

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 15, 1912

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC AUDIT

Personal bias and the tendencies of
an influential environment have their
effect on the most impartial, and we
cannot suppose that City Auditor
Sterling is more capable of accepting
prejudicial influences than the rest
of us. We regard it as rather fortu-
nate that the most hostile criticism that
has yet been directed against the hy-
dro-electric system emanates from one
who, by his close family relationship
to Senator Cox, may be taken as re-
presenting the most antagonistic and
pro-corporation views that any citizen
entertain towards the people's power
project. The very worst that can be
said about hydro is contained in the
auditor's report, and as he admits him-
self, some of his remarks do not come
within the scope of his functions.

Mayor Geary's statement in reply to
the auditor's report contains the main
corrections necessary, and it is hardly
necessary to call attention to the bias
they indicate. When we remember the
similar statements made about the
hydro system before it came into opera-
tion we are almost astonished that it
is now supplying people with power
and light, and at half the rates the
rival corporation previously charged.
We were told that the line could never
be built for the sum estimated, but it
was built within the estimate. All the
predictions proved to be false, and we
think that Mr. Sterling's criticisms,
while they will have the good effect
of stirring up a most necessary vigil-
ance, do not really indicate any essen-
tial weakness in the hydro plans.

It is true that the business after 13
months does not show a profit, but it
is also true that by the end of two
years it will be on a paying basis. Mr.
Sterling is probably aware that the
Toronto Electric Light Co. did not pay
a cent of profit for eight years. Ar-
rangements were made to carry on the
hydro for several years with a possi-
ble deficit. A friendly auditor might
have rejoiced at the curtailment of the
period of deficits and aroused a feeling
of false security which we are better
without. At the same time, to be on a
basis of profit in two years instead
of five, is very satisfactory.

The hydro system was badly handi-
capped from the beginning in Toronto.
If the system is not so good as it might
have been, it may be remembered
that the first manager was practically
a representative of Toronto Electric
Light Co.'s methods. Since the advent
of a new manager there has been an
improvement. The bookkeeping system
of any firm can be found fault with
by any actuarial expert. It does not
appear that the hydro system covers
up anything that should be made
clear. In fact, the objection is that it
is too elaborate, and everything is thus
made plain and double-checked. The
peak load purchase system is not a
point on which Mr. Sterling's opinion
can be regarded as final. The electrical
authorities differ with him.

There is a deficit for the 13 months
of the operation of the plant, which is
large enough to do five to ten times
the business now handled. This deficit
is now being reduced, and the business
is on a paying basis. This is the worst
and the best of Mr. Sterling's report.
Many corporations with which they had
one so encouraging.

TAX REFORM

A good deal has been said about Sir
James Whitney's opposition to tax re-
form that is not fair to him; nor ac-
curate in its reflection of the assess-
ment situation. The World has held
that the law needs reform in order to
remedy some of the acute anomalies
that exist in the incidence of taxation.
We believe Sir James Whitney is
ready and willing to accept any mea-
sure that can be shown to be effective
in bringing about the remedy required.
If he is a little difficult to convince,
he is at least not more difficult than
certain other statesmen are on certain
other burning questions. But Sir James
has his own point of view about the
present assessment act, and The
World has so frequently impeached the
assessors with failure in their duty,
that we are bound to admit that there
is a great deal of reason in Sir James'
contention that the assessors do not
carry out the provisions of the act.

It may be that the issue will narrow
itself down to the necessity of leaving
the assessors less latitude in discrim-
inating in favor of the wealthy prop-
erty owner and real estate speculator,
and so dealing more equitably with the
small holder and the poor man in gen-
eral. In Toronto we are told that
everybody is allowed 25 per cent. off
actual value. This is not the case, as
a matter of fact, but suppose it were,

why should any person be exempt
from his proper assessment which the
assessor has sworn to make? The
man with a \$2000 property escapes \$500.
The man with a \$200,000 property, es-
capes \$20,000. If he had to pay on this
\$20,000 on which he is exempt, there
would be a lower tax rate all round,
and the small men would, as a class,
have less to contribute. But either the
law or the official of the law seems to
be able to arrange affairs so that the
rich man gets off easily and the poor
man has to pay nearly everything.
Perhaps Sir James will be able to
amend the act so that assessors will be
compelled to tax all property at its full
value.

BALKAN WAR CLOUDS

Little reliance can be placed on the
cable despatches emanating from Ber-
lin and Vienna, and that seek to attach
blame to the British for its alleged
failure to act energetically in connec-
tion with the Balkan crisis. Of the
great nations bordering the area of dis-
turbance, Austria is the most deeply
concerned by reason of her ambition
still further to extend her frontier to
the east. Already the Austrian Govern-
ment has issued a semi-official pro-
nouncement that her interests will be
protected at all hazards, which trans-
lated into plain English means that no
other power will be permitted to an-
nex the territory Austria covets if that
step can be prevented. It is part of
the diplomatic game to discount later
responsibility by suggesting present
fault lies at the door of nations that
may interpose against designs that are
meantime latent. So Vienna finds
Russian encouragement and British in-
action behind the outbreak of war.

That the Turks must leave Europe
bag and baggage is admitted to be the
only solution of the problem of the near
east. Only the conflicting designs and
affiliations of the powers, composing
the dormant concert of Europe, prevent-
ed that consummation at the close of
the Russo-Turkish war. But much has
happened since 1878, and points of view
and dominating policies are not now as
they were. From the independent states
created by the Treaty of Berlin have
come the note of war. Each has its ter-
ritorial aspiration, not altogether un-
reasonable. Behind them, however, is
the loom of larger ambitions, and the
they may fire the train, it will not be
difficult to divide the spoil. If nothing
can hinder the outbreak of war, that it
may be localized will be the one hope
of escaping a European Armageddon.

IS CANADA A NATION?

This morning The World publishes
an interesting letter from Mr. R. A.
Reid, D.C.L., in which he takes issue
with those who claim that "Canada is
a Nation." His own pronouncement
on the subject is that Canada "is not
a nation in any sense of the word,"
but is "simply and solely one of Eng-
land's colonial possessions, sometimes
called a dominion and sometimes a
colony." This last clause would, to
our mind, be more accurate if it were
altered in this wise—now called a "do-
minion," but formerly a "colony." The
change in nomenclature is not with-
out its bearing on the main question.
In a controversy of this kind it is of
prime importance to define the term on
which the whole argument must de-
pend. What is a "nation"? This must
first be settled before the further en-
quiry can be made whether and how
far Canada comes within the scope of
the definition. The Century Dictionary
can fairly be regarded as a standard
authority. It gives as the primary
meaning of the word "Nation":
"In a broad sense, a race of people; an
aggregation of persons of the same
ethnic family and speaking the same
language or cognate languages." Under
this definition, all the peoples of
British stock, wherever they may dwell
and under whatever local designations,
compose the British nation.

As a secondary meaning, The Cen-
tury Dictionary gives: "In a narrow
sense, a political society composed
of a sovereign or government and sub-
jects or citizens and constituting a po-
litical unit; an organized community
inhabiting a certain extent of territory
within which its sovereignty is exer-
cised." It cannot surely be denied that
Canada, Australia, New Zealand and
the other self-governing states of the
empire are organized communities in-
habiting certain territories within
which their respective sovereignties
are exercised, and are therefore na-
tions within the definition.

Mr. Reid and those who agree with
him assume that in order to constitute
a nation there must be not only com-
plete self-government, but also com-
plete independence. But take the com-
plete parts of the United Kingdom it-
self. England was and remains a na-
tion, Scotland was and remains a na-
tion, to go no further, although no longer
independent of each other. Among
the quotations given by The Century
Dictionary as confirmatory of the var-
ious meanings it offers is one from Mr.
A. W. Ward to the effect that "a na-
tion may be defined as a body of
population which its proper history has
made one in itself and as such dis-
tinct from all others." That is true of
England and of Scotland, and it is
true of Canada, Australia, New Zealand
and the other overseas imperial
states even admitting that their history
is of less antiquity.

The Jews, it must be conceded, are
"a race of people"—a nation, in a broad
sense, without a home. Poland has
ceased to exist as a country of Europe,
but Polish nationality and Polish
patriotism have survived all the efforts



A PRAIRIE ZEPHYR

of Russia and Prussia, to destroy them.
Mr. Reid is no doubt correct in his
references to the dicta of authorities
on international or constitutional
law, and of course for their purposes
they are entitled to limit the scope of
the term "Nation" to what is required
for that law. But lawyers are not at
liberty to narrow for other than legal
purposes a word that in the English
language has much wider significance.
Shakespeare makes Spylcock fiercely re-
call that Antonio "hates our sacred
nation." We read, too, of "nations
struggling to be free." Despite all that
our legal friends may do they will not
satisfy Canadians, Australians or New
Zealanders that they are not nations
and have no right to develop their na-
tional spirit and patriotism.

CANADA NOT A "NATION."

Editor World: Nowadays one can
pick up almost any Canadian news-
paper or magazine and read some-
where therein statements of this kind:
"Canada is a nation." "Our Canadian
nationality must be conserved." "We
are a nation of seven million people."
"Canada's nationality is recognized,"
and numerous other such references to
Canada, without any foundation in fact,
and not supported by any principle of inter-
national or constitutional law or govern-
ment. Such erroneous statements of
our position or status as a country leads
to instill in the minds of our thousands
of students and our people generally a
false notion as to our relations with
the mother country, and are not likely
to help very materially in cementing
an imperial tie.

Canada is not a "nation" in any
sense of the word. We are simply
and solely one of England's colonial
possessions, sometimes called a do-
minion, and sometimes a colony. The
legal and constitutional name of our
country is "Canada" without any ap-
pendages or fancy prefixes. The con-
stitution of Canada is that of a do-
minion, and sometimes a colony. The
flag of a great nation is indepen-
dence. There cannot be a complete
separation of the two. VERY FEW
PROPOSITIONS IN POLITICS
CAN BE SO PERFECTLY DE-
MONSTRATED AS THIS—THAT
PARLIAMENTARY GOVERN-
MENT CANNOT BE CARRIED
ON BY TWO REALLY EQUAL
AND INDEPENDENT PARLIA-
MENTS IN ONE EMPIRE.

That passage from Macaulay con-
tains the crux of the whole argument.
Time has not lessened its effect, and
what was true then is true now, and
the principles laid down stronger than
ever.

Now let us see what international
law says about the position of Canada
and the other colonies. The learned
professor of international law at the
University of London, England, Mr.
Oppenheim in his great work on inter-
national law, published in 1906, says at
page 103, "Colonial states have no in-
ternational position whatever; they are,
from the standpoint of the law of na-
tions, nothing else than colonial por-
tions of the mother country, altho they
enjoy perfect self-government, and may
therefore in a sense be called states."
The deciding factor is that their gov-
ernor, who has a veto, is appointed by
the mother country, and that the par-
liament of the mother country could
withdraw self-government from its
colonial states and legislate for them."
And again, at page 219, "Another dis-
tinction is that between motherland
and colonies. Colonies rank as terri-
tory of the motherland, altho they may
enjoy complete self-government and
therefore be called colonial states. Thus,
it is vital from the standpoint
of the law of nations, the Dominion of
Canada and the Commonwealth of Aus-
tralia are British territory."

In the Evening Telegram of Toronto,
Sept. 26, 1912, an editorial appeared in
which this statement is made verbatim:
"The British House of Commons can
no more revise the acts or correct the
errors of the Canadian Parliament than
the Canadian Parliament could revise
the acts or correct the errors of Mr.
John Redmond's Dublin Parliament."

Aside altogether from the question of
"imperial rule," this statement is entirely
incorrect, as the constitutional, interna-
tional and other authorities show. The
Telegram newspaper to the contrary
notwithstanding, True, the Canadian
Parliament could not revise the acts or
correct the errors of the British Gov-
ernment and Parliament could correct
them both, and in a proper case would
do so.

Robert A. Reid.
Toronto, Sept. 28, 1912.

MRS. BORDEN MISQUOTED

OTTAWA, Oct. 14.—(Special.)—
Mrs. Borden's attention has
been directed to the report of
an alleged interview, according
to which she is supposed to have
declared that no cultured Eng-
lish woman should ever think of
going to Canada unless she is
going out to family friends or
has some definite purpose in go-
ing there.

The report on its face is so
absurd as to hardly deserve
demand contradiction," she said.
Mrs. Borden desires it to be
distinctly understood that she
has no opinion on any such ques-
tion or made any such statement.
The press report to the contrary
is absolutely unfounded.

GOOD RESULTS

ON FIRST DAY

Board of Trade Membership
Campaign is Already Having
Good Results, According
to Captains' Reports.

The first day's results of the five-
day membership campaign of the board
of trade were eminently satisfactory.
The captains report many promises,
but they do not wish to make any de-
finite returns until luncheon to-day at
1 o'clock in the St. Charles' restaurant,
when every member of the different
committees, as well as board members
generally, is expected to be present.
The best evidence that the most sanguine
expectations will be fulfilled is
the amount of interest being manifested
by members who have not been en-
rolled as captains or workers on the
board of trade committees. All day long
the board offices were a busy hum of
enquiry. Quite a number of volun-
teers for work were heard from. Every
reference to the board committees en-
couraged. Among them might be men-
tioned Charles Marriott, 55 West Wel-
lington; E. L. Ruddy, 11 East Front;
William Crocker, 48 Jarvis street; H.
McNeill, 6 East Wellington; J. D.
Johnson, 506 Temple Building; W. M.
Douglas, 48 West Front street; Fred
Killer, 41 West King street; E. R. Hy-
att, Temple Building; G. T. McKen-
zie, 1 Leader lane, to any one of whom
application for membership can be
made. The board of trade, chairman of
the general committee, wishes it to be
particularly understood that the an-
nual fee of twelve dollars will cover
the dues of new members to the end
of next year, and that each present
member is expected to send in the
name of at least two applicants. The
captains are expected to be required to
make report at luncheon every day.

WOLFE MONUMENT

Proposal Will Be Discussed at Meet-
ing This Afternoon

This afternoon's meeting in the city
hall in aid of the Wolfe monument
fund promises to be largely attended.
Several leading citizens will be present
and deliver addresses, as well as Mr.
F. C. Wade, K.C., of Vancouver, of-
ficial of the movement. Three cities
of the Northwest, including Vancou-
ver, Winnipeg and Calgary, between
them have contributed a total of \$15,000
towards the amount required. Toronto
has far contributed \$1000. Among
the subscribers are the Canadian clubs
of the cities already mentioned and of
London, Ont. Other Canadian clubs
have promised to give the matter con-
sideration and to subscribe.

Picturesque Lehigh Valley Route to
New York and Philadelphia.

The Grand Trunk Railway is the
only line in connection. Train leaving
Toronto 4:30 p.m. daily, carries elec-
tric-lighted Pullman Sleeper, Toronto
made, Buffalo to New York and Phila-
delphia. Train leaving Toronto 8:00
p.m. daily, carries electric-lighted Pull-
man sleeper, Buffalo to New York and
Philadelphia. Only double-track route.
Full particulars, berth reservations at
city office, northwest corner King and
Yonge streets. Phone Main 4200.

Warm Underwear

For the chilly days you require All-
Wool Underwear. It is made of the
heaviest, but of a soft, fine texture. We
have all the good makes.
"BRITANNIA" All-Wool Underwear,
fine soft finish, unshrinkable. \$2.50
per garment.
MEDIUM WEIGHT, all-wool, double,
breasted. Special, \$1.50 per garment.
OUR SPECIAL medium weight,
double-breasted, the best value in the
city. \$1.00 per garment.
JAEGER'S medium weight, fine, soft
finish. \$2.75 per suit.
WASH SWEATER COATS, best im-
ported make, four-button. \$4.00.
WARM SWEATER COATS, with
Comfort collar, \$4.50.
Store open until 9 o'clock.

WREYFORD & CO.

55 KING ST. WEST.

CORRUPT ELECTION

Says Richardson

Money and Whiskey Flowed Freely
and Opposition Forces Were De-
moralized, His Assertion.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 14.—(Special.)—
The Tribune (Ind.), R. L. Richard-
son's paper, says this afternoon that
reciprocity is still the liveliest corpse
that stalks thru the west and says the
results will but strengthen the determi-
nation of the people of the west to
keep the sword unsheathed until the
fetters of high protection and trade
restriction are stricken from their
limbs. The Tribune is not surprised
at the result and says that money
and whiskey flowed like an artesian
well.

It continues—"With the connivance,
if not at the direction of the local
premier, the machinery of justice
was used to intimidate the opposition
forces, and in many critical points
to utterly demoralize and destroy
their organization. Persuading brig-
ades were organized and kept at
work under the direction of local
politicians on election day.

"It is a safe assertion that the
Angel Gabriel, running upon a plat-
form meaning redemption for all,
could not withstand such methods.
Indeed the marvel is that out of
eight to ten thousand voters, only
three hundred succumbed to the dam-
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for the minister of interior and the
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ISLANDS TOSSED UP BY SEA

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a recent marine upheaval, were dis-
covered sixty miles to the southwest
of Juan Fernandez by the captain of
the steamship Glenavon, who reported
them on his arrival here.

THREE WERE DROWNED

Stage Coach Backed Over Ferry Deck
at Nicolet.

NICOLET, Que., Oct. 14.—Three
men were drowned in the river God-
freid, last night, when a driver of a
stage "backed his rig over the end of a
ferry. The dead are: Joseph
Gouin, N. Vigneault and Ernest
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COAL AND WOOD

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RATE QUESTION

IN PARLIAMENT

Impression at Ottawa is That
Decision Will Not Be
Wholly Left to
Commission.

OTTAWA, Oct. 14.—(Special.)—With
the close of the first three days of the
reopened western freight rates hearing
before the railway commission, the im-
pression is growing here among all
those who have followed the proceed-
ings closely, that parliament must
equally be called upon to deal with
and settle the question. It is being
forcibly pointed out that with their
array of brilliant railway counsel with
unlimited resources to draw upon the
companies are enabled to build up
strong technical fortifications of their
position.

In view of this opinion is freely
expressed here that the matter is
one of such vital interest and impor-
tance that it should be turned over to
parliament for a free and fair discus-
sion by the representatives of the
people. It is practically felt that a
reference to the privy council would be
most undesirable as the question is one
to be decided not by a perusal of a
mass of figures, but by a thorough knowl-
edge of actual conditions. Then again
it is argued that where so many Brit-
ish investors are concerned the ques-
tion should not be settled in Britain,
but right here by the Canadian people,
whose interests alone are affected.

Your doctor

would recommend it

PROF. Gaertner, in
his "Manual of
Hygiene" states
that one quart of beer
is equal in food value
to three and one-tenth
pounds of bread (as
to the quantity of car-
bohydrates), and to two
ounces of bread, or
nearly one ounce of
meat (as to the quantity
of albumen).

O'Keefe's

Special Extra
Mild Ale

is strong in stimulating food
values—rich in nutriment
yet so light and mild that
everyone may enjoy it.

FIRE DESTROYS ORILLIA HOSPI-
TAL BARN.

ORILLIA, Oct. 13.—(Special.)—A barn
belonging to the hospital for the feeble-
minded was destroyed by fire tonight,
the loss being about \$1800. There were
no patients exposed to danger.

Eddy's Matches

Here Since 1851—
The Very Best Full Count
Guaranteed in Every
Particular.

Always Everywhere in Canada. Ask for Eddy's

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MADE IN HULL

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The ferry was crossing in a terrific
hallstorm and the driver, Joseph Car-
on, was unable to see the end of the
boat. When he backed up the vehicle
overbalanced and its occupants, with
the exception of the driver, were
drowned like rats in a trap.

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sion by the representatives of the
people. It is practically