

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 10, 1911

JUST ASSESSMENTS.

Chairman Drayton and his colleagues
on the court of revision have made
a good point for the people and should
be supported in their stand for fair
play for the great assessed. The as-
sessment department has its own sym-
metrical ways of levying on the small
man for every dollar he is worth, and
letting the rich man off by anything
from 75 per cent. downwards. A very
important gentleman appealed an ex-
tremely moderate assessment last year
and the court of revision confirmed it,
but when it was taken to the county
court, the assessment was actually re-
duced.

The little man goes up with his little
equal and complains that he paid, say,
\$2400 for his little place and is as-
sessed \$2500. His neighbors with
similar properties are assessed \$1800.
To be sure he had a few extra feet
of land on his house. Confirmed.

All the little squarer can do is to
bring his neighbors into court on an
appeal against their assessment. If
even there was a crazy clause in a
crazy act it is this one, which requires
a man to turn informant on his neigh-
bors in order to get justice for him-
self. The court of revision have seen
the absurdity and propose to line up
the whole street in such cases and
make them show cause why their as-
sessment should not be reduced.

And who objects most to this?

Why, the assessment department.

The proposed procedure is radical
and quite foreign to the usual tape
method. The assessment department
does not agree with the view that
everybody should be assessed the full
value of his property, nor is there
much sympathy with the view that
the value should be laid on the land alone.
Everybody knows that this is the only
way to reach everybody for his share
of taxes, and to reach him fairly and
equally.

However, the point now is to make
the best of the system we labor un-
der at present, until Sir James Whit-
ney gives us a better one, as Ontario
hope he shall.

There should be no complaint at all,
and there could be no complaint if all
properties were assessed to their full
value. The tax rate would be lower
with this the case, and the taxes
would fall more justly on those who
should pay.

The plan of exempting a percentage
of the values and assessing at 75 to
50 per cent. instead of 100 per cent.
beats hardest on the poor man. The
man with a million gets exemption for
\$250,000, or perhaps double that, and
the man with \$2500 gets exempt for a
few hundreds at the most.

The only answer we can get to this
is, that the wealthy man should be
encouraged to be rich, and the poor
man does not need any encouragement
to be poor. The taxpayer ought to
think over this, and decide how much
encouragement he wants to give to
the wealthy man.

Meanwhile the court of revision has
made its stand for fair play. The tax-
payers who want to pay their own
taxes and no one else's and the tax-
payers who want to pay their own
taxes and not have other people pay-
ing a share of them, will combine to
support the motion against the man
who wants his neighbors to pay part
of his bills.

NO U.S. HEGEMONY.

When the smaller of two contiguous
nations is invited by the larger to
enter a trading pact on terms involv-
ing a mutual preference, in which they
alone participate, the question of mo-
tive becomes of exceptional impor-
tance, and more particularly when the
disparity in population and productive
capacity is very great. This reciprocity
agreement is being pressed on Can-
ada for the supposed benefit it will
bring in the way of a larger market
for her produce. In the United States
it has been represented as opening up
the Dominion's natural resources to
the home manufacturer, and as provid-
ing the means for reducing the high
and increasing cost of living. But
another argument has also been used
for the purpose of influencing public
opinion. Reciprocity it is urged, will
have the effect of detaching Canada
from the imperial band of British
states reaching round the world from
England to England again.

Canadian advocates of reciprocity de-
clare the policy that commercial
union may be followed by political
union with the United States. Even
if political union did not result, the
policy of President Taft would be
equally well served if the Dominion

changed its centre of gravity from the
empire to the continent. The United
States claims the hegemony of the
whole continent, but so long as Can-
ada remains an integral part of the
British Empire, that hegemony is in-
complete. The republic cannot inter-
fere with the Dominion, or include the
Dominion within the scope of the
Monroe doctrine while the empire is
strong enough to protect its integrity
and that of its self-governing nations.
But hints are already being given that
should the British Empire be involved
in war, Canada will be expected to
stand aloof and rely for protection
from invasion on the navy and army
of the republic. Reciprocity, with its
identification of Canadian and United
States interests, might easily tend to a
declaration of Canada's absolute neu-
trality, a contingency distinctly pre-
sented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's course
at the late imperial conference. Can-
ada can best serve the empire at this
juncture by making it absolutely clear
that no policy will be sanctioned which
opens the door to an assertion of United
States hegemony.

KING AND PREMIER.

Mr. Asquith had no difficulty in de-
feating the vote of censure introduced
by Mr. Balfour, who was worsted in
argument even more decisively than in
the division lobby. The majority of
119 given the government again demon-
strates the solidarity of the coalition
and the determination with which the
veto bill is being pressed. Nothing
has better exemplified the binding
quality of a firm policy directed to-
wards the accomplishment of a great
political end. That the end in view
was the curtailment of the unlimited
power to reject and evict measures
which might possibly have been af-
fected by the privilege, claimed on
behalf of the hereditary
peerage, and attempted to be
enforced, even in the case of money
bills, by the rejection of Mr. Lloyd
George's 1906 budget. By that rash act
the peers staked more than the risk
of defeat at the polls—they at once
made the maintenance of their house
an issue of practical politics and com-
pelled the Reform party to place it
in the head and front of the legislative
program. Now condemned by the elec-
toral verdict the Unionist party has
not been able to compose itself with
dignity to drink the hemlock.

Mr. Balfour's vote of censure has
served the purpose of temporarily
uniting the last ditchers and the more
prudent of his following who would
rather accept the present bill than have
the King's prerogative exercised. But
the troubles of the opposition leader
are not over and his worst foes are
those of his own household, who re-
sist the philosophic calm which he re-
gards his efforts to keep tariff
reform in the limelight. They are not
tolerant enough to be placated by a
denunciation, however spirited, of the
alleged abuse of its powers by Mr.
Asquith's cabinet. Such attacks are
but fire-crackers designed to impress
the public, not to carry the position.
Nothing could have been more empty
of conviction than the contention that
the course followed by the government
was unconstitutional. So far from be-
ing unconstitutional the power reserved
to the King to create peers on the
advice of his ministers is most strictly
constitutional. Without the command
of that privilege a ministry out of
touch with the majority of the house
of lords would be helpless. Mr. As-
quith seems to have been most care-
ful and punctilious in his communica-
tions with the King and to have given
his majesty any other advice than
that he actually tendered would have
stultified the demand for the
dominance of the house of commons in
the policy and administration of the
country.

SAME OLD COMMERCIAL UNION.

Globe editorials have a familiar ring
to those who read the paper during the
commercial union campaign. There
was little concealment then of the ul-
timate annexation design in view. At
present those who oppose reciprocity,
which is simply commercial union un-
der another name, are "false prophets
of pseudo-loyalty," according to The
Globe, because they give warning of
the secret danger of annexation, which
in former years was unmentioned.
There were annexationists in those
days, for times were hard, and the
day of Canadian prosperity had not
arrived. Good times and prosperous
are here, and it is inconceivable that
Canadians will now accept in the day
of their strength the lure whose tem-
ptations did not lead them astray in
the day of their weakness.

There never was a greater bit of
rhetorical clap-trap written than the
concluding paragraph of yesterday
morning's Globe leading article taken
in that connection.

"Canada is to be British not in
loyalty alone, but in life and
habit and spirit. All other protesta-
tion is but honoring British with the
mouth while the heart is given to
alien gods."

No one but an utterly deluded par-
tisan could apply these sentences to
the Liberal policy, which is a prayer
to Canadians to treat with the United
States, buy from the United States,
sell to the United States, tie them-
selves in indissoluble bondage to the
United States, and then wave a
British flag and call themselves loyal.

Let us be honest and frank about
the matter at least. If we wish to

sell our national aspirations for Amer-
ican trade and American dollars let us
say so openly, and not pretend, like
The Globe, that we are doing it for
the honor of the British Empire. The
life and habit and spirit of British
loyalty will never bring Canadians to
the point of parting their bright-
est for the political salvation of the trust-
sustained Republican party of the
United States.

THE WHITE PLUME WOBBLES.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1907: "Can-
ada to-day is not in favor of reciprocity.
There was a time when Cana-
dians, beginning with myself, would
have given many things to obtain the
American market, but, thank heaven,
these days are past and over."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1911: Presi-
dent Taft has led him to change his
mind and imagine that "those days"
have come again.

The Canadian People: "He can
change his mind for Taft if he likes,
but we don't have to."

Laurier and larger trusts.

Laurier and Taft and larger mar-
kets for the United States farmer.

The Globe should have the Cana-
dian navy equipped with wooden
bollers.

Says The Weekly Sun: "It is plain
that The Globe was not brought up
in the country." That is a hard knock
for Farmer Jeffrey.

The Mail and Empire is trying to
make Indians out of Irishmen. It
called the Bishop of Raphoe, the
Bishop of Raphoe yesterday.

President Taft wants to put bloomers
on Miss Canada and set her working
in the Republican chain gang. No
decent Canadian can stand for that.

JIM AND JESSE.

Editor World: Jim Hogle tells me
that he is going to vote against rec-
iprocity and he thinks Jesse Hubbard
will too. We all like your sheep and
hog articles.
Thomas Hubbard.

Frougham, Aug. 9.

VANCOUVER.

Editor World: With reference to an
article printed in the issue of The
Toronto World of July 9, 1911, the coun-
cil of this city have instructed me to
forward you the enclosed resolution
with the request that you publish same
giving it due prominence.

Arthur B. Cathers.

Acting City Clerk.
Resolution passed by the council of
Vancouver, B.C., on July 31, 1911:
"That whereas it has been brought
to the notice of this council that in
The Toronto World of July 9, 1911, an
article appeared in terms highly
derogatory of the City of Vancouver
and entirely without foundation in
fact."

"And whereas said untrue and
unwarranted statement has been wide-
ly circulated in Eastern Canada to the
detriment of this city and has been
extensively copied by other eastern
journals;

"Be it therefore resolved that this
council of the City of Vancouver in
regular meeting assembled, do hereby
characterize said untrue and unwarranted
statement as a malicious and un-
justified attack on the City of Van-
couver, and that the council do hereby
authorize the following statement in
refutation thereof to be published in
all important lines of business there
most satisfactory activity."

"Be it further resolved that the
council of the City of Vancouver do
hereby instruct the city clerk to
be expected in view of the recent build-
ing trades strike, which lasted only six
weeks, and has been most happily set-
tled, removing entirely the only dark
spot in the industrial horizon."

"C-That at no time were the streets
of Vancouver closed to traffic, and
employed, but on the contrary, even at
the height of the strike, not more than
4000 men were out of work and that,
generally speaking, there has been
plenty of work for all who wished it."

"D-That, while the real estate ac-
tivities have somewhat subsided, there
has been no reactionary effect or drop
in values, but a steady increase. There
are exceedingly few, if any, cases where
owners have been forced to sell at a
loss, or sacrifice their holdings. At the
present time the real estate market is
firm."

"In confirmation of the foregoing
statement, we attach the following of-
ficial statistics:

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