The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 15.

Do Away With the Secret Opening of Tenders

Let us for a moment discuss the Manitoba scandals and others of a similar kind. Frankly they amount to this, that contractors are overpaid and "divvy" up with the political party in control of the government. The case of the agricultural college was in a way typical. The contractor got eight thousand seven hundred dollars more than he asked, but gave seven thousand five hundred of it to the campaign fund.

All government contractors are expected to come across with campaign contributions when there is to be an election. We all know that, and it would be hypocritical to pretend to be surprised if the Grits no less than the Tories fry all the fat they can out of the contractor; they will probably continue to do so for all time to come.

Whether the new party that is to be formed will scorn to hold up the contractors, or even accept their voluntary contributions, remains to be seen.

It is in bad taste, but not inherently wrong for a contractor out of his own pocket to contribute to the campaign fund of the party in power. In former times suitors made presents to judges, that was not considered wrong, but it certainly was in bad taste, and we would not like to see the practice openly re-established. But for any government to give excessive pay to a contractor with the design of getting it back as a contribution for campaign purposes is little short of criminal, perhaps not at all short of it.

But at what stage in the contracting is most of the skull-duggery done? It occurs between the time when tenders are called for and the time when the contract is awarded. That was the case in the Winnipeg Parliament Building, when Thomas Kelly was shown the Lyall tender before he made his own, and was, therefore, able to get just under it. That was the case in the agricultural college transaction, when the lowest tenderer was given the tip to make his bid higher. The government was able to tell him just how much he could increase his tender and yet keep under the next lowest. In the timber limits scandals, at Ottawa, under Liberal rule, whatever thimble-rigging there was, was done by opening the tenders in secret and tipping off their contents to the favorite insider.

Now to our minds a great deal of crookedness could be done away with by simply changing the system. All tenders should be securely sealed, and never opened except at the time and place named in the advertisement, and in the presence of all the tenderers. The Norris government, of Manitoba, we believe, on our suggestion, signaled its accession to power by adopting that system in at least one case. We have heard it charged that since then there has been a return to the system of opening tenders in secret. The Ottawa Government, we believe, still opens tenders in secret, altho it was one of the abuses of the Laurier regime which the Conservative party was pledged to abolish.

Generally speaking, the secret opening of tenders is a system pursued by provinces and municipalities all over Canada. In the great majority of cases no dishonest purpose is in view, but why adhere to a system which invites fraud and begets suspicion? It is a custom more responsible than anything else for corrupt practices in Canadian politics.

A Hard Problem Made Easy

This year we miss the usual outcry from financial men about the heavy burden laid upon them by crop moving. In the old days it was considered so heavy a strain upon the banks that money and credit were almost unavailable to people in the east, while the western farmers were being served.

Moving the crops seems now to be as simple a thing, from a financial standpoint, as moving a grand piano. Yet less than ten years ago American bankers found the job so difficult that we had on this continent something like a financial panic. We were told that there was not enough currency in the United States to transact the business of the country, and for a time indeed a "currency famine" existed. The late J. Pierpont Morgan was hailed as a national benefactor, because he in some way managed to get some of the country's money into circulation. We were quite proud of ourselves in Canada because the banks were able to keep their notes in circulation, but we felt the effect of the squeeze, and our national debt increased by many millions in a few months' time.

This year the crops are moving on either side of the line with prime commercial paper selling around four per cent. in New York and Chicago. The United States is lending money to foreign nations by the billion and here in Canada we are financing our part in a great war, and actually lending money and credit by the hundred millions to the mother country. For any one to suggest that either Canada or the United States could not finance a harvest would be considered absurd.

It will be said in explanation, that the big European war has created something like flush times on this side of the Atlantic, and it is true that the entente nations furnish an eager market for nearly everything we can gather from farm, forest, mine, or sea. But is this the entire explanation?

The United States was one of the richest, perhaps the richest nation in the world in 1907; her national debt was negligible, her credit was at the highest, and the international rate of interest was abnormally low. Yet the people of the United States found themselves without currency, without the mechanism for carrying on ordinary business. Credits were, therefore, congested and business stagnant. The farmer with wheat on his hands of undoubted value the world over, could not obtain the ready money he needed to pay the storekeeper, the implement man, and other creditors. The enormous, almost unlimited credit of the nation served no purpose whatever in relieving the situation.

It was the Federal Reserve Bank Act which corrected this anomaly. As soon as the national credit was available for the re-discount of good paper all talk of "tight credits" disappeared. The banker freely discounted paper for his customers instead of hoarding vast reserves in anticipation of a possible "run on" the bank. All talk of a currency famine disappeared, when the government stood ready to issue national currency against good collateral.

This wise legislation, even more than the war, put our neighbors on their feet. Everyone today declares himself in favor of the principle of national currency and state banks of rediscount. The Republicans can only try to divide the credit with President Wilson by saying that the information upon which he acted was gathered together and digested by the "monetary commission" in the time of President Taft. No one is wild enough to suggest that the law ought to be repealed, or that the United States Government should retire from the banking business, or restore to private corporations the sovereign franchise of emitting currency.

We have followed the lead of the United States haltingly, but we have followed it since the outbreak of the war. Finance Minister White last year notified the western farmers that he would discount their warehouse receipts with national currency. He relieved the banking situation by taking authority to rediscount commercial paper discounted by the chartered banks. He has not pushed forward with enthusiasm, but his feet have been set in the right path. The Gamaliel, at whose feet he once sat, the venerable J. B. Forgan, of Nova Scotia and Chicago, is now, like David Lloyd George, a believer in national currency.

It is true that farmers are holding wheat for a rise, and that crop moving less severely taxes financial and transportation resources than in former years. Nevertheless, we believe that the crop will be moved hereafter with much less strain than formerly, and that national credit and national currency will easily solve what used to be an almost insoluble problem.

X'SKUCE ME - - - - - By Lou Skuce

BUFFALO BUYS COAL CHEAPER THAN TORONTO

Consumers Here Now Paying Eight Dollars and Fifty Cents Per Ton.

The City of Buffalo has not gone into the coal business, according to information received from City Clerk Sweeny of that city. Mr. Sweeny writes the mayor that Buffalo civic department buy in the open market, paying $6.10 per gross ton for egg and stove coal; nut $6.35 and pea $5. Prices to consumers range about $1.00 per ton higher.

The additional freight charges from Buffalo to Toronto amount to 60 cents a ton, which makes the price of egg and stove coal $7.90 laid down in Toronto. Consumers here, however, are paying $8.50 at present.

James Herrick, a London coal dealer, has written the mayor, offering to lay coal down in Toronto this month at $6.70, laid down at the Toronto yards.

UNABLE TO FIND PERSON WHO DESERTED CHILD

"That the unknown child found in the Photodrome Theatre, 37½ W. Queen street, on Sept. 2, came to its death from criminal negligence by some person or persons unknown," was the verdict returned by the jury under Coroner J. H. McConnell, at the morgue last evening.

At 7 o'clock Saturday morning, Sept. 2, Frederick Hill, the caretaker of the theatre, found the body of the child, wrapped in a towel and newspaper, under one of the seats. He notified the police, who investigated the case for over a week, and were unable to find anything that would lead up to the identity of the person or persons who left the child there. The child was about two days old. A preliminary inquest was opened on Sept. 2 and the adjournment was made until last night, to enable the police to investigate.

MAYOR WOULD CUT CITY'S EXPENDITURE

Mayor Church wants $25,000,000 cut off the city's capital expenditure, and has instructed Commissioner Bradshaw to report as to what can be done. He has also written the M.O.H., asking what has been done in regard to the proposed amalgamation of the health inspection departments of the board of education and the city health office. And he is also after information as to what is being done to make the technical school and high school of commerce and finance self-sustaining.

LITTLE GIRL INJURED.

While playing opposite her home last night, Bessie Bliss, 317 Ontario street, was struck by a motor car belonging to Controller O'Neill and driven by William McKay, 896 West Queen street. The little girl was taken home, where it was found that she was bruised and cut, but not seriously hurt.

SHORTALL REMANDED.

Charged with attempting to obtain money stolen from the New Westminster branch of the Bank of Montreal five years ago, Michael B. Shortall of Chicago came up in the police court yesterday and was remanded for a week, pending investigation by the police.

After Sept. 16
Order
Wines & Liquors
By Mail
Write for Price List.
Michie, Mara Co.,
236 Lemoine St.
Montreal

GREEK ARMY CORPS GOING TO GERMANY

Berlin Announces Plan of Disposition of Kavala Garrison.

CORDIALITY PROFESSED

Huns Pretend to Be Rescuing Greeks From Entente Allies' Grip.

LONDON, Sept. 14.—Berlin officially announced today that the fourth Greek army corps, with headquarters at the port of Kavala, has been placed under control of the Germans by the Greek commander, and that the Greek troops will be transported to Germany. The Greeks, it was stated, will be permitted to keep their arms and equipment and will retain their standing as neutrals.

Speaking of the fourth Greek army corps as having been left behind the left Bulgarian wing in the Bulgarian advance into Macedonia, the statement continues:

"The allies planned to force these troops to fight on their side or to suffer the same fate as the part of the 11th Greek division at Saloniki. Free communication with Athens was checked by arbitrary action of the allied authorities.

"The commander of the fourth Greek army corps at Kavala, faithful to the will of his commander-in-chief (King Constantine) and the legal government, in their desire to maintain neutrality, was forced by famine and disease to ask the German commander-in-chief, on Sept. 12, to protect his brave troops and to provide them lodging and food."

DIVISIONAL CYCLISTS HAVE LADIES' AUXILIARY

Mrs. Ambrose Small Elected President at Gathering on Wednesday Night.

Wednesday evening a meeting took place at the residence of Mrs. Ambrose J. Small, which will no doubt have far reaching effects for the "Boys on the Wheels." Already active in the recruiting field, the members of the Divisional Cyclist Depot have now enlisted the practical sympathies of the lady friends, who are forming themselves into the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Divisional Cyclist Depot.

The following officers were elected: President: Mrs. Ambrose J Small; vice-president, Mrs. J. H. Lowry; secretary, Mrs. Shaw; treasurer, Miss G Thompson; committee, Mrs. Berthon, Miss Forgie, Miss Holton; entertainment committee, Mrs. Forgie, Mrs. Brick, Mrs. Spencer; emergency committee, Mrs. Marsh, Miss Beattie, Miss Kightly.

Judging from the enthusiasm shown it will not be the ladies' fault if the boys do not reap great benefits, both now and when overseas.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS ENTERTAINED SOLDIERS

Forty From Convalescent Home Given Dinner and Splendid Musical Program.

The latest Red Cross activity of the girls of the Bell Telephone Co. was the entertainment of 40 of the soldiers from the Convalescent Home on College street, the occasion being brought about thru the thoughtfulness of the supervisors of the long-distance exchange.

Dinner was served in the hall of the company on Hayden street, K. J. Dunstan, manager, presiding. Miss Carson, head supervisor; E. Scott of Montreal, traffic superintendent for Canada, and F. C. Maw, local traffic chief, were among those present.

The following took part in the fine musical program which followed: Messrs. Albert David, Percy David, Frank Fulton, F. R. Davis, C. Keene and L. Dickman. The guests of the evening joined in patriotic numbers sung, and concluded with three cheers for the girls who had been their hospitable entertainers.

CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE PROHIBITION ENACTMENT

Special to The Toronto World.

CORNWALL, Sept. 14.—At the close of divine service in Knox Church, Sunday evening next, a public praise and thanksgiving service will be held for the final closing of the bars and liquor stores in the Province of Ontario. Several speakers will address the meeting.

SPEED OF FRENCH SURPRISES FOE

German Artillery Hits Many of Own Men by Fire.

MAKE GAIN SWIFTLY

Gallic Troops Take Opposing Trenches in Rapid Succession.

PARIS, Sept. 14.—The speed of the French advance in Tuesday's battle on the Somme front took the Germans completely by surprise, according to a description of the fighting given by an eye-witness. He said:

"The attack began at 12.30 p.m. in perfect order. The officers had difficulty holding their men, some of whom started even before the appointed time. In a few minutes the first objective was carried, and at 12.35 the news arrived that the Berlingot trench was already occupied. Then information came in fast of further gains, and the observers saw a stream of surrendering Germans running toward the French lines.

"Many of the Germans who surrendered were hit by the curtain fire of their own artillery. Most of them were troops who had recently arrived from the Verdun front. The prisoners declared that tho they expected the attack, the rapidity with which it was delivered took them by surprise."

ONLY THIRTEEN MEN SIGNED UP YESTERDAY

Half of the Number That Applied Were Accepted by Doctors.

Recruiting yesterday was slower than any previous day of the week. During the day 26 applied at the recruiting depot and were examined by the doctor. Half of the 26 were accepted and the other 13 were turned down as being medically unfit for service in the army.

Recruiting has reopened in Toronto for the artillery. Both gunners and drivers are required immediately, and men who are fond of horses or of mechanics should take this opportunity of joining this most interesting branch of the service.

The men recruited will be provided with uniform at once and put on pay. They will receive preliminary training in Toronto and will later be transferred to batteries for more advanced training with horses and guns. Correspondence is invited. Applications should be made to the district artillery depot, Toronto armories.

GOVERNMENT STILL FEARS INFANTILE PARALYSIS

Special to The Toronto World.

CORNWALL, Sept. 14.—Instructions have been issued by the Dominion Government that the regulations in regard to precautions against infantile paralysis infection being brought into Canada from the United States, have been increased so that no children under sixteen years of age from the states of New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island will be admitted into Canada without a medical certificate, that they have not been exposed to infection. These certificates will not be accepted unless they have been issued within the then current twenty-four hours. Several parties who neglected to provide their children with certificates have been turned back at Cornwall, both by rail and boat.

ACCLAIM LIEUT. ROBINSON.

Another Presentation to Zeppelin Raid Hero.

LONDON, Sept. 14.—Lieut. Robinson, 21 years old, British aviator, who shot down a zeppelin in the recent raid on London, was warmly acclaimed at the Baltic Exchange today, when he was formally presented with a $2500 purse, raised by shipping men.

A great crowd cheered Robinson and sang: "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Robinson was led to the platform, and, blushing to the roots of his hair, made the first public speech of his life. It was a six-word speech: "Thanks; I merely did my duty," he said.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

About 2.30 yesterday morning Timothy Moynahan, 377 West King street, 38 years of age, was found dead in bed by his brother Cornelius. The police were notified and had the body removed to the morgue, where it is likely an inquest will be held.

TO EXPLAIN ACTION ON CHURCH UNION

Presbyterian General Assembly Wishes to Avoid Any Misconception.

ONLY SLIGHT CHANGES

Churches Will Act Together in General and Mission Work.

The committee on church union appointed by the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church will shortly issue to the sessions of the church a letter explaining the action of the assembly with regard to church union. It is necessary to inform the people what the assembly did and to remove some misconceptions as to what it did not do, as well as other misconceptions as to what is involved in the basis of union. This union cannot be consummated at the earliest for three years, and in the meantime all that will be done will be to consider carefully what legislation will be required and to prepare for it; also to carry further the co-operation between the three churches in the general work of these churches.

Much co-operation has been conducted in the past, but much more is now possible without committing the boards beyond what the last assembly and the other churches have authorized. In the matter of planning for the future in the west and in the oversight of union churches already in existence there is also scope for common work.

Will Continue Same Work.

There seems to be a misconception in some quarters as to the effect that the union will have on the congregations of the church. They will continue their work as at present. They will keep their own ministers and have full freedom in calling their successors.

No unions between Presbyterian and Methodist Churches already in existence will be effected unless the congregations themselves see that it is in their interests to unite and express the desire to do so. In fact, the older sections of the country will still carry on their work as formerly and will observe very little change. But in the conduct of the general work of the church, in the home mission fields, the colleges and other branches of activity there will be common effort and a great saving of men and money. The churches will work together for one common end.

WAR LOAN AT BROCKVILLE.

Special to The Toronto World.

BROCKVILLE, Sept. 14.—Locally the second Canadian war loan is being liberally subscribed. The first subscription received was for $10,000 from a Brockville hotelkeeper, who moved here from Alsace-Lorraine following the war of 1870 to escape the German yoke.

REV. F. D. FLOYDE APPOINTED.

CORNWALL, Sept. 14.—Rev. F. D. Floyde of Aultsville has been appointed rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, East Cornwall, succeeding the Rev. R. H. Archer, who resigned on account of ill-health.

The Lights of 65 Years Ago are still doing duty in the shape of EDDY'S MATCHES

Sixty-five years ago the first Canadian-made Matches were made at Hull by EDDY and since that time, for materials and striking qualities, EDDY'S have been the acknowledged best.

WHEN BUYING MATCHES SPECIFY EDDY'S

Don't Look Old!

Restore your gray and faded hairs to their natural color with LOCKYER'S SULPHUR Hair Restorer

This world-famed Hair Restorer is prepared by the great Hair Specialists, J. Pepper & Co., Ltd., Bedford Laboratories, London, S.E., and can be obtained of all stores.

Its quality of deepening grayness to the former color in a few days, thus securing a preserved appearance, has enabled thousands to retain their position.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Lockyer's gives health to the hair and restores the natural color. It cleanses the scalp and makes the most perfect Hair Dressing.

WELCOME PARLIAMENTARIANS.

Special to The Toronto World.

BROCKVILLE, Sept. 14.—The Australian parliamentary delegation upon their arrival in Brockville today from Ottawa were welcomed by Mayor Wright and a number of leading citizens. After an auto trip around town the visitors boarded the government steamer Brenville on a trip thru the Thousand Islands to Kingston.

PRIZE BAND ON TOUR.

Special to The Toronto World.

CORNWALL, Sept. 14.—The Highland Pipe Band of the 154th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., will tour the United Counties, opening at Lancaster, Glengarry, on Monday, Sept. 18. The leading towns and villages of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will be visited in turn.