

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 12.

The Railway Rates.

The government has directed the railway commission to revise its recent ruling raising railway rates by determining what the service is reasonably worth without taking into account all the necessities of the Canadian National Railway system. This means that the commission is to decide what are reasonable rates for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and to establish those rates for both systems, no matter what deficit it may occasion for the time being in the case of the National Railways. Possibly the government might have gone further and have indicated to the commission whether it should take into account the surplus of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the wasteful financing by which the annual burden of fixed charges was fairly doubled by replacing four per cent debentures with ten per cent stock.

Generally speaking, the rule laid down by the government is sound, namely, that rates should be based upon the value of the service rendered, without regard to the wealth or poverty of the carrier. In this country, however, the railways are quasi-public corporations. They are not only creatures of the state, endowed with powers of expropriation equivalent to those possessed by the crown, but they have been largely capitalized by huge grants from the public treasury. The Canadian Pacific, for example, received as a free gift from the government a large mileage of completed railway, part of it fully equipped, not to mention \$25,000,000 in cash and 25,000,000 acres of land. Since then the company has received a government subsidy running from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per mile for new construction. The primary object of the undertaking was to supply the people of Canada with efficient railway transportation at reasonable rates, and the company does not dispute the right of the government to regulate its passenger and freight rates.

What those rates should be cannot be accurately determined by the value of the service rendered. One must take into consideration the whole history and purpose of the undertaking. The Canadian Pacific is not in a position of an individual owning a factory which he has built at his own expense, who may charge what he pleases or shut down the plant. It is the servant of the public and must perform its functions. The railway commission, however, will have to consider the cost of producing the transportation when it tries to decide what the transportation is reasonably worth, and in this connection take into account what the wages amount to, what the coal costs, and what are the operating expenses, and if reasonable return under all the circumstances upon the private capital actually invested. It would certainly seem, even in the case of the government railways, that the patrons of the road should pay the wages, coal bill and other working expenses, and later on even a partial return upon the capital invested by the government. When the various roads comprising the national system are properly co-ordinated, wasteful duplication eliminated, and proper economy put into effect, this will be feasible. Until then the railway situation will not be satisfactory, and the public are naturally chafing under what seems to be the delay in bringing about the necessary co-ordination and the economies in operation which will result therefrom. The problem is evidently too big for the railway commission with its limited powers and for the members of the cabinet sitting merely as an appellate tribunal. Big questions of policy still remain which must be decided and settled before long by parliament.

Getting Out of Politics.

Our provincial governments seem to be getting out of politics, at least as far as the two-party system is concerned. The Deputy government in Ontario is composed of representatives of the Farmers' party and the Labor party, but on any showdown in the legislature it could probably count on support from either the Conservative wing or the Liberal wing of the opposition. Neither "wing" has much force or initiative, and the strength of the government will depend upon its keeping abreast of public opinion without much regard to politics or politicians. In Manitoba Premier Norris cannot carry on a party government, if he remains in office at all, and Premier Boster finds himself in the same situation after the New Brunswick election on Saturday last. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, Premiers Martin and

Stewart no longer pose as Liberals. They continue in office, and will remain in office just so long as they give satisfaction to the farmers of their respective provinces, and each party politics altogether.

The farmers in the country and the labor men in the cities seem to be ignoring the two old parties in provincial affairs, and there is really no good reason why many provincial elections should not be run as our municipal elections are run, without much regard to federal politics. We have more people in Toronto than there have in New Brunswick, but we would not discharge a good park commissioner because of his views on the tariff question or deem it important that the medical health officer should be a man whose father and grandfather alike had supported Sir John Macdonald.

In the Dominion field there is at least one vital issue upon which the people of Canada have been divided for many years, but it is beyond provincial or municipal jurisdiction. In a provincial election or in a municipal election some issue of supreme importance to the people of the province or the municipality may be at stake. But that issue should be decided on its merits and it can be decided without a rigid party system. Taking over the street railway here has been a vital issue in Toronto. Those favoring taking over the road have obtained an unmistakable mandate from the people. To do this it was not necessary to invoke party politics or call upon the shades of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

For governing a nation under our British parliamentary system something like party government seems necessary. Is it necessary in the case of the provinces? Some people think they have too many governments and too much politics down by the sea. But the spirit of independence is growing, and one of these provinces may lead the way in adopting something like a commission form of government and getting away from the shadow of Dominion politics. A recent election in Prince Edward Island turned upon a law forbidding the use of automobiles more than three days of the week. It was an important issue, but purely a local one, and by no flight of imagination could be tangled up with the National Policy, the Manitoba school question or the construction of the Quebec bridge.

Remarked in Passing.

A slip of the pen is said to have caused the recent slump in wheat prices. If somebody wouldn't take pen in hand and touch on the sugar market in the same way.

Hospital bandages are reported coming down in price. And safety week is only one-seventh over, too.

The announcement of a serum to cure appendicitis leads us to hope that some way short of killing him will yet be discovered to cure the man who insists on talking baseball in the movie.

Bowery hotels have cut out clean towels as a measure of economy. More than one Toronto restaurant did with table cloths long ago.

A subscriber writes: "I enclose subscription for your refreshing paper." Welcome praise to these prohibition days.

The Cork hunger strikers, to be consistent, should refuse, in addition to food, all the appliances which are apparently being used to keep life in their bodies.

It is a poor amphibian party in Ireland that does not get away with a bag of one policeman or soldier at least.

General Wrangle is reported to have made a further capture of Bolshevik troops. We'll bet Lenin wishes his name was General Deficiency.

The ex-kaiser's attempted justification of all his acts, which he is now busy writing, is not to be disclosed until after his death. He will thus avoid the pain of hearing himself called different kinds of a liar.

CONFLICTING STORIES ON PLUMBER'S STRIKE

Montreal, Oct. 11.—The plumbers' strike has proceeded most successfully, according to J. R. Blais, business agent of Local 144, who states that in the six days of the strike 500 of the 600 strikers have returned to work at the new rates of pay of 90 cents per hour for mechanics, and 65 cents for helpers. But at the headquarters of the master plumbers, the builders' exchange, Secretary D. E. Trotter, stated that there was no change in the situation. The masters, he said, were still standing pat.

SACRED CAT AS GUARDIAN

Chicago, Oct. 11.—Evanston, Chicago's most fashionable suburb, is under the protection of the sacred cat of Persia. Mrs. H. O. Cartman, wife of a wealthy Persian, explained to the police that no Persian home is complete or safe without a sacred cat. "A sacred cat must have a gold front tooth. We found a cat and had it sanctified. That's all," she said.

BRANDING A FISCAL MAVERICK



COWBOY FOSTER: How shall I brand this maverick?
FOREMAN MEIGHEN: Put the 'Free Trade' brand on him and turn him loose. He belongs to the Cobden ranch.

THOUSANDS CHEER RETURNED PRINCE

Greatest Welcome of the Kind in the History of the Country.

London, Oct. 11.—The Prince of Wales, who reached Spithead yesterday on the battle cruiser Renown, made a triumphant return to London today, on his return from his six months' tour of the empire. Hundreds of thousands of persons turned out to give the Prince one of the greatest welcomes of the kind in the history of the country.

The Prince arrived at Victoria Station, where he was met by the Royal family, Premier Lloyd George and other dignitaries. All along the route to Buckingham Palace cheering multitudes, lined with flags, greeted the Prince with enthusiasm. The Prince, who was dressed in a military uniform, was greeted with a cheer of "God save the King" as he entered the palace.

The King and Queen, Princess Mary and the Dowager Queen Alexandra, all members of the royal family, were waiting for the Prince at the palace. The Prince, who was dressed in a military uniform, was greeted with a cheer of "God save the King" as he entered the palace.

Speaking on landing from the Renown, the Prince of Wales said: "I have visited the British colonies, British dominions and British possessions. Everywhere I have found a people who are proud of their British identity and who are loyal to the British Empire. I am proud to be a part of this Empire and to represent it in my travels."

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OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The World will gladly print under this head letters written by our readers, dealing with current topics. As space is limited they must not be longer than 200 words and written on one side of the paper only.

THE DEATH OF WILLIE NUTT.

Editor World: What a commentary on our boasted civilization the tragic death of little Willie Nutt presents! Probably many will say that he had no business on the railway. Others may say that the trainmen should exercise greater care in shunting trains. But what shall be said of this state of society in which, in this so-called twentieth century, a man, called a child, is killed by a train, compelled through lack of the necessities of life (for coal is a necessity), to send his boy to run such a terrible risk of his life?

We may boast of the almost unlimited resources of Canada, or speak with pride of the marvelous advances of science, but the broken body of this little lad, pathetically grasping the rail in which he held such a precarious hold, stands as a black stain on the fair name of Canada, and until we have made our utmost to remove the causes of this and similar tragedies, we shall not be entirely free from blame in the eyes of Lateral Justice. Hyper.

LENIENT WITH MAN WHO BLEW UP FENCE

Record of Fine War Service Saves Ex-Soldier Who Caused Montreal Explosion.

Montreal, Oct. 11.—A record of honorable service in the Canadian expeditionary forces was a considerable factor in the settlement of the case, by the court, against Walter West of Lyon Mountain, New York, in the criminal court here today, having pleaded guilty to a charge of having blown up a fence near Cote St. Paul, this city. No one was hurt, and no damage was done. The defendant was fined \$100, and his sentence was suspended.

BANK OF MONTREAL SHARES WILL BE PUT TO TENDER

Montreal, Oct. 11.—The Bank of Montreal is asking for tenders for approximately \$300 shares of \$100 each of the increased capital of 1920, part of the increased capital to be taken up by the shareholders of the bank at the special general meeting held on June 18, 1920.

These shares comprise the unaccepted portion of the fractions which, under section 24 of the bank act, were not allotted.

Tenders must be accompanied by a certified cheque for 10 per cent of the amount and the balance will be payable on allotment. The bank does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender. The stock will rank for dividend from date of payment.

WOULD SELL EAR FOR \$10,000.

Detroit, Oct. 11.—Mrs. Mabel Truckey, 21, mother of two children, wants to sell her left ear for \$10,000. She is a Cuban pianist, who recently offered \$10,000 for one that could be grafted to his head.

BOYCOTT RESTAURANTS

New York, Oct. 11.—Greenwich village restaurants, where students of New York University said, "the atmosphere is good but prices too high," were boycotted by the student body recently. A "carry your lunch" movement was inaugurated by the students, who said they would refuse to patronize the village restaurants until prices "are brought to a reasonable level and kept there."

CARIBOO TRAIL PASSES.

Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 11.—The famous old cariboo trail will soon be nothing but a memory. On September 29 the new Pacific Great Eastern "thru service" schedule from Squamish to Williams Lake, a distance of 277 miles, was inaugurated. Cutting out Lilloet and Clinton lay-overs, the thru service means that the railway will put into oblivion the historic old stage and sleigh routes thru the Cariboo north country.

KING OF GREECE IS WORSE.

Athens, Oct. 11.—The condition of King Alexander, who was bitten by a monkey, took a turn for the worse this evening. His fever is high and his symptoms are considered grave.

THE HOUSE 'ROUND THE CORNER

By GORDON HOLMES

CHAPTER IX. Continued.

With expressive pantomime she inquired if Percy Whitaker was to share their council, and he replied with a nod. He was loath to deprive his eyes of the perfect picture she offered there, with her elbows resting on the window-sill, her head and shoulders act, as it were, in a frame, and the last rays of the sun brightening her pallid cheeks and weaving strands of spun gold in her brown hair. But the summons from the kitchen was not to be flouted, so he made for the door.

It will be remembered that the hall was lighted directly from the upper part of the front door and the stained-glass window on the half-landing of the stairs. Indirectly, its gloom could be dissipated by any opening of three interior doors, but all of them happened to be closed. Thus, when Armathwaite's tall figure appeared in the porch, it effectually withdrew the light gained thru the glass in the front door until the door itself was opened.

He had his hand on the handle when he heard a most weird groaning and shrieking caused by the closing of the bedroom window. Practically in the same instant he caught an affrighted yell from inside the door, and a man shot violently down the stairs and into the hall, falling in a huddled heap on the floor. Armathwaite had the door open in a second, and found Percy Whitaker lying at the foot of the stairs, while Marguerite's voice came in a cry of alarm:

"What is it? What has happened? Percy, is that you?"

By that time Armathwaite had partly raised the fallen man, who did not seem to have an atom of breath left in his body. Mrs. Jackson, too, came from the kitchen with a lamp, and Marguerite appeared on the stairs.

"What's the matter?" she cried again. "Did Percy fall? Is he hurt?" "I imagine he missed his footing on the stairs," said Armathwaite coolly. "At any rate, he struck the floor with such a thump that he is winded."

"Now, old man, pull yourself together! Can't you stand? Shall I carry you to a chair?"

In a dazed way, Whitaker endeavored to stand upright. At once he uttered a groan of agony, and would have collapsed once more if Armathwaite were not supporting him.

"By Jove!" exclaimed the other, "I'm afraid he is more damaged than I thought. Show a light here, Mrs. Jackson. Now, go ahead, and open the door of Mr. Whitaker's room if it is closed. I'll take him there, and find out the extent of the mischief."

Even in the confusion of the moment, Armathwaite noticed that Percy, with the distended eyes of fear, Mrs. Jackson saw it, too, and with the outspokenness of her class, did not hesitate to put her thought into words.

"Eh, my, but 't' poor young man'll have seen 't' ghost," she cried.

"I saw some speak," muttered Whitaker weakly. "Where is it? What was it? I'm sure I saw something."

"Go upstairs," Armathwaite commanded Mrs. Jackson angrily. "Or, better still, hand the lamp to Miss Meg, and stop talking nonsense."

Quickly he had Whitaker stretched on a bed, and soon ascertained that the trouble, whatever it might be, lay in the right ankle. The sufferer had taken off the patent leather boots, and was wearing slipper, so examination of the injury was no difficult matter. Armathwaite, evidently no novice in such emergencies, shook his head when Whitaker flinched or cried aloud in pain if a tendon was touched or an effort made to twist the foot slightly.

"Put that lamp down," he said to

Mrs. Jackson, "and bring me a basin of cold water. You, Meg," he went on, "might tear a sheet, or any piece of strong linen, into strips about three inches wide. Be as quick as you can, please! Every minute saved now may mean a week afterwards."

"What's gone wrong?" whispered Whitaker, when the women had flown. "Is it a smash?"

"No, thank goodness! You'd not get over a broken ankle in a hurry. But you've collected a very nasty sprain, and possibly lacerated some ligaments as well. Fortunately, I know what to do before the joint has time to swell. How in the world did you contrive to pitch downstairs? The steps are broad, and the grade less than the average."

"I—I didn't fall. That is, I mean I didn't trip or stumble over anything. I went straight down the stairs, and I was thinking of nothing of the sort. In fact, I was wondering whether Meg would make a sensible view of things, and agree that I did right in getting Eddie to send for her mother. Then that cursed vision appeared. If I felt my hair rising, and I dropped as tho I'd been shot."

"Of course, I can't convince you now," said Armathwaite, "but when you are able to get about again I'll show you just what happened."

"Get about again? You don't mean to say I'm crooked for any length of time?"

"For a day or two, at least," came the diplomatic assurance. "As soon as I've dressed a rough bandage, I'll send for a doctor, and he will be able to give you a definite opinion."

Whitaker groaned, and his eyelids closed wearily over the gray-green eyes.

"Oh, oh—this house!" he muttered. "It's bewitched! Why the devil did I ever come here?"

Armathwaite bound the injured limb tightly, and enjoined on Whitaker the necessity of remaining prone till a doctor arrived. There was little call for any such insistence. The unfortunate Percy was suffering enough pain already without adding to it by movement. He was paralyzed to drink, and put the glass to his lips, and exhaled a groan. Then Armathwaite left him, meaning to appeal to Farmer Burt for further assistance.

Was not to be thought of until a messenger was sent to Dr. Scobie, at Belterby, and Mrs. and Mr. Jackson remained with Whitaker in the meantime.

While descending the stairs, Armathwaite gave a sudden head to the shadow cast by the window. It was dimly visible, but it seemed almost unbelievable that any person of ordinary intelligence could mistake it for a ghostly manifestation. Suddenly a thought struck him, and he summoned Betty Jackson.

"Would you mind walking to the front door and standing close to it, so as to block the light which enters thru the upper portion?" he said when she came.

Continued Tomorrow Morning.

Ask for O'Keefe's

Wherever liquid refreshments are served, you can procure O'Keefe's Dry Ginger Ale. Bear this in mind, and when you order, order O'Keefe's.

For purity, quality and deliciousness of flavor, O'Keefe's lead. For young and old, there are no better thirst quenchers.

The following are some of the O'Keefe's Beverages on sale at grocers, cafes, restaurants and hotels:

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Lemon Beer
Special Soda

Orangeade
Cream Soda
Sarsaparilla
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