

The Toronto World

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PLEAS FOR THE CORPORATIONS

The Kingston street railway matter
 will come before the committee of the
 legislature this morning. The agents
 of the company have been very busy,
 some lobbying Liberals and some Con-
 servatives, and all trying to produce
 that appearance of harmony which so
 often deludes the public. In the present
 case, however, the people of King-
 ston have taken a position so firm
 and so reasonable that it will be a
 difficult matter to defend the refusal
 of their request.

It is a very common device to re-
 present the private corporation as a
 great stickler for the sanctity of con-
 tracts. The people of Kingston would
 live up to the spirit of its agreement
 and give the service that was con-
 templated when the agreement was
 made. But private corporations have
 all kinds of ways of evading their
 agreements, keeping within the letter
 of the law, or depending on the good
 nature and forgetfulness of the public
 to condone the offence.

The people have no means of evading
 their obligations to the community.
 They must pay for what they get to
 the uttermost farthing. A street car
 company can plead all kinds of ex-
 cuses for not carrying a man to his
 destination. A passenger can plead
 no excuse for refusing to pay his fare.
 All the common talk about the sancti-
 ty of obligations to the community, the
 wickedness of confiscation and so on
 is unmitigated cant and humbug. Pri-
 vate corporations break their agree-
 ments whenever it suits their conveni-
 ence, while the law gives them power
 to exact the pound of flesh from their
 customers.

PROHIBITION IN POLITICS

Prohibition has suddenly become a
 live question in provincial politics.
 There is something extraordinary in the
 action of some government journals in pub-
 lishing reports of a caucus, bluntly an-
 nouncing that there was a disagree-
 ment, and that the premier was de-
 feated in the meeting of his own fol-
 lowers. The Globe says:

The premier, it is understood,
 outlined to his followers a radical
 temperance measure, providing for
 the abolition of the liquor trade in the
 province on May 1, 1905, and govern-
 ment control of the retail sale of
 liquor in packages. This did not
 meet with the approval of the mem-
 bers.
 The premier then suggested an
 alternative that the bringing into
 effect of such a law as that he had
 previously suggested should be left
 to a vote in each of the individual
 municipalities at the next municipal
 elections. It would be compul-
 sory to submit to the people of each
 municipality two questions: Shall
 the hotel license in the municipali-
 ty be abolished and shall the retail
 sale of liquor under government
 control? The license law would at
 the same time be made more string-
 ent.
 The last proposition was discussed
 until adjournment, no decision being
 reached. The matter will
 come up at another caucus next
 week.

The Globe supports Mr. Ross, and
 supports him in the more radical of
 his two proposals, the one that was
 defeated in the caucus.

The conviction is growing in
 many minds that the best interests
 of temperance in Ontario will be
 served, not by licensing a small
 number to sell intoxicants for private
 gain, thereby creating a mono-
 poly of increasing value to the
 individuals and of threatening in-
 fluence in public affairs, and not
 by prohibiting such sale to the
 public, but rather by taking out of private
 hands the retail sale of all in-
 toxicating liquors, whether domestic
 scientific, mechanical, or any other
 purpose, and putting it under gov-
 ernment control.

We discuss in an other article the
 working of the system advocated by
 Mr. Ross. But the political aspect of
 the question is also of importance. The
 open announcement of a disagree-
 ment between the premier and his fol-
 lowers in a paper that is as nearly
 as possible the premier's per-
 sonal organ is a new departure.
 It is admitted that the pre-
 mier is in a minority in the country;
 we are now told that, on a matter
 which he has made at heart, he is in
 a minority in his own cabinet, and in
 the ministerial party in the legislature.
 Under these circumstances the most
 dignified counsel, if not the course laid
 down by constitutional practice, would
 be for the premier to resign. But when
 the government begins to announce
 through its organs that it is in diffi-
 culty and would like a little assistance
 from outside, there is not much use in talk-
 ing about constitutional practice. This
 government is a law unto itself, and
 is ready to abandon responsibility,
 ministerial unity and all other doc-
 trines, to suit its own convenience.

If Mr. Ross cannot command the sup-
 port of his colleagues on a vital ques-
 tion, he can reconstruct his cabinet;
 and if necessary appeal to the country.
 Experience would lead one to expect
 that neither of these courses will be
 taken, but that there will be a com-

promise, such as a stricter license
 law, diminishing the number of licenses,
 shortening the hours of sale, and gen-
 erally increasing the restrictions. When
 rebuked by his prohibition friends he
 may say that he went as far as he
 could, but that his colleagues and his
 party friends in the legislature would
 not support him. If he takes the bold-
 er and more straightforward course
 he will certainly give the country a
 surprise.

THE GOVERNMENT AS A LIQUOR SELLER

The sale of liquors under government
 control, which is advocated by Premier
 Ross and The Globe, has been tried in
 South Carolina, under the name of the
 dispensary system. It is dealt with in
 the well-known report of the "commit-
 tee" of fifty to investigate the liquor
 problem. There was, as in Ontario,
 a political question as well as a liquor
 question, and "some concession to the
 strong prohibition sentiment was in-
 evitable." The dispensary law of 1892
 which went into force in 1893, provided
 for the appointment by the governor
 of the state of a commissioner, who
 should buy all liquors for sale, giving
 preference to South Carolina distillers
 and brewers, and supply them to local
 dispensers at 50 per cent above net
 cost. The liquors were to be pure and
 unadulterated. Every package of liquor
 must be sealed and sold with the seal
 unbroken. The dispenser must not be a
 druggist or hotel-keeper. The pur-
 chaser must sign his name to a request
 for the liquor, and give his age and
 residence, no minor nor habitual drunk-
 ard to be served.

The closing of the saloons was gen-
 erally accomplished without much dis-
 turbance. But the law was evad-
 ed. Unlicensed sellers, called "blind tigers,"
 were established. Whiskey flowed into
 the state through unsuspected channels.
 The force of constables was inadequate
 to prevent the flow of illicit liquor. The
 dispensary act was unpopular. Prohibitionists
 were dissatisfied and some denounced
 the state traffic as "unholy." In two in-
 stances dispensers were forced to resign
 membership. By the opposite side the
 law was denounced as an infringement
 on personal liberty. There was a noted
 hostility, personal and political, to the
 advocates of the plan. "Creating a con-
 viction that nothing good could emanate
 from the party in power."

Serious legal complications arose from
 attempts to enforce the law. Some of
 the local dispensers were disreputable,
 and helped to bring the law into con-
 tempt. The government business grew,
 but so did the illegal business. Not
 more than half the liquor drunk in the
 state passed through the dispensaries.
 The principal custom of the dispensaries
 was that of negroes.

The difficulties which had arisen may
 be estimated by the amendments that
 were made in the law by the next legis-
 lature. In general, says the report, they
 were designed to strengthen and
 secure the monopoly of the state: (1)
 by facilitating the establishment of
 new dispensaries, which would do away
 with rural prohibition and thus break
 the monopoly; (2) by increasing in
 several ways the power of the con-
 stables and the licensing committee;
 (3) by increasing the penalties for
 the sale of liquor to the public; (4) by
 providing new penalties to meet every
 contingency; (5) by threatening to
 withhold from the municipalities their
 share of dispensary profits for failure
 to carry out the law; and (6) by
 discrimination in the taxation of pro-
 ducts, thus lessening the opposition
 from one quarter at least.

These amendments did not make the
 law more popular. The increased pow-
 ers conferred on the constables were
 disliked. Several men were shot by
 constables. On March 30, 1894, oc-
 curred the Danvers riot, in which
 five lives were lost and several men
 were wounded. The coroner's jury re-
 turned a verdict of murder against
 two of the constables. The constables
 refused to serve against
 breakers.
 Law was declared in Danvers and
 also in Florence, where a dispensary had
 been looted. Rioting and disorder
 continued until April, 1894, when the
 supreme court of Carolina declared
 the law unconstitutional.

Finally the change in the person-
 ality of the judiciary the legal difficulty
 was removed, and the legislature re-
 enacted and strengthened the law. A
 metropolitan police was established by
 the state, the local police being ac-
 cused of laxity. Another amendment
 facilitated the multiplication of the
 official liquor shops. This illustrates
 a curious phase of the working of the
 law. Attempts have been made to
 pass a dispensary on a prohibition town,
 a proceeding likely to arouse the hos-
 tility of prohibitionists as well as of
 illicit liquor sellers. Another remark-
 able statement is that the system has
 become a powerful political ma-
 chine. Party agencies was the father
 of the dispensary act, party warfare de-
 manded its growth and nurture in the
 face of the bitterest opposition. It fol-
 lows that the men connected in any
 way with the state liquor monopoly
 may be of the same political faith.

Complaint has been made that the
 state has devoted itself to the sale
 of spirits rather than to the liquor
 the state obtaining a greater profit from
 the former. To offset this the state
 has taken special measures to encour-
 age the brewing industry within her
 own borders. The law at the time of
 the making of the report (1895) con-
 tinued to be unpopular. It was diffi-
 cult to obtain men of good character
 as dispensary clerks. White men in cities
 and towns dislike the law; negroes
 are the chief customers, and the cheap
 grades of whiskey are the staple
 articles of trade. A strong force of
 constabulary is everywhere at work
 ferreting out violations of the law,
 watching railroads, steamboats, and
 landings, express offices and other
 avenues of commerce.

The general tone of this report is
 somewhat unfavorable to the system.
 But this is not conclusive. The com-
 missioners who made the report are not
 infallible; the conditions in South Caro-

lina may be unfavorable. The lesson
 to be drawn from the report is that
 there is no patent medicine cure-all
 for the evils of intemperance. That is
 to say, you cannot introduce any
 system and then leave it alone, expect-
 ing that it will work itself. Eternal
 vigilance is the price of temperance,
 as it is the price of liberty. Prohibition
 has its merits, the license system has
 its merits, and government control has
 its merits. But each of these systems
 has also its weaknesses and its defects.
 Temperance reform is best promoted
 by working on all the known lines to-
 gether—social control, moral suasion,
 the influence of railway companies and
 other employers, legislation. The
 movement has its legislative side, its
 business side, its hygiene side, its
 moral side. The best progress is
 achieved when all these forces march
 together.

GOOD DEMAND FOR SHEEP.

The growth of the sheep industry in
 the United States is very clearly set
 forth in the large number of sheep and
 lambs that passed through the Chicago
 market in the month of February, the
 total reaching 401,612 or 130-
 978 more than a year ago, the previous
 large February total. The Buffalo
 market was also largely supplied with
 sheep and lambs, principally from the
 feeders in the States of Michigan and
 Ohio, where many range sheep and
 lambs are finished for the best east-
 ern trade.

The demand for mutton and lamb is
 apparently still on the increase, for the
 prices paid during February were
 higher than in January. The only
 countries allowed to land live sheep in
 Great Britain are Canada, the United
 States and Iceland. Iceland sheep are
 thin and poor compared with the grain
 fed sheep from Canada and the United
 States. The number of sheep raised
 in Ireland for shipment to England
 and Scotland last year amounted to
 224,706, a decrease of 232,410 from the
 previous year. This is accounted for
 by the high prices ruling in 1902, nat-
 urally tempting every Irish farmer to
 sell every sheep he could spare at the
 high bid.

In a recent English commercial let-
 ter it was stated Canadian grain fed
 mutton is now favorably compared
 with home-grown mutton, the whole-
 sale price being almost equal. The
 Chicago papers are jubilant over the
 great increase in their sheep trade for
 the two months of this year. Ontario
 has been successful in securing more
 sheep each successive year for the
 whole of our northern counties are
 admirably adapted for raising sheep.
 Every clearing in the bush would be
 much benefited for tillage thru the
 browsing of sheep.

One very satisfactory aspect of the
 sheep trade has been the steady price
 ruling in Great Britain. But for the
 sheep during the past months, con-
 sequently our shippers have not met any
 serious monetary loss. There are no
 present indications that would seri-
 ously affect the present prices for grain
 fed sheep and lambs. It is necessary
 to meet into the minds of the farmers
 the fact that only the best and prop-
 erly fed sheep and lambs will be ac-
 ceptable to the experienced shippers.

A STROKE OF DIPLOMACY.

Fortunately for the empire, whatever
 mistakes and blunders the British mil-
 itary may have made in the past, they
 have not been repeated in the con-
 duct of foreign affairs during a gen-
 erally trying and perilous time. Now
 that very full official explanations have
 been given in the imperial parlia-
 ment regarding the policy of the Brit-
 ish government in the Russo-Japanese
 negotiations, the course of the
 Russo-Japanese negotiations will be
 only due to Lord Lansdowne, the for-
 eign secretary, and Lord Selborne, the
 first lord of the admiralty, to acknowl-
 edge the caution and circumspection
 with which they have held the balance
 between the two warring powers, and
 a possible enemy. There will be a gen-
 eral feeling of relief that the British
 government has been so scrupulously
 careful to avoid even the appearance
 of undue partiality, and that towards
 Russia there has been evinced not
 the slightest desire to take advantage
 of her political weakness, but a wish
 to be able to defend her susceptibilities
 as to the right of an extension of the
 war to others than the present bellig-
 erents themselves.

All judicious and dispassionate ob-
 servers must admit that whatever the
 present interests of predictions of the
 British people may be, their attitude is
 the only one worthy of the empire.
 Apart altogether from considerations
 prompted by the friendly relations with
 France, no other course could finally
 have commended itself to the best sense
 of Britons throughout the world. But
 a good understanding with
 France has been the balance, a reason
 both for the British attitude and for
 the scale of fairness, moderation and
 courtesy. Now that the first unreason-
 ing outbreaks of temper on the part
 of Russia have been succeeded by a more
 tranquil spirit, it is satisfactory to
 know that the relations between the
 two governments have sensibly im-
 proved, and that the Russian ambas-
 ador to Britain, Count Benckendorff, was
 able to assure Count Lansdowne that so
 far from Great Britain having any
 cause for complaint, he was satisfied
 on the contrary that, in her own
 interest, she had made every effort
 to avoid hostilities. There is every
 reason to believe that if Russia could
 only do so without a serious blow to
 her prestige in Asia, she is prepared
 to concede all that Japan originally
 asked. Whether such an avenue of
 escape could be made by seeking to
 counter-balance losses in Korea and
 Manchuria by compensations in East-
 ern Europe, does not seem a Russian
 question. Germany is deeply con-
 cerned now in the fate of the Turkish
 possessions, both in Europe and in Asia.
 Minor and her interests in these des-
 not square so well with Russian aggres-
 sion as they do in China. It is not
 to be much of an advantage to Russia
 in seeking to escape the Japanese. It
 was drawn into the German
 Charybdis.

RUDE SUNDLER OF A FARM.

Peterboro, March 9.—Miss Melville,
 dressmaker, while walking home alone
 at 8:30 o'clock last night was attacked
 by a purse-snatcher, knocked down and
 robbed. The man is still at large.

CITY GOT HALF GAS INCREASE CUT DOWN

Capital Stock of Company Will Be
 Increased by a Million
 and a Half.

The private bill committee of the legis-
 lature yesterday decided to allow the Con-
 sumers' Gas Company of Toronto to in-
 crease its capital \$1,500,000. The com-
 pany's bill called for an increase of \$500,000,
 but this was strongly opposed by re-
 presentatives of the city, who thought a
 million ought to be enough.

Mayor Ungher, in opposing the bill,
 gave a little review of gas company his-
 tory. The company was incorporated in
 1848 with a capital of \$25,000. Up to 1887
 there had been stock issued to the amount
 of \$1,000,000. Then the company applied
 for permission to double that capital, to be
 sold at par. The city opposed it at that
 time, and the private bill committee then
 decided that the company had a city fran-
 chise and should not be allowed to increase
 its capital. The capital was increased, but
 all the extra stock was to be sold at public
 auction, as the capital was required; \$800,
 000 had been issued at prices ranging from
 150 to 200 since 1887.

Moreover, in 1887 there was a surplus
 of profits to the amount of \$394,000, and
 since then \$411,000 had been placed in plant
 fund, making a total of \$805,000. The
 \$834,310, taken from the consumers, a large
 part of which should have been applied to
 the reduction of the price of gas.

The mayor said an increase of \$3,000,000
 was not necessary, as the extensions pro-
 posed would cost \$2,000,000. The company
 would purchase an increase of a million of
 stock, and the surplus would be used to
 purchase the same and to have four mil-
 lion of stock, which would be sold at par.
 The city would not desire to cause any loss to the share-
 holders, but it would not desire to see the
 company on the board of 12 members. He pointed
 out that the company had a surplus of \$800,
 000, and that the city would not desire to see
 the company on the board of 12 members.

Price Could Be Lowered.

Corporation counsel, in a statement
 made at the act of incorporation to show that
 the company would not be a burden on the
 city, pointed out that the company would
 be able to reduce the price of gas. The
 company would be able to reduce the price
 of gas by the amount of the surplus. The
 company would be able to reduce the price
 of gas by the amount of the surplus. The
 company would be able to reduce the price
 of gas by the amount of the surplus.

Has To Much Money.

Control was that the company was whole-
 ly owned by the city. The company would
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 of gas by the amount of the surplus.

Long Life Wish.

Madison, March 9.—Long life to
 our great sovereign and to great
 Russia. So concludes the command-
 ant of the fortress in a proclamation
 to the garrison reporting the emperor's
 congratulatory message to Vladivostok
 in his baptism of fire, March 6.

Coal as Contraband.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—The Novoye
 Vremya has a leader today on coal
 as contraband. It argues that it has
 been considered since the American
 civil war, but now that England has
 coal to sell to Japan she objects.

Services for Success.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—The employ-
 ees of the Russian Westinghouse
 Company have donated one per cent
 of their wages for war purposes,
 amounting to \$300 monthly. The
 company has given \$2000 and will
 duplicate the monthly offerings of its
 employees. Religious services were
 held in the factory for the success of
 the Russian arms.

For Jap. Warships.

Berlin, March 9.—The National Zeit-
 ung prints a St. Petersburg dispatch
 which says it is believed that the
 Vladivostok squadron has gone to
 Japan. The dispatch says that the
 Japanese fleet is reported to have
 been sighted near the coast of Japan.
 The foreign naval attaches think, however,
 that if the Vladivostok squadron ventures
 far from the coast it will be over-
 whelmed by the Japanese.

Hole in Hull Repaired.

Port Arthur, March 9.—The hole in
 the hull of the Russian battleship Ret-
 vikan, which was made during the first
 attack by the Japanese, has been re-
 paired and the battleship has been re-
 fitted. She is now anchored in the
 inner roadstead, alongside the Cesarevitch.
 The other necessary repairs to the
 ship will be completed shortly.

Hermes Released.

Nagasaki, March 9.—The Norwegian
 steamer Hermes has been released by
 the Japanese naval court and ordered to
 proceed to this port to await orders
 regarding the disposal of her cargo. The
 steamer was captured by the Japanese
 fleet at Chemulpo, bringing 22 wounded
 Russian sailors belonging to the gun-
 boat Korietz, which was destroyed by
 the Japanese fleet at Chemulpo. They
 will be removed for the time being to
 Matsuyama Hospital on the island sea.

Royal Grenadiers.

Recruit drill for the Royal Grenadiers
 will be carried on as usual to-day at the
 barracks, beginning at 8 o'clock. The
 drill will also include a parade in uniform
 at the same time and place for drill pur-
 poses, and will be held in the afternoon.

BRITISH INVASION A DREAM.

London, March 9.—During the dis-
 cussion of the army estimates in the
 house of commons to-night, Premier
 Balfour said that so long as the army
 home defenses were maintained in an
 adequate condition any invasion of
 this country by an organized force cap-
 able of reducing it to submission was
 purely a dream. But, no man could
 blind himself to the fact that circum-
 stances in the east were making Great
 Britain a great continental power.
 The Russian fleet at Chemulpo, the
 power, and those circumstances must
 be taken in account in framing the
 British army estimates.

NO REST IN THE GRAVE.

Mail and Empire: It would appear
 that Senator Hanna is for a political
 campaign, even should he consent to
 President Roosevelt's nomination by
 the Republican party. Senator Foraker,
 the Ohio senator, is a staunch
 Roosevelt man, and an opponent of
 Hanna in season and out. Now it is
 said that the friends of Foraker will
 endeavor to wrest the chairmanship of
 the National Republican Association
 from Hanna, and hand it over to his
 rival. Foraker plans to be to Rose-
 velt what Hanna was to McKinley.

JAPS ON RUSSIAN FLANK NEAR MOUTH OF THE YALU

Native Reports at Yinkow Speak of
 Fighting East of Siberian
 Railway.

Washington, March 9.—The govern-
 ment has received advice by cable from
 Chefoo, opposite Port Arthur, to the
 effect that Japanese land forces have
 appeared at Fungwangshan and at
 Tashan. No details are furnished.
 The first named place is about 45
 miles north of Antung in Manchuria
 and the latter is a few miles inland
 from the mouth of the Yalu River,
 according to the calculations of the
 naval officers here. They believe that
 this movement has placed the Japa-
 nese on the Russian flank and perhaps
 in the rear and on their line of com-
 munications. It is believed that yester-
 day's attack on Port Arthur was
 a diversionary movement of the Japa-
 nese forces, who were probably landed from
 transports at some point west of the
 Yalu River.

Fight East of Newchwang.

Yinkow, March 9.—The British con-
 sulate here, strongly and officially urges,
 the foreign women and children to leave
 Newchwang before the river opens.
 The British station gunboat Esplague
 will leave as soon as possible and will
 not be replaced. The family of the
 United States Consul, Mr. Miller, leaves
 tomorrow.

Many Shells Detected.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Some in-
 teresting facts in connection with the
 first Japanese attack on Port Arthur
 are beginning to arrive. In the main
 it appears that the Japanese shells were
 defective, and many of them still un-
 exploded are found lying about the
 streets. The coal supply at Port
 Arthur is said to be sufficient to last
 for two years, but the dock-
 ing facilities are inadequate. The
 large dock at Port Arthur is un-
 able to accommodate vessels of over
 10,000 tons. The act said that the
 harbor was not deep enough to receive
 the three torpedoed vessels aground
 near the entrance.

Dear to Alexieff.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Following
 is the text of the emperor's telegram to
 "Viceroy Alexieff." St. Petersburg, Feb.
 11, 1904. "Mobilization is proclaimed
 in the Siberian Provinces. You are
 empowered to act as commander-in-
 chief, and with our brave fellows. May God
 bless our operations." Nicholas.

Long Life Wish.

Madison, March 9.—Long life to
 our great sovereign and to great
 Russia. So concludes the command-
 ant of the fortress in a proclamation
 to the garrison reporting the emperor's
 congratulatory message to Vladivostok
 in his baptism of fire, March 6.

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