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The Toronto World

FOR SALE
YONGE STREET, NEAR BLOOR.

THURSDAY MORNING MARCH 25 1920

40TH YEAR—ISSUE NO. 14,379

TWO CENTS

Ebert Government Opens Negotiations With Leaders of Spartacans
Unionists in Caucus Discuss Plans for an All-Canadian Navy

FORGES GOVERNMENT
TO FOSTER GROWING
OF FLAX IN CANADA

Submits Resolution, in Com-
mons, Which Carries—De-
bate French Translation.

FRANCHISE BILL TODAY

Ottawa, March 24.—(By Canadian
Press)—Private members' day in the
house was devoted almost in its en-
tirety to flax.

Mr. Frank Glass of East Middlesex,
who has raised the question of flax
production in previous sessions, held
the floor for the major portion of
the afternoon. He urged, in a resolu-
tion he submitted, the establish-
ment of experimental and demonstra-
tion stations; scientific standardiza-
tion and grading, and encourage-
ment in the developing of mechanical
appliances for harvesting the crop.

The resolution carried,
There was also some discussion on
a motion by Mr. Archambault of
Chambly-Vercheres, to provide that
a translation of French speeches
should appear in unreviewed Hansard
at the following day. Mr. Fielding
created considerable amusement by a
remark he made during the discus-
sion. There had been reference to
studies in the French language by
Sir George Foster, acting premier.

Asking Premier Learned French.
The only good thing we got out
of the peace conference, the speaker
observed, the house laughing,
was that the acting premier learned
French. It was a pretty expensive
lesson, but it is a good thing we got
some result.

Debate on Mr. Archambault's resolu-
tion was adjourned.
Mr. Deschamps (Montreal), ad-
vanced the debate on the resolution
and the house was adjourned at six
o'clock this Thursday afternoon.

Mr. George Foster informed Hon.
W. S. Fielding in answer to a ques-
tion, that the government would bring
up the franchise bill tomorrow for
second reading.

ONLY STAGE PLAY
TO THE GALLERY

Legislature Has Lively Discus-
sion on Functions of
Board of Commerce.

J. Walter Curry, Liberal member for
southeast Toronto, shook down the
board of commerce in the legisla-
ture yesterday. The fruit was intended
to fall into the basket Attorney-General
Ray was holding for the occasion.
It happened that others were also
holding baskets and Howard Ferguson
got away with the big apples.

The attorney-general admitted the
status of the board of commerce and
discussed the adoption of any im-
portant naval expenditure as he
followed by the startling announcement
that the government proposed "scrapping"
the present naval service. In
parliament the minister of marine
said that the statement was unau-
thorized. It may have been but it
was announced and accepted as au-
thentic by those who would know the
government's intentions, even by
cabinet ministers. Today it is un-
derstood that a further explanation
was given to the government's supporters.

Instead of "scrapping" the navy ser-
vice there is to be a reorganization,
and in addition the Canadian navy
is to be considerably augmented by
the acceptance of the offer of the
British government to turn over to
Canada \$16,000,000 worth of fighting
ships. This would give Canada a
cruiser, and a certain number of
torpedo boat destroyers, submarines
and necessary auxiliary vessels.

Give Canada a Navy.
If this offer is accepted, the caucus
is opposed to a definite naval policy
being adopted now, but it would give
this country the beginning of a navy with-
out any capital expenditure as we
already have naval bases. It would
retain in the Canadian naval service
our naval officers and seamen trained
in the navy of the world. It would not
weaken Britain's naval forces, as with
the enormous naval development dur-
ing the war and the necessary re-
sults to be expected to disclose the
basis there are many cruisers and
destroyers available for other service.
Hon. C. C. Bellantyne's statement
yesterday is expected to disclose the
reasons for the government's recent
position on naval policy and the de-
tails of the scheme to be adopted.

Twenty-Four Samples of Milk
Discloses Overly One Unclean

Brantford, Ont., March 24.—(Spe-
cial)—In making tests on 24 samples
of milk from local dealers Dr. Hut-
ton, M.O.H., reports that not one
clean sample was found. The butter
fat record was also very disappoint-
ing.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 6.

A STRIKE OF BRITISH MINERS
NOW CONSIDERED INEVITABLE

Lloyd George Has Refused to Negotiate Further and
Strike Ballot Will Be Ordered Today.

London, March 24.—A strike of the miners is regarded tonight as
almost inevitable, as Premier Lloyd George has declined to negotiate
further with the Miners' Federation. The miners' conference is ex-
pected to order a ballot tomorrow, which will occupy until Easter and
then a week's notice must be given before the strike can begin.

The government's offer of 20 per cent. is, roughly, two-thirds of the
miners' demand. There is talk tonight of the possibility of the "Triple
Alliance," which includes the transport workers and railwaymen, taking
a hand in the dispute. The miners have very little sympathy from
either the press or the public.

STATE CANADA WILL ACCEPT
BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S OFFER
TO PRESENT FIGHTING SHIPS

Understood Unionist Caucus
is Told Canadian Navy to
Be Augmented by Acceptance
of Gift of Sixteen
Million Dollars' Worth of
Britain's War Vessels.

Special to The Toronto World.
Ottawa, Ont., March 24.—A gov-
ernment caucus was hurriedly sum-
moned this morning to consider the
franchise act, which will receive its
second reading tomorrow. Commit-
ments to the fairness of the new
franchise act have been numerous,
but there has also been much criti-
cism in government circles on its
leniency to those of enemy country
and to military defectors. It was
taken in this caucus it was ap-
parent that the majority were in
favor of the government measure and
opposed to the addition of any dis-
franchising clauses.

Says Parents Responsible.
Those in favor of the bill as it
stands argued that in the majority
of instances the delinquents were
not the young men who evaded ser-
vice. They held that to punish a
franchise act would be unfair to
penalize the great number who
had succumbed to parental influence
to evade national service. Those in
favor of disfranchising took the usual
ground that the franchise was the
reward of citizenship and the de-
faulters had forfeited citizenship. A
birth there was apparently a
majority opposed to any further
franchise discrimination against
these people. Under the new na-
tionalization act, citizenship can be
withdrawn from those who prove dis-
loyal and this was considered by
many as adequate precaution. It is
possible another caucus may be called
to further consider the bill before
it reaches the committee stage.

Explains Naval Policy.
After discussing the franchise act
the caucus reverted to the vexed naval
question. The former caucus was
opposed to the adoption of any im-
portant naval expenditure as he
followed by the startling announcement
that the government proposed "scrapping"
the present naval service. In
parliament the minister of marine
said that the statement was unau-
thorized. It may have been but it
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position on naval policy and the de-
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WHAT IS INTENT
OF FRANCHISE BILL?

Legislature Buzzing With Ex-
citement Over Premier's
New Measure.

The legislature yesterday was buzz-
ing with excitement concerning the
intent of Premier Drury's outline of
the coming franchise bill. It is gen-
erally agreed that one object of the
measure is to considerably augment the
government to carry on if possible
against an opposition coalition for
four years. The test of the govern-
ment's strength may possibly depend
upon the meaning of this franchise as
proposed. In its general outline it is
acceptable, but members are not
clear on the point of its bearing in the
event of a want of confidence vote.

The British spirit of responsible
government is that if the legislature
vote want of confidence the lieutenant-
governor has no other course than to
accept the resignation of the ministry.
Conservative and Liberal members
are cautious of expressing opinions
until the text of the bill is before them.
They think, however, that a wide in-
terpretation is possible of Premier
Drury's statement. Would the lieuten-
ant-governor receive a new sanction
by this legislation, not to say the min-
istry must abide by a want of con-
fidence vote, but carry on for four
years the defeated on a question of
government policy?

The text of the bill is waited for
with keen interest.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.
A verdict of accidental death was
returned by the jury at the morgue
last night, investigating the death of
George M. Wilson. Wilson was
struck down and killed by a motor
car at the corner of Bathurst and
Barton avenue on March 18. Coroner
Tandy presided at the inquest.

G.W.V.A. DEBATES
RE-ESTABLISHMENT;
NOMINATES OFFICERS

All Members Favor Further
Re-establishment—Ontario
Men for Presidency.

DISCUSS BONUS PLAN

Montreal, March 24.—(By Canadian
Press).—The prolonging of the re-
establishment debate which took up
practically the whole of today, side-
tracking the motion for adjournment
of the convention to Ottawa. Indi-
cations are that the re-establishment
question will also take up the greater
part of tomorrow's sitting and it is
doubtful that the adjournment motion
will carry.

Discussion on the Calgary cash
bonus plan was continued until late
in the afternoon when it was cut
short by the nominations of officers.
This plan, together with a sub-amen-
dment calling for the re-estab-
lishment of the great war veterans' place
of last year, was returned to the com-
mittee which will report back to the
convention tomorrow morning.

Discussion tended to show that all
delegates favor further re-estab-
lishment and most of them in the form
of a cash gratuity.

Nominations for officers of president
of the Dominion Great War
Veterans' Association for the year
following the close of the present con-
vention were then put in.

These were Dr. W. A. McKenzie
Forbes, Montreal; Canon F. Scott,
Quebec; R. B. Maxwell, Manitoba;
M. Davidson, Ontario and C. E. Je-
kins, Ontario.

Nominations for first vice-president
were S. Stafford, Ontario; W. A.
Irwin, Alberta; Captain J. Plante,
Montreal.

Nominations for second vice-presi-
dent were W. D. Fort, Nova Scotia;
C. D. Deane, British Columbia;
W. Russell, Alberta; T. Daise, Al-
berta; A. R. Peart, Ontario and C.
W. Whitaker, British Columbia.

Dominion executive nominations
were C. Edgett, British Columbia;
T. Daise, Alberta; A. C. Mills,
(Continued on Page 6, Col. 4.)

REFORM IN BRITAIN
OF DIVORCE LAWS

Lords Carry Bill Extending
Reasons, and Commons
Sure to Pass It.

London, March 24.—The house of
lords yesterday passed the second
reading of a bill introduced by
Baron Buckmaster, proposing im-
portant divorce reforms.

The bill, which is based on the
majority report of a royal commis-
sion, extends the grounds for divorce to
cover, among other reasons, three
years' desertion, habitual drunkenness
and cases where a sentence of death
has been pronounced on either party.

After a powerful and impassioned
speech by Baron Birkenhead, the lord
chancellor, who supported the measure
of the bill, the government, the se-
cond reading was carried despite the
opposition of the episcopal bench, the
Catholic peers and the High Anglican
Church peers.

The bill has not yet appeared in the
house of commons but is said to be al-
most certain of being carried when it
goes there.

WILSON CAN VETO
PEACE DECLARATION

Senator Says if Concurrence
Required for War, It is Also
Needed for Peace.

Washington, March 24.—With plans
for a peace declaration at a standstill
in the senate, Republican leaders of
the house moved today on means of
hastening action on the declaratory
resolution at their end of the capitol.

There was no final decision on the
form of the resolution or the time of
its presentation, but it was said an
agreement probably would be reached
within a few days. Several suggested
drafts are under consideration, all of
them following in some respects the
Knox resolution which has been ap-
proved by the senate foreign relations
committee.

MYSTERY SHROUDS
ASSASSINATION OF
MAYOR OF CORK

No Evidence Adduced at In-
quest as to Motive or Identi-
ty of Murderers.

TRAGEDY IN DUBLIN

Cork, March 24.—The inquest on the
body of Lord Mayor MacCurtain was
resumed at 7 o'clock this evening in
the city hall. There was a large police
guard.

Several witnesses were examined
concerning the circumstances of the
murder and the subsequent visit of the
military to the lord mayor's house.

Spies in Republican Army.
London, March 24.—The recent seizure
of Dublin Castle mail bags, says
an Evening News despatch from Bel-
fast, has disclosed the fact that all
Republican army units are honey-
combed with spies and informers, to
whom are attributed some of the more
recent Irish tragedies.

Civilian Shot in Dublin.
Dublin, March 24.—A civilian named
Smith was shot this evening while
walking in South William street. He
died later of his wounds. His assail-
ant escaped.

Threatened with Death.
Queensdown, March 24.—The chair-
man of the district council has received
a typewritten communication warning
him that he will be assassinated in the
event of the shooting of any Queens-
down policemen.

DECIDED GAIN MADE
BY CANADIAN DOLLAR

Big Deal by Estate of Late Senator
McLaren Responsible.

New York funds, which were quoted
at a premium in Toronto in the first
week of February of 17 per cent., of
12 1/2 per cent. a week ago and of 10
per cent. on Tuesday last, were down
to 9 1/2 per cent. yesterday. Until this
week the exchange was believed to be
due chiefly to the rally in the pound
sterling, but the pound has not im-
proved its position noticeably in the
past two days, while the drop in New
York funds has been more decisive
than at any time since the downturn
began.

The explanation appears to be that
the carrying out of the terms of sale
of a big tract of timber and iron ore
lands in West Virginia, owned by the
estate of the late Senator McLaren of
Perth, Ont., has involved the transfer
of a large sum to Canada, creating
New York an exceptionally heavy de-
mand for Canadian exchange. One
report is that the sum involved is \$25-
000,000, but this estimate is believed
to be excessive. Baltimore
interests are said to have acquired the
property, consisting of about 100,000
acres.

DOMINION STEEL
ELECTS R. WOLVIN

Succeeds M. Workman as
President of Great Nova
Scotia Corporation.

Montreal, March 24.—Roy M. Wol-
vin was today elected president of the
Dominion Steel Corporation and suc-
cessor to Mark Workman. Mr. Workman
consented to accept the appointment
as chairman of the board and to be-
come a member of the London advi-
sory committee of the corporation.

There was no announcement forth-
coming as to the merger of the steel
corporation and the Nova Scotia
Steel and Coal Co. The new president,
Mr. Wolvin, interviewed today, said:

"In accepting the presidency of the
Dominion Steel Corporation, I am in
perfect harmony with Mr. Binkley,
Steel and Coal Co. The new president,
Mr. Wolvin, interviewed today, said:

WILL HEAR INDIANS.
Ottawa Government Will Receive
Deputation From the Six Nations
and Other Tribes.

Word was received in Toronto last
night that the request of the League
of Indians for a hearing before the
Ottawa government in connection
with the proposed Indian franchise
bill would be granted. The news was
received with enthusiasm at the big
Six Nations reserve at Brantford.

WORKMEN'S FORCES DEFEATED
AFTER SHELLING OF WESEL;
NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TRUCE

Results of Yesterday's Fight-
ing Was in Favor of Be-
sieged—Civil Control Com-
missioners Enter City—
Belgians Are Strengthening
Their Defences.

Buderich, Rhineland Prussia, March
24.—Four civilians and two motor
cars, one sent out this morning and
one this afternoon, were driven swiftly
over the Rhine bridge today into
beleaguered Wesel, and it is believed
that negotiations are going on there
for a settlement of a truce.

The result of yesterday's heavy
fighting, it became known today, was
distinctly in favor of the besieged.
A few of the workmen's forces
crossed the river from Lippe nearly
to the south and within a little more
than a mile of the town, but were
eventually beaten back, and it was
learned that the workmen, discour-
aged in their attempt to capture the
important main citadel protecting the
bridge, had shifted their attack to the
southeast, from which point there was
desultory firing throughout the day, with
a few brisk sputterings of machine
gun fire.

The workmen threw a number of
shells in the vicinity of the city
scoring one distinct hit almost at the
allied commissioners passed the spot.

Apparently the government's posi-
tion is secure to the northward and
connecting Muenster, as a railroad line
is reported to have entered the city
this afternoon. One hundred and
eighty-three government stragglers
who crossed the river last night were
taken to Crefeld today, along with a
German lieutenant colonel and
two other officers, who said
they were civilians and had
been dismissed from the army
about 100 wounded here are being
evacuated in motor ambulances to
Crefeld.

The Belgian forces strengthened
their positions today. They planted
machine guns on the bridge, dug
trenches on the bridgeheads and
manned the old German Raine de-
fences. Lt.-Col. Baron Jacques of
Belgian forces inspected the de-
fences this morning.

PEOPLE WANT BUSES
AND WILL GET THEM

Traction Interests Would Stop
New York's Purchase—
Mayor Says No.

New York, March 24.—(Special).—
The traction interests against which
the municipality of Greater New York
has been fighting for years, today
filed an injunction to stop the city
from purchasing 200 additional motor
buses as a measure of relief for the
traffic troubles with which it is faced.

New York already has fifteen mun-
icipal motor bus lines and their suc-
cess on the busy streets of this city
has been such that the city council
two weeks ago approved with little
discussion a proposal to spend \$1,200-
000 in the purchase of 200 more to
further help traffic in the more con-
gested parts of the city.

The injunction order was presented
to the city authorities yesterday, and
is returnable today, when the city
will have to show cause why it should
not be made permanent.

"This is only another work on
the part of the traction interests to
stop the running of municipal buses in
the city of New York," said the mayor.
The order as originally drawn also
restrained the city from operating
fifteen municipal bus lines now in
operation.

"Bear in mind, aldermen, and keep
it right in your eyes," said the mayor
in council today, "that the buses are
here to stay. The only change in the
future will be improvement of the
buses. The people want the buses
and they shall have them. I am satis-
fied that no court in this state will
stop the operation of bus lines, as
attempted by the traction interests
today. The traction interests have
driven out all competition,
crowding the people into the cars and
later appealed for increased fares.
When they failed that they asked
the court to prohibit the operation
of the bus lines. I know something of
the temperaments of the state courts
and they will protect the interests of
the people."

HYDRO REQUESTS BECK
TO RUN IN N.-E. TORONTO

The annual meeting of the Ontario
Electrical Municipal Association was
held yesterday afternoon at the city
hall, some 100 delegates being present.
A lengthy discussion over the election
of officers was indulged in, the Barrie
representative wanting a more democ-
ratic system.

A resolution was passed calling
upon the Dominion government to
make provision that any powers along
the St. Lawrence River that may be
developed should be handed over to
the Hydro-Electric Commission and
not to private corporations.

Mr. Mayor Church proposed a resolution
to the effect that the association re-
quest Sir Adam Beck to accept the
nomination in Northeast Toronto, so
that the Hydro-Electric Commission
representative in the legislature. The
mayor scored the Ottawa government
for its neglect of Toronto and her
harbor, but said he thought the pre-
sent provincial government was a good
Hydro one. The resolution was un-
animously agreed to and will be for-
warded to Sir Adam.

The following officers for the com-
ing year were elected: Hon. president,
Sir Adam Beck; president, W. K. Sau-
derson, St. Thomas; vice-presidents,
J. Bonwell, Windsor; W. Ellis,
Hamilton; C. A. Maguire, Toronto;
G. A. Lippert, Kitchener; T. J. Han-
nigan, secretary-treasurer.

DEMAND BETTER CONDITIONS.
Montreal, March 24.—The Montreal
Tramways employees, at a mass meet-
ing held last night, decided to de-
mand an eight-hour day and a wage
of 75 cents an hour.

YOUR EASTER BONNET
If you want to see the most nobby
Easter styles in men's hats, visit
Dineen's at 140 Yonge street any day
this week.

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ce, 25.00

Police Guard Strikebreakers
At Rotterdam and Amsterdam

The Hague, March 24.—Under a
heavy police guard hundreds of work-
men from the villages took the places
of striking dockers at Amsterdam and
Rotterdam today. A number of ships
were loaded after a six weeks' tie-up.