

Govt. Operation of Railways

By J. E. Middleton

As a war-measure, all American railways were taken over temporarily by the United States Government. Costly competition for business was ended. Through freight was billed by the most direct routes and a unified control eliminated a good deal of unnecessary expense. Against that saving stood the necessity of increasing greatly the wages of all employees to match the rising prices of all products and to prevent the paralysis occasioned by strikes. Therefore a heavy annual deficit was incurred.

During the period of Government operation a propaganda of protest was carried on. Many speakers and writers alleged that the deficit was due to Governmental inefficiency. They pointed to a shortage of hundreds of millions as a proof that the lines should go back to their owners at the earliest possible moment.

The lines went back, in due course. Now after only a few weeks of operation under the old system, the railway business of the United States is in such entanglement that the Government may be forced to renew its central control board, set up in wartime days.

Among the students of economic problems the heavy deficits of the past two years were not expected. They would have occurred if the railways had remained in private hands. In 1914 Edward Dudley Kenna published a book entitled "Railway Misrule," which stated the insoluble problem before the shareholders and the nation. The kernel of the argument was this: (1) that the cost of labor and materials was increasing so rapidly (and this, before the war) that operating expenses were bound to rise to unprecedented levels; (2) that popular protest would prevent any general increase of rates; (3) that declining percentages of profit for shareholders made it impossible to sell on the public market either bonds or new railway stock issues; and (4) that immediate renewals and betterments were necessary at a total outlay of \$30,000,000,000.

Mr. Kenna gave clear proof that the majority of American railroads had come to the end of their rope. There had been a time when the prosperous lines had been able to make a good showing by increased traffic and more economical management, but in 1914 these same lines were crowded to the farthest limit of their capacity. Sidings were too short. Cars were scarce, locomotives were of the largest, terminals and switching facilities were inadequate and single-track line could not handle the traffic offering. Branches were sources of loss, since often the sparse population served, could not provide enough traffic to pay the wages of the train-crews and other employees. Under these conditions the companies' revenues were stationary, and their expenses were growing daily.

That being the situation in 1914, consider the sharpness of the problem when wages were doubled, when materials cost from fifty to a hundred per cent. more and when all transportation business was enlarged because of war-time demands. If the Government had not taken over the lines the whole railway system of the republic would have been paralyzed, or, if not paralyzed, the deficits under the competitive system would have been far greater than under unified control.

The war made a situation completely new in the annals of railway operation, not only in the United States but in Canada. This country has acquired two great systems, formerly under private control. The reason is found in the fact that they were made bankrupt by short-hand business, handled by men on a long-haul rate of wages. In a word, the proper rate of a railway is to handle through traffic on which a margin of profit is more easily obtainable.

What of the local traffic? How best can it be handled that the needs of the people may be served more efficiently, more promptly and more economically than by branch steam railways? The Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario has the solution in its plan to provide electric lines as feeders to the trunk roads. The experience of the United States ought to make the Federal Department of Railways eager to co-operate with the municipalities of Ontario in their desire to take over and electrify the branches which too often have been an annual occasion for losses on operating account.

Government ownership and operation of railways can be a success if the steam roads confine themselves

to through traffic, if they are allowed rates large enough to meet running expenses, and if branch lines are electrified.

Market Prices Remain Firm

Some Produce Higher Today—Hides Market Very Weak

Prices were generally steady on the market this morning. Potatoes sold at \$6.00 to \$7.00 per bag. The offerings were quite numerous. Butter went up to 65c and 66c and eggs sold at 49c by the basket and 59c by the dozen. Dealers offered 45c and 47c today.

Lower prices in eggs are predicted for next week, owing to the advent of warm weather and consequent deterioration in the quality of eggs.

Young pigs were plentiful at \$9 and \$10 each.

Rhubarb, lettuce, onions, radishes etc., all sold at 10c and 15c per bunch.

Hides have dropped considerably, beef hides today are quoted at 12c to 16c, which is the pre-war level. Butcher veals are selling at 25c, deacons at \$1.50 to \$2.00 and yearlings 25c.

The wool market is at an absolute standstill, none of the mills putting out any prices.

Baled hay is quoted at \$25.00 wholesale with an inclination towards a lower figure.

Beef hindquarters wholesale at 22c, lamb at 40c, veal at 20c, pork at 25c to 26c. Hogs were quoted at \$18.50.

Chickens sold at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per pair.

W. C. A. Penny Bag Collection

When the Women's Christian Association distributed the penny bags for a monthly collection, in aid of the Hospital and Home, it was in the expectation of realizing a sum sufficiently large to help combat the H. C. of L. problem. So far the results have been most gratifying. Each ward in the city is doing its best to reach the top place on the list. Ketcheson ward led last month by a small surplus.

Everyone knows the work done by a hospital in any community but few realize what a splendid work is being done in a small way by the Home for old people, situated in West Belleville. It is in the hope of enlarging this work that a liberal response is being asked for each month. Have your bags ready when the collector calls, for the sick, the poor and the needy are with us always.

B. L. Case and wife of California arrived in Belleville last Wednesday as a result of a suggestion from Mr. Mikel, K.C., who met Mr. Case in California last winter. Mr. Case only intended to stay over a train on his way to New York and later to Europe but after driving around the city was so favourably impressed that he has decided to stay a month. He maintains that California weather in summer as well as winter is delightful but says that many thousands of people from the warmer states lying south could readily be induced to come to such beautiful surroundings as we have here in summer time. Some of them might later become interested in the mining and the industries of Canada.

Mr. Case says he is interested in a large industry that takes care of the needs of the Atlantic Sea Board States, and has completed arrangements for the Interior States. He has not yet decided whether he will take care of the Canadian trade from one of the American plants or start a plant in Canada. He was much impressed with the profusion of opportunities that we have here and is convinced that if they were brought to the attention of American capitalists and heads of industries we would find a big development.

Mrs. Eleanor H. Porter, author of "Pollyanna," the "glad book," has passed to her reward. She produced a book that gladdened many a heart and that showed the way to happiness.

Rev. Messrs. Fogarty and Byrnes of the Archdiocese of Kingston, are to be ordained to the priesthood at St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, on May 29th, by Archbishop McNeill. Father Fogarty of the Archdiocese of Kingston is to sing his first solemn mass at St. Augustine's Church, Andover, Mass., on June 8th.

Mr. James, of Belleville, who was acting teller in Deseronto branch of the Bank of Montreal, has returned

to the city. He is succeeded by Mr. J. L. Eggleston, of Tweed, who with his family will occupy the upstairs of bank building. Deseronto Post welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Eggleston to Deseronto and trusts that they will find as we have found, a good people and a good little town.

For the first time in its history, Cobourg jail has no prisoners, and May 24, 1920, will stand out in history as the first day that such a thing has come to pass. That day the last prisoner was paroled, an officer arriving here from Ottawa with the necessary papers. While technically speaking, they have one prisoner on the books, she is at present in Cobourg hospital recovering from pneumonia. When high court judges come here for the assizes and there are no criminal cases on the docket, the judge is presented with white gloves by the sheriff. In view of this memorable state of affairs in the counties goal, Sheriff Nesbitt should present, Goalie McLaughlin and the genial Sam Ferguson with not only white gloves, but a plug hat each—and see that they wear them. The counties council some time ago discussed the advisability of purchasing hats and uniforms—with brass buttons—for this worthy pair, but the Sentinel-Star thinks the plug hats and white gloves would be more appropriate, and would add more dignity to the guardians of the goal.

A despatch from Windsor Wednesday morning stated that the first woman city clerk in Canada had been appointed there. This is an error, as in 1900 Miss Sarah Flanagan was appointed City Clerk of Kingston, and acted as City Clerk in succession to W. M. Drennan, until 1901, when L. W. Shannon was appointed to the position.

Another drowning tragedy at Oshawa-on-the-Lake was narrowly averted Sunday afternoon, when through the presence of mind of 15-year-old Arthur Minty, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Minty, Toronto, little four-year-old Harry Hogell was saved from meeting his death in the waters of the marsh at the lake. Arthur, who is a boy scout, was in Oshawa on Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. Mackie at the lake, who are relatives of his. On Sunday they went to Mr. Mackie's father's farm, farther along the lake, on a visit. On their return, young Minty saw a boat on the stream running through the marsh, which had two passengers, in the persons of Harry Hogell and his seven-year-old brother. Little Harry lost his balance and fell into the water. Arthur, seeing the boy's plight, immediately went into the water and brought the boy to land. Great credit is due to the Toronto boy for his pluck and heroism in this act.

The police authorities from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been asked by the Kingston police to be on the lookout for Hum Wing, a Chinese restaurant keeper of that city, who has left for parts unknown, taking along with him \$500 belonging to the Kingston Chinese loan society. According to the information available, the celestial belonged to the local National Chinese League. In this league there is the Chinese loan society. The system has been for the local celestials to put so much money into a fund which was used in loaning to celestials who needed money. After the money was placed in the "pool," all the Chinese who needed a few dollars would make a bid and the highest bidder would get the use of the money for a given time and at the end of that time if the man who got the money required it longer he had to renew the loan. The Chinamen claim that after Hum Wing secured the money he left for parts unknown. After Hum Wing left Kingston the other celestials got in touch with a lawyer who communicated with authorities in Toronto who informed him that they thought, Hum Wing took the train from Toronto for the west. The police at Vancouver, B.C., were communicated with, but they have been unable to lay their hands on the missing man.

Warden M. E. Maybee was in Cobourg the other day arranging for the Warden's annual excursion, always the big event of the June session of the Counties Council, which will be held on Wednesday, June 9. The Warden this year has an idea of exploiting the scenic beauties of the Trent and would like to take his colleagues and other guests for a trip up the Trent River from Trenton to Peterborough.

When Mr. Vanuren, the Ford agent of Kingston, and two of his employees were returning from Toronto Wednesday evening with three new Ford cars a very unfortunate accident occurred. About a mile west of Welcome, there was a dressing of new gravel and when the first car struck this it swerved and before the

driver could get it under control it had cut across the ditch and snapped off a telegraph pole about 15 feet from the base just as clean as if it had been cut by a circular saw. Even this did not stop its progress, and it travelled fully thirty yards more before the driver could bring it to a standstill. Fortunately the car remained upright and the driver escaped injury. The front of the car was badly smashed and twisted and it will spend some days in the repair shop. Strange to say, neither of the lamps or the wind shield were broken.

J. B. Walkem, K.C., of Kingston, has received official notification of his appointment to the executive council of the Victorian Order of Nurses for the Dominion of Canada. Mr. Walkem has, during the period of twenty-three years, or since the organization of the Kingston branch of the order, rendered very valuable service, being secretary-treasurer. He has given generously of his time in promoting the welfare of the Kingston branch, and his appointment to the executive council for Canada is a fitting recognition of his splendid service.

Chief Ruse, of Cobourg, was in Lindsay on Thursday to secure two prisoners in the county jail who are wanted at Cobourg, for beating an hotel proprietor out of a \$20 board bill, and also at Belleville for defrauding an hotelman out of a \$60 board bill. It is said that the two men also worked their way through the country as "dead beats," going from farm house to farm house selling the Farmers' Magazine and Collectors at a reduced price, and failing to make proper returns to the publishing companies. Some time ago Chief Ruse communicated with Chief Short regarding the men and the Chief had the information inserted in the local papers. This newspaper item happened to be noticed by the police constable at Gooderham, in Haliburton County, and he placed two men at the above village under arrest on suspicion. They had been working the surrounding country without paying their way, and it is said owed a liveryman considerable money for driving them about.

Mr. F. S. Anderson, Belleville, has had the telephone installed in his summer cottage at Coneseon Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, with family friends, spent Sunday at the cottage.

A Toronto man says he is not worrying about food prices as much as he did, since he heard his wife say that as soon as potatoes came down a little she was going to get that new rug for the bedroom.

The funeral of the late Robert John Fayers, young son of Mr. and Mrs. William Fayers, 68 Great St. James street took place yesterday afternoon to Belleville cemetery, Rev. W. Elliott officiating.

Crops are looking fine in this district, several farmers said today in spite of the drought. The promise is for a good harvest if showers come. There is plenty of bloom on the apple trees, apple buyers stated today.

A boy of fourteen years was brought before Police Magistrate Masson this morning on the charge of stealing bicycles. The case was enlarged for the present.

Hastings County will open the June session on Tuesday, June 15th. The question of the incorporation of Frankford village will come before the council.

Farm crops in the vicinity of Belleville have not yet suffered any serious damage from the prolonged dry period. All crops have shown fine growth the past two weeks. Just at this stage, however, the crops do need rain or else growth will be greatly curtailed. Pastures on dry hill tops are beginning to take on a brown appearance. The meadows will also be thin and short unless plentiful rain comes soon. The soil was in a loose condition in the spring and that has helped greatly to retain what little moisture has been received. The planted crops are now pretty well in and the conditions have been ideal, aside from a lack of moisture.

The editor wishes to thank Mr. W. C. Dempsey, of Ameliasburgh for a kindly remembrance in the way of liberal gift of asparagus from his garden, or rather, farm. Mr. Dempsey specialises in this delicious vegetable product and finds the crop an exceedingly profitable one. We have never seen elsewhere asparagus so luxuriant and of such fine flavor as that reared by Mr. Dempsey.

Bright and early in the streets this morning were little girls and big girls selling rose tags for Toronto chapter of the Daughters of the Empire. They met with a generous response from almost everybody. The chapter supports a supervisory at the Shelter and is also trying to raise funds for the war memorial.

BORN WILSON—At the Belleville General Hospital, on May 27, 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wilson, 104 Catherine St., a daughter.

It would be ushered in by a time of great trouble, war, revolution, pestilence and famine. The conditions of the world today, are evidence that we are in that very time. The opposing armies for the battle of Armageddon have been placed in a way by the great world war, capital and labour, kings, civil, financial, and ecclesiastical on the one hand, and the masses of the people on the other. The clash of these opposing forces is inevitable, it will constitute the Judgment of Jehovah brought about apparently by human forces, selfishness and will in the human heart, and will result in the absolute destruction of the present reign of evil, and the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ during which the millions of earth may receive everlasting life upon God's terms of obedience, this being made possible by the redemptive work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who gave Himself a ransom for all. I. Tim. 2:4-6.

War Trophies Shipped to City of Belleville

Mayor Riggs has received the following self-explanatory letter from Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ont., May 27th, 1920.

Dear Sir— In order to meet your wishes I had two guns put in order and shipped to you, one from Toronto and the other from Ottawa. They should be in Belleville on Friday or Saturday. You can enquire at the railway company and follow them up from your end.

The number of the 150 mm. gun is 37086 and the 105 mm. is 4984. These are two very fine trophies.

Yours truly, Dir. of War Trophies.

The Mayor of Belleville, Belleville, Ont.

Some burning papers in the yard in the rear of Mr. F. P. Carney's store blew against a frame building nearby on Friday afternoon. The boards ignited, but the blaze was noticed in time. The firemen soon had it under control.

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SINCLAIR'S White Tub Skirts

Seldom does one find Skirts that blend beauty, style and practicability so satisfactorily. You are sure to want a number of these for Summer-outings. The Tub Skirts we are now showing are comfortably cool, and very smart too. Pleated or plain and button-trimmed and fashioned of such dependable materials as pique, gabardine, and cotton tricotine. Moderately priced from \$3.50 up.

Practical Middies

These Middies are unusually well styled and one can't help noticing the precision with which they are tailored, and the small details of trimming that go to make them perfect. The fabrics are long wearing qualities of drill and Indian head, that will last through many games of tennis or other outdoor sports. Priced from \$1.00 up.

Sweaters Like These

will be seen wherever fashionable women congregate. They certainly deserve their popularity among women of discriminating tastes for you will find style and practicability well combined. Rose gold, and peacock blue are among the summer colorings shown in both tuxedo and slip-on styles. Prices commence at \$3.00.

Lingerie Blouses

Such variety has rarely been equalled, and never has the styles been more fascinating, trimmings more artistic or striking originality of design more becoming.

Just now Lingerie Blouses of voile and organdy are most in demand. There will surely be one or two that you "simply can't live without" when you see them. Prices from \$3.50 to \$16.50.

Ginghams

have won a place in every woman's favor, that no other fabric can fill. Just as one would tire of a meal composed entirely of desserts and long for something more substantial, so it is often a relief to turn to practical, crisp and inviting ginghams. Here are Ginghams in a great assortment that you will admire. Priced from 40c to 75c a yard. Silk Warp Ginghams in a collection of plaids and plain shades 32 inches wide are priced at \$1.50 per yard.

Narrow Belts Raw Silks

It's wonderful how much style one of these narrow belts will add to your suit, frock or sweater. A variety of colors and combinations at 25c to 75c each.

Georgette Crepes

looks beautiful whether it is printed, beaded or plain and this season it will be found made up in plain or pleated styles or in combination with silk or voile. It is priced at \$3.00 up in all shades, and in printed designs up to \$6.50 per yard.

SINCLAIR'S