

# The Journal of Commerce

MONTREAL, CANADA

VOL. XLVIII, No. 5.

GARDEN CITY PRESS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1920.  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Price 10 CENTS

## The Journal of Commerce

Devoted to

CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE  
AND FINANCE.

Published every Tuesday Morning by

The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company  
Limited.

Montreal Office: Room 30-B, Board of Trade  
Building. Telephone Main 2662.

Toronto Office: 1402 C.P.R. Bldg., Toronto. Tele-  
phone Adelaide 3310.

Vancouver Office: 507 Board of Trade Bldg., Van-  
couver.

Printed at The Garden City Press, Ste. Anne de  
Bellevue, Que. Telephone 165 St. Anne's.

HON. W. S. FIELDING.

President and Editor-in-Chief.

B. K. SANDWELL, Managing Editor.

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising rates on application.

## Principal Contents

### Editorial:

A Franchise Bill . . . . .	11
Mr. Asquith's Campaign . . . . .	11
Mr. Gompers Rebuked . . . . .	12
The Hard Times Cure . . . . .	12
The Middle Class . . . . .	12

### Special Articles:

How a "P.R." Election Works . . . . .	13
Sharp Words in U.F.A. Meet . . . . .	14
Big Public Health Move Due . . . . .	15
Hard on Non-Producing Mines . . . . .	21

### Miscellaneous:

India and Imperial Preference . . . . .	16
Fur Industry and Wild Life Conference..	16
Dominion Bank Grew Ten Millions . . . . .	17
When Will the Downward Move Begin..	17
Food Drafts for Starving Europe . . . . .	18
Canada Permanent Reports Good Year..	19
Nipissing Mines had Promising Year . . . . .	20
Book Reviews . . . . .	20
Pulp & Paper News . . . . .	22-23
The North American Life Report . . . . .	24
Over 500 Millions of New Life Policies . .	26

## A Franchise Bill

THE most important duty of the Govern-  
ment at the approaching session of the  
Dominion Parliament will be the introduc-  
tion of a Franchise Bill. The War Time  
Election Act was a temporary measure  
which is no longer applicable to the condi-  
tions under which elections are to be held.  
Temporary provision was made also for the  
several by-elections. But there is no ade-  
quate machinery for the holding of a general  
election. An appeal to the electorate of the  
Dominion cannot be far off; in the present  
confused state of politics the necessity for  
one may arise at any time. It is therefore of  
the utmost importance that immediately af-  
ter the opening of the coming session the  
Government should be ready to submit to  
the House of Commons a carefully drawn  
measure to provide for the making of the  
lists of those who are entitled to vote.

In the past, unfortunately, the enactment  
of measures dealing with the franchise has  
usually been attended by much party strife.  
Many members of Parliament approach-  
ed the subject with a desire to gain advan-  
tage for their own party at the expense of  
those who differed from them. There should  
be no need for and no excuse for such strife.  
The franchise question is one on which there  
should be no difficulty in obtaining an  
agreement among all parties. The old time  
ideas which tended to make the franchise the  
privilege of the few have passed away. There  
is an almost universal acknowledgement, in  
Canada at all events, that the privilege and  
the responsibility of the franchise should be  
enjoyed by all British subjects of full age,  
who are of good character and have a fixed  
residence and are usefully employed. The  
laws of the several provinces come so near  
to manhood (and now we must add woman-  
hood) suffrage that it is a question whether  
there is any substantial advantage in having  
the various conditions of qualification that  
are mentioned. Many there still are, no  
doubt, who think that a much more limited  
franchise would be better; but the day of such  
restriction has passed. What is needed now  
is the machinery to provide for the enrol-  
ment on the list of his or her residential dis-  
trict of every man and woman who is quali-  
fied to vote.

The franchise question is one on which  
there should be such co-operation between  
Dominion and Provincial authorities as  
would permit the lists of voters to be used,  
generally speaking, at both Dominion and  
Provincial elections. The work of making  
up the lists of electors involves much labor  
and sometimes considerable cost to all who  
take an active interest in public affairs. In  
some districts it involves keen party strife,  
the representatives of the respective par-  
ties putting forth strenuous efforts to place  
the names of their friends on the list, and  
sometimes efforts almost as strenuous to  
keep the names of others off the list. It is  
bad enough to have this kind of trouble for  
one list. To add to the burden and the  
strife by having the trouble twice—once for  
the Provincial and once for the Dominion  
list—would be to create an evil of a serious  
character. To avoid this, every possible  
effort should be made to obtain fair lists that  
could be used at either Provincial or Do-  
minion elections. Lists are already author-  
ized for the Provincial elections. If there is  
anything in the Provincial laws which is  
deemed objectionable from a Dominion view-  
point, a conference between Dominion and  
Provincial authorities should be invited,  
with a view to removal of the difficulty.

Exceptions perhaps might have to be made  
as respects some features of a general law.  
In Quebec the Provincial law does not allow  
women to vote. In all the other Provinces,  
if we mistake not, women's franchise has  
been approved, and the Parliament of Can-  
ada has adopted it. It may be necessary,  
while accepting the Quebec Provincial list as  
the foundation of a Dominion list, to pro-  
vide machinery for adding the women's  
names. Difficulties of this kind are to be  
expected, but they should not be insuperable.  
If the whole question be approached in a  
non-partizan spirit. Parliament should be  
able to give the country at a very early day  
a fair and efficient Franchise Act.

## Mr. Asquith's Campaign

THE acceptance by Mr. Asquith of the  
Liberal nomination in Paisley opens  
up one of the most interesting and important  
political contests of recent years. Mr. As-  
quith's defeat at the general election was one  
of the surprises of the campaign, and one  
that must have been regretted by most men