

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, FEB. 8, 1909.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

The British Board of Trade returns recently issued go to show that the wave of depression which has been passing over Great Britain in common with all other countries, has about spent itself, and that conditions are improving. While external trade has not been as good as in 1907, the visible total of 1908 trade was no less a sum than £114,000,000. That of 1907 was £114,000,000. While this indicates a considerable shrinkage, the falling off is but slight compared with the record of other countries. The total external trade of the United Kingdom is thus stated for each year since 1899, which was an exceptionally good year, the figures being given in millions of pounds:

Millions of £.	
1899	815
1900	877
1901	870
1902	878
1903	903
1904	922
1905	973
1906	1,069
1907	1,164
1908	1,050

It is shown by the analysis of these figures that the imports in 1908 were better than in any year save 1906 and 1907; that exports of British goods were better than in any year save 1907; and that the total trade was better than in any year save 1906 and 1907. The number of trade unionists out of employment during any part of 1908, is estimated at 8.1 per cent., a greater proportion than in any recent year, the percentage in 1904 having been 6.5. The monthly figures of imports and exports indicate a revival in trade during December. One of the large items which contribute to the lower trade figures of 1908 was a falling off of £28,000,000 in the import of raw materials. The figures are also, to a large extent, affected by the decline in values rather than in quantities.

A LITTLE PLAIN TALK.

The more one considers the decision of the majority at that informal aldermanic meeting on Friday night, the less is one's respect for the business acumen and good faith displayed in dealing with this power matter. No man can rise from a perusal of the proceedings without being convinced that some of those taking part in the meeting were less eager to serve the best interests of the city and its people than to inflict injury upon the Cataract Power Company, and that to enable them to damage this local investment they are quite willing not only to place an enormous liability on the shoulders of the people who pay the taxes, but to incur costly litigation, failing in which the city would be mulcted in heavy damages and costs; and in the event of success in defaulting we should win a veritable apple of Sodom in the "privilege" of paying a higher price for our power.

That Mayor McLaren should have recommended precipitancy in such an unbusinesslike and ineffective course will be a disappointment to many who expected to find in him a dignified, unprejudiced, practical presiding officer who could be counted upon to subordinate his personal antipathies to the public good and to place the interest of Hamilton and its people first. We cannot but think that when the Mayor reads over his own share in the discussion, he will find it hard to convince himself that his suggested solution of the difficulty (which is no solution at all) arose entirely from desire to serve the city well, or that all his references to the Cataract Company, the other party to the contract, were fair, free from personal rancour, and in the interest of justice and Hamilton. It is not pleasant to have to make this comment, but we should do less than our duty, if we neglected to point out the impolicy of allowing individual hostilities and prejudices to influence judgment in municipal business transactions and sway the council or any member thereof.

Let it be clearly understood that default on the part of the city cannot be remedied by the submission of another by-law, whether it be carried or defeated. The contract now in existence will lose nothing, gain nothing, in validity if the proposed by-law fails to carry. Mayor McLaren suggested three courses, (1) accept power and live up to our agreement; (2) default by taking only what we find to be absolutely necessary; (3) submit the question to the people. His Worship said the first course would do away with all possibility of litigation. He might have added that it was the profitable course, as well as the honorable and safe one. But he did not favor it. The third course met his view. The query as to whether that would settle it brought the reply: "It would have to." Of course his Worship is not to be regarded as oblivious to the fact of the existing contract, and his words must be read in its light.

A few days ago the Mayor advised that the Government be asked to place the Cataract Company within the regulation of the Dominion Railway Commission. The request was a reasonable one, and was approved generally, the only notable exception being the local Ontario Power Company organ. What it seeks is not the protection of the people from excessive rates, but the damaging of the local industry by taking from it the contract for the city supply of electricity. In spite of the Mayor's recent move to ask for regulation, which he said would preclude abuse of monopoly power, and while he poses as wishing to avoid injuring the local con-

cern, he on Friday night advocated committing the taxpayers to the Hydro scheme gamble at great cost, a scheme which involves a 30-year liability, during which term the city would be prevented from buying a dollar's worth of power from the local company or from any source save the Hydro-Electric Commission—all this that "we would be always in a position to put a check on the Cataract." Isn't that a very strange sort of Hamilton policy? Is there any excuse for it, especially in view of the adoption of the control policy asked for?

Another matter which is not unlikely to lead people to think that the Mayor and some of the aldermen are willing not only to risk a foolish and costly lawsuit to serve an outside interest, but even to invite waterworks disaster and a general rise in insurance rates, is the manner of referring to the much-needed new pumps. A short time ago the Council proved on oath in court that the city was so near the danger line in water pumping capacity that we could not afford to give a few people in Barton house supply. Now the advocates of Default, Delay and the Hydro scheme affect to think that the pumps are quite unnecessary, and even His Worship seemed to regard the present plant ample. The City Engineer when asked said: "There are times when the pumps are tested to the utmost capacity, and if at any time one broke it would be impossible to get the water that we need." Surely the proposal to extend the danger period a year or two years more to wait for the Hydro scheme is something very much like a crime against the city and an invitation to the underwriters to increase our insurance rate thousands yearly!

A good deal of very childish talk was indulged in as to the Cataract Company "not living up to its agreements." His Worship asked if there was "anything to show that they would not break their contract," and remarked that "they have done it before." These statements should be specific. Contracts are instruments enforceable by the courts, and the Council is usually fond enough of law to get their decision. On what is this talk of contract-breaking based? Who is now trying to break a contract? Unfortunately all this foolish talk (whether deliberately purposed or not) creates prejudice in the aldermanic and public mind, and the clear reason which seeks only justice, amity and the good of the city is not helped by prejudice.

One thing the aldermen should not lose sight of, and that is that the submission of a by-law cannot nullify a contract. The step proposed will serve to waste some money, to cause delay, to involve the city in some loss, but it can settle nothing. If the aldermanic majority wishes to default, let it do so without pretence and without adding further expense and lengthening the peril to which their un-Hamilton course exposes the city. No excuses are necessary. In the light of patent facts he who runs may read their motives.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Toronto has about \$35,000,000 of tax exemptions. And the city is still holding out more such "inducements" to coax industries thither.

A Toronto barber has developed smallpox. He shaved a great many people on Saturday, and now the health authorities are wondering how many new cases will be traced to that barber shop.

A few more men of Ald. Peregrine's business grasp and outspoken honesty are to be desired in the City Council. He is there to do the best for the people, and he declines to play to the gallery or pander to un-Hamilton interests.

Mr. Hellmuth's opinion is diametrically opposed to that of the City Solicitor on the matter of the Council having the right to deal with a five-year power contract. But Mr. Justice Anglin and Mr. Rose take the City Solicitor's view.

Mr. Thomas Southworth, who has done such excellent work in connection with forestry in Ontario, has resigned, and will enter business life. He is the sort of man whose services should have been retained.

Sunday's bloody tragedy at Shelburne has the appearance of another case of the maniac at large. Will it ever be possible for society to protect itself against men of unbalanced mind by applying restraint before they develop murderous tendency?

Ald. Ellis admits that the street lighting contract price is low. Well, the power price is 10 per cent. lower than the Hydro's "cost price," and no risk to the ratepayers. Why would you try to break such an agreement? Not in the city's interest, evidently.

Talk about the Cataract Company "breaking its agreements," Mr. Mayor, who it is agreed to that fixed assessment on the Terminal Station, and then when the building was erected, tried to default, and was held down to the agreement by the county judge?

What private employer would keep five minutes in his service a manager who would exchange a most profitable contract for a less profitable one, with chances of an action for damages for default? It is only in the municipal service that people are so imposed upon.

Parole Officer W. P. Archibald, in an address at Toronto yesterday, pointed out that of 2,046 prisoners paroled in

nine years, only thirty-five had lapsed into crime, while 1,135 have already earned their full liberty. In view of these results, why should any Canadian seek to introduce the dangerous indeterminate sentence system in this country?

The average earnings of United States railways per capita of population along their lines, is said to be \$29; of Canadian railways, \$26. Taking the Intercolonial by itself, its earnings are \$9.36. That in itself indicates that the task of making the Intercolonial pay is likely to prove a heavy one.

Mayor McLaren questions whether it was fair on the city's part to take advantage of the Government's (Hydro) scheme to get "a good bargain" from the Cataract Company. But surely solicitude for the Hydro scheme would not influence aldermen to try to lose the city this "good bargain"!

From Washington comes the news that as a result of French tariff discrimination against the United States, and the advantages which Canada gains under the new French treaty, many United States industries will be induced to build factories in Canada. We have plenty of room for them and they will be welcome.

An estate of \$50,000 has been wound up in Hamilton, and the law costs were \$40,000.—Toronto Globe.

Our contemporary refers to the Todd case, over which there was much litigation. But it has been misled by taking its information from an untrustworthy source. A solicitor connected with the case says that the costs may perhaps reach one-quarter of that amount.

Does Ald. Morris and Ellis really think that if their motion of Friday night should be acted upon and a by-law relating to the power contract be submitted to the people it would "settle the matter"? It would have no more practical utility than a declaration of a majority of the Council that the part is greater than the whole.

One of Toronto's schemes for advertising it as an industrial centre is the organization of a brass band which is to tour the continent under the direction of its commissioner of industries. Why not secure a few of the out-of-work attractions of the industrial fair to accompany it. A few of the cake-walkers and ballet dancers might prove quite an attraction.

The city of Toronto went to New York for its filtration plant engineer, and the other day when the plans were being brought across the line they were seized and held by the customs authorities for \$5,000 duty. It would be something like poetic justice if moss-backed protectionist Toronto should be required to pay the sum as a measure of protection to Canadian engineers and filtration experts.

Toronto seems to have a large number of professional "unemployed." The Associated Charities asked 1,126 unemployed registered there to report for work in the parks. Of these 342 failed to show up. Snow shovelling was provided for 1,320, and 513 shirked the job. Of 481 cases investigated 178 were ascertained to be frauds. These parasites on the public make it difficult for the honest men to secure proper consideration.

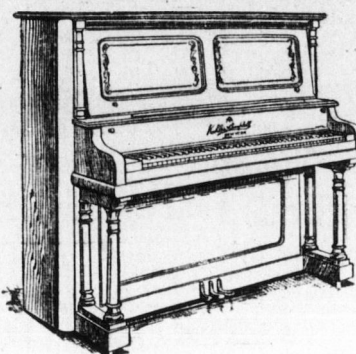
Mr. Justice Anglin evidently did not give any weight to the argument that the Council had no right to enter into the power contract for more than one year. He read section 566, sub-sect. 6, of the Consolidated Municipal Act, as giving it ample power to contract with an existing "gas or electric light company" for the supply by contract by such gas or electric company of gas or electric energy or light for street lighting and other public uses for a term of not less than five years and not more than ten years. No expert is needed to interpret the Judge's opinion in this part of the matter.

When the Hamilton Herald first got the text of the Hydro-Electric power contract which municipalities are compelled to sign, and which binds them to buy power from the commission, and from no other source, for thirty years, at an unknown price, it was staggered. In a "moment of weakness" it protested that the contract was "not what it ought to be," that the municipalities "ought not to be expected to bear the loss" in prices of power, which might eventually be greater "than they had expected to be." It emphatically declared that it did not approve of such conditions. It felt itself constrained to warn the aldermen that it "did not think it would be prudent for this city voluntarily to cut it off from another source of supply" by signing a contract that bound it in such an ironclad monopoly. Yet this same contract is now urged upon the Council by the un-Hamilton organ! What removed its scruples? What induced its consent to the betrayal of the city, think you?—or should we say how much?

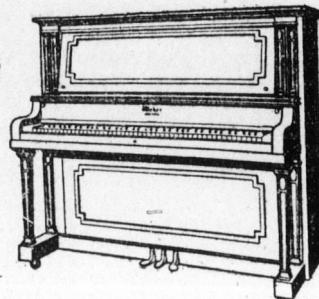
SUCCESSION DUTIES.
To the Editor—Up to what amount is the estate of a dead man exempt from succession duty?
Subscriber.

That depends. No duty can be levied if the estate is valued at \$10,000 or less, but there are other provisions in the act. For instance, no duty is levied on property passing to a grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, husband, wife, child, daughter-in-law or son-in-law, where the value of the property of deceased does not exceed \$50,000. Life insurance to the extent of \$5,000 is also exempt when it goes to such heirs as are mentioned above.

Geo. W. Carey Going Out of the Piano Business



Now is the Time to Take Advantage of Our Big Reductions in Prices



Everything Must Go—Store Is For Rent—Fixtures For Sale

If you ever expect to buy a Piano, this is the place and now is the time to buy it—CHEAP. We are going to retire from the piano business and the goods have got to be sold. There are no "ifs" or "ands" or "buts"—the word is MUST, and price has got to do it. This means that all of our fine stock of MASON & RISCH, NEW SCALE WILLIAMS, HAINES BROS., NEWCOMBE and DOMINION Grands, Uprights and Inner Players will be sold. NOT A MAKE OR STYLE WILL BE WITHHELD.

The customer who comes this week will have the choice from the BEST STOCK OF PIANOS IN CANADA TO-DAY. The stock as it stands is not only large in numbers, but it is varied. The goods are all new, and the majority of Pianos have been on our floors less than 90 days.

Remember when you can buy world-renowned Pianos at these prices it is worth a special effort on your part to try and make your family happy.

Mason & Risch, New Scale Williams, Haines Bros., Dominion and Newcombe lines are still complete, other less expensive lines still unbroken

Any new \$750 Piano will sell for \$558
Any new \$700 Piano will sell for \$528
Any new \$650 Piano will sell for \$498
Any new \$550 Piano will sell for \$387
Any new \$500 Piano will sell for \$337
Any new \$475 Piano will sell for \$328
Any new \$450 Piano will sell for \$317

Any new \$425 Piano will sell for \$300
Any new \$400 Piano will sell for \$298
Any new \$375 Piano will sell for \$278
Any new \$350 Piano will sell for \$253
Any new \$325 Piano will sell for \$228
Any new \$300 Piano will sell for \$198
Any new \$285 Piano will sell for \$187
Any new \$275 Piano will sell for \$148

Any Piano Can be Bought on Your Own Terms

Our easy terms will in no way be disturbed on account of the reduced prices. Our terms will, during this sale, be just what they have always been—your own terms. You can pay us a reasonable amount in cash at time of purchase, the balance in easy monthly payments—to suit your convenience.

GEO. W. CAREY

OPEN EVERY EVENING

King St. West : Hamilton

OPEN EVERY EVENING

OUR EXCHANGES

The Backyard.
(London Free Press.)
But a few weeks hence and spring gardening will be in full fling.

Joe's African Prototype.
(London Advertiser.)
The Mad Mullah is on the rampage again. He seems to be the Joe Martin of African politics.

Finish It.
(Ottawa Citizen.)
The Government has spent \$795,000 in making beautiful the Capital. Here's what we all say: "Let Laurier finish his work."

An Evil.
(Toronto Telegram.)
And the Marathon craze has turned the ambitions of Canadian youth away alike from headful sport and useful employment.

His Winning Way.
(Brooklyn Times.)
The Hon. G. P. Graham, by a fairly good imitation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's "sunny ways" game, has succeeded in insinuating himself more or less into the good graces of the House.

Lake's Mistake.
(Ottawa Free Press.)
Sir Percy Lake, by his speech in Toronto on Thursday night, has, we are very much afraid, once more proved how difficult it is for an Imperial officer to grasp the importance of weighing his words before uttering them.

The White Man's Burden.
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
A redman leads the world's long distance runners. A black man holds the title of heavyweight champion of the ring. A yellow man may come out of China or Japan and break the heart as well as the bones of the man who now claims to be the world's wrestler. Apparently the white man is losing the high place he long held on the scale of culture.

Longboat and the Police.
(Toronto News.)
No one could expect him to make a success in the cigar business with a \$20,000 pair of legs. A shoemaker can't make hats. The only blurb on his character is that he licked a couple of policemen in Hamilton after drinking up some of the liquor they sell there. The reproach is due him, because he did not trim more of the policemen who allow the distribution of amateur whiskey in the decadent drinking places of the Ambitious City.

Henry Moss, of Toronto, succumbed to injuries received by falling 100 feet down an elevator shaft.

Rev. Clarence MacKinnon, of Winnipeg, has declined the call to St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 1909

SHEA'S

Skirts Made to Measure of Sale Goods \$1.25 for

Our Winter Clearing Sale

Don't miss this splendid sale for it will not last very much longer, but while it does last you will get such bargains as never were offered in Hamilton before. Everything of a winter nature must be cleared within the next two weeks.

DRESS GOODS AT 50c, \$1.00 VALUES—Hundreds of yards of elegant All-wool Dress Goods, 44 to 56 inches wide, blacks, browns, navies, in taffetas, espingles, Panamas, and other weaves, goods that have sold readily at 75c and \$1.00, on sale to-morrow for, per yard

50c

MAINTLE CLOTHS AND COSTUME CLOTHS 60c—50 to 56-inch cloths in blacks, colors and plaids, heavy weight and medium weight, some costume cloths, goods worth \$1.50 to \$2.50, all one price, per yard.

69c

BLOUSES AT \$1.95, WORTH \$3.50 TO \$5.00—Silks, Nets and Laces, blacks, white and colors, embroidered and applique trimmed. Waists that sell regularly for \$3.50 to \$5.00, on sale to clear at, each

1.95

WOMEN'S \$1.25 VESTS AND DRAWERS FOR \$1.00—Turnbull's Fat Knit, the very best goods of the kind in Canada, natural wool and unshrinkable, full \$1.25 value, on sale to clear at, per garment

87 1/2c

CORSET SAMPLES LESS THAN WHOLESALE—A quantity of dark Corset Samples, in every style of this celebrated make, worth 50c to \$1.00, on sale to clear from

\$2.75

UNDERSKIRTS AT \$1.95, WORTH \$3.50—Made of "Hyde Grade" Taffeta, made by the same mills that weave the "Heatherloom." These Skirts are very wide, with beautifully embroidered flounces; all black; have all the good qualities of silk and none of the bad; worth \$3.50, on sale Tuesday for

\$1.95

WOMEN'S COMBINATION SUITS, 98c—All wool and part wool, union or combination suits in several weights, natural and white; worth \$1.50 to \$2.25, on sale Tuesday for per suit

98c

WOMEN'S COATS ON SALE A VERITABLE SLAUGHTER

\$25 to \$50 Coats for \$15.00 \$15 to \$18 Coats for \$8.95 \$20.00 Coats for \$10.00 \$10 to \$13 Coats for \$6.95

BIG TIME.

Five Thousand Pairs of Shoes and Socks For the Footsore.

"Sullivan! Sullivan! A grand old Irish name: Sullivan! Sullivan! A name for the Hall of Fame."

New York, Feb. 8.—They're singing that on the Bowery to-day, and they mean it. For this is the date of "Big Tim" Sullivan's annual shoefest, on which occasion he will give away 5,000 pairs of shoes, with the hose to go with them, and thereby gladden as many poor chaps who have been hooting it through the snow and slush with bur-lap wrappings and paper stuffed shoes. All along the Bowery the shoelaces are gathering to-day for the descent on the Metamora Club, at 207 Bowery, where "Big Tim" and the Timothy D. Sullivan Association have their being. It isn't likely that 5,000 pairs of shoes will be enough to go around. Usually about 3,000 more pairs are needed. But the belated shoelaces will be comforted by a piece of change or some other recognition of the occasion, for no bare-

footed man is allowed to escape when "Big Tim" and his clubmen get to work.

"ORGIES OF OBSCENITY."

That is Archbishop Farley's Name for What Goes on in the Theatre.

New York, Feb. 7.—"The stage is worse to-day than it was in the days of paganism," said Archbishop Farley in his sermon in Saint Patrick's Cathedral to-day. He was preaching on the influence of bad example. The Archbishop said: "Where are we to find any who have lived in accordance with the precepts of God? All about us we have the men and women who are setting evil examples. Men hoary with age are often found inspiring with evil the minds of the young. They go to the public places and to the theatres in shamelessness and they bring with them youngsters who cannot escape corruption. "We see to-day men and women—old men and old women—who ought to know better, bringing the young to these orgies of obscenity."

Denman Thompson III.

New York, Feb. 7.—News was received in theatrical circles in this city to-day that Denman Thompson, the veteran actor of "The Old Homestead," is dangerously ill of pneumonia at his home

in West Swaney, near Keene, N. H. Mr. Thompson is 76 years old. So critical is his condition that his relatives have been summoned to his bedside.

BARTON COUNCIL.

Barton Township Council was called to meet in the township Hall, on the mountain, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and, in expectation of a pretty lively meeting, a larger attendance than usual was there. Liquor licenses and the question of an amusement park on Barton street east are the subjects to be discussed.

Handy Shur-On Eyeglasses

On and off with one hand by simply pressing a small spring with the forefinger and thumb, won't come off till you take them off. Get the GENUINE SHUR-ON and have it neatly fitted.

I. B. ROUSE
111 King East