

THE TORONTO WORLD

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THE POWER QUESTION.

Premier Whitney did right to brush aside, with something closely akin to contempt, the preposterous nonsense, which did duty for argument, advanced on behalf of the Toronto Electric Light Company, against the city's request for power of expropriation. Had it not actually occurred, it would scarcely have been believed that at this time of day a proposal to resume a public franchise on fair terms would have been described as a confession. Even more absurd was the contention that the resolution of the City of Toronto to own and operate one of its public services would affect its financial credit and the financial credit of the province. Similar proposals made by British cities have been sanctioned by the parliament of the United Kingdom for half a century. Far from the determination of Toronto to own and operate its service monopolies affecting its financial standing, it is more likely to be increased by the securing of the industrial advantages promised by the government's power policy.

Mr. DuVerne's curious line of reasoning is excused by the fact that he appeared as counsel for the light company, and it may therefore be fairly taken as the best that could be made of the case for that franchise-holding corporation. Seldom has a weaker argument been adduced in defence of corporation methods, but this, no doubt, was due to the poverty of the material. No legal subtleties can palliate the deliberate evasion of the clause in the agreement prohibiting sale, lease or amalgamation with any other company or individual. The breach of this covenant, however legal the arrangement, was rightly described as a moral fraud, and no defence, other than a technical one, has ever been, or can be, offered. There is a measure of contribution in the position the light company took before the private bills committee, when its representatives so strongly denounced the city for its alleged repudiation of its bargain. If the company had been scrupulous to observe its bargain and its duty as a public trustee, entrusted with the provision of a public service, it would have been in a better position to-day.

Equally astonishing were the extraordinary arguments put forward by Mr. Byron E. Walker, who would have better served his reputation as a skilled financier had he shown himself possessed of greater knowledge regarding the results of municipal ownership and operation of public utilities. As usual with the opponents of the principle of public ownership, he condescended to no particulars, verifying his statement that, financially, municipal ownership had been an absolute failure. Instead of indulging in arbitrary judgments of this kind, he would serve his purpose better by explaining why, if municipal ownership has been an absolute failure, it is so popular in the cities of Great Britain, and why it is that private operation of public franchises has been to constantly condemned. He might, also, have condescended to explain how it is that British cities, while building up large sinking funds for the redemption of debt, materially reduce their rates from the profits of the municipal enterprises. The arguments of opponents of municipal ownership are indeed curiously inconsistent. On the one hand, they allege that capital cannot be attracted unless large interest is earned, and, on the other, they plead that, at the market price of the stock of public service corporations, only a small dividend return is obtained. There are many more investors who prefer the security offered by a well-governed city.

Speaking, on Saturday last, at a banquet given in his honor by the Chicago Commercial Club, Professor Bryce, ambassador from Great Britain to the United States, devoted part of his address to the benefits accruing from public ownership. He will probably be accepted as a good authority; certainly, from his character and training, he is a better authority on the actual working of public ownership in Great Britain than any casual critic can be. On this point he said: "The question of immense importance, which has arisen, is whether public utilities should be operated by joint stock corporations or by publicly owned boards. The supply of water is a monopoly. We cannot have a number of companies supplying water to citizens any more than we can have rival street car companies laying rails in the same streets. The same is true of lighting. Where there is a monopoly, it is urged in England that the profit and increased value, which the growth gives, as that of a street transportation monopoly, ought to belong to the public. These considerations have led the British parliament to vest franchises in the hands of the British municipalities. The street railways are now generally operated by municipal governments.

"It is urged," he continued, "on behalf of the city governments that a joint stock corporation, holding a monopoly, may become too great a power; that it may deal harshly with the citizens, and that it may, thru its employees, control too much voting power, or in other ways, exert a baneful influence. It may charge too high fares, or with impunity give a service not so good as the citizens require."

That this latter contention is true in the case of the public services of Toronto every citizen knows from his own experience. Dealing later with the danger of a city abusing the power it would have, or that the municipal administrators might draw private profit out of their functions, Professor Bryce paid a tribute to British city governments. These, he said, are pure. No cases of either abuse of patronage or stealing by municipal officials have ever been proved. British cities adopted municipal ownership because they have found it impossible to secure cheap and efficient public services in any other way. They continue to operate them because they are convinced it is for the interest of the community that the element of private profit be eliminated. Municipal ownership and operation is advocated for Canada for some reason. As Premier Whitney said, it is no new thing in Ontario, and the people are now determined that the public services of the province shall no longer be manipulated for the benefit of a ring of capitalists.

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Rightly thinking that the salaries are not large enough, the teachers of the Province of Ontario are contemplating forming a union to increase them. Their salaries are not in any great measure commensurate with the services they render the public, but to arbitrarily raise the scale by combining themselves into a union will force upon them the moral obligation to see to it that every unionist is not only qualified by scholarship and training, but also by character and personality to teach. No union in the world can make some teachers true to their duty, and if the teachers unionize they will have to weed out those who neither by accurate scholarship nor careful training nor character nor personality are competent to really teach the children of Ontario. This task should not appal them. Let them form their union and exact the living wages; if this results in the survival of the fittest, it will be the gain of the children of the province.

Support public ownership. If anything were needed to demonstrate the value of organized public opinion, it would be afforded by the report of the discussion in the private bills committee of the legislature yesterday. Only by way of public ownership and operation of the services and utilities created by the need of the people themselves can satisfactory results be obtained. Therefore, every citizen, specially interested in North Toronto, who desires to advance the cause of public ownership, should make it a point to attend the meeting in Cumberland Hall to-night. A branch of the Public Ownership League will then be organized, and the movement for concerted action thruout the province ended and strengthened. At the present moment provincial politicians are peculiarly alive to the movement, and every indication of the trend of popular opinion is being carefully watched. All that is needed is organization, and this will be provided by the establishment of local branches of the Public Ownership League. For that reason the meeting in Cumberland Hall to-night should be well attended, and all encouragement given to the extension of the movement in North Toronto.

Safety or dividends. An open letter to Mr. F. Fleming, manager Toronto Street Railway: Dear Sir,—In view of the numbers of lives that have been crushed out under the wheels and trucks of Toronto street cars during the past year, I would like to ask which you consider of greater importance, THE SAVING OF HUMAN LIVES OR THE PAYING OF DIVIDENDS ON STREET RAILWAY STOCK? Are you aware that in Liverpool (under municipal operation), for the past five years they have been using a tender which absolutely prevents any person, small or large, from getting under the wheels or trucks of a street car? Do you know from the official record that not one life has been lost during all that time in that manner? If you have known the facts as above stated and have not tried this tender on any of the city cars, are you not responsible for every life lost under the wheels or trucks of Toronto street cars since the time you acquired that knowledge?

Do you think that the people of Toronto would object to a trial of this tender on the lines in this city? Yours respectfully, Milton Kerr, 212 Robert-street.

Toronto, April 6, 1907. An open letter to Mr. F. Fleming, manager Toronto Street Railway: Dear Sir,—In view of the numbers of lives that have been crushed out under the wheels and trucks of Toronto street cars during the past year, I would like to ask which you consider of greater importance, THE SAVING OF HUMAN LIVES OR THE PAYING OF DIVIDENDS ON STREET RAILWAY STOCK? Are you aware that in Liverpool (under municipal operation), for the past five years they have been using a tender which absolutely prevents any person, small or large, from getting under the wheels or trucks of a street car? Do you know from the official record that not one life has been lost during all that time in that manner? If you have known the facts as above stated and have not tried this tender on any of the city cars, are you not responsible for every life lost under the wheels or trucks of Toronto street cars since the time you acquired that knowledge?

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THE REIGN OF THE PEOPLE BASED ON GOLDEN RULE

Rev. D. C. Hossack Speaks Before Progressive Club on Public Ownership.

The Progressive Club, a new organization for the discussion of questions of public interest, held its first weekly supper at Williams' Cafe last night. The room was crowded. Ald. J. W. Benough presided.

Rev. D. C. Hossack addressed the club on "The Reign of the People," referring to the tariff, patents, taxation and public ownership. "All the trouble that we have had, he declared, had been about the land—the right to own and control the land. From the days of the feudal system the old problems had taken on new forms and there had been a constant struggle for reforms. One of the ways the people struggled for reform was by taxation. The only kind of just income tax, said the speaker, was the tax on what a man uses for himself and his family.

He believed the time would come when the government would buy back the patents it had issued, so that any body could use them by paying a royalty. When a patent was not used it should cease to exist.

Some of the objections to public ownership were discussed. It would do away with personal incentive, he said. Mr. Hossack, selfishness be the base of all public institutions, the theory would be that the public would do anything because he would not be in favor of doing anything for his neighbor. Many men who had wrought great deeds had done them for the public good.

Another argument was that public ownership would increase the debt. Mackenzie and Mann had put 70 million dollars into their road, mostly borrowed money, and it followed that if we were to have great public enterprises we must have great public debt. Public ownership would not rise any higher than public intelligence, he said, in reply to the argument that it would involve heavy losses, incapacity and corruption.

Was there greater confiscation, he asked, than to make a farmer pay \$15 or \$20 more for a reaper than if there was no tariff?

MAKE THE FLAG POPULAR.

Col. Denison Says It Should Be a School Study.

The thirteenth annual dinner of Commercial Lodge No. 200, Sons of England Benevolent Society at the St. Charles Hotel, Toronto, was a most successful affair.

Bro. J. J. Gardiner, W.P., presided. The evening was distinguished by the presence of the Hon. G. T. Denison, the Hon. Dr. Pym, minister of education, and W. R. Wickett, secretary of the Commercial Travellers' Mutual Benefit Society.

Lieut. Col. Denison in the course of his remarks spoke strongly in favor of the adoption of the Union Jack in the schools of Ontario. He said that in Great Britain and her colonies doing all possible to keep the supremacy of the ocean, as on that depended the future prosperity and integrity of our empire.

Dr. Pym, in his remarks, declared that the children of Ontario, in the past, had not been taught respect for the Union Jack like that which the children to the south of us had been taught. He said that the world over, should be better understood by the rising generation.

Another batch of new citizens arrived yesterday. They will require work to-day. If you have any vacancies, ring up Main 232 early this morning and tell the World what they are. We will do the British Welcome League will open an office in a few days. Help the good cause by joining the league. Fill up the form below and send it along with whatever sum you can afford.

I desire to become a member of the British Welcome League, and enclose \$1 subscription for the ensuing 12 months: Name _____ Address _____ Send to Albert Chamberlain, president, 84 Victoria-street; Mayor Coatsworth, treasurer, or Mr. Mogridge, secretary, 83 Yonge-street, Toronto, or Imperial Bank, corner of Queen and Yonge.

Another objection. Editor World: Don't like name of new park. Let us have something new and different from Scarborough Beach, and besides Scarborough is several miles east of the new amusement park. "Jack."

AT OSGOOD HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WEDNESDAY: Chambers, Cartwright, master, at 11 a.m. The Hon. Mr. Justice Mabee at 11 a.m.: 1. Re Rudolph and Tara. 2. Wilson v. German-Canadian. 3. Re Hill estate. 4. Wallace v. Munn. 5. Re Kalar and Waterford. 6. Re Fenton case. 7. Bennett v. Billing. 8. Re Simmons estate. This court will rise at 12:45 p.m. Peremptory list for 11 a.m.: Gallagher v. Toronto. Doty v. Peaslee. McCann v. Ontario. The King v. Chisholm. Simpson v. Toronto and York Railway. The court will rise at 12:45 p.m. Toronto Spring Assizes. The Hon. Chief Justice Falconbridge at 10 a.m.: Bank of Hamilton v. Distributors. Blisner v. Toronto and York Radial. Heston v. Toronto. Hawkes v. The Globe. The court will adjourn at 1 p.m. Toronto Non-Jury Sittings: The Hon. the Chancellor at 10:30 a.m. Peremptory list: Kennedy v. Kennedy. Parker v. Tain. Dinning v. New Ontario. Spearing v. Haney. This court will rise at 1 p.m. Class suits reinsurance. Dingman & Co. are suing the West-ern Assurance Co. for \$2000. The claim is under a policy issued by the defendants upon the stock of the Excelsior Cigar Co. which was destroyed by fire in December last.

THE COPELAND-CHATTERSON CO., LTD. Works, BRAMPTON. General Offices, TORONTO.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP LEAGUE ORGANIZATION PROCEEDING

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To-night in Cumberland Hall, on Yonge and Cumberland-streets, will be held a meeting to organize a Public Ownership League for the electoral division of North Toronto. It is expected to be one of the most successful gatherings held yet in this cause and the promoters of the league are looking forward to the election of a strong committee to represent North Toronto on the central committee.

W. K. McNaught, M.L.A. for North Toronto, will be one of the speakers. It is expected that A. W. Wright, the chairman of the re-organization committee, will preside.

All those who believe in public ownership are invited to attend and become members of the league. This organization is yet in its inception. Branch leagues will be formed in many municipalities thruout the province as soon as the central committee will have been completed. Southampton, in North Bruce, is asking for assistance in organization work and several other places have discussed the question. So that it is important that the permanent committee be formed early to permit of a public ownership campaign outside Toronto.

Cumberland Hall is situated on Yonge-street, corner of Cumberland-street. The entrance is on Cumberland-street.

THE WELCOME BUREAU.

The World Welcome Bureau had another busy day, the office being crowded from early morning until late night. Employers responded so generously that last Monday's record was broken; nearly a hundred men were placed, 50 more will be fixed up this morning. Another batch of new citizens arrived yesterday. They will require work to-day. If you have any vacancies, ring up Main 232 early this morning and tell the World what they are. We will do the British Welcome League will open an office in a few days. Help the good cause by joining the league. Fill up the form below and send it along with whatever sum you can afford.

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John McCann appealed to the divisional court from the judgment at the trial of the case against the Puritan Knitting Mills Co. for the death of his son, a lad of 16 years of age, who was killed by the elevator on the company's premises. The trial judge directed a non-suit, but allowed the jury to assess the damages in the event the appeal should be set aside. The damages were assessed at \$1000. McCann is now appealing from the non-suit. The court reserved judgment.

Bank Gets Leave. In the suit of Ryan v. Bank of Montreal, which came up at Osgoode Hall yesterday, leave was granted by Chief Justice Mabee to the defendants to appeal direct to the court of appeal against the judgment of the divisional court.

From Other Viewpoints. Even slot-machine games of chance are now forbidden in Montana, for years the congenial home of rano, roulette and poker. The state is becoming so virtuous that it may soon make it a crime to buy a senapathor.—New York World.

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LOW PRICE THIS WEEK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

We'll take cabinet, montello size, photos balance of this week for \$1.25 a dozen, instead of the usual price, while we run off a few hundred mounts.

The very best of work and sure satisfaction will accompany every order—the price has nothing to do with that. And you'll have two sittings to choose from.

This should appeal particularly to parents, the more so, when we tell you that our artist had a reputation for successful photographing of children, before he came to us, and he's more than keeping it up.

Come then, and bring the children. The price per dozen photos..... 1.25

—STUDIO—FOURTH FLOOR— THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

Public Ownership League

A Public Meeting to organize a Branch of the League in North Toronto will be held in

Cumberland Hall, (Corner Yonge and Cumberland)

—ON— WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, AT 8 O'CLOCK P.M.

All friends of Public Ownership are invited to attend.

Money cannot buy better Coffee than Michie's finest blend Java and Mocha, 45c lb.

Michie & Co., Limited

STATE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF RETIRING PROFESSORS

University President Argues That Carnegie Foundation is for Private Universities.

In response to requests by members of the National Association of State Universities, Prof. Maurice Hutton, acting president of the University of Toronto, and Prof. Henry T. Eddy, dean of the graduate school, University of Minnesota, urging that the benefits of the Carnegie foundation be extended to the Universities of the state and provinces, President Henry S. Pritchett of New York states that, while it is clear that the teachers of the state universities have, as teachers, quite as good a claim to a retiring allowance as any other, and that, while it is just as desirable that they should have the benefit of such a system, yet it should not be a private fund, but thru an allowance established by the states themselves.

It is doubtful, he says, whether the intervention of a private agency, even if it be national in its scope, offering to all states the benefits of a retiring allowance for teachers, would not greatly weaken the sense of responsibility in the states for educational support.

The plea that a state provides grudgingly for its universities, even if it be national in its scope, offering to all states the benefits of a retiring allowance for teachers, would not greatly weaken the sense of responsibility in the states for educational support.

"Thanks for the Meal." A pretty table observance in Danish families is for children, even little ones who can scarcely toddle, to go, one by one after dinner to salute their parents and say, "Thank for meal." ("Thanks for the meal"). Even visitors shake hands with their host and hostess and go thru the same formality. In German families that hold to tradition the same custom prevails.

Or has your comb run away with it? Better look out for what's left of it, and keep it at home on your head, not in the comb. Ayer's Hair Vigor will act as "keeper." If you have a particle of doubt about using this splendid preparation, let your doctor decide for you. We publish the formulas of all our preparations. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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Brown hats are more in evidence this spring than for several seasons past. The lighter colors are acceptable after wearing a black hat all winter.

Light tans and medium shades of brown are shown in a variety of shapes from Scott and Christy.

\$3.50 to \$4.50. HOLT-RENFREW & CO. 5 KING STREET EAST.

The Ideal Light Beer

All the delightful flavor—all the tonic qualities—all the finest hops and malt are caught and held captive in



When the evening meal is ended, the party stand up around the table and each shakes hands with the neighbor, saying "Gesegnete Mahlzeit," blessing the food.

Rev. H. B. Young will probably be appointed as rector for the parish of St. George.

Crossley and Hunter are conducting revival services in Bonar Presbyterian Church, which was crowded last night. Rev. Mr. Turk & Owen Sand was a speaker also.