

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 28.

Strong Farmers' Government Unwelcome.

One thing is very evident from the reports and rumors of the past few days, and that is that the old line party politicians are absolutely unable to reconcile themselves to the elimination of party government.

The appearance of a Farmers' party with a people's platform in view, and a proposal for a government which would include all popular interests, does not commend itself to old line partisans. Consequently any effort to strengthen a new non-partisan government meets with little favor from the old line party organs.

Suggestions have come from various quarters in the province, and from both U.F.O. and Labor authorities that Sir Adam Beck should be chosen to lead the Farmers, but the unanimity with which The Globe, The Star, and other party organs, Conservative as well as Liberal, confront this proposal in opposition indicates, not necessarily hostility to Sir Adam Beck, but opposition to anything that would strengthen the Farmers with the country.

Sir Adam's appearance at Windsor on Saturday was the occasion of a very definite expression of opinion in his favor, not merely in the resolution asking him not to refuse the leadership were it offered to him, but also in the statement of Mayor Winter, that the bylaw covering the proposal to take over the Windsor Sandwich & Walkerville Railway at a cost of \$2,000,000, would not be submitted to the electors until the personnel of the new government was known, and the stability of the Hydro-electric Commission has been assured.

Mount Pleasant Line Prospects.

It is unfortunate that city officials find themselves quoted by the opponents of the city against the city's own plans. Commissioner Harris' estimates of revenue and expense on the Mount Pleasant line may be a perfectly conscientious and technically correct view to take by one who wishes to disclaim any responsibility. But everyone knows that, were a private company stating its prospects as proprietor of a perpetual franchise on the Mount Pleasant line, such as the city possesses, it would not be figuring out temporary deficits, but would look forward to the permanent advantage which in the city's case is incremented by the certain development of the district to be served, and the immense increase in taxation revenue which is bound to result.

Mr. Harris is not required as a city official to write a promoter's prospectus in such a case, but neither was it necessary to ignore the experience on Danforth avenue, on St. Clair avenue, on East Gerrard street and on West Bloor street, under similar circumstances. Mr. Harris in his report said both too much and too little.

War Wreckage at Home.

To see a concrete-brick-and-steel factory, the roof of which covers more than two acres of ground, newly built, within a few hundred yards of a Toronto suburban station, and to know that it is likely to meet the fate of an adjoining half-demolished steel-built forging plant, is to witness one of the foolish aftermaths of the war which a little forethought might have prevented. The spectacle offered the traveler close to Leaside station, about a mile from government house.

The United States government spent more than a million dollars on buildings for shell-making, which could not be used before the armistice; but it took a short lease of the land from its Toronto owners, and must now sell such of the buildings as the landowners care to take or demolish them, salvaging the worth-while material. The two-acre machine shop is one of the best in the world, and, with its neighbors, ought to be used permanently. But because the art or practice of issuing orders-in-council covered a very scant proportion of reconstruction, there seems to be no way of stopping a disastrous wreckage in the public interest. A little wisdom will sometimes prevent an enormous waste. But if government is not wise munitioners will be prodigal.

The Queen's Park Movie.

The seat of office is still in Queen's Park, but the center of power is at 130 East King street; that is, in the retreat of Secretary Morrison of the U.F.O. You reach the office of a possible premier, thru a co-operative grocery store, and find a place singularly bare of secretarial paraphernalia. Book cases are absent. There are no laden files of newspapers. A blackboard on which U. F. O. meeting arrangements were chalked up is a conspicuous feature

of the wall-space. It may presently contain the cabinet schedule. The screen will be moved to Queen's Park as soon as the present tenants vacate. Nobody can predict the changing scenes that will shortly be thrown on the Queen's Park screen. It begins to look as tho the whole fabric of provincial governance may be turned inside out. The farmers have caught on to the cumbersome, pompous and dangerous features of a regime that does not really belong to the year 1919 or to the administrative necessities of this province.

The farmers are asking why the Canadian province should wear exact imitations of the administrative clothes that were fashioned by and for the aristocratic ruling families of England during the eighteenth century. Democracy and ministerial responsibility must look into the double-sided mirror—the side that reflects past experience, and the side that shows the movement of the world, as the street car motorman's mirror does.

In the upper room on King street the farmers may not see all that's going on in the body politic, but they have more than anyone else to do with determining the reels for the Queen's Park show. Meeting after meeting will do well to remember that the provincial ship has got to keep running while her boilers are being overhauled.

The Hydro and Returned Men.

In his report on the re-establishment of returned men, the general manager of the city Hydro, Mr. H. H. Couzens, states some facts which should be widely circulated, as the corporation enemies of the Hydro system have done their best to misrepresent and injure the Hydro management among labor men. Those who are always trying to stir up enmity constantly make false statements regarding the terms and conditions of labor on the Hydro system, and similar misstatements have been made about the returned soldiers.

Mr. Couzens gives complete figures concerning the 168 men enlisted from the city Hydro. Of these 16 were killed in action or died of wounds. There have been 49 returned to their old positions; 29 were returned to better positions; 13 were offered old positions, but accepted better positions elsewhere; 35 have not reported back; and six are unable to resume their duties on account of physical disability. In practically every case, Mr. Couzens states, the men received higher wages on being reinstated.

What Happened to Ontario.

The old brigades still can't make out what has happened to Ontario. They know there has been a terrible accident, but cannot decide whether it was a smash-up or a blow-up. Some of Sir William Hearst's friends agree with him that prohibition is the Conservative cock robin. Grandma Gazette of Montreal vows that the public ownership is the grand old party of Montreal votes that it was a Conservative cock robin.

It is childish to pretend that Sir William Hearst was rejected because of prohibition, since prohibition has carried by a majority of from three to four hundred thousand. The heavier the prohibition majority, in most constituencies, the more U.F.O. candidates were elected.

Grandma Gazette says that "outside of its bowing before the wind of the ownership theorists," the Hearst government "had a record that commended it as clear, courageous and capable. It went down in defeat, and the stronger party in the legislature today is the only one which, in its appeals for support, presented anything like a conservative platform."

Some day the old brigades will understand that their methods of class control, of which the private ownership of public utilities has been economically one of the most pernicious, and politically one of the most degrading, have finally sickened a public that knows how to read, and is learning how to think, and is now preparing to act.

Mackenzie King's Stumble.

Mackenzie King did pretty well, but not well enough as an exponent of the Grand Trunk bill in his first speech to the commons as member for Prince. He disclaimed speaking as leader of the Liberal party—the other McKenzies are left with the responsibility for the general hostility to the transfer of the Grand Trunk from the private to the public domain.

RIGHT OF WAY



"Stand back, dad, we're going thru, even if we have to enlarge the doorway."

Will Lloyd Harris Be High Commissioner?

The cables tell of a movement in London for the appointment of Mr. Lloyd Harris as high commissioner, to succeed Sir George Perley, who wants to get out. The Harris movement is due to dissatisfaction with the funkyness tendencies of the high commissioner's office, where robust Canadian ideas have been conspicuous by their absence. Mr. Harris is the head of the Canadian trade commission in London, and has some great fights with the old-fashioned departments of the British government, and it is said that a commissioner with his personal punch is essential for the promotion of Canadian interests.

That Lloyd Harris has punch and isn't afraid to use it is evident from the way he talked publicly at several business men's lunches in England, where, it is understood, he will speak very plainly to the government about the way things haven't been done in recent years. If he goes back to London as high commissioner there will be much fluttering in Downing street dovetails.

Not Like Perleys and Kemps.

In his English speeches Lloyd Harris is as different from the Perleys and Kemps as electricity is from gas. He bucks the conventions to which the Perleys and Kemps do endless obeisance by saying that the permanent of the government, but know no more about the empire than "a dog in the street." He adds, as a sort of spice to this goblet of sack, that those who say the war has brought the empire closer together are talking poppycock. That is not his phrasing, but it is his meaning. The people in Canada can afford to attend to what he is saying to Britainers, who are not too startled to applaud.

The permanent officials are fine men personally, but they are mind-bound with traditions and red tape. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be" is their faith and hope. They cannot understand how the man outside Britain dares to regard himself as the equal of the man who has never left the islands. They are not as ignorant as the dogs to whom Mr. Harris likens them. Nor are they the sole cause of his lament that the war has not brought the empire closer together. What is belittling this, the most arresting deliverance that has come in many years from a Canadian public servant in the United Kingdom?

Lloyd Harris has been a member of the Canadian house of commons. He is a really great man of business. He once represented the Massey-Harris business in Europe. Under him the great exports of Canadian agricultural machinery to Russia and Siberia began. When he says the war has not accomplished imperially what was claimed for it, he speaks out of one of their own numbers.

Stripped of compliment, the political story of the war is this—that 1914-9 brought Canada into so thoro a contact with the mentality of the old world that the difference between the old and the new was demonstrated as it never was before.

OTHER PEOPLES' OPINIONS

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

The Independent Soldiers' Party.

Editor World: On Oct. 20 there were four parties in the field of Ontario politics. Today there are three, and the new party is potentially, and will soon be actually, the strongest of the lot.

That is the real cause of the present kaleidoscope, and any cabinet-making account which fails to take it into account will be a very poor one. I am not making extravagant statements as a veteran, I believe I was the first person to suggest (6 years ago) to the United Farmers of Ontario a veterans' political co-operation. I was laughed at, and one month ago in the same paper said: "The election of fifty-seven candidates of independent calibre to the Ontario legislature would constitute a bare majority, and the next battle before the party is to get together and give us a more democratic government than has been."

"The obliteration of the Liberal party and the defeat of the Conservative government, at one and the same time, on Oct. 20, accomplished by the election of a clear majority of candidates of other complexion, would really usher in a new era for the banner province." That was far astray, either.

In actual fact, the Liberal party has been driven out of rural Ontario, and will also go down in the urban centres in the next battle before the party is to get together and give us a more democratic government than has been."

These three democratic elements (of course, I include their adult women-folk) must be inter-penetrating, striving to displace the present government rather than points of disagreement. I count it in honor to belong to all three, myself, and disclaim any inconsistency in so doing.

I make the prediction now that the Independent Soldiers' Party will elect more than fifty per cent. of the members of them from the rank and file at the next Ontario elections, and that they will be the dominant partner in the "triple democratic entente," particularly under the present representation, simply because they constitute over fifty per cent. of the electorate. The veterans were mostly used to elect partisans never again! They had plenty of "friends," but now they know they are their own best friends.

Duke of Devonshire Subscribes Ten Thousand to Victory Loan

Ottawa, Oct. 27.—Colonel J. W. Woods, specially appointed by the Dominion special government to the Dominion of the Victory loan, and chairman of the Ottawa committee, makes the following announcement of subscription by his excellency the governor-general:

"I have much pleasure in taking up \$10,000 of Victory loan, 1918. I hope to feel this national effort will be a success."

CIGARET FINE.

Woodstock, Oct. 27.—H. E. Goodman, a grocer on Dundas street west, was today fined \$25 for selling cigarettes without a license.

MOONLIGHT AND MONEY

BY MARION RUBINCAM

A VISITOR.

CHAPTER XX.

The "cry" did her good, as it does in most cases. For a man will swear and a woman will weep, and in each instance it is like a safety valve for compressed nervousness. In about an hour Louise was hard at work moving the lighter objects. She carried up stairs and put away her own clothes and Harry's, deluging in the closets whose electric lights snapped on when the doors were opened. She unpacked the exquisite linens that had come as gifts, rich flax lace table cloths, exquisitely embroidered napkins, scarfs that, impractical as she was, she knew had cost immense sums. She forgot luncheon, she did not even know she was hungry, so intent was she on putting things away. By mid-afternoon she did feel tired, so decided to pick some of the flowers in the yard for a bouquet for the breakfast room table.

She went upstairs for her hat, then stopped in consternation. A limousine had pulled up at the gate, and her mother and a cousin were getting out. Louise gave one wild look at her face in the glasses, it was amazing. She had the work she had been doing and there were undeniable marks of tears. She couldn't let her mother, of all people, see her so! She was too tired to want to talk to anyone, particularly to one from whom she could expect no sympathy—her own mother. In positive panic, she ran up the tiny flight of steps to the attic, pulling the door shut behind her. Then she half ran, half crawled, under the sloping eave roof to the porch and she realized suddenly that they could walk in and explore the whole place. They might even come up and find her in her hiding spot. It suddenly struck her, she crawled nearer the window. The bell rang again.

"Perhaps they are still away," it was Louise's mental voice she heard, she could see her hat as she stood on the lawn below. Her mother was out of their constituencies, would be compelled to leave, and he would be before they openly opposed such a prime minister, as long as he steered a straight course. So, indeed, would the opposition unfair tactics on their part to confound him would recoil upon their heads like a thunder-bolt. He was very embodiment of scintillating oratory, nor craftsmanship in political petting. What is wanted is a man of more earnestness, forwardness, independence of mind.

Without any suggestion of irritation, he quoted the words of a world-known man of humility: "And if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." He said a number of private things, but he said Ontario's mighty army of democracy, who had fought for the blood of the fields of death, but have again achieved a great triumph at the polls. And who shall assail him? Ed Stephenson, President Independent Soldiers' Party. Ward C. Davillie Hospital, Oct. 24.

Tomorrow—A Bride's Dinner.

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET WILL SHOW DEFICIT

Austen Chamberlain Gives Proposals for Making Up Britain's Balance Sheet.

London, Oct. 27.—The chancellor of the exchequer, Austen Chamberlain, has laid before parliament in a white paper, in which he gives his proposals for making up the national balance sheet in normal years. The estimated revenue is given at £808,000,000. In this are included £290,000,000 derived from customs and excise duties, £460,000,000 received from the inland revenue and £13,000,000 from the postoffice, and £13,000,000 from other sources.

The estimates of the expenditures under post-bellum conditions are composed of £770,000,000 for consolidated fund charges (public debt service), £135,000,000 for the fighting forces, £246,500,000 for the civil services, and £53,500,000 for revenue services.

The chancellor stated that Great Britain would owe the United States, at the end of March, 1920, a total, estimated at the present rate of exchange, of £82,000,000, while the amount which allied governments would owe to Great Britain on the same date is estimated at £1,740,000,000.

A revised statement of army expenditures shows a gross total for the financial year 1919-20 of £500,000,000, instead of the total of £440,000,000 originally estimated. The receipts from the sale of materials and from payments by Germany for the army of occupation amounted to £95,000,000, making the net total expenditure £405,000,000.

The original estimates placed the receipts at £133,000,000, and gave the net total expenditure at £272,000,000. Thus the final figures show an increase over the estimates of £113,000,000.

The increase in the appropriations is explained as due to delays in demobilization, the raising of the pay of the soldiers, and decreases in receipts caused by the payment of payments by Germany for the army of occupation.

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