

## The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 23.

### Everybody is Embarrassed by the Exchange Situation.

The United States Secretary of the treasury appeals to congress for advice. Interest upon loans advanced to the allies is payable and amounts to \$475,000,000. To compel payment in New York funds would be oppressive and ruinous. On the other hand the secretary says that he does not want to accumulate a large amount in depreciated foreign currency. He is somewhat in the position of the unmarried country editor who has to take pumpkins, pickles and other garden produce for subscriptions.

We would not be greatly surprised if these debts of the allies were written off as a partial contribution by the United States to the total cost of the war. The war in time became her war, and there is a certain equity in her sharing pro rata in the total expense.

Some even go farther and say that the United States should rectify the exchange situation and pay her full share of the cost of the war by extending fresh credits to the allied nations. This, of course, is a matter for the United States to determine for herself.

For ourselves we have little doubt that the exchange situation as between Great Britain and the United States will sooner adjust itself than people now imagine. Great Britain is still the great carrier of the world's commerce and the difference between her imports and exports by no means represents the true balance of trade. Quite possibly the British government welcomes the exchange situation as a substitute for a protective tariff at a time when home manufactures need every encouragement.

### A Woman for the Council.

In the aldermanic nominations the chief innovation is in Ward Three where Mrs. Constance E. (L. A.) Hamilton has entered the field. Mrs. Hamilton is one of the best known women in the public life of the city, and highly regarded by all who know her for her sound common sense, her business-like methods, her clear and definite thinking, and her direct habit of speech.

On the numerous committees and public bodies on which she has served she is noted for these practical qualities which so facilitate the dispatch of affairs. The advent of such women to the city council would be a real advantage, and tend to curtail the interminable discussions to which unbusiness-like aldermen are addicted.

If the intelligent voters of Ward Three desire a capable representative they cannot do better than vote for Mrs. Hamilton. She promises special attention to matters affecting women and children, but the interests of all the citizens will engage her careful consideration.

### The Chief Won't Explain.

"There are things that cannot be explained," said the chief of police yesterday, when interviewed regarding some transfers made among the men of the force. The most notable possibility of these changes is that of two plainclothesmen, who have been reduced to the ranks. No reasons are given. "There are things that cannot be explained." The men generally regard it as a remarkable coincidence that all the men involved in the changes were prominent in the agitation for the police union some time ago. As a distinct undertaking was given that none of the men would be affected on account of anything that had occurred there is an inclination to attribute to the hide-bound officialdom of the department a lapse of faith in this respect.

It is conceivable that no relation exists, but such coincidences are not regarded as possible in other realms of human activity apart from design. The chief of police, however, declares that he will not tell the reason for the action taken. We fear this is not the way to gain the confidence of the men, and we believe it is the way that has led to loss of confidence by the citizens in the management of the police department. It is not to be expected that the men will rest quietly under the circumstances. Perhaps Mayor Church, who is a police commissioner, can explain why the action was taken?

### Reforestation Proposed.

Another excellent step in provincial policy has been forecast by Mr. Drury in his reply to the Northumberland and Durham deputation which waited on the minister of lands and forests yesterday. Afforestation and reforestation have been live questions for years in Ontario politics, but nothing practical has ever been done, and attempts or proposals for action have always been nullified by the kind of compromise, offend-nobody and please-nobody legislation adopted.

Under present laws the initiative has been left to the municipalities, and

these are comparatively ephemeral bodies, whose interests are in the immediate present, and they fail to take an active interest in policies the results of which can only benefit a future generation. On long time proposals of this nature it is the provincial government, which should be prepared to take the lead. There should, however, it is felt, be some kind of co-operation between the government and the municipalities and a solution was proposed by Mr. Sam Clarke, M.L.A. for Cobourg, which met the approval of the ministers and the deputation also. This was to have the municipalities provide the land, and the government to do the planting. The idea met the approval of Prof. Zavitz also.

Not only is waste land available for reforestation purposes, but the covering of such land serves as a protection to fertile lands adjacent which are frequently encroached upon by the sand drifts from vacant and sterile tracts.

The depletion of Ontario's timber wealth is a severe loss to the public resources annually. Not only the ordinary use and consumption has to be noted, but the great waste from forest fires has been a heavy drain upon our public wealth. To compensate for these losses and to replace the forests which we annually cut down is a task to which it is not too late to turn attention, the adequate measures have been long delayed. Should Mr. Drury and his government succeed in dealing in a satisfactory manner with this problem they will have earned the gratitude of the whole province.

### Somebody Should Wake Them Up

The officials of our headless customs department at Ottawa are the only people alive who have not yet disdained the world's exchange. They are still reckoning the pound sterling as being worth \$4.86, the French franc as being worth 20 cents, and so on.

The result is they have wiped out the British preference and lowered the tariff against American goods.

If an importer brings in goods from England for which he pays four hundred pounds sterling, it is unjust to make him pay on a valuation approximately two thousand dollars. The valuation should be made in Canadian money, based on the well-known fact that the pound sterling is not worth \$4.86 but only \$3.32. And so with imports from France or any other country. A man might bring in something from Russia for which he paid two thousand rubles, but its real value in Canadian money might only be ten or twelve dollars.

On the other hand, when a man brings in something from the United States for which he pays in New York a thousand dollars, the goods should be valued not in American money, but in Canadian money at \$1,050, \$1,070 or \$1,090 as the rate of exchange may dictate.

The United States customs authorities are dealing with conditions as they exist. The value they place upon imports from abroad is determined by the prevailing rate of exchange.

### If the Farmers Strike.

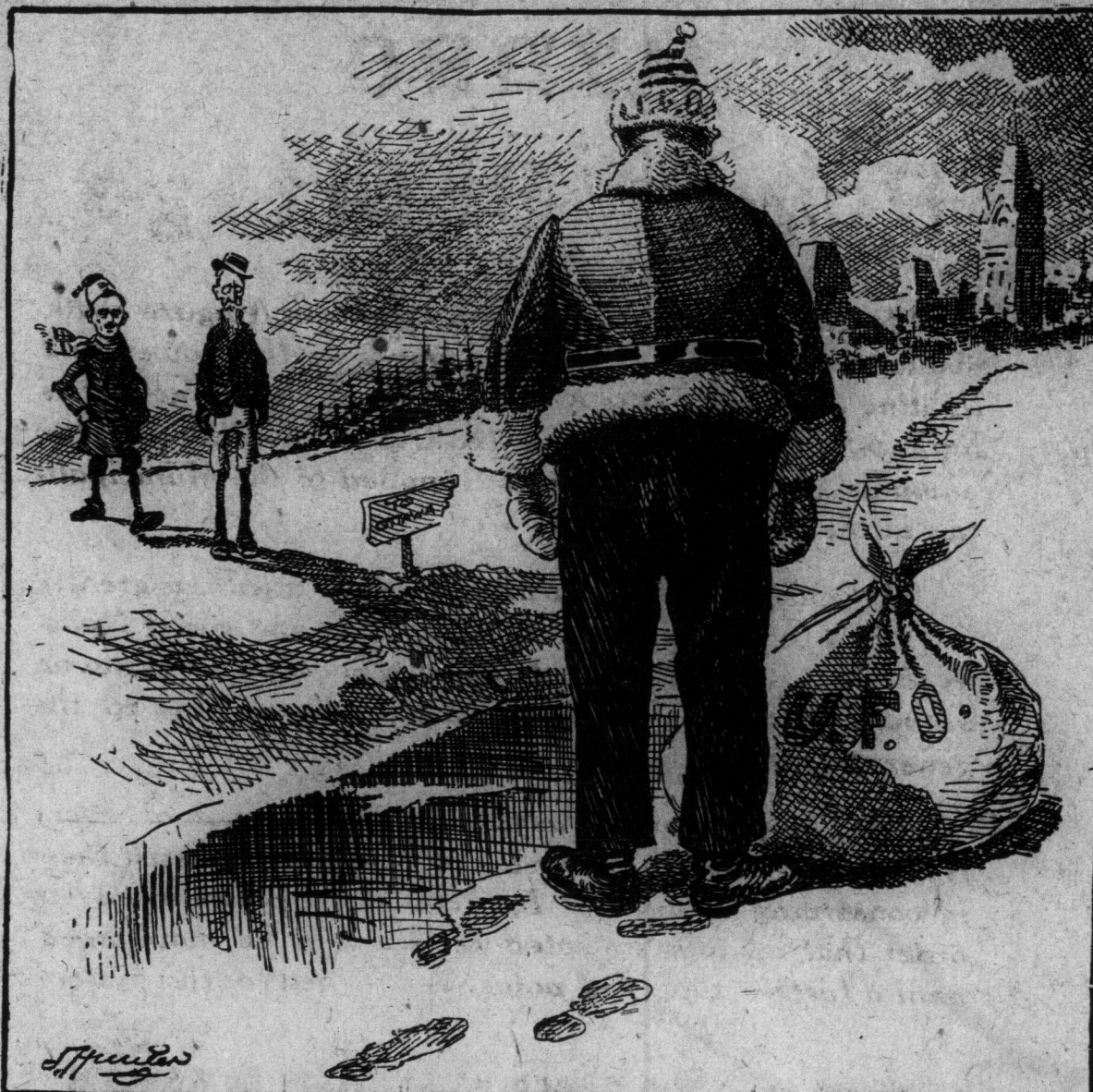
Cora Hind, farm editor of The Manitoba Free Press, for many years leading expert on western farm crops and stock breeding, says the board of commerce is "by far the most mischievous institution that has been let loose on the country." She is full of scorn for Mr. O'Connor, who "goes airily on his way destroying industries that have been built up thru long years of patient effort."

If things go on as they are for another month or two, Miss Hind says that next year western Canada will be importing bacon, butter and milk. Interference with pork products has produced her estimate that not two per cent. of the hogs on the prairie will bring forth next spring. "Cows by the thousand and heifer calves by the hundred are going to the shambles." The one solution for the high cost of living was enormously increased production of foodstuffs. But the high cost of feed and labor and the high cost of commerce price-fixing are rapidly reducing production. Mr. O'Connor cannot compel the farmers to produce. "The farmers are the one class who can sit back and say, 'We will produce enough for our own needs, but if you do not pay us a just price we will produce no more than sufficient for our own needs,' and get away with it."

Last year Mr. Morrison, the U.F.O. secretary, and the Ontario Farmers' Warlike, threatened that his friends would go on strike, if the attitude of city folks toward them did not improve. And now the threat is renewed from the west. The portent cannot wisely be ignored. What is behind it? Somebody has said that British rule in India would cease in a week if the servants of the white officials went on strike. With us the soil worker is king if he so chooses. A locked barn would be the greatest lockout in the history of labor. When farm leaders denounce the board of commerce as the greatest of the economic enemies menacing the country, it is time to look deeper into the high cost of living than the government seems to have done.

The problem must be tackled as a whole, on its costs side. Wherever blame lies, it is a frightful calamity to shorten production. The difference between what the farmer receives and the consumer pays has never been sufficiently illuminated. The only really constructive proposition to deal with this is the proposal of the Toronto Labor party to turn the munic-

## RATHER SUSPICIOUS OF SANTA CLAUS



ipal abattoir over to a co-operative company composed of the city, the province and the U.F.O. What applies to that situation applies, basically to the whole country. There is no good hope so long as the spirit between town and country is mutually antagonistic. Hostility will only get us all into deeper trouble. You cannot compel the farmer to produce. If the farmer goes on strike then will the latter end of the high cost of living be grievous indeed.

### ON NOMINATION DAY

By IDA L. WEBSTER.

Today is the glorious day for all those who have aspirations for civic honors, or otherwise. Because when you come to think of it, why is there such a rush for a \$300 alderman's job? Well, whatever the reason may be, the fact still remains that many will be struck with the idea that they are going to be called, and yet at the same time but few will be chosen.

The speeches will be varied, and in practically every case both uninteresting and lengthy. For instance, Alderman Beamish will tell with a great deal of enthusiasm what he has done for the North Yonge street situation. He will draw attention to the condition of the road, and also the facilities for traffic. These he will enlarge upon, and then he will undoubtedly repeat the old gag of what is going to be done by Sir Adam Beck within the next few months. For a wind-up he will probably protest to the roof of the council chamber his keen love for Hydro and the returned men.

Ald. Baker may be relied upon to talk himself out of breath, and his audience out of patience. What he will say will perhaps not be vital, in any case it will not alter the price of living any.

Ald. Mogridge had better say very little. As he is a member of the press much is expected of him in the way of brevity.

As for the people who would be controllers, if they all get as mirthful a reception as that given to Mister Robbins at North Toronto on Saturday night, the business of the day will not be dull by any means.

Controller Maguire will likely boost for Hydro, and the clearing up of Yonge street, as well as the Mount Pleasant car line.

Ald. Ball will be among those who will give an interesting speech, and it will be very much to the point, and not long-winded.

Controller Cameron will mayhap deplore the work done by the present board, and suggest that he be taken on his merits, and that the matter rests entirely with the people, not with himself.

Sam McBride will make a good speech, full of pep and truth.

Tommy Church will get an ovation and be elected mayor for 1920.

While the citizens will sit back and wonder what there is in heaven or earth which allows of so many wild people getting together under one roof.

### THE DOUBLE TRACK TO MONTREAL.

The direct line of the Grand Trunk Railway System offers to travelers the ideal route between Toronto and Montreal. It is double-tracked all the way, and the splendid train equipment in use makes the journey a pleasure. The International Limited, which leaves Montreal daily at 9:15 a.m. and is composed of parlor cars, Pullman drawing-room sleeping cars, dining car and modern coaches, and reaches Toronto at 11:45 p.m. The Grand Trunk also operates two excellent night trains—one departing at 8:30 p.m. and the other at 11 p.m., arriving Montreal 7:01 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. respectively. On the 11 o'clock train there are Pullman drawing-room sleeping cars, including club compartment drawing-room sleeping car and latest type of coaches, and there are drawing-room sleeping cars and latest type of coaches on the 8:30 p.m. train.

### STOLE MOTOR CAR

Norman Debonkey, a 16-year-old lad, was sent to the Jail Farm for one year by Magistrate Denison in the police court yesterday on a charge of having stolen a motor car.

## ATTACKED BY ROBBER

Harwich Township Woman Has Head Injured by Desperado.

Chatham, Dec. 22.—(Special)—With the motive apparently robbery, a masked man entered the Richards home, Harwich Township, Saturday night in the absence of the men folk and brutally attacked Miss Richards, an elderly spinster. She told High Constable Peters that as she was opening the kitchen door a man assailed her from behind and attempted to place a noose round her neck. She fought with the man for some time, and apparently frightened by her screams, he finally left in a hurry, leaving her lying on the floor, with blood flowing profusely from a wound in the head, sustained during the encounter. He left behind the mask, which was roughly made from a salt sack, and the noose fashioned from a piece of ash cord. The police believe that the attack was premeditated, and are following up clues. The lady kept house for her two brothers, well-known farmers, and who were known to have recently sold their tobacco crop.

## FIRM REPLY MADE TO GERMANY'S LAST NOTE

Paris, Dec. 22.—The heads of the allied delegations met this evening and decided upon the text of the reply of the allies to the last German note concerning clauses in the armistice which have not been carried out, and the compensation demanded for the sinking of the former German fleet in Scapa Flow.

The note is firm in tone, and makes known to Germany precisely what the allies will require of her. It will be presented tomorrow morning.

## THE STORY.

Moonlight and Money, The World's story, will be found this morning on page 7.

## ISSUE A REPORT ON WORLD'S CROP

Production of Wheat This Year Only Slightly Below the Average.

Canadian Press Despatch. Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A cablegram received from the International Institute at Rome gives the following official crop reports:

The total production of wheat in 1919 in Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Rumania, Switzerland, Canada, United States, India, Japan, Algeria and Tunis is 1,074,753,000 bushels, against 2,238,100,000 in the same countries in 1918, and 2,150,000,000, their average annual production in the five years 1913-1917.

The production of rye in Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Rumania, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Algeria and Tunis is 598,000,000 bushels, against 673,000,000 in 1918 and a five year average of 602,000,000 bushels.

The production of oats in the same countries as for barley is 2,014,340,000 bushels against 2,402,000,000 in 1918 and a five year average of 2,255,000,000 bushels.

The production of corn in Spain, Italy, Rumania, Switzerland, Canada and the United States is 3,126,194,000 bushels against 2,723,000,000 in 1918 and a five year average of 2,995,000,000 bushels.

The production of potatoes in England and Wales, Scotland, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Canada and the United States is 792,638,000 bushels against 900,800,000 in 1918 and a five year average of 768,800,000 bushels.

The production of flaxseed in Italy, Rumania, Canada, United States, India and Japan is 28,340,000 bushels against 42,700,000 bushels in 1918 and a five year average of 43,500,000 bushels.

# THE SHOP FOR MEN

## Gift Suggestions

Gifts From King Street Shop Men Will Appreciate

### SHIRTS

We would say give him English Shirts if you want to be sure he's getting the finest made.

Madras and Zephyrs \$2.50 to \$3.75  
Pure Silk \$7.50  
Wool Taffetas \$7.00 to \$9.50

### Dressing Gowns

House Coats  
Something a man will always appreciate.

Dressing Gowns \$12.50 to \$32.00  
House Coats \$6.50 to \$20.00

### NECKWEAR

Seldom does any man have too many ties that he likes; you can select colors and patterns that he is sure to like, from our Christmas displays.

Rich Silks, select patterns, \$1.00 to \$4.50.

Knitted English Silks, \$2.00 to \$4.00.

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