

## The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 15.

### Under Which King?

Our neighbor, The Globe, is still calling loudly for a Dominion general election. But suppose Mr. Meighen yields and calls upon the people to say whether Meighen, King or Crerar is to be prime minister. The people, or some of them at least, will look to the press for information and advice. The readers of The Globe will be especially anxious for light. During the past few years The Globe has shed light much like a firefly, never stopping long at one place. It has been a Laurier Liberal, a Borden Liberal, a King Liberal, and is now apparently developing into a Crerar Liberal. The old line Grits thrust Ontario say The Globe is not a Liberal at all. It is, at any rate, anti-Meighen. In East Elgin, it was impossible to say whether The Globe wanted the Liberal candidate or the Farmers' candidate to win. Since that election it has been urging the Liberals and the Farmers to get together, divide the country between them and march in solid phalanx against the government.

But any such union at present is far from being accomplished. The Farmer, flushed with success, cares little about the Laurier Liberals of Ontario. He won in spite of Mr. King and his candidate in East Elgin, and he no longer fears the result of a triangular contest in any rural riding. He is going to support Mr. Crerar, run his own candidate, and make no deal of any kind, before the election at least, with the Liberal party.

Well, then, suppose Mr. Meighen dissolves the house tomorrow and orders a general election on February 1. Will The Globe be clear Grit or Farmer? Will it support Mr. King or Mr. Crerar? No one is able to say. The columns of our neighbor may be searched in vain for any wholehearted support of the Liberal leader.

When Mr. King came to open his campaign in Toronto, The Globe advised people to go and hear him, because his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie, had been the first mayor of Toronto. Since then The Globe has apparently forgotten that the Liberal party has a leader. Any burning of incense upon its part has been at the shrine of Mr. Crerar. A speedy election would put an end to this double face. It would compel our neighbor to unfold himself, to stand and give a steady light instead of jumping fences, hiding behind strawstacks, and running all over the place. It would be the last thing The Globe would want. It is the last thing The Globe does want. And would it be asking too much to call on our neighbor to say whether, in the event of an election in the immediate future, it intends to support Mr. King or Mr. Crerar? It has not been long back in the Liberal fold; is it getting ready to jump again?

### Finding Work for the Workless.

The minister of railways or the minister of finance must find a plan of getting Toronto's new Union Station put into service. And in doing this they will find work for four or five hundred men for a hundred days or more.

The Ontario government ought to get in touch with the Hydro-Electric Commission and see how much work the latter can give out this winter and the coming spring. Perhaps the government and Sir Adam Beck are waiting to see how Toronto's money by-laws affecting roads and electrical energy fare in the coming municipal election.

### Lower Passenger Rates.

There is a steady falling off in the passenger traffic earnings of our Canadian railways—people will not pay the increased passenger rates authorized by the board of railway commissioners. The board made provision for a reduction after the New Year in these higher rates; and the roads will find that it will pay them to concede something to the public who must or would like to travel.

The real way to help the railways out in their finances is for the Ottawa government to press for an early judgment as to the amount it must pay for the Grand Trunk. When that is done let the management of the National Railways cut out any unnecessary trains in the two systems; then have a conference with the Canadian Pacific for a doubling up of some of their competitive trains.

Half the Halifax-Montreal trains,

half the Montreal-Toronto trains, Toronto-Ottawa trains, transcontinental trains, would carry the whole of the business and allow of the old passenger travel rates to come back.

This is not a good time to waste money or collect extravagant charges.

### The Farmers Are Consolidating.

The one clear thing on the political horizon these days is the increased solidarity and broadening outlook of the organized farmers of Canada. They are growing in numbers, and making a close study of politics and of economics. And they are tackling their own business problems at the same time that they are tackling politics.

Those who would fight them must study their methods. And you can't fight them with discredited politicians or discredited methods.

### Cheaper Building Material.

Improved street car and radial services are in sight in and about Toronto. The result will be a lot of new houses will be started and work found for house mechanics if the building material firms have the foresight to modify their charges for building material: brick, lumber, lime, cement, plaster, hardware, plumbing fittings, paint, etc.

### Remarked in Passing.

They say women curates will soon be at work in English churches. But what will young unmarried members of the congregation say about this proposal?

Two men are under arrest charged with the theft of a cigar case valued at \$10,000 from Charles M. Schwab. Does this mean that Mr. Schwab will henceforth be reduced to carrying his cigars in his vest pocket in the ordinary way?

Old ladies who set buildings afire by the careless smoking of cigars should be induced to turn from the frivolities of youth and take to pipes, as more in keeping with the dignity of age.

Probably by the time the radial commission has finished its work aerial navigation will be so far advanced as to make radials quite unnecessary.

It begins to look as if only the limitations of human life or another and better job will release Toronto from the incumbency of her present mayor.

At Etewah, Sask., they are turning out briquettes made from lignite that are said to be the equal of anthracite, and to cost about half the price of coal. There is lignite in Ontario, and here is one way in which Mr. Drury might use prison labor and help the fuel situation in this country.

The appointment of an ex-Pinkerton as an O.T.A. enforcement officer ought to spell worry for some bootleggers if the law is at all enforceable.

If clergymen could post a notice on their church doors, "No one under sixteen admitted," they might not have to complain of empty pews.

### LEAGUE DECIDES IT WILL GO SLOW

(Continued From Page 1.)

of appropriations for last year. They added, however, that they could not consider the restoration of armaments destroyed during the war as increased expenditure, but pointed out that measures were being taken to reduce the period of military service. Mr. Poulet of Belgium said:

"Belgium has received no reparations. She cannot spike her guns while the League of Nations 'is in the process of formation.'"

The committee in its report pointed out that a convention for the control of the traffic in arms and ammunition was signed by Great Britain, the United States, France, Japan, Belgium, Bolivia, Cuba, China, Ecuador, Greece and Italy at St. Germain when the Austrian peace treaty was signed, but that this convention had not yet been ratified and that no steps had been taken to make it effective. The report proposes that the council urge the signatories to ratify the treaty without delay.

**Prohibits Trade in Arms.**  
The convention in question prohibits exports of arms and munitions except under special licenses for deliveries to the governments themselves. It was especially intended to prevent the quantities of arms remaining on hand at the end of the war from falling into the hands of the less civilized peoples. It provides for an international office to control the trade in arms. The committee proposes that this body be used in a more general way to exercise control over the private manufacture of arms.

The league council this morning virtually approved the plan for an international credit organization, framed at the Brussels financial conference. The economic commission appointed by the council, after more than 20 sessions, has amplified the scheme into what the commission members believe will be a working organization, but the fundamentals of the plan remain unchanged.

### PASSENGER STEAMER ASHORE.

Havana, Dec. 14.—The steamer San Pablo of the United Fruit Line, bound from Boston for this port with passengers and a cargo of fruit, was grounded at the entrance to Havana harbor, and is in no immediate danger, although she rests at the foot of the Prado. The sea is relatively calm and the vessel shows no list.

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