The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4.

Another Stage in Public Ownership.

Organized labor and some other interests have expressed their disappointment with the partial measure of nationalization of the railways of Canada, announced by Sir Thomas White in the taking over of the Canadian Northern Railway. Readers of The World are aware that this paper has been a strong advocate of the adoption of the Acland-Drayton report, as far, at least, as the principle involved was concerned. The Grand Trunk Railway lines and affiliations are complementary to those of the C. N. R., and a national system formed of the present government lines, the G. T. R., the G. T. P. Railway, and the C. N. R. would have been complete, balanced, and self-sufficing. To divide the well-considered scheme in two divorces it from many of the advantages laid down by Sir Henry Drayton in his address to the Canadian Club. It also subjects the plan of public ownership to a rivalry and competition which was not originally anticipated, and which handicaps the operation of public ownership in a way that can only give pleasure to its opponents.

Another defect of Sir Thomas White's scheme which vitally affects Ontario is the loss to the province and the Dominion of the opportunity afforded by the existence of the Hydro-Electric Commission of electrifying the Grand Trunk system under public ownership. The saving would have been enormous. The advantage to Canada in the balance of trade would have been highly important. The facility of supplying coal to the province would have been materially increased, and we would have been delivered from the imminent risk of a coal famine which now threatens us. It is disappointing also that Ontario, where the friends of public ownership are most numerous, should not have been given the advantage of Grand Trunk nationalization.

In spite of all this we do not think there is any reason to fear the step Sir Thomas White has taken. The principle of public ownership is so sound in itself, so economical, so calculated to benefit and develop the country, that if preserved from the one danger of political interference, we are satisfied that the government ownership of the C. N. R. system, with all its affiliated activities, will justify itself.

Nor does it follow that the Grand Trunk system will not, at an early date, be absorbed by the government system. The friends of public ownership have increased amazingly since the hydro-electric system made good. With another such failure this winter as the Grand Trunk delivered last winter in Ontario, the demand for public ownership will be too insistent to be ignored.

Food Control.

We trust something may come of the efforts of the manufacturers' committee to get labor to help the farmers reap their harvest. It does not seem, however, as tho any of those concerned was seized of the fact that we may be facing a world famine next year, and that a bountiful harvest such as we are promised this year is but rarely followed by such another. Every ton of food saved this year may be of vital importance next year.

The salvage of this year's harvest is not a question of a few dollars a day for labor but millions in the bulk of the abundant crop. There should be no cheese-paring and no pettifogging in handling such a big affair as an Ontario harvest.

There isn't a day to be lost. It is the wrong time for experiments or adventures. If the government are in earnest they should adopt a dead sure certainty to get men to save the harvest. There are plenty of men in Ontario yet. There are not so many making munitions as there were, but it is even more necessary to have food than munitions. This is not a war heresy but an official utterance. There is abundance of munitions at present, but the deadly uncertainty of food hangs over the world like a black cloud.

We feel sure this was not appreciated at the board of trade meeting on Thursday. The whole food situation should be handled with more vigor and earnestness.

Rising Above the Mud.

Bread sown upon the waters must be considered much of the work done at the Win-the-War Convention. Party lines and party spirit are not broken down in a day, and there was no evidence that even the most magnanimous of the speakers were exercising magnanimity. They made an honest attempt to understand each other, and, for the most part, honestly succeeded.

One thing they were able to agree upon. No conscriptionist of one party shall oppose a conscriptionist of the other party anywhere. To do so would probably give away the seat to a minority candidate representing anti-conscription.

Strangely enough not one speaker advocated the one measure that would make impossible the election of such a minority candidate — proportional representation. Mr. Gould might have thought of this, or some others of those not associated with the political parties.

Great good was done by the presence on the same platform of leaders of the two parties, both bent on the same object, the support of the men in the trenches. Many weighty words were spoken in this connection, and some home truths found expression. We Canadians have been growing self-complacent about our service, a service which is not truly ours by more than one part in three. Let us think over the fact, also, that we must send 200,000 more men across the ocean before we have equaled what Australia has already done.

There was great hope for the win-the-war movement in the presence of 1,500 men entitled to wear the gold stripe. They came with and without limbs, wounded, maimed, broken in body, but whole in heart and strong in spirit for the great cause they had served. There are 17,000 of them in Canada now—great war veterans. Conscription will add to their number—not a thought for a coward, but one to thrill a brave man's heart. These men are the seed of the new nation, for a new nation must arise out of these splendors and terrors. It must be a nation worthy of the heroic things men have done.

This is what the anti-conscriptionists do not see and cannot feel. They have not been touched with the fiery coals from the altar of liberty, and they take an inferior place in life unwittingly, and think they have done well by themselves. It was to one of such that the message came — "Thou fool! This night shall thy soul be required of thee." That was conscription; not to be escaped.

Canada has 400,000 men, and their friends and relatives, who are the heart of the nation. They have lived and fought, and, when necessary, died for Canada. Those who stay at home when they might have gone, or persuade others to stay, have neither part nor lot in the new Canada that is day by day coming to know herself better, Canada valorous and victorious, Canada of the ocean tides, Canada that draws all men to her by virtue of service.

A Pressing Invitation.

As our intimacy with the privy council increases we shall no doubt grow wiser. There has been an impression in Toronto that the Toronto Railway Company had been granted the privilege of supplying the public transportation to the citizens of Toronto on condition of rendering adequate service, the terms of which had been stipulated, and of furnishing accommodation at the behest of the city, as represented by the city engineer. It now appears that we were all quite wrong. The street cars are private conveyances, and can only be entered on invitation by the company. We had not put this construction on the increasingly familiar "Step lively!" "Move up in front!" and "All aboard!" of the conductors, but no doubt these are the invitations to which the privy council alludes.

In Great Britain and Ireland anyone entering a street car, bus or tram after it has received the due number of passengers designated as permissible for the vehicle, is put off. If a lady gets in and a gentleman, unacquainted with the rules of the game, rises to give her a seat, all others being full, and she takes his seat and he remains standing, he is ejected, because people are not allowed to stand in that land across the sea.

Here it is different. We not only stand. We hang. We roll and swing and sway. We collide and bump and tumble over each other. The privy council tells us why we do it. We are invited. We would never think of doing it of our own accord, but when we are invited to do it we rejoice at the opportunity, and gladly pay for the privilege.

How long will it take the citizens to make up their minds to deprive the street railway company of this privilege or right of invitation, or how soon can we resume it as a city? As long as the company extends its invitation we are so painfully polite we cannot refuse. But such pressing hospitality is almost more than we have a right to be subjected to. Hydraulic pressure is bad, but this traction pressure is conceivably worse. The privy council might enlarge its experience any ordinary evening between five and six in Toronto if it would accept the invitation of the Toronto Street Railway and its pressing hospitality.

Also, information would be welcome whether there is any likelihood of the privy council being conscripted?

SENT TO JAIL FARM.

Sixty days at the jail farm was the sentence given Harcourt Milner, a King street barber, for taking bets on the ponies. Milner has been conducting a barber shop at 97 East King street, for the past 15 years. Wilfrid Vineberg, who was "found in" when the police called, was fined $50 and costs.

MODERNIZED VERSION OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND THE SACRIFICIAL RAM.

The Canadian Isaac is equally keen about the Canadian goat.
With acknowledgments to New York Tribune.

THE WAR ANNIVERSARY.

For the Sick and Absent.

In order that the largest possible number of persons may respond to the imperial and civic call for a fitting observance of this occasion, as issued by the mayor, a city clergyman, who took part in the united service of former years, has sent the following hymn and prayer, suggesting their private use by those who are in isolated places or detained by sickness from attendance at church:

A Hymn of Hope.

For our brothers true and bold,
Over whom no church bell tolled;
Lost to us on land or sea,
Solemn thanks, O Lord, to Thee.

Heroes they, who unto blood,
For the flag of freedom stood;
Firm and faithful may we be,
Loyal, Lord, to them and Thee.

Not our might can win the war,
Sin may all our progress bar;
Cleanse, forgive, and heal us all,
Humbly, Lord, on Thee we call.

Lead us forward in Thy light,
Till we win and end the fight;
Bring, O Christ, by staff or rod,
Warriors to the truce of God. Amen.

The People's Prayer.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and Thine the victory.
We cast ourselves afresh upon Thee, believing in the justice of our cause.
Forgive our sins and selfishness, for the sake of Thy Son, our Saviour.
Bless our navy, our army, our airmen and all our allies.
Make us fit for victory and lead us thru victory to peace.
Sanctify all the suffering and soften all the sorrow of our stricken world.
Thru our One Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The Toronto World invites correspondence on subjects of current interest. Letters must be short and to the point—not more than 200 words at the outside. The editor reserves the right to cut any letters to make them conform to space requirements. Names will not be published if the writers wish them withheld, but every letter must be signed with writer's name and address, to ensure authenticity.

RED CROSS DIVIDENDS.

Editor Toronto World: As you are dbubtless aware, several of the American corporations have declared Red Cross dividends. Many Canadians are shareholders in these companies, and it would seem fair that the dividends so declared, as far as Canadian holders are concerned, should be payable to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

If any of your clients are holders of American stocks, may we ask you, on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross Society, to call their attention to this fact. Thanking you in advance, I am, faithfully yours,

Noel Marshall,
Chairman, Executive Committee.

"All the Darkies Am A'Weeping"—'cause Massa's in the cold, cold ground." You have heard that good, old song, haven't you? You have heard it dozens and dozens of times. But have you ever heard a great violinist play it? Have you ever heard the pure tone of a master's violin applied to this fine and affecting melody?

We suggest that you stop in here and have us play Efrem Zimbalist's new Victor record of "Massa's in the cold, cold ground." You will want it in your home as an example of the inherent loveliness that a great artist can draw from the simplest melody. Mason & Risch, Limited, "The Home of the Victrola," 230 Yonge street, Toronto.

BE WITH US, LORD!

... BY ...

ROBERT PARTRIDGE

Re-echoing far war's dread alarms,
Another year we hear the crash of arms
Thruout the world. So on our knees we pray,
Be with us, Lord, for yet another day.

A sepulchre of pride and youth
Who stood fast by their Cross for Right and Truth,
And fighting fell—those bloody fields today
Breathe forth Thy presence 'midst the mighty fray.

For not in vain those blood stain'd mounds
Will mark the hallowed spots where faith abounds.
But still upholding Honor—ours the Cross
To ever bear—for such a little loss.

Yet mighty gain is ours if we
But face the battle grim with faith in Thee.
A little struggle—then with pain oppress'd
We sink and murmur—"Lord, we did our best!"

Yet grant that in the coming year
The sun will shine and blot away our tear
With VICTORY to mark the dawn; we pray
"Be with us, Lord, for yet another day!"

LITHOGRAPHING FIRMS HAVE MERGED INTERESTS

New Firm Is Rolph, Clark, Stone, Limited, With Capital of Three Millions.

An announcement of the amalgamation of two of Toronto's old established lithographing firms caused considerable stir in the lithographic trade yesterday. The houses of Rolph and Clark, Limited, and Stone, Limited, have merged their interests in a company that will be known as Rolph, Clark, Stone, Limited. The new merger will occupy the spacious and palatial factories of Rolph and Clark on Carlaw avenue, and the present premises of Stone, Limited, on the south side of King street, will be disposed of. In the new company the exceptional facilities of the two old companies for high-class lithographed material will be still further increased in regard to efficiency when brought under the one roof.

Rolph, Clark, Sons, Limited, have an authorized capital of $3,000,000 and the officers are as follows: Frank Rolph, hon. president; William Stone, president; T. J. Clark, vice-president; F. A. Rolph, 2nd vice-president and managing director; and F. W. Stone, general manager and secretary.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

When James Cooper, William Good, Frank Nash and Albert Punge were arraigned in police court before Magistrate Denison yesterday morning they were committed for trial on a charge of theft of a motor car. The four men were arrested in the west end of the city after an exciting chase by the police in a motor car. The police charged that when arrested the car which the prisoners were riding in was going 40 miles an hour.

ACTIONS AT OSGOODE HALL.

Mrs. A. E. Bridgett Sues to Recover Five Thousand From National Life.

An action has been entered at Osgoode Hall by Mrs. A. E. Bridgett to recover $5,000 from the National Life Assurance Company, alleged due under a policy upon the life of her husband, James W. Bridgett, who died August 7, 1916.

George S. Johnston and Charlie M. Fritzker are being sued by the Royal Bank of Canada, which seeks to recover $8,044.98, alleged due on a promissory note made to the order of the National Toy and Novelties, Ltd.

GUILTY OF INDECENT ASSAULT.

Guilty of committing an indecent assault, William Tassell was committed to the jail farm for three months when he came up in police court yesterday before Magistrate Denison.

EMPLOYERS UNITE TO AID FARMERS

Manufacturers' and Retail Merchants' Associations Send Out Circulars.

APPOINT COMMITTEE

Premier Will Send Special Appeal to Heads of Municipalities.

At the meeting of a committee composed of representative employers of labor in the rooms of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Traders Bank building, yesterday afternoon, a definite plan of securing help for the harvest fields was worked out. It was decided that 10,000 men were needed to harvest Ontario's crops, in view of the unusual situation arising from the recent heavy rains which caused the different grains to ripen almost at one time, thus necessitating increased labor if the crops were to be successfully harvested.

As a result of yesterday's meeting the manufacturers' association will get in touch with its members and appeal to them to do their best to supply men in accordance with the possibilities of each company. The Retail Merchants' Association has sent circulars to all members in the province, urging them to take similar action. The prime minister will send a special message to the mayors of each of the larger centres asking that they release as many corporation employes as may be possible. Steps will also be taken to get in touch with the various wholesale houses.

Premier Issuing Letter.

After a very full and exhaustive discussion on the question of wages it was decided to appeal to employers to see that the men who go out do not suffer financial loss. It is further intended, thru Dr. Riddell's public employment bureau, that the men offering their services and who are the best fitted to do farm work, will be sent to those farmers who offer the best wages. Sir William Hearst is issuing a public letter in which he sets forth the needs of the hour and appeals to the patriotism of employers to do all in their power to relieve the situation.

The meeting was presided over by S. R. Parsons, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and members of the special committee appointed at the morning meeting in the parliament buildings were: S. R. Parsons, H. McGee, N. Sommerville, E. J. Fox, D. Carlyle, W. T. Kernahan, W. E. Rundle, Mr. Dennis, J. W. Woods, Dr. W. A. Riddell, Dr. A. H. Abbott, Dr. Walker, Windsor, and A. White, London.

Another Conference.

At the morning session the special committee of manufacturers conferred with Sir William Hearst and G. H. Ferguson, minister of lands, forests and mines. Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller, was present at both meetings. After a lengthy deliberation the above sub-committee was appointed, which arranged for an afternoon meeting for the discussion of the problem. Included at the latter session were representatives of the Retail Merchants' Association, the Trades and Labor Council, and the Employers' Association.

"The seriousness of the situation," said Dr. Abbott, "made the manufacturers and others present feel that the getting of the men into the harvest fields was the first consideration and the question of wages could be decided later."

"We considered that it would not be a heavy tax on the individual manufacturer," said Mr. Parsons, referring to the wage agreement. "It was felt that the average wage offered by the farmers for this emergency help was insufficient in comparison with the benefit that would come to them from their large crops and wartime prices."

Eaton Company Acts.

Already the campaign among the employers of labor is bearing fruit. At the close of the meeting Dr. Abbott announced that as a result of a canvass of its male employes yesterday afternoon, the T. Eaton Company had promised to have 200 men ready to go out to work on Tuesday. This number had agreed to stay on the farms for three weeks and were urged by the management to remain longer. Outside of wages received for their work on the farms, these men will be paid a considerable bonus by the company. Other manufacturers who were present at the meeting promised an additional one hundred men.

NEW TORONTO BOY INJURED.

Broke One of His Legs When he Fell Off Road Material Truck.

While "hooking a ride" on one of the Toronto-Hamilton highway dump trucks, used in the transporting of road material for the highway at New Toronto, twelve-year-old Leo Hennesy completely broke one of his legs when the truck went off the tracks. He is the son of William Hennesy and lives on 4th street.

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