The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 4.

Blaming the Militia Department.

The scenes at the North Toronto station last Sunday night were most distressing, and much resentment is expressed at the way the militia department managed the return of the soldiers and soldiers' wives. That relatives should have been obliged to wait about a crowded station for twelve hours and longer is deplorable, and there seems to have been something like callousness in providing for the comfort of the soldiers' wives who had to wait over in Toronto for westbound trains.

We can take it for granted that the civic officials and the various organizations of returned soldiers did all they could do in the premises. We cannot say as much for the railway companies. We are not prepared to say that some officials of the militia department do not deserve to be censured, but we do suggest that all the blame should not be laid upon that department.

A good many people every winter wait at the Union Station for hours for a train and may find themselves laid out for a day trying to get from here to Buffalo. Our railways break down utterly under the stress of severe weather conditions, and they often break down badly when conditions are apparently most favorable. The military authorities may entrain men at the proper time and place, but no human power can divine when they will arrive at their destination. That depends upon the transportation companies, and the only thing that can be assumed with safety is that the train will lose time getting out of the station and keep on losing time all the rest of the way.

As we pointed out yesterday in The World, the railways of Canada should at the beginning of the war, have been consolidated in one system, and then the engines and cars of the railways would be three times as efficient under the management as they are now under three. A double track is four times as efficient as a single track, perhaps more so; and one dispatcher, with the proper sidings on a double track, can handle four times the trains efficiently that can be handled on a single track system; but for some reason or other we have not yet achieved this consolidated form of operation in this country, or at best we have only achieved it in part.

Surely the Grand Trunk, if it is to be taken over, should be taken over forthwith, and be used in connection with the Intercolonial, the Canadian Northern, and the National Transcontinental in bringing back our soldiers. And it is also a question whether once the soldiers are turned over to the railway, whether the railway should be held responsible for taking care of the men and their delivery at the point of destination.

In connection with the department of militia, it must not be overlooked that the responsibility and work is much greater than ever. Outside of fighting at the front the department has to keep up everything that we have maintained there since the war began, and on top of that we have the return of the troops, and if we have not the dispatch of troops from this side our department of militia must handle returning soldiers; and we have a great hospital problem to administer now on this side, as well as keeping up our hospitals on the other side. We are building clearing stations on this side in place of the barracks we have on the other side, and the duties of the pension bureau will greatly increase here, and so will the paymaster's department. In many ways the minister of militia and his staff will find themselves taxed with new duties. We believe that General Mewburn will work these out; but he ought to have better railway support.

A Case in Point.

We have been saying a good deal for the past two or three years about proportional representation, and we have been pointing out that it is a democratic measure, and that those who oppose it object to a real democracy. It means representation of the real opinion of the people.

The election in North Huron on Monday shows the sort of election which is not democratic. According to the voting there were 6319 votes polled. A majority candidate should have had 3160 votes to elect him. As it was, the successful candidate not only fell short of that number, but he was in a minority of 139 votes. The votes of the third candidate should have been divided according to a second choice vote between the other two, when the true majority would have been determined, or some other honest democratic device, such as the French second poll, should be adopted.

It is immaterial to the argument whether Liberal or Conservative be elected. The point is that the government leaders shrink from an honest democratic expression of opinion, and in this particular case the verdict of the people is against them.

The independent Conservative candidate, whose run defeated the government candidate, is independent of what? Obviously, the party machine. That is always what the revolt is against. The local forces do not usually object to the government until the government under machine control becomes effete.

A democratic form of voting at elections would not only deliver the people but the government also from machine control. This is why it is necessary to press such a reform upon the government beyond everything else.

Is it not plain that the revolt in so-called democratic countries against governments is on account of the machine control that makes free government impossible. The people have no influence in government. The machine provides all sorts of shock absorbers, and finally the people give up in despair and Bolshevism starts to raise its ugly head.

Nowhere on earth is political machine rule better illustrated than in Toronto. The fruits of it are plain to be seen. Even such well-intentioned purposes as the appointment of Hon. Dr. Cody indicates are frustrated by the safe old machine, which takes him carefully in charge and sees that he will do nothing offensive to machine conceptions.

Proportional representation means trusting the people and trusting them all the way. It avoids flim-flam elections. It gives minorities their fair representation. It does not permit majorities to be wiped out of their rights. And it abolishes the evil functions of the machine. No one objects to the other machine activities, but the government that will not emancipate the people from machine dictation must be prepared to meet demands of a more drastic character.

Other People's Opinions

Returned Soldiers' Great Danger.

Editor World: Under the heading, "Justice for the Returned Soldier," there appears in your issue of today a letter from Mr. Ralph Connable asking for a square deal for the returned soldier.

As a returned man I cannot agree with the writer, that these special boards, etc., are necessary for the solving of the so-called problem of the returned soldier.

The great danger in Canada and other countries is the desire to segregate the problem of unemployment as it affects the returned soldier, from that of the rest of the community. This danger arises from the fact that segregation must inevitably result in the commercializing of the returned soldiers' disabilities. Mr. Connable suggests that these boards should be representative of boards of trade, chambers of commerce and like organizations; no mention of Labor or the returned soldier.

The returned man can only be recognized as an object of private and public charity. I have in mind in making this statement the fact that when thousands of returned men have come back to their homeland and stated that certain conditions existed, a delegation of carpet-baggers has been struck off to inquire and inevitably find out that the returned men and the truth had nothing in common.

The greatest danger is that the brainy ones in power, and a large portion of the public, have absolutely forgotten the reason why these contemptible men went away—to make the world safe for democracy. If they find out when they return that they have NOT accomplished their task, then there is no other alternative than to continue the good work by treating autocracy in Canada as they have done in Europe.

In other words, Mr. Connable, all the returned man asks is that he having paid the price, it is up to the powers that be to deliver the goods. Otherwise, he will have to collect.

William Varley.

100 Doel avenue, Dec. 2.

Terrible Death Toll Taken By Tuberculosis in Canada

Montreal, Dec. 3.—Almost as many of the people of Canada died of tuberculosis during the four years of war as there were Canadian soldiers killed in battle during the same period, while the number of civilians at home stricken with the great white plague during the four years nearly equals the number of Canadian soldiers reported sick or wounded in the casualty lists for the entire period of the war.

This startling statement was made yesterday by Dr. Harding, secretary to the Royal Edward Institute for Tuberculosis, in giving a brief summary of the institute's work in combating the disease.

Duchess of Devonshire to Sail For England Next Sunday

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 3.—Among the passengers on H.M. transport Aquitania, sailing from here on Sunday for England, will be Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire, wife of the governor-general of Canada, and her daughter, Lady Maude Mackintosh.

CONSTANTINOPLE GREEKS' JOY.

Salonica, Dec. 3.—Reports received here from Constantinople describe the rejoicing there by the hundreds of thousands of Greek residents when the allied soldiers and sailors, among whom were Greek representatives, entered the Ottoman capital recently. The Greeks held a parade, singing the Greek national anthem as they marched, evidencing their joy at being freed from Turkish rule by the arrival of the allied forces.

AN UNREPENTANT PRODIGAL

POLITICAL NOTES

The Kingston Standard (Con,) calls upon Hon. T. A. Crerar, minister of agriculture, to resign his portfolio. It charges that Mr. Crerar took an active part in framing the recent radical low-tariff platform adopted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and thereby placed himself in open opposition to the policy of the Union government. The Standard says that the minister should at once declare himself on the tariff question, and, if he champions the Winnipeg platform, he should retire from the government.

The Ottawa correspondent of The Toronto News wires his paper that Mr. Crerar did tender his resignation to the prime minister before the latter's departure for England, and that Sir Robert asked him to remain in the cabinet and carry on his department until peace was signed, or, at least, until the prime minister's return to Canada. The News correspondent has no doubt that the grain growers' platform reflects the views of Mr. Crerar and of many western Unionist members on the tariff question. Nevertheless, he believes that the west will remain loyal to Union government and permit the tariff question to remain in abeyance for another session. Then he anticipates that Sir Robert Borden will reconstruct his government, which may be a Unionist, but is likely to be a straight-out Conservative government, and we are told:

The cabinet is looking for a lively session and severe criticism attacks from its own benches, but it expects to be able to hold its majority until Sir Robert returns from the peace conference. While it is useless to predict what will happen then, it is believed he will reorganize his cabinet on a strong basis and steps will be taken to settle the future of Unionism. A conference of supporters will be held, a platform will be drawn, and it will be decided whether to return to the old name of Conservative or to adopt a new name. This would probably depend upon how large an element of the Liberal Unionists who supported Sir Robert in 1917 are prepared to remain by Sir Robert.

The Mail and Empire insists that every member of parliament returned as a Unionist must continue to support Union government or be guilty of a breach of faith, and says:

Men who were elected as supporters of the Union government cannot now break away from it and salve their conscience by saying that their support was pledged only for the duration of the war. The war is not over, and will not be over until the treaty of peace is signed and ratified. Moreover, the period of belligerency cannot be understood by any candid member of the house of commons as that within which the whole of the nation's war business is confined. The work of civil re-establishment is the work of the Union government. All that has been devised in the way of reconstruction policy and reconstruction apparatus is the work of the Union government. And the member who, having accepted nomination as a Union government candidate, now turns against the Union government, is guilty of a breach of faith to his electors, and a more grievous breach of faith to the country's defenders.

There is little reason to believe, however, that the Unionist members from the west will agree to shelve the tariff question for the lifetime of this parliament or for any considerable time. The Toronto Globe sees an irreconcilable conflict on the tariff question, and does not agree with H. M. Mowat, M.P., in believing that a compromise can be effected which will place Ontario Conservative protectionists in harmony with the western Liberal free traders. Politics make strange bedfellows, but, sooner or later, the strange bedfellows are apt to kick or try to kick one another out of bed. The Globe thinks an election, with the tariff question as the issue, almost inevitable, but would like to see it deferred for another year, and urges the supporters of Union government to hang together for at least one more session. Commenting upon Mr. Mowat's recent letter to the Ward Six Conservative Association, The Globe says:

There is in this not only a repudiation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's leadership, but an expression of opinion that a policy on the tariff question can be formulated by the Unionist government which will result in a permanent alliance of Unionist Liberals and Conservatives. The Globe has no such expectation in view of the extreme protectionist position of the "ginger" group of the Conservative party in Ontario, and of the free trade sentiment of the western agriculturists, as expressed in the manifesto of the council of agriculture. It was because the Liberals, when they came into power, made no radical changes in the National Policy, that the western Liberals from year to year became more restive and more determined to make their voice heard, when their numbers were increased by redistribution. They were overwhelmingly for Union and against Laurier on the conscription issue, but they will be as strongly opposed to Borden and the high protectionists on the tariff issue when it comes up.

CRERAR SHOULD STATE WHERE HE NOW STANDS

Kingston, Dec. 3.—The Daily Standard today editorially questions whether Hon. Mr. Crerar can consistently continue a member of the Union government. It points out that he was one of the leading spirits at the farmers' convention at Winnipeg, and it is understood helped to draft the very radical platform of principles, which the convention finally adopted—principles in many cases absolutely at variance with the policy of the government of which Hon. Mr. Crerar is a member.

The platform in effect is a refutation of the policy or policies of this very Union government, and apparently puts Mr. Crerar in the unfortunate and anomalous position of fouling his own political nest. For this reason, The Standard says, Mr. Crerar should state definitely just where he stands, and if he champions the Winnipeg platform he should retire from the government.

Inland Revenue Department October Receipts Show Increase

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—The inland revenue department receipts for October were $4,337,348, an increase of $1,435,969 over the corresponding month last year. Tobaccos and cigars brought in a little over two million dollars, and the war taxes totaled $1,334,452.

LACK MUNICIPAL COAL.

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—There was only one ton of coal in the basement at the Hull city hall last night, and as a result the regular meeting of the city council was held in Mayor Archambault's office.

The mayor announced that the coal situation, as far as the city hall was concerned, was very serious.

COL. A. M. GORDON WINS D.S.O.

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—Lieut.-Col. Alexander M. Gordon, M.C., of the Chaplaincy Service, has been awarded the D.S.O., for his gallant services, according to a cabiegram from London. Col. Gordon is a son of the late Dr. Gordon, principal of Queen's University.

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on the paid-up Capital Stock of the Corporation, has been declared, and that the same will be payable

THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF JANUARY,

next, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on the fourteenth day of December.

By order of the Board.

GEO. H. SMITH,

Assistant General Manager.

Toronto, November 27th, 1918.

IDA AND SOLDIERS' INSURANCE

BY IDA L. WEBSTER.

What a wonderful thing it is for the citizens of Toronto to be represented by men who have not the required red blood in their veins which it takes to keep a bargain. Men who were only too glad to go to the depot to wave flags at the departing soldiers some four years ago, but who are too small to keep the faith which they pledged to them at that time.

The City of Toronto, represented by no matter whom, promised every man who enlisted in the city, that he would be insured for the sum of $1000, providing of course, that he was a resident. They did not say that if his dependents lived outside of Toronto the money would not be paid. In fact, they did not make any stipulations. At the time they were so busy trying to get the men away to fight the battles for the country that they would have promised them anything under the heavens.

Also there was a great deal of glory connected with being a member of a city council that was going to give the whole of a thousand dollars to the dependents of the man, or boys, who laid down his life so that the rising generation might be safe for all time. Why, the very fact that so much money was at stake was like unto a halo which would go far in crowning them kings of the earth. And besides that, the persons who inherited this insurance money would sing their praises forever more, or rather so they thought.

Unfortunately "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley." In other words the people took their thousand dollars insurance and forgot to pussy-foot it around to the various members of the city council, and thank them for the wonderful free gift. Men who were worth any amount of money went down to the city hall, and collected their pound of flesh, these same persons not being barred in the contract as it was made by the city.

A millionaire had as much right to the insurance on a soldier's life, as the poorest person on record. Also there were cases of people getting the money, when they were not entitled to it (that not being anything new, particularly after looking over a few councillors), but at the same time this so outraged the members of the city council that they felt in duty bound to the citizens who were being taxed to pay for this insurance, that the promise which was made to the departing soldiers should be broken, and the whole business discarded, unless sworn affidavits could be produced which would prove that the boy's family had not left the City of Toronto for over an hour during the last 43 years.

Controller McBride introduced a resolution asking that this insurance dodge be arranged so that the needy dependents of soldiers, now deceased, be given the money. His was the only action under the circumstances, but it is too bad that such a step was necessary in the first place. Because surely the most grouchy, and grasping man in Toronto would not ask that faith be broken with the dead? However, the amendment was argued for two hours and fifty-five minutes, and then the members of the city council could not decide to act like men and pay what had already been pledged, but they must needs have a special meeting on Friday, and rant for another three hours. In all likelihood they will be as far from reaching a decision then as they are now.

In all there is $450,000 to be paid. A sum which is thrown away a dozen times a year for some fool thing or other, but right now these men who are so anxious (?) to work for the taxpayers are just as anxious to be re-elected, and, no doubt, they are laboring under the impression that the citizens do not wish to retain faith with those who are not here to speak for themselves.

In this thought the worthy gentlemen are wrong, and what is more, we cannot imagine how they could hope to be elected next year, when the people have had it proven to them that they cannot loyally represent the dead, let alone the living. There is absolutely no reason on earth why this insurance question should be put to the people for a vote, because for one thing it would be passed with a flying majority, and for another it would show the people better than anything else how incapable their representives are.

The city council are marvelous when it comes to passing resolutions for cables to be sent to Sir Robert Borden asking that the kaiser be handled roughly on account of the suffering which he caused the citizens of Toronto. Things of that sort, which are merely demonstrations of small townness, get by them with cheers. As for the resolution itself, it was superfluous. Sir Robert Borden, for one thing, was too shy to enforce conscription in Quebec, therefore it is only natural to imagine that he would be too reticent to hand any resolution to Foch, Haig, or Pershing. And if he did it would be only a matter of presumption, as those men do not need to be told by the city council of Toronto what to do with the exkaiser.

In fact, all that really matters in connection with the war at the present moment is the paying of the blood money earned by the dependents of the men who went over and made today possible for us all. If the sleeping of lads in Flanders depends upon the faith which the City of Toronto will keep with them, then they will not rest very well, unless the members act like men at Friday's meeting, instead of a lot of loan sharks.

TODAY'S POEM.

TRAGEDY.

By Robert Todd.

A hand is laid on my shoulder,
A voice comes out of the night,
A sob—and my heart is breaking,
The world will never be right.

Toronto, Canada.

QUICK SETTLEMENT.

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—The minister of labor has been advised of the settlement of the dispute between the Eastern Car Co., of New Glasgow, and its employes. A board of conciliation was established to investigate the dispute, under the chairmanship of Judge Coatsworth of Toronto, but a settlement was effected before the board could get to work.

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THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

Ruth Learns That Mandel Loves Her.

CHAPTER CII.

Ruth held her breath. Oh, why had such a thing happened? Mr. Mandel had been so good to her, and thru her he would lose this wealthy customer. Perhaps, too, he would think it partly her fault that this man had acted as he had—that she had in some way encouraged his advances.

With an unpleasant sneer on his face the customer had replied to Mandel's threat to throw him out if he did not go at once:

"You wish to keep everything for yourself, I suppose. I must congratulate you upon your taste," then before Mandel, who had turned purple with anger, could reply, he turned and walked swiftly out.

"Come in here," Mandel said to Ruth, as he opened the door of his private office.

He pushed an easy chair toward her, and she sank weakly into it, her eyes filling.

"I'm so sorry—I—"

"Please do not explain," Mandel interrupted. "I saw and heard enough to know that no blame could possibly attach to you."

"But—I have lost you a good customer."

"Never mind that! I would not have had this happen for all the customers in New York. You are more to me, Ruth—than any customer—more than anyone in the world. You know that—I have not been able to hide it from you. And when I saw that man offer you insult it was almost more than I could stand. You are not offended with me, too, are you, dear?" Ruth had covered her face with her hands. "A good man's love never hurt any woman, even tho it cannot be returned."

His voice had trembled a little at the last. He feared he had been precipitate, even tho he had waited so long to tell her of his love. But he was sure Brian cared nothing for Ruth; that he was unfaithful, and that Ruth was unhappy. Her eyes, which so often of late had shown traces of tears, signs of which she was unconscious, had added to his feeling that in time he would win her for his own.

"Oh—please," she begged, lifting her face to him and letting him see the pleading in her eyes.

"Forgive me." He was contrite in a moment. "But you will understand how upset I was when I saw your distress, and you will forgive me. Here, drink this; you are trembling like a leaf," and opening a small cellarette in the corner, he gave her a glass of wine.

Ruth drained it eagerly. Desperately did she long to recover her poise, to show this man that he, too, had offended her by speaking as he had, and yet, in a way, she was so grateful to him that she was not really angry.

"I think I will go—if you think I can be spared," she said haltingly.

"You mean—to—leave—me—because I—"

She nodded.

"Ruth, Mrs. Hackett, won't you accept my apology, and let things be as if I never had spoken? I promise I shall not offend again."

Ruth was of course unconscious of the mental reservation he had made that he would say nothing more while she remained with Brian. He really believed this a matter of a short time; and he was a very patient man.

"I should love to stay if—"

"You may trust me. Now I am going out to talk to LaMonte. Stay here until you have fully recovered." And without a backward look Mandel passed out, leaving Ruth sitting alone.

"Oh, what shall I do?" she moaned.

Ruth had sensed the desire, the love in Mandel's voice, and it had distressed her. Not entirely because she had no right to listen, but because she had hurt this man who had been so good to her. Hurt him because he loved her. Her mind flew to Brian. What would he think if he knew of the morning's happenings? He would surely say she had been to blame, if for no other reason than because she had gone to work against his wishes. She must not tell him. It would be the first thing she ever had kept from him, the first secret between them.

For an hour Ruth remained quietly in Mandel's private office. The door opened and the office boy came in with a large tray which he placed upon the desk before her; and then again she was alone. She lifted the napkin, and a delicious luncheon, dainty and appetizing, was revealed. Her eyes filled again at this mark of thoughtfulness, and half an hour later when she thanked Mandel for it, she told him with a tremulous laugh that she had watered it with her tears before she could eat, and all because of his kindness.

Then she went back to her desk. But all that afternoon she carried thoughts of Mandel in her heart, kind thoughts almost obliterating what the other man had said and done, and in a measure winning her to look upon what her employer had said to her in a different spirit from the one she had been in while he talked.

No, she would not tell Brian, she decided, on her way home.

Tomorrow—Brian Receives a Mysterious Telephone Message.

A Line of Cheer Each Day of the Year

By John Kendrick Bangs.

SERVICE.

Down in a darkened street,
Noisy with hurried feet,
Down in a vale of care,
Blossomed a lily fair.

Set on a murky stone,
Blossoming there alone,
Pure as the whitest snow,
Grace in the midst of woe.

Giving with all its power
Beauty in fullest dower
Unto the Sons of Toil
Down in the murk and moil.

Cheering the ugly way,
Easing the hopeless day,
Serving with tenderness
Souls in the grip of stress.

(Copyright, 1918.)

Changes and Appointments In Canadian Northern

Circulars covering the appointments and defining the jurisdiction of a number of important officers of the amalgamated Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government Railways, will be issued at headquarters here today. In each case the new order is already in effect.

The jurisdiction of M. H. MacLeod, vice-president of the Canadian Northern Railway System, in charge of operation, maintenance and construction, is extended to include all the lines of the Canadian Government railways. Office at Toronto.

C. A. Hayes is appointed vice-president in charge of traffic, with jurisdiction over all lines of the Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government railways. Office at Toronto.

Gerard Ruel is appointed counsel, with jurisdiction over all the lines of the Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government railways, Hon. F. H. Phippen, K.C., having resigned as general counsel of the Canadian Northern Railway System. Office at Toronto.

The jurisdiction of R. C. Vaughan, senior assistant to the president, is extended to include the Canadian Government railways. Office at Toronto.

A. J. Hills is appointed an assistant to the president, with jurisdiction over all lines of the Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government railways. Mr. Hills will give special attention to adjustment of wages and working conditions, also supervision over the department of resources. Office at Toronto.

S. J. Hungerford is appointed assistant vice-president of operation, maintenance and construction, with jurisdiction over all lines of Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government railways. Office at Toronto.

The jurisdiction of A. E. Warren, general manager Canadian Northern Railway, western lines, is extended to include all Canadian Government railway lines west of O'Brien. Headquarters at Winnipeg.

F. P. Brady is appointed general manager Canadian Northern Railway lines east of Port Arthur and all Canadian Government railway lines east of O'Brien. Headquarters at Montreal.

W. A. Kingsland is appointed assistant general manager Canadian Northern Railway lines east of Port Arthur and all Canadian Government railway lines east of O'Brien. Headquarters at Montreal.

J. P. Driscoll is appointed general superintendent of car service, with jurisdiction over all lines of the Canadian Northern Railway System and Canadian Government railways. Office at Toronto.

The jurisdiction of E. Langham, general purchasing agent of the Canadian Northern Railway System is extended to include all the Canadian Government railway lines. Headquarters at Toronto.

L. LaVoie has been appointed assistant general purchasing agent with headquarters at Toronto.

GARFIELD RESIGNS.

Announced That President Wilson Has Accepted Resignation.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Fuel Administrator Garfield has resigned and President Wilson has accepted his resignation. This was announced tonight at the White House.

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