

The Toronto World

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THE WORLD

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PITFALL OF JURISDICTION

The proposition of Mr. Hyman as to jurisdiction over Niagara Falls seems about as respectful to Ontario as the report of the American members of the International Waterways Commission was to Canadians as a whole.

In the American case there was the cool assumption that the works on the Canadian side are to be used pre-eminently for Yankee commerce.

Mr. Hyman's case he just as coolly tells the Ontario government that he thinks they have no jurisdiction over an Ontario business proposition, but that the Dominion government is willing to negotiate with them, the question of jurisdiction being suspended meanwhile.

Mr. Hyman apparently does not anticipate immediate trouble over jurisdiction. In what position will the Ontario government be in any pending negotiations? If they fall in with suggestions that will emanate from the Dominion government, everything will be all right.

The position is full of difficulty, whichever way you look at it. The Dominion parliament is naturally paramount when it comes to the exportation of a commodity created in Canada, and there will probably be no serious obstacle in the way of charging a high duty on electricity sent into the State of New York.

The position taken by Mr. Hyman on this matter, as well as upon the question to be charged for power, and upon the revocation of terms, or short notice, is satisfactory. But when the prime minister declares against the government ownership and operation of power plants, any proposal to limit the authority of Ontario must be looked at doubly carefully.

The case for expropriation of the Electrical Development Company of Ontario is a matter of immense concern to the Ontario government, and to the municipalities which are looking to it for protection, encouragement and financial salvation.

It may be that the government has already authority to expropriate. If so, the fact should be made clear to the meanest intelligence. If the present session of the legislature should conclude without the whole situation being made so clear that it will be impossible for any other body, public or private, to prejudice Ontario's liberty of action, it might be possible before the legislature meets again for influences inimical to provincial control to make it almost impossible to traverse the road to complete public enjoyment of a public heritage.

Mr. Whitney, a few days, will be in possession of his commission's report upon the subject, and will immediately thereafter be bound to define his position. He, of course, realizes that it is not enough to be on guard. He must be prepared to show a constructive hand.

HIGH RATES OF INTEREST

Hardware and Metal, in its special issue for the current week, contains the following timely editorial article, which is well worthy of reproduction in view of the governmental investigation into the Canadian banking system, said to be now in contemplation.

"Merchants who are forced to pay six or seven per cent. on money they borrow from Canadian banks, are having their attention attracted by the fancy buildings being erected on expensive corner sites in the large cities. These palatial structures are splendid architectural ornaments, but when not only head offices but branch banks are having such large sums spent upon them, the question arises as to whether the money could not be put to a better use. It is out of the mercantile community that, as borrowers, and also as depositors, of non-interest-bearing cur-

rent accounts, the banks are making a large proportion of their earnings, and to them some of the benefits of the country's prosperity should revert.

"A study of the Canadian banking returns for 1905 shows that of 29 banks earning dividends, only four earned less than ten per cent. while one, the Bank of Nova Scotia, earned more than 1 1/2 per cent. paying 11 per cent. to its stockholders and allowing the balance to go to its reserve, which is already almost twice as great as its paid-up capital, the figures being: Capital paid up, \$3,500,000; and reserve fund, \$4,200,000. Ten other banks show earnings of from 15 to 18 per cent., and reserve funds equal to or greater than their paid-up capital.

"This certainly shows the banks to be enjoying a fair share of prosperity, and as they are protected by parliamentary enactments to a greater extent than any other business, it is fair to assume that they owe a service to the public. Money for commercial purposes is charged for at entirely too high a rate, this being a severe handicap on the smaller merchants, who have to compete with larger concerns, who can borrow from the same banks much more advantageously.

"In the smaller towns it is said to be next to impossible to get reasonable accommodation, the deposits being sent to the head offices of the banks, where investments can be made in very large amounts. Instead of loaning the deposits to Canadian merchants and manufacturers, and thus aiding in the development of the country, the banks are building magnificent buildings and employing their funds in aiding rich men in foreign and Canadian speculations. Last year \$30,000,000 of Canadian money was used in this way by being invested in Mexican and Spanish-American speculative bonds, paying, it is said, only from four to five per cent. good Canadian enterprises and business men being charged from six to seven per cent. on loans negotiated by them.

"It is questionable if the government should allow such enormous reserve funds to be piled up. A reserve of 25 per cent. should be ample, and regulations should be enacted providing that when the reserves get above that figure the rate of interest on commercial paper should be reduced. And in order to still further protect Canadian borrowers for home investment a tax should be imposed upon Canadian funds invested outside of Canada. Cheap money is a great advantage to the industrial prosperity of a country, enabling manufacturers and business men to buy for cash and develop their business at the minimum of expense.

"The fact that it is impossible to float a bank with any possible success without a very large paid-up capital to begin with, makes the banking business a practical monopoly, but the many advantages of our branch bank system are so apparent that we are apt to be soothed to forgetfulness of the defects of having all funds disposed of thru the head office.

"If the big banks do not grant more favorable terms it will only be a matter of time till some other system is devised. A lower rate of interest on loans would be a fair concession to the commercial interests of the country."

SHEEPSHEAD WEDDING; TIPPLE KISSING

There was a wedding at Sheepshead Bay last week whereat the onlookers laughed with delight. There had been eager anticipation of the function in society circles, and the Sheepshead Bay Methodist Episcopal Church was crowded to see the show.

For it was a show—part of a charity entertainment—and children of less than twelve years of age played the star parts. It was an evening celebration of a mock sacrament in a real church. The children were all in full evening dress.

The organ pealed forth Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," as the bride was led to the altar to meet her future husband. The sober chronicle of a New York paper says the "Reverend Siebert Stryker performed the ceremony that united the happy pair. The wedding ring was a huge padlock, but the oval part of the faros was serious in form, the culpably ridiculous in effect.

Thus and thus does twentieth century Methodism dispense itself in a land which sends Methodists to China to teach the Mandarin to put away the childish emblems and observances of his hoary faith.

The same journal which records the inanities of Sheepshead Bay reports evidence given at a Brooklyn court in a suit for the recovery of salary claimed by a lady member of the choir of the Embury Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Pulcifer is the organist from whom Miss Browne claims \$116.68. At Mr. Pulcifer's home there was a practice. Mr. Pulcifer criticized her for singing false notes. She tartly answered back. Next day she was too unwell to sing and Pulcifer discharged her. There was trouble. They went to their pastor, the Rev. Doctor Tipple. The Rev. Doctor Tipple chid them both and told them to "kiss and make up." And Pulcifer a married-man! He, or Miss Browne, or both of them, declined to take the divine Tipple's advice. "Gather ye the brethren in a holy kiss" is an apostolic injunction, which had no feminine aspect at the time it was written.

The Sheepshead and Tipple incidents show that the methods of Wesley have remarkably "evolved."

CORPORATION OF DEFENCE

Is it a proper thing for the Policy-

Association Will Incorporate

Gooderham Buildings, Toronto, March 27, 1905.

Editor World: Will you allow me to state, thru your columns, that at a meeting of the policyholders, just held at the Rossin House, it was resolved forthwith to incorporate the association, with a view more effectively to serving the interests of the policyholders of Canada.

The objects of the association will be embodied in a constitution, which it is expected will be ready for adoption at an adjourned meeting to be held next week.

Meantime it may be interesting to say that the association executive has been in close touch with the counsel for Ontario policyholders before the royal commission, and has taken legal advice upon certain grievances of the policyholders which have been brought to its notice. One of the objects of the association will be to obtain redress where legal opinion would warrant action being taken.

The future membership of the association has been fixed at \$1 per annum, and I need scarcely say that the executive will be very glad to receive applications for membership from policyholders thruout the Dominion.

I am, yours very truly,

C. Goode, secretary-treasurer.

To Dr. Moorhouse, chairman, and C. Goode, secretary-treasurer, Canadian Policyholders' Association, Gooderham Building, Toronto: We, the undersigned, hereby agree to become members of the Policyholders' Association of Canada, for the protection of life policyholders, and to subscribe the membership fee opposite our respective names.

Table with columns: NAME, ADDRESS, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION ONE DOLLAR

holders' Association of Canada to become incorporated? Its status will be unquestionable, its members will have their liability defined, and continuity of policy will be easier, for the strenuous, reconstructive days are ahead.

The policyholders of Canada as a whole are not yet alive to the enormity of the issues that will be decided this year. For themselves they can secure, by wise insistence upon economical management, and without paying more premiums than at present, at least fifty million dollars more insurance than is now guaranteed to them. This can only be done by the policyholders getting as close to the politicians as a sacrifice against the policyholder to the director and the shareholder.

That is a strenuous task. It need not be a tremendous responsibility if only the necessary organization is forthcoming. Without such an organization against them the companies will dominate the changes to be made in the law. There will be reforms, of course. The astute men who were clever enough to obtain control of the savings of the people are not foolish enough openly and uncompromisingly to flout public opinion. They are skilled in the more insinuating arts. They know how to seem to concede when in every deed they are acquiring.

The policyholder must be his own friend. Whatever wrong has been done up to date, has been done in spite of safeguards which parliament originally believed to be a complete protection for the policyholder. The new safeguards will have to be most carefully constructed if history is not to repeat itself. Anything may happen if the policyholder does not keep looking. In combination is his only sure hope of recovering control of his own. He must become aggressive in his defence.

SENATOR WOOD ON THE SALARY GRAB

During the debate in the senate on the Address, the Hon. Josiah Wood delivered a speech whose principal object was to define and defend his position regarding the act of the previous session of parliament increasing the sessional indemnity. At a time when the British house of commons has passed by a large majority, a resolution in favor of paying its members a salary of \$1500 a year, the senator still has the courage of his convictions. From his place in the upper chamber he reaffirmed his opinion that "the principle of allowing

a salary or remuneration to members for their services while attending parliament, or such losses as they may sustain in connection with their private business during their absence at the sessions in Ottawa, was not a wise principle, or one in the interest of either the Dominion parliament or the country."

This opinion, originally formed under the influence of the views of Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Thompson, has been confirmed by Senator Wood's own study of the subject and personal observation of political life. He recognizes the initial difficulty, indeed, the impossibility, of finding any standard by which a rate of compensation can be given at once uniform and equitable and fair and just. Members of parliament, whether of the upper or lower house, differ widely, not only in circumstances and in their motives for engaging in public life, but in the manner in which they discharge their parliamentary duties. Some concentrate their attention on the local concerns which interest their constituents; others devote their time and energies to studying and perfecting the general legislation coming before parliament. To adjust salaries to these varied considerations is not possible, and as he clearly showed, the highest service is in every case voluntary and such that no money value can be placed upon it.

Under the law which previously prevailed, there was no difficulty in finding candidates, nor was the representation of the country confined exclusively, or even largely, to men of wealth. In Senator Wood's view, danger does exist if to the position of member of parliament is attached a salary affording the occupant an independent and comfortable living. It is the same danger which accompanies the present administration of the civil service. The choice of persons for appointment to, or promotion in, that service is due not so much to a desire for satisfactory discharge of official duty as to provide a political friend with a comfortable living. In this connection Mr. Wood instituted an interesting comparison between the example of the United Kingdom and the United States. The British system, he maintained, had brought prominently into public life a class of men who have strong convictions on public questions, who enter public life, not with the hope of any remuneration or reward, but merely to advocate the principles which they believe in, and to use their votes and influence in parliament in order to bring about the reforms or advance the legislation which they believe to be in the best interests of the country. On the other hand, in the United States, the practice which has prevailed has, in my opinion, had an important influence in leading public men to look upon the position, as one to be used for their own private or personal advantage."

In closing, Senator Wood animadverted strongly on the manner in which the indemnity bill was introduced into parliament and passed. He said:

"In my opinion, if this change was to be made, and if this new policy was to be adopted, if we are to receive something in the nature of a salary or a compensation for our services, or for the losses we sustain, instead of a reasonable sum merely by way of an indemnity for our living expenses while attending the sessions at Ottawa, it should have been brought before parliament and to the people before it was adopted. We are here, not as paid representatives of the people; we are here, in my opinion, as trustees of the public funds. There is, in my judgment, a very striking analogy between the position which members of parliament occupy and the position which trustees occupy in the ordinary business of life. We know that the laws with regard to trustees are very strict and, if, in any one respect, they are more strict than in another, it is in this, that trustees

shall not fix their own remuneration, nor in any way appropriate to their own use, or receive as a reward for their services, anything from the trust-fund unless such remuneration has first been granted them by the person who created the trust or fixed by a judge of the supreme court. Our position, it appears to me, is analogous to that of trustees in this respect: we are here as guardians of the public interest and of the public treasury, and while there is no other power which could grant a salary to members of parliament, except parliament itself, the least we could have done, if we decided upon that course, was to submit the question to parliament, have it fully discussed and receive the sanction of the people whom we represent, before such a change was brought about.

These words of Senator Wood undoubtedly present the true principle which should govern proposals of this kind, and he did the public service by giving voice to them in the senate. Nor are his views on the general question to be dismissed lightly. What the country needs is members of the senate and house of commons who recognize that their first and last duty is that which they owe the people. The system which best supplies that need is the one for Canada.

If the Dominion government really intends to steal Niagara Falls will it please leave the international bridges?

Another "magnificent victory" reported from the Philippines. Wonder how many women and children were slaughtered.

With government business pressing, what possible excuse can there be for a long drawn out budget debate, almost void of ideas?

Harcourt, Hieslop, Preston and Thompson of the opposition have spoken on the budget, and not one has uttered a word in favor of the issue of a popular loan.

Hon. Frank Cochrane says everyone will have an equal chance when the Gillies timber limit is opened to prospectors. There is no "pull" under Cochrane.

Why did the Dominion government not claim jurisdiction over Niagara Falls when its friends were handing out concessions to the corporations for campaign contributions? Whitney has done nothing but stop some of the waste and the corporations are down on him.

OSGOODE HALL

Judgments handed out yesterday, 27th March. Trial court (Toronto)—Northern Elevator Company v. Lake Huron & Manitoba Milling Company; Falconbridge, C. J. K. E.

Announcements for To-Day. Master's chambers—Cartwright, master, at 11 a. m. Weekly court—No cases have been set down for argument to-day.

Divisional court—Peremptory list for hearing at 11 a. m.—Federal Life v. Stinson; Kennedy v. Toronto Railway; Armstrong v. Euphemia; McMillan v. Muskoka Railway Company; Rowe v. Hewitt; Hieslop v. Brown.

Toronto non-jury sittings—No sitting of this court until April 2nd. Toronto-jury sittings—Peremptory list for hearing before the Hon. Mr. Justice Anglin, at 10 a. m.—Singer v. Alkinhead; Smith v. Gurney; Glass v. G. T. R.; Star Company v. Cohen.

TAKEN ILL ON TRAIN

Camlachie Man Dies From Stroke of Apoplexy. Detroit, March 27.—(Special).—Taken from a Port Huron Interurban car at noon, Duncan McPhail of Camlachie, Ontario, remained in an unconscious condition at the Emergency Hospital all night, when he died.

McPhail became ill on a car and could not explain his illness. A stomach pump was used, but the man continued to sink. A post-mortem examination showed the cause to have been apoplexy. There is a bruise on McPhail's forehead. The coroner will try to find whether this was caused by a fall or by foul play.

WORK OF SCRIPTURE UNION

The Scripture Union held its annual meeting at Guild Hall last night. Its special purpose was to hear the address of C. B. Bull of Jesus College, Cambridge, Eng., who illustrated the progress of the Scripture Union in all lands.

Mr. Bull will remain for a year in Canada to organize children's special service missions. Every third year a man is sent from England to report on the work in Canada, where there are 2000 Scripture Unionists in Toronto. Dr. Hoyle was chairman and Dr. Stringer, Bishop of Selkirk, read the Scripture portion.

Robert Young

Galt, March 27.—(Special).—Horse breeders thruout Canada, more particularly those having to do with the Clydesdale class, will regret to hear of the death of Robert Young, whose enterprise has helped largely to develop the importation and raising of heavy horses in this country. He retired from his Beverly farm to live in Galt six years ago. Tho 77, he was hearty till within a few months ago, when stomach trouble seized him.

Off to England

Kingston, March 27.—(Special).—Rev. Thos. Wyross, pastor of Calvary Congregational Church, leaves for England on May 1st and will be absent six months.

NEW SPANISH TARIFF

Madrid, March 27.—The ministry has decided to promulgate the new tariff April 1 to 30 in effect July 1. American imports will be considerably affected, the duties on machinery, especially agricultural and electrical and on flour, wheat, maize, petroleum and woven goods, are increased. The duties on iron and steel are decreased.

The Empire Club

At the club luncheon to-morrow, at 1 p.m., the guest will be Dr. Charles Sheard, medical health officer, who will address the club on "Vaccination."

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When It Was Dark. Port Hope, March 27.—While going home last night, shortly after 12 o'clock, Robert McMahon was held up by two unknown men and relieved of \$15.

Investigation reveals the fact that electrolysis is playing havoc with city water mains at Windsor.

For the table, get WINDSOR TABLE SALT. Every grain a perfect crystal. Absolutely pure, clean and never cakes.

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Spencer H. Over, formerly of Toronto is now general manager of the Narragansett Brewing Company of Providence, R.I.