

The Toronto World.

An Independent Liberal Newspaper.
Published every morning at five o'clock at No. 10 King street east. Extra editions are published whenever there is news of sufficient moment to demand them.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
Twenty-five cents a month, or \$3 a year in advance, post-paid. Single copies one cent. Sold on the streets and by news-vendors in every city and town in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba.

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This Canada of ours is a fine mission field for tutors and governors.

THE MAIL BAG BUMPERS.
National pride may cause us Canadians to peep-pool the complaint of the United States post-office officials that we are using mail bags that do not belong to us; but if we look squarely at the facts we cannot avoid the conclusion that our neighbors are in the right and we are in the wrong.

Postmaster-general James' recent letter to the department at Ottawa gives figures and cites instances which show clearly that our postal officials have been appropriating hundreds of United States mail bags for our ordinary internal postal service, while their officials have used virtually none of ours. The New York postmaster, under date of August 4, reports:

"We make no use of Canadian bags for local service, but return every all that are received from Canada. Have never known them to be so used. We sent there during June 963 United States bags. Up to June 16th we had received back 337, for which we sent receipts."

The Detroit postmaster also reports: "Have never known a Canadian bag or pouch to have been used as stated. Only one of our men has ever seen a Canadian pouch in the United States, and then only one, and that over five years ago."

Mr. James' letter further shows that regulations were agreed to by the post-office departments of the two countries, requiring, in effect, that each country should despatch mails only in its own bags, and that each should return the bags of the other empty. The sole cause of the present difficulty is that our authorities have neglected to carry this simple arrangement out.

Our own candor and a knowledge of the facts force us to make this unpleasant admission. Somebody is to blame for it—who is the somebody?

We believe the whole truth of the matter lies in the fact that the Canadian post-office department is without a competent head. Ever since that most important branch of the public service has been in the hands of John O'Connor, it has been mismanaged simply shamefully. If he made no pretence of doing anything more than draw his salary, we might at least have some assurance that the affairs of the department would be attended to by his subordinates; but while he remains, he is worse than useless—he is positively harmful. Frequently he is quite incapable of attending to any business, to say nothing of managing a great department of the government. His ignorance of the things he ought to know is sometimes positively amusing. Last session, when he held the comfortable position of president of the council, some member asked him how many clerks he had in his department, and he could not tell, although there were only six or eight.

The first essential in a minister of the crown is that he should at any rate possess some business ability; to suppose a man to office who has none is to cheat the public. The Catholic vote is of less consequence than the public service and our national reputation; and it is due to both that John O'Connor should be asked forthwith to walk out of the post-office department, bag and baggage.

THE HITCH AT OSGOODS HALL.
A conference took place at Osgoods hall yesterday between the attorney-general and the acting superior court judges. It is understood that there is no difference between them as to the necessity of a new commission. As far as is known, Mr. Cameron is the only one of the judges who now takes the ground that a new commission ought to issue. The debatable point is, Has a new court been constituted by the act specifically declares that a new court is not created—that the change is in the name of the old court. The other party maintains that the high court of justice is a new court, and that no judge can take a seat in it who is not regularly appointed thereto. One thing is clear, that where men so able as the superior court judges and leading members of the legal profession differ in opinion there must be room for doubt. In this matter the consequences are so far-reaching that there ought to be no room left for doubt, and there needs be none. The attorney of the Ontario Legislature to pass the bill, the act cannot be dispensed. It will cost the Dominion government nothing to issue a new commission, and this seems to be the easiest and safest way out of the difficulty.

PUBLIC OPINION.
Montreal Post: Canada, under more favorable circumstances, is a better country to live in than the States, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it is our dependent condition which retards our progress. Let us try independence for a decade.

Montreal Post: Just fancy an English or an Irish judge receiving on an average a salary of \$20,000 a year, while a Canadian, with as great capacity and harder work, is doled out five thousand, or a thousand pounds sterling!

York Herald, Richmond Hill: There is no denying the fact that Canadians are the proper persons to conduct business negotiations and treaties with other nations, and the more we have of this kind of thing the better for the country. Step by step we are advancing, backward we cannot go. Let us look our future boldly in the face, and be prepared to assume all the responsibilities of our position as one of the greatest among the nations of the future.

Riquette in Conversation.
Do not manifest impatience. Do not find fault, though you may gently criticize. Do not talk of your private, personal and family matters. Do not appear to notice any of the speakers in the hall. Do not allow yourselves to lose temper and speak excitedly. Do not allude to unfortunate peculiarities of any one present. Do not always commence a conversation by alluding to the weather. Do not talk very loud. Do not be absent-minded, requiring the speaker to repeat what has been said. Do not be so sure of your own opinion that you force yourself into the confidence of others; if they give their confidence, never betray it.

IS SCARCITY WEALTH?
To the Editor of the Toronto World.
Sir,—Although Mr. Phipps has passed me by with only a laudatory postscript, and addressed his reply solely to "Querist," I may be permitted to give vent to the "Reformer" as "one who knows too much about free trade and protection to benefit by any information from him." We are proud to see that Mr. Phipps can thus generally recognize merit in an opponent. Since his reply to "Querist," however, continues to display illogical errors, it is evident he has not recognized the "vision" of the views presented for his consideration.

Mr. Phipps has not even conquered his habit of selecting dangerously explosive illustrations. Think of it! Here is his illustration of his axiom that "scarcity can mean riches." But if the people had been in Toronto, and finds scarcely an article in them, and on asking the reason, learns that there was a grand distribution of wealth last week; every one in the neighborhood became suddenly rich, and they came in and cleared the storekeepers out. The storekeepers have re-ordered, but there is great scarcity at the moment."

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she saw a poor old man travelling the highway on foot, she presented him with 500 acres to ride on, and insisted on his accepting \$50,000 to pay his toll and tavern bills.

Cyrus, King of Persia from the year 538 to 529, had some little change to begin with, and in ten years he could draw his check for \$500,000,000. He didn't haggle over the price of a slave when a man came to buy, but presented him with 1000. He at one time owned 30,000 horses, 40,000 cattle, 200,000 sheep, 15,000 asses and 25,000 slaves, and when he got tired of a palace costing \$1,000,000 he gave it away to some poor washerwoman with seven children to support. He one day sat down to a dinner which had cost \$20,000, and in the afternoon he went on a \$50,000 drunk. The police didn't run him in, or he would doubtless have insisted on paying a fine of \$20,000 and presenting him with a corner house and lot in the taniest part of Babylon.

King Menes was another well-heeled man. It was too much trouble to count his cash and so he weighed it. One day when an old friend asked him for the sum of a few dollars until Saturday night he sent him a procession of sixty asses, each animal loaded with 150 pounds of gold coin. He paid \$100,000 for a bird of paradise, a white, the same for a trick dog, and he had such a fondness for white oxen that he shelled out \$25,000 apiece for them, and at one time he had a drove of 2000. When a friend came out with the boys he made things lively. During one spree, in the city of Memphis, he gave away \$500,000, and didn't get drunk at that. At one time he had 600,000 gold chains, 1,