

The Toronto World.

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1910.

KEEP TELEPHONE BILL COMPULSORY.

Very strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the legislature to destroy the effectiveness of Mr. Charters' Telephone Bill. Where open opposition is evidently unpopular, insidious attempts are made to attain the ends of the company in other ways. The recognized corporation method is to get a joker into the bill which will nullify all its provisions. In the present instance it is hoped that the members may be induced to consent to change clause 9 so that instead of being compulsory, the Bell Company may do as it pleases about having the endorsement of the railway board.

The substitution of the word "may" for "shall" in this section would render its provisions permissive, not compulsory, and would make it necessary for every rural company requiring connection with a company having a "Bell" contract, to fight each case before a sitting of the railway and municipal board, as they now have to do before the railway commission. The expense of this and the knowledge that they would have arrayed against them "Bell" paid counsel, acting for the opposing company, would deter every company from applying for such an order, as it now does under the provisions of the Dominion Act. The Ontario Board would have no authority to make an order until it was applied for, and the hearing of each case would entail an interminable waste of time in hearing arguments on both sides, in which the small company with limited means would be no match for a company having the financial backing of the Bell Telephone Company.

If this section remains as it now is, the board would arrive at some basis as to terms, which would apply to all cases alike. The knowledge that the board had no alternative in the matter of issuing an order would result in most companies making voluntary agreements under section 8 and would further place them in the position of being able to reject any exclusive conditions which the "Bell" might propose, for the very good reason that they were prohibited by law from accepting them.

On the other hand, if this section was made permissive, the "Bell" would go on making exclusive contracts just as it is doing to-day, under the Dominion Act, and would rely upon its present methods to cajole or frighten these small companies from taking any action thru the railway and municipal board.

If this legislation is to be made effective in the matter of compelling all Ontario systems to exchange business, the only method is to make the provisions of section 9 compulsory.

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT.

It is an excellent thing that members of the government party in the legislature are in advance of the general party platform. This has been shown by a number of bills introduced on the right of the Speaker which the premier has turned down. That which Mr. A. E. Frapp brought forward as an amendment to the Assessment Act indicates the existence of opinions in the party and thruout the country a long way ahead of those of the Conservative leaders, or at least a long way ahead of anything that the Conservative leaders will confess to in public.

Not only is this good for the party but it is good for the country, since it is hopeless to expect anything of a progressive character from the present opposition. It is true that Hon. A. G. MacKay admitted that he was not shocked with Mr. Frapp's bill, but such mild encouragement as this will never rally a following.

Sir James is not always very particular about what stick he uses to beat a dog with. Anything that comes handy will do for the moment. Generally it means nothing more than that Sir James does not consider the matter in hand one for consideration, or ripe for treatment. He was pleased to denounce Mr. Frapp's bill as a nostrum and to pooh-pooh the petitions of 270 municipalities; but that is an ordinary method of debate.

Sir James concluded with the reflection that it was strange that a piece of land could be taken away from him, but that he could put away 100,000 worth of bonds in the bank and not have it touched. Had he forgotten all about the succession duties, which carry out the principle of Mr. Frapp's bill in this very respect?

DERELICT OFFICIALS.

Officials of 1212 Lake have certainly been derelict in their duty. People who have written over and over again about their tax bills since the levy last fall received no answer, and no notifications were sent to them. After repeated applications to the mayor, the treasurer, the assessment department, the reeve and others, the tax collector sends a notice untempered and without any further information than the amount of the tax and the statement of an

amount of interest due upon it. If Elk Lake cannot do better than this, a new set of officials will be in order.

CORPORATION "TERMINOLOGICAL INEXACTITUDES."

Statements are made by corporation counsel, under the privilege of parliamentary committees, which would be regarded as gross breaches of faith in ordinary business circles. One must suppose that Mr. Lynch-Staunton was wrongly instructed in the Bell Telephone argument. But what of the company that so instructs its counsel? Mr. Lynch-Staunton asserted that no exclusive agreements had been made between the Bell Company and independent companies for two years. This is distinctly untrue. One case is enough to cite, the others can be mentioned. On May 1, 1909, an agreement was made by the Nelson Telephone Company, of Lowville, Westworth County, with the Bell Company, in which the following clause occurs, and it is a clause inserted in all such agreements:

"The proprietors agree not to take private contracts or install instruments in the exchange limits of Halton and Burlington, or at any other points where the Bell Company is established, or connect its systems with the telephone system of any company, person or persons operating in competition with the Bell Company."

The statement made to the committee, however, had its due effect. The mischief was done, and the impression made that was wanted. But the incident shows that every statement made on behalf of an unscrupulous corporation must be verified before it is given any weight. Corporations play for big stakes, and to gain their ends and deprive the people of their rights, the correctness or incorrectness of a statement does not seem to disturb them at all.

GET BUSY, MR. JOHNSTON.

"Toronto's Traction Troubles" might be made the alliterative title of an interesting and, moreover, a partly true. In the meantime what the city needs and should have at once is a report by the city solicitor on the radial railways now operating within and without the gates.

There are half a dozen of these companies whose franchises are of vital concern, since the carrying out of the "Greater Toronto" idea within the past few years has either included sections of their lines within the city's boundaries or brought them so close that they are virtually knocking at the door. With other radials seeking entrance on the west, north and east, and the street railway franchise having eleven years to run, the atmosphere should be cleared so far as the legal department can do it.

It is all the more important, because of the railway legislation introduced by Premier Whitney, that the city should have a definite knowledge of its relationship to the existing radials. To this end let there be a close scrutiny of the charters of the Metropolitan, Toronto and Mimico, Toronto Suburban, Toronto and Scarborough, Toronto and York, and lastly of the Toronto Radial Company whose charter embraces the four first named.

The city's legal department was asked some time ago to report on the rights of these companies. That report has been delayed, but due allowance should be made for the fact that Mr. Johnston's appointment is recent, and that he has had a heavy bill of legislation with which to deal. Further postponement, cannot, however, be reasonably excused.

Judging from everyday experience, culture and refinement is not more general in Britain than it is in Canada—class for class.

Consumers must be protected from the cost to health and pocket involved in modern cold storage methods. Why not, indeed, appoint a legal limit of time, and on its expiry compel immediate public sale? Depositors, whether acting in combination or separately, may always be trusted to protect themselves.

Black bread has been placed upon the menu of the restaurant attached to the British House of Commons, and is popular with Unionist members, who acquired the taste for it in its German home. Black or white was a live topic during the general election, but possibly all parties in the house may now agree to compromise on black and white.

The British press is becoming alive to the real meaning of the tariff controversy between Canada and the United States. The Dominion should stand fast by the principle that agreements for reciprocal concessions do not justify the charge of discrimination against a country that asks for much and gives nothing at all—a worse fault than that of the Dutch.

The World stands with the 400 members of the board of trade who approved the plan of controlling the waterfront thru a commission. So long as the city's valuable possessions and services are managed honestly and efficiently in the public interest, the method is a detail important no doubt, but not paramount. Whatever will yield the best results in the best way.

Sir James Whitney charged the promoters and supporters of the proposal to allow municipalities to distinguish between site and improvement values for assessment purposes with acting without consideration. The premier

PHONE SERVICE FOR FARMERS

ELECTORS OF ONTARIO: Cut out the accompanying card, sign it, place it in an envelope, and address it to your local member at the Legislature, Queen's Park, Toronto. Mr. Charters' bill is designed chiefly in the interests of the farmers, but it will help every telephone user in the province, and will assist every independent telephone company in its struggle with a monopoly. Let your member know you want him to support it.

I am one of the voters in your constituency, and I wish you to represent me in supporting the telephone bill introduced by Mr. Samuel Charters. I want fair play to the telephone users in the province, and protection for the independent rural and farmers' companies from monopoly.

(Signed)

Address

should take his own caution to heart, for the general line of his criticism did not betray any very profound or serious study of the taxation problem. In fact, it was distinctly superficial and evidently colored by dislike of Henry George and his theories. But a reform good in itself ought not to be hampered with bell and candle on that account.

COMMISSION VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Editor World: In your issue of today the question of the appointment of a commission to govern the city is raised. However desirable such a change would be in regard to the council it would be manifold more so as a change from the present system of a educational administration.

If all of those who have served, for a longer or shorter time, as trustees, were asked, the majority of them would have to confess from experience that the work has always been very imperfectly done. Inadequate accommodation; the wretched condition of the lighting, heating, ventilation, and sanitation in many of the schools; the small cramped play-grounds; the inability to "weed out" incompetent teachers; the very defective character of the school meals; the inability to secure any radical reform to these untoward conditions has been the bitter regret of most of our trustees. The future holds out no hope of any improvement, for owing to the introduction of sectionalism, the feuds on the board are becoming more frequent, and more bitter.

The only way to get rid of the sectarian bickering, incompetency, and extravagance of the present board is by the appointment of a commission of competent persons, who can deal intelligently with our great educational problems.

John Hunter.

WILL BUY RIGHT OF WAY.

St. Lawrence Power Transmission Company Bill Reported.

OTTAWA, March 9.—During the discussion of the St. Lawrence Power Transmission Co. this morning before the private bills committee, the issue of provincial rights arose.

In connection with the expropriation clause, Lynch-Staunton, for the Ontario Government, asked that provision be made to require the consent of the province before the company could take provincial lands.

R. F. Pringle, ex-M.P., for the company, objected that Mr. Staunton's request was a departure from the regular practice.

Major Sharpe put his amendment to carry out Mr. Staunton's request. On a vote it was defeated.

Mr. Broderick and Dr. Reid urged that the "bridge" should be required to purchase its right of way. Mr. McCarthy accepted the suggestion.

"We don't propose to do as the hydro-electric commission has done and take only the right to string wires," he said. The bill was finally carried, its scope being extended to include Kingston.

PATIENT SUING HOSPITAL.

A. E. Booth Wants \$5000 for Alleged Injury From Operation.

Alfred Earl Booth of Dunbar, Ont., entered an action for recovery of \$5000 damages from the Toronto General Hospital and Dr. Irving H. Cameron. While a patient he claims that Dr. McDonald performed a minor operation on him, but that afterwards Dr. Cameron performed a serious operation without his consent, which permanently disabled him. In defence the hospital claims Booth was a charity patient, and therefore it was in no way liable for the actions of doctors, while Dr. Cameron says the operation was necessary and the patient benefited thereby.

The case has been set down for trial on March 15.

COMMITTEE'S CLOSE VOTE KILL CO-OPERATIVE BILL.

Secretary of R.M.A. Pleased at the Result, But Will Have His Work Cut Out For Him Next Year.

OTTAWA, March 9.—The co-operative bill introduced by Lloyd Harris of Brantford was given a short shrift by the banking and commerce committee of the commons this morning.

Within half an hour of the meeting of the committee it was a corpse, the execution being accomplished by a vote of 10 against 8.

The bill, which proposes to extend to business generally the principle of co-operation already approved in the case of loan companies by the Bank Bill, was vigorously opposed by E. W. Nesbitt of North Oxford, and Honore Gervais of Montreal, and despite the most earnest efforts of Mr. Harris and P. D. Monk, the vote upon the first clause was sufficient to kill the measure, and it was accordingly buried amid the applause of E. M. Town, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, who afterwards declared himself thoroughly satisfied with "my great victory."

The bill will probably be introduced again next session. Meanwhile an active propaganda in its favor will be carried on among farmers and the labor unions, and it would not be surprising to find both houses inundated next year with a shower of petitions in favor of the legislative endorsement of the principle.

ACQUITTED IN SESSIONS.

Two Verdicts of Not Guilty Returned.

W. B. Mason, the sessions yesterday, admitted signing and receiving for J. L. Linton a quantity of tin and solder worth about \$66, which had been ordered from M. and L. Samuel, Beaumont & Co., but entered a plea of not guilty of obtaining the goods by false pretences.

"Bridge" she circumvented the jury that the case was more of a civil action than a criminal one, and after three minutes' deliberation the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. George Pittman, charged with indecent assault upon a girl under 14 years, was acquitted by the jury.

Guilty of Stealing Current. Mrs. Arthur pleaded guilty before Judge Denton to stealing electricity from the City of Toronto. By means of a pair of wires, known as a "bridge," she circumvented the current so that she received the light without having to register the meter.

Mrs. Arthur was remanded for sentence and will appear as a witness in the case of Henry Froome and Gordon Slade, who are charged with conspiring to defraud the city in connection with Mrs. Arthur's offence.

True Bill Against Haggitt. The grand jury of the sessions returned a true bill against Alfred J. Haggitt, which contains three counts, two of wounding and one of shooting with intent.

Thomas Loui was charged with theft but the jury found no bill against him.

MICHIE'S Extra Old Rye Whiskey is always of the same even quality and mellow flavor—none better.

Michie & Co., Ltd.

ed7 7 King St. West



WHEN YOU GO OUT TO LUNCH TO-DAY be good to yourself and order a bottle of O'KEEFE'S "PILSENER" LAGER

It's the best appetizer and aid to digestion. Brewed as they brew lager in Pilsen, Germany, of pure Barley Malt, Hops and filtered water—the beer is filtered again after it is brewed and pasteurized after being bottled.

Ask for The Beer With a Reputation THE LIGHT BEER IN THE LIGHT BOTTLE

EATON'S FRIDAY BARGAINS

Men's Clothing

Suit in Single-Breasted Style. Made from all-wool good heavy weight worsted and fancy tweeds, olive and brown shades and a few high-class American suits; sizes 34 to 44. Regularly \$12.50 to \$20.00, for 9.95

Young men's and youths' suit, lineal and double-breasted style, made from all-wool black botany serge, with good strong lining and trimmings; sizes 22 to 35. Regularly \$8.49, for 5.99

Trousers—Of good strong worsted materials, dark and medium shades, side and hip pockets; sizes 31 to 42. Regularly \$1.88 to \$2.50, for 1.49

Waterproof Coats—Made from fine Paramatta cloth, single-breasted, button close at neck, with military collar, 50 inches in length; sizes 36 to 44. Friday bargain, \$11.15 and \$1.25, for .65

Boys' Clothing

Two-piece Suits. In the single-breasted Norfolk style, box-pleated coats, with belt; these come in a pretty shade of olive with a purple stripe, of strong, durable tweed, Italian body linings, knee pants; sizes 24 to 28. Regularly \$2.50, for 2.05

Three-piece Suits. Smartly tailored in the double-breasted three-button model, from imported English tweeds of pretty patterns and shades, good quality Italian cloth linings, straight knee pants; in sizes 28 to 32. Regularly \$5.55 and \$6.00, for 3.99

Spring-Weight Reefers. Just suitable for present wear, very stylish and dainty in appearance, and come in pleasing shades of olive, grey and fawns, double-breasted styles, some have velvet collars and cuffs on sleeves; sizes 21 to 32. All at much less than former prices. Friday 2.95

Men's Furs

Fur Coats—Of Canadian coat, extra heavily furled wool skins, beautifully striped, extra high storm collar, quilted Italian cloth lining; a handsome durable coat for either driver or autist. Regularly \$27.50, for 19.00

Fur-Lined Coats. Canadian spring muskrat lining, high outer storm collar, black all-wool beaver cloth shell, in full box collar, of latest cut. Regularly \$65.00, for 49.00

Toques 19

Pure Wool Toques and Hockey caps, in Thibet, foxline and Iceland lamb, all odd pieces at one Friday bargain price .50c

A Fancy Skull Cap. For children, latest style, with trim turned up, closely all around and without peak, unlined, have taped seams, made of scarlet and navy blue felt. Regularly 45c, for 25c

Coats

200 only buttoned sweater coats, close-ribbed cash, in plain grey or grey with assorted colored trimmings, medium men's sizes only. Regularly \$1.00, for .50

A limited quantity held for phone orders.

Men's Fine Silk Neckwear. Four-in hand, finished with the folded end and French seam style, neat stripes and fancy patterns. Regularly 25c, for 12c

Men's Shirts

It is not too early to buy your next year's underwear, when you can get it at such bargain prices. Men's Scotch wool heavy elastic and fleece-lined shirts or drawers, also large sizes in natural wool shirts. Regularly 50c to \$1.25, for 25c

Men's Negligee Shirts. Made from fine woven Scotch zephyr and fancy percale, small cuffs attached, in assorted colors, fancy stripes in assorted colors; sizes 14 to 17 1/2. Regularly 50c, for 25c

Men's Fine Black Sateen Working Shirts. Collar attached, all double-sewn seams, full-sized boxes; sizes 15 to 18. Regularly 50c, for 35c

Hosiery

Boys' and Girls' Ribbed Cashmere Hose, made from pure English yarn, with double knees, gile, heel and toe, seamless, and fashioned finish; part of a specially purchased lot, with odds and ends out of regular stock that sold from 35c to 50c; sizes 6 to 8 1/2, for 25c

Boys' and Girls' Ribbed Cotton and Ribbed Wool Hose, a collection of odds and ends; all sizes in the lot, but not in every line; sizes 8 1/2 to 10. Regularly 18c to 25c, for 12c

Worsteds Socks, made from fine English yarns, with double heel and toe, deep ribbed tops, seamless finish. Regularly 25c and 35c, for 18c

Women's Plain Black Cashmere Hose, made from fine English yarns, with double heel and toe; sizes 8 1/2 to 10; part of a special purchase and odds and ends; not all sizes in each line, but all in the lot. Regularly 35c, 45c, for 25c

Footwear

Women's fine soft kid buskin house shoes, with elastic at front, plain toe, wide fitting flexible leather soles and low heels, fleece lined; sizes 3 to 8. Regularly \$1.25, for .50

80 pairs of women's felt house slippers, some high cut, house boot style, felt soles, covered with leather; sizes 2, 4, 7, 8. Regularly 75c, \$1.00, for .25

140 pairs of boys' boots, good strong style for any wear, heavy box calf leather, blucher tops, solid leather soles and heels, good fitting shape; sizes 1 to 5. Friday bargain 1.50

165 pairs of small boys' boots, plain leather, in laced and blucher, good solid make, will stand rough wear; sizes 11 and 12 only. Regularly \$1.15 and \$1.25, for .65

Women's extra choice styles in fine dongola kid boots, with bright and dull kid blucher tops, very neat shapes and decidedly dressy for street wear. Goodyear welted and McKay-sewn soles; sizes 2 1/2 to 7. 2.00

For men, a good serviceable boot, recommended for ordinary wear, made from heavy box calf leather, blucher tops, comfortable shape, solid leather soles and heels; sizes 6 to 11. Friday bargain 1.50

Ribbons

Wide Taffeta and Satin Ribbons, all pure silk, are a special purchase, including broad bolts of 5, 5 1/2 and 5 3/4 inches wide, selling at regularly 17c, 20c and 25c, for 13c

Fancy Ribbons, left from our mail order stocks, broken bolts of Paisley, Dresden and stripes, 5, 5 1/2 and 5 3/4 inches wide. Regularly 25c, 35c and 39c yard, for 19c

Narrow Taffeta, Satins, Velvet and Wash Ribbons, offer a combined assortment, including white, cream, sky, turquoise, Alice, brown, emerald, mauve, red and black. Regularly 35c, 40c, 10c yard. Friday, 4 yards for 10c

Furs

Children's Furs, muffs, neckpieces, caps, in Thibet, foxline and Iceland lamb, all odd pieces at one Friday bargain price .50c

6 only muskrat Jackets, 20 inches long, semi-fitting back, straight front, storm collar, medium sleeves with cuffs, brown satin lining. Formerly \$42.50, for \$29.00

Mink Stole, fine Canadian mink, fancy design, with long back effect, collar, lined with head and claws. Regularly \$75.00, for \$45.00

Fancy Ring Effect Mink Muff, 10 inch match sole; finished with "oose-hanging" skins, trimmed with heads and tails. Regularly \$62.50, for \$40.00

Two Odd Mink Stoles, fancy design, with heads on back and plain back, tail fronts, beautifully lined, all trimmed with tails. Regularly \$45.00 and \$52.50, for \$30.00

Curtain Section

Five Nottingham Curtains, 50 and 54 inches wide, 3 1/2 yards long, in white and ivory, offer many fancy designs, including pretty Brussels goods; the material is of best quality cotton, evenly woven and finished with the best of Colbert edges; they wear well, and are handsome till they're worn out. Regularly \$3.00 per pair, for \$1.95

Curtain Poles, 1 1/2 inches thick and 5 feet long, in oak, mahogany or walnut finish, with wood or brass ends, brackets, rings and pins complete. Regularly 25c, for 19c

Tapestry Curtains, 40 inches wide and 3 yards long, fringed top and bottom, made of a closely woven reversible tapestry cloth, come in plain and two-toned effects of red, green, olive and red with green. Regularly \$2.50, for \$1.05

Art Ticking, taffeta and English reps, 36 inches wide, floral patterns in light grounds with good color combinations, for curtains, valances, bedspreads and light upholstery purposes they will be found extra good. Regularly 35c and 40c, for 25c

Boys' and Girls' Ribbed Cashmere Hose, made from pure English yarn, with double knees, gile, heel and toe, seamless, and fashioned finish; part of a specially purchased lot, with odds and ends out of regular stock that sold from 35c to 50c; sizes 6 to 8 1/2, for 25c

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Gloves

The arrival of spring and the approach of Easter are two very potent reasons for quick buying Friday. The Gloves are the correct quality and colors.

Women's Genuine French Kid Gloves, with two dome fasteners, pique sewn seams and Paris points, one in tan, mode and brown. Regularly \$1.00 pair. Friday 65c

Men's Cape Skin Gloves, with neat, pique sewn seams, gusset fingers, Bolton thumb and pear-pointed backs, show tan and brown, in sizes 7 1/4 to 9. Regularly \$1.00, for .60c

Women's Fine Cashmere Gloves, with two dome fasteners and silk-stitched points, are fleece-lined, black only. Regularly 50c, for 25c

Umbrellas

Some less than half price; every one a pronounced saving.

Men's and Women's Umbrellas, with fine silk-mixed covers and handles well assorted in all the newest shapes and mounted in sterling silver and rolled gold; they are part of a specially purchased lot, and odds and ends from stock that sold regularly at \$2.50 to \$3.50, for \$1.58

Women's High Class Umbrellas, some of the best quality with silk mixed covers, the best of frames, a collection of the finest pearl, rolled gold and gun metal handles with top grade mounts, odds and ends from stock with a collection of sample handles. Worth \$7.40 to \$12.00, for \$4.95

Men's and Women's Umbrellas, with fine silk-mixed covers, best paragon frame, are a fine collection, with sample handles in horn, pearl, gunmetal and natural wood, mounted in sterling silver and rolled gold, part of a specially purchased lot along with others from stock. Regularly \$4.50 to \$6.00, for \$2.73

Men's and Women's Silk-Mixed Umbrellas, with strong steel rod and paragon frame, well assorted handles in natural wood and horn. Regular stock, worth \$1.00 and \$1.50, reduced for Friday to 78c

Meats

Porterhouse roast of beef, lb. 18 to 20