

## The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 29, 1918.

### While the Council Deliberates.

While the advance rolls on in every field of operations east, west, south, the enemy continues to indicate his desire for peace. We know he is crooked and unreliable, treacherous and crafty; we know he wants to divide us; we know he wants to get the best terms possible for himself, and we know that the Kaiser would like to save his own bacon. But far beyond all these things comes the demand of the enemy's people for peace. They are in the mood for peace at any price. They have lost faith in militarism, in Junkerism, in Kaiserism. They would be willing to make a present of the Hohenzollerns to America any day. The Kaiser himself says he is willing to become the hereditary president of a German republic like the Kings of Belgium, Italy and Britain. No doubt he would, but if the Germans decide to have a republic they will have a real one, and they won't spoil it with the Hohenzollerns favoring extract.

We believe that the other German states are fed-up with Prussia. It is Prussia that has made all the trouble. There is not a German outside Prussia that has any love for the domineering military overlords. It is Prussia that is going to have to pay the piper, and the other Germans are more than willing that it should be so. It is Prussia that must give up to the Poles, and to the Austrians, and to the Russians, and to France, and to Belgium and Denmark, and perhaps to Holland. But none of the other German princes are willing to bell the cat. They will gladly leave this task to the allies of the entente, and acquiesce in any terms proposed to that end.

The great war council is in session at Versailles and we may be sure that if there is any way of ending the war compatible with securing the entente along this way will be proposed. But we may be equally sure that the elimination of the Hohenzollerns and their system will be a first consideration.

It is just possible that a suspicion lurks in the minds of the German people, the result of a semi-consciousness cultivated by the Kaiser party, that the allies cherish as rapacious a desire and have as formidable a program of land-grabbing as Germany had herself. If this be the case one could understand the anxiety of the German people to hear the terms before they say more. As President Wilson's points represent substantially the aims of the allies the Germans need not suspect our good faith. As to the terms of surrender they should be no easier six months hence should an overwhelming defeat be insisted upon, than today when such a defeat is a moral certainty if the Germans persist in having a demonstration.

That is to say, briefly, the Germans are not likely to balk at unconditional surrender if such surrender is not found to involve more than President Wilson has stipulated. The talk about terms incompatible with the national honor is purely humbug. The Germans know very well that there must be guarantees for an unconditional surrender, and they know, too, that they will be getting off cheap with any terms that a civilized council of war might propose.

### Another Phase of Assessment Problems.

In a third bulletin dealing with assessment problems the bureau of municipal research has pointed out a phase of these questions which is usually ignored. It is raised indirectly in a return chiefly concerned with the number of appeals against various assessments in 20 different municipalities. These show that out of 1548 appeals in these places \$30 were granted. The greater number of the appeals were against income assessment, there being 625 under this head and more than half of these, or 333, being from one city of over 100,000 population. Two other cities supplied 103 and 107 respectively. Appeals on land values numbered 387, and on values of buildings 370. On land and buildings together there were 13 appeals in one place and 68 in another. The business assessment appeals only numbered 61 altogether.

The general impression left by this return is that there can be no system in our assessment methods, no uniformity, no automatic way of arriving at the approximately indisputable value of properties. It is obvious that incomes are consistently undervalued or there would be more appeals. Only the salaried man whose earnings appear on a roll available for the assessor is justly assessed, and to the extent that others escape his burden is inequitable and proportionately too heavy.

The wage earner usually escapes altogether, and the stock and bond owner justifies himself by this fact. When the late Sir James Whitney investigated against chequerboard legislation in assessment matters he never understood the irony of his objection to local option in this department.

The suggestion of the bulletin is that "highly specialized training and experience are necessary, as well as hard work and hard work are not to be expected unless these things are paid for. What sort of salaries are paid to assessment officials and employees is indicated in the return. In the twenty municipalities studied they vary from \$200 to \$2500 a year. It is obvious that Toronto is not included in this return, but is it not equally obvious that the change in the treasury department has been immensely profitable to the city, and the comparatively small annual investment in an expert has brought stupendous returns? If the assessment department were similarly treated, and double or triple the present salary paid, would it not be possible to secure such services as would be worth anywhere up to a million a year to the city without imposing any extra burden on those who are now carrying an inequitable share of the city's burdens? Might not these burdens indeed be lightened by a proper adjustment of assessment values, and by the discovery of those who evade their just liabilities?

The bureau makes another suggestion which could not fail to do good if adopted. It is one which the provincial government, so strangely reluctant apparently to advance municipal interests, might well take up and place on an experimental basis for one year at least. An equalization assessment bureau has already been spoken of, and this suggestion is to have an "annual provincial conference of assessors of, say, a week's duration, and by the issuance of a manual giving information as to interpretation of the law, methods of enforcement and means of arriving at equitable assessments under the four different classes. Would not such a provincial organization be of great value in advising the government from time to time as to desirable changes in the law?"

We do not think the value of such a conference could be foretold. It might prove to be seen at work. It might prove reactionary, and overlook the citizens' side of the case. It is possible that the addition of the members of the revision courts in the several municipalities would obviate such a defect and give balance to the proceedings. At any rate, something will have to be done. There is no department of municipal affairs in such confusion as that of assessments, and it is the foundation of our whole municipal economy. No wonder that people complain about their taxes.

### Letting Them Down Easy.

General Gough is being elaborately whitewashed in England, and the amour propre of the fifth army is being used as an excuse for the operation. General Haig's despatch covering the operations in which the army under Gough went to pieces shows that the pressure was very great, but this does not explain lack of preparation and precautions against surprise. General Haig himself is not without need of whitewashing, in the view of many. One of the adroitest slurs in H. G. Wells' new book occurs in one of Lady Charlotte Sydenham's letters. She is one of the impossible aristocrats who know nothing they do not wish to know, and rely on their imagination for their facts. She is criticizing the various allies that have come in, and the proposal to establish a supreme command.

"We ought not to have let them come in. What good are they to us? What can they know of war? A crowd of ignorant republican renegades! British generals to be criticized, and their prospects injured by French Roman Catholics and Atheists and chattering, expectorating Yankees and every sort of low foreigner. What is the world coming to? Sir Douglas Haig has been exactly where he is for two years. Surely he knows the ground better than anyone else can possibly do." The Lady Charlotte will rejoice over the whitewashing, but the nation at large will have more faith in the new men at the top.

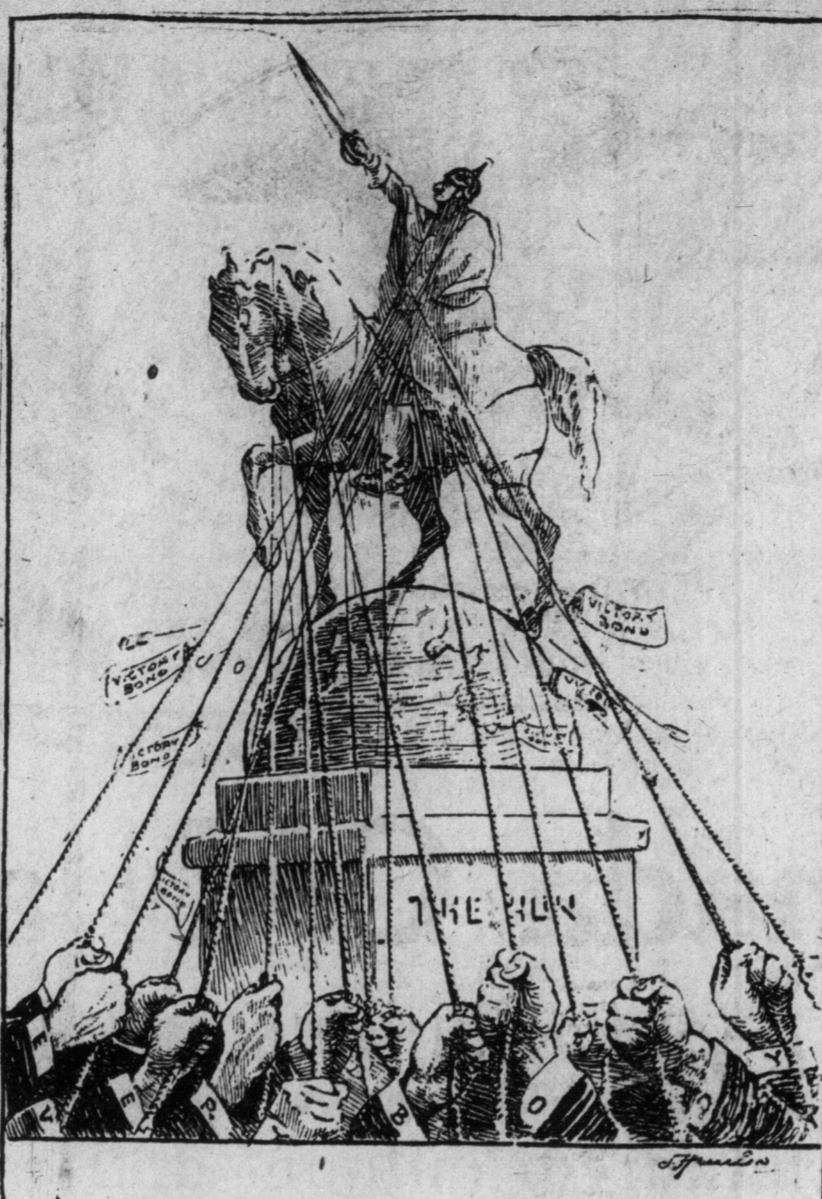
### OPEN HUNTING SEASON IN THE HIGHLANDS, NEAR, AND PROSPECTS GOOD.

Probably the best hunting districts in America are located in the Highlands of Ontario, and that section of the province opened up by the Transcontinental Railway. This immense virgin area offers unlimited opportunities to the hunter for moose and deer. The open season for the Highlands of Ontario district is from November 1 to November 15, both days inclusive. In some of the northern districts of Ontario, including Timiskaming, Temagami and the territory north and south of the Canadian Government Railway in Ontario, the open season has been extended, and is from October 1 to November 30, both days inclusive. A synopsis of the game laws is contained in the G. T. R. publication, "Playground." Full information on application to agents Grand Trunk Railway System or Mr. C. E. Horning, district passenger agent, Union Station, Toronto.

### FOR BELGIAN RELIEF.

The Belgian Relief Fund, Ontario branch, 95 West King Street, reports receipts for the week ending Oct. 25, \$2,452.81, making total to date \$129,562.95.

## Now---All Together!



Everybody can help to bring him down

## THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

### Ruth Returns—Brian Meets Her at the Station.

CHAPTER LXXIV.  
Ruth was to be away still three more days. Brian had spent every evening, save the first one, with Mollie King—seven in all. He had been very contented, although sometimes when he reached home late he would feel just a bit conscience-stricken. Then he would mumble: "She's having a good time staying at expensive hotels. Why should I stick around this tuffy flat alone?" That the flat was anything but stuffy, he knew also that both the Robertses and the Curliesses would be delighted to see him or to have him come in and play cards.

The idea of learning to do his own typing under Mollie's tutelage appealed to him. So, for the next three evenings, he appeared at the little studio with several parcels under his arm. "I'll bring in the grub and we'll cook it together," he had said when Mollie asked what he had. "We'll have more time than if we go out." So in the intimacy of a kitchenette, and a two-burner gas stove, Mollie cooked beefsteak or chops and made coffee, while Brian fixed the salad, and old Rachel wondered where "Mars' Brian" don't eat his dinners when Missy Ruth was away.

Mollie was, as she had said, a good typist. She insisted that Brian learn the latest method, although with his usual ingenuity he said that "any old way would do so long as he could write his letters." "Indeed it won't! What kind of a teacher would I be to let you write your own way like that?" So, their heads close together, they spent the evenings over the machine. That is, they worked until 10 o'clock. Then Brian would insist upon stopping and they would talk or go to some neighboring cafe for a bite of supper, and gossip with the villagers for an hour or two.

"I won't be down tomorrow night," Brian said on the night before Ruth was expected. "I shall miss you," Mollie answered. Knowing Ruth was coming she said no more.

"I'll come the next night—for my lesson." "I understand," Mollie said to herself after the door had closed. "He can come for his lesson, but he must get back or she'll find fault." Had she known that Ruth scarcely ever objected to anything Brian did, Mollie would have been surprised. She supposed he lived in an atmosphere of

almost constant nagging. And that was the reason he sought her companionship.

That night as he prepared for bed Brian said: "No one can find fault if I am with Mollie because it is necessary," and "I hope Rachel won't tell Ruth I was out every night. I guess I better tell her myself. I'll tell her I am learning typewriting, and it was too far to come way up here when she was away. She has no business to leave me alone, anyway," ending by throwing the onus of his defection upon Ruth as usual.

And she, in the cheerless hotel room, was counting the hours, almost the minutes, when she would be with Brian. She had determined to ask Mr. Mandel not to require her to stay away so long again. This time it had been unavoidable. But she was so lonely for Brian and so afraid he would be so unhappy.

"I do hope Rachel has cooked nice things for him," she had said to herself when she had been away. She had written daily a short account of her work and how lonely she was without him. He had also written often but his notes told her nothing. He had not mentioned Mollie King. Neither had he told how his evenings were spent. She consequently took it for granted that part of them at least had been spent at home.

Her work had gone very satisfactorily. It had been her own choice, and she couldn't fail to be pleased at the result. She had wired Brian that she would reach New York at 5.30. He had told Rachel they would be at home to dinner, then had ordered some flowers.

"She likes them," he had muttered, knowing he was saving his own conscience rather than catering to her love for the flowers.

He had gone to meet her. The train was a little late, but Ruth, the first one off, had sped him at once, and with a glad little cry had run to him.

"Oh, Brian!" she had said, snuggling to his side, "how good it is to be home again. To be with you."

"It's like coming home," he said as he kissed her again. "I had almost forgotten I had a wife."

Ruth looked sharply at him. Could he be speaking the truth? But no! he was gazing at her with pride. Could she have seen herself, she could not have wondered. She had taken especial pains with her toilet and looked very chic and young. Her eyes were bright with love-light. Her face was full of animation. Any man would be proud of her.

"I shan't let you forget again. I'm going to ask the firm to keep me in New York after this—as much as possible. I can't wait to be away from you so long again."

Tomorrow—Brian tells Ruth he is going to learn typewriting.

—BUY BONDS.

**A Line of Cheer Each Day of the Year**  
By John Kendrick Bangs.

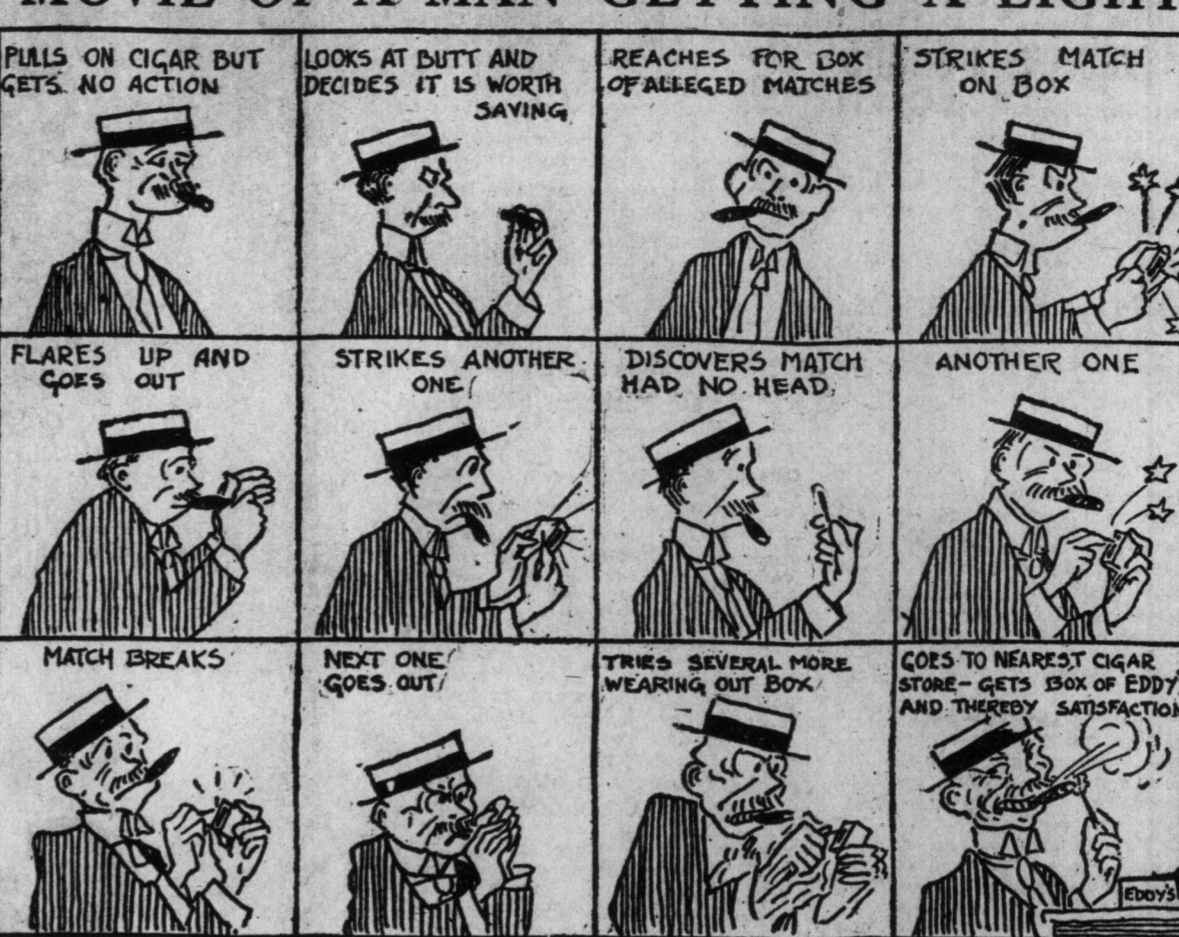
OCTOBER.  
Cool and crisp the morning air,  
Wondrous pictures everywhere,  
Gorgeous hues on leafy trees,  
Blue and gold on sky and sea,  
Sense of strength in mind and soul,  
Union clear to every goal,  
Not a task that seems in view  
Greater than resolve can do—  
Best October, month divine,  
Take this tribute small of mine  
For the mood of hope you bring  
For the autumn's harvest.

—BUY BONDS.

**DIGGING FOR GOLD.**  
Every time a large project is under construction, many people hope that the deep cuttings involved will result in the discovery of gold or other valuable minerals. Many hopes were based on the construction of Mount Royal Tunnel, but they were not fulfilled. This tunnel has now been completed and was opened on October 21st, on which date the Canadian Northern Railway established through train service between Toronto Union Station, Ottawa Central Station and Montreal Tunnel Terminal, 415 LaGauchetière St. W., two blocks from the Windsor and Bonaventure Stations.

Rail, sleeping and parlor car tickets are obtainable at all Canadian Northern Ry. ticket offices.

## MOVIE OF A MAN GETTING A LIGHT



## MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY

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## Political Notes

The Western newspapers are obsessed with the idea that a big political banquet is taking place in Toronto today. The Winnipeg Tribune says an eastern press bureau is sending out a cut of Hon. Robert Rogers, who is represented as "the guest of honor" at the Toronto banquet. The Tribune adds that Mr. Rogers is not only the chief guest, but also the chief promoter of the convivial spread. It believes the object of the banquet is to "resuscitate" the Conservative party, and deplores any effort to revive either old-time Toryism or old-time Griftism in Canada. The Tribune thinks, however, that the banquet will bear watching, and observes that:

There are some things hatching in Canada's politics which must receive very close attention at no distant date. The World learns upon enquiry that a banquet was planned some time ago to be held in Toronto today, but that the function has been more or less indefinitely postponed on account of the prevailing epidemic. The idea, however, has not been abandoned. There is to be a gathering, probably a banquet, in Toronto in the not distant future which will be attended by prominent Conservatives from all over Canada. We are told,

however, that it is to be essentially an Ontario affair, and that neither Mr. Rogers nor anyone else will be the special guest of honor. Several hundred guests are expected, and the gathering will not be without political significance.

The purpose of the gathering, as we understand it, will be neither to extol nor condemn Union government, but to frankly prepare for that return to the party system which many believe to be inevitable after the close of the war.

The press thrust the country continues to comment on the result at Manitoulin. The Montreal Gazette recalls the patrons' movement which resulted at one time in giving a farmers' party the balance of power in the Ontario Legislature. It dismisses the Manitoulin mishap with the consoling thought that the government's majority is so large as to make the loss of one seat unimportant.

The Ottawa Citizen attaches much more significance to the recent by-election. Under the caption, "New Orientation in Ontario," The Citizen says:

The successful candidate in the provincial election for Manitoulin constituency is a representative of the United Farmers of Ontario. The defeated candidate ran as a Conservative. The result should help to awaken some of the political pillars of this province to the fact that changes are going on in the world about them.

At this time of day, to begin with,

the candidate with so little perspective as to call himself a Conservative deserves to be beaten, and well beaten. Some members of the Ontario Government may not be aware of it, but after more than four years of war between democracy and reaction, Conservative is not exactly a popular label for candidates in this country.

Changes are taking place in something more than party names, however. There is a tendency among the Canadian people to examine principles and when democratic principles are absent, the tendency is to turn to where such principles may be found.

The London Advertiser, one of the few out-and-out Liberal papers in Canada, rejoices over the result in Manitoulin, and recalls that on the same day Union government received a black eye in Saskatchewan, and we read:

R. M. Dunbar, Liberal candidate in Estevan, Sask., has defeated T. M. Bryce, Unionist, by a large majority in a by-election. Evidently an attempt was made to make the "Unionist" appeal potent in provincial politics, and the result is, no doubt, a barometer of the country's feeling toward the name and what it stands for.

—BUY BONDS.

## Don't Fall a Prey to the "FLU"

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