

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1890.
A morning newspaper published every day in the year by The World Newspaper Company of Toronto, Limited, 21, F. Macklin, Managing Director, WORLD BUILDING, TORONTO, NO. 40 WEST RICHMOND STREET, Toronto, Canada, and the British possessions enumerated in section 47 of the Postal Guide.
Branch Office: 75 Main Street East, Hamilton, Telephone 1344.

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SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 21.

The New Brunswick Situation

We would be sorry to do any injustice to Premier Flemming of New Brunswick, but it appears from the report of a royal commission of his own selection that he has been guilty of grave improprieties, to say the least. A large sum of money was extorted from the holders of timber limits with the knowledge and approval of the prime minister. It is claimed that a similar raid was made by every preceding government. In order to create a campaign fund, that is as it may be, but the practice was criminal as matters of this kind originated or by whom it was adopted. It is true that the enemies of Mr. Flemming charged that he must have been seeking to enrich himself personally, because he could have required no campaign fund immediately after his overwhelming success at the general election of 1912. We can appreciate why that particular charge was not pressed; a man will do for his party what he would expect to do for himself, and we are glad to believe that party zeal, not personal avarice, led the New Brunswick premier into his present predicament. From a legal standpoint, however, it is quite immaterial what motive prompted the extortion.

Nor do we think that Mr. Flemming will better his position in the least by the somewhat remarkable challenge he is said to have issued to Mr. E. B. Carvell, the Liberal member of parliament for Carleton, N. B. The press despatches say:

In a letter to the electors of the province, Mr. Flemming declares his innocence of extortion, claiming that what contributions were made were voluntary, and challenges E. B. Carvell, the leading party in the province, to resign his seat in Carleton County and make a test of public confidence at the ballot box.

The proposal appears as unconvincing and unsatisfactory as the old "trial by battle," at common law, which permitted the man accused of murder to prove his innocence by clapping to death the nearest relative of the deceased. If there is to be an appeal from the judges to the electorate, that appeal should be passed upon by all the people of New Brunswick. It could not be settled by a klaxal campaign in Carleton County, in which the senate, the dreadnoughts and many other subjects might overlap or exclude the real issue of Mr. Flemming's guilt or innocence from the minds of the people.

CHOOSE BETTER COMPANY IS ADVICE OF JUDGE

Charge Against Merle Bell, an Ex-Jockey, Dismissed in Court.

"You have been in bad company and might have gone farther, but I do not wish to convict you of the statement of a woman who admits that her mind is weak," so declared Judge Coatsworth yesterday when he allowed Merle Bell, an ex-jockey, to go on a charge of stealing \$40 from a woman who gave her name as Laura McLaughlin. Bell is twenty-one years of age, and eloped with the woman to Juarez. He was given the money to buy two tickets, but did not return with either she claimed.

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MEANWHILE THE YOUNG WOMAN STANDS

whether be evaded nor shifted to the shoulders of other men.
Politics in New Brunswick seems to be a sordid story, no matter which political party is in power. It is to be hoped that at a time like this, when the spirit of the nation should be exalted, that public opinion in New Brunswick will become a scourge and also a cleansing fire. The findings of the royal commission, now made a matter of public record, should be brought home to the people of that province and of the Dominion as well. No one should be so engrossed in mere party politics as to reject in a revelation, which brings shame to the good people of New Brunswick, and indeed of the Dominion. Neither should anyone, from mistaken party loyalty, suppress the truth or shield those deserving of punishment.

To Help the Belgians

A special effort is being made by the board of trade to assist the appeal in aid of funds for the relief of the war-stricken Belgian population. Since God created the earth we have no record of any such disaster as has befallen the little nation which lies nearest to the shores of England between the Germans and the object of Teutonic covetousness.

For this reason and this alone Belgium has been made the victim of the most ruthless attack in history. On this account, if for no other, British people in every part of the world should do what they can to help those who have made common cause with them in the safety and maintenance of the empire and its ideals of freedom and liberty.

But the wider call of a common humanity also strikes to the heart of every man and woman who can feel for human sorrow and misery. A nation, desolated, starved, homeless, without food, shelter or clothing, seeking in alien lands for the needs they had toiled so industriously to acquire at home, thrust out from all that made life acceptable, by a treacherous enemy who broke faith and now pursues a policy of spoliation and confiscation, as well as murdering, depends on the charity of those who have abundance, to tide them over this time of necessity.

The board of trade has appointed Mr. C. Marriot as treasurer for the fund, a sum of \$50,000 being aimed at. It is hoped to close the fund today, and we trust that this last day will see many cheques sent forward. The board of trade has assumed all the expenses of the appeal, so that every dollar contributed will go to the sufferers. Donations of food and clothing are also being accepted by the Montreal committee.

The Fire Commissionership

No one supposed that when the reorganization of the fire department was proposed the net result of the whole movement was to leave the chief responsible for the condition complained about.

When the board of control nominates Chief Thompson for the position of fire commissioner, unless it is merely with the object of paying a compliment at the close of his career to a man who has done splendid work in his time, the controllers must be aware that they are going directly in the face of every responsible and informed opinion in the city.

What was wanted in the reorganization of the department was an entirely new order of things, new men, new methods, a new point of view. It is impossible to teach old dogs new tricks, and unless the nomination is to be taken in a complimentary sense to Chief Thompson the board of control will learn that they have entirely failed to interpret the wishes of the citizens.

ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY

Ward Six Liberal-Conservative Association will hold their annual meeting on Monday next at the Parkdale Assembly Hall, 2 Lansdowne avenue, when the reception of reports and election of officers will be the most important items of business.

IF KIDNEYS AND BLADDER BOTHER

Take Salts to Flush Kidneys and Neutralize Irritating Acids.

Kidney and Bladder weakness result from uric acid, says noted authority. The kidneys filter this acid from the blood and pass it on to the bladder, where it often remains to irritate and inflame, causing a burning, scalding sensation, or setting up an irritation at the neck of the bladder, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night. The sufferer is in constant dread, the water passes sometimes with a scalding sensation and is very profuse; again, there is difficulty in voiding it.

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ONTARIO BOY SCOUTS WANT STEADY REVENUE

Deputation to Premier Heston Yesterday Asked for Financial Support.

The Boy Scouts of Ontario are seeking recognition from the government. With the aim in view of having the provincial government consider granting assistance to the organization already effected, in order that its success may be assured, a deputation consisting of a regular adjutant of the Ontario cabinet last evening.

It was pointed out to the ministers that the future of the scout movement rested largely on the support which it would receive. At the present time expenses were met by gifts from private donors, but the management desired to have a regular source of support. Indiscriminate giving was not always to be relied on. They did not mention any specific sum, but outlined instead the needs of the year. Lieut.-Col. Gibson stated that the organization was doing at the present time a duty of great importance in training the youth in ways of military and many departments. He desired to see \$5,000 enrolled in Ontario in place of the 8,000 present.

REGISTER ALL ALIENS

Judge Coatsworth yesterday received notification of his appointment as registrar of Toronto and district under the provisions of the alien enemy registration ordinance. All aliens in Toronto must register in the future. Registration will proceed at once.

HURT PLAYING FOOTBALL

Bruce Warner, 8 North street, had a leg broken yesterday afternoon while playing football on a vacant lot at the corner of Wellington and Bloor streets. He was removed to the General Hospital in the police ambulance.

FELL AND BROKE A LEG

When stepping off a car at the corner of Dundas and Weston roads yesterday morning, John Sheath, living at 260 Perth avenue, missed his footing and fell to the ground, breaking his leg. The police ambulance conveyed him to the Western Hospital.

ITALIANS VICTIMIZED BY DISHONEST BOSSES

Made Complaint Against Foreman on Whittby Asylum Farm Building.

Some time ago Michael Basso, Italian court interpreter, at the instigation of Government Inspector Chagny was asked to investigate the charges of stabbing made against the Italians working at the Whittby prison farm, and to find out if they were concealing dangerous weapons.

A number of the men complained that an Italian foreman named Domenico subjected them to the "boos" system, or "padrone system," as it is known in Italy, by which they were compelled to pay him one dollar a month for rights in possibly. The men were also compelled to purchase wine from him at 25c per bottle, and when they refused to do so he made it so uncomfortable for them that they left their work. Mr. Basso complained to the prison guards, and soon the sale of the wine was stopped, but the "boos" system was not discontinued. Mr. Basso stated that the request would receive immediate attention. He had always been impressed with the importance of training boys in lines of public service, he said, and he felt that nothing but good could come out of proper leadership.

CHIEF IS FAVORED BY CONTROLLERS

Unanimous Decision of Board of Control Approves Thompson's Nomination.

Fire Chief Thompson yesterday secured the unanimous nomination of the board of control for the new position of fire commissioner, treated by council at its last session. Controller O'Neill moved his nomination, and the mayor and Controller Simpson immediately expressed their willingness to vote for him.

McCARTHY WAS ABSENT

Church Demurred, But Finally Voted for Thompson as Fire Commissioner.

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GETS DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF HUSBAND BY SHOCK

Two Thousand Dollars Awarded to Mrs. Julia Oskey of Kingston.

Julia Oskey of Kingston was yesterday awarded \$2,000 damages by Mr. Justice Brichon at Osgoode Hall against the Ontario Fire and Life Company of Kingston for the death of her husband, who was employed by the company and was killed by coming in contact with a portable electric lamp. The claim was that the line was overcharged, causing the wire to become heavily charged. The award stipulates that the wife is to get \$1,000, a son \$200 and two daughters \$500 each.

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owes the petitioner \$6000, the total liabilities amounting to \$15,000. His lordship granted the petition, and Errol E. Armstrong of Parry Sound was appointed interim liquidator with reference to the local matter at Parry Sound.

C. F. O. and W. Railway Company moved for an order for a warrant against the City of Belleville for the immediate possession of certain lands. The warrant was granted upon payment of \$5000 into court.

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