

THE HAMILTON TIMES
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1908.

STUDY THAT CONTRACT.

Few will wonder that the Mayor and his organ have been staggered and that they exhibit disappointment and chagrin in the terms of the contract which Hamilton is expected to sign, if it decides to enter the Hydro-Electric scheme. Even the Toronto World, looking at the matter from the point of view of a city much less favorably situated to do without it than is Hamilton, seems to be unable to give it as much as qualified approval.

But a short time ago the Mayor and his organ were staking their faith on a gross mis-reading of the statute—a misreading said to be approved by Adam Beck—and ridiculing the Times for saying that under the Act, in spite of all promises and assertions of the promoters to the contrary, the municipalities going into the scheme would have to take all the risks involved; would have to pay for the power at the price paid by the Commission at the Falls; all the cost of transmission line, with interest at 4 per cent.; all line loss, cost of operation, maintenance, insurance, and all charges incidental to the scheme, and that they were held absolutely to reimburse the Government for all its outlays on it, and would not know till the annual apportionment by the Commission what the price per horse-power would be. Yet in every particular the Times' contention is borne out by the form of the contract.

Yet even now, with strange fatuity, after being thus misled and affronted by trusting to a false interpreter, and with the peril to which it subjects the city fully admitted, both the Mayor and his organ half apologize for the contract, and show a willingness to sacrifice the incorporation to the scheme even under conditions, so wholly are they abandoned to it!

There are three interests dealt with in the agreement, the generating company, the Government, and the municipalities. The Commission's agreement with the generating company makes it safe; it gets so much money for so much current, and the Government pays. The Government is safe, for by the Power Act, and the agreement municipalities must sign, the taxpayers of the municipalities are held to pay to the last cent, and with interest on the capital invested, the money spent on the scheme by the Commission (the amount apportioned to each being absolutely left to the Commission.) The third party—the municipalities—is the only one of the three not secured. Instead, the municipalities must take all chances, bear all obligations, provide for all contingencies, and mortgage the ratepayers' property to guarantee to pay for all, no matter how much the bill may be.

Some other features are very objectionable—so much so that they balk even enthusiasts for the scheme. It binds the municipalities joining in it to a 30-year obligation to pay for the transmission line and works. (The part of the works for each municipality's own use must be paid for besides by each.) Thirty years' may see great changes.

It binds municipalities to a 40-year contract, during which time they are completely tied up, being forced to agree to an irrevocable monopoly in electric power, the agreement stipulating that they must not obtain electricity from any other source during the period. That is a provision little short of monstrous. Consider it. Less than ten years ago Hamilton made a street-lighting contract. It was a good one, as things were then; and even at a price that was intended as a bonus to the company, was regarded as reasonable. Yet within five years or so the march of progress had made it onerous and a cause of much dissatisfaction and friction. Now it is seriously proposed by the Hydro-Electric Commission, and by some of those who are most declamatory against even a 10-year contract, to tie up the city to an absolute monopoly for 40 years! It is not to be entertained by sane men. Who is to say what beneficent revolutions may be wrought by science and discovery in a fraction of that time? And shall we bind, not only our own hands, but those of posterity, and deliberately exclude ourselves and our children from benefiting to the full by the march of progress for forty years?

Each municipality joining stands to have its position rendered more onerous by the dropping out of others, or by the reduction of their obligations. That is worth considering. The peak-load system of charge, by which a municipality pays for an entire month for the greatest amount of current used for any 20 minutes of the month, renders any quotations of cheap prices per horse-power meaningless, and subjects it to danger of having to pay for half as much again as it actually uses.

Then a municipality must pay for three-fourths of the power ordered, even if it uses none.

Why should the municipality buying current from the Commission have to submit to the dictation of the Commission's inspectors as to its own machinery?

Now that the people get some idea of what is proposed they will marvel what all the boasting by Beck and Whitney and the reflections on Ross have been about. Ross provided for supply of 63,500 h.p. of current for municipalities, free to be absolutely in control of the Government. He empowered municipalities to go into the transmission and distribution of power, and to raise the funds therefor, and appoint their own officials and do all the work necessary, paying for such themselves. What has

Whitney done further? He sacrificed the advantage of power at a price fixed by Government, and he took from the municipalities the right to choose their own officials for the work, taking that as "patronage"; but he charges the last cent up to them, and makes them pay it with interest! He makes the bargains; they pay the bills and take the chances!

Many may see in this contract form an indication that, having failed to encompass the ruin of the Electrical Development Company, Whitney will not be grieved beyond measure, if, lasting over the elections, the entire Hydro business (on which over \$75,000 has already been spent, to be charged to municipalities) is allowed to fall with the regulation dull thud. Some may even suspect that he would be sparing of his tears if the official "Minister of Power" should be so unfortunate as to be under it.

BANNERMAN—ASQUITH.

Owing to continued ill-health Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has sent to the King his resignation of the office of Premier of Great Britain. Sir Henry has been in public life for forty years, having been elected for the Stirling District in 1868, and having since then continuously represented that district. He has been leader of the Liberal party in the House of Commons since 1899; was Financial Secretary to the War Office 1871-74, 1880-82; Secretary to Admiralty 1882-84; Chief Secretary for Ireland 1884-85; and Secretary of State for War 1888, 1892-95. He has been Premier for the past two years. Although not a brilliant man, every step he took in advancement added to his reputation as a sensible, honest man, and his good nature and urbanity of manner made him one of the most popular of Prime Ministers. Still, he could be firm and unyielding when occasion required. His resignation, though expected for some time, will cause general regret.

The cable that announced Sir Henry's resignation also announced that Mr. Herbert Henry Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been summoned to Biarritz by King Edward to assume the reins of Government the Premier had been compelled to lay down. The new Premier is a Yorkshire man, born in 1852, being a man in his prime. He is a lawyer by profession. Although an Englishman, he entered Parliament as a representative of a Scotch constituency—East Fife—in 1886, and was re-elected in 1892 and 1895. He was Home Secretary in Gladstone's last Cabinet. He was conspicuous as a debater during the Home Rule discussions, and in 1894 drew up the Welsh Dis-establishment Bill. In December, 1895, he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Bannerman Cabinet, holding that position up to the present. Mr. Asquith is one of the cleverest debaters in the House, but he has not the personal popularity of the retiring leader.

T. P. O'Connor, in a pen picture of the new Premier, says, after speaking of Mr. Asquith as a young man: "Sometimes, as I look on him now across the floor of the House I find it a little difficult to realize that the man whom hard work, heavy responsibility, all the anxieties of public life, have transformed into the middle-aged man with whitening hair is the same. There is about his face a greater serenity—a milder expression—a more tolerant air than in the face of the younger man. There used to be reproach against Mr. Asquith that he did not suffer fools gladly; he had something in him of that temptation against which I remember young Catholic boys used to be specially warned—"the pride of life"—the arrogance of the intellectual and the broad-minded and the far-seeing for all the narrowness, the pettiness, and the partisan rancour of which one finds so much in political life. Mr. Asquith has meliorated in temperament as well as broadened in mind with years and experience.

"What is the great secret of Mr. Asquith's rise? It is simply his immense and instinctive oratorical power. Oratory is one of those gifts that come from the beautiful hand of nature—direct, unmistakable, spontaneous. If a man have it, the world recognizes—has to recognize it—at once. It is, indeed, like all forms of magnetic personality, it does not ask, it demands and extorts admiration and attention. Sometimes men become good and effective debaters by sheer training; I have seen quite stumbling speakers become quite adept debaters in the House of Commons by the sheer practice that was forced upon them by official position. But the orator is born, not made; while the debater may be made, though not born. Mr. Asquith is the born orator. The House of Commons recognized that the very first moment he stood up in the House.

AN ELECTION TRICK.

Not even the gerrymandering of the Province in the most shameful manner, the manufacture of four more members for Tory Toronto, and the laying out of a number of new constituencies in the north, which he hopes to "manage," makes Whitney feel safe in going before the electors. The ingenuity in evildoing that was brought to bear in the carrying up of the constituencies is shown in other directions. Even Tory Toronto is not to be trusted, and a new device has been resorted to by way of heading off any intrusion by Labor, or other candidates, who might detract from the straight Tory machine vote. Instead of there being one ballot, from which two members should be elected in each of the four constituencies, each member to be chosen shall be designated separately on different ballots, as ballot A and ballot B, there being two nominations, and the elections being regarded as distinct and separate, although conducted by the same officials, and in the same polling places. To some, the object of this trickery may not be at once clear; certainly, no excuse is to be found for it in securing the decision of the electors in the public interest. In compelling the voter to use two ballots instead of one, the Government has planned to guard, as much as possible, against breaking up the machine vote by division with

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Geo. W. Carey Forced to Sacrifice \$17,500 Stock in Order to Fulfil Contracts Made With Manufacturers.

It's Our Loss and Your Gain. Don't Miss This Opportunity if You Need a Piano.

Means Dollars in Your Pocket

A Chance to Get the Best Makes at Lowest Prices Ever Offered in This City.

Open Every Evening Until 10 o'Clock.

We are sure these fine Pianos, Organs and Pianolas will go like the proverbial "hot cakes," when the people realize just what we are doing in this sale. The Bargains are being snapped up quickly by the eager buyers, and we are confident that our expectations will be realized before the sale closes.

Of course, we have no choice in this matter—we simply must close out this stock, and do it quickly. The world-wide financial stringency through which we have just passed prevented us from fulfilling the contracts made with the different factories during the exhibition last fall, whereby in order to get closest prices we agreed to purchase large quantities of Pianos within a stated time. WE MUST LIVE UP TO OUR AGREEMENTS. Costs and former prices can enter into the matter now.

Every buyer will share in the great sacrifice of profit and cost in this sale. If you need, or will be needing, a Piano or an Organ at all, you should hasten to grasp this rare chance to save probably a hundred dollars or more. We have decided to confine our efforts to get rid of this stock to ten days. Don't wait until the last—the early buyers have the largest assortment to choose from.

Almost every style and finish, and nearly a dozen different makes are displayed. Look at this for quality: New Style Williams, the piano which has won great laurels in a short space of years, in the face of fierce opposition. Mason & Risch, a household word in Canada for more than thirty years. And nearly everyone is more or less familiar with the values in a little lower priced instrument, to be secured in the Haines Bros., Dominion, Krynder, Marshall & Wendall, Ennis, Stanley & Palmer.

OUR EXCHANGES

Power Contract. (London Advertiser.) The contract as it stands will not do," said Mayor Stevely this afternoon to the Advertiser.

John Bull's Pulse. (London Advertiser.) Mr. Hays secured enough money in England for two years' work in the Grand Trunk Pacific. John Bull's long purse is a boon to this country, but where could the old gentleman spend his money to better advantage?

The United States. (Toronto Star.) Many Buffalo couples are said to be getting married at Toronto. Without cracking up our own goods, we are bound to say that in this country the united state is a much more reliable article than it is in the United States.

Britain Very Much Alive. (Ottawa Citizen.) It must have surprised some people to learn by the cable reports that Britain's revenue returns for the past five years amounted to 782 million dollars, a net increase of six and a half millions over the preceding twelve months. An idea seems to have been going about that degenerates, undesirable and the unemployed are among the chief products of the British Isles. The hard cash in the treasury would, however, indicate there are some healthy, busy, hardworking and money-making men and women over there, too.

Would Muzzle Allan. (Toronto Saturday Night.) It is said of Mr. Studholme that he is a quite sensible man to talk to while he is sitting down, and that it is only when he stands up to make a speech that he forgets time, place, reason, everything and just talks without aim or end. The same thing in a milder form has been observed in other men. If there is any truth in what is said of Mr. Studholme in this regard, it is probable that he will be a member of the House and permit him to sit while speaking. It is worth trying anyway.

With the Blinds Down. (Toronto Globe.) There is crookedness in this Goblet Lake business. That is why the Whitney Government have succeeded in hiding the suspicious operations from the light of day, and even with the Premier's denial of an intention to hold the elections in May they may be hurried through while the Province is still in ignorance. When the courts threatened revelations, the Government forced through a statute unconstitutionally deciding the issue, and declaring that one party to the litigation had no claim.

Power With Responsibility. (Montreal Star, Tory.) When it comes to purchasing supplies—the question before parliament yesterday—the problem is, perhaps, a little broader. This is the spending of the public revenues. Here is a great chance for corruption which many will think had better be kept in hands directly responsible to the people. A good Commission would do much better than any set of politicians we have yet succeeded in seating in office; but a bad Commission would have immense powers of mischief, and tremendous and far-reaching influences in their hands to quiet criticism and prevent the interference of parliament. If parliament is to perform any function for us, it must surely continue to criticize public expenditure; and it can only do this effectively if it have the responsible ministers under its direct control. It would certainly appear that we might better try the experiment of government by commission elsewhere before we put it in possession of the national treasury.

LOCATION OF RAILS. Toronto and Hamilton Object to Mr. Hendrie's Amendment. (From our Own Correspondent.) Toronto, Ont., April 6.—The City Councils of Toronto and Hamilton have taken exception to a clause in Hon. Mr. Hendrie's amendment to the Railway Board Act, which has been read a third time in the Legislature, and now only awaits the assent of the Lieut-Governor to become law. When the measure was

Provincial Treasurer Matheson asks power to borrow \$4,000,000, \$3,000,000 of which will be required to cover the amount expended on the T. & N. O. R.; but he declines absolutely to tell what the other million is wanted for. If such a high-handed policy were adopted by the Dominion Government, how Tory shriekers from the Atlantic to the Pacific would make the welkin ring! Have the people's representatives not a right to know for what the credit of the Province is pledged?

The Times some days ago took the Winnipeg Telegram to task for repeating the falsehood, attributed to Melnes and telegraphed from Edmonton, to the effect that Hon. Mr. Sifton was manager of the Imperial Pulp Co. The Times learns that the Tribune has since that time editorially accepted Mr. Sifton's denial, and we hasten to do the justice of giving the fact publicity. The pity is that the sensational damaging statement about Mr. Sifton attracts so much more notice than the acceptance of the contradiction.

Those who take an interest in politics are completely at a loss to understand how so cautious a statesman as Sir Wilfrid Laurier happened to create a Commission of Enquiry into the state of the civil service which would bring in a report so damaging.—Toronto Saturday Night.

Such a simple solution of the problem as the Government's desire to get at the facts, no matter who might suffer, and to remedy any ills that might be discovered, perhaps never occurred to our contemporary, or to the politicians to whom it refers who seek no object beyond the gain of the hour for their party.

The remarkable legislation sought from Ontario by Toronto by which means it was aimed to override the judgment of the Privy Council and authorize the City Council to decide the streets upon which street railway tracks should be laid without regard to the company's views or rights in the matter has, fortunately for the credit of the Province, been refused. When the matter came up the proposition made by a private member that the Railway Board be called in as arbitrator was promptly accepted by the company, and that was regarded as reasonable and was approved by the Legislature.

Would Hear Willison. (Clinton New Era.) The editor of the Toronto News knows the county of Huron personally. He does once in a while criticize the Whitney Government, but if he has said one word about the iniquity of the proposed redistribution of Huron, we have failed to see it. And yet it is bad enough to arouse the opposition of Conservatives themselves.

Enquiry into the conduct of a few clerks at Ottawa does not cure the graft evil. The dismissal of clerks, whether by retail or in wholesale manner, leaves the curse from which the country is suffering untouched. Under our system the civil servant is the employee of the Minister.—Mail and Empire.

We expected that sort of thing. It was hardly to be believed that, when the evils referred to by the Civil Service Commissioners began to be brought home

to the Tory appointees who had been allowed to abuse the confidence of Liberal Ministers, the organs would be equal to the test. The time for squealing may be said to have arrived, when punishment strikes the guilty.

Tuesday, April 7, 1908
SHEA'S
ROYAL WORCESTER CORSETS, best in the world, (in stock at \$1.25 to \$3.00.)
Easter Hats—A Bargain...
Women's Coats \$4.95...
Children's Coats \$4.95, \$2.75...
Dress Skirts at \$3.95...
Women's Suits at \$12.50...
Embroidery at 7 1/2 c Worth 12 1/2 c...
Corsets at 69c Worth More...
Women's Blouses at \$1.50...
Women's Suits at \$12.50...
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Business Men Who Take a Hurried Luncheon Will Find Comfort During Lent in The Shredded Whole Wheat Wafer. It contains the greatest amount of body-building material in a form that is easily digested.
TRY TOASTED TRISCUIT WITH BUTTER, CHEESE, OR MARMALADE.
All Grocers. 13c a Carton, 2 for 25c.
OLD FOLKS' DAY.
Special Service in Barton St. Methodist Church.
Yesterday morning the annual old folks' service was held in Barton St. Methodist Church. The preacher for the day was Rev. Dr. Mullin, who has held a pastorate in the Presbyterian Church at Fergus for 36 years. All the elderly people in the community had been cordially invited. As they entered the door of the church the young ladies of the Epworth League presented them with beautiful bouquets and neatly printed badges in honor of the day. A carriage was sent for some who were too feeble to walk to the service. Seats were reserved for them. The choir was largely composed of silver-haired singers and the old hymns were sung to the old tunes. Dr. Mullin spoke on the advantage of the old as compared with the new. He was assisted in the service by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Livingston. To-night the young people of the church will serve supper to all who have passed the 60th year, after which Dr. Mullin will deliver a lecture on "Misfits."