

The Toronto World

A Morning Newspaper Published Every Day in the Year.

MAIN OFFICE, 83 YONGE STREET.

THE POWER BY-LAW AND THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT.

We notice that a number of people and some newspapers are saying that the Whitney government and the Whitney party in the legislature are in no way involved in the success or non-success of the power by-laws. That sturdy old opponent of public ownership, The Montreal Gazette, for instance, is of that opinion. Thus:

The government cannot be injured by the failure of the scheme because it accepted no responsibility in connection with it, only agreeing to do certain things if requested by the municipalities. If the municipalities do not make this request the government is not to blame.

And for the time being at least Mr. Whitney seems to agree with this view. And while he may go out of his way to declare himself, it is evident to the ordinary man that no greater slap could be administered to the progressive record of the Whitney administration of public affairs in this province than the defeat of the by-laws now before the people in the leading cities. The Globe and Mr. MacKay would have such a defeat as the death knell of Whitney and his policies, and it would certainly mean the retirement of Adam Beck from the cabinet and from public life.

A government cannot have a policy of any kind and not be vitally interested in its success. The principles of constitutional and responsible government will bear no other construction. Therefore, it is incumbent on every friend and supporter of the administration to support the scheme, just as the Liberals are likewise constrained to stand by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's efforts to get the public a cheap cable service by Marconi's inventions.

And we are quite sure that the ordinary man takes this view of it, and that the premier and his colleagues and his supporters and his newspaper friends will do everything that honest men can do to carry the by-laws and to make a success of the finest piece of progressive legislation yet presented in Canada.

Namely, to provide for all the people of Ontario abundance of cheap electric energy for light, for power, we believe soon for heat, thus making this province forever independent of the coal oil ring and the hard coal ring of the United States, not to mention the electric ring of this province.

There is much in Mr. Whitney's statement to indicate that some one or more persons, perhaps persons professing to be his political friends, have tried to do him a bad turn. Of this we will know more later on.

Of his professed newspaper friends who have broken away on the power issue a notable instance is The Hamilton Spectator. It never was at heart anything else than the financial and exploitation associate of Hon. J. M. Gibson, and worked for him secretly and openly in every election that he ever ran in Hamilton; and another is The Toronto News, which had only use for Mr. Whitney as long as it looked possible to utilize him, as Hon. George W. Ross had been utilized in securing the electric franchises of some years ago. But every real friend of Whitney and many thousands of Liberals will vote on the power by-law either because of loyalty to him or because of approbation of the best public proposition that ever came down the road in any part of Canada.

We, therefore, take Mr. Whitney's plain, non-partisan statement as a clarion call to his friends and fellow citizens.

CENTRE YORK TO-DAY.
To-day is Centre York election and unless all appearances are belied the close of the poll will see Captain Tom Wallace in parliament. Seldom has a political campaign been conducted with more vim and energy, and the rousing rally at Markham on Saturday night was conspicuous for its sustained enthusiasm. Very different has been the spirit of the ministerialist party, over whom, to all appearance, has rested throughout the shadow of defeat. This, indeed, is not surprising looking to the burden of discredit which the present Dominion Government has perforce to carry.

That burden, too, is not composed of such ordinary errors and mistakes of administration as fall to the lot of any administration however competent. They strike at the vitals of the state, involving as they do gross interferences with the fundamental right of free elections, the recantation of sound democratic principles, the failure to maintain a proper standard of personal conduct, improper dealings with the forest lands and other national resources, and complete capitulation to the financial rings that have been and are striving with might and main to sew up the people everywhere and to withdraw their enterprises from the provincial jurisdictions to which they properly belong.

There is a growing feeling that the present federal government has outlived any usefulness it ever had, and that its longer continuance in office will be increasingly detrimental to the best interests of the Dominion. Its administrative incapacity has been convincingly demonstrated by the absolute lack of business ability displayed in connection with the construction

of the Quebec bridge. Enough is known already to disclose the haphazard methods employed in conducting this great national undertaking to which its ignominious failure at the cost, not only of financial loss, but of many valuable lives, is directly attributable. A change is imperatively needed for the good of the country, and the Conservative and Independent Reformers of Centre York can efficiently aid the movement by returning Captain Tom Wallace, whose personal popularity has steadily grown in the constituency. A long pull and a strong pull will secure him victory to-day, and it is up to the electors now to see that this is given.

THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA.

Moderation in public and private affairs was the counsel again tendered Canada at the annual meeting of the directors and shareholders of the Merchants Bank of Canada, held in Montreal on Wednesday last. Agreeing in this with what he believes to be the thoughtful opinion in the minds of most thinking responsible men in Canada, Mr. E. P. Hebbden, the general manager, while deprecating an untimely optimism, evidently does not regard the financial situation with present apprehension. After what he aptly calls the kaleidoscopic change for the worse, that has been made in the neighboring republic, signs of improvement have now become apparent, and the return to more normal conditions cannot but beneficially influence the position here. Fortunately for the Dominion, its better banking and currency system more easily responded to the strain placed upon it, which again, and fortunately, was not accompanied by the most serious of the results that followed in the United States. Nevertheless in Canada also there had been an excessive expansion, excusable, perhaps, in a country rich in natural resources, and in the flush of its quickening nationhood. Therefore the call has come to put on the drag, to take stock of our position, and to moderate our commitments and undertakings. It is not so much a check as a breathing space in which to gather a reserve of strength for later, more strenuous and better balanced progress.

The report of the proceedings and the statement of the result of the business of the Merchants Bank for the half year to Nov. 30 last will be found in another column. While the figures, as in the case of other banking institutions, reveal the effect of the monetary crisis by the absence of the increases which had become almost a matter of course, they are highly satisfactory as regards the business done. The net profits on the half year's trading, after payment of all charges and expenses, and the usual allowances amounted to \$473,144.50, an increase over the corresponding period of last year, to which the balance of \$4,256.25 brought forward from the previous half year. This permitted of two quarterly dividends at the rate of 8 per cent., and left a balance to credit of next year's account of \$267,400.75. At the date of closing the accounts, the notes in circulation were \$5,490,940, and the deposits at call, subject to notice and due other banks in Canada, totaled \$36,254,345.97. These amounts testify to the extensive business done and the confidence the Merchants Bank commands with the general public. That conservative lines are followed in its management is also shown by the fact that the liquid and easily realizable assets reach \$13,267,160.52, while the reserve fund stands at \$4,000,000. In view of the criticism passed on the custom the Canadian banks follow, of advancing money on call and loans outside Canada, it is of interest to notice that the Merchants Bank at Nov. 30 had out on these \$2,888,258.84, and on similar loans in Canada, \$2,465,994.71. The current loans and discounts in Canada came to \$31,246,107.26. As the general manager observed these figures speak for themselves, and, considering the condition of trade in Canada, he thought the report was one with which the shareholders should be satisfied. His anticipation was confirmed by its adoption without question, and by a unanimous vote.

THE GIFT OF SELECTION.
The Feeling of Surety Behind a Name That Spells Merit.
In the Smoker's Own Dictionary the phrase "From Muller's" means something to the tobacco world, just as is the "Lowe's" name on a good pipe. You may select cigars, or even pipes at Muller's with the knowledge that the recipient of your gift will be more than pleased with the added confidence that the gift is worth what you pay for it. "It is good," is the verdict which must be recorded first—before aught gains the entire to Muller's establishment.

Big Fire at Annprior.
OTTAWA, Dec. 22.—At 6 o'clock on Saturday night the premises of the Montreal Suspender & Umbrella Co., in Annprior, a fine four-story solid brick factory, were burned to the ground. Surrounding buildings caught, but were saved. The loss is estimated at \$250,000. The town has a claim on the building for \$35,000. It is totally covered by insurance. One hundred employees were on the list.

An Old Resident Dead.
SANDWICH, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Charlotte Trethow, aged 90 years, probably the oldest resident of Essex County, is dead here. Mrs. Trethow was born in Brigrinchard, Wales, and had lived in Sandwich for the past half century.

Avoid the Rush.
To relieve the congestion and possible delay at station, all intending to take holiday trips should purchase their tickets in advance at Grand Trunk City Office, northwest corner King and Yonge streets.

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Best value in city, \$3.00.
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Men's Evening Slippers, lined red satin, \$2.50.

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ANTI-POWER ORATORS.

Continued From Page 1.

Power Union described the measures that had been taken to submit the power by-law in about a score of cities. He was not familiar with Toronto, but from his close acquaintance with the outside towns he was sure the by-law would be carried everywhere.

Mr. Lyon gave an interesting account of the operation of public utilities in Guelph. The gas works had been so successful that prices were brought down to a cheap rate and \$17,000 profits were made last year. The street railway, which had never paid under private management, was now in first-class condition and paid \$5000 profits last year. In a short time they would have very little tax to pay. The water works of the present opportunity of the profits made in public utilities. They expected to save \$10,000 by Niagara power, the power of Niagara was worth \$2,000,000,000, half of which, or \$1,000,000,000, belonged to Ontario. When he was a boy he had heard the story of the present opportunity. He expected yet to hear the roar of Niagara half over the province turning the wheels of its factories. (Applause.) It would be coming cheaper and cheaper all the time, and would be available for them if they took the advantage of the present opportunity. There was a question of patriotism and the future of their children in this, as well as of immediate business. If Toronto tied herself up to a monopoly and Guelph took advantage of Niagara power, also it was a small thing comparatively, he thought they would show Toronto something in the way of development.

Would Go Farther.
A. Callow said he was in favor of public ownership, but the by-law was only a partial measure of public ownership, and he could not support it unless the city owned the source of production as well as the means of distribution. The citizens would have to pay \$146,000 a year for the plant. Chairman Hubbs asked whether in all fairness to tell the audience what would become of the money the city would receive for the sale of electric power. Mr. Callow retired amid groans.

J. W. Curry, K.C., selected the C. P. R., as an example of what might have been done under public ownership. If the power by-law was passed they would be able to control the rates in the city, and the revenue would more than meet all the charges against the plant.

Miles Vokes wondered if the citizens thought the Toronto Light Co. were concerned about whether the citizens had to pay more taxes or not? Were they so anxious about the interests of the taxpayers or was it their own interests they were looking after in opposing the by-law? The objection had been made that the by-law would benefit the manufacturers. He thought that Toronto would soon be a pretty cheap place to live in if

their young men and women had no factories to work in.
Geary Working for It.
Ald. Geary was working for the by-law, and the council would be brought what the citizens desired them to do. He did not think the board of control was to be condemned because they refused at the present hour to make a decision with the company or submit an alternative proposition. Doubtless the company had another proposal in mind to be submitted when the by-law was carried. If a bargain for the expropriation of the plant could be made so much the better.

Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, who had the best reception yet accorded him, had no doubt about the choice of the people in considering the proposals laid before them by the hydro-electric power commission. No more reliable estimates could be had than those apparently of the higher classes, and the expert evidence was to be had by them as readily as by the Electric Light Co. No man had worked harder and more disinterestedly than the gentleman who had devoted his whole time to the development of this question—Hon. Adam Beck. (Cheers.) What he had told them was to be relied upon as fully as what Mr. Wright had told them, and he was sure they would support him in his policy.

A GRUESOME MURDER.

Man Stabbed Thru Eye in Railway Coach.

ROME, Dec. 22.—A gruesome murder was committed on a train which left here last night for Ancona. A man, apparently of the higher classes, who had been sleeping alone in a first-class carriage, was found dead with a dagger wound thru his heart. He had been stabbed thru the eye, the dagger piercing the brain and being left in that position.

The fact that the man's purse and watch were missing at first led the police to believe that the object of the murder was theft, but the later discovery of a ring valued at \$200 in the man's pocket led them to the conclusion that revenge played some part in the tragedy. Anything that would lead to the identification of the victim apparently had been removed, with the exception of a ring, which, however, bore no marks. The murdered man seems to have been a Venetian.

Bell Company Asks \$4,500,000.
WINNIPEG, Man., Dec. 21.—Before President Nisbet left for the east he submitted an ultimatum to the Manitoba government, putting a price on the Bell p. in the province. Premier Roblin to-day said he would have the system examined and valued by experts, and will then reply. The amount is said to be \$4,500,000.

Indian Chief Dead.
MORTON, Minn., Dec. 22.—Ironshield, the Sioux Indian chief, died on the reservation, 20 miles south of here yesterday. He was 75 years of age. Ironshield was a friend of the whites during the Sioux war of 1862, and was one of the most trusted scouts of Gen. Sibley in that campaign.



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Russian Ermine is always high in favor. A 52-inch tie of this Fur, with divided ends, sells for \$45. At \$65—A novel stole of Ermine with a narrow edging of Persian trimming around the neck; the shoulders are in scallop-effect, beneath which extends a square shoulder cape. The whole is satin lined.

At \$110—A beautiful Victorine with long stole fronts, widened at ends. The cape, which is over 10 inches wide, has a narrow Stuart collar, and both cape and fronts are tastefully trimmed with insertions of lace on purple silk. Lining is of shirred satin.

Muffs are \$45 to \$85.

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AT OSGOOD HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Master's Chambers.

Master's chambers will be held on Monday, Dec. 23, at 11 a.m. During vacation chambers will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24; Friday, Dec. 27, and Friday, Jan. 2, 1908. Judges' Chambers and Single Court. Chief Justice Falconbridge will hold single court on Monday, Dec. 23, at 10 a.m., for the hearing of urgent motions only. During vacation judges' chambers and single court will be held on Thursday, Dec. 26, and Thursday, Jan. 2, at 10 a.m. Only urgent motions will be heard. Mr. Justice Riddell will sit the first week, and the Hon. Chief Justice Mulock the second week.

Single Court.

Cases set down for hearing before the Hon. Chief Justice Falconbridge on Monday, Dec. 23, at 10 a.m.:

1. Re Baldwin Estate.
2. Re Fowler and Teeswater.
3. Sloan v. Carr.
4. Re Platt Estate.
5. Re Perrin Flow Co.
6. Owens v. Roberts.
7. Baker v. Hoover.

Action for Slander.

W. J. Nesbitt of Toronto has issued a writ against James Campbell claiming damages for slander. In his writ of summons Nesbitt does not say what the slander was nor the amount of damages sustained.

Broke the Contract.

James Anderson of Toronto has brought an action against the Veterinary Specialty Co. claiming \$600 damages for alleged breach of a certain contract whereby the company agreed to employ Anderson in their business.

Inventor Seeks Injunction.

Alexander Lumden Schram of the Town of Hillsboro, Ill., an inventor, has instituted proceedings against the Schram Automatic Sealer Co. of St. Louis, to obtain an injunction to restrain the company from shipping into Canada certain jar caps covered by a patent of Schram's.

Canadian General Electric Stock.

A writ of summons has been issued by Austin Hutchinson against Jeffrey & Cassels of Toronto, claiming damages for alleged unlawful conversion of 12 shares of the capital stock of the Canadian General Electric Co.

Must Pay for Publicity.

The McKim Advertising Company has succeeded in its suit against the Cobalt-Nipigon Syndicate and G. C. Campbell. The McKim Company sued for \$2781.25 on an advertising contract in regard to which there had been a misunderstanding between the two parties. Justice Riddell gives judgment for the plaintiff for \$2781.25.

LAST GUN FOR WALLACE

Continued From Page 1.

Gamey showed that the Whitney government had disposed of timber lands by public auction, saving large sums of money to the people of the province. They had redeemed their promises, but could any Liberal mention any promises that had been carried out by the present Liberal administration at Ottawa?

The Whitney government had done business on the principle that the minerals of New Ontario were the property of the people, not of a few conservative friends, and certain valuable properties were put up at public auction, with the result that the treasury of Ontario had been enriched to the extent of over a million. This was in contrast to the reckless manner in which the Liberal government at Ottawa had alienated the valuable land and timber of the Northwest for the benefit of the grafters.

Can't Shake 'Em Off.

The expenditures for the outfitting of the Icebreaker Montcalm and the Arctic expedition were handled by Mr. Gamey most effectively. Reading from the blue books, he proved recklessness and extravagance in the purchase of supplies from favored Liberals, and in the way of showing that it was impossible for the government to shake the grafters off, he told a little story. Two Irishmen were hunting wild cats and they were soon rewarded by the sight of one of these ferocious beasts climbing a tree. It was agreed that Mike should climb the tree to dislodge the animal, while Pat remained on the ground to secure it. Mike loosened the wild cat's hold and soon Pat and the beast were in a desperate struggle below.

"How'd him! How'd him!" cried Mike to his friend.
"Bogorra," answered Pat out of breath, "it's no trouble to how'd him, but it's the devil to let go."
And so it was with the government and the grafters.

The Ontario Government had no sooner passed an electric railway bill than it was met by a commission to regulate the railways than these corporations ran away for protection to Ottawa.

Mr. Gamey said honestly stood out in bold letters in every department of the administration in Ontario to-day, and he believed Mr. Borden was just as honest as Whitney. The two parties in Canada would be just as good as the people made them; and the electors of Centre York had the opportunity to administer a rebuke to the government.

The Opposition Leader.

Mr. Borden, in opening, paid a compliment to the previous speaker by saying he had never heard Dominion issues discussed more intelligently and forcibly than they had been by Mr. Gamey.

The opposition leader continued the illustrations so well used by Mr. Gamey, contrasting the methods of the Whitney government with those of the administration at Ottawa.

He marveled at the audacity of Mr. Turfitt in coming into Centre York and mentioning the name of the Saskatchewan Land Co. in the face of the plied by him behind the back of parliament, and in behalf of his brother-in-law, Mr. Burrows. The leader of the opposition launched into details of the deals which he said had characterized the present administration.

The Liberals had talked of nation building and reminded them that every foot of territory that had been added to the country had been added by a Conservative government, while Liberal rule had been lost under crossed revenue? he asked. It could well be asked what had they done with the money. The money had gone into useless expenditures for the benefit of their friends.

Sir Wilfrid Responsible.

Dealing with some of the planks of the Halifax platform, he referred to

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Among those on the platform were: Col. Selby, S. J. Clarke, Calgary; W. H. Hall, J. S. Cartwright, and Archie Milne. H. C. Marr was chairman, and little Ethel Michael presented a handsome bouquet to Mr. Borden.

Devlin Honored.

OTTAWA, Dec. 22.—The citizens of Hull to-day tendered a civic reception to Hon. Charles Devlin, minister of colonization and mines for the Province of Quebec. An address of welcome was read and presented to Mr. Devlin by Ald. W. St. Marie. Mr. Devlin was also presented with a bouquet of flowers by the ladies.

The Traders Bank of Canada

DIVIDEND NO. 47.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of one and three-quarters per cent. upon the paid-up capital stock of this Bank has been declared for the current quarter, being at the rate of seven per cent. per annum and that the same will be payable at the Bank and its Branches on and after

Thursday, the Second Day of January Next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st of December, 1907, both days inclusive.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at the Banking House in Toronto on Tuesday, January 28th, 1908. Chair to be taken at 12 o'clock noon.

By order of the Board.

STUART STRATHY, General Manager.

Toronto, 16th November, 1907.

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