

The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 19.

TWO GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

In the monthly bulletin of the Toronto Civic Guild, two excellent projects are proposed. If the city were owned by one man, intent on improving this property to the utmost and getting the very most out of its investment in enhancement of values, in convenience and in artistic effect, both of them would be at once adopted. But the city is not all owned by one man, and it seems to be the most difficult thing possible to get the representatives of the citizens to understand that what would be best under individual ownership would also be best under collective ownership. We are so frequently penny wise and dollar foolish in our expenditures that we can only endorse with the heartiest sympathy, but with the faintest hopes of their acceptance, these two suggestions of the guild.

The first is for the creation of a concourse, as the guild terms it, at a point on Yonge street where it has already been decided to bring Teraraul street extended to a junction with Yonge street, the idea being to bring Church street extended, then Severn street to a junction with Yonge street at the same point.

This would mean a fine open space, similar to the head of University avenue at College street, for Yonge street striking southwards on the new Teraraul and Severn streets where Davenport road now begins. The park in the neighboring hollow and the general effect would be of the greatest advantage to the city, whose center is more and more nearly approaching Yonge and Bloor streets, and whose population will ultimately be centered north of that intersection. The advantage to traffic and the relief to congestion on lower Yonge street to have the diversion of traffic made at this point, and the expense is practically the same as for the patchy plan first suggested, which would make two different openings into Yonge street instead of the one symmetrical junction.

The other guild proposal is in connection with the new postoffice. It was at first generally understood that the government would buy the property west of the present postoffice, west to Victoria street, and build the new structure facing on Victoria. It is now expected that the property to be used will be from the present postoffice east to Church street. The civic guild suggests that, the remainder of the block, between the postoffice, Lombard, Victoria and Adelaide streets, should be acquired and a square created in front of the new postoffice, which would face westwards upon this open space.

It is safe to say that no city in the empire but Toronto would reject such a proposal, but Toronto refused to create a square in front of the city hall at a cost of \$200,000, which is now worth millions, and we fear we are no wiser than our fathers were. Perhaps there are too many of our fathers still alive to hope for any better fate for the guild suggestions. Can the young men who have to live here for the next fifty years not exert a little influence with the elders who will all be gone in the next five? Or, are the elders not amenable to any reasonable considerations?

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP?

Mr. Chas. McD. Hay has written to one of his friends a letter which The Evening Telegram has had the privilege of reproducing. In it he explains that he does not believe in passing judgment on a report until we had an opportunity of reading and studying it, and so wrote intelligently. This, I am sure, will appeal to the horse-sense of any business man. We desire to point out that such a course in the case of the street railway purchase agreement, does not appeal to The Telegram, nor to Controller Church, nor Controller O'Neill, nor to Aldermen Graham, Meredith, Maybee, D. Spence and Maguire. We trust that the members of the board of trade have a little more horse-sense than these members of the city council.

Mr. Hay continues his letter as follows: "I might say I am utterly opposed, and have been all along, to the purchase of the street railway and electric light under present terms and conditions."

"Referring to the state in The Telegram last night, I was never asked by The Telegram how I stood in the matter. They have assumed my position the same as they have assumed very many other things in the paper's reports given in their position of the workings of the board."

As Mr. Hay has not yet seen the agreement drawn by the city's legal department, we can only surmise that his

objections to the "present terms and conditions" arise from "the unfair reports" given in The Telegram in this, as in so many other matters. We trust Mr. Hay will be elected to the council, and that he will have an opportunity of bringing his horse-sense to bear upon the agreement as drawn up by the city's counsel-at-law.

It may be well to note in this connection that the campaign which The Telegram has carried on in the board of trade for the election of an anti-purchase council, has been carried on in direct alliance with the anti-public ownership forces and interests in the city. But The Telegram cares nothing for public ownership so long as it could cut Mayor Hocken's throat. On Saturday, on the last possible occasion, too late to be of any practical effect, it repudiated its previous support of Messrs. Arthur Hewitt and K. J. Dunstan in order at the same time to knife Mr. J. E. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson being one of about three public ownership men on the list of nominations for the council. The Telegram felt it could safely sacrifice two corporation men in order to kill one public ownership man, and it will "point with pride" on Tuesday to its success. If the opportunity be given it in killing a supporter of public ownership in the city press.

The struggle, so far as there is one in the board of trade, is between public and private ownership views, and The Telegram is lined up with the corporation men.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

In Germany the housing problem is just as acute as it is in the other countries, and for identical reasons. Cities are increasing their populations with equal rapidity, and as they grow, so do land values. It is found too, that capitalists prefer land speculation to house building, and that, in consequence, a house famine has been created. Professor Eberstadt of Berlin has described the situation of the modern city by saying that "the mediaeval town was surrounded by a wall to keep the invaders out, while the modern industrial city is surrounded by a wall of land speculators to keep them in." This it is which has caused so many German cities to buy extensive tracts of suburban lands. The city of Ulm in Wurttemberg, for example, with 50,000 inhabitants, owns no less than 4942 acres.

In order to solve the housing problem, German cities have followed three general policies, which are thus stated by Dr. Frederic C. Howe. In the first place the land within and without the city is planned with great care to prevent the reappearance of tenement conditions in the new areas. Second, the municipality either builds or promotes the building of suburban garden communities, or the erection of model apartment houses within the city. A third policy is that of the taxation of vacant land at a higher rate than improved land, to force the owner to build. In addition the street transportation systems, generally owned by the municipalities, together with the state-owned railways, are invaluable agencies for distributing the population out into the country and surrounding villages.

In these efforts, German cities receive the hearty approval of the various state governments, and are encouraged to acquire land, build houses, lend money to working men and to extend the means of transit to the suburbs. Up to the end of December, 1910, no less than \$76,175,598 had been

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The Board of Trade Elections and the Purchase Agreement

Opponents of the agreement of purchase endeavored to get a majority of last year's city council to vote for breaking off the negotiations to clean up the franchises. They failed. Then they tried to elect a council for this year that would break off the negotiations. They failed. Their mistake is in presuming that they have a standing in the community which will influence the people to blindly follow their leadership.

Their claim to leadership in this matter was seriously discredited by the precipitately submitted substitute plan of the harbor board. One blast from Ald. F. S. Spence knocked the plan to smithereens. They do not offer any more substitute plans, but they are today trying to pack the board of trade council with enemies to public ownership.

Harbor board or board of trade leadership, it matters not which, will no longer influence the people for or against the agreement of purchase. Only too well the people know that experts in electrical engineering and chartered accountancy have endorsed the plan of the harbor board, and only too well the people know that the opponents have no special qualifications for either electrical engineering or chartered accountancy. It is too evident to the people that the opposition to the agreement of purchase comes from the enemies of public ownership.

The Harbor Board.
The harbor board was foolish enough to try to dictate to the city council, and even went so far as to insist that the harbor board and not the city council, has the ability and right to plan and operate a rapid transit system for Toronto. By that ill-considered action the harbor board not only seriously damaged its prestige, but also weakened confidence in commission form of assistance to city government. Should the board of trade elect today a council that will presume to interfere with the

GOLD AND SILVER IN 1913.

In their annual Bullion Letter, issued on Jan. 1, Samuel Montagu & Co., the well-known bankers and bullion merchants of London, England, include several references to Canada. It is noted that the gold output from the Porcupine district of Ontario is expected to be not less than a million ounces, and that future prospects are very promising. A less favorable view is taken of Canadian silver production, which, it is remarked, can increase no longer at the enormous rate of a few years back. "It is a question," the report says, "whether that of 1913 has exceeded that for 1912, which was stated officially at \$1,931,710 ounces, and there is no reason to expect that the output for 1914 will show any improvement. In fact, some falling off is not at all unlikely." This estimate is, of course, based on present conditions, but with so much highly mineralized territory unexplored, it would not be at all surprising were this year to witness the discovery of even more valuable deposits than those now under operation.

Of general interest is the statement that sovereigns continue to be coined in great numbers, of which only a small proportion remain in Great Britain. The great bulk is exported to India, to other parts of the empire and to foreign countries. Continued coinage on so large a scale, says the report, still further increases the enormous quantity of British gold coin either held as stocks or circulating throughout the world. Another curious fact noted is that the coloring of red glass used for railway signaling is obtained from gold. Last year India only took \$18,000,000 of gold, a reduction of \$9,600,000 as compared with the 1912 imports. This reduction is attributed to a disposition on the part of the Indian people to invest in land securities, to the heavy coinage of new silver rupees and to the readjustment of government balances.

PRISON LABOR.

While there is something to be said against prison labor, especially where it enters into competition with voluntary industry, the argument surely should not be pressed further than is needed to protect the worker. In a sparsely populated country, where there is much to do and importation of undertakings are often delayed, or their progress restricted on account of their cost, many opportunities are afforded for the employment of prisoners. All authorities agree that the utterly useless tasks frequently assigned to prisoners are wrong from every point of view. Work to be helpful must have an element of value and of a character that will enable the worker to retain or regain his self-respect.

The making of roads, the preparation of land for agricultural purposes, and other projects that assist the development of the country, seem peculiarly fitted for the employment of prison labor. Nor does there appear to be

any valid reason against the teaching of trades and their exercise, provided unfair competition with regular labor is not entered into. Prison employment should be profitable, not alone to the state, but also to enable either support to be extended to the families of the delinquents, or a fund accumulated for their benefit on release. Tasks that are punitive rather than reformatory are injurious to moral fiber and this touches the vital point in prison reform. Sentiment in this age increasingly favors the principle that reclamation is the true end of a proper penal system.

An Epoch in Central British Columbia
On Tuesday, Jan. 13, the laying of steel on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway reached Prince George, the coming city of central British Columbia, situated at the junction of the Fraser and the Nechako Rivers. This was a momentous event, as it gives Prince George the first rail connection it has had with the outside world. It is interesting to note that up to date the Grand Trunk Pacific Townsite and Development Company have sold in their Town of Prince George 371 lots, total value of same being \$2,322,062.33.

Owing to the large area of agricultural lands in the district surrounding Prince George and the vast territory of unknown possibilities that are in the immediate vicinity, this will be made an important city and a great distributing point for the entire central British Columbia region.

G. G. S. Lindsey, who is to address the Canadian Club today on "Self-government in Canada."

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January 17, 1914.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
Motion set down for single court for Monday, 19th inst.:
1. Wilmet v. Lee.

Peremptory list for appellate division for Monday, 19th inst., at 11 a.m.:
1. Loftus v. Harris.
2. Hartley v. Pherrill.
3. Manchester v. Malby.
4. Axler v. Granblatt.
5. Humphrey v. Bunting.
6. Shaver v. Ross.

Master's Chambers.
Before J. A. C. Cameron, Master.
Chapman v. Chapman. — Order (Smith, R. & G.) obtained order directed to registrar of deeds for East Toronto to produce original documents at trial.

Johnston v. Hull—Brown (Wherry & McE.), for defendant, obtained order on consent dismissing action, without costs and vacating registration of its pendens.
Hayes v. Marshall—E. N. Armour, for plaintiff, moved for judgment under C. R. 56, G. Bell, K.C., for defendant. Enlarged until 22nd inst.
Boehm v. May—Gordon (Bicknell & Co.), for plaintiff, obtained order dismissing action without costs.

Judges' Chambers.
Before Middleton, J.
Re Norman Sinclair Duck—R. H. Holmes for N. S. Duck v. Proudfoot, K.C., for defendant. Motion upon return of writ of habeas corpus for discharge of Norman Sinclair Duck from the custody of the hospital for insane at Brockville, where he now is. Judgment: The return of the writ shall be the superintendent of the asylum shows that Duck was committed to the asylum upon the certificate of two medical practitioners in accordance with section seven and eight of the revised statutes of Ontario, then in force, on Feb. 15, 1913. In August, 1913, the patient was given into the custody of his father, a probationer under section thirty of the statute then in force, which permits the inmate of an asylum to be committed for a time to the custody of his friends upon receiving a written undertaking in the prescribed form by one or more of the friends of such person that he or they will keep an oversight over him. The father coming to the conclusion that his son ought to be re-committed to an asylum, the patient has been dangerous to himself and to others, and in his opinion never will recover from his present malady. The discharge is sought upon the strength of certain affidavits which were completely met and answered by affidavits, and it appeared to me to be a matter of such importance that there should be no room for the suggestion that by inadvertence or malice one should be confined in an asylum unless unquestionably insane and a menace to himself or others that I thought it desirable that an absolutely independent physician of the highest possible repute should make an examination and report. This course was at once assented to by both counsel, the Mr. Holmes now impudently denies this, and I admitted to C. K. Clarke, superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital, to make the examination, selecting him because of his large experience, and did this not because of doubt or hesitation in accepting the opinion of the other doctors, but because of what seemed to me the rash and intemperate declaration of counsel, who suggested that these men, occupying important public positions, were in league with this young man's father to oppress and imprison him for the purpose of satisfying private ends. Dr. Clarke states that this young man is suffering from the paranoid form of dementia, traces of which should be kept under treatment in an institution. This confirms the views of the other doctors. Dr. Bruce Smith says of his subsequent examination of the patient, the patient stated that he was satisfied with the care and treatment he was receiving at Brockville, and that he was not a consenting party to the action being taken to secure his release. He further stated that the doctor that he had been induced to enter an action for \$50,000 damages against his father, by one Appleby, to whom he had been induced to promise \$5000 if the suit was successful. The affidavit shows that the father has thrust down his utmost for his unfortunate son—that the son's present condition was either brought about or aggravated by evil habits, that everything possible has been done for his treatment with a view to his recovery, but without avail. Against all this evidence there is not a single opinion of any medical man or anyone in any way qualified to express an opinion upon the subject. Appleby, referred to in Dr. Bruce Smith's affidavit, is the main actor, who made the original affidavit upon which the writ was granted. The utter worthlessness of Appleby's evidence was made plain by a second affidavit which he files. This affidavit says, as regards clauses 13 and 14 of Dr. Bruce Smith's affidavit (i.e. the clauses in which Dr. Bruce Smith speaks of his conversation with Duck), "I have no hesitation in declaring them to be absolutely untrue." I asked the solicitor responsible for this affidavit how he could justify permitting any deponent to make such a statement. He told me that all that was meant was that Mr. Appleby found it impossible to believe such a statement. This indicates such ignorance on the part of the solicitor of his obligations, and of the meaning of language that one's supple is as regarded as to the bona fides of the application and the real meaning to be attached to any expressions used. The case is really free from difficulty, but I desire to make it quite plain that on the personal of the parties and witnesses, and the manner of their examination, the application must be dismissed with costs. If it turns out to be a fact that the application was made without instructions, it may be

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Single Court.

Before Middleton, J.
Re Rebecca Barrett estate and re R. G. Barrett estate—H. S. White, for executors, moved for orders construing wills of Rebecca Barrett and R. G. Barrett, under C. R. 1, F. Hellmuth, K.C., for five sons, W. N. Tilley for daughters, F. Arnold, K.C., for married daughter, H. M. Ludwig, K.C., for son's wife, W. J. Boland for grand-daughter. Reserved.

Before Lennox, J.

Hall v. Town of Meaford—W. J. A. Hall, K.C., for plaintiff, obtained an injunction restraining defendants, their council, mayor, reeve and councillors, until Jan. 22, from passing a certain proposed bylaw of the Town of Meaford, called local option bylaw, advertised on Dec. 4, 1913, to be voted upon by the electors of the said town on Jan. 5, 1914, with liberty to file and use further material on return of motion.

MANY ENTERPRISES
ON WAY IN WEST

Fox Farming Promises to Be Live Industry—Hopeful Spirit Abroad.

PEACE RIVER CROSSING, Alta. Jan. 18.—A dealer in furs and foxes left for Edmonton with \$22,000 worth of live foxes and skins in an automobile. The purchases were made in Peace River and Fort Vermilion districts.

REGINA, Sask., Jan. 18.—The seventeenth branch bank just opened here indicates increasing importance of Regina as a banking center. Bank clearings show an increase of \$16,937,800 over the previous year. The city council's special committee considering gas supply approved the proposal that a syndicate furnish natural gas to Regina at twenty cents per thousand feet. The syndicate agrees to supply the city within two years.

VETASKIWIN, Alta. Jan. 13.—A fur company will establish a fox farm here with twenty black and silver foxes purchased at Edmonton at a value of \$35,000. The foxes were originally captured in Fort Vermilion and Fort Chipewyan.

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. Jan. 18.—Arrangements are being made for the construction of a road from this city to Beaver Lake, where a recent gold

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—Agents—

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strike is reported. The route covers 120 miles. Already freighting is being done. It will not only make the gold district accessible but also promote settlement in the country with much good farm land, valuable fishing and unlimited timber.

MEDICINE HAT, Jan. 18.—A proposed new market site is rendered necessary by the rapid development of market business. The new location will provide accommodation for farmers and remove congestion, resulting from present limited quarters. During the year 1913 the fire loss at Medicine Hat was only \$64,000.

ST. STEPHEN'S MEN'S CLUB.

The early history of Ontario will be the subject of a lecture by Alex. Fraser, provincial archivist at a meeting of St. Stephen's Men's Club, this evening.

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