

THE POLITICAL UNDERWORLD

Beneath the effective current of political life in all civilized countries, there lies a vast body of inarticulate thought, which when organized and endowed with motive force, may become a powerful factor in development. Suppressed in Russia and Germany, it rose up in Russia, and disrupted in a few days the vast German machine of government, which four years of allied war effort failed to destroy. All Europe now trembles at the echo of these events and its effects have been felt in the six continents. Like a giant octopus, it has arms to evade every engine of state authority.

Fortunately, the Russian solution is not the only one. Socialism, Bolshevism and Minshevism can all make a positive contribution to political life; even anarchy has a negative value. As practical programmes for the present day they are, of course, quite impracticable and lead, we already see, to disaster in political and economic life. As radical elements in the thought of a self-governing country, however, they become constructive factors in history. Diluted by a sane and conservative regard for those magnificent institutions which have been evolved by centuries of political struggle, these sentiments may find a healthy and natural expression; suppressed by the antagonism of existing authority, however, they break forth in violence.

Canada and the United States have a social structure which is fundamentally different than that of European nations. Where there the lower class everywhere predominates, we have in a vast majority a middle class which votes, engages in business and owns property. In other words, the class which has most to gain by a political upheaval is in a majority in European countries, but here is in a decided minority. During the past few decades, there has been an increasing number of this class scattered in the larger cities, as the figures regarding the number living in rented houses as compared with owned houses in our cities, show. This is, however, still a mere fraction of our total population.

In the control of political thought and discussion in Canada we have followed the practice of Great Britain, in suppressing only that which aims to bring about a social change by other than constitutional methods. Even in these cases it is only steps in the direction of actual violence or in the distribution of literature encouraging such violence that are prosecuted. There should be no penalty attached to the possession of such literature because those engaged in the study of political and economic topics must of necessity and in fairness include all material dealing with their subject. The possessor of a book entitled "History of Canadian Wealth," has recently been prosecuted. This is a book which was issued in 1914, was read by many Canadians and in fact found a place in at least one public library. It is socialistic and attacks the methods by which wealth has been acquired in Canada, and has become centralized in the hands of large corporations and wealthy individuals. References, however, are quite authentic and some of the authorities are documents which are well known to investigators in Canadian historical and economic subjects. To confiscate every book which is written with a motive or from the point of view of an accepted theory, would be to reduce most Canadian libraries to a mere fraction of their former size. Canadian citizens are not prone to radical thought, and anarchism should not be stimulated and advertised by over-zealous repression.

CHANGE IN BOILER REGULATIONS

An amendment to the Ontario Factory Act, which became effective on January 1st, 1919, includes a section to the effect that no boiler shall be used in factories, shops, office buildings, etc., unless it has been insured in some boiler insurance company registered in the department of insurance, or has been inspected within one year by some person authorized in writing by the superintendent of the Trades and Labor branch. The new regulations also call for more careful inspection.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR BRIDGE COMPANY

The new board of directors of the Dominion Bridge Company have appointed Mr. G. H. Duggan to the presidency, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Phelps Johnson, the former president. Mr. Duggan, who has long been connected with the company, has acted in the capacity of vice president and managing director for several years past.

Mr. Phelps Johnson, the retiring president, had requested to be relieved from his duties as soon as was convenient after

the completion of the Quebec Bridge, as he was desirous of enjoying a prolonged holiday. He will remain on the board of directors and will also serve on the executive committee.

Discussion at the annual meeting of shareholders of the company, held in Montreal on January 10th, brought out the fact that of the profits of \$2,477,009 for the year ended October 31st last, \$1,100,000 came from the Quebec Bridge contract. It also appeared in replies to other questions that a sum of about \$770,000 had been received

from the Quebec Bridge contract since the company's books were closed for the last fiscal year, and that a further balance would be coming to the company in the final settlement.

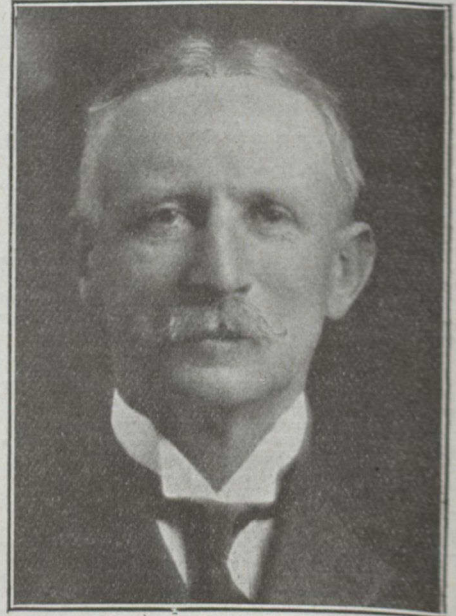
Comparisons of profit and loss figures for three years follow:

	1918.	1917.	1916.
Profits	\$2,477,009	\$1,360,533	\$2,776,390
Less:—			
Directors	14,460	14,110	14,100
Interest	41,344	30,330	
Bad debts	151,015	6,555	
Depreciation	404,472	123,101	
Total deductions	\$ 611,291	\$ 174,097	\$ 14,100
Net earnings	1,865,717	1,186,436	2,762,280
Dividends	520,000	747,500	1,300,000
Balance	\$1,345,717	\$ 438,936	\$1,462,280
Reserves		382,620	588,107
Balance	\$1,345,717	\$ 56,316	\$ 874,073
Previous balance ...	1,679,590	1,623,274	749,100
Profit and loss	\$3,025,307	\$1,679,590	\$1,623,274

At the first dividend meeting held on January 15th, it was announced that the regular quarterly dividend of 2 per cent. had been declared.

TORONTO TO RAISE \$17,000,000

By-laws were passed authorizing the city treasurer to raise a temporary loan of \$17,000,000 to meet liabilities shortly maturing and to provide funds for carrying on the business of the city pending the passing of the estimates and the collection of taxes.



G. H. DUGGAN

(Photo by British and Colonial Press)