

THURSDAY MORNING

## The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 13.

## THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SITUATION

Events of prime importance to the success and the ultimate destiny of the Hydro-Electric System of Ontario occurred yesterday, but we cannot say that anything transpired of the real intentions of the government in connection with the alleged new policy against which the important deputation came to the city to protest.

We state the general impression on Tuesday that has gone abroad about the proposed government legislation. The McGarry Bill has not yet been published and it may contain anything. It is to be rushed thru in the last hours of the session there is the more need for vigilance. The interests of the Hydro-Electric System are so important to the people of Ontario that Hon. Mr. McGarry must forgive those who are a little suspicious about the tenor of the bill which has been announced, but not described in detail.

This is all the more necessary in view of what The Mail and Empire had to say yesterday morning, apparently in reply to our editorial of the previous day. The Mail and Empire now represents the Government of Ontario in a way which was not the case in the reign of Sir James Whitney. He treated all the newspapers alike and handed out the news to all on the same basis. The Mail and Empire is now admitted to the privilege of "scoops" on items of government news, contrary to Sir James' policy, and we may consequently regard its editorial utterances as having some authority.

The argument of this article of The Mail and Empire was entirely in favor of divesting the Hydro-Electric Commission of any powers it may independently possess, and of ceasing to recognize it as the representative of the municipalities, but of the government. Only those who have watched the hydro-electric policy develop can be aware of the importance of this distinction.

The article states that "instead of letting the commission further out of hand, it will, we take it for granted, shorten its hold upon the commission, and not only upon the commission, but also upon the municipalities, many of which are using their present financial power with a recklessness which is nothing short of criminal."

The clever innuendo that it is in connection with hydro expenditure that this recklessness is to be met, may be passed over. The tone of the article is unmistakable.

Premier Hearst repudiated the suggestion that the profits of the hydro would be taken by the government, but whether intentionally or not, he spoke of the municipalities as spending the money of the province. On the strength of this contention he refused to permit the municipalities to have representatives on the Hydro Commission. There is ground for uneasiness among the municipalities over this attitude. Premier Hearst is entirely wrong about the spending of the province's money by the municipalities. The province has no more right to interfere in the plans of the hydro than a bank which has lent money on good security has to interfere in the outlay of the money it has loaned. If Mr. Hearst spoke of the money in this sense as the province's we may pass it over also, but these ambiguities lead to much misunderstanding. The money is not even strictly a loan from the province. The municipalities have pledged their credit, and it is on that credit, endorsed by the province, that the money was raised. The municipalities are spending their own money, therefore, on their own investment, and not, as we believe the premier said, on an investment of the province. The municipalities expect to repay every penny of the money they have pledged themselves to, and when they do the hydro-electric system will belong to them, and not to the province.

It is clear that this must be thoroughly understood at this stage, as it was thoroughly understood at the beginning. Any attempt of the government to change the status of the municipalities in relation to the hydro equipment would be deeply and properly resented by them.

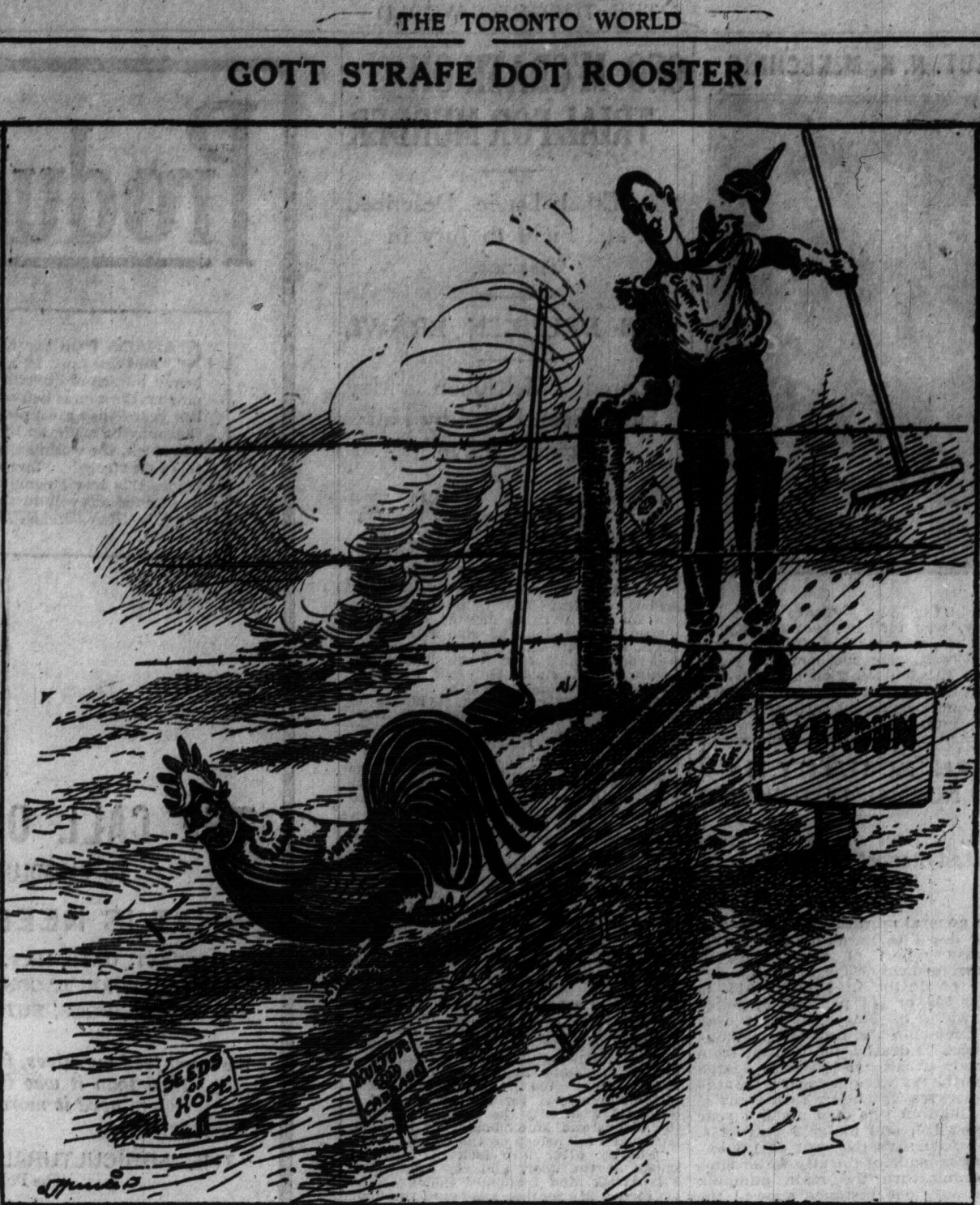
No objection was made to the appointment of the members of the Hydro Commission at first, but it was distinctly understood that the whole movement must be strictly non-political and non-partisan. So far the hydro system has been managed upon that principle, and it is the fear that the new administration in Queen's Park has something in mind which might disturb this principle that has caused the present unrest. Nothing would be more resented by the whole electorate than any attempt of the kind, for it is well understood that the success of the whole scheme depends upon the neutralization of the hydro system in every respect as far as politics are concerned.

The insinuation of The Mail and Empire about two premiers in the province is somewhat gratuitous. Sir Adam Beck has never done anything to warrant the belief nor even the suspicion that he desired to rule in opposition to the powers that be. He has maintained himself in his position as chairman of the Hydro Commission simply because he has interfered in nothing and attempted nothing outside his own sphere. There is no reason why any premier who has the original conception of the hydro-electric movement in mind should not get along with Sir Adam Beck as well as Sir James Whitney did. If the government has in view a period when Sir Adam Beck and others now concerned with the hydro policy shall have passed away, then they should take the municipalities into their confidence and invite their views on this important matter.

The further investments, which may be of a more direct nature on the part of the province than those which have been made in transmission and distribution plant by the municipalities and which the government appears to contemplate in connection with the power development at Chippewa Creek and the Niagara-Queensdown scheme, for which half a million has been provided in the estimates, may justify the government in thinking that some provisions are necessary for the direct control of such investments. If this be so there is all the more necessity to differentiate between the investment of the municipalities, and that which the province might directly undertake. But it would not justify the taking away of the municipalities' control over their own share of the hydro system.

There was a good deal of dissatisfaction among the influential members of yesterday's deputation after the reception was over. None of these questions was dealt with and they are still in the air. Perhaps the premier will take an opportunity to make the whole situation clear as he did in regard to the two points of using the profits of the hydro, and of introducing political influence into hydro management.

Premier Hearst has accomplished one or two things already in his term of office, but he might secure the efficiency and the stability of the hydro-electric system for all time by insuring that the principles upon which it was founded are to remain inviolate. There can be no finer standard erected for the youth of Ontario than the existence of the Hydro-Electric Commission, entirely non-partisan, carrying on the joint business of the municipalities of the province on a basis of public ownership, and maintaining ideals of efficiency and public enterprise and spirit. Premier Hearst should take care that this is assured. The people expect it of him.



## RUSSIANS PROGRESS IN FIGHTING WITH TURKS

Main Army Captures More Positions to West of Erzerum.

SUCCESS OVER KURDS

Detachment Defeated Below Lake Urmiah and Driven Hastily Southward.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, April 12.—Steady progress is being made by the main Russian army in the Caucasian theatre in its advance west from Erzerum towards the interior of Turkey, the general staff tonight being able to report the capture of additional positions from the Turks.

In the region south of Lake Urmiah, where the Russians have been engaged with large forces of Kurds, supported by regular Turkish infantry, the fighting has resulted favorably for the Russians, and the Kurds have been driven southward.

In the Bitlis region, where the Turks also brought up fresh forces and attacked the Russians, the czar's troops have beaten off every assault and are preparing for an advance.

THROWN FROM RIG.

Michael Hennessey, 368 Parliament street, driver for Armstrong and Fairfax, wholesale grocers, was thrown from his rig at the corner of Queen street and Manning avenue yesterday afternoon, sustaining a nasty cut on the head and a bad shaking up. He was taken to St. Michael's Hospital in the police ambulance.

CHARGED WITH THEFT.

Mary Slater, no address, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Wickert on a charge of stealing a silk blouse from the T. Eaton store.

## A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year

By John Kendrick Bangs.

IMMORTALITY.

(Copyright, 1916.)

WHEN raindrops patter on the roof  
I look without and find  
Of my immortal soul.  
The budding things are come again  
Out of the death of winter's pain.  
Refreshed and sweet and whole.

It cannot be that I who feel  
The sweets of life our days reveal  
Thru some unknown duress,  
Must in some dark oblivion  
Forget the glory of the sun  
In endless nothingness.

It cannot be that all the care  
And joy, and love, and pain we bear,  
And deeds all glorious,  
That men achieve, are done and borne  
That some grim Destiny in scorn,  
May idly laugh at us.

## FOUR MEN HELD FOR BOMB PLOTS

Conspiracy to Destroy Ships by Means of Incendiary Explosives.

VON PAPPEN'S AGENTS

Two Hundred Bombs Confiscated by Police of New York.

NEW YORK, April 12.—Four men were arrested here tonight by agents of the department of justice charged with having manufactured "fire bombs" which were placed in sugar bags on the steamship Kirk Oswald of the Fabre Line on or about May 2, last. One of the men arrested gave the name of Charles Von Kietel and declared he was a brother-in-law of General Von Briesen of the German army who was killed in battle in December, 1914. He gave his age as 27 years. The others were Ernest Becker, 22 years old, an electrician on the steamship Kaiser Friedrich der Grosse; Captain Otto Wolpert, 44 years old, superintendent of the Atlas Line steamship piers and Captain Enno Bode, 49 years of age, superintendent of the Hamburg-American Line steamship line piers at Hoboken, N.J.

According to the arresting officers, Bode confessed that he was the agent of Captain Franz Von Pappen, former military attaché at the German Embassy. He is said to have asserted that Von Pappen sent him to the plant of the Agricultural Chemical Co., in Hoboken where Kietel was employed to "find fault with the shipments of lubricating oil which were being sent to Germany by way of Holland as fertilizer."

Acting-Captain Tunney, of the "bomb squad" declared 200 bombs were found in the office of the Agricultural Chemical Co., and confiscated.

Evidence in the possession of the police, according to Captain Tunney, tends to show that similar bombs were shipped to all parts of the U. S. Many of them were transported, he said, in suitcases as ordinary baggage.

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### Special Sale TODAY only

ENGLISH RAINCOATS, in tweeds and gabardine cloths, 10.50 for ..... and 20.00.

ENGLISH SHIRTS, good ranges, all sizes, neat check and stripes designs, for ..... 1.00 Regular \$1.50 and \$1.75.

Watch for our Khaki Shirt Sale—End of the Week.

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Tel. Ad. 1739. Open Evenings.

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3 FOR 25¢

AT THE CIGAR DEPOT,  
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## Official Statements

### British

The British war office communication issued last night says:  
"Last night we made a small successful raid on enemy trenches near Kienbourg l'Avoue. About 10 Germans were killed."  
"The enemy last evening made three successive attacks west of the Falkenberg road. He first gained a footing in our trench, but was quickly driven out. Other attacks were repulsed, the Germans leaving about 25 dead in front of our trenches, and three prisoners in our hands. We bombarded enemy trenches in this area today."  
"There was considerable artillery activity today northwest of Wychnate and some shelling about Souchez, Carney and Calonne. Behind St. Eloi there has been heavy hostile shelling, but little shelling on the front lines and craters."  
"It has now been established that the gallant fighting of the Canadians in this neighborhood inflicted heavy losses on the enemy during the last week."

### French

The French official communication, issued last night, reads:  
"In Belgium, our artillery was active in the region of Langemark."  
"Between the Somme and the Oise our fire shattered trenches west of Faviennes, in the region of Roye."  
"In the Argonne, we exploded four camouflaged, at La Fille Morte, Haute Chevauchee and Vauquois. After grenade fighting we occupied the southern edge of the two craters in front of our trenches in the sector of Les Courtes and redoubt along the Meuse there was a violent and continuous bombardment of Hill 84, in the region of Basse and Le Mort Homme."  
"East of the Meuse and in the Woivre, the activity of the army was less marked, and no infantry action occurred during the day."  
"The Belgian official communication reports calm along the whole front."  
"On the left bank of the River Meuse, the Germans this morning delivered an attack on our positions at the Caurettes wood, between Le Mort Homme and Cumières, in which they made use of flaming liquids. They were everywhere repulsed."  
"On the right bank of the river there has been great artillery activity between Domont and Vaux, but last night saw no resumption of the infantry fighting at this point."  
"It has been confirmed that the very violent offensive action yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock in this sector, which was repulsed by us, cost the enemy heavy losses."  
"The night passed relatively quiet on the remainder of the front."

### Italian

The following Italian official communication was issued yesterday:  
"In the Ladrò Valley, by methodical offensive operations, we advanced our occupation to the heights north of Rionapole, between the Corni Valley and Garda. Our infantry, with efficacious support of the artillery, took by assault a strong line of trenches and redoubts along the southern slopes of Monte Pari and Olmasotto, and on the rocks of Monte Sperone. The enemy defenders, after sustaining heavy losses, profiting by the nature of the ground, succeeded in retreating. We took twenty prisoners."  
"An Italian artillery action continued between the Adige River and Brenta and along the Isone front."  
"The effective fire of our batteries has prevented the enemy from repairing the Luserna fortress, in the upper Astico Valley, and destroyed the encircling rail at Santa Caterina and Ugovitz, in the Fella Valley."

### Russian

The following Russian official communication was issued yesterday:  
"On the Dvina front and south of the Dvinsk region there has been no change in the situation. The Russian troops continue to entrench near our trenches."  
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## WORK TOWARD ORGANIC UNION

### Special Committee Will Send Report to Presbyterian General Assembly.

### SITUATION IS SERIOUS

### Principal Gandier Reviewed Church Union Crisis at Meeting Yesterday.

Principal Gandier of Knox College reviewed the church union crisis before the Presbyterian General Assembly's special committee at St. James' Square Church yesterday afternoon. He pointed out that the western congregations have taken advanced steps in the direction of union, as a serious situation had arisen owing to the minority vote against organic union with the Methodists and Congregationalists being regarded as a bar to consummation of the union on the basis submitted to the ballot of the membership. The gravity of the situation called for another earnest effort to harmonize differences as far as possible so that a recommendation could be made to the general assembly at Winnipeg, which would lead to a solution of the problem which would be before that body.

Work for Organic Union.

Other addresses made during the proceedings indicated that the committee would send a report to the general assembly which would point out that, in the view of the committee, the action taken by the general assembly should continue to be "in the direction of organic union."

Rev. Dr. Clark, Montreal, was chairman, and Rev. J. H. Radcliffe, St. Catharines, secretary.

A mass of recommendations from presbyteries in all parts of the Dominion and statistics on the ballot were presented by the secretary. They were referred to a sub-committee for analysis and a report.

Among other members of the special committee present were Rev. Dr. Campbell, Montreal; Rev. Dr. McMillan, and Rev. Dr. Forest, Halifax; Principal Dyde of Robertson College; Principal Oliver, Saskatoon College; Rev. Dr. Welsh, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Jack, Sydney, C.B.; R. J. Watson, Moose Jaw; Rev. Dr. Farquharson, President Falconer, Toronto University; Rev. Dr. Milligan and Walter Paul, Montreal.

## SAILING OF BIG CUNARD STEAMER

The Cunard Steamship Company have scheduled the fine new steamer Orduna, of over 15,000 tons, to sail from New York for Liverpool on the 18th April. Certainly there is not a better boat crossing the Atlantic today, both on account of her size and speed, and appointments. With her magnificent suites of private and public apartments, and embodying in her construction the latest developments of marine engineering, she is to be classed in front rank of modern liners. The hull has a double bottom running from stem to stern and there are seven steel decks secured with watertight bulkheads. The vessel is fitted with wireless telegraphy, submarine signaling and has a complete installation of electric light. First-class accommodation includes a handsome dining saloon, smoking room, a verandah on the promenade deck, gymnasium, children's playground, and in fact everything that goes to make a ship modern. The second cabin and third-class passengers are equally well provided for.

Plans, rates and all information may be had from the company's Toronto office, Messrs. A. F. Webster & Son, at 58 Yonge street, three doors north of Wellington.

Homesekers' Excursion via Canadian Northern Railway.

If you are going to the Northwest, British Columbia, or Ottawa, give us a call in our new office, Royal Bank Building, 70 Yonge street. S. J. Sharp & Co., M. 7024. edit

## STUCK BY MOTORCYCLE IS IN SERIOUS CONDITION

E. Hawthorne, 76 1/2 Uster avenue, who was injured when a motorcycle hit him at the corner of Queen and Manning streets Tuesday night, and who left the Western Hospital apparently none the worse for his injuries the last morning, was received into the hospital again yesterday afternoon and is now being operated upon for blood pressure on the brain. He is still unconscious, but it is thought he will recover. The driver of the motorcycle has not yet been apprehended.

## A Brew for every taste: Special Extra Mild Ale—Pilsener Lager—Special Extra Mild Stout—Old Stock Ale, and every brew the best of its kind, pure and healthful.

Why not have a case of each and suit the taste of all your friends?

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Spring Good

A good looking, shown, staple of brooding of range wool and after.

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Extensive velvet ladies' popular.

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Grand Tarts of Sec. 16.00.

VIVILL

Guaranteed to be of day range in shades quest.

Letter

JOHN

55 to

Ladies' Gentler

Of all kinds Work at NEW See Yonge

TRAVEL POST

Journey Rupert a Sp

"A pos man of the Pacific fr port and

"To taking into wonder, of the ed," wrote

"When up at the hotel a top lame more a with this tremely furnishing to be in taste. The employes a ton, below found the which is Garry—a with an it such a a large t the town ton is de a large t

left night, and self in the ing reach Mountain able to sh per Park on Roberson which one wish wild natu George, b all that a it ski Snow-cap the way, right up ing to be become a of a few steaming steamer to consider the urban tain and the expec room, a return route, a trip north

fine prop doing across, it agreeable management their entire comfort dining ca

DANIEL

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WASH of the ar league of tured too of the Na fual to A. Finko A. Finko a army bill sident of