

The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 19.

Toronto's Illegal Taxation

It was quite unworthy of the assessment commissioner to try and sidestep the real issue in the matter of the illegal assessment of city real estate. He took up two points in his interview: "defending" the policy of the department, and we are free to say that we regret any defence of the department is necessary. If the law was carried out no defence would be needed, and we feel sure the department is quite equal to carrying out the law if the commissioner can get it into his head that the law was made to be observed. Is it not a comfortable thing to reflect upon that a great city like Toronto is one of the most notorious law-breakers in the province, but this is the fact, and Mr. Forman is responsible for it.

Here is his defence as it applies to the illegal assessment. We have no objection to his arrangements for purchasing property. That is a separate matter, and we have no reason to believe that Mr. Forman does not know the value of property which he has to buy for the city. But this only makes the offense more heinous when he refuses to assess the property of the city at its true value.

"I contend that the assessment is equalized, and therefore no injustice is done to anybody. The people all pay taxes on the same basis. The act provides that we are to assess property at its actual value. Now, the question is what is its actual value? We say that it is based on the earning power of the property in normal times. We cannot be governed by the speculative prices at which property has been selling."

Mr. Forman's words might be paraphrased and echoed and the question asked: What are normal times? Every year for a long time past Mr. Forman has been telling us that conditions are abnormal, and that some day we shall have normal conditions. The present year is no nearer normal than any in the past ten. Perhaps if we pulled down all the houses in Toronto and got back to grass land and wheat the times would be normal. The fact is that in his policy of assessing Mr. Forman is not up to date, but several years behind the market. If he valued at actual values he would do more to stop the booms he deprecates than anything else would. If people had to pay taxes on their inflated values they would not inflate.

No one has asked, however, for assessments on "speculative values." The act does not ask for assessment on "speculative values." Mr. Forman begs the whole question when he places this herring on the trail. The act, as he says, provides that property is to be assessed at its actual value. The question really is, why does Mr. Forman not assess the property at its actual value? It is done in other cities. There are systems which business men recognize as being able to adjust values, with the nicest accuracy. We think Mr. Forman is quite able to do what is required of him. Why does he not do it?

He contends that no injustice is done and that the assessment is equalized. Let him go up to Hon. Mr. McCready and explain to him why Toronto is only paying 70 per cent. of the war tax which has been levied upon the city. Mr. Forman may say that is giving away the city's case. Well, then, let him go to the revision court and listen to the appeals that are constantly made there, and would be made in still greater degree but for the fact that the citizens are placed by the laws in the anomalous position of having to appeal against their neighbors' assessments in order to get their own put right. Most of the appeals are not made because the amount is over value, but because it is not fair in comparison with neighboring property. Mr. Forman knows this, and every citizen who takes an interest in the taxes knows this, and the officials of the court of revision know it, and the whole city hall knows it. The people do not all pay taxes on

the same basis, and this is perhaps the fundamental error of Mr. Forman's statement. There can be no fair and equalized assessment until all property is assessed as the act directs at 100 per cent. of its value, not at 70 per cent., or any other arbitrary percentage that one of a score of assessors may decide upon.

It may surprise citizens, and even Mr. Forman, to hear that there has not been a legal tax levy in Toronto for years. No taxes can be legally collected that are not levied according to law. The taxes must be collected on a legal assessment, and Toronto assessments are illegal. They are not according to the act. Any wealthy citizen can refuse to pay, and carry his case to a victorious conclusion if he has the money to fight the city. Any citizen get out an injunction to restrain the city from collecting the taxes levied on the illegal assessments made by the assessment commissioner. When officials begin to break the law there is no end to the vicious possibilities of the situation. If Mr. Forman does not realize this, he should consult the acting corporation counsel.

A Suggestion

Hon. Mr. White's explanation of why more war orders go to the United States than to Canada in proportion to their industrial capacity is satisfactory as far as it goes, but we venture to think it prompts a suggestion to the minister of finance. He says in effect that the belligerents cannot ship gold to either country in payment for the supplies ordered, and therefore, have to establish credits on this side of the ocean by putting up securities. Such securities have been sent to New York, where they have been discounted by J. P. Morgan and Company and other great banking houses. Against these credits the belligerents can draw, and New York bankers furnish the actual money needed to pay the American manufacturer and the American wage earner.

Needless to say these securities must be short-time, gilt-edge obligations, which would be snapped at by our Canadian banks were it not that they must keep huge reserves and not impair their liquid strength. But as matters stand, our banks cannot discount the securities so as to give the belligerents a line of credit in Canada, and the belligerents cannot ship the gold to pay the Canadian manufacturer and his employees.

Our suggestion to the government and banks would be that the latter resort to rediscounting, and that they be protected from loss by the strong arm of the government. The securities that are being discounted in New York must be of the highest quality; indeed, British treasury bills will soon be included among them. Why, therefore, cannot the banks give a line of credit to the belligerents upon short-time gilt-edge securities and have the Dominion Government rediscount them? Under the statute they can borrow all the money they want upon such securities in the shape of national currency. The national currency will be gladly taken by the Canadian manufacturer and the Canadian wage-earner, and will be redeemed in due time without loss to anybody in the ordinary course of liquidation.

The Dominion Government is certainly as strong as any banker in New York, and can safely take the securities which are eagerly discounted by J. P. Morgan and Company.

FIGHT GAS WITH GAS.

London Times Book Describes Latest War Devices.
The gas method of annihilation of troops which the German Government introduced into modern warfare, is the most terrible incident which has occurred to date. Its effects can be counteracted to a certain extent by various methods, but the most effective way to curtail its wholesale use by the enemy is to send gas against gas.

The London Times book treats in detail all of the weapons used by all the armies engaged in the present war. It is interesting and instructive to all who read it and should be in every house. It can be obtained from The World at 98c, at either office, Toronto or Hamilton.

HENROTIN CASE RESERVED.

Mr. Justice Sutherland reserved judgment in the case brought by C. E. Henrotin against Henry Cecil C. E. Henrotin and the Burnside Gold Mines, Limited, for \$150,000 or its equivalent in shares in a mining company in which Henrotin alleges that he was to get seven and one-half per cent.

For 30 years watchcases bearing the "Winged Wheel" trade mark have been the recognized standard of quality in Canada. For your own satisfaction make sure that it's there. Largest makers of watchcases in the British Empire THE AMERICAN WATCH CASE CO. OF TORONTO, LIMITED

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THIS great business—the largest of its kind in Canada—has been built on two words: **Quality First.**

The first shoes that bore the name "Ames Holden" and the first made by "McCready" were good shoes. The first dealers, who sold "Ames Holden" or "McCready" Shoes, found them to be good shoes.

Through all the sixty years of their business life **Quality First** has been the guiding force which has brought increased prestige to these famous firms.

Many of the grandfathers and grandmothers of today took their first walks in "Ames Holden" or "McCready" Shoes, just as their grandchildren are doing today.

The builders of railroads; the founders of cities; the directors of national life; the substantial men and women in every section of Canada; the defenders of the Empire; have worn and are wearing either an "Ames Holden" or a "McCready" shoe.

And the reason is simple—they are most satisfactory in every point, style, fit, comfort, and practical economy. In other words—**Quality First.**

Ames Holden McCready

Montreal.

Oldest and Largest Manufacturers of Shoes in Canada.

QUALITY—First, Last and Always.

IMPORTANT STEP REGULATES FISHING

Arrangements Made for Vessels to Patrol Ontario Waters.

TO PROTECT FISHERMEN

Complaints Received That Gill Net Tugs Exceed Territory.

Important steps are being taken by the Ontario Department of Game and Fisheries to regulate the fishing industry in the great lakes and to prevent poaching. Arrangements have been concluded for the chartering of the steamer La Salle for patrol work on Lake Erie, and Capt. S. E. Corson will be in command. This innovation is the result of complaints of the pound fishermen, who claim the gill-net men in their tugs encroach on their territory.

Previous to this year gill-net fishermen were forced to fish 10 miles from shore west of Port Stanley and five miles east of that point. The fishermen were only allowed to take fish out of waters adjacent to their respective counties. This year, however, the act was changed to allow the fishermen to work any place they wished along the lake in accordance with the five and ten-mile limit regulations. Their daily catch is limited to a certain number of fish, over which they must pay royalties to the government. The La Salle is recorded as having a speed of 15 knots; part of her duties, too, will be to seize American nets in Canadian waters.

The Athens, a steamer of 13 knots, commanded by Capt. Fleming, will patrol eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. This boat, formerly patrolled Canadian waters from Windsor up thru the St. Clair Lake, and was operated at an annual expense of \$2000. A smaller and less costly boat to operate will replace the Athens at Windsor.

The Thuya, also a steamer, commanded by Capt. Joseph Brown, will patrol the Thunder Bay waters, from Outer Head Point to the international boundary, including Lake Nipigon.

MUNICIPALITIES PLAN TO LINK WITH HYDRO

Seventeen Have Completed and Fifteen Others Are Voting on the Question.

Plans are completed for the linking up of 17 new municipalities with the Ontario Hydro-Electric system, and there are 14 additional municipalities taking votes on the question. The Ontario Hydro-Electric Department stated yesterday that they received no official notification of the Grand Trunk business being withdrawn from the Port Stanley Electric Railway.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c CATARRH POWDER 25c. Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, cures the air passages, stops the bleeding in the throat and permanent cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. 25c a box; blower free. Accept no substitutes. All dealers or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

GETS DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF HUSBAND

Algoma Steel Company Must Pay Mary Dube Three Thousand Dollars.

BOECKH BROS' CLAIM

D'Arcy Hinds Files Statement in Action Against P. J. Mulqueen.

Mr. Justice Britton in a judgment handed out yesterday at Osgoode Hall has awarded Mrs. Mary Dube \$3000 damages against the Algoma Steel Co. for the loss of her husband, Martin P. Dube.

The Lake Superior Paper Co. were parties to the action, but the claim was dismissed against them.

On May 29, 1914, Dube, while employed by the steel company in lifting an iron tank by means of a derrick, the property of the paper company, from the railway track on the premises of the Algoma Company's plant at Sault Ste. Marie, on to a flat car, was fatally injured by the derrick falling on him. The plaintiff alleged that her husband was killed thru the negligence of the defendants and that the truck upon which the derrick stood was insecure by reason of proper ballasting and braces; and that the defendants did not furnish Dube with proper tools to carry out the work.

Mr. Justice Britton directs that \$1250 of the damages awarded shall go to the widow and that \$1750 shall be equally divided among her six children.

Commission on Sale.

In the action of D'Arcy Hinds against Patrick J. Mulqueen and the Tremont Hotel Co., to recover \$15,000 commission on sale of the Tremont Hotel, the statement of claim asserts that Mr. Mulqueen employed Mr. Hinds to find a purchaser for the business and promised that if he found one he should get the usual commission on any price up to \$150,000 and one-half anything in excess of that amount. The plaintiff states that he introduced R. J. McKinney to the defendant as a prospective purchaser, and that from the date of the introduction McKinney continued the negotiations with the defendant without any intervention on his part.

Subsequent to the introduction, it is said, McKinney decided he would not purchase the business, but the Copland Brewing Co., with whom he had associated himself as a prospective purchaser, continued the negotiations, and all the holdings in shares of the defendant Mulqueen were sold and transferred to the brewing company for \$155,000. The Tremont Hotel Co. is said to be a stock company with a capital of \$100,000, of which Mr. Mulqueen owned \$48,500, giving him control of the company.

Alleged Slander. Boeckh Bros. have entered action against P. M. Baker, commercial traveler, to recover unpaid damages for alleged slander of their trade. The plaintiffs allege that they have been represented as a German firm, whereas the founder of the firm was born in Alton, when it was still a French possession.

The first appellate court list for Monday is: Marshall v. Dominion Manufacturing Co., Richardson v. Ottawa Wine Vauits, Saskatchewan v. Moore, re Eadie, Douglas v. Hitch, Fennoyer v. Williams, Hilt v. Storey.

FORTY THOUSAND TURKS DISABLED BY DISEASE

Plague Among Trans-Caucasian Forces Causes Cessation of Activities.

TIFLIS, Trans-Caucasia, Thursday, June 17, via Petrograd June 18, and London, June 18.—During the last three months about 40,000 soldiers in the Turkish army operating in the Old district of Trans-Caucasia have been disabled by disease. Thus weakened, the army has been forced to give up all serious activity on this front.

With the beginning of summer it is feared that the epidemic, which already has a foothold in the province of Van and has claimed a number of victims, will spread among the refugees. The American Hospital in the city of Van is overcrowded and lacks proper medical assistance.

New train will leave Toronto 12.01 noon, daily, except Sundays, commencing June 26, for Collingwood, Meaford, Severn, Muskoka, Wharf, Huntsville, Algonquin Park and Madawaska, making connections for Muskoka Lakes and Lake of Bays points. Dining car, parlor car and first-class coaches Toronto to Muskoka Wharf, also parlor-library-buffet car and first-class coaches Toronto to Algonquin Park and Madawaska.

New train will leave Toronto 1.40 p.m. Saturdays only for Jackson's Point and leaving Jackson's Point 7.30 a.m. Mondays only for Toronto. First trip June 26 eastbound, and June 28 westbound.

Full-time sleeping cars will be operated between Toronto and Kingston Wharf, leaving Toronto 11 p.m., commencing Friday, June 25, eastbound, and leaving Kingston Wharf 12.20 a.m. Sunday, June 27 (Saturday night's car), for Toronto. Connections will be made at Kingston Wharf with steamers of Canada Steamship Lines for Thousand Islands, Montreal, etc.

Train No. 99 now leaving Hamilton 6.32 p.m. arriving Toronto 6.35 p.m. daily, will be cancelled.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to Grand Trunk ticket agents.

CANADIAN ORDER OF FORESTERS

Church Parade Will Be Held Tomorrow From Queen's Park.

The Canadian Order of Foresters will hold their second annual church parade on Sunday afternoon. The members of the lodge will line up at 2 o'clock in Queen's Park, and the route will be up University avenue to Bloor, to Jarvis, down Jarvis to Carlton, west on Carlton to Foresters' Hall, where divine service will be conducted at 3 p.m. by the Rev. John W. Woodside, M.A., of Chalmers Church.

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ORDER COMPLIED WITH IN TORONTO OFFICES

George D. Perry, Local Manager G.N.W., Interviewed About Destruction of Telegrams.

When Samuel Goldstein appeared before the Royal Commission in Winnipeg on June 11 to bring certain telegrams required at the probe into the Manitoba Parliament Buildings contract, the messages specified were not produced because the following had been issued to Goldstein the day previous, and the instructions had been complied with:

"We are inaugurating a new system in connection with which you may now destroy your business with Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Quebec, to May 31." This notice came from George D. Perry, Toronto, manager of the G.N.W. to Samuel Goldstein of the Winnipeg G.N.W. Office.

Mr. Perry stated yesterday that that order came into effect in Toronto as well as other cities on June 10.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS DEMAND END OF WAR

AMSTERDAM, June 18.—The Amsterdam newspaper Het Volk declared today that four Socialist leaders—Breitschilde, Duncker, Ledebuhr and Stroebel—addressed public meetings in Berlin yesterday demanding a speedy termination of the war.

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KAISER'S HEART BLEEDS FOR "INNOCENT VICTIMS"

"Wicked Attack Upon Beloved Karlsruhe," Makes Him Irate.

AMSTERDAM, Holland, June 18.—A message received here today from Frankfurt says that the Grand Duke of Baden, now at the front, has sent the following telegram concerning the recent raid on Karlsruhe by French aeroplanes to the burgomaster of that city:

"Emperor William has telegraphed to me his deep indignation at the wicked attack upon beloved Karlsruhe. The poor innocent victims among civilians have greatly afflicted him."

ENGINEERS LEAVE CANADA.

Eighty members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers will soon leave for England. These men are made up of citizens of Toronto and Hamilton and will be employed in manufacturing guns and other armament for the navy.

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