

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 22.

The Price of Sugar and the U.F.O.

In reversing the recent order of the board of commerce, which placed a virtual embargo upon the importation of sugar, the government contented itself with saying that the order was one the board had no legal power to make. Even the sugar refiners agreed that the board had gone beyond its powers. The important question, however, remains: Are the people to get cheaper sugar? By the action of the government they are free to buy where they please, but the ordinary householder has no facilities for importing sugar from a foreign country; his frontier is the corner grocery.

The late Sir Wilfrid Laurier was fond of saying that the corner grocer was the poor man's best friend, but the small retail merchant is in little better position to import than the small consumer. Usually his selling price is fixed for him by the wholesaler, and the wholesaler is often involved in a business network of wire entanglements.

A big co-operative concern, like the U.F.O., can cut its way thru the brush and make a direct road from the producer to the consumer. The U.F.O. should be able to bring in sugar by the trainload if the domestic refiners are unable to meet American competition. The break is bound to come and the sugar refiners may as well face the situation. They have an undoubted advantage in the tariff and lower freight rates, but The World is assured on high authority that sugar can be brought into Canada over the tariff wall and even the anti-dumping clause and be profitably retailed at 16 cents a pound. This is still a high price, but it is five cents under the maximum price fixed by the board of commerce.

Giving the public an "open market" does not always greatly lower the level of prices. The market may be "open" from a legal standpoint, but it may be clogged and virtually closed by combinations among the producers and allied interests. The law of supply and demand is often defeated, not by legal enactment, but by devices for creating an artificial scarcity.

The sugar embargo raised a storm of protest because it was an open effort to raise prices at the very moment when everyone was looking forward to a sharp decline in prices. It was made the more unbearable because prices were being hoisted by a body specially created to bring them down. The embargo has been lifted and we are where we were before it was imposed. Then, as now, there was a general feeling that the price of sugar was too high. Then, as now, there was a general demand for cheaper sugar. The interference of the board of commerce raised a storm of protest, which apparently reached the government and led to its speedy reversal. That incident is closed, and we are back just where we were before it opened. The people are still demanding cheaper sugar; they are entitled to have it, and the dealers may as well face that situation. The U.F.O. have now a great opportunity to bring down the price of sugar. What will they do about it?

The Irrepressible Mr. Harding.

Senator Harding, the Republican candidate for president, is doing his best to defeat himself by loose and contradictory statements respecting the League of Nations. His rear platform speech at Greenacres, Indiana, the other day called forth a scathing rebuke from President Wilson, and the senator's reply has not greatly raised him in public estimation. He certainly gave the impression that a message of some kind had been sent him by the French government to the effect that France would gladly join the United States in the "world fraternity" with which the senator, in a nebulous way, intends to replace the League of Nations. The president demanded to know how and why the French government had gone over his head to negotiate with "a private citizen." To this Mr. Harding in substance replied that he had received no communication from the French government, but had received assurances from French citizens designated by him as the "spokesmen" of France. Meanwhile the French embassy at Washington emphatically denies that it has been carrying on any negotiations except with the president and thru the recognized channels of diplomacy.

The incident has probably caused more amusement than consternation. The public have come to accept verbal inaccuracies from Mr. Harding as something beyond his control. He makes the old-fashioned stump speech which attracted no particular atten-

tion when he was one of many thousand spellbinders, but which suffers under the searchlight that beats upon a presidential candidate. The short-hand reporter is also a curb which did not bother Senator Harding in former days.

What helps out Mr. Harding is that his indecision and contradictoriness on the subject of the league reflects the average mind among his fellow countrymen. The citizen who, after a good dinner on Sunday, talks to the village pastor in the most complacent way about universal peace and world fraternity, flies off the handle after an ill digested lunch on Monday, and declares that American boys must not be used as cannon fodder for Europe at the beck and call of a league in which European nations will predominate. His Sunday and Monday remarks, if taken down in shorthand and printed in parallel columns, would betray a striking resemblance to some of the diverse deliverances of Senator Harding which Democratic papers are now gleefully printing side by side.

However that may be, we doubt if the election will have much to do with the League of Nations. It is scarcely more than ten days away, and indications point now, as they have consistently pointed for many months, to the return of the Republican party to power. Republicans may laugh at their candidate, but they seem bound to elect him. Their column is practically unbroken, while the Democrats are frankly suffering from disaffection among their Irish, German and Italian supporters. Even more serious is the likelihood that a great many of the Democratic women voters may stay at home or vote Republican, on account of prohibition, which is not ostensibly an issue, but is cutting none the less a wide swath in the election. The vote in Maine last September was an eye-opener on this point. The election returns clearly indicated that the newly enfranchised Republican women came out to vote while the newly enfranchised Democratic women remained at home.

CLAIMS U. S. IS READY TO LOAN TO AUSTRALIA

Sydney, N.S.W., Oct. 21.—Premier Storey, head of the Labor government of New South Wales, in a speech in the legislative assembly today, referred to the reported readiness of the United States to lend money to Australia. He said that the government preferred for the present to raise loans locally, but in the event of necessity, would consider the question of raising money in the United States.

Replying to a question on the same subject, Sir Joseph Cook, the commonwealth minister of the treasury, is reported to have said: "I should like to hear something about the terms of these American loans."

GUIDES PREDICTING GREEN CHRISTMAS

Cobalt, Ont., Oct. 21.—The hunting season for moose and deer commences on Monday next, but indications are said to be that the sport will not be up to average this year, on account of the exceptionally fine weather which has prevailed this autumn. One Indian guide, an old-timer, familiar with the bush and its ways, says there will be no snow before Christmas, which will militate against success in the chase. Indications, according to this man, are for the "green yule" which the old Scottish proverb makes for "a fat kirkyard."

Royal Packet Loses Money On Canada-Indies Service

Halifax, N.S., Oct. 21.—That the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line is losing \$15,000 to \$20,000 per trip on its Canada-West Indies service, and its Canada-West Indies service, and will, if not granted an increase of freight rates to make up the deficit, have to cease the operation of this service, was the statement made today by John Allison, Canadian general manager of the R.M.S.P.L.

Ottawa, Oct. 21.—Confirmation of the report from St. John, N.B., that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line, which gives a service between Canadian ports and the West Indies, is applying to the government for increased freight rates because it is losing money, was secured from Sir George Foster, minister of trade and commerce, today by the Canadian Press. Limited.

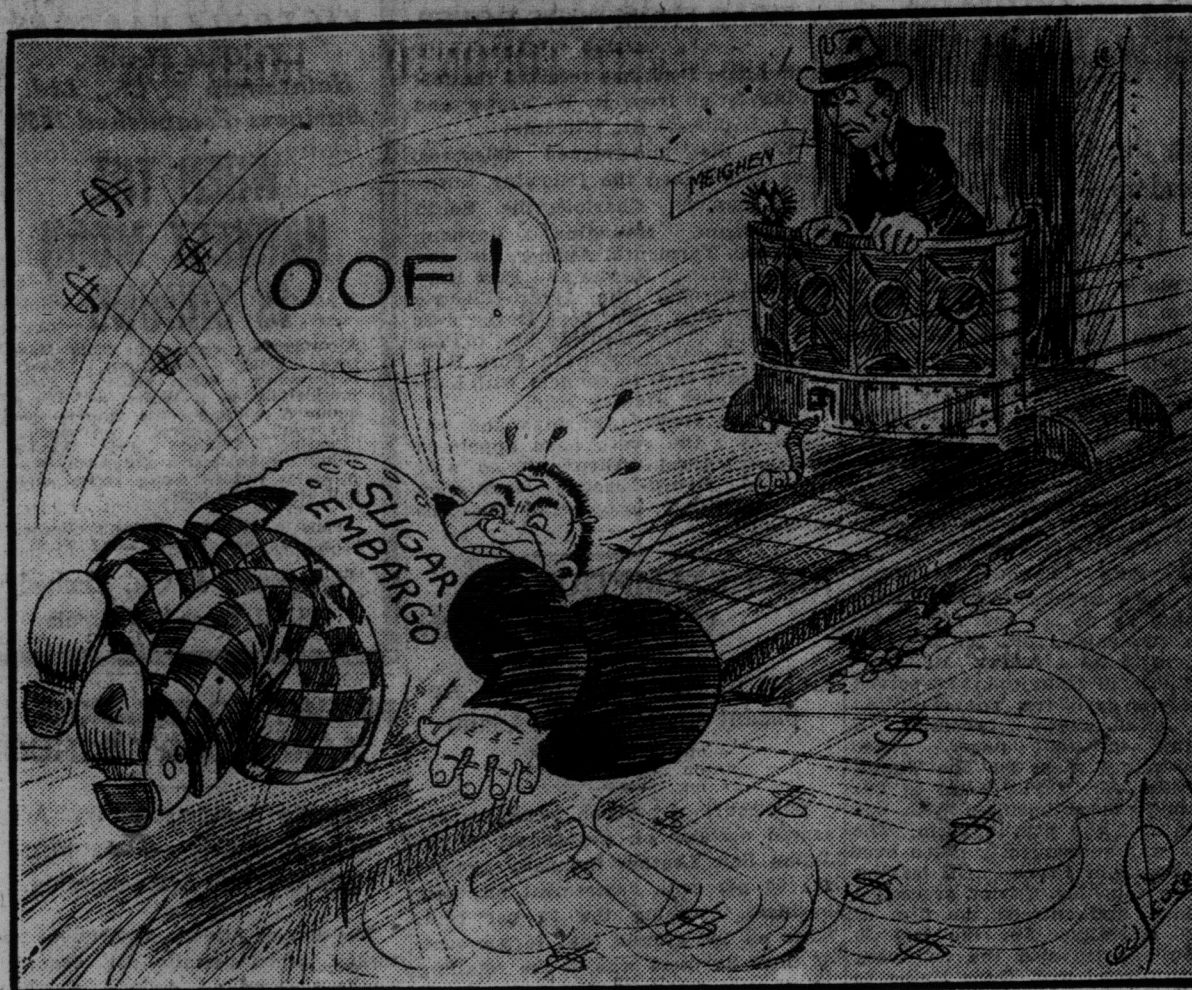
ONLY TABLETS MARKED "BAYER" ARE ASPIRIN

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ON HIS WAY TO THE WEST



WIN FOR HIGGINS WOULD AID DRURY

Ed. Stephenson Analyzes Mixed Political Situation in Northeast Toronto.

Ed. Stephenson, prominent in war veteran and labor circles, writes The World as follows: "The workingmen and war veterans of Toronto are greatly interested in the candidature of Mr. James Higgins in Northeast Toronto; and behind that interest, in the minds of many of them, is a wonderment that the Labor Party in Toronto has to date not been able to elect any candidate to public office, while in the other parts of the province labor has made many notable gains. A critical analysis of some of the reasons may serve to disillusion them as to what will happen on Nov. 8, and I think The World could do much to dissipate what might be called the nebulous unrest in the minds of a host of workers if it opened its columns to a discussion on the question 'Why is it that in this Queen City of the banner province of Canada, no gains have been made and the legitimate political aspirations of workingmen, whilst practically everywhere else through the civilized world political labor has forged ahead?' Mayor MacBride of Brantford is not far astray in his criticisms of the Ontario Labor Party. Like any other party, it must be judged by the company it keeps, also by its deeds rather than its words. In the present instance, Mr. Higgins' candidature represents to the electors of Northeast Toronto endorsement of Messrs. Simpson, Flynn and Drury—in the order named."

Would Help Drury. Intimidation has been given in the city press that the Raney government is not concerning itself with this Northeast Toronto by-election, and will not try to put up a candidate. This is typically disingenuous. A la Raney, et al. The labor party represents the coalition in the urban ridings of Ontario, and when it names a candidate in any such riding, its nominee must be considered to represent the coalition. If there were any doubt on this point, it is dispelled editorially in the last issue of the Industrial Banner, (edited by James Simpson), just elected president of the Toronto Labor Party, of which body it is the official organ. The Jimmy Banner says: "Mr. Drury's masterly handling of the many difficult problems that have arisen has won for his government the admiration of all fair-minded people. It is now squarely up to the labor-soldier forces to take off their coats and get into the fight in deadly earnest to send James Higgins to strengthen Premier Drury's hands."

Locally and parochially, the extremists among war veterans are pretty well concentrated into one organization—which is we. The Labor party is dominated by pacifists, extremists and "tangential" philosophers, with straight-going trade unionists outclassed. The pet idea in these incon-

gruous groups is that by combination they may attain a measure of power and build up a caucus dictatorship which would put the palmist days in Australia in the shade. As an instance, the manner in which McNamara of Riverdale was "driven out of public life" (sic) just after his election may be remembered.

Evils of Caucus Government. Caucus government in any form is vicious, and Mayor MacBride is right in dissociating himself from it entirely. What has it gained for the workers of Ontario in the last year? The Labor group of eleven members, if there had been a Tory or Grit government returned, would have promptly presented a comprehensive eight-hour day bill and fought for its passage in the open, to take one example; yet just a year ago they engaged in back-lane, pourparlers, and for the sake of playing second fiddle in public office at Queen's Park, they agreed to compromise a number of emphatic Labor principles which they had endorsed for years—and which brought them votes a week before! Within the last year, on innumerable occasions, their hands have been tied and their tongues stilled by the necessity of catering to Mr. Raney's political program.

Peddled Nomination. And now what is the genesis of Mr. Higgins' candidature? When Hon. Dr. Cody announced his retirement from the seat, almost overnight the United Veterans' League rushed toward it. It was stated that a conference was held, attended by twenty-two persons, of whom six sought the "nomination." A Major Stoddard was chosen. Meanwhile, in more leisurely fashion the Labor party canvassed the situation, and finding the ice thin, peddled its nomination around among persons who might be able to add to a light Labor vote. Mr. Higgins has secured what they declined; exit Major Stoddard.

Before the war, the local reds used to sing "The cowards laugh and traitors sneer, we'll keep the red flag flying here." When Russia defaulted from the allied fighting line, "workmen and soldiers' councils" sprung up over the country like mushrooms, with what results we know. For some time the local radicals who had to sing small while the war was on, sent the delusion that they might achieve somewhat the same results in Toronto, if they could only fan the discontent of a certain element of war veterans and make impossible promises to them.

When Mr. Higgins appeals for support in Northeast Toronto, he should make a careful inventory of the support he already has.

REPEAT ARGUMENTS AGAINST WATERWAY

St. Lawrence Once More Denounced by New York Commercial Organizations.

New York, Oct. 21.—Opponents of the St. Lawrence waterway project appeared before the international joint commission through the day. Their repeated arguments were the same. They declared that the project was unsound economically. The traffic would be mostly one-way, and the navigation season short; they said, adding that lake vessels were unqualified for sea voyages and that the marine insurance would be costly because of the hazards of the St. Lawrence River.

The commission closed its hearings late today and departed for Detroit. Their arguments comprise the remainder of the week. Then they will go to Minneapolis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Cleveland in succession.

Intimations that Canada is anxious to have the United States bear a large share of the expense of constructing the proposed St. Lawrence waterway is resented by the people of the Dominion, today declared Charles M. McGrath, chairman of the Canadian section of the commission.

Mr. McGrath made this statement at a hearing before the commission here, when Emil P. Albrecht, president of the Philadelphia Bourse, speaking in opposition to the plan, declared that "if Canada wants this canal, let her pay for it."

Mr. Albrecht, warning of peril to United States investment in the enterprise in case of war with Great Britain, had added that "instead of having a new Mediterranean, the

THE HOUSE 'ROUND THE CORNER

By GORDON HOLMES

CHAPTER XI. (Continued.)

He had passed in at the gate in full view of a couple of girls of his acquaintance, and knew that they were glancing over their yew hedge when the front door opened and he was admitted. He was shown into a library, where Mr. Dobb awaited him. The lawyer motioned him to a chair of his visit that day.

"Now, Mr. Walker," he said curtly, "would you mind telling me exactly what happened at Elmdale this afternoon?"

James sat down. Unfortunately, the furniture provided a placid harmony in oak, so the seat of the chair was hard, even tho it shone with the subdued polish of a hundred years of careful use and elbow grease applied by many generations of vigorous housemaids.

"With your permission, sir, I—er—think I'd better begin—at a little earlier."

"What's the matter? Isn't that chair comfortable?"

Mr. Dobb was clerk to the magistrates in the Nuttonby Petty Sessions; his pet abhorrence was a fidgety witness, and Walker was obviously ill at ease.

"The fact is, sir, I'm a bit saddle-galled. If you don't mind—"

"Certainly. Take that easy chair. What occurred a little earlier which you think I ought to know?"

Walker had been disagreeably reminded of Armathwaite, but he kept a venomous tongue well under control. He told the lawyer the circumstances under which Armathwaite, confessedly a complete stranger, had entered into the tenancy of the Grange, and described the journey to Elmdale, together with the curious behavior of the Jackson family. He was scrupulously accurate in his account of the cause and extent of his visit that day, even going so far as to admit that there was "a sort of a scuffle" between Armathwaite and himself.

Mr. Dobb listened in silence. At the end, he fixed a singularly penetrating glance on the narrator.

"In plain English, I suppose," he said, "this man, Armathwaite, bundled you out neck and crop?"

"No, sir. Not exactly that. But I couldn't fight him in Miss Meg's presence."

"Yet, from what you have told me, I gather that Mr. Armathwaite is a

gentleman?"

"He has all the airs of one," said Walker.

"And he must have thought you had behaved discourteously to his cousin before he would use actual violence towards you?"

"Nothing of the sort, sir. Miss Meg jumped down my throat for no reason whatever. Of course, Mr. Armathwaite hadn't heard the beginning of it, and may have imagined I was to blame, but I wasn't."

"Perhaps there is an explanation that may be news to you. You are not aware, I take it, that Mrs. Garth is now Mrs. Ogilvie?"

"By jing!" cried Walker, rather forgetting himself, "that's the name! Bland tried to tell me, but he couldn't rightly get his tongue round it."

"Probably. But don't you see the bearing this important fact has on today's proceedings? I have reason to believe that Mrs. Garth and her daughter disagreed with Mr. Garth before his death. At any rate, she seems to have married again within a very short time, and Miss Meg may have fancied that you were trying purposely to insult and annoy her by referring to a bygone tragedy. The mere presence of this Mr. Armathwaite, who is wholly unknown here, lends color to that assumption. He may be a 'cousin' by the second marriage. It is even conceivable that Mrs. Ogilvie, as Mrs. Garth now is, did not wish her second husband's relatives to know of the way in which her first husband met his death. The fact that Mr. Armathwaite rented the Grange can be regarded as nothing more than an ordinary coincidence. Isn't it possible, Mr. Walker, that you blundered very seriously in thrusting yourself into Miss Meg's presence, and forcing an unpalatable revelation on her?"

Walker's red face positively blanched. For one instant his nerve failed him.

"I never thought of that," he muttered, in dire confusion.

"It strikes me as a perfectly tenable theory," said Dobb, rising, and thereby showing that the interview was at an end. "You took me rather by surprise when you called me out of my office this afternoon, but I have given the matter some calm reflection in the interim, and have come to the conclusion that you found in Elmdale what is vulgarly known as a mare's nest."

Continued Tomorrow Morning.



To the Rescue!

"Grace Darlings of the Sea"

Sailors instinctively respect women. Their ancient and honorable code is: "Women and children first."

But the sailor's life is a lonely one and perilous. He is out of contact with women the greater part of his time.

On the other hand, the romance of the sea and its perils awakens a certain mother-instinct in women.

And, tomorrow, many women will, in sweet charity and helpfulness, devote themselves to raising funds for the work of the Navy League, by selling tags.

If ever a Tag as a symbol was worth its price, it will be worth it tomorrow.

Get tagged early. Give liberally for it.

The Navy League of Canada

Campaign Headquarters—35 King Street West, Toronto. Adel. 6151.