

**Morning Newspaper Published Every Day in the Year.**  
**MAIN OFFICE, 33 YONGE STREET, TORONTO.**  
 TELEPHONE CALLS:  
 Main 222—Private exchange, connecting all departments.  
**TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:**  
 Single Copies—  
 Daily Only, One Cent.  
 Sunday Only, Five Cents.  
 By Carrier—  
 Daily Only, Six Cents Per Week.  
 Daily and Sunday, Ten Cents Per Week.  
 By Mail—  
 Daily Only, One Month, 25c.  
 Daily and Sunday, One Month, 45c.  
 Daily Only, One Year, \$2.00.  
 Daily and Sunday, One Year, \$3.00.  
 Cost of Foreign Postage Should be Added to Above Rates.

**FOR WHAT DO WE PAY SALARIES?**  
 The act of the express companies, which in other shapes are simply the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern, regarding the rates, cancelled by the railway commission, is another illuminating exhibit of the conduct of these corporations towards the public. They asked leave to file with the commission an amended tariff of express charges, and were allowed to do so by Chairman Mabee on the understanding that there were no serious alterations and that it was to be tentative until such time as the commission, which lately was given jurisdiction over these rates, could revise the whole list. It now turns out that the new tariff was altogether against the public and contained a great many advances in rates. Chairman Mabee, when he found this out, rebuked the companies for their bad faith, cancelled the new tariff and ordered the old one restored. The chairman went further and said that he had allowed the new tariff to be approved for the time being without inspection; that he took the word of the companies that there was no substantial change in the schedules. Had he thought otherwise, the chairman says, he would have examined them carefully himself.

We commend the chairman for his courage; we have no great fault to find with him in not personally examining the schedule the moment it was presented to him; perhaps he was very busy. But we wish to call his attention to this fact, that a great many thousands of dollars have been voted by Parliament for a staff of secretaries, tariff experts, clerks, engineers, and other assistants to enable the commission to do the work that parliament has imposed upon it, and our view is that the commission would be justified in discharging the secretary and the tariff expert in its service or any others at fault, for to our mind these men are either incompetent or unfaithful to their duties. We hold that a competent secretary of the railway board, or a tariff expert could in ten minutes tell whether a tariff schedule was honest, was fair, and whether it involved changes; and the public will not be satisfied unless somebody is made responsible for this attack on the rights of the public, and unless the incompetence that the servants of the commission have shown in this respect is followed by removal. Too many men who are given employment of this kind think of nothing but the job, and once they get the job of finding a post for some of their relatives on the railways.

We speak with a good deal of knowledge when we say that half the men appointed to public office in this country use their office and use their position for the advancement of some relative or some interest with which they happen to be identified; and this happens largely because they are not "called" when they make their first break, and because they are seldom brought to realize that their first and only duty is to the public who pay their salaries.

Do you ever see the salary list of some of these public service corporations? They simply give with names that are spelled like the names of members of parliament, ministers, judges, public officials.

This express incident is well worthy of the investigation of parliament as soon as it meets, if it is not worthy of the attention of the commissioners forthwith. If this thing be passed over the commission will hurt itself in the eyes of the public.

Grand Trunk has not been quite so evident as its rivals. Still, worse, is the fact coming to the notice that local and other governments have joined up with railways or other interests in the control of newspapers, and two glaring instances of this kind are now known. Quite a number of weekly papers are either absolutely owned or controlled in one form or another, by the great interests in this country, especially those connected with transportation. There is hardly a newspaper in Montreal that is not manipulated by corporation interests.

We hold that the most significant and sinister sign of the times to-day in Canada is this change in the newspaper press, the passing of its control from men who conceived it to be their duty to protect public interests, into the hands of corporations controlling public franchises; to corporations who use the newspapers to aid them in their aggressive schemes and to hide their offences, and who, under the guise of serving the public with news and opinion, rob them in the most stealthy manner.

There is another thing which goes with all this, worthy of the attention of the public. It is what is now known as chloroforming the opposition. The worst example of this has occurred in Ontario, where the opposition on the legislature has been duly chloroformed, and where certain interests are in a position to give assurance that the opposition will be mum when a proposition of theirs is to be hurried along.

The public have got a good deal to think about these days, and they had better start thinking quick and fast, and the sooner they pick out and mark the newspapers that are taking the public's money while betraying public interests, the better it will be all round.

**THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.**

Altho the place held by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in the national economy would alone render its annual meeting and the report and statements made public notable in the records of the Dominion, attention is specially given to the presidential address. Nor is this attitude confined to Ontario or Toronto, whence the bank radiates over and beyond Canada. Mr. E. W. Walker stands in the foremost rank of Canadian bankers and financial authorities because he has long ago approved himself to be not only highly skilled in his honorable profession and an adviser of perspicacity and sound judgment, but also to be capable of deriving from dry statistical tables accurate and valuable generalizations. For Mr. Walker happily combines wise conservatism in banking methods with clear insight into the necessities and real interests of such a Canada as a country of wonderful resources under conquest at the hands of its people. It is to the president of the Bank of Commerce and to other men of affairs of his type that the business community turns for instruction and guidance, particularly at these critical periods following upon monetary disturbances or preceding a revival of industry and commerce and a renewal of the expansion to which they have interposed a temporary barrier. Canada is now fortunately in the latter of these positions, and Mr. Walker has for her both words of warning and words of hope.

Before, however, referring to the president's address, regard may be had to the report of directors, relative accounts and minutes of the proceedings at the annual meeting elsewhere appearing in this issue of The World.

The statements show that the net profits for the year to 29th of November last, after providing for all doubtful debts, were \$1,677,322.78, only \$125,018.59 less than the earnings of the previous year. They show a return equal to over 14 per cent on the paid up capital, and this the directors consider to be under the circumstances a very satisfactory result. As a balance of \$775,912.10 was carried over from the preceding year at credit of profit and loss account, the amount available for distribution was \$2,453,248.88, whereas \$200,000 went in the usual dividend of eight per cent on the capital stock; \$300,000 was written off the cost of bank premises; \$30,000 transferred to pension fund; \$12,000 given in subscriptions to various national objects and \$1,000,000 added to the reserve fund. The total available balance of \$1,612,248.88 to be carried forward at credit of profit and loss. The general balance sheet leaves the Bank of Commerce in an eminently satisfactory financial position. During the year deposits increased by nearly \$5,000,000, current loans and discounts diminished by \$7,822,222, and call and short loans advanced by \$5,241,327. These figures again illustrate the shrinkage in trade and commerce and the resulting accession of strength due to the accumulation of funds in banking institutions. In the case of the Bank of Commerce the proportion of readily realizable assets at the close of its financial year stood at nearly 49 per cent, a more than ample allowance. The reserve account has now reached \$6,000,000 as against the \$10,000,000 of paid up capital and the shareholders evidently thoroughly approve the policy of "strengthening the foundations of the bank," as the best means of securing a later and permanent increase in returns.

With this very favorable statement before him, Mr. Walker proceeded to review the general situation in Canada and her provinces as presented itself to-day, and his address gives an admirable prospect, both of the federal and provincial outlook. Canada has been fortunate inasmuch as it suffered far less from the financial depression than have most other countries, and Mr. Walker, holding that opinion, appears to be doubtful whether "we have suffered enough for our own good." The implied warning is timely and should be taken to heart. Even if the prevailing atmosphere of a rapidly developing country with vast resources and possibilities cannot be other than that of buoyant optimism, prudence advises that preparation be made in fat years for the lean years that inevitably succeed. Not a little credit is due the banks of Canada and

sagacious counsellors like Mr. Walker for their foresight and discretion in leading the nation thru a sharp crisis with the minimum of trade and commercial disturbance. The lesson would be easier were the lesson of thrift more completely learned by the people, but even as it was, the evidence afforded of the native strength of the Dominion is reflected in the high financial standing it enjoys, particularly in the United Kingdom and to a smaller extent in the United States. During 1908 Mr. Walker pointed out, no less than \$196,377,000 of Canadian securities were marketed; Britain absorbing \$165,000,000 and the United States \$31,377,000. The relatively trifling balance went to the United States. Nothing should be done calculated to impair the confidence of the world in the Dominion. The World would have liked to follow the president thru his exhaustive summary of provincial experiences during the year that is closed and his estimate of their prospects in the year just opened; but space must be had to be taken to collect the valuable information which he has cast into eminently readable form, and this the ablest part of his address will be read with great interest and profit throughout the Dominion. His suggestions regarding the true lines of advance are practical and his suggestions regarding the wider aspects of policy and the manner in which he uses them in support of general reforms and new departures in his province are of the whole Dominion. By doing this Mr. Walker has performed a work of really national value and has heightened the public's appreciation of the patriotic endeavors to place Canadian prosperity on a sure and enduring basis.

Before closing this article The World expresses its appreciation of the able and clear-headed address of the general manager, Mr. Laird, and his criticisms on the system of carrying call loans at New York. It is emphatically grounded on prudence and Mr. Laird pointed out very forcibly its important incidental advantages, especially at a moment of emergency. The World has on occasion supported the practice, just as it has condemned the tendency to sink Canadian funds in foreign enterprises that would have been better employed in home developments. It is an entirely distinct proposition from that with which Mr. Laird deals, and is very gratifying that the general manager was able to distinguish between holders that consequent on these call loans, no lines of credit for customers were cancelled, and that the bank's attitude was able to refuse accommodation for its legitimate requirements. Legitimate is an elastic adjective, and the Canadian banking institutions should cultivate.

**THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.**

In another column of this issue will be found the 39th annual statement of the Royal Bank of Canada. It shows that the institution is in a thoroughly sound position and that notwithstanding the financial depression prevailing during the past year the volume of business has been steadily maintained, deposits bearing interest increasing in that period by upwards of \$4,000,000. The readily available reserve fund, which is 50 per cent of the current liabilities, thus leaving the Royal Bank in an exceptionally strong position. The Royal Bank has kept the convenience of its customers steadily in view in shown by the fact that the ordinary business of the bank has shown an increase over the preceding year. Net profits, after deducting all charges and providing for bad and doubtful debts, totaled \$4,715,500, which, with a balance at credit, carried forward, left \$806,655.26 available for distribution. A dividend of 10 per cent, amounting for 1908 to \$2,000,000 was written off bank premises account, and \$210,000 transferred to reserve fund, which has now reached \$4,280,000 against a paid-up capital of \$3,990,000. This latter of itself discloses the conservative lines on which the Royal Bank is managed, and reflects great credit on the efficiency of the management.

**IN AID OF SUFFERERS.**

On Thursday afternoon a special benefit performance has been arranged at the Princess Theatre in aid of the sufferers from the earth disturbance in Sicily and Calabria. This is an object that will meet with a responsive approval from every Canadian, and a very attractive program has been arranged there ought to be no difficulty in adding a substantial amount to the relief fund. The entertainment will have a generous support from many well-known popular favorites, and from the Italian community in Toronto, and there is no reason to suppose that the general public will be less responsive to an appeal which commends itself to all that is best in human nature. The proposal has received the hearty approval of the responsible authorities of the city and all who desire to contribute towards that estimable object will have a favorable opportunity on Thursday afternoon.

**YANKEE ARCHITECTS NOT NEEDED IN CANADA.**

President Gordon Names the Chief Sinners at O. S. A Annual Convention.

President H. B. Gordon at the opening of the annual convention of the Ontario Architects' Association, at the hall 96 west King-street, welcomed the delegates. In his annual address he said that this being the 21st anniversary, the association was of age. Thru it there was a recognized observance of professional ethics, a higher scale of remuneration and a clearer defined standard of efficiency. One of the most important questions before them was architectural education. His discussion had been heated and attended by strong differences of view. The creator of a badly constructed or vulgarly decorated building committed an offence against society for generations. The licensing board might be clear of political bias, but the probability was much the reverse. On the other hand there was the insinuation that the Ontario Architects wished to lord it over all the members of the profession in the province. The curtailing of the general good of the community was a recognized tendency, but the association was determined to resist any such scheme of the profession had a voice in its control. The charge of forming a close corporation in adding the coming competitors should be better educated than the present members, would not carry much weight.

**Domestic Institute Formed.**

During the year a Dominion Institute of Architects had been incorporated. There was much possible room to do for both the Dominion Institute and the provincial associations. They should work in a spirit of harmony. To render this attainment a scheme of affiliation must be evolved. In Ontario some general building laws, covering the whole province were needed in some places each builder was a law unto himself. Protection was needed to secure public safety from the shoddy work of incompetent contractors. There were in the province town halls, places of amusement and other buildings so constructed as to invite disaster. A law was needed limiting the height of buildings to stop the unfairness of the height of buildings, which put their neighbors in the shade.

**Evidence of Architects.**

The hiring of outside experts to give expert evidence by rival lawyers, architect against brother architect, had caused the profession to suffer in the eyes of the public. They should be appointed by the judge and be made independent in their evidence. No architect should also be the contractor for the building under his oversight. A bylaw should be adopted prohibiting a member soliciting any business other than the fee from his client. No canvassing for work should be countenanced. The employment of foreign architects was insulting to Canadian architects and disloyal. It had resulted in badly planned buildings, being erected. The Ontario government was the chief sinner, in connection with the erection of the buildings in Queen's Park. The Y.M.C.A. forgot its duty as the importer of United States architects. This had also resulted in the enrichment of United States contractors and supply houses. But despite all handicaps the Canadian architects were winning out. E. Burke, chairman of the educational committee, said there was a great need for an architectural department at School of Practical Science. But this could not be looked for unless a sufficient attendance would be forthcoming. This would not be the case unless the passing of an examination there be made obligatory on all students seeking admission to the profession. A non committal report was made by the committee on legislation, merely placing before the convention the question of asking for the sending of a licensing bill to the Ontario legislature. The report was adopted without action. D. E. Dick gave an account of the International Congress of Architects in Vienna.

**Partial Exclusion.**

The Ottawa chapter reported that the efforts to secure a thorough enforcement of the customs law with respect to United States architects invading Canada had only been successful in a very limited measure. The officers of the department would not give their views and the thoughts of the Dominion authorities were scrupulously concealed. There was no doubt many cases in which the duty was uncollected or evaded. The department claimed a very substantial sum was collected in certain cases, but in others the chapter was at an utter loss to know why action was not taken. The law was often evaded by "Mr. Fox opening an office in Canada with Mr. Blank-Fox and Blank" (Laughter). Mr. Fox would be of New York and Mr. Blank would be Canadian, sharing in the commission, as the so-called associate architect. The United States conditions were so arranged that they were absolutely prohibitive. The Ontario executive was urged to bring all the pressure possible to bear on the customs authorities to secure more adequate protection for the Canadian architects. J. Francis, C.E., Montreal, gave an address on reinforced concrete. The annual dinner was held last night at the St. Charles Hotel. The convention will conclude to-day.

**A TRAVELER'S REMINDER.**  
 To the License Commission of Toronto: Gentlemen: In a short time you will be called upon to determine who shall be the license holders for the next license year. On account of the reduction vote, it will be necessary for

**EATON'S JANUARY SALE**

**Men's Winter Overcoats** On Sale To-Day **\$2.50**

Should make a man decide on the spot to get here at once and buy when such an offer as this is made. Remember on sale to-day

150 MEN'S WINTER WEIGHT OVERCOATS—broken lines and odd sizes; these are made up in 46 and 48-inch lengths in single-breasted Chesterfield style, with velvet collars; the materials are black beaver and grey mixed tweeds and chevots, in plain and striped patterns, good strong Italian linings, sizes 34 to 44; January Sale **2.50**



These "Better Grade" Overcoats 7.90  
 MEN'S FINE BLACK OVERCOATS—Made up in 46-inch Chesterfield style, with velvet collars, glassed sleeve lining and Italian body lining; the materials are black kerseys and meltons; heavy warm garments, sizes 34 to 44; January Sale price **7.90**

**An Astounding Offer in Fur-lined Coats**

Beautifully made; the otter collar is made notch style, dark evenly furred Canadian muskrat lining, color of the best; fine black beaver cloth shell, loose full box style, nicely tailored, 50 inches long. Don't miss this chance to get a high class fur-lined garment at a low price, number limited; January Sale price, each **42.50**

**January Boys Three Piece Suits**

A price like this makes it easier to keep your boy warm and neat looking. BOYS' THREE-PIECE SUITS—Made from good durable English tweed, single-breasted, sacque style, strong Italian body linings, knee pants, lined; sizes 28 to 33; January Sale price **2.39**

**January Sale Gives You Boys' Shirts At Staring Reductions**

All the better grades of Fancy Colored Shirts going at one price. This is undoubtedly a great snap; the lot consists of fine grade Neglige Shirts, fancy stripes, plain white pleated, laundered bosoms; all have cuffs attached, except the fancy neglige, which have separate cuffs; all colors; this season's novelties, complete range of sizes, 12 to 14 1-2; price **.39**

**Boys' Underwear Saving**

Such an opportunity comes only occasionally, and the careful mother has a chance to clothe the young son in warm, serviceable underwear at a price reduction that should bring her here sharp at 8 o'clock. BOYS' UNDERWEAR—Shirts and drawers, nicely finished, having just a little cotton mixture, which makes them better for wear; at this price they will not last long, sizes 22 to 32; price **.16**

**Men's Wool Sweaters 53**

Men! stop and think what savings this offer means to you. When we say that this is the GREATEST MONEY SAVING offer we have made in some time, we are not speaking too strongly. MEN'S HEAVY ALL-WOOL SWEATERS—Deep roll collar, close ribbed cuffs and skirt, manufacturers' overmarks, in plain and fancy colors AT LESS than the cost of knitting; January Sale rush price **.53**

**Look Boys' and Men's Neckties at 5c.**

For boys need ties and men can wear them, too. Stock your Necktie box with this very choice assortment of narrow reversible four-in-hand and shield bow neckwear, light and dark fancy patterns, also many blue polka dots; factory overmarks; January Sale price, each **.5**

**About the English-Made Eatonia**

MONTH after month we've been telling of the superiority of English-made Eatonia—of its superiority over ANY make we know of at the same price and over boots of higher prices. We claim it's absolutely the best boot in Canada to-day for the money, and you've no better chance for putting it to test than NOW. Now, the hardest time of the year on boots is the time to test the Eatonias. We ask you to try them—give them a good test—test them for comfort—for wear—for style and above all, for value, and if you're not convinced all we claim is correct—even more—after examination, bring them back and get your money. Made of excellent quality box calf, soft, smooth, firm, reinforced at back with silk-stitched strap, heels of solid leather all through, double shank and soles of solid oak tan leather. They contain all the best points of the English-made boots with the style and finish of American boots, and with a daily increasing list of wearers of English Eatonias as proof of the satisfaction they give. SEE THEM SATURDAY.

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