

## The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15.

### Are the Soldiers to Be Ignored?

The Woodstock Sentinel Review recently issued a declaration of fair play and independence, thinking, and it is in this spirit it makes the following comment:

LT-Col. A. G. Pratt, who represents South Norfolk in the legislature, has been indulging in some plain talk to his party friends. He deals some hard knocks to the Conservative government and demands to know why the Conservatives of Ontario should be compelled to sit quiescent under obsolete policies and a moribund cabinet. He wants a Conservative convention held at once for the purpose of dealing with several matters that ought to be cleared up before the holding of a general election. The significance of his action is that it is probably indicative of the spirit of the returned soldier. We may look for a good deal more plain speaking in both political parties than we have been accustomed to. Men who have gone thru the war and have faced the realities of life and death are not likely to have much patience with the old game of party politics as it has been played by the politicians. The development of a spirit of independence in both political parties will be for the good of both, as well as for the advantage of the country.

This is admirable both in tone and spirit. It does not make the mistake of minimizing a representative soldier's view, and it recognizes that the whole body of soldiers have had an experience which lifts them out of the common account, and gives them a claim to consideration which cannot be put aside and for which no patronizing substitute could be accepted.

Col. Pratt's position, which is being so widely endorsed, is not only reasonable but modest. Representing his comrades of the Conservative party he thinks that the time has come when if they are to be regarded as members of the party at all, they should be admitted to the party councils. To hold an election and proceed for another four years, even granted that success in such an election were possible, without giving the soldiers the slightest voice in framing a policy for the party in the years that are of such importance to them in the reconstruction of the country, is probably the most undemocratic suggestion that has been made in Ontario since the day of the Family Compact.

That the Conservative party should single itself out among all the others as refusing to allow the soldiers or electors of any kind to take part in the formation of a party policy on the first available occasion after the war, is an astonishing violation of the Whitney tradition in itself, but it also cancels any possible excuse for the extension of the life of the legislature, a step which was avowedly taken because at that time the soldiers could not properly be consulted. Yet now when the golden opportunity has arrived to give the returned men an opportunity to say what they think, and take part in framing the policy which they desire to support and for which they wish to claim the support of their comrades, the government stultifies itself and the party stultifies by refusing the fundamental right of assembly.

Can it be possible that the government is fearful of admitting the soldiers to a convention which must inevitably consider many matters of interest to them? Should this be so, then the government is weak indeed. The government has had the confidence of many of its supporters because they believed that its assertions regarding the nickel and other moot questions were unassailable. But if the government is reluctant to face its own followers on such issues, what sort of a reception does it expect from the country?

### Why We Have No Food Control.

In the United States it has only been necessary to threaten the food profiteers and demonstrate the good faith of those who have the prosecution of offenders in charge, to bring down prices. Corn, pork, butter and other commodities are coming down. Yet we were told by all the food controllers in Canada, and are still being told by some that nothing can be done.

It takes the people a long time to find out that they are themselves responsible for the kind of government they have, and that what is done is not done by an outside interloping body, but by their own representatives for whom they voted, not usually because they knew them as good men, or for the principles they advocated, but simply because they were loyal to the party. Voting on that basis, and on that alone, generally brings poor governments.

Various devices have been proposed for improving the quality of candidates, proportional representation be-

ing the best approved remedy, but in the absence of such a measure the only way in which improvement can be secured or by which it may be hoped for is in the personal interest which each voter takes in his own ballot.

If the people of Ontario or of the Dominion desire to have stricter attention given to their interests they must make it their business to see that their representatives understand that votes are only to be had in exchange for principles. Men who are elected on account of their principles will see that the party they belong to does not neglect principle, and such a party never fails to look after the people's welfare.

## THE CITY'S LAW DEPARTMENT

By IDA L. WEBSTER.

In the board of control's report on Wednesday there was a little item of \$7100 for outside legal advice. When the mayor read the itemized account it was enough to make the tears roll out of the eyes of a snake, which little stunt, we understand, has never been, but nevertheless so pitiful was the business that it was overwhelming. The outside advice was needed in regard to legislation, but when the city of Toronto knows that there is Ottawa and Toronto its wishes and desires are merely laughed at as some new brainstorm of the council, why should it be necessary to pay for outside help in the matter?

Is it not bad enough for the legal department in the city hall to know that the suggestions and aims of the present city council are like so much dust in the eyes of the parliamentary forces, annoying but by no means serious, without blazoning the news to all the lawyers in the country? Another thing: if the men now employed as lawyers by the city cannot handle the business of the city why are they retained? Taxpayers cannot be asked or expected to pay out thousands of dollars every time that there is a legal fight or question to be decided, and especially when it is necessary to dig up the money to pay the regular men just the same.

If the members of the law department were "docked" to the amount of the outside counsel it would be an entirely different thing. Then they could call in advice whenever they are needed, but as it is now they are being paid, and their duties, when there are any, are carried on by men on the outside.

The general routine of the city's business is nothing to write home about. Of course, the answering of the questions by the various members of the board of control or the city council when it is in session, which is seldom, may be irksome, but by no means does it take any remarkable brain power, for the simple reason that if any lawyer displayed it would be the heads of the persons inquiring, and anyway, what is there to tell a man when it is legal to rename a street or not?

Having attended a number of meetings where the learned representatives of the city's law department have been in session, or in action, we should say, we know from personal observation how deeply they are required to think before they can give an answer to questions put to them.

As a glaring instance, we might call your attention to the advice given by the city's lawyers on the sealing of handbags for liquor by civil police. Reasons like that are probably why it is necessary to spend so many dollars in finding out just how far the city may go in its various issues.

Perhaps it might be cheaper for the citizens to pay for a post-graduate course for all the members of the department, or perhaps it might be a good idea to get in some new blood. At present the lawyers employed by the city of Toronto are a luxury which the taxpayers cannot afford.

### MUSKOKA VISITORS ARE FIGHTING FIRES

Driest Season for Twenty Years—Flames Threaten Farms and Cottages.

Gravenhurst, Muskoka, Aug. 14.—There has been no rain here for many days and no sign of any, despite the earnest hopes of summer resorters and settlers, who, in many districts have been fighting bush fires for weeks, and are in sore need of assistance from the skies. Many holiday seekers have spent a good part of their time in helping to whack out the flames in the woods, and still the fires creep towards farms and cottages, and send their smoke abroad as a great brown pall, obscuring sun, moon and stars.

Farms and forests all thru the Muskoka district are suffering badly for the lack of drenching rains. The old timers say this has been the driest season for twenty years hereabouts.

### JUGO-SLAVS INVADE AUSTRIAN TERRITORY

Laibach, Jugo-Slavia, August 14.—Jugo-Slav troops yesterday occupied the territory east of the Mur River in Austria, allotted Jugo-Slovakia by the peace conference. The troops advanced to the north of Mura, occupying the territory and disarming the Austrian troops. Guns, munitions and locomotives were seized by the Jugo-Slavs. The advance will reach the new Jugo-Slovakian frontier running thru Hungary is reached.

### THE WESTERN CROPS.

It is estimated that about 15,000 men will be required to work as Farm Laborers to assist in harvesting the crops in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Canadian Pacific has arranged and is advertising usual special fare of \$12 to Winnipeg, and will run special trains from Toronto, Tuesday, August 12th, and Thursday, August 14th.

## THE NICKEL QUESTION, THE WORLD AND W. F. MACLEAN

COMRADE GEO. R. SWEENEY, President.

COMPRISING  
The Army and Navy Veterans in Canada.  
The Grand Army of Canada.  
His Majesty's Army and Navy Veterans' Association.  
The Naval Veterans' Association.

## THE VETERANS' LEAGUE OF TORONTO

97 KING STREET EAST  
TORONTO

Aug. 13-19.

W. F. Maclean, M.P.,  
Toronto World Office, City.

Dear Sir:—I have been instructed to forward you the enclosed resolution of the Veterans' League of Toronto.

Edward A. L'Estrange,  
Secretary.

### RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE VETERANS' LEAGUE MEETING, AUGUST 12.

Whereas various veterans' associations are receiving newspaper articles relating to the nickel question, from The Toronto World, and whereas Mr. W. F. Maclean is proprietor and editor of the said newspaper, be it resolved that this league is of the opinion that this is a question for the Dominion government to deal with:

And, whereas Mr. Maclean is a member of the Dominion House of Commons, he be requested to bring the matter up of the nickel question at the next session of the Dominion House of Commons, where the question may be thoroughly discussed, and the blame, if any, arising from Canadian nickel having got into the hands of the Germans before or during the war, be laid against the proper authorities.

This resolution was passed under the presidency of Comrade George R. Sweeney, a brother of the Right Reverend James, Bishop of Toronto. It is satisfactory to know that the veterans have not lost interest in a matter which concerned them so nearly during the war, and it is satisfactory also to note that Comrade Sweeney is now taking an interest in the question. Comrade Sweeney is doubtless aware of the many occasions on which Mr. Maclean brought up the nickel question in the house of commons. He will be able to inform the comrades of the Veterans' League of Toronto that while the nickel products of Ontario are a provincial asset and responsibility, the federal government has at least equal responsibility, if not greater, and that Mr. Maclean's advice before followed the federal government would have taken possession of the mines at the beginning of the war, and controlled absolutely the product and kept such a check upon it that no German agent would have obtained a pound of it.

The people of Ontario, however, are primarily interested in their own property and its disposal and are entitled to a share of the receipts under the revenue act of the province. The returned men are entitled to have full information on this question from both houses, and are quite right to pursue investigation and enquiry thru Mr. Maclean or any member of either the house of commons or the legislature.

Mr. Maclean has not hesitated, whenever possible, to bring the nickel issue before the house of commons, and before the people of Canada, and will continue to do so, but Comrade Sweeney might remind himself that when it is deemed desirable to catch a coon it is always customary to stop both ends of his burrow.

A more satisfactory communication is to hand from the "Originals' Club," of which Mr. A. Kenneth Coulter is president. The letter, which is signed by Mr. O. J. Winslow as secretary, is as follows:

"I have been instructed to write to you endorsing your action taken in the letter states also that standard-ized wage scales offered to the men have been rejected by several branches of the railwaymen's organization particularly at Liverpool and Manchester."

### NEW THRESHING RECORD EXPECTED IN MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Aug. 14.—Threshing is well under way in Manitoba, and by the end of August more than half the work will be finished, according to J. H. Evans, deputy minister of agriculture. If weather conditions remain favorable, all threshing will be finished by the first week in September, thus setting a record.

Moore Jaw, Aug. 14.—Reports from all parts of Southern Saskatchewan indicate that at least sixty per cent. of the wheat crops in that part has already been cut. The Moore Jaw district is the only one where men are still needed and five hundred are wanted for harvest work at once.

### DISCUSSED AMENDMENTS TO TRANSPORT BILL

London, Aug. 14.—After disposing of the profiteering bill, by which the government will be empowered to take drastic action in lowering the high cost of living, the house of commons, which sat all night as a committee of the whole, took up the house of lords amendments to the transport bill this morning. Some of these amendments were not accepted by the lower house of parliament. After being in continuous session for seventeen hours, the house rose shortly after nine o'clock this morning.

The profiteering bill passed the committee stage shortly after five o'clock this morning.

### NEW HUNGARIAN CABINET.

Berlin, Aug. 14.—According to a Budapest despatch to The Aht Ur Abendblatt the new Hungarian cabinet formed last night, is as follows:

Premier, M. Lovassy; foreign minister, Count Julius Andrássy; minister of agriculture, Gábor Fejédy; minister of public welfare, Gábor Fejédy; minister of agriculture, Stephan Szabo; minister of education, Herr Huesar.

### ROMANIA WANTS UNION WITH HUNGARY

Vienna, Aug. 14.—A statement attacking Great Britain and America, demanding that Hungary be united with Rumania, under the sovereignty of King Ferdinand and upon the condition that strip Hungary if the Rumanian army is forced to withdraw from that country, has been presented to Archduke Joseph, head of the Hungarian government, by the authorized Rumanian representative at Budapest, according to despatches received here.

The text of the communication follows: "There are 250,000 workmen in Budapest who are only waiting for the Rumanians to leave Hungary to immediately take the situation into their own hands, which means the return of Bolshevism. The Hungarian government cannot depend upon the Rumanian powers for assistance, for those powers have withdrawn all their troops from Rumania, and America is unwilling to send a single soldier. We do not trust the Rumanians, which means only to humiliate us. We are willing to withdraw our troops, if necessary, starting tomorrow morning, but we will carry off everything and strip the country just as Field Marshal Mackensen stripped Rumania."

The only grudge the Rumanians have against us is that we refuse to have British and American capital dominate Rumania. Hungary must follow Rumania's policy in not accepting British and American capital. Whatever would remain after the Rumanians' retreat has never been served or further proceedings in action taken.

Both vs. King—H. A. Harman (McCarthy & Co.) for plaintiff, obtained final order of foreclosure. Hollans vs. Jenkins—M. A. Brown, for defendant, obtained order on consent dismissing action without costs and vacating its pendens at the instance of the plaintiff.

Judge's Chambers.  
Martens vs. Stewart—M. Arnold, K.C., for plaintiff, obtained leave to serve notice of motion on appeal from Kelly.

Re Clark Pressed Metals, Limited—A. Bicknell, for W. E. Clark, petitioner, on motion, for order of winding up the company. Order made appointing N. L. Martin interim liquidator with a reference to J. A. C. Cameron, Esq., for report on the state of the business to be settled by the judge.

Re Edmund Bushell—J. M. Bennett, for Christine A. Bushell, obtained order of sale of house at 155, Avenue. E. C. Cattanch for official guardian. Balance of infant's money to be paid into court. Administrators of the estate of J. H. Jones, deceased, for payment out of money in court.

King vs. Coulter—D. W. Markham, for prisoner, obtained order of discharge on motion to quash conviction.

King vs. Black—M. C. Cameron, for prisoner, G. A. Archibald for informant, no one for magistrate. Order made on motion to quash conviction.

Re Campbelloff, Lake Ontario and Western Railway (re Squire's case)—J. Q. Maunsell for company obtained order for payment out of money in court.

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