

## The Toronto World

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## WHAT THE TELEPHONE QUESTION INVOLVES

Public ownership wins converts everywhere except in the Dominion cabinet. This is not surprising since it is entirely a democratic principle. In Britain where its practical operation has been most thoroughly tried it is a cardinal plank in the platform of the Liberal party. The imperial government conducts the telegraph service certified by Mr. Aylesworth to be of exceptional excellence—it will in 1911 take over the telephone service, and already Mr. Henniker Heaton, the postoffice reformer, has visions of a rate somewhere about 25 cents a week. In other European countries where government ownership and operation prevails, the result has been to give the people better and cheaper facilities. That result would equally follow in Canada, were the Dominion government what it professes to be and what its apologists are never tired of assuring the people it really is.

Proof is already forthcoming that in the matter of nationalizing the telephone service the same force is to be repeated which served its purpose passing well in the northwest educational controversy. The citizens of Canada will again be told that loyalty to the principles of the Reform party is of no account when it may possibly involve the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government. According to the sacrifice of public rights must be condoned, and the pledging of Canada's future for the benefit of capitalist interests must be homologated, rather than incur the risk of the transfer of the reins of government to other hands. These specious appeals to the worst elements of party spirit have hitherto served their turn. Will they continue to do it, now that a question so close to the convenience and welfare of the community as that of the telephone service is, has come up for disposal by parliament?

It is now as clear as noon-day that the real reason of Sir William Mulock's retirement was the rejection by his colleagues of his policy for nationalization of the telephone and telegraph services. There is no reason to doubt that the late postmaster-general was a convinced supporter of this policy—indeed the only upholder of it in the cabinet. So long as his friendship for government ownership was purely platonic it was tolerated by the ministry as a politic method of conciliating public ownership men who also happened to be Liberals. But when Sir William Mulock proceeded to carry his convictions to the point of enquiry by a parliamentary committee as a preliminary to legislative action he became objectionable and was quietly retired on a convenient fiction. His committee died when he departed, and the government proceeded to prepare a bill confirming private ownership and management of the telephone service—sweetening the dose with government control of rates and the concession of a right to independent lines of connection with other systems and of access to railway stations.

This trivial product of the ministerial mind will no doubt be followed by the blessing of the application by the Bell Telephone Company for power to add largely to its capital. When that is done the difficulty of getting rid of the practical monopoly it enjoys will be correspondingly increased, more especially if the additional capital is not represented by a substantial equivalent. The simple fact is that the Dominion cabinet, true to its capitalist proclivities, is determined to set back the cause of public ownership or at least harder to accomplish. Yet it is certain that no question more seriously concerns the future of Canada or is receiving so wide and general support. It is right here that the government's party organs take up the strain. Most of them profess to believe in public ownership and operation of monopolies—some of them with superabundance of finesse proffer mild deprecatory criticism of the govern-

ment policy, but to rouse and sustain such a volume of public opinion as would compel reconsideration—perhaps the thought! Party right or wrong is the motto no matter how much principles are violated or public interests suffer.

Municipalities everywhere are joining to support the demand made by Manitoba for the right to take over the provincial telephone systems. If, as is now probable, the request is turned down, what will the provinces do? Clearly issues will be raised of grave importance, and it may be necessary for the provinces, which favor public ownership of telephones, to vindicate their autonomy in regard to the control of their own services. Provincial rights have already been repeatedly infringed by the action of the federal government, and in the higher politics of the country nothing is more deserving of attention than the necessity for resisting to the utmost any invasion of what has been guaranteed by the constitution. The only effectual mode of protest is the creation of a strong, independent body of public opinion, which will disregard the claims of party when these conflict with principles essential for the progress and stability of the nation.

## CONSTITUTIONAL STORM IN NATAL

An event has happened in imperial administration such as would have been considered impossible a few years ago. The danger point has been passed, but the situation that was created was full of peril.

The government of Natal has resigned because Downing-street interfered with the execution of a gordon Kaffir. South Africa was agitated; Downing-street was in trouble, and the Conservatives of London talked as angrily against their opponents as they were wont to do during the Boer War.

It is one of the ironies of politics that Conservative parties should be compelled by the logic of events to do things which are chiefly in keeping with Liberal tradition, and that Liberals are forced into taking attitudes which are fundamental principles.

The Liberal party in England has always upheld the doctrine that you can not interfere with a self-governing colony without endangering the prestige and stability of the imperial authority. South Africa is a land of contradictions and paradoxes. Above all is the grave of great reputations. Above all is the grave of the King's dominions beyond the seas it is that in which the opinions of men newly arrived from "home" undergo the greatest change. In nothing is this more true than in the relations of white men to colored.

The facts are not pleasing to any citizen of the empire who glories in the magnificent reputation for fair play to inferior races on which the empire's claim to pre-eminence among the civilizing forces of the world is based.

There was a time when a considerable part of the justification of the Boer War was rested upon the contention that the fight was for better treatment of the blacks, which would have its fruit in a policy of greater freedom, greater education, more rapid appreciation of the privileges of citizenship on the part of the Kaffir than would ever be possible under the old republics. But you cannot visit South Africa without being seized of the fact that in their attitude to the black population there is nothing to choose between the Dutchman and the Britisher.

People are apt to think that the negro problem in South Africa is somewhat similar to what it is in the Southern States. Nothing is further from the fact. To the American negro English is his mother tongue. He is accustomed to clothes, even as the white man is, and the appurtenances of civilization have always been as familiar to his eyes as the sky above him or the earth beneath his feet.

It is not so on the Karoo and the desolate veldt. There you see the black man almost in his pristine barbarism—often nearly naked and never ashamed. His white superiors make a point of preventing him learning to speak the English or Dutch languages. It is a sign of his servitude that he must speak his own language. It is considered a duty to civilization that white men should learn the Kaffir language, as a means of keeping up the understanding that there is a great gulf fixed between the two races.

## HOW TROUBLE AROSE

In 1903, when Lord Milner was high commissioner, he, at Johannesburg, opened the first municipal congress which was held in the conquered territories. Dealing with the right to vote in municipal elections, he declared his belief that civilization and not color should be the test of citizenship—that is to say, where a black man or a Hindoo could read and write, and possessed the necessary property qualification, his name should appear on the register of voters.

Lord Milner's views were not endorsed by a single leading newspaper in Africa; and it was a proof of his courage and independence that he expressed the opinion he did, knowing that he would be in a woful minority concerning it.

The difficulty of the color problem is therefore as big as the country itself, and may any day lead to even worse complications than that which arose by the resignation of the Natal government. Whatever may be the condition of the African negro, he, as a subject of the King, has the same right before the law as a white citizen. In Natal,

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HIGHEST AWARD, ST. LOUIS, 1904.

where he is eight times as numerous as the white man, justice is meted out to him in separate courts, which are constituted with the same dignity and authority as the courts which deal with Europeans' affairs. Unless the reputation of the empire is to be permanently lowered, the respect for the regular administration of the law must be maintained in Natal. In Cape Colony, in the Transvaal, in Rhodesia, and, indeed, in every place where the Union Jack flies, irrespective of the skin color of those who owe allegiance to, and are entitled to protection from, the imperial sovereignty.

The facts are not denied, on which the Liberal government took the extreme course which looks very like coercion of a self-governing colony. On Feb. 8 a police party was collecting the native poll-tax near Byrne, in the Richmond district of Natal. A collision occurred, during which a sub-inspector and a trooper were killed. Twenty natives were arrested and court-martialed. Twelve were sentenced to be shot by the court, which was composed of militia officers. The sentence was confirmed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, the hanging apparently was to be substituted for shooting.

Opposition to what was done was raised in Natal on the ground that martial law had not been proclaimed when the court-martial was held, and that, therefore, military officers had no right to take the civil law into their own hands.

Finally the Secretary for the Colonies cabled that the execution was to be suspended, whereupon the government resigned.

Yesterday Lord Elgin announced that exchange of cables with the Natal authorities had cleared away misconception; and that the colony would take its own course, which being interpreted means that the condemned Kaffirs will be tried in the regular way.

All is well that ends well; even though it had better not have begun.

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Oppositions that criticize without regard to principles, facts or their own previous conduct never count for much. An opposition, however weak in numbers, that stands for a good cause and cultivates consistency, can accomplish a great deal, not only in the field of legislation and administration, but in the political education of the community. But an opposition living from hand to mouth, preaching to-day what it repudiated yesterday and confronted constantly with the spectres of its own past, raises no reputation, creates no sympathy and becomes a public laughing-stock. Into this unhappy plight Mr. Ross has led his once flourishing party and made its later condition worse than its first.

The Liberal party press, and the Liberal party organs—an authority which is one of that press and also an organ says there is, a difference—are doing their best to hold Mr. Ross up to public view as a great opposition leader. The task is a hopeless one and will remain so unless a marked change occurs in his tactical methods. He has measured himself repeatedly against the premier and has never failed to come off second best. Nothing else could be expected when of the contestants one has convictions—and back bone and the other nothing but a profusion of words and a convenient memory.

Whether Mr. Whitney is right or wrong in his political measures they are at least clear and definite. Since he has accepted to office he has advanced in public estimation by his pronounced sympathy with public rights, and he would advance still more were he to adopt even bolder ground. He is ripe for the full recognition of the right of the citizens to own and control the public franchises and services and to derive the full benefit of the natural power and other resources of the province. A thorough and progressive policy along this line would undoubtedly be warmly welcomed and command general support. The premier should apply to local bodies in the province within their own limits the same freedom to manage their own affairs which the province requires from the federal government, and should secure for the people their right to a free expression of their will at the poll and to have it carried into full effect.

## LIBERAL-LABOR SPLIT

Should a trade union be financially liable for the deeds of its responsible executive? On that question there is

Experience is the best teacher.  
Housekeepers, who have tried them all, say WINDSOR TABLE SALT is the perfect table salt.

a split between the Campbell-Banner man government, the Labor party and some of the advanced Liberals in the house of commons.

Some years ago there was a strike on the Taff Vale Railway—a small line in South Wales. The directors held that loss was illegally inflicted upon the company thru the action of the railwaymen's union. They successfully sued for damages, and the verdict was upheld by the house of lords. It had always been assumed that trade unions were immune from attack for supporting strikes. The Taff Vale decision destroyed the idea, and trade unionists have ever since been demanding that the law should indubitably be put on the basis where it was supposed to be when the Taff Vale Railway was poking along in peaceful obscurity.

The Liberal party was pledged to redress the union grievance, and on Wednesday night the attorney-general brought in a trades disputes bill, which so far, has only engendered disputes between those who were expected to be its whole-hearted supporters. The third clause makes it possible for labor unions to be sued for damages for acts of their governing bodies. The labor members will not have it at any price. The government declares against special privileges for the proletariat and there is the dickens to pay.

In The Daily News just to hand is an entertaining article by one of the young M.P.'s new to the house on his parliamentary experience. He complains that the first month had been dull, and that things were always going to be done to-morrow. To-morrow has come to the government, and the signs portend a pretty long day.

## THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW

The automobile show, which opens in Toronto to-day, marks an epoch in mechanical progress in Canada.

Automobiles—including therein motor vehicles of all kinds—have undoubtedly come to stay. Curiously enough in regard to these, America has lagged behind Europe, and is only now beginning to make up the lost way. Probably this is due to the enterprise shown in the establishment of electric railroads whose presence everywhere has retarded the adaptation of motor vehicles for the purposes of street and road transportation. On the other hand in old world centres such as London, England, where street railroads are not always possible, the motor car has been welcomed as a superior in speed and cheaper in cost of working to the horse omnibus. With this in view the latter type of vehicle will have largely disappeared from the streets of London—the bus companies being now actively engaged in the work of transformation.

The display of automobiles, motor boats and kindred exhibits, in the Granite Rink, will surely be visited by thousands who have no immediate prospect of themselves owning or operating machines which, to those who are fortunate enough to possess them, have given a new zest to life.

The development of the motor industry is bound to go on apace, and the greater multiplicity of facilities offered for producing self-propelled vehicles and vessels will of itself create an ever increasing demand.

The Toronto show is not primarily or even largely, intended to accelerate the day when the farmer will count his horsepower, not by the number of occupied stalls in his stable, but by machines which do not eat at night or on Sundays. The show will accelerate that day nevertheless, for it will familiarize the general public with the prospects of motor development, and

THEY MADE THIS  
COUPLE HAPPY

Dodd's Kidney Pills Doing Good Work Around Port Arthur.

Mr. Dick Souver and Wife Both Had Kidney Troubles, and the Great Canadian Kidney Remedy Cured Them.

Port Arthur, Ont., March 30.—(Special.)—That Dodd's Kidney Pills cure the kidney ills of men and women alike has been proved time and again in this neighborhood, but it is only occasionally they get a chance to do double work in the same house. This happened in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Souver, a farmer and his wife, living about seven miles from here. In an interview Mr. Souver said: "My wife and I have used Dodd's Kidney Pills and have found them a big benefit to our health. We had a Grippe two winters and were exposed to much frost and cold. Our sleep was broken on account of urinary troubles and pain in the kidneys. We each took six boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills and now enjoy good health."

will benefit in many, who are at present indifferent to the progress of mechanical propulsion along country roads, an ambition to share in the sport and business which is in combination a special product of the twentieth century.

The World congratulates the promoters upon having got together so fine an exhibition, and wishes the utmost success to it, as well as to the British and European show which is to follow.

## WHAT POLICYHOLDERS ARE SAYING

The A.O.U.W.  
Editor World: When I sent you my letter of thanks I thought my interest in the life insurance struggle now going on was over, and so it was, so far as a personal interest in the A.O.U.W. is concerned.

The other day, however, I noticed in a letter in The World, commenting on the A.O.U.W., a statement that all such societies were doomed to failure sooner or later as a mathematical certainty. This statement of course has been made before, but for one I have always doubted it, and now, as we have positive proof in the A.O.U.W., that there is nothing at all in the statement I am induced to offer you another letter, believing the general interest in this question will warrant its publication.

As is well known, the A.O.U.W. originated on the idea that \$1 from every member for every \$1000 at every death was sufficient to meet all demands for a long time to come, if not for all time to come. After an existence of 23 years this idea has held good, as per my letter in The World of Saturday, March 17, from figures taken from tables in Canadian Workman. To-day I am prepared to go further and state that up to the time the Hunter rates came in the cost per \$1000 had not exceeded 75 cents to each member, and in that is included a waste of nearly half a million dollars on a "reserve"! Twenty-seven years of actual protection and at a cost of only 75 cents per \$1000.

This no doubt will be a little surprising to others than readers of The Canadian Workman, but there is nothing surprising about it. It is only a matter of straight business, and proves beyond a doubt that the assessment plan is the only way in which insurance can be done for what it is worth, and at once does away with any "mathematical certainty" that sooner or later it must fail!

And what a record for future fraternal societies to offer to the public, with no possibility of its being disputed, and, indeed, for those now going on "reserve"! The Woodmen of the World, I see, refuse to adopt the Hunter rates. That is no wisdom, and shows that its members are thinking and would profit by the mistake of the A.O.U.W.

## COMMISSION MISSES ISSUE

Editor World: I am getting tired of the insurance commission already. There seems to be a grievous misunderstanding of the matters which affect shareholders and policyholders, respectively.

Who cares for the shareholders? They can and do protect themselves in the same way as stockholders in other companies. The policyholders find all the money with which the business has been done for themselves and seeking boards of directors, and general managers.

Are not the policyholders of the Canada Life at this moment paying Mr. W. H. Nesbitt to hold a watch-brief in the interest of the shareholders? Every cent paid to him comes from profits due to policyholders. But we did not put him there, and don't want him there.

Till the fact that interests of the policyholders and of the shareholders are not only different, but antagonistic is more thoroughly recognized, the commission is not earning running expenses.

The state should buy out the shareholders of a certain investment that it is an existing policyholder benefited by the insane expenditure incurred in increasing the numbers of the insured over and above the number which would be required in simple mutualization.

Mr. Fitzgerald is reported to have said of a certain investment that it would have been all right if first approved of by the shareholders. That, to my mind, is a key to the fallacy of the whole inquiry. The shareholders, except as regards booming their own company as competitors for patronage, don't care a straw for the real beneficiaries of the insurance business.

The law should limit the interest that any share in a life insurance company can draw and seven per cent. would be a very generous limit.

## CONDITION OF A. O. U. W.

Editor World: Mr. W. S. B. Lawrie uses rather strong language in reply to mine of a few days ago. He also makes some misstatements which I beg to be allowed to correct. Mr. Lawrie states that "as is well known, all line companies charge precisely the same rates for the same kinds of protection." This is simply not the case, as may be ascertained by reference to rate books of the different companies.

Another misstatement is, that a non-participating policy has no surrender value. A policy of this kind has the same surrender value as a corresponding profit policy.

Mr. Lawrie says that the average annual payment of those who died during February was about \$42, for about \$2000. But, allowing that the whole membership of the A. O. U. W. is paying an average of \$42 per annum for \$2000 certificates, the society will still have a big shortage when it comes to settle up, for \$42 a year for 18 years (which Mr. Lawrie says is the average length of membership), at five per cent. compound interest, is less than \$1050. Where is the other \$950, to say nothing of the death claims coming from? Will Mr. Lawrie kindly answer this?

The Monetary Times, in an article printed last September, shows that the cost to the members of the A. O. U. W. Grand Lodge, Toronto, has increased from \$10.30 in 1880, to \$15.50 in 1904 (over 50 per cent), for each \$1000 certificate and that, in spite of the fact that the membership has doubled in that time. I notice, however, that the membership declined by almost 2000 in 1904 and I understand that there was a further loss of 800 members for the first six months of 1905. The same state of af-

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## A PRICE HINT? CERTAINLY

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## Announcements

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(1) This Company does NOT write foreign business. It does NOT seek business outside British North America and Newfoundland.  
(2) It does NOT invest in stocks or in foreign securities of any kind, all its securities are legitimate, first-class and productive.  
(3) It does NOT deal in Real Estate and does NOT own any palatial branch office buildings.  
(4) It does NOT deposit in Trust Companies, and its officers do NOT hold stock in any subsidiary Trust or Deposit Company.

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## OSGOODE HALL.

Judgments handed out yesterday, March 30:  
Trial court—Toronto—Vokes v. G.T.M. Mulock, C.J.

Master's chambers—Cartwright, master, at 11 a.m.  
Toronto non-jury sittings—Peremptory list for Tuesday, April 3, at 11 a.m.—Playfair v. Turner, Sparrow v. Sheridan, Lumness v. Walkerville, Tuckett v. Davidson, Tuckett v. Ferroll, Woods v. Fader-Klees v. Dominion Coat & Apron Co.

## REFLECTIONS.

You can never borrow any money from a man that you have tried to argue with.—New York Press.  
Often a man casts a shadow over his charitable acts by talking about them.—Chicago News.

It generally takes a woman hours to assume a negligee appearance.—New York Times.  
A man could go a lot of good in the world by stopping doing the bad things that he does.—New York Press.

And the man who whistles when he is sad is wiser than the one who weeps.—Chicago News.

Never jump from the frying pan until you are sure the fire is out.—New York Times.  
Degree for Dr. Ballantyne.  
Winipeg, March 30.—The degree of D.D. was conferred on Rev. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College, Toronto, at the closing of theological session of Manitoba College as an acknowledgment of his services to education.

For Coughs and Colds

There is a remedy over sixty years old—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Of course you have heard of it, probably have used it. Once in the family, it stays; and the one household remedy for coughs and colds. Ask your own doctor about it. We have no secret! We publish the formulas of all our medicines. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.