

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1880
A morning newspaper published every day
except Sunday by The World Newspaper
Company of Toronto, Limited.
H. J. Maclean, Managing Director.
W. Nelson Wilkinson, Managing Editor.
WORLD BUILDING, TORONTO
NO. 40 WEST RICHMOND STREET
Telephone Calls:
Main 5205—Private Exchange connecting all
departments.
Branch Office—40 South McNab
Street, Hamilton.
Telephone 1945.
Daily World—50 per copy, 15.00 per year.
\$2.50 for 6 months, \$1.25 for 3 months, 50c
per month, delivered, or 14.00 per year,
40c per month, by mail, in Canada (ex-
cept Toronto), United Kingdom, United
States and Mexico.
Sunday World—50 per copy, \$2.50 per year,
by mail.
To other Foreign Countries, postage extra.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 15.

Abhorrent Situation.

Commissioner Harris has very much the best of the passage-at-arms with Chairman McIntyre of the Ontario Municipal and Railway Board. There is no more scrupulously careful man in observing the punctilios of his official position. When Chairman McIntyre gave way to what Mr. Harris characterizes as "abhorrent," he put himself out of court.

Unfortunately the main point is apt to be overlooked in the smoke and dust of the abhorrent thing. That point is the inconvenience and suffering to which the citizens of Toronto are subject on account of the failure of the railway board to find a solution of the problem referred to it. We never were sanguine about the ability of the railway board in this respect, and we see nothing in the situation to solace the citizens.

Barking Up the Wrong Tree.

No sympathy will be felt for the city council in its attempt to cripple the school system of the city by cutting down the revenue of the board of education. More money rather than less is required to meet the educational requirement of Toronto; and while the whole educational system of the province is in need of reconstruction and reform, no good will ever be done by starving the service.

The school rate is by no means high as compared with some other places; and no one pretends that the money, as far as the system permits, is unwisely expended. The mayor, who is a bachelor, cannot be expected to view these matters as the parents of the city do.

The real difficulty in the tax rate is the bill of debt charges. If Toronto for the past 25 years had pursued the present policy of paying cash for current expenditure the tax rate would not be what it is today. The fact that the school taxes are included on the same bill as the city council taxes does not give the latter body any right to interfere.

By Promotion.

Sir Thomas White promotes men to the highest places who are entitled to that promotion for good work in the finance department. That he declares to be his policy, and in line with that policy is the appointment of Mr. Roy Cane to be assistant receiver-general at Toronto in the place of the late David Creighton.

Mr. Creighton's appointment was a political one, but it gave general satisfaction and the service certainly did not suffer. At the same time we think from now on that men in the various departments should be promoted according to their ability. Outsiders should not be brought in to take the places with the big salaries while permanent officials, often poorly paid, do all the real work.

The boy who starts to work for the government should have the same chance for promotion as the boy who starts to work for a private corporation. He should be able by industry and ability to reach the highest place in the department. It should not be impossible for a tide waiter to work himself up to be collector of the port, or for a letter-carrier to become the postmaster of a great city.

The ornamental political postmaster should be cut out, and so should the collector of customs of the same stripe.

Will Help, Not Hurt the Banks.
The Montreal Financial Times says that a state bank of rediscout must become a bank of issue, and that with a national bank of issue and rediscout once established the chartered banks will soon be deprived of their circulation privilege. This, The Times thinks, would work a hardship upon the banks; it certainly would deprive them of a valuable privilege they have possessed for many years.

The World favors fair treatment and reasonable compensation for the banks. We think that if the banks lose their circulation privilege they should be loaned an amount equivalent to their paid-up capital at a low rate of interest, say two per cent. This would leave them as much money to come and go on as

they now have, and the interest they would pay the state would scarcely amount to more than a fair tax.

The Times does not think that banks make any particular money out of their circulation, but says the circulation privilege is valuable for two reasons. It gives the banks, we are told, an elastic currency and it enables them to withstand a sudden run or panic. The bank, it is said, can pay out its own notes to depositors and thus really substitute one obligation for another instead of paying out real money.

But in normal times the bank can do nothing of the kind. As there is no national bank of rediscout in this country each chartered bank hoards gold and keeps vast quantities of liquid assets locked up in strong boxes so as to be always prepared for a possible panic that may never come.

How much better off would they be under a system like that which now prevails in the United States? They could lend freely, because when money was needed they would always be able to rediscout their paper. They could never be caught in a "currency corner" or a money famine. So long as they did a legitimate banking business they could always get whatever money they needed from the state bank of issue and rediscout.

But whether the banks gain or lose the public will benefit, and the safety of the state is a supreme law. The United States Federal Reserve Bank of issue and rediscout has been a potent factor in enabling the United States to finance the war. It has been acclaimed in that country, and before long the British banking system will be remodeled along the lines of the federal reserve system. Even in Canada the light is breaking, and The New York Journal of Commerce says:

It seems like one of the providential events of a critical time in history that the United States financial system should have been so completely reorganized and put upon a broad and solid basis just in time for the tremendous strain of the greatest war in human history. It has not only been a factor of great power and advantage, but it may be one of special security when the time comes for the settlement of the war, for which must follow the war, for this country and for other nations.

This being true, is it not time for Canada to set her house in order by adopting progressive banking and currency reform?

GRAVE AT OTTAWA FOR SPRING-RICE

Interment of Former Ambassador Will Be at Beechwood Cemetery.

MESSAGES OF REGRET

On Various Visits to Ottawa He Came in Touch With Noted Statesmen.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 14.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, noted diplomat and until but a few weeks ago ambassador for Great Britain to the United States, who died peacefully at Rideau Hall at 1 a.m. today, will be buried in Ottawa. Lord Richard Nevill, governor-general, announced this morning that the funeral services for the deceased will be held in St. Bartholomew's Church of England, on Saturday afternoon and that interment would be made in Beechwood Cemetery. His Lordship, Bishop Roper will conduct the services, assisted by Rev. F. H. Brewin, rector of the church.

The rather sudden death of Sir Cecil created a profound impression in the capital and already scores of messages of regret and condolence with Lady Spring-Rice are being received at Government House. During his tenure of office, Sir Cecil had been Sir Cecil's custom to pay many visits to Ottawa in a non-official capacity as well as on diplomatic duties, and on these visits he came in touch with many of the Dominion's noted statesmen. His death occurred after he had been here several weeks taking a brief rest preparatory to sailing for England.

It had never been Sir Cecil's custom to make public addresses on a periodical trip to Canada, but while he was spending his last few weeks in the city he felt that he should speak guardedly now that he had relinquished his diplomatic post. He made a splendid address in the Chateau Laurier on the morning of his departure, before a very large attendance of Ottawa Canadian Club, telling of some of the experiences he had had in his career as ambassador, and while in Washington he had his part in the war, and speaking of the events in Europe as he was able to do from his position in the inner diplomatic ring. It will be remembered by those who were present at this luncheon that Sir Cecil made rather significant utterance coupled with his sudden demise. "He was a man to whom I was very attached," he said, "and I was very glad to play a part but my time has come."

POOLING BUSINESS

By J. D. Whelpley.

The buying and selling of raw materials, food and other articles after the war is going to be conducted on a different basis to that to which the world was accustomed in 1913. Germany has been the first country openly to arrange for the purchase by a commission of all raw materials needed in industry. The war experience of the Allies has already led to purchases of war material by an allied commission and allied government purchases of food and other material abroad come within this same sphere of co-operative effort. This system will be continued after the war.

The effect will be to keep prices down, prevent speculation and competitive buying. The only considerable competition from abroad in the American markets for raw materials is the demand for wheat and flour for export to the United States. The United States Government will be compelled to step in to protect American consumers, and it is not difficult to foresee a continued control of export by the American Government after the war and a system of rationing for foreign buyers. This would probably take the form of allowing a certain estimated surplus of all products to go abroad and the proportionate division of this surplus among all foreign countries according to their needs.

The single item of wheat will illustrate the situation that will hold. The United States Government will be in a position to know exactly how much wheat and flour can be exported without depriving American consumers of their bread or so increasing the price as to work unnecessary hardship. The government of all countries desiring to purchase wheat and flour from the United States must go to the United States Government and say just what percentage of the surplus can go to his or their country. In the first year of the war the competition among foreign buyers drove prices sky high in America and caused great distress among American consumers. The lesson was soon learned, however, that buyers combined, and price dropped. Then the United States Government stopped the amount to be sent abroad and prorated it as was deemed just and expedient.

With the end of the war will come an end to food and material shortages in Europe. In fact the demand upon America will be greatly reduced, and the shipping will be available, there will be no legal restrictions upon import in Europe and America, and Austria and Turkey will then be largely in the market, whereas their present demands upon American resources are negligible owing to the blockade. The effect of this government controlled co-operative buying arrangement in Europe is going to be remarkable for as the governments will be able to buy the surplus of wheat and flour at the price because of being the sole source of supply, and the wholesalers and jobbers and the retailers will combine and divide the surplus. In fact it may be deemed that the whole sale of wheat is an unnecessary expense and that the government should buy the wheat and sell it to the retailer and eliminate the whole sale effort.

This will put many wholesalers and jobbers out of business, restrict the retail trade, and advance the cause of an equality so far as the cost of material is concerned. In brief, the war is apparently going to advance the cause of state socialism and paternalism far beyond the point where it is now. In fact it may be deemed that the whole sale of wheat is an unnecessary expense and that the government should buy the wheat and sell it to the retailer and eliminate the whole sale effort.

Even in England, however, many changes have taken place since the war. The war has not only changed the way of doing business, but it has changed the way of doing business. The war has not only changed the way of doing business, but it has changed the way of doing business.

Government control of imports means necessarily continued government control of exports, as food for the people must come first. Then raw material for the manufacturer, and last of all, miscellaneous imports. The effect of all this is that the government will be in a position to control the practical control of all imports and exports, and while it may not be regulated as much in detail as at present, it will be a very different state of affairs from that existing before the war, when ship charters were bought in open market by any who might care to bid the highest. It will be many long years, however, before a cargo of heavy goods will be carried by a single ship from Buenos Aires for three dollars a ton, as was the case a few years ago.

This tendency towards pooling of business forced on all countries during the war will not exhaust itself in such a simple pooling of business. The pooling of business will extend into all forms of industry. The pooling of business will extend into all forms of industry. The pooling of business will extend into all forms of industry.

BRITAIN IS SHORT OF BEEF AND MUTTON BY 30 PER CENT.

Canada Food Board Receives Memorandum From British Ambassador.

ECONOMY IS URGED

Dependence is Almost Entirely on North American Continent for Supplies.

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The Canada Food Board has received from the British ministry of food a memorandum showing the estimated supplies of beef and mutton available for the civilian population of Great Britain during 1918. It reveals an estimated deficiency in supplies of beef and mutton amounting to nearly 30 per cent, as compared with 1914-17, and approximately 45 per cent, as compared with 1913-14.

The consumption of these meats during the last year of peace was 150,000 tons per month. During 1914-17 this amount had fallen to 120,000 tons per month. The total available supplies at present in sight for the current year are not more than 88,000 tons per month.

Owing to the shortage of feed the number of cattle in the country has been appreciably reduced, and the number for fattening for slaughter has been seriously curtailed.

The number of sheep shows a marked reduction, while the number of pigs is still more heavily diminished. The memorandum explains the serious drop in imports of these meats into Great Britain and emphasizes the necessity of depending almost entirely upon the North American Continent for supplies, because of the shortage of refrigeration tonnage and the fact that ships can do much more service on the North American route than on the much longer voyage to Australia. The memorandum emphasizes the importance of avoiding encroachment upon the comparatively small stocks of meat held in reserve for the British and allied armies.

In giving out this information Mr. Henry B. Thompson, chairman of the Canada Food Board, remarked that the latest British rationing orders allow only one pound of meat per week to each civilian. "We have the meat supplies of the armies and the navy," he said, "when the war is over, it will be an imperative duty upon every man, woman and child in the Dominion."

CALL TO STRIKERS TO RETURN TO WORK

Chairman of U. S. Shipping Board Tells Them They Will Be Fairly Treated.

Washington, Feb. 14.—An urgent call to striking seamen to return to work was tonight by Chairman Hurley of the shipping board. He said that the government was prepared to make a fair settlement of the seamen's claims, and that the government was prepared to make a fair settlement of the seamen's claims.

Mr. Hurley stated that the men go to work pending an adjustment of their grievances, but within a few days will be permitted to return to work. He said that the government was prepared to make a fair settlement of the seamen's claims, and that the government was prepared to make a fair settlement of the seamen's claims.

EXTRACT TOLUOL FROM DETROIT GAS

Government Has Begun Erection of Huge Industrial Gas Works.

Special to The Toronto World.
Detroit, Mich., Feb. 14.—An agreement was reached this afternoon between the federal government and the Detroit City Gas Company that will permit the government to extract toluol from the gas works at a cost of five per cent. This will be made up either by the pre-enrichment of the gas at government expense before making a decrease in the rates proportionate to the lowering of the heating units.

If the gas is pre-enriched, the extracting of toluol will make no difference to the consumer. If not the gas probably will be reduced from 100 British thermal units to 87. This would mean a reduction of five per cent in the gas rates.

NURSES ARE ENTERTAINED.

Graduates Attend Valentine Party at Florence Nightingale Association.

At the rooms of the Florence Nightingale Association, Sherbourne street, a delightful Valentine party was given last night. The association entertained the graduates of the nursing school.

THE CALL TO CANADA



THE WOMAN WHO CHANGED

BY JANE PHELPS

Good Wives Are Born, Not Made.

CHAPTER V.
I wanted to tell George what Madge Loring had said to me, but he showed no inclination to talk further, and finished his breakfast, his boots buried in his paper. Then he sat up stairs and changed. I waited for him to come and kiss me good-bye, but he came down so quietly I heard nothing until the front door slammed. I rushed out and called, but too much of a hurry to stop; he did not turn his head.

I swallowed hard to keep back the tears. But the thought that he had left me without the morning kiss, that he could leave me so, brought on another fit of weeping. "How can he do so if he loves me, how can he?" I asked myself over and over. To my immature mind that morning kiss, or the omission of it, meant either a day of happiness or one of miserable unhappiness. It was such a little thing, it took but a second; yet it had already become a task to George. What could it mean? What had changed him so?

He used to beg for my kisses—these me unmercifully because I was so chary of them—and now, when I gave them willingly, he cared nothing for them. It was raining hard and after I had given orders for dinner I went into the library, my favorite room in all the house, and picked up a magazine. It fell open and the title of a story caught my attention. "Good Wives Are Born, Not Made." I read it avidly. It did not bring

me comfort—quite the contrary. It implied that unless a wife was a born diplomat she might as well give up; that her efforts to hold her husband, to be happy herself with him, would never succeed.

Was I so hopelessly old-fashioned to think that when people were married they still should show affection for each other? Was it out of reason to expect a little of the attention I had before I was a wife? I had married a man who was the same girl I was a few months before. Did marrying a man mean that he was exempt forever from playing the girl he married any of the little attentions the gave so gladly before she became his wife?

Oh, it was all so complicated, so horribly hard to understand. Had mother lived near, I could have gone to her—not complaining, but to ask some of these questions which troubled me. But I could not write them; they wouldn't sound the same and she would think I was unhappy. I wasn't really—not all of the time. I was too young, too full of life, to be constantly depressed.

But often when I was feeling happiest and would in my exuberance tell George of my great love, kiss and caress him, he would either passively endure, or tell me not to be silly! Was it silly to love—to love the man whom you had married because of all those you had ever known, he seemed the most worth loving? Oh, if only I could have asked him these questions I constantly asked myself! "Shure it's too bad it's raining, you ain't no right to be settin' here alone, a young thing like you," Mary said when she came to ask about a desert I had heard George say he had eaten at the club, and that he particularly liked the menu.

"But don't know anyone, Mary. The rain continued, so I did not go out, but along about four o'clock the telephone rang, and Madge Loring said:

"I am giving a little impromptu dinner tomorrow night. Will you and George join us?"

"Unless he has some other engagement," I said, "I am sure I will go for company; so seldom used the car save when I went shopping, or on Sundays when George went out with me."

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I haven't any place to go—only to the stores."

"Why don't you go and see that lady you bring into my kitchen when it was messaged up?"

"Now, Mary, you know it wasn't 'messaged up' as you call it. And I believe that is what I will do if it stops raining after lunch. I'll return her call."

"Do that!" and as she left after we talked of the desert, I thought I heard her mutter "poor thing."

I ordered the car in case it stopped raining. George had given me a lovely sedan for a wedding present. I had not yet learned to drive it because he objected to a woman's driving a car. "It looks manlyish," he said, "something I have in any woman, and will not endure in my wife."

But I had not given up hope that he would allow me to learn. More and more were women driving their own cars—fashionable women; who were neither manly nor common. It would have an effect. Until then, I would not annoy him by urging me to learn to drive. I was a few months before I had married a man who was the same girl I was a few months before. Did marrying a man mean that he was exempt forever from playing the girl he married any of the little attentions the gave so gladly before she became his wife?

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