

## The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 1912.

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

Perhaps it is not to be wondered at that the Telegram is not very clear upon what the duties of a public utilities commission are. It makes this very remarkable statement which illuminates the attitude of The Telegram towards civil government in an uncommon measure.

A public utilities commission would be a curse rather than a blessing to the city if its members imagined that they could do the work themselves.

We might well adopt the phrase of the "stump speaker," and "pause for a reply."

The Telegram seems to think that a commission should merely take over the duties the city council discharges at present and appoint a man to run the "waterworks" department. If that is all the commission is to do the city council might as well do its present duties first as second hand. The public utilities commission should be appointed by the city council, of men of the stamp of Mr. Drayton and Mr. Sothman, typical experts in their respective lines: a traffic expert, a waterworks expert and any other kind of expert who may be necessary. To say that it would be a curse to the city if such men imagined they could do the duties devolving upon them proves that the ways of The Telegram are not as the ways of other men.

The Telegram has got hold of one idea at least when it admits that "it might be easier to get H. L. Drayton appointed by a commission than by a city council." There is evidently a confusion of ideas here over the term commission. A commission we take it is a body with delegated power. We do not believe such a body should be elected and given direct power from the people. A council with a proper sense of its duties and composed of the intelligent men the city might elect, were all motives but that of the public interest eliminated from the desire to serve on the city council, would be the body to appoint the kind of commission required.

We believe if The Telegram once got the idea it would be willing to serve on the city council itself, and help appoint the H. L. Draytons on the commission that would make city government a brilliant success instead of the present happy-go-lucky business.

There is no desire to multiply commissions, as The Telegram fears. The present proposal is merely to enhance the scope of the existing hydro-electric commission and supplement it. In addition to street lighting and power it would control the civic street car system and the waterworks.

We confess we are unable to appreciate the suggestions of Controllers Hocken and McCarthy that the experts necessary for such work should be selected by election. We might get commissioners, but they would certainly not be experts. Experts would devalue a contest.

However, the idea is now before the public. It is quite clear that the hydro-electric system could not be run by the city council, nor the civic railway system, and perhaps The Telegram will be willing to add the waterworks. Promptness and despatch and rapid business decision are required. This cannot be had from a large body divided by itself meeting every two weeks, like the city council. But the council can appoint men who will do the city business as business ought to be done, and who will save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars by knowing how.

## MOVING SLOWLY, BUT BEGINNING TO MOVE.

The express companies for years have throttled all efforts to extend the parcel post system in the United States. That now at last something is to be accomplished is due in no small measure to the recent action of the house of commons in adopting the resolution, proposed by Mr. W. P. Maclean, M.P. for South York, calling for the extension of the parcel post system in Canada, and to the discussion in the house which arose thereon. In that discussion, it will be remembered, the fact came out that our postal service was doing parcel post business for people in other countries which it was compelled to refuse to do for the citizens of Canada. A parcel is carried by post from London, England, Montreal to Toronto cheaper than from Montreal to Toronto, and parcels are received in England for Canadian points which, on account of their size, will not be handled by the postoffice.

from one point in Canada to another point in Canada.

Because of its postal conventions with European countries the United States postal authorities are doing for the people of England and Germany what they could not do for their fellow-citizens. "Since 1899," says The New York Tribune, "when the first foreign parcels post convention—that with Germany—went into effect, a resident of Berlin has been allowed to send packages via New York to San Francisco at 12 cents a pound, the limit of weight being 11 pounds. But if a resident of New York wanted to mail a parcel to Hoboken, or even around the block, he was obliged to pay 16 cents a pound, and had to keep the weight of the parcel down to four pounds. The house committee on post-offices and post-roads has now attached a rider to the United States post-office appropriation bill placing the parcel post for domestic purposes on the same basis as that to which it has been extended for the benefit of other countries. There is also a provision reducing parcel post charges 5 cents per pound on rural delivery routes where the parcel originates at one point and is destined for another point on the same route.

The example of Canada, which was made a great deal of by some of the newspapers in the United States, undoubtedly helped to bring about the action of the house committee at Washington. Postmaster-General Feltner has not had his estimates loaded down with a rider, but he has learned the views of parliament and seems well disposed to give them effect. Possibly he may at once issue an order which will permit a parcel to be carried as cheaply from Whiteby to Toronto as from Glasgow to Prince Rupert, B. C.

## THE SIKHS AND THEIR WIVES.

In all the declamation against the Sikhs the point at issue seems in danger of being overlooked. According to Dr. Sunder Singh all that is asked for is the privilege that British people elsewhere insist upon as a right, and regard as a basic principle in society—the right to live with their wives and children. There is no desire to interfere with the will of the Province of British Columbia in regard to the exclusion or admission of the Sikhs or other peoples. But the Sikhs are there, and they are allowed to do what people of every foreign nationality are allowed to do, but are prevented having their wives and children.

The language used by Mr. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver, does not commend his view of the case to reasonable people. Mere abuse and strong language, which is wholly irrelevant, may impress unthinking people, but Mr. Stevens only hurts himself and assists the cause he opposes by talking as he did to the Women's Canadian Club.

If Mr. Stevens knows the Sikhs as well as he professes to do he must know that it is part of their religion and practice not to go to law or to retaliate when attacked personally. In the light of this fact when Mr. Stevens avoids the main issue, and challenges Dr. Sunder Singh to do what he knows very well Dr. Singh is bound not to do, his action seems very like bluff.

Rev. J. T. Sunderland and other correspondents who know the Sikhs testify in the highest terms of them, but even were they all that Mr. Stevens declares, that is no reason why they should be separated from their families.

No party of whatever political complexion, no state, no section of the people, and no individual can long continue to do injustice, and the feebleness of the people upon whom injustice is visited, the worse it becomes eventually for the slave-owner than it is for the slave.

Dr. Sunder Singh has appealed to Caesar, to British justice and fair play on behalf of his people. To abuse him will not eliminate the problem.

## U. S. PAPERS AND ANNEXATION.

The announcement that the Hearst papers in the United States are backing Champ Clark for the Democratic nomination for the presidency is a significant one.

In the strong fight which the Hearst organs, led by The New York American, put up in favor of reciprocity, the idea that the agreement meant annexation was repudiated. It was stated that the Americans did not want annexation, and that such a thing was not possible. It is to be hoped that Mr. Hearst and his staff of editorial writers will retain this view. But the fact that they have lined up their papers behind Champ Clark, the strongest and most influential annexationist in American politics to-day, makes this appear rather doubtful.

Mr. C. C. James is said to be going to Ottawa on April First—an ominous date. Had he not better wait a month and go to Northern Ontario on May First?

## FEDERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The Federal Life Assurance Co. had the most successful year of its history in that which closed on Dec. 31 last. The net income issued during 1911 totaled \$4,655,104, an increase over 1910 of \$888,038.79, while the cash income correspondingly increased by \$38,483.57. Assets have improved by \$189,553.57, and now stand at \$4,446,955.65, and the surplus of \$299,573.65 is better than that of 1910 by \$44,863.57.

These figures show that the company is expanding with the growth of the Dominion. Evidence of the safe policy pursued is afforded by the statement that had the company taken advantage of the special deduction from the reserve liability allowed by the Dominion Insurance Act, the surplus would have been \$410,555.65. The business in force now totals no less than \$23,887,141.41, an increase over 1910 of \$1,577,211.99. Not the least significant comment on these advances is the statement that while a considerably larger volume of new business was secured than in previous years, the expense ratio has not been increased. Another proof of the care exercised is found in the fact that the mortality for the year under review shows a material reduction from the preceding year.

## MR. FOSTER CALLED IT A "BLOW."

Editor World: Are you quite right in your editorial this a.m. in stating the Borden administration in their first appeal to the people "have been beaten?"

In September, South Renfrew gave a Liberal majority of 600. Yesterday the same constituency gave the Liberal candidate but 300 over his opponent. The opposition members in the house remain the same number. The government supporters in parliament are not reduced in numbers. If a loss there is it is not with Liberals?

Toronto, Feb. 23.

## NUTSHELL ENGLISH COURSES

Dictionary Home Study.

Home study has been discussed and advertised extensively during the past few years. Various methods and means have been introduced, but The World believes that the best self-acquired education obtainable in the English language and general information upon a most economical basis is offered in the Webster's New Illustrated Dictionary.

The World offers you in one volume and between handsome leather covers, a complete education in the English language, an abundant opportunity of increasing your vocabulary, studying the spelling, and much other useful information for six coupons clipped from consecutive issues of this paper and a small expense bonus.

Commercially speaking, the purchase of this leather-bound volume means that you are getting \$4 for 95 cents, but generally speaking, it is impossible to estimate the value such a course of study has for you.

There are three styles of books, but the limp leather volume seems to have the call. The other two styles are high priced and are using the World's dictionaries as the stepping stones of their progress.

The little book is always at the elbow of those anxious and willing to learn. There can be but one result of the awakening of those who by sloth and indifference have lost the approval of their employers.

If you doubt the truth of the interest awakened in the dictionary come to the Dictionary Department and be convinced. Get a dictionary.

## TOBAGGANNING AND VOTES.

Editor World: What is the inner reason for the city council's vote to prohibit Sunday tobogganing? No open-minded man who has visited that picturesque scene in High Park on a Sunday afternoon and has observed the happy glowing faces of those present, the ever ready offers by owners of toboggans to have a slide, and those who are equally fortunate, can doubt for a moment that the whole tenor of such use of time and God's open air is in the direction of right living and true Christianity.

It is inconceivable that fifteen councilmen and controllers of expenditures, who can really believe that such an exercise, giving work to nobody but active participants, is detrimental to the morals of the city. The only explanation is their rather sordid calculation that by plunking against Sunday sliding they would catch the votes of a certain class of busy bodies who have no patience with views broader than their own, and those of a larger number of citizens in favor of sliding either had no votes because of their youth, or would not trouble to make it a voting question. Therefore, I would earnestly suggest that all those who see no harm in Sunday sliding—and surely such are a very large majority in Toronto—should make a memo to vote at the next elections against the men who have won this Cadeauan victory for the forces of reaction.

Stronger ground is taken by some of the anti-slides who object to the city being placed in the position of providing Sunday amusements. Even this, however, is little more than a subterfuge; they were not provided particularly for Sunday. The city, helping nature, has provided slides for the recreation of a people. The fact that they are used on Sundays, thus more than doubling the opportunities of many people to make use of them, is irrelevant to the argument.

Some ministers and others who object to going to the slides themselves on Sundays—as they have every right to do—still have the courage and common sense to admit the folly of trying to force these views on other people who think differently. This is where the serious element of this latest Lord's Day Alliance moves makes itself apparent. If there is one thing which the churches and the moral forces of the city want, it is the sympathy of the law. Can such sympathy be expected when the church becomes allied in their minds with the recreation and amusement? And what law will young people pay to the churches' prohibition of real sins in the pursuit of happiness in ways which they know are absolutely innocent?

Common-Sense.

## DR. CARMAN AND THE NIAGARA INCIDENT.

Editor World: Every right-minded person must agree with your article on this subject, apart from one's own view of the question, surely, to say the least, Dr. Carman's letter was in the worst of bad taste. I am a Methodist and I have always been a regular church member, and I feel ashamed to think that the head of a church should give expression to sentiments that are so unchristian. Certainly they are not held except by a

very small and dwindling minority in the Methodist community. Does it not occur to Mr. Carman that the phenomenon of that fatal Sunday is of frequent occurrence and more often happens on a weekday than a Sunday? If there is a moral to be extracted from this ordinary recurrence of natural forces, why not for the weekday as well as the Sunday? Dr. Carman is a professional Bible student, at least he has been heard to champion his interpretation against those of distinguished scholars. Does he forget that the severest denunciations of the Master were uttered against those who read into natural events, supernatural dispensations? When were the disciples the same misguided view as Dr. Carman and questioned the Master. His answer was prompt and final, "Suppose ye that these Galileans be sinners above all the Galileans? I tell you, nay." Of those 18 upon whom the tower of Siloam fell and slew them, had ye that these disciples be sinners above all the Galileans? I tell you, nay." On another occasion when the disciples, still under the fatal misapprehension, questioned the Master about the interpretation of the signs in the sky, he answered, "Who did sin, this man or his parents? Again came the obvious and consistent answer, 'Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents.'"

The instincts of the entire press of the continent and of the community at large were correct in their interpretation of the Niagara incident. There was but one lesson, and the world has learned it—the lesson of courage, manliness, heroism, and an absolute fearlessness in the presence of a slowly advancing and terrible death. Had the last scenes been otherwise, what a text Dr. Carman would have made of it?

G. M. C.

## At Osgoode Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Feb. 23, 1912.

Peremptory list for divisional court for Monday, Feb. 26, at 11 a.m.:

1—Rudd v. Cameron.

2—Malott v. Malott.

3—Pope Metals v. Ontario Brass.

4—McMurray v. Queen City Oil Co.

5—Auer v. Bertie.

6—McDonald v. L. & W. Trust Co.

Master's Chambers.

Before Cartwright, K.C., Master.

Porter v. Toronto Ry. Co.—F. McCarthy, for defendant. G. S. Hodgson, for plaintiff. Motion by defendants for an order allowing them to give notice for a jury after the time allowed by the rules for giving same.

Judgment: Motion allowed with costs to plaintiff in any event. The defendants will undertake to go to trial at a date to be named by the court.

Union Bank v. Ayrer—A. H. F. LeRoy, K.C., for plaintiff. F. J. Hughes, for defendant. Motion by plaintiff for judgment under C. R. 62. Reserved.

Re Montreal Holding Co.—O. H. King, for a claimant. Macdonald (Blake & Co.) for company. Motion by claimant for an order for a commission to take evidence of a witness at Port Hood, N.S. Order made.

Black v. Foley—M. L. Gordon, for plaintiff—J. E. Day, for defendant. Motion by plaintiff for an order postponing trial for the reason of illness and absence of material witnesses. On certain terms order made postponing trial until March 5. Costs in cause.

Judges' Chambers.

Before Latchford, J.

Re Hutchison, Infant.—J. T. White, for father. William Hutchison, for mother. Motion by father on return of writ of habeas corpus for custody of child. At request of grandparents enlarged until 27th inst.

Fleming v. Toronto Ry. Co.—Tisdale (Gamble & Co.) for plaintiff. Motion by plaintiff for an order for a subpoena duces tecum directed to Neil McPhail, Montreal, for the trial on March 4 next. Order made.

Before Middleton, J.

Re Shannon—W. W. Harcourt, K.C., for infants. Motion on behalf of infants for an order allowing discharge of mortgage. Order made.

Mulvey v. Tilsonburg—E. F. W. Harcourt, K.C., for infants. Motion on behalf of infants for an order allowing mortgage to be discharged on a mortgage by the delivery of an infant.

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Re Dominion Metals—M. P. Van der Voort, for C. P. Richardson, petitioner. W. E. Wadsworth, for E. P. Smith, a petitioner. Motions by two petitioners for winding up order. Enlarged sine die.

Re Alex—A. R. Clute, for defendant. Motion by defendant for an order discharging five convictions under the Liquor License Act. At request of defendant, the crown not objecting, motion enlarged one week.

Davidson v. Williamson—R. B. Beaumont, for plaintiff. G. Bell, K.C., for defendants. Motion by plaintiff for an order for representation of absentees for trial for past and future maintenance of infants. Order made.

Re Millard—F. W. Harcourt, K.C., for infants. Motion on behalf of infants for an order giving leave to sell certain lands of infants under 21st Victoria. Order made. Motion to retain infants' share.

Single Court.

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Re Griffin—R. C. H. Cunnels for plaintiff. Legacies. J. D. Mungers for

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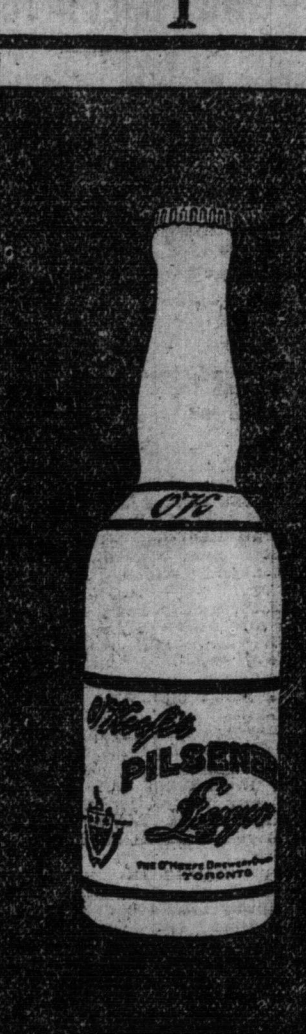
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