

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1890
A morning newspaper published every day in the year by The World Newspaper Company of Toronto, Limited, H. J. Maclean, Managing Director.
WORLD BUILDING, TORONTO
NO. 40 WEST RICHMOND STREET.
Telephone Calls:
Main 5308—Private Exchange connecting all departments.
Branch Office—40 South McNab Street, Hamilton
Telephone 1946
Daily World—3c per copy; \$5.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months; \$1.25 for 3 months; 50c per month, delivered, or \$4.00 per year, 40c per month, by mail, in Canada (except Toronto), United Kingdom, United States and Mexico, by mail, Sunday World—5c per copy; \$2.50 per year, by mail, To other Foreign Countries, postage extra.

MONDAY MORNING, OCT. 29.

Dark Hours.

When things look blackest they generally take a turn, is a proverb that is much thought of, and it affords any consolation to anyone they may study it. It will be in great favor with the Germans at present, because two weeks ago German stock was going low on a falling market. The drive in the Gulf of Riga and the really clever and successful drive by General Mackensen on the Italian front will restore the waning spirits of the Germans to some extent, but let us assure ourselves at once that it will not give them victory.

It is impossible to say what General Cadorna will be able to do to stem the tide of affairs, but he is an experienced and skilful leader, and there is no need to be panic-stricken because things look black. All our pacifists, and anti-war people, and those who think the Military Service Act unnecessary may well be panic-stricken, for they have assisted in preparing the conditions that have led to the German success, and consequently to an indefinite prolongation of the war.

Sensible people, however, will only see another phase of the big job opening out. The United States has been preparing for three years of war, and there is no reason to suppose that it will go beyond that term. No one knows this better than Germany. It is to form a decision, if that could be possible, that the tremendous drives at Verdun were made at the climax of the German power, and the effort failed. It was to evade a decision after the Somme campaign that Hindenburg stole away to his new line behind St. Quentin, and still sits as tight as he can on the defensive.

There is another side to the matter. There would be poetic justice in having all our profiteers, our slackers, our pacifists, pro-Germans, and anti-war brands subjected to the same miseries that the Belgians and the Serbs and other beleaguered peoples have had to suffer, but that is no reason why the rest of us, who have toiled and saved and given our best, incidentally to protect those useless ones, should undergo more suffering than is necessary. If the darkest hour is that before the dawn it is necessary to be up and doing to take advantage of the dawning. There is a very general feeling that the man has not yet risen who could and should dominate all the activities of the allied powers against Germany. France and Britain are certainly acting in perfect harmony, but they are not dominated, if one may use the word in the sense of being led and unified and welded into undivided action. Italy has been doing splendidly, but not with the united force of unity with the other allies which would have enabled her to utilize all their resources to repel the present blow of the enemy. The case of Russia is so obvious that it is scarcely necessary to mention it. Gigantic forces, which might have met and conquered Germany single-handed, have melted away like snow-wreaths in May. A great army has remained inactive at Salonika, fulfilling some useful purpose, we presume, but not apparently forming a part of any active aggressive plan. It is beginning to be felt that as the navy retired from the attempt to force the Dardanelles, so also the retirement from Gallipoli by the army was not the result of a dominant will and purpose in leadership.

In union is strength, and Germany has the tremendous advantage of this union. The result in northern Italy is potent. There will be very serious consideration of all these conditions in Britain and in the United States. As was found necessary in Great Britain to abandon loose governmental methods and adopt a small war council of the cabinet, so it will probably be found necessary to form a general war council for all the allies who intend to pursue the war to its logical conclusion, a council which will embody the war-wisdom of the allies, which will have a clear and definite policy of action as well as of principle, and which will have supreme control over all the forces of the alliance.

Theoretically, this unity of control is supposed to exist at present, but quite evidently it does not exist in the same way that it does in Germany. We shall hear The Times or some other agency thundering in this direction are long. The burden of the war is too horrible, too oppressive, to be carried on by intelligent nations who learn of any way to lighten it or shorten the time during which it must be borne. There is no desire anywhere to yield to Germany. There is no flinching from the determination to destroy the Destroyer, to restore the violated nations to their own, to set up once more the landmarks of human freedom, honor, truth and justice. But the world cannot afford to carry on war to infinity. We must have the solidarity and co-operation which makes success in any great enterprise possible. We must have the selfless and dominant genius which can give unity of effort effect.

The City Balance Sheet.

For the first time in the history of Toronto a financial statement has been issued which shows exactly where the city stands. This new phase of city administration is due to the commissioner of finance, Mr. Thomas Bradshaw, who has prepared the annual statement for 1916 of assets and liabilities, of receipts and disbursements, so that there is no longer any mystery about the solvency or otherwise of the city. Incidentally, the fact emphasizes the opening of a new and businesslike attention to details, and the introduction of accuracy and system into the management of civic affairs.

There has been some delay in issuing the statement owing to the desire to have the several sub-statements "supported by full and verified details of each of the items contained therein." The extraordinary complexity of the accounts, and the disorder attending them, rendered this impracticable in some respects, but the investigations going on will be completed before long, and the statements for the current year will supply all missing data. The Herculean task assumed by Mr. Bradshaw is very inadequately indicated by this explanation, but it involves consideration of the extraordinary labors that have had to be under-

taken, covering practically all the bookkeeping of the city hall for a generation or more.

One of the first results attained was a realization of the outstanding revenue of the city, amounting at most to \$5,000,000. Heavy borrowings were entailed by this uncollected revenue, and the city paid much higher interest on its borrowings than it could collect from its debtors. The law in this respect has been changed, and the interest at six per cent, it is hoped, will hasten payments.

This necessity for borrowing by the city is the great obstruction to simple financing of the city's affairs. In 1916 matters had reached such a pass that at one period of the year the amount of the borrowings came to \$15,700,000. This imposed a strain on the city's credit which accounts for many of the difficulties of the last year or two and the delay in regard to sundry important public works.

The situation was due to a lack of counting the ultimate cost. Projects were initiated without proper estimates having been made, and as the work proceeded the charges rolled up. As a result, at the close of 1916 "works either completed, or in progress, not permanently financed, most of them inaugurated several years ago, involved approximately \$10,000,000." This amount has to be added to the funded debt of the city. That the heavy liabilities did not daunt the commissioner of finance is apparent from the sale of securities reported, amounting to \$12,385,915. These were sold to such advantage that the average cost to the city was 5.03 per cent. The liquidation of the heavy temporary borrowings was one of the results of these well-managed transactions.

A statement of assets and liabilities, while not furnishing the details that had been anticipated, is highly satisfactory, and a complete statement of this description is promised. The permanent assets amounting to \$99,822,235.22 will be inventoried for further statements.

The balance sheet shows total assets of \$125,797,542.69, with a surplus over liabilities of \$18,405,586.12. The current account at the close of the year showed cash balances of \$93,867.95 with other assets, amounting in all to upwards of \$6,000,000, the surplus being \$236,095.94.

City Financial Outlook.

In the report of the commissioner of finance, while a surplus of \$18,000,000 in the city assets is noted, it must not be overlooked that this surplus is not one of cash, but of values. The position of the city is like that of a man who has a fine house and a steady revenue, most of which is hypothecated, and who needs cash to carry on his affairs and meet his current expenses. The city's finances at the present time are in a condition where it would be most imprudent to add further to its liabilities. Some ten or eleven million dollars have still to be provided for in addition to the \$12,385,915 of debentures sold during the past year.

It is unfortunate that the city is not in a better position to meet such war expenditures as it would be the wish of the citizens to undertake, but we must be just before we are generous, and there is definite agreement among the city hall authorities and others who have been consulted that only the most necessary and essential expenditures will be added to the present list of liabilities.

It is owing to this state of the finances that the board of control has seen fit to restrict the payment of insurances to those who have joined the Canadian expeditionary force as volunteers from Toronto, and among these, to those who were actually dependent upon the men who went to the front. The amount already paid is over \$2,500,000, and this may soon be doubled. The payment of these insurances is being covered by the issue of ten-year debentures, and the annual charge on these issues comes to a mill on the dollar in the taxes, which, with the provincial tax of one mill, makes two mills on the dollar war taxes. Owing to the failure of the government to see that the Assessment Act is uniformly observed, Toronto is taxed on an average twice as much as other municipalities, so that Toronto is carrying a very heavy load independently of voluntary individual contributions to the various war funds.

It is not remarkable, then, that the commissioner of finance remarks in his report, that "there are war obligations which we have assumed, and others which we have been urged to assume, which, in my judgment, do not come within the scope of municipal enterprise, even when that scope is interpreted in the broadest sense."

Mr. Bradshaw does not take an optimistic view of the progress of the war, and the events of last week justify conclusions which have, no doubt, been recorded much earlier. As the outlook is "far from promising," he thinks "that the continuation of the present policy of war expenditure only tends to lessen our influence and to weaken our ability to assume to the full the share of responsibility which it is expected we shall do through the course of the war."

He has in view the possible lessening of voluntary gifts to charitable war funds as an effect of the increase of civic obligations. These views of the commissioner of finance must receive serious attention from the city council if the city finances are to weather the storm in a satisfactory fashion.

The Call of the Blood.

By Charles Ferdinand Durand.
(Obit. Toronto, Nov. 11, 1913).
O, men of the valiant Gaelic race,
O, men of the English free;
Who've won by your hands the uttermost lands,
And the gales of the pathless sea!

And whether ye live in the northern clime,
Or under the tropic sky;
What would ye not dare for that land over there
When perilous times are nigh!

And, now, when the mother of all of us calls
Her children to stand by her side,
Who've fed at her breast, been guarded and blest,
The sons of her might and her pride!

What word will ye send to her waiting now
To hear what your love will do?
It is, as you know, but the debt that you owe
To yourselves and the empire, too!

All, all that we have at the call of the blood
That stirs in the heart of men!
We'll never stand back when the old Union Jack
Is summoning us forth again.

Sheets of paper pass for money in Corvix; one sheet buys one quart of rice, or twenty sheets a piece of hemp cloth.

Considerable quantities of the bark of the South African wattle-trees have been imported from Natal in recent years, but most of it prior to the war was exported to Germany and Belgium. Since then wattle-bark has been utilized to a far greater extent by tanners.

OBJECT TO LABOR MEN IN CABINET

Unless Government is Wholly Made Up of Labor Representatives.

ATTITUDE OF G.T.L.P.

Enough Money to Carry On Elections in This City is Reported.

The Greater Toronto Labor party, at its regular monthly meeting held Sunday afternoon in the Labor Temple, decided that as the matter of allocating seats for candidates has not been completed in and around Toronto the party will for the time being have only two candidates in the field—James Ballantyne for East York and David E. Carey for South Toronto. With a view to keeping fully in touch with the political situation the members decided to hold two general meetings a month instead of one until the end of the political campaign. A resolution was passed rejecting any offer of compromise with political associations other than those directly in accord with the labor platform.

The next meeting of the party, which is to be held next Sunday week, will discuss a resolution to the effect that the G.T.L.P. refuse to accept in any shape or form to the appointment of any labor man to a seat in the cabinet at Ottawa, the party being opposed to the affiliation of labor with any government other than labor.

The meeting opened with an address from the president of the party, James Richards, who called upon those present to vote solidly for labor representation at Ottawa.

Cheaper Foodstuffs.
James Hunter, a member of the G.T.L.P., made a report that he was making arrangements for the sale of farm products in Toronto at much reduced rates, a number of stores of sale being in process of organization for this purpose.

The party has two aldermanic candidates in the field: Walter Brown for Ward 1 and A. P. Hunter for Ward 7. The finance committee reported good progress, and expressed the opinion that there would be more than ample funds to finance the candidates in Toronto.

A resolution, moved by R. Amos, to the effect that the party should endeavor to offer them candidature for the provincial or federal house, gave rise to some discussion. The resolution was adopted as amended.

A member rose to inform the meeting that he had heard on reliable authority that the members of Ward 1, including James Ballantyne, would accept a compromise result if such were the case. The meeting carried a resolution to the effect that the party should not accept any compromise with other political parties.

WEST ALGOMA LIBERALS IN FAVOR OF FUSIONIST

Declares It Inadvisable to Name Straight Party Man, But Conservatives Have Chosen Candidate.

Special to The Toronto World.
Sault Ste. Marie, Oct. 28.—At a representative convention of the West Algoma Liberal Association held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., by 37 delegates from various parts of the riding it was decided on a resolution of Dr. James McEwen, seconded by John Chambers, that it was not advisable to nominate a straight party candidate for the ensuing federal election. Eight of the delegates proposed the nomination of a fusionist.

The delegates also passed a resolution to the effect that the party should not accept any compromise with other political parties. The delegates also passed a resolution to the effect that the party should not accept any compromise with other political parties.

S. WELLINGTON LIBERALS FAVOR UNION CABINET

Declares All Other Questions Should Be Subordinated to Winning War and Decide to Call Convention.

Guelph, Oct. 28.—A meeting of the executive of the Liberal Association for South Wellington was held Saturday afternoon, representatives being present from all quarters of the riding. The meeting was devoted to the consideration of the political situation and was frankly discussed, and it was manifest that an entire unanimity of sentiment prevailed. It was decided to call a convention at an early date and the following resolutions were adopted:

"That in the opinion of this committee all other questions should be subordinated to the winning of the war, and that it is desirable that all resources of the country should be without further delay devoted to this object."
"That the present situation urgently demands that the evils of patronage and profiteering should be eliminated."
"In the present political situation a government fairly representing all elements in the community is desirable, and for this reason this committee favors a union government."

MEETING POSTPONED.

The meeting of the Bedford Park branch of the Greater Toronto Labor party called for Saturday evening was postponed owing to the inclement weather, until next week, when it is hoped that a large number of members will be present on the occasion of the installation of officers. It is also expected that arrangements will be made for the engaging of a hall for future meetings.

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATURE.

Regina, Oct. 28.—Official announcement was made this evening that Tuesday, Nov. 13, is the date on which the first session of the fourth legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan will formally open.

CATCHING HIM AT IT.



ACT TO DISQUALIFY FEW ONTARIO MEN

Mr. Smith Investigates Elections Measure for Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Ottawa, Oct. 28.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has requested Alexander Smith of Ottawa to investigate the measure for the disqualification of men who have served in the military or naval forces of the Dominion. The measure is contained in the amendments to the Dominion Elections Act. In Mr. Smith's opinion, the measure is a disqualification of men who have served in the military or naval forces of the Dominion since March 31, 1902. Any person, Mr. Smith adds, no matter what his religious beliefs are, is not in consequence of having applied for exemption from military service, disqualified for the electoral lists. And the only men who take no steps whatever to be naturalized, the law just puts the right on them, as if they were naturalized.

In Ontario, Mr. Smith adds, the enumeration of the names of the voters entitled to vote, except in cities, and to these lists the names of the female voters entitled to vote, in Ontario cities entirely new lists will be prepared.

WAR VETERANS DECIDE TO CONTEST N. OXFORD

Lieut.-Col. D. Sutherland, Who Resigned as Conservative Candidate, Is Their Standard Bearer.

Woodstock, Oct. 28.—At a meeting of the North Oxford Conservative Association Saturday night, the resignation of Lieut.-Col. Donald Sutherland as the standard bearer of the party in the north riding of Oxford, was received and accepted. Lieut.-Col. Sutherland was tendered a vote of thanks for his services in the war, and it was decided to accept a place on the Dominion Liberal Board.

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NIPISING SITUATION IS STILL UNSETTLED

Liberals Meet Next Month and Efforts Are Being Made to Unite Labor Party and Conservatives.

Special to The Toronto World.
North Bay, Oct. 27.—The Liberals of the riding of Nipissing have called a convention for Nov. 6 to take into consideration the resignation of A. J. Young, their candidate, but who has written a letter to the officers resigning that position. If two resignations are accepted it is likely that George A. McLaughlin, a lawyer, of North Bay, will be selected in his place at that convention. There is some talk of trying to get the labor party and the Conservative party in the riding to unite on an independent candidate, and a conference will be held on Nov. 1 with this end in view. Just what the outcome will be no one knows at present. A number of labor unions, however, have already refused to have anything to do with what they call only a so-called labor movement. It is believed, however, that a straight independent labor candidate will yet appear, against all-comers, if that happens the hope is that the Liberals and Conservatives will unite on a straight labor man who is an out and out with the war candidate.

NO LIBERAL NOMINEE TO RUN IN WEST ALGOMA

Soo, Ont., Oct. 28.—At a convention of the West Algoma Liberal Association held in O'Brien's Hall it was decided not to nominate a party candidate for the election.

Eight of the delegates suggested naming a committee of ten Liberals to meet with a Conservative and labor committee with a view to discussing the naming of a union candidate, but as the Conservatives, on the previous day, had nominated a straight party candidate the convention would not endorse the proposal.

N. Smith, former member for the Soo in the legislature, is running in West Algoma as an independent; James Lockwood of the Paper Makers' Union, and T. E. Simpson, Conservative, are in the field, the latter taking the place of A. C. Boyce, M.P., who resigned recently from the political field to accept a place on the Dominion Railway Board.

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UNIONISTS FACE BIG DIFFICULTIES

Provision for Taking Soldiers' Vote May Create Confusion.

Regina, Oct. 28.—Hon. J. A. Cadden, minister of immigration and colonies, today left Regina this morning for the Pacific coast. Seen late Saturday night by the Canadian Press, Ltd., correspondent, he said: "Leading public men in both the great political parties are endeavoring in every way possible to bring harmony and good feeling out of a very difficult situation. There is no use disputing the fact that the difficulties are many, owing mainly to a provision in the law relating to the soldiers' overseas vote. It is estimated that there are between 300,000 and 400,000 votes that will be cast by soldiers when the election is held. There would be little or no trouble if each soldier were required to vote for a particular candidate, giving his name or making his cross after a name. As it is each soldier is permitted to vote for the government, for the opposition, for labor, or for an independent candidate without naming him at all or without knowing his name."

Mr. Cadden referred also to the possibility of there being a multiplicity of candidates.

MACBRIDE NOT SURE OF BRANTFORD CANDIDATURE

Brantford, Oct. 28.—Alderman M. MacBride, independent labor candidate, has issued a statement but it lacks the endorsement of the trades and labor council. In part he says: "I run for the federal house? Well, that depends, but I think when the political atmosphere clears a bit we will find that the workmen, who are my friends, will prove conclusively that they are good Canadians and are just as anxious to 'win the war' as any other citizens. The only man I know of who is anxious 'or' election are those who 'thrive on discontent,' and a few 'ward heelers' who expect the usual 'pickings'."

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