

33RD YEAR—PAGES 1 TO 14

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Sir James Shatters Retirement Rumors -:- Senators May Lose Titles

IN SPRING WEST WILL BE BACK TO GOOD TIMES

Financial Conditions Show Steady Improvement, and Money is Getting Easier

WILDCATting IN REAL ESTATE DEAD

While People Generally Are Conserving Money, Business is Not at All Bad.

(Special to The Sunday World) WINNIPEG, Dec. 13.—Financial conditions throughout the Canadian west are steadily improving. Money is gradually becoming easier, as proceeds of the splendid crop get into circulation. The general opinion among financial men is that by spring the situation will be about back to normal and money will be readily available for legitimate purposes of investment and speculation.

There is comparatively little movement in Winnipeg real estate, and similar conditions prevail thru all the western provinces. Few big deals are being recorded, and most sales are of residential property intended as homes and of inside property which will never lose anything in value. They who expected to pick great bargains in western realty this year have been disappointed for prices have held firm.

Wild Catting Dead. Financial stringency has, however, pretty effectively killed exploitation of wild cat subdivisions, which is a good thing for both the speculator and the country. Naturally payments on a good many propositions of this kind have lapsed, but holders of good property are hanging on, sure of profits eventually.

Most builders, despite the financial handicap, have been able to secure funds for their operations, and Winnipeg's building permits for the year are well past eighteen millions and not far below last year's record of twenty millions.

Alarmist stories sent east from western points dealing with hard times here are mostly exaggerated. Mayor Deacon estimates that 3000 men in Winnipeg are out of work, and it is probable that this figure will compare most favorably with the number of unemployed in any city of similar size in the country.

Mild Getting Helps. Labor is not particularly plentiful, and the feeling exists that money should be conserved wherever possible to meet possible emergencies before spring. The mild weather has meant thousands of dollars in the pockets of householders who have so far had little necessity of expenditure for coal and winter clothing. On the other hand, this same condition has meant serious loss to wholesale and retail merchants. For instance, there has been a decrease of one-third of a million dollars in the sale of furs in Winnipeg for October, November and December, as compared with the corresponding months of other years. Merchants state that they have taken measures to counteract the depression in trade by stocking largely with small and less expensive furs.

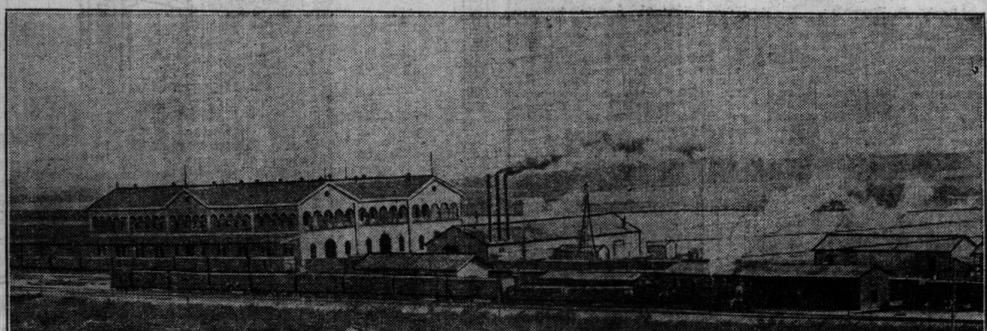
An interesting feature of the situation is that the Santa Claus fund collected by local papers is less than half the amount collected last year at similar date. Even charity feels the effects of the general tendency towards retrenchment, but the need for relief is possibly greater this year than heretofore.

Municipal financing for the most part is in good shape, and money laws at municipal elections have usually met with good reception.

Real Estate Speculation Dead. "I am much surprised to hear the stories of bad state of business being circulated in regard to Vancouver," said F. W. Peters, the general superintendent of the Canadian Pacific British Columbia division, who is in the city. Peters says that business of all kinds is good at the coast, the only depression being in real estate speculation, which he believes is dead.

Grain shipments have been large of late, thereby taking advantage of the closing days of lake navigation. In ten days, ending Thursday, the Lake Shipping Clearance Association loaded on boats and despatched 25,898,000 bushels of grain, or 2,658,500 daily, thereby constituting a record unbroken even in shorter periods. Statistics show that three big railroads have over thirty-one million bushels of grain in storage in country elevators west of Winnipeg. Of this total the Canadian Pacific has twelve million bushels of wheat and nearly six million of other grains.

ENGLAND INTERESTED IN MEXICO'S NEW WAR CENTRE



TAMPEICO CUSTOMS HOUSE, ONE OF MAIN POINTS OF ATTACK IN CONCENTRATED ASSAULT BY 4000 REBELS. Generala Villarreal and Castro are now leading 4000 Mexican rebels in a concentrated attack from various points on the City of Tampeico, Mexico, and hot fighting is in progress. Tampeico is the centre of the Mexican oil region, where Englishmen have considerable interests, and the United States armored cruisers "Chester" and "Wheeling," which are now outside the city, are ready at a moment's notice from Rear Admiral Fletcher, in command of the American fleet, to get as close to the situation as their light draught will permit. The admiral has already ordered Americans to come on board. The customs house, which is one of the main points of attack planned by the rebels, is the handsome two-story building in left background.

EARLY RESULTS MAKE DR. HANNA S. LANARK CHOICE

Perth Gives Him Large Majority, While Smiths Falls Breaks Even—Hawkes Vote Negligible.

(Special to The Sunday World) SMITHS FALLS, Dec. 13.—The first results in the byelection campaign in the Town of Perth. They were: Dr. Hanna 356 Col. Balderson 282 A. E. Hawkes 8

A beautiful day with splendid sleighing brought out one of the largest votes on record for the South Lanark three-corner by-election. Dr. Hanna, the Liberal, introduced a resolution proposing that President Wilson be authorized to invite England, France and Germany, whose monetary system is based on the gold standard, to participate, and that five delegates be appointed from the United States when any two European nations have accepted the invitation. A preamble set forth that rates of exchange between gold standard countries and the silver nations of South and Central America fluctuated violently, always to the disadvantage of the gold standard countries.

Senator Thomas contended that his resolution called for consideration in connection with the currency bill. "The currency problem in any one country cannot be satisfactorily settled without considering currency conditions throughout the world," said he.

Senator Root presented amendments to eliminate the guarantee of deposits and revise the note-issuance section to provide for a graduated tax on reserve deficiencies in order to prevent inflation. Senator Root pointed out that there was no limit on the amount of new currency which could be issued under the bill. His amendment would tax all notes issued after the gold reserve dropped below 50 per cent. It would also provide that any new notes issued after \$900,000,000 had been put out should pay a special tax of 12 per cent, and that after \$1,200,000,000 notes had been issued a tax of 5 per cent should be imposed on further issues. "This would allow the issuance of \$150,000,000 more notes than are now outstanding in the national bank note currency," said Senator Root. "And under pressure a further expansion of about \$300,000,000 if the banks found that business needed the currency badly enough to make profitable the securing of currency by the payment of the tax."

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY DISCUSS CURRENCY

Senator Thomas Urges That the United States Ask European Powers for Parity Between Gold and Silver.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—(Can. Press).—A proposal that the United States call a conference of the powers to consider a world-wide basis of parity between gold and silver was brought forward in the consideration of the administration currency bill today, when Senator Thomas, Democratic, introduced a resolution proposing that President Wilson be authorized to invite England, France and Germany, whose monetary system is based on the gold standard, to participate, and that five delegates be appointed from the United States when any two European nations have accepted the invitation. A preamble set forth that rates of exchange between gold standard countries and the silver nations of South and Central America fluctuated violently, always to the disadvantage of the gold standard countries.

MEN ORGANIZE TO HELP WOMEN GET CIVIC VOICE

Meetings for Men in Massey Hall Will Be Addressed By Leading Women Workers.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Men's Equal Suffrage League, held Saturday afternoon at McConeky's, preparations were made for a large campaign to be held in connection with the coming elections in an effort to have the women's referendum passed, which, if carried, will give the married women of Toronto the right to vote and equal rights with men in all municipal affairs.

Several mass meetings have been arranged to take place shortly, when many prominent women suffrage workers and civic officials will address the people on the suffrage question. On Monday evening, Dec. 15, a mass meeting will be held in Association Hall, when Mayor Hecken, the controllers, James Simpson, representing the various labor organizations in the city, and representatives of all the religious denominations in the city will speak.

Another meeting for men only will be held in the course of a few days at Massey Hall, when the speakers will be wholly composed of women workers. It is expected that large crowds will attend both these meetings, as a large amount of interest is already being taken in the question by hundreds of men and women. In an effort to convince the ratepayers and residents of Toronto, literature will be distributed throughout the city, explaining what the women want and why they should get it.

RETURNING TO TAKE UP REINS THIS SESSION

Sir James Whitney Will Be Back Early in Week From Washington, Where He Has Been Studying Problems

Sir James Whitney returns to the seat of government at Queen's Park early in the week. Word to this effect has been received at his home, together with the news that the trip thru the southern states has proved very beneficial to his health.

PICKPOCKET IN FINE RAIMENT IS CAUGHT AT WORK

Detective Watched William Aldous, Who Was Exceedingly Well Dressed, Walk Without the Law.

Dressed in the very latest mode, and wearing a \$200 fur coat, William Aldous, age 40, residing recently at 124 Mutual street, and at present in jail, strolled thru Eaton's on Saturday afternoon with very profitable results until he became careless and was escorted to the detective office by Detective Black, charged with pocket picking.

The detective noticed the arrival of the prosperous-looking person and was admiring his well-cut wardrobe from a distance, when he also noticed something else, that something else being the gentleman's evident fascination for ladies with large overcoat pockets and chateaux. The officer then proceeded to follow him for a while and was rewarded by seeing him push into a crowd of bargain hunters and quietly open a chateaux, which proved to be empty. He then walked away without attracting any attention and made his way to the candy counter, where he saw Miss Pearl White of 1073 Dovercourt road change a \$5 bill and put it in her chateaux. While the young lady was waiting for her parcel he quietly abstracted the change, along with several bills, and started away. The officer, however, had seen every move, and stepped up and placed him under arrest.

He was taken to the detective office and searched, and the missing money was found on him. He is said to be a well-known pickpocket with a long list of previous convictions against him, and will appear on Monday morning.

LIBERAL MAJORITY IN SENATE MAY BE REDUCED BY UNSEATING OF ABSENTEES

Rumored Government Will Follow Its Precedent of Last Year — Reported Senator Cox of Toronto is Affected.

LOSE TITLE IF SEAT IS TAKEN AWAY

(Special to The Sunday World) OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—It is rumored that the Liberal majority in the senate may be further reduced when parliament opens by declaring vacant the places of several senators who were not in attendance at the last two sessions of parliament. Section 31 of the B. N. Act provides that "the place of a senator shall become vacant if for two consecutive sessions of parliament he fails to give his attendance in the senate."

It will be remembered that at the last session upon motion of Hon. Mr. Loughheed, the government leader in the senate, the seat of Hon. Dr. Michael Sullivan of Kingston was declared vacant. It occasioned some surprise at the time, as Dr. Sullivan had been appointed many years ago by Sir John Macdonald, was disabled by his health from attending to his senatorial duties, and no action was requested by the Liberal members of the senate.

It is now seen that the government, by establishing the precedent in the case of one of its own supporters, can now rigorously insist upon the mandate of the constitution being enforced against senators who sit to the left of the speaker.

While considerable reserve is being maintained as to the senators in default, it is currently reported that the seat of Hon. George A. Cox, a senator from Toronto, will be declared vacant for non-attendance during the last two sessions of parliament.

Must Drop Title. A curious announcement in the Canada Gazette a week or two ago is being discussed in relation to the prospective vacation of senatorial seats. That announcement was to the effect that a new table of precedents had been promulgated by the colonial office for Canada. A careful comparison of the new table with the old shows only one change, namely that the title of honorable hereafter conferred on a senator for life, will hereafter be borne only by senators while members of the senate. Senators will not be entitled to the prefix "Honorable" hereafter.

SIR WILLIAM WILL NOT COMPETE WITH ANY KIND OF LINE

We Will Not Spend Money in Next Few Years to Give Better Service, He Says.

Sir William Mackenzie has returned from a couple of months' trip to Europe and freely replied to interrogations of newspapers concerning the projected clean-up of the franchisees by the city. "That's all rot," he replied when asked if the Toronto Railway Company would take any possible advantage to operate above or below ground in the city limits after selling out the street railway system to the city. "We are tired of the troubles of the transportation system now, and are not looking for more. We are on an expiring franchise with just a few years to run. We have rights only in the centre of the city, as it were. The city is not at all like it was twenty years ago. We are in the centre now. It cannot be expected that money will be spent in the next few years to give a service such as the city anticipates—that is, the very best service. The outside districts are not served at the present time."

Pay Less for Capital. In answer to a question as to how the city could run the road as advantageously as the company at a \$22,000,000 capital charge, Sir William pointed out that the city would only be paying 4 1/2 per cent for the money, while the company, which paid its shareholders 8 per cent for a long time, is paying 9 per cent.

As to the agreement, Sir William said that if it was drawn up in accordance with the understanding he had with the mayor it would be submitted to the shareholders with the recommendation of the directors that it be accepted. Asked if the city could make a tube system pay, Sir William replied: "The tube system which does local traffic would be almost as slow as a surface line, unless it was a four-track tube, and that would be very costly." The money market in Europe, he said, was rather blue. The financial situation is clearing, however, and is on the improvement, and he had obtained \$7,500,000 in England for general purposes.

STEER CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER BANQUETED

BRANDON, Man., Dec. 13.—(Can. Press).—J. D. McGregor, twice winner of the world's steer championship at the International Stock Show at Chicago, was the guest of honor at a banquet last night, attended by the lieutenant-governors of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, many cabinet ministers and other notables.

SUNDAY WEATHER

Fair and mild.

SEES SAT EATS 50c

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WEEK

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