST AT STAKE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POWER WHICH IT IS TO DEVELOP. HAD A CHANCE OF READING A SINGLE CLAUSE, OR KNOWING A SINGLE INTENTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE POWER COMPANY! Surely the people of this country have some rights.

There is one saving clause in the agreement, which says the legislature must be consulted and its ratification obtained by a bill in the House. But this is not enough. Apparently, this agreement was made by the House government in its expiring days, just as the first agreement with the same people was made in another of its political throes.

Mr. Whitney and his colleagues must assume full responsibility of protecting the rights of the people. We do not know that the legislature is bound to ratify for Ross.

Surely it will be time enough to extend the privileges of this great corporation when we have had some experience of the way they treat the public in the administration of the first concession given to them two years ago.

CUT OUT THE INAGURAL. Mayor Dunne of Chicago dispensed with the inaugural address. The example is a good one that might profitably be followed by the chief magistrates of Canadian cities. The time for a declaration of municipal policy, before the elections, not afterwards. If a mayoral candidate takes the field on behalf of certain principles, it is to be presumed that, if elected, he will make good his pledges.

The inaugural address is purely an ornamental exercise. Its devotion to the details of the year's municipal program not infrequently sets at work hostile influences, and by the premature announcement of city plans, prevents their execution. Action is what the public interest requires of a chief magistrate after his election. Mayor Dunne of Chicago has adopted this practical work he has reported progress in a space of time that the average mayor would require to compose his inaugural address.

CENSURE THE COMMISSION. There can be no two opinions as to the fairness of expunging from the Journals of the house the motion censuring R. G. Ramey for his conduct in connection with the bribery charges. The motion, of course, was an outrage only slightly less contemptible than the finding of the royal commission. Mr. Gage naturally desires vindication, and in so far as a resolution of the legislature can be a measure of justice, his wish will be gratified.

It will be argued in deprecation of Mr. Gage's move that one resolution of the legislature is as good as another, and that the motion of censure is as effective as the rescinding motion. This argument is answered by the fact that Mr. Gage was condemned by a corrupt majority, every vote of which was necessary to obtain life in the enfeebled frame of the Ross government. The majority which will exonerate Mr. Gage, is, on the other hand, the product of an honest ballot and it is of superior dimensions as to leave every member of it free to vote as he pleases, without fear of a reversal of the party's fortunes.

Mr. Gage very reasonably asks that motion which will vindicate the character of the evidence taken in the investigation, be erased from the legislative records. The vindication, however, will be formal rather than practical. Mr. Gage needs no practical vindication in the sight of the country. On a thousand platforms he has drawn intelligent audiences and convinced them that his charges were substantially true. The applause which followed the member for Manitoulin from one end of the province to the other, was a sufficient answer to the finding of the royal commission, and to the motion of censure, which placed the effect of that finding on the legislative records. A resolution of the legislature rescinding a motion of censure that had

not a leg to stand on, cannot do more than to show that it is already done for Mr. Gage. If, however, the resolution is to be passed, it should be amended by the addition of words passing censure on the royal commission.

INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SUC-

CESSFUL.

Yesterday we called attention to the

remarkable increase in independent

telephone systems in the United States,

the latest statistics showing that they

now lead the Bell companies. Both in

number of subscribers, and that their

total invested capital is considerably

less than half that of the Bell company.

Not less instructive of

the high average of the fact that, de-

spite the newness of the business, only

a few of those who have embarked

in the field have come to grief finan-

cially. In this respect, says The

World, the independent telephone sys-

tem is unequalled by any other industry

organized in the United States. The first

independent telephone exchange in the

United States having over 600 telephones

operated in 1886, and established

since then independent telephones

have multiplied in that state. More

than one-half of these are in the hands

of six companies, which paid the fol-

lowing dividends:

Dividend Term

Chicago Telephone Co., Grand

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The measure of The Globe's sincerity

in assailing the legislation is indicated

by the vigor and persistence of the fight

it makes against that legislation. If

it is honestly opposed to the educational

clauses it will oppose the government

which framed them, and its opposition

will continue so long as coercion is

part of the policy of the government.

The public sentiment which has set

itself against the autonomy bill has no

thing to gain from a newspaper ally

that carries its devotion to a great

principle only to a certain point. The

government does not fear such news-

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The public sentiment which has set

ing the refuse by the curb till Satur-

day, the men carrying the refuse cart

and simply scraped up the thickets of

the refuse, leaving the side of the

streets a mass of filth and I make no

hesitation in saying that from Dundas

street to the Orphan's Home anyone

could have easily filled a cart to the

top with refuse after the supposed

cleanup. I saw on Saturday the refuse

cart of Mr. Jones and explained the

filthy state of the same, but still the

same result, as I never saw the

slightest satisfaction. No wonder at

the expenses being enormous allowing

the sweepings to be left and washed

down into the sewer traps. It is high

time this was left in the hands of our

medical and health officers, who certainly

is the man capable to keep the needs of

cleanliness. I quote the controller's

remarks from The Globe: "The Cal-

varying of New York said that 98 per

cent of the men employed in street

cleaning in that city contracted tuber-

culosis within five years. That showed

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