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QUEBEC—Quebec News Co., ST. JOHN N.B.—Raymond & Doherty.

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THE PUBLIC OWNERSHIP LEAGUE

Yesterday the Public Ownership League was formally inaugurated under favorable auspices. The attendance, which was thoroughly representative, showed how great a hold the principle has obtained and how thoroughly it is in accord with the sentiment of the people. What indeed can be more in the interest of the people than a straight declaration in favor of public ownership? It is entirely in their interest and its object is the operation of all public utilities and services for common good. No ulterior motive enters into this organization. It is in the straight interest of the people and the citizens of Toronto will be the proficients.

With the resolutions passed there can be no cavil. What indeed can be more entirely in the interest of the people than the resolution that all public utilities and services, pertaining of the nature of monopolies, should be owned or controlled by the people and be operated for the public advantage? This is the proposition that The World seeks to further and it is approved by all who wish to see that the public franchises remain under public control. The Public Ownership League will concentrate the weight of public opinion wherever it needs to operate. When completely organized it will be able to exercise a powerful influence in the political field, and when that point is reached the end is not far distant.

NO COMPROMISE.

The Christian Guardian of this week has an article on the province and the power companies. It justifies what the province is doing in its proposed legislation to disempower those power companies that are seeking to avoid provincial jurisdiction by going to Ottawa and having themselves declared to be for the general advantage of Canada and re-organizing under federal charters.

The article, however, winds up with a very big olive branch, and suggests that there should be some reasonable ground taken whereby a settlement could be effected. If The Guardian means that the situation ought to be compromised, we have no sympathy with its proposition.

There is only one thing to do in the matter, and that is for the companies to submit and to recognize their creator, the province to wit, and apologize for their misbehavior and for their disloyalty to provincial law. In the meantime, Mr. Whitney has no other duty than to go ahead with the legislation that purveys every company out of business forthwith that is guilty of disloyalty to the province that created it and that would seek to put the control of municipal propositions under federal law, where they have no right to be.

The time has come to let all corporations know that they must obey and respect the law as much as ordinary people.

MR. BALFOUR ON TARIFF REFORM.

Mr. Balfour's speech at Hull, to which we recently called attention, was not received in all quarters as a definite pronouncement in favor of fiscal reform. Altho his meaning seemed reasonably clear, his declaration of belief in free trade—in the true sense of the word, he was careful to add, to the minds of some supporters and many opponents of fiscal reform—somewhat discounting his renewed adherence to the terms of his historic letter to Mr. Chamberlain. There did not seem to be any real ground for scepticism regarding Mr. Balfour's attitude, and probably the interpretation placed upon the terms of his Hull speech was due either to the recollection of his prolonged hesitation in accepting Mr. Chamberlain's policy or to the personal bias of those of his critics who have no desire to see the Unionist party officially committed to fiscal reform.

However that may be, Mr. Balfour took an early opportunity to declare

himself more explicitly—in, indeed, it by so—than he did in his address at Hull. Speaking a few days later at the inaugural dinner of the reorganized council of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, he said:

"I am one of those who firmly believe that there are unmistakable signs that there is a coalescence of Unionist opinion and crystallization of Unionist views in favor of a sound, a safe and a sober policy of fiscal reform."

While reserving a fuller discussion of the issue to the debate on the official fiscal reform amendment, then about to be moved in the house of commons, Mr. Balfour went on to indicate four separate points connected with the question, which, tho logically separate, must be kept in view in one focus. These were:

1. The broadening of the basis of taxation; the safeguarding of the great productive interests of Britain, not from fair competition—which is the essence, he said, of protection—but from unfair competition, which is only formidable because it is due either to bounties or tariffs; the problem of foreign markets and how British industries are to be preserved against the competition of the world—partly carried out by political means, partly by military means, and partly by fiscal means—and, lastly, the cottonization market. On the latter point, Mr. Balfour remarked:

"In our colonies we have to look not at the population as it is now, not at the wealth-producing capacity as we see it at the present moment. We must look with the eyes of prophets to what these great self-governing communities are becoming in the lifetime of some of us sitting here."

This is unquestionably the clearest and most definite pronouncement Mr. Balfour has yet made, and it shows the further and prolonged consideration he has given to fiscal reform has enabled him to formulate the general lines of a policy which will command the support of the united party. Fundamentally it embodies while it extends the proposition, which he first advanced in the early days of Mr. Chamberlain's agitation, as a palliative, not a remedy. It also explains and elucidates his constant endeavor to prevent any serious split among the Unionists during the period when the fiscal reform advocates were developing their campaign. This he emphasized when he declared that the business of the reconstituted party organization would be to see that "every new element gets its full play; that intrigue is banished; that small causes of difference are smoothed away, and that everything is made easy to carry out the great coalescence of Unionist opinion without which," he said, "believe me, no Unionist government will ever be returned to power."

Yesterday the Unionists secured a notable victory in the Brigg division of Lincolnshire, where a minority of 176 was converted into a majority of 116, and this will certainly stimulate the party to more aggressive action, both in and out of parliament.

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION

Seldom has an agitation for enquiry into the methods and practices of great public organizations been more fully vindicated than that initiated and carried out by The World in connection with the insurance companies of Canada. The report of the Dominion government commission presented to the house of commons yesterday by the Hon. Mr. Balfour is a complete justification of the charges made in the course of that campaign, and proves to a demonstration that the evils and abuses exposed by the New York State commission have had their counterparts in Canada. But the public will do well to await the more detailed publication of the results of the Dominion enquiry, which will come when the report is made available and its contents can be more fully reproduced. Meantime enough is known to make it evident that vast sums of money, to all intents and purposes trust funds, have been habitually used for private benefit, either directly or thru the media of nominally independent but really subsidiary and controlled companies.

No personal or political considerations should be allowed to influence either the verdict of public opinion or the legislative consequences made in the naturally to follow. Nor should the one vital point of the report, so far as the rights and interests of policyholders are concerned, be obscured. In the multiplicity of matters, involving defects, errors and abuses in the management of insurance companies, there is much

of interest and importance, well deserving remedy and effectual prevention. But the salient fact emerging from the report is the utter failure on the part of men placed in fiduciary positions to recognize the obligations incumbent upon them. And whatever the external differences in the form of the transactions, and whether these were associated with the direct investment of funds contributed by third parties, or with deals where the intermediaries had a double and conflicting interest, it is evident from the report that the nature of the abuses was identical. In all cases there was a failure on the part of the trustee and responsible to fulfil the duties which their position as virtual trustees imposed upon them.

What is the question for the policyholders in the companies whose officials and agents are implicated in the transactions exposed by the insurance commissioner? There is a well-known rule of trust law which makes it incumbent on trustees or on anyone occupying a fiduciary position to account to the true beneficiaries for all profits which may have been made thru the manipulation of trust funds. A trustee is not at liberty to utilize such funds for private or personal advantage, and satisfy those to whom he is responsible, with the rate of interest which would have been paid on a straight and regular investment. This rule, ought to be enforced to its fullest extent against every actual or virtual trustee who has made use of insurance company funds for private profit, either directly or thru subsidiary companies in which he has an interest. If the existing law of Canada is not sufficient for that purpose, equity demands that a retroactive statute be passed, and all who have reaped improper personal advantage must be disgorge their gains. This is not a time for saw-offs, or for such attempts as have already been made to blacken offenders of one political faith and whitewash those of another. The quality of the charges laid by the commission is identical and equal justice must be meted out without respect of persons or political proclivities.

Do We Want to Stir Up Dissatisfaction?

INDEED WE DO. That is What We Want More Than ANYTHING ELSE.

The mild, milk-and-water, dog-like editors that write for corporations owners say that this newspaper "seeks to stir up dissatisfaction." Of course it does. The newspaper or the man that doesn't seek to stir up dissatisfaction, SO LONG AS WRONG EXISTS, is a disgrace to the community.

One of the best things that Runkin ever said was that he hoped before he died to stir up dissatisfaction.

The work that all the U.S. patriots did in 1776 and before that time and after that time, WAS TO STIR UP DISSATISFACTION WITH EVIL CONDITIONS.

If you saw poor, wretched Hindoos struck in the face, kicked off the sidewalk, as Charles E. Russell saw them repeatedly in his recent travels would you not seek to stir up dissatisfaction and protest in the breasts of those wretched men?

If you saw a Chinese coolie, half starved, underpaid, brutally tortured because he had ventured to ask for better treatment, would you not try to stir up DISSATISFACTION IN THAT HALF-DEAD SOUL AND IN SOULS OF THE MILLIONS LIKE HIM, in the hope that he might set himself free?

And when you see in this country the abuses that exist in every line of widely organized swindling, IS IT NOT YOUR DUTY TO STIR UP DISSATISFACTION?

Is any man worthy of the name of man unless he is dissatisfied when treated unjustly?

It is the BUSINESS of this newspaper to stir up dissatisfaction whenever dissatisfaction is justified.

It is one thing to stir up honest, intelligent dissatisfaction, AND QUITE ANOTHER THING TO PREACH STUPID REBELLION AGAINST AUTHORITY.

When the laws are enforced against the poor and ignored in the case of the rich, we try to stir up dissatisfaction, AND WE ASK YOU! EXPRESS YOUR DISSATISFACTION AT THE BALLOT BOX WITH AN INDEPENDENT VOTE.

If a man "great in finance" is engaged in robbing all of the people, we speak to make you dissatisfied, AND WE URGE YOU TO CONTROL HIM THRU YOUR VOTE.

We detect TWO things:

First, the wretched synchrony of the paid editor, or judge, or legislator, or clergyman who advises the people to be contented and obedient.

And second, the stupid, rabid, foolish agitation of the fanatic who advises violent action, who counsels violation of the law in return for violation of law, instead of counseling legal effective protest by the ballot.

We have GOT the vote in this country, fellow-citizens.

THAT VOTE INTELLIGENTLY AND INDEPENDENTLY USED WILL GIVE US JUST GOVERNMENT.

And we propose to try every day to make the people of this country dissatisfied, TO MAKE THEM EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION THRU THE BALLOT, until we shall have achieved the kind of a government, the general happiness, the widespread prosperity, to which we are entitled under a democratic government in a land so magnificently blessed as this.

When they have legal patronage to give it is surely not a matter for wonder if they feel disposed to go to the man who was not afraid to stand up as their enemies when their interests were threatened by a wave of fanaticism. Olive the hotelkeepers of Toronto credit for an ordinary common gratitude.

Another thing some have then been tried about is, Why have there been so many sales of hotel property and license like to call the attention of the public to the fact that the hotel business is a too busy business for the people's business. If they have not been too busy to notice the fact, they may have observed that for a number of years there has been much uncertainty in the hotel business; a minor plaintiff, which some people the implied promise that if it were sustained by the courts something of an Ontario prohibition law would follow; thought had a meaning, which some of license reductions and the attempt to make it difficult to find to the risk the investment of their money in the hotel business in Toronto. With the date of the reduction bylaw confirmed that had been hanging fire for months, the owners have been carried out. Nothing very strange, wonderful, or suspicious about that surely.

Hotel Proprietor.

ATTITUDE OF THE MINISTERS.

Montreal Star: The most astounding thing about the Fowler incident is the complacency of the ministers under the shadow of a ministerial insinuation. Mr. Fowler declared with brutal bluntness that in certain events he would "discuss the character of the members opposite, whether they be ministers or private members, and their connection with women, wine, and graft." To this Sir Wilfrid replied, "after six days' thought, that if, when the report of the insurance commission came down, Mr. Fowler's action in connection with this land deal was impugned as a result, it would be his duty to implement his insinuations. He added later that the session cannot pass without this story being brought to the attention of the house. No other minister seems to have said a word in repudiation of these shocking insinuations made against them by a responsible member of parliament. The people of Canada are not behind the people of Great Britain and Ireland in the moral sense. They will demand the fullest enquiry into the Fowler insinuations, whether Mr. Fowler be spared during the discussion of the insurance commission report or not. They will never consent to permit so degrading a "saw-off." Mr. Fowler must make his charges, or he must apologize and retire from public life. The men to whom the crown is entrusted, and the people are surprised and disappointed—shall we venture to say, disgusted?—by the collusion and connivance with which the ministers have received these scandalous insinuations. A wise ministry would take immediate steps to reassure the people, and that reassurance must take the form of the most determined effort in public and at once to compel Mr. Fowler to withdraw or proceed.

C.O.F. MEET IN CORNWALL.

Cornwall, Feb. 27.—The meeting of the provincial court of the Catholic Order of Foresters of Ontario, which opened here yesterday and closed this afternoon, was largely preparatory to the provincial convention in Chatham, June 11 and 12. Ten new courts have been established in Ontario in the last year.

Pure as sunshine—not the faintest suggestion of anything but Salt—clean, delicate-tasting. That's WINDSOR SALT.

AT OSGOODE HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THURSDAY

Chambers.

Cartwright, master, at 11 a.m.

Single Court.

Cases set down for hearing before the Hon. Mr. Justice Clute at 11 a.m.:

1. Martin v. Gibson.

2. Diehl v. Carrill.

3. Duncan and Midland.

4. Re Wilson Estate.

5. Hogg v. Port Hope, etc., Co.

Division Court.

Premontory list for 11 a.m.:

1. It's all in v. Brown.

2. The King v. Huggins.

3. Dart v. Quade.

4. Patterson v. Dart.

Toronto Non-Jury Sittings.

Premontory list for 10.30 a.m.:

1. Rosenberg v. Falter (to be concluded).

2. Anderson v. McKay.

3. Nightingale v. Pugsley.

Sale of a Railway.

Henry L. Sprague of New York is claiming \$2,000,000 from John R. Booth of Ottawa for breach of a contract for the sale of a railway and for the return of \$50,000 as a deposit upon the contract.

Promissory Note.

Goulet and Garout of the City of Quebec have issued a writ against the J. D. King Co. of Toronto claiming \$84.88 on a certain promissory note made by the defendants.

Want to See Struck Out.

Upon the consent of J. A. McIlwain the jury notice in the action of A. B. Weatherup against J. A. McIlwain has been struck out.

Action Dismissed.

The action brought by Anna M. Orr and W. H. Orr against the Toronto Railway Co. for damages has on consent been dismissed with costs, payable by the company to the plaintiffs.

Want to Consolidate.

The Guelph and Godolphin Railway is being sued in four separate actions by different plaintiffs on similar causes of action.

Before Master-in-Chambers Cartwright an application was made by J. B. MacKenzie, solicitor for W. J. Armour, to set aside the election of the Township of Oronodago, County Brant, of that township and of the Township of Goderich, the clerk not having declared the election results at the township hall. Judgment was reserved.

To Set Aside Election.

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WITH PROVINCIAL CHARTER.

On the authority of an official of the Canadian Niagara Power Company, The World is pleased to state that this company did not get federal incorporation in 1906.

The facts seem to be that owing to a judgment rendered by Sir Louis Davies in the sale of the land upon the force of the provincial charter of this company, and in order to set these doubts at rest, the company, after consultation with Attorney-General Foy, drafted a new bill with the aim that the shareholders of the company might be quieted of their fears.

When the bill was submitted to parliament, however, the minister of justice was bringing in a general bill that would afford the relief desired by this company. The bill was accordingly withdrawn.

This company has no desire to escape the authority of the province, but really is most anxious to have all its acts under the rule and regulation of the attorney-general of the Province of Ontario.

SUIT FOR \$2,000,000.

Has to Do With Negotiations For Sale of Canada Atlantic.

A suit for \$2,000,000 was yesterday begun at Osgoode Hall against John R. Booth, lumberman of Ottawa, by Henry L. Sprague of New York, who is suing as assignee of the rights of Arthur L. Myers and W. Seward Webb, the latter an official of the New York Central Railroad, and connected by marriage with the Vanderbilts.

The claim is for breach of contracts in the sale of the Canada Atlantic Railway and for the return of \$250,000. The New York Central two years ago was taken after this road and secured, it is said, an option, but finally the road was sold to the Grand Trunk.

The present suit has to do with the option held by the New York Central on the Canada Atlantic Railroad.

McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt issued the writ.

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

MEN'S WEAR

AT BARGAIN PRICES

We haven't time to talk to the chap who doesn't appreciate money saving. This list is brief and to the point because it's intended for men who earn their money and want it to earn good returns wherever it goes. It's a grand list of savings.

Sizes 34, 35 and 36

In Overcoats, 6.95

Regularly 12.50 to 20.00

Black meltons and beaver cloths, and gray and black chevots. Correct styles

Men's Suits, 5.70

Regularly 9.00 and 10.00

Splendid seasonable goods, brown or gray mixtures. New single-breasted cut. Sizes 36 to 44.

1.98 for Trousers

Regularly 3.50

Fine worsteds in neat stripes. Sizes 32 to 42. Just 110 pairs.

Fur-lined Coats

65.00 ones for 46.50

English beaver cloth shell; Canadian muskrat lining; Persian lamb or other collar.

Tweed Hats, 59c

Regularly 1.00 and 1.25

Fedora and negligee shapes; assorted colors.

Cuffs, 12 1-2c a pair

Regularly 18c and 25c

English linen goods. Sizes 9 1/2 to 11 1/2.

Rami-fibre Mesh Underwear, 98c

Regularly 2.50 each

Long or short sleeves. Best make and finish. Sizes 34 to 44.

NIGHT SCHOOL

Our Spring Term will open March 4th. Why not send March, April and May in making preparation for a better position? It will cost you only \$10.00. Our school is the best.

CENTRAL BUSINESS COLLEGE

Yonge and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.

Money cannot buy better Coffee

than Michie's finest blend Java and Mocha, 45c lb.

Michie & Co., Limited

Inspector: Staff Inspector Archibald, chief inspector; Sgt. Duncan, inspector of detectives and Detective-Verney, sergeant of detectives.

THE

Traders Bank

OF CANADA

Capital Authorized - - - - - \$5,000,000

Capital Paid-Up - - - - - \$4,300,000

Rest - - - - - \$1,900,000

Total Assets, Over - - - - - \$32,000,000

...HEAD OFFICE...

Cor. Yonge St. and Colborne Sts.

King St. and Spadina Ave.

Riverdale—Broadview and Queen

Avenue Road, Cor. Davenport

East Toronto—Danforth Ave.

General Banking Business transacted.