

THE HAMILTON TIMES

TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 1907.

IS THE FARCE ENDED?

It begins to look as if the Fire and Water Committee of the Council has at last become alive to the fact—long patent to everybody else—that it is the butt of a huge joke, and that the curtain will soon fall on the farce comedy of the sandrucker that for months has made it an object of ridicule. Somebody appears to have told Mayor Stewart and Chairman Clark that they were being made a laughing stock by certain people in this matter, and last night they declined to prolong the play. The Trades and Labor Council wanted to go down to the basins and try a hand at doing the work the aldermen were elected to do. Perhaps in due time the Citizen's League, the North End Improvement Society, the Twentieth Century Club, the Amalgamated Sons of Rest, and a score of other organizations, would have come forward to help the aldermen and claim a right to a say in the matter. The line had to be drawn, and the aldermen drew it—tardily enough. The farce has been a most ridiculous one, and illustrates how little it takes to employ a civic committee, and how some people like to "string" the aldermen. The manager of a good business firm would have been done with the matter in twenty-four hours, and the employees who attempted the dictation and annoyance practised on the Council would long ere this have been seeking employment at the business end of a spade or a buckaw, or some other implement of honest industry, while the dredge would have been repaired and doing the work which it appears to be capable of doing when in competent hands. Let us hope that this is the last of the humiliating performance, and that in the huge schemes contemplated by the Mayor and aldermen they will bring to the service of the city a business capacity and judgment that certainly has not been much in evidence in dealing with the sandrucker and its various crews.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The speech of Mr. H. C. Cox at the banquet of the local Life Underwriters last night was naturally of a technical character and addressed specially to men of the craft, but it could not but be of great interest to the public as setting forth the attitude of the Underwriters toward expected changes in the law in the interest of all concerned. The question of the evil of relating was discussed, it being admitted that it exists and that a remedy is desirable. That remedy, however, should be applied so as not to enable unscrupulous agents to wrong the companies seeking to obey the law. The difficult questions of the limitation of the companies' investments to certain securities, the dealings of directors with companies in which they may be peculiarly interested, and deferred dividends were touched upon, and the necessity of great care in framing amendments was urged. The matter is likely to come before Parliament soon, and it will be the subject of legislation proposed to further protect the great insuring public, without imposing unnecessary disabilities on those who are carrying on the vast life underwriting business of the country. Mr. Cox's speech indicates that in that effort Parliament will have the co-operation of the insurance men.

GRAFT AND OWNERSHIP.

At a recent meeting of the so-called "Union of Canadian Municipalities" a paper was read by one enthusiastic worshipper of municipal ownership, in which what Mr. W. F. Maclean is pleased to call the "principle" was vigorously, if not convincingly, set forth. One of the sentences that paper contained was as follows: "Private ownership of utilities is largely, if not entirely, responsible for the existing corruption in public life; public ownership would tend to the purification of politics and the elimination of graft." The Canadian Courier challenges this statement. It says, "If it be true, then we should advocate public ownership. This may be advisable even if we are not theoretically certain as to the wisdom of preferring public operation to private operation. The decision rests upon the truth of the statement made by the representative of the Public Ownership League who read the paper." And the Courier proceeds to consider more closely the question raised by the writer, as follows: "The greatest talk about graft is coming just now from the Ottawa Opposition. And whence these charges? Do they not wholly concern the administration of public property along public ownership lines? They involve the public ownership of the Intercolonial Railway, the marine fleet and the crown domain. Has any person arisen to say that any part of the corruption and graft—if there are any—is due to any other cause than had administration of public trusts? Very little if any is charged to private corporations—nothing more than a vague insinuation that, like private individuals, they sometimes contribute to campaign funds. When we investigate further and inquire into municipal administration are there any case where it has been proved that any corporation or private owner of a public utility has corrupted a city. Is there any evidence, for example, that any street railway corporation in any city in Canada attempts to control or corrupt the City Council?" It thinks that no such evidence exists—in short that the ownership enthusiast was talking through his hat. It concludes that "the question between public and private ownership has little to do with corruption or graft, which is a ques-

tion of men and morals, rather than of systems," and that the statement in question "is a libel on the country, and at the same time wonderfully absurd." And we have no doubt that the average sane reader will agree with our contemporary when it says:

"Public ownership, without public operation, has done fairly well in Canada. For example, the Montreal Street Railway Company, during the year ending Sept. 30, 1907, has paid percentages to the city amounting to \$214,840. The Toronto Street Railway will pay the municipality nearly double that amount this year. On the other hand, public ownership, with public operation, has worked badly sometimes, as in the case of the Intercolonial; it has worked fairly well in other cases, for example, the successful operation of the waterworks system in Toronto and other cities.

The "public ownership" in the case of Montreal and Toronto is ownership of the franchise, something upon which all of us can agree without declaring lack of confidence in the individual and worship of municipal councils and governments. The Times has long advocated public ownership of all public franchises and their regulation in the public interest; and we think we occupy a safe position. Our contemporary cites a few public ownership and operation results by way of contrast:

Public ownership and operation in some United States cities has worked ill, resulting in corruption, graft and inadequate service. For example, previous to 1897, Philadelphia had a municipal gas plant which was run at a loss and which bred the "gas ring." In that year it was turned over to a company, which has since improved the quality of the gas, and gives percentages, street lighting and other benefits to the city estimated to be worth about two million dollars annually. This is a case where private ownership lessened corruption, abolished graft, and gave improved service and better financial results.

The evidence varies from city to city, from country to country, but it is quite evident that neither public ownership nor private ownership is responsible for corruption and graft. According to the power and force of public opinion, corruption is present or absent.

Public ownership and operation is no preventive of graft; rather would it open the way to the grafters and corruptionists, and make wider and easier and safer the field of their operations. And it is worth while noting how many of those who have political or other axes to grind are busied in attempting to foist the "principle" upon the people. And the "principle" briefly stated is, that the individual as a private citizen is ever dishonest and incompetent, but sprinkled with the water of public ownership and elected to office by a party or clique he immediately becomes a model of honesty, purity and efficiency, able and worthy to conduct the greatest and most varied of undertakings.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A great many municipalities are offering five per cent. debentures for sale; some are offering 6 per cent. debentures. That sort of thing makes municipal plunging a very costly business for the taxpayers.

The new Terminal Station is a very handsome building and a credit to the company and the city, and it will prove to be a great convenience to the public using the electric lines.

Toronto loses its case against the C. P. R., the Privy Council deciding that the city must pay its share toward guarding level crossings within its limits. The judgment is one of importance to all municipalities.

Toronto reports quite a number of men out of work, and not a few of them who are able to do so are said to be going back to the old country. It is a good time for those who have situations to keep them.

Mr. Barrow could hardly be expected to investigate his own department and recommend changes therein. But changes should be made. The aldermen should reorganize the civic departments that the Engineer would not be asked to do impossibilities.

Now, here is the Spectator urging the Times to ask that Sir Wilfrid Laurier come to the aid of a technical college in Hamilton! Has it so completely lost faith in Whitney, who "promised" us the college, and on whom the constitution places the duty of dealing with education?

The analysis of the city water shows that filtration is absolutely essential to health.—Toronto Star.

Isn't our contemporary a trifle rash? If the power "principle" chaps care to ask for a trifle of two or three million, the Torontonians will have to make up their minds to drink sewage a few years more.

Rumor has it that a "dark horse" is in training for a run against Mayor Stewart when it comes weighing-in time, and that His Worship will have to strike such a gait as he has never before dreamed of attaining if he is to have a look in at all. Some of the men high in his party are using their utmost persuasiveness to ensure a contest, and say they have a surprise in store for him.

Welland Council, unlike Hamilton's, finds no time to make war on private capital and run its ratepayers into huge debts to compete with it. It is conducting an active propaganda to secure the investment of private capital, while our Mayor and aldermen busy themselves in an effort to pull Adam Beck's chestnuts out of the fire in the hope of helping other towns to better compete with us.

Lamps with defective burners should never be used. If the top of a lamp has become worn out, get a new one. Lamps should be carefully cleaned and filled daily. When not regularly cleaned they

is danger of fire, and a lamp that is used when out of order and when the oil is low in the bowl is always a source of danger.

There will be no fiddling in Toronto public schools. Inspector Hughes, favored the teaching of the violin to the youngsters, but the Board would have none of it. Thus another fad has met with the usual dull sickening thud.

The Toronto News does not appear to be enamored of Beck's Hydro scheme with its duplication of plants at great cost and its enormous burdens on the taxpayers. It favors the sane policy of public regulation.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is continually claiming how much he has done to make Canada an enlightened and progressive nation. Yet in the matter of social relations he retains as a privilege of the rich what he denies to the poor.—Winthrop Telegram.

Wonder what Laurier has been doing now? Has he denied the right of some poor editor to wear a swallow-tail and to play bridge whist with the la-dah-lahs? Or what is the social outrage he has committed?

Prayer was offered at Earlham College, a local Quaker institution, to-day for the success of the college football team, which will meet De Pauw University at Greencastle on Saturday to determine the secondary championship of Indiana and Illinois. The prayer was offered by Professor Kenworthy at the regular chapel exercises.—Richmond, Ind., Despatch.

Now, that raises a question. Suppose the De Pauw University partisans also pray for the success of their team with equal earnestness and faith, what then? Are we to look for a tie? And if not, why not?

The Ontario Horticultural Association wants the Legislature to give the municipalities power to tax billboards and signs, the tax being graded according to the size and nuisance of the board. It is claimed that country landscapes are disfigured by these advertising monstrosities. Some of these are big enough and ugly enough to frighten horses, and the pleasure of a drive in the country is destroyed by their appearance at every cross road and fence line. One would think that the nuisance would be remedied in time by the owners of them finding out that the expense in putting them up is just so much money thrown away.

By the Government organ in New Brunswick the intimation is made that if Mr. Borden will abandon his campaign against electoral corruption and ballot-box stuffing, Mr. Pugsley, the Minister who alleges that the Conservatives spent \$300,000 corruptly at the last general election, will withdraw that statement. That is the most brazen "saw-off" proposition yet made.—Mail and Empire.

No "Government organ"—no Liberal paper—ever gave such intimation, and when the Mail printed the afore-quoted lie it was well aware that the journal to which it refers had indignantly denied it, and repeated Mr. Pugsley's challenge for Borden to bring him into court and enable him to prove his statement. So much for Mail morals.

A correspondent of the St. Thomas Journal takes strong exception to the Hydro-Electric Commission charging for power by the peak load rule—that is, compelling the municipalities to pay for a month's power at the rate of highest 20 minutes of the month. He presents these illustrations:

Imagine the city water commissioners putting a register in your premises that would register the highest and lowest amount of water used for any minute of the day, and they send their man around at the end of the month. He reads the register and finds you had been using a large quantity at some time during the month for 20 minutes; he has a bill made out charging you for the whole month at the same rate per day that you happened to use it that 20 minutes. Or if the light department did the same, installing a register. Ordinarily you use, say, two jets, but during the month you have a party and you light up your house, using 10 jets, and burn them all night. You would not like to pay a bill charging you at the same rate for every night the month through that you lit the party. Now, this is exactly the principle on which Niagara power is offered to us.

Mr. A. G. MacKay declares against the proposal that the Ontario Government spend the money of all the people for the purpose of bringing competing electric power to a few municipalities at less than commercial prices. This does not seem to please the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. It says:

Hon. A. G. MacKay may be doing well as he considers to be his duty as the leader of a political party, though it is very questionable if his campaign is dictated by either sound business considerations or good politics. The representatives of private interests must be expected to protect their privileges and investments by every means in their power. With all this the people of Western Ontario have nothing to do.

We think Mr. MacKay is right. We think that good morals, good policy, and common honesty, with which we submit the people of Western Ontario are, or ought to be, very much concerned, debate Mr. MacKay's course. It bears the test of trial by first principles. Tax all the people to help us, even at the expense of wronging private investors, may suit us to-day; but if it injured us to-morrow what right should we have to object? If we want to spend our own money in the hope of getting cheaper power, or to fight private investors, let us do it, but don't ask to tax others to do it.

A new record was established by the Grand Trunk Railway System on Saturday last, when their special train carrying the Tiger Football Club and supporters, made the run from Hamilton to Toronto in the remarkably fast time of 41 minutes. The train was in charge of Conductor McCormick and Engineer Fitch.

To cure a cold in one night—use Vapo-Cresoline. It has been used extensively during the past twenty-four years. All drug stores.

HERE AND THERE. Montreal Star: Don't expect the woman with a new set of furs to hope that the bright, warm weather may continue. Ottawa Free Press: The unity of the Conservative party is again illustrated by Mr. E. B. Oles' repudiation of the Beck power policy. The member for

West Toronto is just about as enthusiastic about the Beck programme as he is over the Borden platform.

Chatham News: H. S. Clements is discovering with a vengeance that if the way of the transgressor is hard, the way of the hypocrite is still harder.

Ottawa Journal: Hips are said to be no longer in fashion, but what some of us would look like if we had to wear kimonas, goodness only knows.

Montreal Star: Professor Marconi's efforts to discover a method for the wireless transmission of power might be aided by a careful study of the action of a mule's hoof.

English paper: "A system of painless extraction," is how the Rev. H. J. Harvey, chairman of the Essex Congregational Union, defines church bazaars.

Toronto News: A Connecticut jackass was run over by a trolley car. The difference between a jackass and a man is not so great after all. One has accident insurance.

New York Herald: A Detroit despatch declares that "Noah's diary" has been dug up in Michigan. Fake! Captain of the Ark kept a log.

Our Exchanges

The Same Here. (Galt Reporter.) Our merchants have every reason to anticipate a splendid Christmas trade.

Ingrowing Whiskers. (Ottawa Citizen.) Hamilton barbers have gone on strike, and until further notice the inhabitants will drive their whiskers with tack hammers.

An Attraction. "Hamilton is full of gambling dens," says Sir Thomas Taylor. Well, but such advantages are not commensurate with its disadvantages as a place of residence.

Government Ownership. (Toronto Star.) The American Federation of Labor disapproves of Government ownership of railways and mines. This is a sharp set-back for the programme of many, and from the last quarter one would expect why?

Ottawa Tied Up. (Ottawa Citizen.) With a deficit of \$25,000, and a loan agreement for six months, or possibly a year, there does not seem much danger of Ottawa defaulting on its obligations during the immediate future.

Where the Money Went. (St. Thomas Journal.) In these days of a financial stringency it is well to remember a prolific cause of the loss of money from legitimate channels of industry—the "banking" of money.

Mothers to Blame. (St. Thomas Times.) It seems almost incredible that virtuous mothers of average sense and experience can complacently permit their young daughters to be taken about the city until late at night. If such permission is given the mother is far more to blame than the daughter, and it is almost reasonable to suspect that in such a case the mother is not unwilling to have the girl embark upon a career of vice.

Canada's Immediate Role. (Montreal Star.) Mr. Brodeur, however, did not state the whole case of those who think that we should not at this time be called upon to make a contribution to the British navy. The truth is that we now need all the money we can get to finance our own development, and that we will suffer in want of development precisely as we lack the money to provide the equipment for our own navy.

Be Fair to the Railways. (Toronto Star.) Have Canadian railways made a reasonable response to the demands made upon them by the general industrial expansion which has taken place in this country during the past few years?

At least a partial answer to this question will be found in statistics published by the Canadian Government. These show that between '98 and 1906 the number of locomotives on Canadian railways increased from 2,115 to 2,911, or about 38 per cent., but owing to the greater power of the engines, it is probable that the number of horse power of the motive power last year was at least 80 per cent. in excess of that available eight years ago. The number of cattle and horse cars, again, was 20,000 in '98, and 62,000 in 1906, an increase of about 200 per cent. Here again the figures do not tell the whole story, for the new cars are larger than the old. A fair estimate of what has been accomplished by the railway companies in the way of enlarged facilities is found in the fact that 28,000,000 tons of freight were moved by them last year, a figure that is about double the amount handled 8 years before.

A WILL CASE. At Osgoode Hall yesterday, re Borron and Gilleland, C. W. Bell (Hamilton), for vendor, moved under the Vendors and Purchasers' Act to have it declared that vendor can make a good title to lands in question. W. T. Evans (Hamilton), for the purchaser, contra. If vendor agrees to pay purchase money into court under the Trustee Act, order may go declaring that he has the power to sell, but if not a motion must be made under rule 938 to construe the will, of which Borron is the executor. Enlarged sine die to consider course.

Longboat Badly Beaten. A new record was established by the Grand Trunk Railway System on Saturday last, when their special train carrying the Tiger Football Club and supporters, made the run from Hamilton to Toronto in the remarkably fast time of 41 minutes. The train was in charge of Conductor McCormick and Engineer Fitch.

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Great Reduction in the Price of Winter Goods

Thousands of dollars' worth of overstock in every section of the house now being sold at very low prices. Take advantage of our great list for Wednesday's selling.

Another Shipment of Furs

We have been fortunate in securing another lot of about 1,000 dollars' worth of those Furs at half price. Mink Stoles, half price. Marmot Stoles, half price. Opossum Stoles, half price. Thibet Stoles, half price. Astrachan Stoles, half price. Muffs to match the above at half price.

20 Fur Jackets at Half Price

We put on sale Wednesday 20 Fur Jackets at just 1/2 the ordinary selling price: Marmot Jackets, \$40, for... \$20 Astrachan Jackets, \$40 for... \$20 Near Seal Jackets, \$60, for... \$30

Clearing Sale of Silk Waists

This season we bought a number of sample sets of silk waists, which have sold very successfully at manufacturers' price. Wednesday we take every garment left over and mark them at 2 prices, \$1.49 and \$2.19

\$10 Waists \$2.99

Ladies' Silk Waists, sizes 34 and 36, worth from \$5 to \$10, Wednesday's price... \$2.99

\$5 Waists \$1.49

Handsomely trimmed Silk Waists, that sold up to \$5, sizes 34 and 36, only, Wednesday morning price \$1.49

\$7.50 Children's Jackets \$3.49

50 in all Children's heavy Ulsters, tweeds and plain cloths, this season's stock, usual selling price \$7.50, Wednesday we put this lot on sale for \$3.49

\$1.50 Ladies' Shoes 89c

Sharp 9 o'clock Wednesday we will put on sale 150 pairs Ladies' Shoes, fine Dongola Kid Bala, straight cut with self tips, heavy extension McKay soles, military heel, double stitched, every pair worth \$1.50, on sale at 89c. Sizes 3 to 7.

12 1/2 and 15c Prints for 7c

10,000 yards of English Prints, manufacturers' ends of from 1 to 15 yards, and excellent value for 12 1/2 and 15c, Wednesday's sale price... 7c

10 to 20c White Lawn 7c

5,000 yards of ends of White Lawn, that in the regular way would retail at from 10 to 20c, Wednesday's special price... 7c

15c Huck Towelling 10c

1,000 yards of 18-inch Half-bleached Pure Linen Huck Towelling, regular selling value 15c, special sale price Wednesday... 10c

15c Plain Linen Towelling 10c

Extra heavy quality of a plain 18-inch Linen Roller Towelling, pure linen and splendid value for 15c, sale price... 10c

28 Pairs of White Wool Blankets

Wednesday we put on sale 2 lots of 14 pairs each White Wool Blankets, the regular price \$4.00 and \$4.95, the sale price will be \$3.00 and \$3.50

\$4.00 Blankets \$3.00 \$4.95 Blankets \$3.50 14 pairs extra quality double-bed size Blankets, ordinary \$4.00 value, for... \$3.00 14 pairs of one of the best grades of Canadian-made Blankets, \$4.95, for... \$3.50

\$15.00 Plain Cloth Jackets \$10.00

25 in all, Ladies' plain cloth man-tailored Jackets, in brown, green, navy and black; strap trimming, pure wool cloth, value for \$15.00, Wednesday's price... \$10.00

11 Children's Plush Jackets \$2.95 for \$1.69

Just 11 in all, Red, Grey or Brown Plush Jackets for small children, regular price \$2.49, \$2.75 and \$2.95. You have your choice of this lot Wednesday for \$1.69. Better come in the morning; 11 jackets will not last long at this price.

Dress Goods Worth 50 and 75c for 29c

2,000 yards of Dress Goods, odd lots of some of our best selling lines that sold at 50 and 75c; special price for Wednesday... 29c

Special Showing of Christmas Goods

We are making a special showing of Christmas Goods in one of the large sections at the end of the store. Take a look.

THE T. H. PRATT CO. LIMITED

A FINE MEETING.

Blackheath Women's Institute Miss Hanson's.

In spite of a decided taste of winter in the air about thirty ladies met at Erenion Farm, the home of Miss Hanson, where the Blackheath Branch of the Women's Institute held its November meeting on the 18th. After the opening chorus, Miss A. McAdam, Vice-President, took charge of the meeting. The business part taking some time, as it was necessary to make arrangements for the programme for the coming year; also to appoint a delegate to attend the convention at Guelph. The President, Miss Hanson, was chosen to represent the branch this year.

DEER NOT DIMINISHING.

Toronto, Nov. 19.—In reference to the reports of the great slaughter of deer in the northern districts of Ontario, Mr. Edwin Tinsley, Superintendent of Game and Fisheries, says that not more than 30 or 35 per cent. of the animals killed are deer. He does not think the deer are diminishing in number and can see no reason for further restrictions. The game may be going further north, for they are now found 200 or 300 miles further north than the past. The number of deer killed last year was the largest on record, and the reports show that many have been taken this season.

ERSKINE SOCIAL.

Enjoyable Anniversary Event Held Last Evening.

The twenty-seventh anniversary social and supper was held in the Erskine Church Sunday school last evening from 6.30 to 8, after which a programme of readings, solo duets, organ recital and an address by the chairman, Rev. S. B. Russell, and Rev. Dr. Nelson, of Knox Church, was held in the body of the church. The committee having the matter in hand is deserving of special praise all doing their part well in contributing to the enjoyment of the occasion. The supper was one of the special parts of the programme. The tables were well arranged, and the spread an excellent one. The programme in the church was as follows: Chairman's address, Rev. S. B. Russell; recitation, Miss Salisbury; solo, Mr. Penney; duet, Robert Symmers and Miss M. White; address, Rev. Dr. Nelson; solo, achert Symmers; recitation, Miss Salisbury. Mr. H. E. J. Vernon presided at the organ, and gave some fine numbers. The programme throughout was pleasing. Some five hundred or more participated. Among the members of the committee who made a special effort to secure the success of the affair were Mrs. T. H. Keller and Miss M. White, John Pringle, Gordon Iou, Geo. Richardson and many others. A voluntary silver collection was taken at the door, amounting \$30 were given besides an abundance of good things left over to distribute.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20th, 1907 SHEA'S Shea's for Mantles

A Sensational Sale of Mantles and Skirts

A quantity of nearly 200 Mantles was offered us last week by one of the most prominent manufacturers in Canada at a price that we never heard of before for such values. These coming in on top of an already large stock compel us to some heavy "stock reducing." So, will take the "cut price" way of doing it. You will get Mantle values on Wednesday that will put anything heretofore offered this season out of sight. Come here to-morrow if you want to save money.

Women's Coats at \$7.50, Worth \$12.00 Women's Coats, made of splendidly warm and well wearing tweeds, checks, plaids and plain black cloths, both loose and fitted, velvet trimmed, new sleeves, with cuff, garments that would be called a sale at \$10, regular \$12 value, on sale Wednesday for each... \$7.50

Women's Coats at \$10.00 A splendid collection of Fancy Plaids and Mixtures with Fine Mantle Tweeds, also a lot of Plaid Beaver Cloth, full lined, in both loose and fitted backs, velvet collars, prettily strapped, well length, Coats that sell every day for \$15, on sale here to-morrow, for, each... \$10.00

Women's Coats at \$15 A vast collection of them, made of Beavers, Kerseys, very rich Tweeds and Fancy Mantlings, elegantly braided and appliqued, all cut in the most swaggiest styles. Coats that are worth not a cent less than \$20, will be on sale on Wednesday for, each... \$15.00

Children's Coats on Sale A very large stock of them and a splendid variety of styles, every wuffed shade, all excellent quality of cloths, all most reasonably priced; many of them traveller's samples at less than wholesale cost; on Wednesday you get a grand choice at \$1.95, \$2.50, \$2.95, \$3.55, \$4.50, \$5.95 and \$7.50

Women's Suits at \$15 Women's Suits, made of blacks, navys, browns and greens, plaids and checks, newest cutaway coats and box back coats, splendidly hung skirts with pleated folds, a grand lot of Suits, worth every cent of \$25.00; you buy them here on Wednesday for each... \$15.00

