

ELECTRICITY

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Coats
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 shirts, made from
 splendid assort-
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 collar, full size
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 Thursday,
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Builders' Lots
 near Yonge and West Streets, 200
 feet frontage, with divide.
H. B. WILLIAMS & CO.
 25 King Street East.

PROBS: Fresh westerly winds; much the same (temperatures); a few local snow flurries.

Another Civic Situation

Toronto is once more on the verge of a discovery of the folly of sending a boy to do a man's business. This time the revelations may cause a little more heartburning than usual in civic circles, but if it has the effect of awakening the citizens to the absolute necessity of a change in the methods of carrying on the municipal government, and the need for regarding the affairs of a city of 400,000 people from a broader platform than that of a village green, much will have been accomplished. If the lesson be learned the cost need not be grudged.

The expressed desire of City Engineer Ruet to be relieved of any responsibility for the electrical department of the city was an intimation two or three weeks ago that all was not well. The hint has not been taken by the city executive, but we believe it will be found necessary to have a thorough overhauling of the situation with a view to understanding why Toronto, with more resources than any of the other places in the power union, is not only the last to be ready, but is unable to give any definite account of when the city system will be ready.

We have all along taken the ground that when millions are to be spent the very best man should be employed to do the spending. A \$35,000 man will generally save many times his salary, while a cheap and inexperienced junior will as generally exceed his estimate. Toronto, her city government, her newspapers, her politicians, have adhered to the cheap man system. We fear that the result of the plan is once more about to be made evident.

No information can be obtained from either the city or the hydro-electric power commission as to whether Toronto is responsible for the power which the commission is ready to deliver. The city cannot plead ignorance of the conditions. Everybody knew that the Toronto Electric Light Company's contract was expiring, and, if for no other reason, this was a good cause for making haste. There have been delays, but no man of experience ever fails to allow for delays, and to provide for them.

For the delay, if it has been avoidable; for the incompetence, if rumors prove true; for the heavy additional expense, which appears certain; for the muddling of plans which should have been complete and in working order at the beginning of the year; an explanation will be looked for from Mayor Geary, who displaced Controller Hocken in the control of the electrical situation. Anything that seriously affects Toronto in its relations with the hydro-electric system, will certainly also seriously affect Sir James Whitney's and Hon. Adam Beck's power policy. Mayor Geary will be able to explain to Sir James the result of sending a boy to do a man's work, and he may also be able to impress upon Sir James the absurdity of trying to govern Toronto in the present fashion.

Even if the city cannot obtain government by commission, there can be no doubt that the electrical department and its allied activities should be in charge of a commission, and the most expert skill available should have its management.

The hydro-electric commission has constantly been consulted by all the municipalities in the union except by Toronto, with regard to their power installation, both as to general plans and particular features. Toronto has preserved a notable aloofness and independence throughout, and no one can say just what the situation may present.

There have been complaints made constantly to this office that consumers could get no information about prices, or contract conditions, and many have almost despaired of receiving power in any reasonable time.

In any case the responsibility for delay is now resting on the city, and Mayor Geary cannot escape the onus of an explanation.

If it is not forthcoming, in fact, in any event, it is the Hydro-Electric Commission exercised its power of making an inspection and perhaps more than inspection.

BAHAMAS ANXIETY TO JOIN THE DOMINION

Enthusiasm For Project Described by Canadian Who Has Just Returned From the Islands—20,000 Present—Legislative Committee to Interview Dominion Government.

MONTREAL, March 1.—The addition of another province to the Dominion is the idea that T. B. Macaulay, managing director of the Sun Life Assurance Company, brings back with him on returning to this city after a visit to the West Indies.

A meeting which took place in the Bahamas Islands on the 20th of last month, was, Mr. Macaulay states, one of great enthusiasm. The legislature suspended its sittings and workmen dropped their tools on the streets on the day of the meeting to talk over the question of asking Canada, to take them under its wing. Although there was no official representative of Canada among the 20,000 people assembled, there were plenty of prominent men. Among the speakers, several known in Canadian life, said Mr. Macaulay, were Mr. Macdonald, mayor of Rimouski, Que.; Mr. Nicholson of Winnipeg; and Judge McIntyre of Whitby, Ont.

The upshot was that a committee of a dozen members of the legislature were appointed to further the project, and to consider the advisability of sending a deputation to interview the Dominion Government, and this decision was arrived at with only two dissentients, the objection of one of them being to joining any country that had a protective tariff.

The advantages said Mr. Macaulay, would be great on both sides. The addition of the Bahamas to Canada might be a small matter, but in another way it would be a long step forward in the pathway of our national manhood and importance.

The acquisition of this new province, added Mr. Macaulay, would effectively broaden the views of our people. Our navy question would solve itself, for we would not only wish to properly protect the routes which our growing trade would follow. Nassau might perhaps become a coaling station and dockyard for our fleet.

"It is not merely trade relations that we would like to see established," concluded Mr. Macaulay. "We want to take advantage of this desire of the people down there to add a province to the Dominion. The Canadian parliament should at least meet these people half way and discuss the matter seriously."

The governor of the Bahamas, Sir William Grey-Wilson, is anticipating a visit from Mr. Grey (who is his cousin) next winter, a fact which seems to indicate which way the wind is blowing.

HISTORIC MISSION TO PASS FROM DUCHESS-ST.

Congregation of Knox Church Approves Sale—Factory to Be Erected.

The action of the congregation of Knox Church last night in supporting the recommendation of the board of trustees to sell the historic land, which has been removed in the passing of the Duchess-street mission.

It is said that a mission has been maintained there for about 70 years, dating back to a time when Toronto's population was only a few thousand. Knox Church had to secure special legislation before being empowered to negotiate for its sale, one provision being that any remains found in the old burying ground in the rear of the mission be removed to the C.P.R. station.

The property, which is on the north side of Duchess-street, west of Sherbourne-street, has a frontage of 133 feet and a depth of 29 feet. The firm of Tekner and Sutherland handled the transaction, and the price to be paid is \$20,000. A factory will be erected.

NEW FRENCH CABINET

Appearance of M. Delescluse as Minister of Marine Causes Some Anxiety.

PARIS, March 1.—The new French cabinet, so far as it is at present constituted, has the following members: Premier and minister of interior, Antoine Ernest Monis; minister of foreign affairs, M. Grouppé; minister of war, Henri Maurice Bertaux; minister of marine, Theophile Delescluse; minister of finance, M. Caillaux; minister of public instruction, M. Steeger; minister of agriculture, M. Dumont; minister of agriculture, M. Masse; minister of colonies, M. Messimy; minister of labor, Paul Boncour; under secretaries, Interior, Emile Constant; Justice and Public Instruction, Louis Malvy; Posts and Telegraphs, Charles Chaumet; beaux arts, Henri Dujardin-Beaumetz.

The appearance of Delescluse in the cabinet has caused alarm in some sections. Some of the newspapers declare that it would be better if he should remain in oblivion, charging that he worsened the peace of France and the peace of the world by attempting the isolation of Germany in connection with the Moroccan question in 1905.

R. J. IN TOWN.

R. J. MacKenzie, manager of the western lines of the C.N.R., with headquarters in Winnipeg, is in the city. Sir William, his father, arrives from England on Saturday.

A BALEFUL SHADOW



SIFTON BOLT THE UNIVERSAL TOPIC

Everyone Asks "What Will the Result Be?"—Everything Depends on Prompt Action of U. S. Senate—Mr. Sifton the Most Useful Man Sir Wilfrid Ever Had in His Cabinet.

OTTAWA, March 1.—(Special.)—What may be the net result of Clifford Sifton's break from his party and the speech that he made on reciprocity, is not yet ascertainable; but both events excite widespread interest. The Liberals have determined to minimize their effect, and are saying, first of all, that Mr. Sifton left them practically over two years ago; and they are also saying that he was the heaviest burden they had to carry in the last election; in fact, that they have been carrying him now for four years, and that they are rather glad that hereafter they will not be bothered with the Sifton burden. They are also saying that if Mr. Sifton has left the Liberal party the constituency of Brandon is still Liberal and that it is up to him to straighten himself out with his constituents. They suggest that Mr. Sifton should resign his seat and go back to Brandon and take the opinion of the voters on his conduct. And what is being said here in Ottawa about Mr. Sifton's break from the Liberal party will be said substantially in other portions of the country.

Kept the Cabinet Straight.

Those who know something of the inside politics here know that Mr. Sifton was the most useful minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier ever had in his cabinet. He kept the cabinet straight for years on many important questions; he prevented them from making mistakes; and whenever they got into trouble he was the principal man to help to straighten things out. Time after time, when Sifton was in the cabinet, would he get up in the house and pull the government out of a hole; and anyone who knows the house knows that many a time has Sir Wilfrid Laurier's face worn an air of pleased relief when he saw Sifton take the floor, and heard his defence of some policy of the government that had been assailed. Mr. Sifton left the government on the school question in connection with the new provinces, and any modification that was adopted in regard to that question by the Liberals was secured by Mr. Sifton himself. For his part in that discussion, and because he left the government in regard to it, he has never been popular with the members from the Province of Quebec, and they are now not displeased that the separation has occurred.

More Liberal Opposition.

It is impossible at this moment to forecast what is likely to happen within the next few days, other than to say that Mr. German, Liberal member for Welland, will to-morrow take the floor and oppose the reciprocity proposals and say that he will vote against them. It is not likely that he will out loose from his party. Lloyd Harris, the Liberal member for Brant, may also do the same, and no doubt in the same way. Mr. Sealey, the Liberal member for Wentworth, is also opposed to the

SIFTON'S SPEECH FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

MONTREAL, March 1.—(Special.)—It is firmly convinced that the Hon. Clifford Sifton, yesterday in the house of commons, was speaking for the respective of provinces or locality. It is a strong Conservative, but rather of a lifelong Liberal in the person of D. Cameron of Winnipeg, president of the East Portage Lumber Co., and a director in a number of western industrial and financial institutions. Being asked if he thought that Mr. Sifton fairly represented the Liberal attitude in the west, he said: "I consider that Mr. Sifton speaks for me and that Mr. Sifton is doing so for the

U. S. FRIENDS OF RECIPROCITY LUKE WARM

New York Press Admits Extra Session Now Inevitable—Eleven Big Appropriation Bills Stand in Way of Immediate Action by the Senate.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The growing conviction that an extra session of congress, to pass the reciprocity bill, will be rendered necessary no less by the luke-warmness of its friends than by the vigorous campaign being waged by its avowed enemies, is reflected in the Washington correspondence appearing in this morning's issues of the leading metropolitan journals.

The Tribune says:

"It is the conviction of many Senators that had a vote on the Canadian reciprocity agreement been made a condition of a vote on the Lorimer case at this session, it could have been obtained and the necessity of a special session of congress avoided, but the reciprocity had no friends who were ready to make an earnest fight in its behalf when the crucial moment arrived."

"The agreement between the advocates of a tariff board and the regulars is of an informal nature, but the former are confident that their efforts will meet with success. They expect that the senate will hold a night session to-morrow, and they believe that the tariff board bill will be enacted before adjournment is taken."

The Sun reluctantly admits the same point. It says:

"The Canadian reciprocity situation in the senate remains unchanged as a result of the breaking of the deadlock except in so far as the legislative program is relieved by the advancement of the Lorimer case and the tariff commission proposition. No attempt was made by friends of reciprocity to force a compromise upon this measure and a special session consider this subject still seems inevitable."

"The disposal of the Lorimer case and the advancement of the tariff commission bill, however, will give the supporters of reciprocity a better opportunity to focus the attention of the senate upon it, but they acknowledge that the outlook for favorable action is not bright in view of the fact that the senate has eleven big appropriation bills to dispose of in the three and a half remaining days of the session."

Concessions Without Reciprocity.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—During the discussion on the tariff board bill to-night Senator Carter of Montana said that an amendment to the McCall bill to admit most of our free to this country from Canada would be amenable to the state department. Canada, however, did not desire to have American meat and American flour enter the country free because of inability of its packers and millers to meet American competition. This a reciprocal arrangement of the matter could not be reached.

At 12:32 o'clock (Thursday) the senate by a vote of 5 to 4 refused to adjourn. At 1:05 o'clock a roll call failed to develop a quorum, and at 1:25 o'clock the senate took a recess until 11 a.m.

Yonge St. Store to Rent
 \$100, excellent location for gent's furnishings or restaurant business.
H. B. WILLIAMS & CO.
 25 King Street East.

G. N. W. MEN ASK FOR BOARD OF ARBITRATION

Attempts to Negotiate Have Failed, Says Union President Konencomp—Company Was Asked to Reply to Advances by 9 o'Clock Last Night, But Didn't Do So.

The committee representing the aggrieved employees of the Great North Western Telegraph Company will apply to-day for a board of conciliation to investigate the demands of the G.N.W. operators for increased wages. No names have yet been selected for members of the board, but the men have five days in which to name their representatives.

In speaking to 'The World' last night, S. J. Konencomp, president of the Commercial Telegraph Union of America, said: "We made repeated efforts to-day to get in touch with some one in charge of the general manager's office. We were informed that no one was there in charge at present, and could obtain no definite date as to when there would be someone there capable of talking business with us."

"A letter was addressed this afternoon to the general manager stating that on February 3 the men had submitted a schedule and set of working rules and asked for a date for the purpose of presenting their arguments in behalf of the schedule. The reply of the company was to dismiss the committee on February 15. A conference with S. B. McMichael, assistant general manager, had brought a statement to the effect that in another week the men would be out of the service, and the management would not deal with a committee from a union or composed of their own employees and that unless the management were willing to meet the committee, we would proceed under our laws of our organization. This letter asked for a reply by nine o'clock, and as at that hour we had received no communication from them, we decided to apply for a board of conciliation."

"One of the men imported from Detroit and one brought from London to replace employees in the office have been dismissed, quit yesterday."

The matter of taking action upon the company's alleged infringement of the alien labor law has been deferred, as it is considered of secondary importance to the securing of the proposed schedule of wages.

WOMAN OF EIGHTY SAT BY WOODPILE ALL NIGHT

Fell on Icy Field, Hurt Her Back and Was Unable to Regain Her Feet.

INGERSOLL, March 1.—Mrs. John Wilkinson of Osterander, near Thilsonburg, is a plucky woman at 80 years of age, and has a good constitution.

Mrs. Wilkinson has been visiting her son in Michigan, and arrived in Ingersoll last night on her return trip. She had to wait for her connection on the Lake Erie and Port Burwell which was reported to leave at seven o'clock. The train was late. She thought that she might do a little looking around and went down street. When it came near train time she started back for the C.P.R. station and in hurrying took a short cut across an icy field. She fell down and hurt her back and was not able to regain her feet.

She crawled to a wood pile in Bloom's wood yard, less than 100 yards from the station, and sat there the whole cold night.

She was warmly clad, had an old-fashioned heavy shawl, and sat back against the pile and waited for morning. She was found at seven o'clock this morning and assisted to the Atlantic House where she said that she felt no ill effects from the night's exposure.

Two Great Stars.

Charles Frohman has produced more plays than any manager in the world. His favorite female star is Maud Adams, who recently appeared in Toronto in "What Every Woman Knows." In the list of Mr. Frohman's male stars his favorite is John Drew, who appears at the Princess Theatre next week in his new play entitled "Smith."

Advance Millinery Opening.

On Friday the Dineen company will have its advance opening of Spring Millinery. This display represents the best there is in select New York styles arranged by their own milliner, who has recently returned from New York. The styles are exact duplicates of the best of Paris fashions in everything but price—the Dineen price is much lower. Put Dineen on your shopping list for Friday.

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