

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 25, 1912

CIVIC CAR SERVICE WITHOUT DELAY

What is needed on the new civic lines is a service at the earliest possible moment. It is unfortunate that for the last two years the executive of this city dawdled along without making any preparations for the crucial and critical moment when the lines would be ready for operation—nor provision for equipment to run them. The city has now entered on a new era. Mayor Hocken realizes the pressing nature of the situation, and there is but one opinion as to the necessity of getting the wheels turning as soon as they can be got on the lines.

The proposal to hand the lines over to the Street Railway Company emanates from the same quarter that kept the city dilly-dallying for two years past without making ready for the present time of their completion. The board of control agrees with Mayor Hocken that the city must operate its own lines, and the wisdom of this view will be apparent to the citizens who suffer from delay, overcrowding and the other avoidable inconveniences of the company's service.

In order to get a service at the earliest possible moment it will be necessary to overcome the various technical fences by which procedure in the city council is held up, and occasionally buried. The only way to get along is to give Commissioner Harris the powers of a commissioner and let him go ahead as a responsible official of the city and do what needs to be done. Mr. Harris will undertake, we believe, if entrusted with the power, to provide a service as quickly as it can be done. It would be an electric service and one which would be satisfactory in every way.

Several suggestions have been made to start the lines and help the citizens, but none of these have been of a character to recommend itself by practical results of economy. Horse cars have been mentioned, but the savings of the Toronto lines would require special cars to be built, and electric cars had just as quickly. A bus service would not be satisfactory according to the assurances of those best fitted to judge.

We trust Commissioner Harris will be given authority to go ahead without delay to install a service on the civic lines.

CHEAP POWER FOR BRANTFORD.

Brantford votes today on a bylaw to install hydro-electric power. There is little doubt about it being carried. The people have had a gold-brick experience in their contract with the Western Counties Company, which quoted lower rates under pressure of the threat of hydro competition; with a promise to reduce the rates ten per cent. below hydro rates elsewhere. But the company has made no reduction in its rates and will make no reduction unless compelled by legal process or further hydro competition. The people of Brantford will vote for hydro because it will cut the rates for electric light and power in half. Even those who are customers of the Western Counties Company will vote for it because they will get their rates reduced to meet the hydro rates. This is the experience in Toronto, where people vote for hydro, although they often continue to patronize Toronto Electric, because the hydro system brought the Toronto Electric rates down by half. The citizens of Toronto have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in this way and Brantford will benefit proportionately.

MR. BECK'S NEW PLAN.

Hon. Adam Beck's success in the elaboration and management of the hydro-electric system has resolved itself into an imperial illustration of the possibilities of co-operation. Everybody knows, and everybody, except electric corporation shareholders, likes to hear about the wonderful reductions in the price of power and light, and the advent of "white coal" in districts where such a boon had never been regarded as possible. The farmer is now as eager for the transmission wires to come his way, as the anti-hydro people were formerly opposed to them. In the presence of all this, it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Beck has still further plans for the extension of the hydro principle, and its application to the wider welfare of the people. In a speech at Belmont, Mr. Beck outlined his conception of combining an electric railway system with the power system throughout the province, where the hydro lines are accessible, so that the municipalities, which now own their share

in the hydro system, aided by others, could combine with the assistance of the provincial and federal governments to operate a system of electric railway lines also.

The mutual interaction of the power lines with the railway lines would be of the greatest advantage in common usage of rights of way, feed lines, and in other respects. Rapid transit is always a problem in rural communities, and such a plan would settle the difficulty of cheap transportation, better than anything else could.

If the municipalities would agree to co-operate, the governments could administer and finance it, as the Ontario Government is now doing with the hydro commission. There would be the same security and freedom from risk. Toronto could take a leading part in it and settle her great radial problem by its means, and with the aid of forty or fifty other towns and cities, the whole province would be benefited and stimulated. The two services together would furnish a low cost proposal, and good construction on their railways would forestall the monopolies which are gradually spreading over the province.

Mr. Beck's plan should attract immediate attention from the municipalities, and we trust the city council will at once give it consideration.

MR. MONK, QUEBEC AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Altho Hon. F. D. Monk is no longer minister of public works, he still holds his seat in the house of commons, and will, no doubt, at the coming session give to the house and to the country the reasons for his resignation. Mr. Monk quite properly declined to discuss his course, at all until his resignation had been submitted to and accepted by H. R. H. the governor-general; even since then he has had practically nothing to say for publication.

When a minister leaves a government the public naturally look to him for an explanation. It is up to him, as it is up to the prime minister, to explain his withdrawal from the cabinet. The country will expect some explanation from Mr. Monk upon the assembling of parliament. Until parliament meets and either the prime minister or Mr. Monk has spoken, there is little to discuss. It is understood that a difference of opinion existed between the ex-minister and his colleagues respecting the government's policy on the navy question. But we do not know clearly what that policy is, or in what respect it proved unacceptable to Mr. Monk. These matters will be made plain when the house meets. The country will then learn Mr. Monk's position and be able to judge of its soundness. In any event we are sure that his motives are of the best.

Mr. Monk, being from the Province of Quebec, particular attention is focused upon that province. Does Mr. Monk it is asked, speak for Quebec or for any large section of the Conservatives of that province?

It will be found, upon investigation, that the people of Quebec are not at present sitting up at night discussing the navy question. They have passed their two elections this year and are a trifle weary of politics. Neither are the people of that province prepared to say, without investigation, that Mr. Monk is right, and that the government is wrong. They wait probably to hear the people of the other provinces, to hear the whole subject discussed in parliament.

Nence, one cannot say for the present what effect Mr. Monk's resignation will have upon the political situation. He probably has no desire to injure the Borden government, although he would agree with them upon some point of policy. On the other hand, he may believe that a great principle is at stake, for which he should contend with all his strength, and his strength is great. In the house and in the country.

It has sometimes happened that a minister's retirement, which at the time caused a great stir, was in fact followed by no great consequences, as witness the resignation of Mr. Blair in 1903. On the other hand, the defection of Messrs. Bourassa and Lavergne, although not private members, spurred into action the forces which destroyed Laurier in Quebec, and the least of these forces, altho it served as a mask for the others, was the navy question. The Quebec farmers are economical, and this is not to their discredit. We are glad to know that every year they are better able to spend with a generous hand. They may agree with Mr. Monk that no large grant should be made to the imperial navy unless sanctioned by a plebiscite. Yet they may not be willing to put the Borden government out of office upon this single issue. No one is authorized to say that Mr. Monk has any such desire. We will know more about many of these things next month—perhaps before the debate upon the address is concluded.

The result of yesterday's polling in the riding of Richelieu does not throw much light on the situation. Mr. Carden, the Liberal—the sitting member—was unseated after a general saw-off over the whole province had been agreed upon by the government and opposition—Mr. Morgan, the defeated candidate, insisting upon his protest going to trial. The former-at yesterday's election was returned by a reduced majority, but the naval issue appears to have cut no figure in the cam-

aign, and it is understood that Mr. Monk, even after his resignation, offered to stump the district for Mr. Morgan. Richelieu is an old-time Liberal stronghold. Yesterday's result was generally anticipated.

MONEY OR DEATH.

It was decided at an influential meeting yesterday to appoint a deputation to approach the board of control to ask for the submission of a bylaw to the ratepayers for a grant by the city of \$200,000 in aid of the King Edward Memorial Fund which is being raised to support the National Sanitarium Association in its campaign against consumption. The King Edward Fund was designed to raise \$1,000,000 for this purpose, and \$400,000 has been collected. If the city will make the grant of \$200,000, the association will undertake to raise the remaining \$400,000. It is almost unnecessary to commend the work to the citizens. One statement made by Mr. W. A. Charlton at the meeting yesterday should be sufficient to ensure the co-operation of the board of control. Mr. Charlton, quoting the registrar-general's department, said that from 1891 till 1901, the death rate from consumption had increased in Ontario from 112 to 150. In the next ten years, during which the campaign began in 1901 had been carried on, up till 1911, the death rate from this cause had decreased from 150 to 82. Words can add nothing to this fact. Toronto has 82 patients now in the Muskoka Sanitarium, and 118 at Weston, and there is a long waiting list of those for whom there is no room.

GUARD THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS.

Editor World: It seems unreasonable, yes, most unjust to the public and ought to be illegal, for a police magistrate and a county judge, in any large community, to hold the position of police commissioner. Surely no magistrate or county judge has a just right to act in such a capacity. The principle of common law is that no person can act as prosecutor and as judge in the same case. Furthermore, as the police commissioner, he is a large city like Toronto, ought to be a progressive man, of high ideals and a high character, and a thoroughly reliable, also experienced in business, and a remedial agent adopted and put to practical use in the interest of the public welfare.

J. J. Daly, Toronto, Oct. 24, 1912.

REVOLUTION IN MEXICO SEEN AT CLOSE RANGE

John J. Currie of Toronto Had a Strenuous Time and Narrowly Escaped Being Shot—Thinks Madero Will Execute Diaz.

John J. Currie, a Toronto real estate broker, has just returned from an extensive tour in Mexico, and he tells us that Mr. Currie has, besides coming through some pretty tight corners, secured considerable information concerning the recent revolution. "Did you have any strenuous experiences with the insurgents during your travels?" asked the reporter. "Well, if you call being backed up against a wall with a Mauser rifle strenuous, I guess I have," laughed Mr. Currie. "How did it feel? Well, you've never had the experience, I suppose. It gives you a sort of momentary sickness. Just like when you're on a pitching boat and wish you were comfortably installed in your own sweet home in Toronto."

At Osgoode Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Master's Chambers.

Before J. S. Cartwright, K.C., Master. Smith v. Harris—F. E. Hodgins, K.C., for defendant; H. E. Mason, K.C., for plaintiff. Motion by defendant for an order (1) striking out names of two parties as party plaintiffs, (2) compelling plaintiffs to amend, (3) striking out from paragraph 1 certain clauses, (4) and (5) striking out part of paragraph 4, (6) striking out paragraph 6, (7) striking out paragraph 9, or staying action until authority general has been made a party plaintiff, judgment: As to all the points except (7) the motion fails, and the order will be that paragraph 6 of statement of claim be struck out, and that defendant do plead this week, so that the order of Oct. 15, which may be upheld on appeal, is not interfered with so long as it is in force. Costs of this motion to plaintiffs in the cause.

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No better aid to digestion—no more pleasing beverage—nothing better for you.

Pure, sparkling, delicious. Relieves brain fog. Bucks you up. The mildest of stimulating liquid food.

The light beer in the light bottle. 278

North Toronto Conservatives.

The first regular meeting of the North Toronto Liberal Conservative Association will be held tonight at 8 o'clock in the Foresters' Hall on College street. Dr. John W. S. McCallough will give an address on "Public Health," illustrated by moving pictures.

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