

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 23.

Investigation Should Go On.

Resignations should not interfere with the desire of the city council to have an investigation of the fire department. Nor should there be any plea that a thorough investigation may disclose matters which will be of no advantage to the city, and may discredit many useful men. Practically the same plea has been made for years until the fire department has fallen into a condition which demands reorganization. The longer it continues the worse it will be. Anyone who can be injured by an investigation cannot be a source of strength to the department or to the city.

We are in full accord with the view taken by our evening contemporary last Thursday, which we append:

Toronto Telegram: No resignation or series of resignations can stop the enquiry into the management of the Toronto Fire Department. Enquiry should not be restricted to the charges against the deputy chief. These charges include all other facts and circumstances relevant to the methods of administration in the fire department. The whole management of the department is on trial, and must be investigated to the hilt, irrespective of whoever resigns or fails to resign.

Nickel in the Legislature.

It could scarcely be called a full dress debate yesterday when Mr. Rowell brought up the nickel question in the legislature, but his speech and the reply of the premier put the whole case before the house, and gave the people of the province an opportunity to realize that the problem is a vital one and intimately concerned with the gravest interests of the province. There was little that was new introduced into the debate, but it had the effect of placing officially before the country the issues which are involved, and if no immediate answer was given to the question propounded, Premier Hearst did not deny the pertinence of these questions, which Mr. Rowell was careful not to make a partisan matter.

On one important point there was some light thrown, when the premier, in reply to Mr. Rowell, stated that the investigation to be made by the committee to be appointed, would not be confined to the merely economic side of the subject. The premier said the wisest might rest assured that the fullest investigation would be made from every aspect. Mr. Rowell said that no consideration that touched the merely economic side would satisfy the people of the province and hoped that the high imperial aspects would not be overlooked.

Mr. Donovan, who is nothing if not a partisan, brought out the point from Mr. Bowman, by charging the Liberal government of the past with having neglected the provincial interests by selling the nickel areas, that Hon. A. S. Hardy in 1891 offered the imperial government control of the whole nickel field, of which only 135 acres had then been disposed of, but the imperial authorities declined to take any steps. There was no other course open than to pursue the policy which has been followed up to the present by both governments.

All that concerns the public now is the appointment of the new commission, which should not be unduly delayed, and whose report should be hastened so as to permit of action being taken by the house in the present session, if action be recommended. If the delay be such as to make this impossible, power should be given the government to take such steps, by order in council, as the commission may suggest. Nothing should be done by the government to give the appearance of a mere stall-off till the war is over. To do this would be a token of extreme weakness on the part of the administration.

Australian Wool Exports

Estimates of the Australian wheat yield are very conflicting, but according to the figures given in this week's report issued by the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce, it will be approximately 25,500,000 bushels, less than a quarter of the yield in the previous year. The commonwealth, which requires about 25,000,000

bushels for its own requirements, will therefore be an importer of at least a moderate quantity of bread grain. On the other hand, Australians stand to profit considerably by the world demand for wool. For some time wool exports have been prohibited except to the United Kingdom, altho exceptions were later made in favor of Canada and Japan.

Australian shippers have been naturally watching with interest the course of the negotiations between Britain and the United States, having in view the removal of the embargo on shipments to the latter country. From a statement made by Mr. A. M. Patterson of New York, president of the Textile Alliance, at Boston on Friday, it is probable that an arrangement to that effect will be reached, altho the plan proposed has not yet been confirmed. In brief it is that consignments will be shipped to President Patterson, who will issue permits to purchase on presentation of satisfactory guarantees against re-exports of the wool itself or tops and yarns made from it. Re-sales will also be permitted to similar guarantees. The opening of American competition in the Australian market will benefit Australian holders of wool and relieve the situation there.

The World's Wheat Supply

In the final report on the field crops of Canada for the year ending Dec. 31 last, issued by the Dominion Census and Statistics Office, it is stated that persistent drought throughout the greater part of the Northwest provinces resulted in yields per acre of the chief cereals lower than in any season since 1910, and lower by between four and five bushels than the average of the six years ending in 1913. Of wheat, the total estimated yield was 151,380,000 bushels from a productive area of 10,308,900 acres, as compared with 231,738,900 bushels from 11,015,000 acres in 1913—an average yield of 15.61 bushels, against 21 bushels in the latter year. Fortunately for Canadian farmers the increase in values more than compensated for the low yields—the average price of wheat per bushel in 1914 and 1915 being \$1.22 and 87 cents per bushel.

Farmers have been strongly advised to increase the wheat acreage this year, not only because of the prospect of continued high prices, but as a duty to the empire and the motherland. A recent review of the wheat situation in The London Morning Post shows clearly that the future supply is already causing grave anxiety. In normal times the surplus of wheat from those countries producing more than they consume can be estimated and averaged, because a possible deficiency in some is usually balanced by an increased yield in others. But with the disorganization of industry caused by the war it is highly probable that even the greater breadth of corn proposed to be sown will fail to meet the increased demand which will inevitably be made in 1915-16.

Of the European countries engaged in war, Russia alone in normal times produces a surplus, while Austria in ordinary years supplies her own needs. Germany, France and Belgium all import wheat, and Great Britain particularly consumes as a rule, close on 300,000,000 bushels, its own production accounting for less than a fifth of this amount. Owing to the scarcity of labor and the fact that Belgium and part of the grain growing districts of France are under occupation by the enemy, all these countries, except Russia, will be in the market for wheat. The British dominions with a harvest equal to the average can almost entirely supply the needs of the mother country, and it may become their imperative duty to ensure that this is done. But in any event, farmers in Canada and in the other dominions cannot go wrong by adding as largely as possible to the area under wheat cultivation.

EFFECT OF NEW TAXATION.

Editor World: We respectfully call your attention to some of the consequences of the new taxes which have been suggested by the minister of finance.

It appears to us that in the desire for immediate revenue, the effects of the new taxes of much greater consequence than the taxes themselves, have been entirely overlooked. The tax on letters, and especially on postcards, will inevitably reduce the number of letters and cards being mailed and will probably reduce the revenue from this source to little if any more than now received and will certainly be a blow to the trades concerned in the making and selling of postcards and letter requisites. The tax on insurance premiums, railway tickets, telegrams, bank cheques, etc., all constitute additional burdens on trade and commerce at a time when business is already seriously hampered by bad times in consequence of land speculation and the war.

The increase in the tariff taxes will not only be an additional burden to the consumer who will have to pay the cost plus a profit to those who advance it in the first place, but will probably reduce the tariff revenue, because of the further restrictions on trade which it imposes, and the effect will be a further burden on the people without any corresponding revenue to the government.

It would seem as if the new taxes were devised to produce the minimum of revenue with the maximum of burden on the people and apparently their effects on economic conditions were unknown or ignored.

The need for more revenue is obvious and levied in the right way the collection of the tax might be used as a stimulus to increased production and hasten the return of good times. The best modern economists have shown conclusively that there is such a thing as a natural revenue, the taking of which does not burden industry or take from any one what rightfully belongs to him. Why should not the parliament recognizing this fact provide itself big enough to press a big pro-

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len in a big way, by asserting this principle and levying on land values in the Dominion, for they are produced by the people collectively and augmented by every government service? Such a tax would have the effect of making the land the prime factor in the bringing of bad times, get out of the way of the producer, thus opening up avenues of employment, increasing the demand for labor, adding to the purchasing power of the masses and hastening the return of good times, and this would bring the ordinary government revenue back to normal conditions.

If a tax (itself would not take from those who pay it more than was received by the government and it could be collected with the minimum of expense and the amount collected could be determined with mathematical accuracy.

Suppose \$40,000,000 is required from new taxes, and assuming the population of Canada to be 8,000,000, this would mean a tax of 5¢ per head. All that would be necessary would be to notify every municipality that they must collect a tax equal to 5¢ per head of their population, with their other taxes, and to levy this on the value of the land only. There would be no need for adjustment on account of different methods of assessing land values, as a city whose per capita land value was high would require a lower mill rate than a city whose per capita land value was low. The tax would be paid only by those who had received a special privilege from the state, a privilege which increased in value with every increase in population, and in the last analysis is absolutely dependent on the security of life and property which the state confers. It is thus a particularly suitable subject for a tax in support of a war in defence of these principles of freedom for which Ontario stands.

We would therefore ask you, in this emergency, to substitute the tax on land values for the questionable tax on the value of the land industry.

S. Thompson, secretary, The Single Tax Association of Canada.
73 Adelaide St. E.

Opening Panama-Pacific International Exposition

In connection with the official opening of the Exposition at San Francisco Saturday, a unique feature of the exposition, the Old Faithful Inn, which was an overwhelming success, two thousand three hundred sitting down to dinner including President Moore, Secretary Lane, Gov. Johnson, Mayor Rolph, William Randolph Hearst and all Exposition directors.

The reproduction of the Yellowstone National Park at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition by the Union Pacific Railway is one of the outstanding features in the great fair, as it is the largest exhibit ever erected at any World's Fair, the total cost being the sum of \$1,000,000. In addition to the reproduction of Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Geyser (one of the world's most remarkable phenomena) and the geysers, together with other outstanding features of the park, and visitors to the exposition should by all means see this reproduction.

WOULD SAVE MONEY.

Trustee Dr. Noble claims that by the establishment of a new library, playgrounds for first book classes, the expense of maintaining 194 of the usual kind of rooms could be saved. He estimates that the cost by the adoption of this part time system and open air rooms would save nearly one million dollars.

SERIES OF LECTURES.

John Cowper Powys, M.A. will give four lectures in Guild Hall commencing tonight. The other dates are each Tuesday until and including March 16. The subject tonight is "Nietzsche and the War." The lectures are under the auspices of the Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage in Canada.

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Nickel Question Discussed in Local House at Some Length.

REFINE IN ONTARIO

Development of Late Years and Possibility of Finished Product.

For an hour and a half the matter of Ontario nickel engaged the attention of the legislature yesterday, and both premier and leader of the opposition went into minute analyses of the situation in its economical and imperial aspects. The subject was raised on a motion of N. W. Rowell, K.C., for a return showing copies of all communications on the manufacture and export of the mineral which had been passed between our own and the British Government. The request was explained as having the sole object of securing information which the house should have and which the province was demanding. Hon. W. H. Hearst in reply stated that the province could not rest on the assurance of Sir Robert Borden that the admiralty was satisfied that no nickel was reaching Germany. He expressed the desire that nickel might be refined at home if conditions warranted it, and stated that the report of the special commission would deal expressly with that phase.

Refining in Ontario. "I can only say that if the government had the slightest suspicion that any nickel was getting to our enemies, all action possible to prevent it would be taken, and would be taken speedily," he declared. "We as government are most anxious to secure the refining of nickel in Ontario, and to retain the industry among our own people, but the proper objective is one of gain or loss economically in one sense. If an attempt made would have the effect of reducing the Ontario industry, but of driving it outside of Ontario and even the empire, it would not be a success."

In answer to the question of imperial significance he quoted the reply of Sir Robert Borden in the Ottawa house to W. F. Macleod, who had brought up the subject. "I do not see that any thing could be done by the government to prevent the present arrangements, and that a country failing it would ultimately lose in a conflict. The country could not be expected to supply the world with nickel. Ontario yielded 80 per cent. of the supply with New Caledonia and Norway alone competing."

In discussing the refinement at home he asked what would prevent the business of refining nickel from being carried on in Ontario. He pointed out the refined product, even to Great Britain. He did not fear it, but what would prohibit the action? In that sense he was not at all in favor of a certain degree, but could not make it available for the navy.

He claimed that nickel was now being refined in a small way in the province, and that experts had agreed on its feasibility. "I should show the enormous development in the industry during the past few years. In 1900 only 3,540 tons had been treated. In 1913, 24,333 tons had been treated by the companies, nearly six times as much. In other words the increase in nickel had kept pace with the increase in naval armaments."

He questioned the statement of Hon. G. H. Ferguson that there was no nickel refined in Ontario. The agitation in the provinces demanded a proof of this assertion. He quoted Mr. Leonard of the Consulate at Montreal as having stated that the commission be appointed at once and that they report before the house rose. The members would then be in a position to deal with the subject. Mr. Rowell took the ground that the public should be satisfied that no nickel was being refined in Ontario. He stated that nickel was found in certain contraband seized. An explanation of mere economic conditions was not reassuring.

Not Reached Enemy. The premier stated that any correspondence they held was in a confidential capacity from Ottawa. He could give further assurance that since war broke out no nickel had reached the enemy. The minister of finance would have to assume responsibility for giving particular information to the public.

He showed that Ontario and New Caledonia controlled the world markets only because of cheapness of production. Nickel existed in Norway, Austria, Great Britain, Madagascar, Greece, South Africa, North Carolina and Oregon. In New Caledonia the ore was rich and labor was cheap. With Ontario closed there would still be ample elsewhere for Germany. If refining were started at home increased cost of production would reach the industry to other places. It was not a question of Ontario having absolute control, but whether this action would deprive the province of a great industry with no good result.

"Understand," he said, "I am not expressing any view. A hon. member within the bounds of possibility to control world markets and bring the benefit to Ontario. This is the aim and object of the commission. Nickel export could not be forbidden as that of savings. In one case yearly fees were granted to the other the hands were given over long ago in fee simple. He concluded by stating the impossibility of a commission report before the house rose, and that if a drastic action became necessary it would be taken."

FREIGHT RATES TODAY.

Today the railway companies will present their freight rates to the board of trade, railway and transportation committee. The C. P. R. will be represented by Vice-President George E. Bowditch; Vice-President D. C. McLaughlin will watch the case on behalf of the G. T. R. and Vice-President D. B. Hanna for the G. N. R.

SELLING BUSINESS TO TAKE MONEY OUT

Nothing to Show Otherwise With Rudolph Saenger, Says Court.

AN ALIEN ENEMY

In Spite of Fact He Thought Otherwise, Acting Accordingly.

At Osgoode Hall yesterday Mr. Justice Sutherland gave judgment in the application of Rudolph Saenger, Emanuel J. Myers for the recovery of \$5500, alleged to belong to them and to be in the possession of Maurice Teller.

The defendant was manager of the Novelty Import Company and the plaintiffs were the directors. The plaintiffs state that the defendant refused to pay the money on the ground that Saenger is an alien enemy. Saenger is a Hebrew and was born in Germany. From 1893 to 1914 he lived in Lyons, France, where he manufactured silk. He also had business in New York and Toronto. In an affidavit he states that he left France on July 28, 1914, for New York. In January, 1915, he obtained a permit from the registrar of aliens in Toronto which states "that having subscribed to the undertaking by law required, he is not subject to interference while he complies with this provision." He states further that on account of his long residence in France he believed he was the sole member. He said he had done this for protection.

Defendant states that Saenger was engaged in the manufacture of machinery in Lyons and was in partnership with one Rentschler and he was informed subsequent to the declaration of war that the government of France had sequestered the business of Saenger and Rentschler and that Rentschler was arrested and Saenger escaped. Again he says: "I have no objection to turn over the cheques to whoever is entitled to them, but I am not exposed to any danger from doing business with an alien enemy." From the time Saenger reached Toronto he has forced a sale of goods at a reduced price and he has insisted that he proposed to convert the goods to money and leave the country. The goods are now held for less than their value.

"Since the declaration of war I have registered myself as the caretaker of the business in trust. While Saenger says he desires to stay in Canada and that he has no business dealings with Germany, that no money which he will receive will be sent by him to Germany or to any other country at was with Canada or the British Empire, he has nowhere expressly contradicted my statements."

His lordship in the judgment says: "The plaintiff is apparently an alien enemy. It is not at all clear that his residence here is any other than for a temporary purpose and to enable him to realize upon his assets and provide for the safety of the province. Upon these facts and the circumstances of the war now existing I do not think that it would be expedient or proper for me at this time to make the order asked for. If the plaintiffs are in any way apprehensive about the safety of their money, an order may be made to pay it into court, pending the final disposition of this action."

Beatty and Brown. This was an application by the plaintiff, made under the Purchasers and Vendors' Act, for an order declaring that an objection to the title of the vendor made by the purchaser, on the grounds of building not been completed with reference to Sutherland, referring to the measure material filed in support of the application, said he did not think it would be proper to make the order asked for. Since the beginning of the war 473 Osgoode actions have been issued at Osgoode Hall, against 217 for last

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year. The aggregate claim for these for principal and interest is over one million and a half dollars, exactly \$1,606,938.06. Of this amount \$641,161.06 is claimed for interest and taxes, while \$1,542,778 is claimed on principal.

Referee Darcy Hinds has awarded the Bank of Montreal judgment for \$101,857.06, with \$2455.93 interest and \$56.75 costs, against C. F. McAlpine. The mortgage was upon property at 67 and 69 Bay street.

The first appellate court list for today is: Tyrrel v. Verral, Greenwood v. Robertson, Greenwood v. Robertson (cross-appeal), Zuerin v. Graham, Neil v. Brandon, Patterson v. Brantford.

BRITAIN LEADS IN TROPICAL RESEARCH

Toronto Student Given Credit for Valuable Discoveries in Medical World.

That credit was due to Great Britain for the first impetus and for discoveries in medical research which had robbed the tropics of many of their terrors, was the contention of Dr. J. L. Todd of McGill University, in an address before the Canadian Club yesterday. Much credit was due to a Dr. McCollum, a Toronto student, who, during his vacation researches, had unearthed important facts that proved of great value to Dr. Oliver Ross and started the latter along the road to some of his great discoveries. He traced the movement for the reclamation of the tropics back to 1839, when schools were started for the cure of the work in the universities of London and Liverpool.

Progress Made. Real progress dated from 1893, however, when it was found that the unhealthy effects of the tropics were due not to climate, but to diseases peculiar to them, and many of these were preventable. The result was shown in the building of the Panama Canal. The French had lost 30,000 lives in the work. The Americans made it safer than New York and completed it at a cost of one per cent. per day per man for preventive measures. He said the Germans were at a disadvantage in their efforts to colonize the tropics by reason of their present ideas of government. Lack of personal liberty would always militate against success.

FUNERAL OF JAMES CLARK.

CORNWALL, Feb. 22.—The funeral of Jas. Clark, 74, who died at the home of his son, Wm. Clark, 3rd concession of Lanark Township, took place this morning at the G. R. R. depot at Maxville for interment. He was an ex-reeve of Kenyon Township and represented the township in the counties council of Stormont, Dundas and Glenora, and was an ex-warden of the united counties.

ASKS CO-OPERATION.

Inspector Archibald was spokesman for a deputation which asked the General Municipal Association yesterday for their co-operation in supporting the work of the Safety League.

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SIXTEEN TREES COST FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Mr. Justice Middleton yesterday placed the value of 16 willow trees which were cut down by James Hutchinson, superintendent of the Island Park, at \$500.

Mrs. Grace M. Moore, the owner of the property, sued Hutchinson for damages, claiming \$2000. The defence was that it was thought the trees were on city property.

In giving judgment, his lordship granted costs on the high court scale.



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