

# The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21

## Street Railway Anticipations

Much has been said about the decision of the street railway purchase commission. It has been taken as a test of orthodoxy if a candidate declares himself averse to the purchase. We have indicated our recognition of the fact that the war has effectively killed any idea of purchase, such as Mayor Hocken had in contemplation. We also recognize the fact that no candidate in his senses will think of purchase as in the nature of practical politics. There need be no alarm or anxiety on the part of timid souls who imagine that Mayor Fleming or President Mackenzie is lying in wait with a purchase scheme ready to be rushed through the city council of 1915. Controller McCarthy has shown himself in a way satisfactory even to The Globe, which has constant nightmares in which the leader and Sir William Mackenzie are indistinguishable.

All these alarms on the part of either morning or evening contemporaries are beside the mark. The real danger, as we have been pointing out for two years past, is in another direction. We may feel assured that just as soon as the purchase plan is out of the question, something else, not for the benefit of the citizens, may be put forward.

It should never be forgotten that it was the delay of the street railway company in presenting its approval of the purchase plans which was chiefly responsible for the failure of the project. The street railway never seemed to be heartily in favor of it. They had something better in view. That something is the extension of the franchise, and the consolidation of the whole city railway system.

Again and again we have given warning of the effort that may be expected to educate the council and the legislature to the point of renewing the franchise and passing it over the heads of the people. The recovery of the city franchise was the finest feature of Mayor Hocken's scheme, and the securing of single fares all over the city was the next finest. The street railway will be willing to give single fares for the sake of securing the franchise for itself. Public ownership has no friends among the capitalistic interests.

Six years from now, if it be not settled sooner, the renewal of the franchise will be a burning question. From the present day the citizens of Toronto should look well to their aldermen and see that they are sound on these points of recovering all the franchises for the city itself, and of absolutely terminating the franchise in 1921.

If purchase is dead, the other issue is more alive than ever. We have the most complete confidence that Controller McCarthy is sound on the matter. He is a public ownership man, and he is a business man, who realizes that public ownership cannot succeed except on business principles. While electing him to the majority the voters should also be assured that they support him with men who are equally deserving of confidence, and who may be trusted not to fritter away the solid interests of the city in the social exploitation of their own fortunes.

Controller McCarthy has shown himself possessed of foresight and business penetration in the handling of the city finances, and the placing of the financial conditions of the city in a safe and stable state. He can be trusted to take such steps as will effectively safeguard the city's interests in the important matter of transportation.

Imperial Efficiency  
Altho the British Empire was unprepared for war as regards the strength of the force immediately available for operations in Europe, it is matter of keen gratification to find the military services in a thoroughly organized and satisfactory condition. With these no fault can be found, and the unprecedented difficulties connected with the enlistment and training of the new armies were met and overcome in a manner that reflects the greatest credit on the war office, Lord Highland's reforms, and particularly

larly the reconstruction of the volunteer arm, have stood the supreme test of trial. Territorials have proved equal in valor and efficiency to their linked regiments in the regular line, and another German delusion has been dispelled. Competent authorities are unanimous, too, in declaring that the recruits who have entered Lord Kitchener's army represent all that is best in the manhood of the nation. They accord also the highest possible praise to the contingents furnished by the overseas dominions.

About the standard of the native Indian troops no doubt was felt by their British officers. Here, again, the fundamental changes made in the system of administration during the period of Lord Kitchener's command have resulted very favorably. This has been strikingly shown by the recent operations in the Persian Gulf. Only seventeen days from the date of the declaration of war on Turkey an expeditionary force was sent 1500 miles from India, inflicted signal defeats on the Turkish troops and captured the important seaport of Basra, the destined terminus of the Bagdad Railway. The occupation of Basra will be felt by Germany even more than by Turkey, since it destroys the scheme that threatened to place Mesopotamia, the country between the Euphrates and the Tigris, under German influence. Basra lies about fifty-five miles up the Shat-el-Arab, formed by the confluence of the two great historic rivers. It had already become a centre of German activity and shipping.

## A Jolt for the President

The United States Senate the other day unanimously rejected the president's nomination of Mr. John D. Lynn to be district attorney for the western district of New York. Mr. Lynn was appointed during the recess and took possession of the office, but Mr. Wilson will now have to find another man for the place. The qualifications of Mr. Lynn are not involved in the dispute, which is the old struggle between the presidential prerogative and what has come to be known as "senatorial courtesy."

The president is permitted to fill the office from his own political party. A Democratic senator, for example, never rejects an appointee because he is a Republican. On the other hand the president is expected to act upon the recommendation of the senator or senators of his own political faith, from the state in which any appointment is made. New York is represented in the senate by one Democrat, Mr. O'Gorman, and he was ignored by the president when Lynn was appointed. That fact being announced to the judiciary committee, the nomination was reported back to the senate adversely, and a few moments later was rejected by the senate itself in executive session.

Such struggles have raged intermittently for many years. A quarrel of the kind led to the assassination of President Garfield. The lesson sought to be drawn from this week's occurrence by some New York newspapers, is that Mr. Wilson has been practically unseated by the result of the congressional elections. They think the congressional team is getting out of hand.

No doubt the rejection of an important nomination by a Democratic senate somewhat jolts the president, and was probably intended to do so, but so long as Mr. Wilson has the public opinion of the country behind him, he can compel congress to crystallize his policies into legislation. As to the offices there is something to be said for the contention that the recommendation of the local representative responsible to the people should, as a rule, be followed by the executive.

## Will They Bite?

The decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, allowing in the main the five per cent. increase asked by the eastern railways, rescued railway and other Wall Street securities from quivers bordering upon acute weakness, but it is by no means certain that the public can be lured again to the great American Monte Carlo. The trouble with the roads is that the people are distrustful of, and disgusted with, their financial operation. The exposure of wholesale looting and graft in the New Haven, Frisco and Rock Island systems are regarded as symptomatic. Fraudulent bond issues, watered stock, bank control and Wall Street manipulation have resulted in the impoverishment of railways and have reduced their securities to a point where the general public will not buy them at any price.

This rate increase will help the roads to some extent and there are of

## "DAT VAS A MISDAKE"



course a number of splendid railway properties in the United States, some of them like the coal roads of Pennsylvania, earning big dividends. Nor is there lack of money seeking investment; the farmers of the one state of Kansas could buy and pay for a good many railroads. All the trouble lies in the rotten system of financing, which must be cut out root and branch if the American people are to invest in and become the absolute owners of their own railways.

The roads may as well admit their condition and the causes which brought that condition about. If they reorganize, scale down their securities to something like the real value of the property and have laws passed which will make it forever impossible hereafter to loot the roads from the inside, as Morgan and his associates looted the New Haven, we have no doubt that the American people will gradually obtain complete ownership of their own railway systems, by freely investing in railway stock and bond issues. On the other hand we believe the roads will find it impossible to go under the old system of bank control and Wall Street manipulation.

The low prices of railway securities on the stock exchange indicate, to our mind, the determination of the people to have nothing to do with the roads until there has been a clean up, a revaluation and a capitalization based only upon value and earning power. The low prices do not indicate scarcity of money, the absence of credit or lack of confidence in legitimate business. Our neighbors, we are glad to observe, are making money and for almost the first time in their history they are saving money which should soon find its way into productive enterprises. But they are not being lured into the Wall Street Monte Carlo. The croppers are making a great racket and trying to get the crowd up to the tables, but the man from the Mississippi valley is keeping his wad in his pocket.

Will the five per cent. increase tempt the public once again to invest their savings in railway securities?  
**Ontario's Contribution to Germany**  
Editor World: I desire to express my appreciation of your convincing leader on the nickel export question this morning.  
It seems to me there are two points to emphasize: (1) The Welsh company can supply Britain with all she wants. (2) Why the secrecy in telling what has been done with New Jersey Company?  
Dec. 19th, 1914. H. M. Mowat.

Mr. Mowat, no doubt, recognizes, as so many do, that the nickel question is not a political question, but a question of right and wrong.  
The German is, he said, the most perfect engine of destruction the world has ever seen. The human intellect could do no more to make a servant to a human purpose the forces of the material world than Germany had done. It had been supposed by the masters of this mighty machine that nothing could stay its progress. But Germany in forecasting the probable effect of her action had utterly ignored the moral elements. The war machine of the allies was of a different order, made up of different materials. It had brought Japan to our side, inspired India and South Africa and Australia and Canada. The empire had awakened like a mighty man from sleep. It stood up like an invincible giant "whose loins are girt about with truth." Only on the basis of truth was peace possible, and they were invincible who would stand by these terms.

**Wreyford & Co.**  
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English ulster coats, double or single breasted style, in navy, brown and heather mixtures, regular \$18.00 for \$10.50. Ditto lined fine quality satens, also detachable lining of wool flees, regular \$30.00 for \$12.00.  
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## THREE ARRESTED UNDER DUKE'S EYES

Photographers Broke Rules by Taking Pictures in Exhibition Grounds

## SUNDAY WORLD LOCALS

News of the City as it Was Recorded Late Saturday

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught held a double inspection of battalion and brigade sections at Exhibition Park Saturday morning. By special order issued by the royal highness as commander-in-chief the review was canceled, and an indoor inspection substituted.

At 9.45 a bugle called out the full guard at the Dufferin street entrance, where they presented arms in salute to his honor the Lieutenant-governor, who arrived in his motor car, accompanied by Major Clyde Caldwell, official secretary.

At 10.45 H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught and staff arrived in two of Sir Henry Pellett's touring cars.

The guard again presented arms at the entrance as the royal highness was saluted by the camera, and the Duke of Connaught, A.A.C., was accompanied by Sir Henry Pellett, A. D. C.; Major Duff, A.D.C., and Col. Staunton, military secretary.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and party made a minute inspection of the 15th Battalion, passing twice around the entire line of men, and at 11 o'clock the battalion marched past in column platoon, with band accompaniment.

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Inspection of the 20th Battalion under Lieut-Col. Allan, the Mounted Rifles in command of Lieut-Col. Chadwick, the sleeping quarters of the men and the quarters of the junior officers.

The burglar entered the house by cutting a piece of glass from the window, opening the lock and raising the window.

Receives Insurance.  
The first Toronto woman to receive the city's \$1000 insurance on the life of a soldier husband will be Mrs. Jas. Duguid, 108 Christie street, who received notice of her husband's death on the battlefield on Friday last. Mrs. Duguid will get the British pension of \$1.75 per week and the \$1000 insurance.

**Gets Big Button Order.**  
The British Army Commissioners at Montreal have placed an order for 4,000,000 regulation British army buttons with Harry Rosenbalt, the well-known military equipment outfitter.

**The Music of Christmas Eve.**  
The boy stood for a while on the bridge over the cold whitening river, and he looked up the valley at the blaze of lights, down past the church spire at the black banners of smoke that still lifted over the little city. It was the first time he had been so peculiarly happy. His mother did not know he was out. He had dodged away from home, just to be on the bridge about this time. The cold wind made him shiver, but he didn't care. A star or two scudded through the grey cloud and scurries of snow put a fantastic shimmer over the river.

What strange eager noises he heard over the swirl of drifting ice and the blurt of the wind! It was the busy, bustling throbbing factories. He knew them all, the woolen mill up stream by the dam, the big grist mill above that, whose elevators were higher than the old church tower; the machine shop, the foundry, and the furniture factory. They were all thumping and singing away that Christmas Eve and the booming of the mill wheels and the stream by the dam, the big grist mill above that, whose elevators were higher than the old church tower; the machine shop, the foundry, and the furniture factory. They were all thumping and singing away that Christmas Eve and the booming of the mill wheels and the stream by the dam, the big grist mill above that, whose elevators were higher than the old church tower; the machine shop, the foundry, and the furniture factory. 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