

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 23.

There Must Be No Merger

The reasons against the proposed insurance merger grow in strength every day, and we do not see how the government at Ottawa, as represented by the treasury board, can allow any such merger, so unfair to Toronto and Ontario, to be consummated. It is not in public policy from the local point of view, and it is not a good general policy to encourage this merger business at best. There can be individual cases where mergers would be permitted, if not justified, cases where the trust funds would remain in the same city or province, and where the employment of the parties associated with the company would, more or less, continue to be in the same province, and there would be no disturbance of far as local interests are concerned. For instance, we can imagine cases where, of necessity, it would be in the public interest that a weak insurance company should be joined up to a strong one, or that a weak bank should be put in a first-class position by being taken over by another bank in the same city or district. And we can even imagine that if Mr. Goodenham wanted to dispose of his interests for personal reasons, in the Manufacturers' Life, he could have gone to an Ontario company like the North American Life, or the Confederation Life, or even the Canada Life, and no great fault found with such a course.

But for the business men of Toronto and the people of Ontario to spend years in building up an insurance company, largely in this province, with their own labor, and for a staff of insurance men to assist also in this work, and then to have it all transferred away from Ontario and located in another province, and the cash accumulations also taken away from Ontario, Ontario, cannot be shown to be good from any point of view.

It is not good policy to allow one capitalist, who has control of great trust funds, by reason of his shares in the company, to sell that control to another company whose head is ambitious to add to the millions he now controls, and in that way make him a monopolist of trust funds that really belong to the public. The Sun Life has all the opportunity it wants to do business in Ontario under its present organization, and it will be given every encouragement in that direction; but it is high time a check be put on the grasping operations of any individual, or group of individuals, in regard to trust funds belonging to the people, or paid in by the people, to a local organization, and who put their money into that organization because they had confidence in the management.

The treasury board, we believe, is made up of Hon. W. T. White (minister of finance), Sir George E. Foster (trade and commerce), C. J. Doherty (justice), Dr. Reid (customs), T. C. Chagnon (postmaster-general). And over them, and responsible to the people, is Sir Robert Borden, prime minister.

Brazen Assurance

Brazen assurance is the only solid quality possessed by one controller, who desires to be returned once more to the receipt of \$2500 a year, so that he may preserve his private estate intact and occupy himself on such pleasant labors as reducing the salaries of the \$15 a week men.

Advertisement Advertisement

"15 per cent. reduction on needless maintenance charges in departmental work at the City Hall, does not mean 15 per cent. reduction on workmen's wages," says Controller Tom Foster.

COMMITTEE ROOM, 301 CROWN BUILDING, Queen and Victoria Sts. at

His latest appeal is on grounds of retrenchment. This means 15 per cent. of wages for the little men. Ten-dollar-a-week men will get \$8.50 after the controller begins to retrench. Fifteen-dollar-a-week men will get \$12.75. And if he gets elected—by the usual means—he will sit back and point out his successful retrenchment campaign as a reason for giving him another \$2500. This is about the only original plan for retrenchment that has occurred to him, except the one of taking the street car tickets from men who had to cover miles of territory every day.

No Conflict Between Bylaw and Report.

Those who are afraid to come out openly and attack the hydro radial bylaw are doing so in the old fashion thru anonymous pamphlets. One of these which has reached us is headed: "Sir Adam Beck asks us to act first and think afterwards." Sir Adam gave a sufficient answer to this lampoon at the board of trade. The bylaw has been on the statute book for a year, and those who pretend they know nothing about it have themselves to thank.

The one thing that is being depended upon to defeat the bylaw is the transportation report, brought in by Messrs. Harris, Gaby and Cousins. It is alleged that the report and the bylaw annul each other, or are antagonistic in policy. This we are unable to see. We said at first that we believed they might have to stand or fall together, and it seems more than probable that should the bylaw be defeated, it would also be an end of the transportation report. We do not discover any innate hostility in the two policies for each other. Certain details in the report would, under certain circumstances, be incompatible with the bylaw, but the members of the transportation committee who drew up the report have already had this under debate, disagreed about the details and agreed to let them lie over. It is merely a matter of detail, not of principle.

Mr. J. W. Woods of the board of trade has assured us that we are wrong to attribute hostility towards the bylaw to Mr. Harris, but we have not heard anything yet in support of the bylaw from Mr. Harris, and are more inclined than ever to believe our first impression correct. Should this be so it means that Mr. Harris would be willing to wreck both the bylaw and the report for a mere detail as to who should control the loop line over which the radials might run to the centre of the city. Sir Adam has already said that the city would control the lines, and the radials would pay car haulage over them for the privilege of using them. What there is to object to under the circumstances we cannot perceive.

The Telegram has spoken at last, and we must recognize it as the distinction of Controller Spence to have awakened the sleeping lion. The Telegram is quite satisfied with the arrangements for the control of the city's rights, and that being the case, why should any more jealous guardian denounce?

The enemies of the bylaw are doing the best they can to confuse the issue, and they lug in the transportation report on every opportunity in order to misrepresent the situation. The report is not before the people just now and need not be discussed. The carrying of the bylaw will not disturb any essential feature of the report, the most important parts of which do not come into force till 1936, so there is no hurry and no need to worry. The bylaw is a matter of immediate action and should not be delayed.

Straight Policy Best All Round

Guileless people who have been of the opinion that the fire department takes no hand in politics, and especially in elections, should study what is going on in Ward Two and other parts of the city at present. We have no quarrel with the firemen whatever, but they would consult their own interests considerably if they declined to be led around by political manoeuvres and wire-pullers who are not doing anything for the firemen as a body, but are merely using them for their own ends. Think of the folly of the firemen getting organized to support a candidate for the controllership, whose declared policy is to cut their wages.

No man who attends to his duty and minds his business can have anything to do with the effort to reorganize the fire department. The whole system of favoritism and "pull" while it may advance an individual here and there, is fatal to the welfare of the men as a whole. They should keep clear of these intrigues, and vote for men who are independent and really honest.

Those who descend to machine politics in their own interests will resort to machine intrigue when it suits them against the interests of the men. Whether the men are willing to see this or not they should be able to understand that those who do not play fair by the city will not play fair by the city's employees.

Controller Spence and the Bylaw

Controller Spence has done himself more harm in the last couple of months than in all his previous career. His

LET HIM FOLLOW IT



AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE REPORTED CAPTURED

PARIS, Dec. 22.—According to a despatch to The Messenger, from

Modra, forwarded by the Havas correspondent at Rome, an Austrian submarine has been captured by two torpedo boats, presumably Italian.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

Editor World: In view of the fact that recruiting in Toronto is becoming a troublesome problem, and in view of the fact that a large number of single fellows will have to be shamed into enlisting, new methods will have to be employed. It is by no means a new suggestion that I make, but it is one that has met with satisfaction in England: the use of an article for those willing but unable to go to the front. The sooner this innovation is made, the sooner the other fellow will get into the khaki, and, incidentally, will save those who are physically unfit from many needless deaths.

TORONTO SOLDIERS RETURNING.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 22.—One hundred and eighteen wounded Canadian officers and men, and a nursing sister, returned yesterday on the steamer Pretorian, leaving by special train today for Quebec, in charge of Capt. Drainer.

An Ideal Xmas Gift

A delightful and very useful present for your older relatives or friends is a modern spectacle or eye-glass fitted by a skillful Optometrist, such as we have. Eye-glasses, chains, lozenges, readers, or any other article in Optical Goods are presents to please and to last.

Marriage Licenses Issued

Optical Department of
H. W. Tisdall's Jewelry Store
150 YONGE ST., TORONTO.

MICHIE'S BEAURICH CIGARS

3 FOR 25c
AT THE CIGAR DEPT.,
7 KING ST. W.
MICHIE & CO., LIMITED

GIVING PUBLICITY TO HYDRO RADIAL PLAN

Number of Meetings to Be Held at Which Scheme Will Be Explained.

Mayor Church is determined to give as much publicity to Sir Adam Beck's hydro radial bylaw as possible, between now and election day, and has mapped out a series of meetings extending as far as Port Credit. The suburban meetings commenced last night at Port Credit, where the mayor and T. J. Hannigan, secretary of the Hydro Radial Association, spoke. Other meetings include one at Etobicoke Schoolhouse No. 15, on Dec. 28, at which the mayor and J. W. Lyon will speak; one at Long Branch, on Dec. 30, when Mayor Church, Mayor Walters of Hamilton, T. J. Stewart and W. S. Davis, will give addresses. On Dec. 28, 29 and 30, T. J. Hannigan and S. Carter, M.L.A. of Guelph, will give addresses in Toronto on the subject, and the Riverdale Business Men's Association, Earlscourt, Beaches and Caledonian Ratepayers' Associations, will hold mass meetings.

CRUDE TARTAR EXPORTS TO STATES PERMITTED

Decree Stopping Shipments of Product Rescinded by French Government.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Upon the advice of Alexandre Ribot, minister of finance, the government has rescinded the decree prohibiting the exportation to the United States of crude tartar and its by-products, which are used to a large extent in America for bread raising. In ordinary years these articles are exported to the United States to the value of about 9,000,000 francs. The tartar comes from deposits in the United States of crude tartar, which are exported to the United States. It is believed to be an element employed in the manufacture of certain explosives, and it was suspected the ultimate destination of the tartar was Germany.

TO PROTECT INTERESTS IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

Premier Briand Receives Secretary Bernard of Society and Praises Work.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—In receiving Jean Bernard, secretary of the Society for the Protection of French Interests in Neutral States today, Premier Briand gave assurance the French Government would lend its aid to the project. M. Bernard announced that a branch already was in operation in Copenhagen, and that others would be established soon at Zurich, Lisbon, Bucharest, Lima, Peru, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and San Francisco.

SIX THOUSAND PARCELS SENT FOR CANADIANS

Red Cross Remembers Men at Front, Sending Christmas in Trenches.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, Dec. 22.—Six thousand parcels were sent by the Canadian Red Cross this week to the soldiers of the Dominion serving all over the war zone and in hospitals in England. Each one going to the front contains a pair of gloves. Each one sent to the hospital contains a jigsaw puzzle, one of the most popular of small gifts for wounded men. Guthrie Reid is sending a personal gift for every wounded Canadian in London the number of invitations received for entertaining Canadians on Christmas Day is almost embarrassing. Several large clubs have arranged to entertain parties of Canadian soldiers on Christmas Day. Last year's gathering at the National Liberal Club will be repeated on a larger scale. Earl Grey has for a long time placed a box at Albert Hall at the disposal of the Canadian Red Cross, leave being granted fairly generously.

BERNSTORFF PEEVED AT PLOT EXPOSURES

Revelations of Conspiracies in United States Stagger Embassy's Assurance.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Continued prosecution of alleged plotters against American neutrality may prove a serious obstacle to complete settlement of the diplomatic questions at issue between the United States and Germany. German embassy officials are so discouraged at what they consider lack of fair treatment by the American press and the American public, that they profess they would not be sorry to see a breaking off of diplomatic relations between the two nations. It was said that Germany may not replace Capt. Boy-Ed and Von Papen, the attaches recalled on request of the United States, because of this feeling. The embassy is said to be particularly angered over newspaper attacks and attempts to "connect" embassy officials with plots against American neutrality.

SIX MONTHS FOR THEFT.

BELLEVILLE, Dec. 22.—Herbert Hill was today, by County Judge De-roche, sentenced to the Central Prison for six months for stealing a fur coat and two muffs from the residence of Dr. MacColl of this city.

"A Brew for Every Taste."

ORDER A CASE OF O'Keefe's For Christmas

"Canada's Best Beers" have earned their place on the Christmas table. Not only are O'Keefe Beers the purest and the best, but they are thoroughly Canadian—they appeal to your palate, your pride and your patriotism.

Made in Canada of Canadian materials by Canadian workmen. None but purest filtered water, choicest Barley Malt and Hops are ever used by O'Keefe's.

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O'Keefe's PILSENER LAGER
O'Keefe's SPECIAL EXTRA MILD ALE
O'Keefe's SPECIAL EXTRA STOUT
O'Keefe's OLD STOCK ALE

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Hand

Special Xmas Gents' Hats, make, in in Neatly boxed Gifts.

Ladies' H.S. \$1.00 to \$1.50
Ladies' H.S. chiefs, \$2.00
Ladies' H.S. Handkerchiefs, \$3.00
Ladies' H.S. chiefs, \$3.00
Gentlemen's korchiefs, \$1.00
Gentlemen's chiefs, \$1.00
Lace and L. chief in ev in great variety

A TABLE OF GIFTS AT \$

A collection of ens, tow, korchiefs, D. Cloths, Mac korchief, Values, \$1.00

SPECIAL D

Creme de Scavens, S. Irish Collars, Sets, George Clifton, Ruff variety of p

WAIST LEN

(Neatly) Silks, plain, Vellies Flat, Cotton Crep length.

JOHN G

55 to 61

LADIES' AN GENTLEMEN

of all kinds of Work exes NEW Y 888 Yonge St.

SIR ARCH GOING

Sir Charles mand Fin

LONDON.

Archibald M. to succeed S. ish comman may an office afternoon.

Sir Charles

pointed in c. ish army in Sir Douglas. The officia "Gen. Sir summed supre ish forces Gen. Sir Ch. in comb "Lt.-Gen. chief of the wall, succeed "Lt.-Gen. now chief of will become eral staff, with his deput "Major-Gen. ant to the eral staff, w. eral staff of

Gen. Murr

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