

The Toronto World

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The Metropolitan Agreement.

What is, undoubtedly the most important agreement affecting the well-being of the city since the annexation of North Toronto was made public yesterday evening when the mayor handed out copies of the report and recommendations of Mr. R. C. Harris, commissioner of works; Mr. T. Bradshaw, commissioner of finance, and Mr. W. M. Johnston, city solicitor, relative to the acquisition by the city of that portion of the Metropolitan Railway lying within the city limits on Yonge street.

The negotiation has been a long and perplexing piece of work, but the city officials, with untiring patience, have pursued their task, and the result is an agreement that constitutes a clean-up of the North Toronto street car situation. The city will take over the whole property, franchises and rights of the company inside the city limits.

There is a general disposition among the members of the city council to compliment Mr. Harris and Mr. Bradshaw on the success of what has been a delicate series of negotiations conducted over twenty months.

The city acquires all the rights, franchises and privileges owned by the Toronto and York Radial Railway up to Stop 26 on Yonge street. This includes lines, cars, poles, wires, barns and everything else.

Some doubt was felt among citizens not acquainted with the terms of the agreement yesterday evening, that the privilege of using the civic lines for package freight and express, as granted to the company, would embarrass the city.

As a result of the agreement and as soon as it is ratified, civic car lines may be laid on Yonge street, from Woodlawn avenue north to the city limits, double-track, and it will then be possible to have the civic lines united with the St. Clair avenue system, and, with little difficulty, with the Danforth avenue lines.

The general policy behind the agreement is the desire to make Toronto a radial centre, and the stipulations regarding package freight and express business have this in view, the

city by the agreement remains supreme in its own territory, and in a position to deal with any other radial business on similar terms.

The future of Hydro radial traffic will have considerable bearing on the development of the city, and in many quarters it is anticipated that the settlement of the Metropolitan problem in the city, is but a prelude to further agreements concerning the radial lines.

The city has control of all radial lines entering the city, within the city limits, with the exception of the Davenport or Suburban line, which is now a part of the National Railway System. It is probable that the city will endeavor to obtain that portion of this line inside the city from the government.

The effect on North Toronto will be immediate and important. There is a large amount of vacant land in the district awaiting settlement of the street car question, for development. There is likely to be an active building campaign this summer over the whole of this part of the city. The effect on other districts will be stimulative, and the housing pressure may be somewhat relaxed by removals northwards.

The bootleggers must be convinced by their Homer experience that the license board means business, and is prepared to match the wits of the defenders of the law against the scheming of the law-breakers.

This little cackle from The Globe is all it can say about the Homer scandal. The impression was left upon all who attended the trial in St. Catharines that the lawbreakers were daring the license board to bring out the evidence. The lawbreakers must have been able to identify the owner of the truck that brought the whiskey into the St. Catharines riding. That would immediately have revealed the source of the whiskey supply. It is probable also that the lawbreakers had photographed the cheque before letting it out of their hands.

The report recommends that leave be given to apply for legislation to raise money without submitting a by-law, to ensure the work of constructing and operating a civic railway line on North Yonge street "at the earliest possible date."

If the agreement is ratified by the legislature, work can easily be going on by the middle of April or May 1 at latest, and much progress may be made during the summer.

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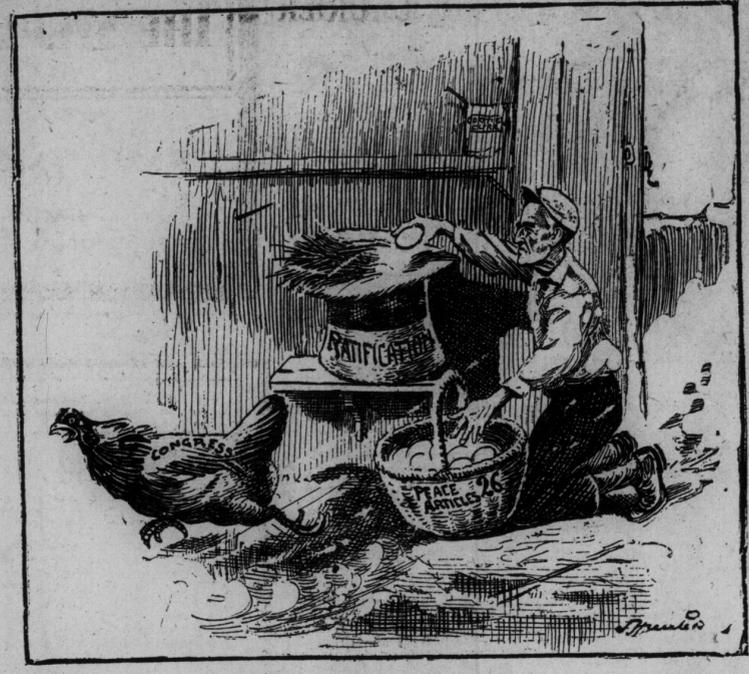
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NOT INCLINED TO "SET"



IDA AT THE POLICE PROBE

By IDA L. WEBSTER.

Yesterday the investigation into the police troubles was resumed at Ossington Hall. It did not progress very far, however, because for one thing the morning session was fairly well taken up by Mr. Parsons, who you will recollect is, or was, connected with the Manufacturers' Association, and a Mr. Watkinson, who represents the Carpenters' Union in some official capacity.

It seems that a few days ago Mr. Watkinson wrote an open letter to the press, wherein he stated that he felt that he had been badly used by Commissioner Parsons, or that his statements had been misrepresented by the press, and that he felt the effects of such an act were detrimental to him.

During the time he was on the stand, he not only took back the gist of his open letter, but both he and the commissioner thrashed out for three or four meetings of the police, which had come up for consideration, would vote against the measure. Enough Conservatives came forward to aid the Independent Socialists in their action.

It is not at all likely that a person in the rank of a sergeant, who is in charge of going to the land of departed cars, but notwithstanding that, and the fact that yesterday morning's session was for the express benefit of clearing up the police situation, his rapid fire opinion "lecture" was carried on for over an hour. We could not help thinking, if yesterday was a precedent, that the police charter is being dangled when you are entertaining your Exhibition visitors.

During the morning, Mr. Crawford and Mr. James Simpson also appeared, each one giving their views on practically everything which has happened since the time when Noah went down in the ark with the police. The latter gentleman certainly did not aid nor hinder the case in any respect, but the former did tell of being at three or four meetings of the police, by this time it was one o'clock, and Sir Wm. Meredith adjourned for lunch.

The afternoon was not very profitable either. Mr. Essery, who is the lawyer appearing on behalf of Constable Ellis, examined two witnesses, but he did not create any great disturbance. He also said that he had intended calling Mr. Arthur Roebuck, but that he was not in the room. We happen to know that Mr. Roebuck had been there all morning waiting to be called, but owing to the fact that Mr. Parsons and Mr. Watkinson were so busy discussing Socialism, he was not put in the stand.

The announcement was then made that Mr. Robertson was appearing on behalf of the police commissioners, and he later justified the statement, knowing this, we cannot help wondering that the men do not engage the services of some competent attorney for their side of the case, because, although Mr. Evans is doing wonderfully well, yet at the same time he is not a lawyer, and there is a possibility that he may miss many good points for this very reason. It does seem advisable for the union to follow in the footsteps of the commissioners in this particular line.

As it was not possible for the union to go on with their complaints during the afternoon, the case was adjourned until this morning. One thing which struck us most forcibly was the kindly attitude of Sir Wm. Meredith. He is a man who has a keen sense of humor, but at the same time one who is definite as to his ideas. He appears to be doing all in his power to help the policemen, at least that was our impression yesterday. His suggestion to take the case, or rather most of it, to a round table conference, seems to be a very good one, and it proved that he, at least, was anxious for a settlement with as little delay as possible.

The story which was afloat with regard to the abduction of Commissioner Gunn was denied by him, much to the relief of the curious reporters who were absolutely sick at the thought that they had misread something, and much to the disgust of the citizens who were hoping that something really metropolitan was going to be done. Well, it is a queer world, and you know maybe something will crop out yet?

INDEPENDENTS UNITE WITH CONSERVATIVES

Succeed in Holding Up National Defence in New German Constitution.

Weimar, Feb. 25.—The Conservatives and Independent Socialists were able to unite for the first time yesterday afternoon. When the national defence section of the new constitution came up for first reading, Hugo Haase, Independent Socialist, protested that his party had not been given legal advance notice that the measure was to be considered.

The dinner was a jolly affair for Blanche, who looked absolutely charming, tho' in almost maddeningly modest décolleté. At first I was embarrassed, accustomed as I was by that time to the extreme in dress. But I knew I also looked well, and putting all unbecomingly aside, I blurted out my own remark to entertain my husband's guests. I would not allow Mrs. Orton to monopolize them; or to put me in the background.

They were plain sort of men, one of them especially. Rather heavy and silent. One very rich man—Neil they told me—was there. He was in these lines are therefore infrequent. In order to get food, a trader must offer clothes. Women are not so particular as men. They could talk about their husbands and their clothing was stolen, but the soldiers disdained to take a beautiful pair of shoes, or a pair of gloves, or a pair of stockings.

Intense cold prevails in Moscow, and fuel is so scarce that wooden houses in the suburbs of the city have been torn down for fuel. Fine furniture has also been used for the same purpose. Stores have been closed by merchants, but the soviet government has taken over some of the larger places of business, where only Bolsheviks are served.

Russia is beset by all kinds of diseases, and typhus is particularly prevalent. Vodka substitutes are being used and have a weakening effect on the people. Kerosene and benzine are scarce, so that the lights in the Polish frontier demand is liquor. They appear never to be sober. The large number of deaths in Moscow has led to a decree making the undertaking business a state monopoly.

DAYLIGHT SAVING DEPENDS ON U. S.

If Neighboring Republic Continues the Scheme, Canada Will Also.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Continuation of daylight saving in Canada will depend on the stand taken by the United States congress. If congress decides to repeal its daylight saving measure, it is felt here that merely Canadian clocks forward for an hour during the summer months.

The legislative situation in the two countries differs. The act passed by the Dominion parliament last session empowered the governor-in-council to bring daylight saving into effect for last year only. A new act will be necessary for continuation of daylight saving this year.

QUEBEC SNOWSTORM DELAYS THE VETERANS

Montreal, Feb. 25.—Two special trains with troops landed at Halifax from the White Star liner Canada are snowbound east of Quebec. Soldiers on their way to Toronto and London will be delayed twelve hours in reaching their destination.

A Line of Cheer Each Day of the Year

By John Kendrick Bangs.

I'd rather be a lump of coal To warm some suffering frozen soul Than any diamond ever seen In diadem of king or queen. In ashes I would end my days If glad with service were my ways, For better far were that distress Than years of gaudy uselessness.

UNDERTAKING BUSINESS MADE STATE MONOPOLY

Large Number of Deaths in Moscow, and Conditions There Are Terrible.

Warsaw, Feb. 25.—Forty pounds of wheat flour is being sold at Moscow for 800 rubles and sugar is 50 rubles a pound, with both commodities virtually unobtainable. Starving horses which fall in the streets are stripped of their flesh before they are cold. Money is of little value, and pearls, diamonds, jewels, fine bronze clocks and necklaces bring little when traded. Theft in these lines are therefore infrequent.

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CATTLE IN RUSSIA GREATLY DECREASED

Stockholm, Feb. 25.—Stocks of cattle in Russia decreased greatly and the animals that were too weak to do any work have been slaughtered, according to reports made at a veterinary conference in Petrograd, as reported by Bolshevik newspaper. Over 50 per cent. of the animals left in Bolshevik Russia, it was added, are affected with glanders and mange, and these diseases are being spread among the people. The newspapers say that dog meat is purchased eagerly in Petrograd at 12 rubles a pound.

DECLINE TO ADOPT AMERICAN SEAMEN'S ACT

London, Feb. 25.—The committee of the International Seafarers' Union, appointed yesterday to consider the American seamen's act, today submitted its resolution to the conference, and declared that in the opinion of the committee the extension of the act to all countries would be detrimental to the seamen of such countries. It suggested that the extension of the principles of the act should be left to the judgment of each country. The resolution said the committee recognized that the act worked beneficially to the American seamen, and recommended that every effort should be put forth to maintain the act in its present scope in the ports of the United States. The conference postponed discussion of the resolution until Wednesday.

Revival of Bisley Meet With Short Rifle in Use

London, Feb. 25.—The Morning Post has a special article on the revival of Bisley, the rifle range, and the announcement made by the Canadian Associated Press that a short rifle will be used in competitions in future, is made. The war office, The Post proposes, should purchase rifles for the purpose. The longest range for the King's prizes, The Post announces, will be 600 yards, but the value of the prizes has been altered. Other famous matches will also be retained.

LABORITE EX-MEMBER DEAD.

London, Feb. 25.—William C. Anderson, formerly a Labor member of parliament for the Attercliffe division of Sheffield, died in London today.

THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

By JANE PHELPS.

Bab is Anxious Because Neil Is Drinking.

CHAPTER XVIII.

I did not relish the idea of entertaining business people in my home, but as she said, "Neil thought it necessary that was enough for me, but I confess I was astonished one night when he remarked quite casually: 'I have asked a couple of western oil men up to dinner tomorrow night. Have things hang-up, I mean. Blanche Orton on my way up-town. She said she'd come over and help you entertain them.'"

"Neil's coming?" "I asked the question as carelessly as I could. I had no intention to let Neil know that a feeling of jealousy against Blanche Orton had been aroused; or that I objected to having her invited. But I was a little surprised at his reply: 'No—he scarcely ever goes out, you know. And Blanche said he was not as well as usual. It must be jolly annoying to be married to a man who is always ailing.'"

"So Blanche Orton was coming alone. Surely Neil might have consulted me before inviting her. Once I had heard a man call her 'a man eater'; of course he had said it jokingly, but now the epithet recurred to me. 'I wish you had asked me first—before you invited her.'"

"Too late now. I've asked the matter with Blanche? Jealous of her and want to entertain both men and women? You women are beyond me. She is always gay and dresses stunningly. One would think you would be delighted that I was thoughtful enough to ask her."

"I'm sorry you asked her, all the same. Why didn't you invite Lorraine Morton instead? She's single. For better far were that distress Than years of gaudy uselessness."

"As I feared, Lorraine had an engagement. But I had not intended to accept the unexpected where Neil was concerned, so I made my arrangements for the dinner for five. Neil came home early. I was in the dining-room looking after the decoration for the table when he came in. He called Tokio, the butler, and ordered what he wanted to drink cooled. I could not help a gesture of discouragement. That was another thing which had come with Neil's financial success—the constant need of stimulants."

The dinner was a jolly affair for Blanche, who looked absolutely charming, tho' in almost maddeningly modest décolleté. At first I was embarrassed, accustomed as I was by that time to the extreme in dress. But I knew I also looked well, and putting all unbecomingly aside, I blurted out my own remark to entertain my husband's guests. I would not allow Mrs. Orton to monopolize them; or to put me in the background.

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APPOINT J. GROVE SMITH DOMINION COMMISSIONER

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—For the purpose of assisting in the work of fire prevention, the governor-in-council has appointed J. Grove Smith, late of the services of J. Grove Smith, late of the conservation commission. Mr. Smith has been appointed to the staff of the department of insurance and will act in the capacity of Dominion fire prevention commissioner in co-operation with the provincial fire commissioners and fire marshals and with the municipal authorities.

During his period of service with the conversation commission as fire prevention engineer, Mr. Smith investigated the fire wastes of Canada, and produced a valuable report on the subject.

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TO TREAT IRELAND SAME AS ENGLAND

Chief Secretary Tells a Deputation of Irish Municipalities.

HOUSING SCHEME

Treasury Will Pay Difference Between Economic and Reasonable Rents.

Dublin, Feb. 25.—Chief Secretary Macpherson, receiving a deputation of Irish municipalities, dealt with the questions of reconstruction, housing and the new British housing proposals. He said that the questions of reconstruction, housing and the new British housing proposals had given an interim grant of a million to provide for the reconstruction, not relief work, for demobilized soldiers and war workers, but that the scheme was merely provisional. He assured the deputation that national housing schemes of reconstruction adopted in Great Britain would be applied to Ireland, whose special needs would be considered.

Proposals for Ireland's housing scheme were already far advanced with the treasury, which might pay the difference between the economic and reasonable rents. The scheme which the local government board might fix for the people to pay. The government was considering how to utilize the new British housing minister's bill so as to benefit Ireland.

With regard to land settlement, Mr. Macpherson said, it was intended to treat Ireland on an equality with the rest of the United Kingdom on such questions as drainage, reclamation, drainage, transit, light railways, afforestation and development of great natural resources. It was important, he said, to secure local administration of these utilities, and the government had decided to extend the principle of proportional representation to all local elections so that the opinions of localities could be accurately represented.

WORKMEN'S COUNCIL INSTIGATED MURDER

Munich Butcher, Missing Other Ministers, Fired Blindly Into Crowd.

Berlin, Monday, Feb. 24.—According to information obtained by The Vorkwaerts from a "member of the Majority Socialists in a responsible position," the attempted assassination of Herr Auer, Bavarian minister of the interior, was the work of the revolutionary workmen's council of Munich, which is wholly dominated by the Socialists and Spartacists. The shooting of Auer is said to have been done by one Lindner, a butcher of Munich, who is openly boasting of his deed, but is still at liberty.

Lindner, according to the newspaper's information, is said to have gained admission to the chambers of deputies through the connivance of the republican soldiers' guard, who were informed of his intention to kill Auer. After firing upon Auer, Lindner, it is said, proceeded to look for Ministers Timm and Roesshauser, who were absent from the government bench. Lindner is declared to have fired blindly among the revolutionaries.

During the shooting the galleries of the chamber were crowded with members and followers of the revolutionaries, who were heavily armed with revolvers and hand grenades. After the shooting of Auer, Herr Himmelschein, chief of the revolutionary council, exclaimed: "That is the vengeance of the proletariat."

SIBERIAN BLIZZARD SWEEPS OVER OMSK

London, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes a despatch from Omsk, in which it is announced that the town has been swept by a blizzard. The hurricane rolled huge lumps of ice along the streets, and rendered it impossible to remain outdoors. Acres of crops were being carried away. The condition of the railways is officially described as catastrophic owing to the enormous proportion of engines rendered inoperative through the severe weather and the famine in fuel and lubricating oil.

Food prices are soaring, and many cases of typhus are reported, which are being accommodated in extremely limited. The prisoner problem is causing much concern. Great hardships are being suffered by 12,500 officers and 35,000 men, owing to the lack of fuel and food.

SOUTH AFRICA INCREASES IMPORTED SPIRITS TAX

Cape Town, South Africa, Feb. 25.—To partially meet an unexpected deficit in his budget statement for 1919-1920, Treasurer Orr proposes the following changes in taxation for the Union of South Africa: Increase in duties on imported spirits of from \$5 to \$6 per gallon; increase in excise duty on colonial spirits of fifty cents; a substantial increase on beer; increase in export tax on diamonds up to ten per cent., and inclusion of alluvial diamonds and the application of an excess profits duty.

Mr. Orr states that he intends to ask parliament for permission to issue war savings certificates to enable small investors to participate in loans.

Bavarian Premier Appointed To Succeed Murdered Eisner

Copenhagen, Feb. 25.—Herr Scheid has been named Bavarian premier in succession to Kurt Eisner, who was assassinated last week. Herr Scheid, a majority Socialist, has been appointed Bavarian minister of the interior, succeeding Herr Auer, who was shot at Munich at the instigation of the Socialists. He is expected to reach Munich despatches to The Politiken.

PENSION

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—The committee on pensions, in a report today, calls for a re-examination of the pension law. It is pointed out that the pension law is in need of re-examination, and that the pension law is in need of re-examination.

Ireland's Best Table Linens

Household Linens

Table Linens

Household Linens