

START BUILDING WITHOUT DELAY

Big Army of Artisans, Mechanics and Builders Waiting for Work.

ALL READY TO START

Confidence and More "Pep" Are What is Needed.

With a mild winter fast dwindling to an early spring, Toronto's vast army of building contractors, stone cutters, carpenters, lumber dealers and supply men are holding their breath in suspense. Demobilization is well under way and every week brings its troops of war-weary men in khaki, all anxious to forget the nightmare and resume their old occupations. All they want is work.

Discussing the situation with The World, the secretary of the Toronto Builders' Exchange, David J. Davison, said: "Opportunities are not coming along quite so fast as they should in view of the government's intention to go ahead with a number of public buildings in this district. It was reported yesterday that plans were being prepared for the new customs building here, but a few months will slip past before tenders are submitted and contracts let. What about the new post station on Spadina ave. Tenders were called for that building in 1914, and everything was ready to go ahead with the work, but it was postponed on account of the war. It should be easy to fix things up so that building could be started right away. Then there is the new post office on Adelaide street. We would like to hear something definite about that. We appreciate, of course, that the government has many difficult problems to deal with, but when the Canadian Building and Construction Industries met in convention at Ottawa, a special committee interviewed Sir W. J. White, finance minister, the Hon. Frank Carvell, minister of public works, and the minister of railways, Hon. J. D. Reith. They promised that all public works would be started as soon as they could get them under way."

Confidence is wanted, a little confidence," said Ald. Williams, who is an active member of the Builders' Exchange and owns a large planing mill on Woodbine avenue. "Were the government to go ahead with some of that work now, it would stimulate business generally. Many private concerns are holding back projected work, just for lack of confidence to go ahead with it. "Probably they are hoping that the cost of building material may drop a little," interjected The World reporter. "I don't think that is possible in the near future," was the answer. "They men before the war were getting thirty dollars a month and board; this season they have been paid seventy dollars and board and are getting a hundred dollars a month. The cost of living will have to drop considerably before there can be much change. A gradual readjustment will have to take place, I suppose, but the least the government could do is to lead the way and get something started."

J. McEain, Toronto manager of the Milford Pressed Brick Company, was quoting prices to a contractor when The World reporter called. Williams decidedly cheerful with regard to prospects, he thought that a little more "pep" would cheer everybody up. "There are a lot of speculative builders who would start work now, but they are afraid that a drastic change in conditions generally might leave them with a lot of property on their hands. Personally, I cannot see how there can be any great change in the cost of labor and material. Manufacturers have been producing on a restricted scale with the same overhead charges. If trade were to wake up a little and production increased the overhead would be largely reduced and prices might come down again."

"Some of the contractors think the government should lead the way with public work," said The World reporter. "Perhaps the high cost of material is one reason for the delay?" "No, I don't think so," replied Mr. McEain. "When the matter was discussed at Ottawa during the convention it was stated that in view of existing conditions, the question of cost would not hold up the work when they decided to go ahead with it. We are supplying brick for a government office building at Ottawa now, and I would certainly be glad to see some of the Toronto buildings started."

DESERTERS SENTENCED.

Six months imprisonment in Burwash Reformatory was the sentence imposed on Pte. E. C. Wagner, a deserter, by Magistrate Kingsford in yesterday's police court.

Wagner was apprehended at Fort Erie by the chief of police there, who, in a letter, described him as being a desperate character. The man is said to have taken refuge in a cottage and defied the officers with a rifle.

Pte. Eugene Chartrand, another deserter, was sentenced to the jail farm for six months.

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LIMITATION STATUTE AVERTS POLICE CHARGE

The Ontario temperance act states in sub-section 2 of section 61, that no proceedings thereunder can be taken towards apprehending those who have broken the law if the required information was not laid within 30 days after the date of the crime.

Vice-chairman Dingman, of the Ontario License Board, made the announcement yesterday when asked what could be undertaken in the prosecution of those connected with the alleged shortage of confiscated liquor from the No. 8 police station, provided the police commission decided to institute proceedings.

SCORE'S SELLING PIM'S TIES TODAY AND TOMORROW AT \$1.19.

This certainly is an attractive price to be selling the famous Pim's Irish Poplin Neckwear regular \$1.75, for \$1.19; but the \$20,000 "Forced" Sale of high-class furnishings is presenting many surprises, and this is just one of the week-end extras which go to prove the genuineness of the price reductions. And there are other lines just as attractive. Come and see for yourself. Score & Son, Limited, Tailors and Haberdashers, 77 King west.

Parry Sound Deputation Seek Better Highways

Sir William Hearst, premier of Ontario, and Hon. I. B. Lucas received a deputation yesterday representing the milling section of the Parry Sound district. They asked for a series of amendments to the lien act.

A petition request of 1200 was presented to the government by a deputation from the Parry Sound district asking that various highways should be brought up to provincial standards and for improved connection from terminal points to Algonquin Park.

STOLE MOTOR CARS.

Described by Crown Attorney Greer as a most persistent auto thief, Louis Gentile was yesterday sentenced to one year in the Ontario Reformatory by Judge Winchester in the sessions. Gentile, along with R. Curtis, Albert Flanagan and Herbert Peacock, was charged with stealing several motor cars. His companions all received three months at the jail farm, while Ed. Hickey, who was with the gang, but merely out for a ride, was allowed to go.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

Margaret Harrison, a nurse, who died intestate, left an estate valued at \$3,998, which will be equally divided between three sisters and two brothers, each of whom will receive \$779.

Another who died intestate was John Edward Calhoun, a ledger keeper, who died on Dec. 7, leaving an estate valued at \$1,023. His heirs will be his father and mother, John and Emma Calhoun, six sisters and a brother.

MIGHT STOP RADIAL.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Ontario minister of lands, forests and mines, stated yesterday at the parliament buildings that he would give the municipalities concerned ample time to produce their case against Sir John Gibson's application for a definition of the boundaries of the McKittrick Syndicate property.

Gordon Wilson, M.P., claims that the application made by Sir John Gibson would, if granted, prevent the entry of a Hydro radial line into Dundas.

FIFTY CENTS AN HOUR.

Sir William Hearst stated yesterday that the G.W.V.A. request respecting a wage rate of 50 cents an hour would be reported upon by the department to which it directly related. It is the government's policy, said the premier of Ontario, "to give preference to the returned men in all matters wherever possible."

CINDERS NO GOOD.

The report of Geo. Wilson, commissioner of streets, upon the advisability of sifting ashes as a means of producing cinder fuel will be presented this morning, will be unfavorable, and will show that the system would prove costlier than deluging out anthracite coal.

NOT ELIGIBLE.

Any member of the C.E.F. who has been cashiered or dismissed from the army by sentence of court-martial or reduced in rank for misconduct will not be eligible to gratuity pay at the rate of \$100 a month for married men or \$70 for single men. This was contained in yesterday's orders.

ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Bar Association will be held at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, on Thursday and Friday, February 20 and 21. The banquet will be held on Friday evening, when a large representation from the Buffalo Lawyers' Club will be present.

NEW JARVIS STREET COLLEGIATE NEEDED

High Schools Are All Overcrowded — Malvern Uses Lavatory as Classroom.

Overcrowding at all the high schools, demanding the erection of a new building for Jarvis Collegiate, was reported by Superintendent Bishop at the meeting of the property committee of the board of education yesterday afternoon.

Trustee J. P. Hamby, chairman of the board, said that he intended making a big fight for the immediate erection of a new collegiate to replace the present Jarvis street building.

Superintendent Bishop was asked to estimate the cost of the additional collegiate buildings. He declined to quote a sum offhand, but said it would require a large amount of money. The sites are already available so that there would be no outlay for them.

Half a Million.

One estimate is that half a million dollars would be needed for the new Jarvis Street Collegiate and for additions for Parkdale, Oakwood, Malvern and the Humberdale Collegiates. C. N. Smith, senior principal of high schools, reported that a new wing should be started immediately at the south of the present Parkdale Collegiate, which should be eventually the first wing of a complete new high school building. The Parkdale Collegiate lower and middle schools were very much congested.

Oakwood Collegiate had five classes in rooms not suitable for classrooms. Malvern Avenue Collegiate was using both a lavatory and a cloak room as class rooms. Six new class rooms and an assembly hall were required there.

Humberdale Collegiate was congested and required enlargement. North Toronto High School, required an assembly hall, gymnasium and the domestic science and manual training rooms require completion.

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SEVEN DOLLAR PENSION.

"The outstanding feature about Richard Sherry's case is this: that he must either be given the privilege of re-education or he must be re-examined by the board of pensions commissioners and granted a much higher pension," said Geo. H. Gubar, secretary of West Toronto G.W.V.A., to The World yesterday, relative to the case of a returned soldier who had enlisted with certificates showing he was a first-class machinist but who was now prevented from carrying on his vocation because of injuries received on the battlefield. Sherry is now receiving a pension of seven dollars a month, and it is understood that he was both wounded and shell shocked.

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NEW I.O.D.E. OFFICERS.

The Sir John A. Macdonald Chapter, I.O.D.E., held their tenth annual meeting Wednesday at the Sherbourne House Club when the following officers were elected: Regent, Miss Elizabeth; first vice-regent, Mrs. A. H. Birmingham; treasurer, Mrs. George Flint; secretary, Mrs. T. H. Thompson; steward-bearer, Mrs. H. F. Birmingham.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY DANCE.

A successful euchre and bridge was held by the Holy Name Society in the Parkdale Assembly Hall, Tuesday. About 400 people attended. Eight prizes were given, and after refreshments the dance was held. It is intended to hold another entertainment in the near future.



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SALARY REFERENDUM.

Recommendations have been sent in to the board of education by the management committee asking that the city council submit the question of salaries for school trustees as a referendum next January, also that a supervisor of the domestic science training be appointed.

Ald. Nesbitt Asked to Formulate Charges Against Juvenile Court

Alderman R. Nesbitt has been asked by the attorney-general to formulate his charges against the juvenile court in a letter. The alderman stated yesterday he did not wish to do this, but would request the ap-

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CANADIAN PRODUCERS DISCUSS FOREIGN SALE

Discussing credits and terms of sale, domestic and foreign, at the closing session of the Canadian Producers Association yesterday afternoon, J. A. Law of the Matthews-Blackwell Company said that, while the produce of Canada has done some export business during the past few years owing to abnormal conditions, the exports of butter and eggs would be almost equaled by the imports. It might be that owing to the acumen of traders a profit had accrued to Canada on the transaction, but it could not be expected that such conditions would continue.

Mr. Law did not believe that there was any great surplus for exports, but assuming that there were, he thought that a committee of the association should at once arrange with the trade in the United Kingdom the terms and conditions under which trade could be carried on.

J. A. Roddick of the dairy export department of the government advocated a central export board at Montreal and a storage plant, where cheese for export could be graded.

CLASS ROOMS NEEDED.

Chief Inspector R. H. Cowley has prepared a statement showing that in the entire city only 69 rooms are vacant, and they include six intended for manual training and domestic science at one used by the medical inspection and nine in the old Dovercourt and Clinton Schools, making a total of but 43 available class rooms vacant. The increase in school population alone required that 20 additional class rooms be opened.

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