

## THE HAMILTON TIMES

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1909.

## RUSSIAN INJUSTICE.

The Hydro organ pretends to regard the Socialistic power scheme as not unfair to private capital and private citizens' rights. Let us see.

When the promoters of the private line from Niagara to Toronto sought a charter, the enterprise was properly regarded as one fraught with great danger to the community through which the line was to run. It was pointed out that it was to carry current at 60,000 volts, and they were compelled to purchase a broad right of way and to fence it in for public protection; and they remain liable for all damages which may result from the operation of the line.

Now is the Hydro Commission held to similar precautions and liabilities?

Very much, no. A special act has been passed to relieve it therefrom! The Commission is not required to buy a right of way. It is not required to fence in its line. It is not held to the ordinary law as to expropriation, but is authorized to enter and use any man's land, possessing itself of "easements," which it may extend as long as it will, and without caring whether the owner likes or not. It is empowered to run over or along any man's land, or over or along any highway.

Danger? Oh, yes! There is plenty of danger. If a 60,000-volt line was dangerous, the Hydro 110,000-volt line will be vastly more dangerous.

But what needs the Commission care? By the same act by which Whitney gave the Commission power to trespass on and appropriate for as long as it likes any man's property, and to run along the highways, unprotected, he shut the courts of justice against the citizen who may be injured by the commission's actions or by the operation of its line! No matter what damages the commission's scheme may cause to private citizens, it cannot be sued. There is no recourse against it. No man can take it into court and demand justice!

Is it not very clear that the man or newspaper that alleges that such a scheme is fair toward private capital and private citizens is very ignorant or very dishonest?

## THE COBALT FIRE.

The serious fire which visited Cobalt yesterday was not so destructive as first reports indicated. The business quarter of the town appears to have escaped, but a large portion of the residential quarter has been wiped out, leaving probably 2,000 people homeless and in need of temporary assistance, which is being promptly rendered by the co-operation of the Dominion and Provincial Governments. An emergency supply of food has also been sent by the city of Toronto, and there is no fear that the needy will suffer.

Cobalt has been a fire trap. It was a place of rapid growth and ill regulated construction. With a population of nearly 5,000 it has no adequate water supply or fire protection service. Its wooden buildings invited to conflagration. From time to time warnings were sounded, and it was urged that some of the wealth which it furnished to the Province should be used to provide protection against fire; but nothing was done. Perhaps now that an illustration of the consequences of neglect has been furnished the authorities may take action. If, in the rebuilding of the burned district, regulations tending to secure better results are enforced, some good may follow the fire. There is reason for thankfulness that the fatalities of the conflagration were not more numerous. Cobalt will doubtless, in a few months, be rebuilt on a better plan, and the disaster of yesterday will be but a memory.

## OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Canada's old age annuities scheme is an exceedingly liberal and well conceived one, and will long serve as a memorial of Sir Richard Cartwright, to whom it is owed. It is founded on sound principles and it avoids the demoralizing effects which flow from doing out charity by the state at the public expense. It is no mere pension scheme which tends to unman and degrade its recipients. It is an incentive to forethought and thrift, an inspirer of confidence, an encouragement to industry. The service which the Government performs is to handle the funds, thus guaranteeing their safety and their wise investment.

The old age pension bill, now before the French Senate, is, in some respects, similar to the German pension bill, which provides for taxing employers and employed to the extent of \$80,000,000 a year, as their part of the contribution to the pension fund. The proposed tax on laborers would be 60 cents per year for those between fifteen and eighteen years of age, and then \$1.20 up to 65 years. This would give the State only \$12,500,000 annually instead of the \$80,000,000 which it needs. The balance of the fund required will be collected from taxation upon employers and the general public. The pension to be given under the Act will be about 14c a day. The Socialists regard this as a mere trifle, but there are many of the Deputies and Senators who doubt the wisdom of even the smallest step taken.

Senator Cuvinnot very ably argued that the best thing which can be done for old age is to develop among the young and middle-aged habits of thrift and foresight. The French people are famous for their thrift, and he thinks that it is a mistake to cultivate a leaning upon Government benevolence. He doubts

that it is the business of the State at all, and contends that individual effort should be stimulated and encouraged. He thinks that old age is likely to be happy and comfortable where the family has been united, industrious and thrifty. The Senator reasons along correct lines. Anything that tends to weaken the personal independence and self-respect of the individual injures his moral fibre, and is an evil to the nation. Sir Richard Cartwright had a clear view of this when he planned the old age annuities scheme adopted by Canada. It may do much to head off demands for socialistic schemes which can help the aged only at the expense of the Canadian character.

## WORDS SPOKEN IN TIME.

The paradoxical statements made by Lord Rosebery in his recent speech are naturally being much commented upon. His lordship said that there is, at present, a total absence in Europe of any of the questions which ordinarily lead to war. At the same time, he says, there never was in the history of the world such a tendency to it, or such tremendous preparations therefor. In dealing with these statements, Professor Goldwin Smith suggests that the simple explanation of the mystery seems to be an artificial agitation, got up partly in political, partly in military, partly in commercial quarters, and calling for special watchfulness on the part of the sane and more peace-loving community. There is some ground for believing that interested parties—interested because of political party necessities—have had not a little to do with working up this war talk. If those seeking personal preferment and profit by cultivating war sentiment, and those who seek to make political party capital by the same means, could be dealt with as they deserve, the cause of peace and goodwill would be greatly served. Prof. Goldwin Smith remarks that "when the press of the Empire is called together in London to be worked over the wine-cup to Imperialist and Militarist enthusiasm, there is unquestionably war in the air; and the peace-loving part of the community is called upon for special vigilance." Fortunately the Press Conference was not without representatives who had the ability and courage to frankly voice Canadian sentiment on these matters. Mr. J. S. Brierley, of the Montreal Herald, and Mr. J. A. Macdonald, of the Globe, deserve the thanks of all true Canadians for their fearless and frank presentation of the Canadian attitude. As the Toronto Sun says, "To the editorial chief of the Liberal organ in Montreal, as well as to the editorial chief of the Liberal organ in Toronto this country is indebted for no small service and one rendered under peculiarly trying circumstances. It is never an easy thing to state an unpleasant fact to a generous host, and the hosts on whom the entertainment of the colonial press delegates has fallen have been more than generous." In the end, however, these gentlemen will be recognized as having done a real Empire service, and one tending to prevent misunderstandings and to facilitate the work of consolidating British interests throughout the world. And they have increased the respect of the British people for Canada.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The United States Senate has adopted the Corporation Income Tax recommended by President Taft. Only three Democrats past their votes against it.

Carnegie has already founded over 1,800 libraries at a cost of \$51,596,943. We in Canada have benefited by 86 of these buildings, costing \$2,059,415.

No; Canada will not set out to garish the West Indies. We need our young men to till our vast fertile areas and to produce goods for our growing population.

Some of those Hydro aldermen after getting the city into a muddle are very loath to spare a few minutes to protect its interests. For whom are they sitting in the council?

The German Government has just ordered 1,200 stamp-vending machines to be placed in the post offices of the country. The United States Government is also rapidly introducing the machine salesman.

Secretary Foster, of the School Board, is in luck, his salary being increased from \$1,400 to \$1,800, with automatic yearly increases up to \$2,200. That places him on a level with the City Treasurer in the matter of remuneration.

The Sanford avenue fire station was long needed. It is to be hoped that the staff will not have much active work to do; but if the men are required, they can reach the eastern section at a great saving of time over what was possible in the past. And in fire fighting time is money.

The daring bank robbery at Rainy River recalls the escapades of Jesse James and his gang. The cutting of the wires leading from the town indicates careful preparation for the deed by which the desperadoes secured \$10,000. The task before the officers of the law is a difficult one, as the locality and the season are favorable for their escape in the northern woods.

The South African Confederation will have an area of about 500,000 square miles and a population of about 5,000,000, about 20 per cent of which is white. It will begin business with a Parlia-

ment of 121 members, as follows: Cape Colony, 51; Transvaal, 36; Orange Province, 17; Natal, 17.

Senator Flint, of California, attempts to excuse the tax upon corporations' earnings, recommended by President Taft, by saying: "It is based on the privilege of doing business." A great many people were under the impression that doing business was a right under the United States constitution.

The Herald now tries to unload its falsehoods about the Mayor upon an unknown "citizen" whose name is withheld, but who, "if absolutely necessary," would make affidavit in support of the Mayor's defamer! Great, isn't it? Would it not be more manly to admit the falsehood and apologize for uttering it?

The Power Committee is having some difficulty in selecting a lawyer to whom to pay some more good Hamilton money for trying to place us in Hydro-Electric Commission fetters. There have been some complaints because Lobbs, the Commission's lawyer, has been interesting himself in the matter. But why not pay the expert fees to Lobbs as well as any other lawyer for the Hydro scheme?

The Mayor of New York City has fired the commissioner of police for insubordination. The Mayor has an idea that even the commissioner of police should not be above the law, but should yield cheerful obedience to it. It is indeed a serious matter when any officials are free to defy the law. Yet Whitney closes the courts to private citizens who seek redress against the Hydro-Electric Commission!

Mr. W. A. Holton contends that a chauffeur who takes his employer's automobile without his permission or sanction should be held guilty of a criminal offence. We fancy that an employee who against his master's commands takes out his automobile and converts it for the time being to his own use brings himself within the criminal law as it now stands. If not, it should not be hard to give automobile owners that reasonable protection.

Toronto license commissioners have granted licenses to two hotels in the recently annexed district on the distinct understanding that they are not to be transferable, and will not, therefore, have a speculative value. As a matter of fact, no liquor license is transferable

without the consent of the commissioners, and therefore, any speculative value which a license may have is given to it by them. Why should any license granted for a year be given a speculative value beyond that term? The practice is evil, and only evil.

The Philadelphia Record says that "the cost of maintenance of a fully armed, munitioned, victualled and manned war vessel is something staggering." It proposes that they be kept in cold storage at small expense until they are needed, thus saving hundreds of millions of dollars, and leaving the officers and men free to earn an honest living at useful labor. But, softly, there! If the holders of fat jobs had to work for a living at useful labor, what incentive would there be for them to co-operate with warship builders and other contractors in agitating for constantly enlarging fleets?

The New York Journal of Commerce points out the fact that there is danger in the minimum and maximum tariff plans which are being considered by the United States Congress. Australia is a British country, and it furnishes about 200,000,000 pounds of the finest wools used in the United States. It asks what would be the effect of an Australian discrimination against the United States in the matter of wools? Or how could the United States afford to attempt to punish Australia by its maximum tariff legislation? The Payne-Aldrich retaliatory tariff scheme is intended to be used for purposes of coercion. The Journal of Commerce says it should be stricken out entirely.

Winnipeg recently voted on by-laws involving the expenditure of \$600,000. Only 664 of the 15,000 municipal electors took the trouble to express their opinion of the polls. Mayor Sanford Evans expresses regret at the "pronounced lethargy" of the ratepayers, and he adds that "citizens who do not care enough to go to the polls on an occasion of this kind should not be able in this manner to defeat the by-laws that are brought out." It is peculiar that in such money matters the ratepayers should be so neglectful of their interests. The apathy with which the recent power vote was regarded in this city goes to show the great danger to which Mayor Evans calls attention. It places the taxpayers

at the mercy of little self-seeking cabals.

The anti-Hamilton power organ says those who do not support the Hydro scheme seek to "discredit it as a socialistic scheme hostile to private enterprise and interfering tyrannically and unjustly with vested interests."

If it were not just such a scheme why should Whitney resort to depriving the private citizens of the right to appeal to the courts of justice against the Commission's doings? Why should he pass extraordinary legislation to bind municipalities to contracts into which they never entered? That "scheme" which cannot bear the scrutiny of the courts of justice, and which requires that the hands of the people it affects must be bound by arbitrary special acts is not one to appeal to honest men.

Oil and gold have been found in the Province of Saskatchewan. This would be very good news to the people of Saskatchewan were it not for the fact that the Dominion, and not the Provincial, Government owns and controls the Crown lands in the Province. The western people are now likely to pay dearly for their subservience to Laurierism—Spectator.

Well, in any event, the oil and gold, if found on the public lands, will belong to the public. But what of the many millions of acres which the Tories gave away to railway companies, land companies and other groups of party favorites? They gave this land and all the wealth it might contain to the grantees. Now those people sell the land at good prices, but reserve for the settlers all minerals, oil, etc., which may be discovered on them! But that was all right, of course, because it was not "Laurierism!"

## Our Exchanges

WHERE?  
(London Free Press.)  
After all, what would the women's council accomplish without the newspapers they berate?

JUST LIKE OTTAWA.  
(Toronto Telegram.)  
Cobalt is becoming the Ottawa of the north in its tendency to figure as the scene of great fires.

WAR CANOES.  
(Toronto Globe.)  
The panic-stricken gentleman who declares that Canada has not a war vessel

on the great lakes should read the sporting columns and learn that Toronto alone has seven war canoes. They are a good deal swifter and probably no more dangerous to their occupants than Uncle Sam's obsolete gunboats.

WHAT OF THE CARPET?  
(Toronto Star.)  
Oil may lay the dust all right, and make the streets fine, but what will oil do to the hall carpets?

KEEPS THEM GUESSING.  
(St. John Sun.)  
Longboat's turn this time. Wonder how the managers and runners arrange these things, by regular alternation or by tossing a cent. It looks crooked, anyway.

RADCLIFFE.  
(Windsor Record.)  
Radcliffe should not give way to "nerves." His work is purely professional. He simply pulls the rope for other people—the only people, if any, whose "nerves" should be affected, are the people on whose behalf Radcliffe kills.

EFFECTS OF TALK.  
(Buffalo News.)  
The more there is talk of the union of Canada and the United States the less progress is made toward it. The safer way is to presume that Providence means the two nations to stimulate each other in friendly rivalry for even a people may wax too fat and do little but kick.

GERMANY'S SITUATION.  
(Goldwin Smith.)  
The financial state of Germany is far from being such that she can well afford to rush into war, and she would certainly, if she were soon to be rushing into war, not find it easy to borrow. Commercially jealous of Great Britain she may be; but commercial jealousy must have reached a great pitch before it can prompt to a most dangerous war.

JAIL HIM.  
(Stratford Beacon.)  
A boy nine years old was found drunk on the streets of Chatham, and information has been laid charging a barkeeper with supplying the boy with intoxicating liquor. If the offence is proven the utmost fine the law prescribes should be imposed, in fact, a fine is an altogether inadequate punishment for such a fiendish offence.

THE FURNACE.  
(Peterboro Examiner.)  
Here is a "tip" to the householder, though the fire in your furnace has not long been out. Do you realize that your furnace is something like yourself—that it deteriorates more rapidly when idle than when moderately employed. Your cellar may be damp. If your furnace has not been thoroughly cleaned—if ashes are left in the heater and soot in the flues; they will hold dampness which will corrode and pit the

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iron surfaces of grates, firepots and pipes, and produce deterioration. If your furnace has not been thoroughly cleaned, have it down at once, and, at any rate, don't fail to light an occasional fire of wood refuse of any kind so dry out the pipes and furnace interior, and air the house—especially after a rain. It is to be hoped that this advice will be speedily rendered more timely by a good, pounding, steady downpour of rain.

## THE DOGS' LAMENT.

It's very hard to suffer and be still, Our name's applied to every human ill. A "doggerel" is a rhyme that's very bad— Indeed, the very worst that's to be had. A book is "dog-eared" when its been abused. Alas, I think we're very hardly used. A man's a "dog" because he won't behave. (It makes an honest doggie rave!) A "puppy" is a fellow most uncouth— A slur upon the flower of our youth. A "hound" is a villain of the deepest dye— An insult to his dogdom's majesty. A "cur," of course, is not a shining light. Yet even he is called to bear the night. To dog one's footstepers" is, I really think, A dreadful thing, from which we dogs would shrink. A "dogma" is a hard religious school. A "dogged" person always plays the fool. And "dog days" finds us pining with the heat. We cease to blink our eyes, or lift our feet. Why—why—throw mud upon our noble name! A dog's a dog all the world the same. And all this cruelty they've far surpassed. By the dog-catchers law they now have passed.

## FROM ROVER'S STANDPOINT.

—Mrs. E. Layland, 681 King street west, city.

## To a Jersey Cow.

Here's to you, Lady, sleek and fine, True daughter of a royal line! From small black feet to dainty head A lady born, a lady bred. The quiet, mouse-eared creature you wear, Those lawn-like eyes, that timid air Of fine reserve, plain as your face, Proclaim your ancient honored race. Here's to you, Lady! May you know Fresh clover fields where'er you go; May daisies nod and cowslips spring About you like a fairy ring; May bird songs mingle with your bell, That tinkles down the shady dell. And still pools mirror back the sky, Where you may drink and wade breast high.

Here's to you, Lady! May you chew The cud of happy memory, too. And coming lowing from the field, To gentle hands full of tender yield. But ere you sink to peaceful rest, Grant me, I beg, this one request: That I may drink the health to you In that pure beverage which you brew. —Mary Ellis Nichols, in the "Country Gentleman."

The official report of the United States Librarian Commission charges Britain with encroachments on Liberia.