

The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, JULY 5.

What Are We Going To Do About It?

Suppose the deal between the Roblin and the Norris governments had been carried out, the royal commission sidetracked, and some of the "overpayments," to Kelly recovered. Things would have gone on in about the same old way until another crooked deal happened to challenge public attention. But somewhere a cog slipped. We have not only one royal commission, but two royal commissions at work, with a third not impossible.

Our good neighbor, The Mail and Empire, commenting upon the testimony taken before the Perdue commission, asks:

What more can the people of Manitoba be asked to prove that the present Liberal administration is no whit higher in political standards than the much-condemned ministry which relinquished office?

Evidently the answer expected is that nothing more can be required. In short, The Mail thinks that everything will be alright if by some chance the Conservatives carry the next provincial election.

But there is more at stake. We agree with The Globe in thinking that Manitoba exposures are symptomatic of conditions which exist and have long existed all over Canada. The cause of the evil, according to The Globe, is thus briefly stated:

At the foundation of the rottenness now being revealed from time to time throughout the country—Frederickton, at Ottawa, at Winnipeg—and of much that is deplorable at other capitals which never may be revealed, are to be found the promoters, manufacturers and contractors who are prepared to provide campaign funds for both parties in return for railway bonuses, contracts for supplies at excessive prices, or tariff favors which are often a more certain source of wealth than either.

We will not go so far as to say that our neighbor, The Globe, is barking up the wrong tree, although we will venture later on to point out just where the coon is to be found that gives us the most serious trouble.

The manufacturers will, no doubt, take an active part in any campaign where the existence of the national policy is at stake, but after all, the country is firmly wedded to the protective principle. At any rate, if The Globe voices the real views of the Liberal party on the tariff question, it is in no danger of being backed by the manufacturers. As for the crooked contractor he will only be found where there is a crooked government. The City of Toronto does contracting on a big scale and gets honest work. No fat is fried out of the contractor for party funds. If some of the provinces having no greater wealth and population than Toronto had something like the commission plan of the government with a small legislative assembly in session, with no doing of business behind closed doors, and with the power of direct legislation vested in the people, the crooked contractor would cease to exist.

Let us lay this down as a fundamental proposition, namely: That the corruption we are suffering from is not the taking of so much cash out of the public treasury. The plunderer who the big fellows are after is the plunderer to be gained from private corporations rendering that service which should be rendered by the government. One can see at a glance what a rich prize the entire postal monopoly would be for the private corporations. At present they have only the telegraph, telephone, and small freight departments of the postal service. But the whole business of transportation, essentially the business of the government, is in the hands of private companies. Even the sovereign franchise of emitting currency is surrendered to the banks.

In most of our cities private corporations control light and power and by interlocking directorates and other devices the railways, steamships, telegraphs, telephones, and light power and traction companies are entwined and interlarded in a community of interest.

These corporations are in their own

able men who serve them well and in one way or another they control many newspapers. They are represented by directors, attorneys and employees in every cabinet and in both houses of parliament. They claim, perhaps not without reason, that a large percentage of the people are directly dependent upon them for support.

The man who control these big corporations want things to remain as they are. They do not want the people of this country to seriously study economic questions. They are interested in keeping the two political parties alive and in action. When elections are to be brought on they contribute to both sides and after the election they furnish the money for the protests filed by all the defeated candidates who have any ground for a contest. Then they saw-off these election cases, paying the lawyers and sometimes the litigants. When parliament assemblies some political question is staged for the session and the mind of the members are diverted from the issues of real importance to the country.

The cure for all this is public ownership. If the national government served the people as it should, operating its own lines of transportation and communication, issuing its own currency, and doing many other things which are now committed to private companies, there would be a vast change in the political life of Canada.

But The Globe's remedy for political corruption in Canada is the same old nostrum that parliament has been applying ever since confederation—to wit, amending the Election Act. The Globe thinks that everything will be all right if we limit the amount of campaign expenditure, if we require publicity for campaign contributions, if we appoint an ambulatory lawyer to prosecute election offenders, and make the giving and receiving of bribes a jail offence without the alternative of a fine. But does anyone believe that passing any or all of these amendments to the Election Act would cure corruption, or even minimize it?

We have law enough already and possibly too much. We have made so many offences and provided such rigorous punishment for them as to bring the Election Act into contempt. How many men were bribed at the last Dominion election? How many were arrested, tried or punished? How about the Dominion election of 1908?

There were serious charges flying around after that election in Ontario and many protests were ready, but the party leaders on both sides met in the city one day and saved them all off. Of course the saw-off implied immunity bath all round, implied there should be no criminal prosecution anywhere in Ontario arising out of the election. Parliament can pass laws until it is black in the face, but what do they amount to if a general amnesty follows every general election?

To set clean politics we must interest the people in public affairs. They will only take a real interest when the government renders them real service. Private corporations which control public utilities are the real tax gatherers and the real rulers of this country today. Public ownership and operation of public utilities is what we need in Canada. Amending the Election Act will amount to nothing so long as the corporation Bunty pulls the strings.

Mud Wall to Delay Union Station Five Years.

The Globe wants to know why it should put its opinion up against expert testimony. The Globe has not always been so coy. If The Globe, as it has alleged, has material which concerns the public interest, why does it not reveal the facts, or the alleged facts, and either confute the allegations or deal with the facts? The last remark of The Globe on the proposal to build a mud wall along the rear front of the silly but characteristic station that "The World" has been so long engaged in throwing mud that when it merely mentions the word the reader inevitably ducks. Why is The Globe so sensitive when it hears the word mud? Is it inevitable that The Globe or Globe readers should duck when mud is mentioned, and if it is inevitable, why is it inevitable?

As happens, The World has not been throwing mud. It is The Globe and its friends which propose to throw how many hundreds of thousands of tons of mud we have not calculated, across the water front, and to evade this issue, it accuses The World of throwing mud. This is so Globe-like that we may let it pass as "another of the same."

There is no illusion about this mud. The mayor threatens to take legal proceedings to have the mud-throwing begun at once. A similar mud wall has been erected across the view which citizens used to have of the lake from High Park. If they go out to the Lake Shore road now, and get north of the mud wall there, they will be able to appreciate what is to be done with the water front at the foot of Bay Street and Yonge Street and all the other streets in that locality. Extending eastward from west of Yonge Street the railways are to occupy an entirely new location, 230 feet wide. On this, there is to be a mud wall, carrying the tracks, with openings thru the mud wall for the streets. From Church Street to Cherry Street this location is over what is now water in the harbor, and over wharves and large manufacturing concerns, some of them the largest in the city, and extending into the water.

at least five years, and until it is completed the new Union Station cannot be used. The cost has been estimated, but estimates of the cost of damages to property in a case of this sort are utterly unreliable. The experience of the city in similar cases, less complicated, indicates that it may run into millions more than it anticipated.

The alternative is to build bridges at the street crossing. It is the custom of The Globe and its friends to speak of these bridges as hump-backed. This is in remembrance of the York Street bridge. They need not be of so heavy a grade, for they will rise from higher ground and have a longer distribution. Nor should it be forgotten that electric traction within the city limits is inevitable, and lower bridges will suffice for such service.

If it be true that the government is to be called upon to take over the railways enterprises such as The Globe champions in the mud wall along the water front are not likely to be proceeded with without reconsideration. The beauty of a mud wall is unlikely to save it.

A Fine Record

The Globe on Saturday published an alleged "European" war summary to date. A real summary of this description for Canadian readers would be a laudable piece of enterprise. The summary published by The Globe appears to have been prepared by Herr Durnberg before he left for Germany. The only mention of Canadians we can discover is on June 22, "Canadians named for honors by Sir John French."

On June 24, "Western Ontario men in terrible battle near La Bassée."

The date on which the Canadians gained their immortal battle fame is passed over in this fashion:

April 22—Germans begin successful drive near Ypres.

April 25—Allied forces landed on both shores of Dardanelles.

April 30—Germans shell Dunkirk. American tanker Guilford torpedoed off Sicily Islands.

May 1—Austro-Germans break thru Russian line in West Galicia, and force a retreat. Fifty thousand prisoners taken.

May 4—British leave ground near Ypres.

May 5—British lose Hill 60, near Ypres.

May 6—Russians begin retreat from Carpathian passes.

May 7—Austro-Germans break thru Russian line in West Galicia, and force a retreat. Fifty thousand prisoners taken.

May 4—British leave ground near Ypres.

May 5—British lose Hill 60, near Ypres.

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HOLT'S REAL NAME ENRICH MUENTER?

Chicago Report Says He Vanished After Wife's Mysterious Death.

BORN IN GERMANY

Would-Be Assassin Said to Have Attended Chicago University.

CHICAGO, July 4.—Information pointing to Frank Holt, the would-be assassin of J. P. Morgan, as Enrich Muentner, a former student at the University of Chicago, who disappeared in 1908, was given to a newspaper here today by a college associate of Muentner during his Chicago visit.

The informant, whose anonymity was pledged by the newspaper, was quoted as saying:

"Muentner was born in Germany, but since his rehabilitation has claimed to have been born in Texas of German parents. For a time he taught German in the Harvard School of Chicago, a private preparatory institution. He taught German in Radcliffe College for women."

Fled After Wife Died.

"His wife was about to give birth to her third child when her death occurred. Muentner ran away from Cambridge with the two children and turned them over to Mrs. Muentner's parents. Then, still undetected by the police, he went to Mexico."

"While a fugitive he issued a badly printed review of his case, couched in sarcastic terms, and mailed it to some of his acquaintances."

"Under the name of Holt, he showed up at the Agricultural and Mechanical College station, Texas, passed the examination, and was graduated. He married a classmate in the Texas school, and has three children."

"He later taught German in Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn., and attended Cornell University, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree."

Muentner's sister, Miss Bertha Muentner, a teacher in the public school here, who lives with her aged mother, said she had never heard from her brother since his disappearance nine years ago.

Traces of Poison.

Mrs. Muentner died in Boston on April 25, 1908. Only her husband was present at the time of her death, as the Muentners did not believe in doctors, it was said.

The undergarments were suspicious, and the stomach and internal organs were sent to Professor Whitney of Harvard for analysis, but Muentner was allowed to leave for Chicago.

Professor Whitney found the body of the stomach, and a warrant was issued for Muentner. Before the Chicago police were notified he disappeared. In Harvard Muentner was in three elementary German courses and prepared a thesis on insanity in German romantic literature.

He was born in Germany, and came to this country 25 years ago.

GERMAN INFANTRY FAILS TO GET ON

French Use Up Massed Columns in Night Assaults.

MINING EXTENSIVE

Allied Engineers Busy in Aisne and Champagne Sectors.

(Continued from Page 1).

rifles and machine guns into the dense masses of the enemy and mowed down his columns. At five miles from Pont-a-Mousson the Moselle River was conducted by a German force, which, in attempting to storm that village, the French were entangled before it was driven off.

Vital Artillery Actions.

The artillery actions of the enemy have continued with extreme violence for several days. The bombardments were particularly heavy Saturday afternoon and night in the sector north of Arras, between the Somme and the Aisne, on the heights of the Meuse at Colonne, on the La Haye front and at Fontenelle and Hartmannsweilerkopf, in Alsace.

Cannoning in Belgium.

The scene of the violent artillery actions was shifted on Sunday to Belgium, particularly in the regions of Neuport and on the Steenstraete-Helass sector, while the cannonading on the other points in the long battle line eased off.

Mining operations of considerable extent have been carried out by the French near Soupir and Troyon, on the right bank of the Aisne and in the Champagne, chiefly on the Perthes-Beauejour front.

There were some engagements with hand grenades and torpedoes in the Argonne on Sunday, where the rival trenches have come close together.

HOLT EXPERT IN MAKING BOMBS

Would-Be Assassin Tells of Placing Explosive in Capitol.

MORGAN RECOVERING

No Vital Organ Was Injured, Say Attending Physicians.

(Continued from Page 1).

fully measured and a kind previously tested—such was the bomb which Holt placed in the senate wing of the capitol at 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. Holt had ascertained by previous tests that the acid would eat its way thru the cork in about eight hours. Therefore, he estimated that the bomb would explode about midnight. He wanted to conclude about midnight.

When they listened in undisguised amazement to the story he told of the Washington bomb's construction, they judged of his possession a knowledge of explosives far beyond that of the ordinary bomb maker.

To Coerce Morgan.

Under the persuasion of the third degree, Holt talked freely of his bomb designing qualifications. Without such persuasion he had openly admitted earlier in the day that he had gone to the Morgan home with the intention of remaining there till Mr. Morgan was killed.

When he wanted Mr. Morgan to do to do to prevent the further shipment of munitions of war.

The man who unfolded this unusual story of bomb placing and attempted assassination, talked coolly and with dramatic frankness.

He had been a student at Cornell, he said, and later an instructor there in French. The records show he taught German in the University of Chicago, and later in the University of Texas.

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