

**WHO?**

Apropos of the Union Life inquiry, one of the questions as yet unanswered is, Who goes to jail?

**STAGE SETTING**

The Toronto Harbor Board's alternative transportation scheme was a well-guarded secret. The chief mistake is that it was not hung on Mayor Hocken's Christmas tree, with the Harbor Board as Santa Claus, Home Smith as the smiling guardian, Thomas Church meantime standing by, crying insistently for the little toy trumpet near the yellow candle at the top.

**BEFORE AND AGAIN**

In 1907 and 1908, Canada was in the throes of trade quietness and tight money. In 1909, came substantial relief which continued through 1910 and 1911 and 1912. In 1913, the economic pendulum took a backward swing. It may be towards the end of 1914 before the country is gleefully rubbing palms again. Then the glad days will come once more, during 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918. Perhaps in 1919 and 1920 slack times may prevail again. If not, then a year sooner or later, for they must come. Canada should recognize the inevitability of trade depressions and financial stringencies. They come periodically. With the recognition of that fact, it may be easier to carry the embarrassment without an eternal grouch and blue ruin trimmings. Besides which, as old timers will tell, the depressions of modern times are light compared with the panics and crises of olden days. The world's financial institutions seem to have learned the knack of letting us down gently. These are consolations which we may take with the inevitable.

**SMALL CHANGE**

And, Wilson says to Huerta, says he!

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Anybody can be an optimist in good times.

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And it doesn't help matters to call them short-term Williams.

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The financial dyspeptics will not let us even give a faint cheer at Montreal's success in London.

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"London's cheerful week end," says market report, indicating that the bears are not kicking so much.

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Montreal paper in a few lines spelled Sir Thomas Tait—Tait, Ttit and Tail, a penalty for a simple name.

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It seems to be established that in tight money times, even if accounts are not paid, one can auto, hobble and tango.

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Said the office boy, hearing of honey production in Ontario, "It's wonderful how that negro problem travels."

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Washington observatory reports that it heard the Eiffel tower clock tick. No need to go that far to hear of tick.

Four and a half tons of gold were received at Montreal last week, but as yet the soup ticket distribution idea has not been announced.

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Having done it to British Postmaster-General Samuel, now watch Sir Rodmond Roblin lick one of those stickless Canadian stamps.

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Five hundred and forty-four million eggs are in cold storage raising the cost of living. If they would only hatch, cluck and crow under the window of the egg combine!

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Even the brightest commercial promises among the rising generation will have misgivings about Ottawa trade report from Melbourne regarding a new tanning material.

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Arctic ptarmigan having arrived at Prince Albert, severe winter is predicted. Meantime, at the end of November, Port Arthur reports residents enjoying balmy breezes via verandah.

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These are days when the gentlemen who give the impression that they move from one point to another in tissue paper and cardboard box, have to don overalls and get acquainted with work.

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Letter comes to *The Monetary Times* from Mexico City asking for names of those interested in orange imports. It is good to know that its bitter brother fruit is not the only Mexican export.

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Hon. Louis Coderre, minister of mines, has decided not to allow prehistoric remains to be exported from Canada. So we will have to stand the same old supply and style of Ottawa bluebooks.

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Another British exhibition train for Canada is announced. If the idea keeps going, our transcontinental expresses will spend most of their time on sidings watching the exhibition trains go by.

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Sir William Van Horne says that corporations have "bigger, cleaner, whiter souls than any individual walking on the earth to-day." All the same, we are not sure that we like the corporation soul kiss.

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As consolation in these tight money times, consider the poet who says "Whereunto is money good? Who has it, wants not hardihood; Who has it not, has trouble and care; Who has had it, has despair."

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Wealthy young Belgian in Toronto complains of lack of amusement in Canada. He spent some weeks in the West passing time by riding around as a cowboy. A case for Sanford Evans' pick and shovel cure.

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While waiting for tight money to back out gracefully, it is interesting to note London dispatch stating that woman's new figure is to be inverted pear shape, the change probably being due to short apple crop.

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Mrs. R. B. Potts, Hamilton, wanted to impress upon the Ontario Agricultural Association last week the importance of the back yard as a reducer in the high cost of living—which is a change from its use as a factor in the low cost of gossip.