The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, JULY 6.

BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR TORONTO

Just what reform in procedure would transform any average Toronto city council into a body of business men, intent upon nothing but getting the business of the city transacted, and without regard to what any one thought or whether they ever sat in the council again or not, would be very hard to say. That it is not altogether the men who are to blame is evident from the fact that no matter how good a man may be, or how intelligent, or independent, once he gets caught up in the loops of council procedure he is resolved into his component parts, loses his individuality, abandons his ideals and his resolutions, and gets into the drift along with the no-accounts. Some of the aldermen find it impossible to understand why the business of the city cannot be run as their own business is run, with efficiency, economy and despatch. The reason is that the aldermen are not in agreement as to the desirability of running the business of the city with efficiency, economy and despatch. Some of the aldermen want to run the business for political purposes. Some of them want to run it with a view to their own influence in the wards. Some of them honestly do not know how best to run it and do not like to show their ignorance. Some of them are influenced by important interests with which they are more or less identified. Some of them are afraid of the taunt that they merely endorse the acts of the officials, which is frequently the wisest thing they could do.

Out of all this difference of opinion and of aim it is no wonder that the city business lags and is obstructed and often entirely disorganized. We have found fault at times with the aldermen, but more frequently with the system under which they work, which is, we believe, responsible for their impotence. Individuals occasionally take advantage of the system to make themselves obnoxious and obstructive to the other members, and we have not hesitated in such cases to say so. But we have constantly insisted upon a remedy, and we have suggested one. We do not believe that any real progress or improvement can be made under the present system. Instead of growing better, it appears to grow worse. We have the testimony of The News last Friday to this, and The News is an upholder and defender of the system rather than the reverse.

There is a difference between fault-finding and fact-stating, and it is not always observed. The News does more than state facts in its criticism of the city council. It objects to the action of the council in some respects, and it defends the council on other counts. It objects to the annexation of Cedarvale, for instance, and it commends the refusal to create a square in front of the new postoffice building. The News wishes to have everything in the present city completed and finished and brought to a state of abstract perfection before any new burdens and responsibilities are undertaken. If such a thing were possible we would gladly accede to the idea of business The News sets up. But nothing is clearer or surer than the impossibility of any such condition. No living, growing, expanding organism can ever be said to have reached perfection, and cities are subject to the same laws as other organisms. As soon as Toronto stops growing it will be possible to sit down and trim the edge off it, and run a border round it, and give it a neat margin, and invite people to see the effect.

Toronto, however, is a huge modern city, growing as only American and Canadian cities grow, with a rapidity which old-world municipalities rarely experience. As a result the machinery which was adequate for a small town or village utterly fails to grapple with the task on hand. When a five-ton crane tries to lift a hundred tons and tries hard it pulls itself over. The harder it tries the more it topples. That is what is the matter with the Toronto City Council. It has not a big enough lift in it. There are diverse interests in the city as well as in the city council, and some of these do not wish to see the city expand. There are the downtown real estate men, for example, who do not want expansion in the suburbs, because it will pay them better to concentrate population in a small urban area. They know what immense fortunes have been made in this way in the old country. They know that if the people are not allowed to move into suburban areas with the conveniences that city government can supply, they can be herded together downtown. This is a matter about which there is no difference of opinion. It is the agreement on this point which brings about the condition. Dr. Hastings, the M.O.H. will confirm this fact, even tho he does object to annexing any more territory. He is looking at the problem from one point of view when he makes a joint official report, and he is looking at it from quite another point of view when he is talking as a man of science and a citizen. The News is, no doubt, somewhat puzzled when it contemplates this state of things, but it is clearly due to the system, which does not provide for efficiency and economy and despatch, but merely for expediency. So we cannot blame the officials altogether if they bring in a report which is not efficient nor economical nor calculated to accelerate city business, but is merely expedient under the circumstances which the officials are up against.

So The News tells us to reorganize the treasury department, appoint a commissioner of finance, instal proper accounting methods, establish a sick and pension fund for employes, pass a bylaw to grade salary increases, and in general have a desirable clean-up. With all of which we are in hearty accord. But it has been found in the United States, as we have already found it there, that the system will not carry itself, and constantly breaks down under its own weight. What we need is a new system which will eliminate the personal factor which is the real weakness of the aldermen in the city council, which will introduce the highest ability and skill and experience in the administration of the city departments, and which will not set a premium on a small and mean policy in dealing with the future of the city. What, in fact, is needed, is a business system. This can only be provided, so far as present municipal experience shows, by the German "Magistrat" method. It combines the elective and the appointive, the legislative and the administrative. It gets the best out of both sides of the municipal government. And there is not a paper in Toronto but The World that has a good word for it. What is the good of talking about good government and efficiency and economy and all the rest of it if the means are not adopted to get them?

OCEAN SAFETY.

Fully one-half of the ocean going tonnage of the world is composed of ships that fly the British mercantile flag. That position is not held without a heavy toll of life. During the debate on the second reading of his Merchant Shipping Convention Bill, the Right Hon. John Burns, president of the board of trade in the government, stated that in the last twenty years 4700 British vessels of 3,000,000 tons had gone down with 18,474 human lives. Marked as have been the advances and improvements in ship construction and in the means of avoiding accident, the dangers of ocean navigation remain, with fog, the most dreaded of a sailor's enemies, still to be overcome.

This bill is an effort to provide against all conceivable fatalities that may be classed under the head preventable. The compulsory use of wireless telegraphy is imposed on all vessels carrying more than fifty persons, either passengers or crew, while the rules governing the provision and use of life-saving appliances and the construction and manning of ships have been thoroly overhauled. Special attention is given to the North Atlantic region, with particular reference to the dangers arising from floating ice and derelicts and from confusion due to uncertainty regarding the routes adopted by the various shipping companies. Looking to the Empress of Ireland and later disasters caused by collisions during fogs, the rules of navigation ought also to be free from doubt under such conditions, and possibly Lord Mersey and his colleagues may have some practical recommendations on this point.

A NATIONAL BUILDING LOAN BANK.

Italy, in common with all other civilized nations, is feeling the pinch caused by the large increase in the cost of living. Rents, especially in the great centres of population, are described as having increased to an intolerable degree. Nor does there appear to be any expectation of early relief, notwithstanding the success that has attended the conduct of co-operative building associations for the construction of dwelling houses for working men and employes. Their records show that in spite of the higher cost of material and labor, suitable dwelling houses of this class can be built at an outlay that permits of the fixing of rentals at a reasonable amount. This has led to the proposal that the government should establish a national building loan bank, with its central office in Rome, and operating thruout Italy by means of agencies in the various centres.

The capital suggested at the outset is 50,000,000 lire, or about $10,000,000, to be gradually increased in succeeding years to double that amount. From its resources the bank would advance to building associations, building firms or individuals amounts representing three-fourths of the cost of construction, provided the applicant can prove ability to supply the remaining quarter. The value of the site would be counted as forming part of the share contributed by the borrower, who must expend the balance in construction before any advance on the loan becomes available. Interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. is proposed to be charged the principal to be liquidated within a period not exceeding fifty years. Provision is also made for the issue of certificates by the bank in amounts attractive to small investors on the guarantee of the mortgage securities. The Italian Government is reported to be seriously considering the project.

REVISITING THE WEST.

It is reported that Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier are to again cross the continent. Four years ago Sir Wilfrid made something like a royal progress thru the west, but he was shrewd enough to observe that in spite of the honor paid him as the first citizen of the country, the western people were far from satisfied with his administration. In his anxiety to retain his hold upon the prairie provinces he hurried into the reciprocity agreement with President Taft and thereby wrecked his government.

A year later the present prime minister, then leader of the opposition, stumped the west in anticipation of the approaching Dominion elections, standing firmly on his anti-reciprocity platform, but promising to redress many grievances.

This summer the leaders will find the west less buoyant but no less insistent. Sir Robert will have to face and deal with the demands for free wheat, equalization of freight rates and the stimulation of immigration and colonization. Sir Wilfrid, having already declared in their favor, can more readily meet these demands when returned to power. On the other hand the present government has to its credit the grain commission, the construction of government elevators, local and terminal, and real progress with the Hudson Bay Railway.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S CLUB.

Mrs. Ambrose Small will address the Canadian Business Women's Club at Queen Mary tea rooms, 114½ Yonge street, tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. Her subject will be, "Life in the Harem." All welcome.

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WINNIPEG AMERICANS PROUD OF CANADA

Special to The Sunday World.

WINNIPEG, Man., July 4.—Two telegrams were sent out this morning by Americans living in Winnipeg, first to President Wilson of the United States, and the other to the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada. The telegrams read as follows: To the President of the United States, Washington, D.C.: Esteemed Sir,—Americans in Winnipeg from the thirty States of the American Union, observing the one hundred and thirty-eighth anniversary of the beginning of American independence, send cordial greetings from home to the motherland. Their observance today expresses their admiration for the great works of the United States. Their hearts are divided between generous Canada and bountiful United States.

They sincerely wish for continued and increased American prosperity and progress thru your presidency and future, for steady growth in this great country, and for the day of universal brotherhood. (Signed) All Winnipeg Americans.

To H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, Ottawa: Esteemed Sir,—Americans in Winnipeg, observing the one hundred and thirty-eighth anniversary of the beginning of the American independence, desire to express to you their appreciation of the most cordial and friendly relations fostered by and existing with the people of Canada.

Our special message of the day is our declaration of pride in kinship thru descent and by adoption with maternal Britain and with the people of Canada. (Signed) Winnipeg Americans.

N. W. ROWELL SPEAKS AT BUFFALO CONVENTION

BUFFALO, N.Y., July 4—A patriotic demonstration and a parade were planned for the last day of the ninth annual International Epworth League Convention. Charles W. Fairbanks, former vice-president, and N. W. Rowell, M.L.A., of Toronto, were to be the speakers at the demonstration scheduled for late today. The singing of "Nearer My God to Thee" by a chorus of 15,000 voices massed around McKinley Monument was a feature.

VENTILATION GOOD IN MINE ENQUIRY

Other Conditions Appeared Normal Before Disastrous Explosion, He Testifies

Special to The Sunday World.

HILLCREST, Alta., July 4.—Daniel Briscoe, fire boss in Hillcrest Mine for three years and a half, was called at a session of the official enquiry this morning. Briscoe was in the mine up to 10 o'clock the night previous to the explosion. The mine was not working at the time, but he made an examination of the main roads and found gas in No. 3 south entry. Not by any means an unusual amount, but as required he posted notice outside, the mine on a warning-board. Dust was about normal and heat was nothing unusual, while there was plenty of moisture all over the district he covered. He considered the ventilation of the mine good. There had been no trouble to his knowledge with the system of ventilation, the fans being powerful enough for workings as they are.

PREPARE FOR TRIAL OF MME. CAILLAUX

Special to The Sunday World.

PARIS, July 4.—Madame Henriette Caillaux, who on March 16 last shot and killed Gaston Calmette, editor of The Figaro, was visited today in St. Lazare Prison by Judge Louis Albanet, president of the criminal court which is to try her. Following the legal usage of France, the judge formally read the indictment to the prisoner. When asked if she persisted in the statements she had previously made to the investigating magistrate Madame Caillaux replied in the affirmative. The meeting between the judge and prisoner took place in the office of the prison warden. Madame Caillaux's hand shook as she signed the copy of the questions and replies. She said: "That is the effect of hypodermic serum which she doctor gave me this morning."

It is generally assumed that she is submitting to anti-typhoid injections.

GOVERNMENT WHEELS STOP.

WASHINGTON, July 4.—The wheels of the government practically were at a standstill today, while the national capital joined in with other cities and hamlets of the nation in celebration of Independence Day. There were no sessions of congress, the White House virtually was deserted, the executive departments were closed and President Wilson and other officials of the government laid aside official duties to participate in patriotic celebrations here or elsewhere. The itinerary of the various officials took President Wilson to Philadelphia for an address.

POISONOUS MATCHES

In less than two years it will be unlawful to buy or to use poisonous white phosphorous matches
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AND THUS ENSURE SAFETY IN THE HOME.
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HEIR TO BEAUMONT FORTUNE WILL WED

MONTREAL, July 4.—A London cable to The Daily Mail says: Baroness Beaumont, who is not yet out of her teens, has become engaged to the Hon. Bernard-Fitzalan Howard, heir to Lord Howard of Glossop.

This announcement heralds a union between two of the oldest families in the country. Lady Beaumont has been a peeress in her own right since the age of 2, when the title, which fell into abeyance on the death of her father, was continued by Queen Victoria.

The Beaumonts are one of the oldest Roman Catholic families in England.

LOG KILLS BERRY PICKER.

PEMBROKE, Ont., July 4.—Joseph Wagner, aged 16 years, son of Henry Wagner, Pembroke, was killed instantly this morning by a log rolling on him while out picking berries in the woods about two miles from town. An inquest will be held.

HAMILTON BOY DROWNED.

KENORA, Ont., July 4. — John P. Pearson, a young man, was drowned while in bathing near Cameron Island, some forty miles out on Lake of Woods. The body was recovered. Deceased is said to have an uncle manager of a radiator company on William street, Hamilton.

AT OSGOODE HALL

July 4, 1914.

Judge's Chambers.
—Before Kelly, J.—

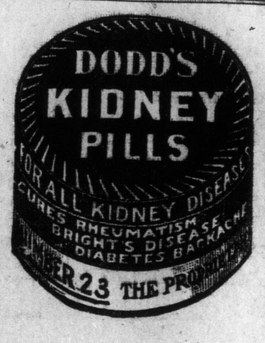
Clarkson v. Munro.—Gordon (Bicknell & Co.), for plaintiff, obtained order on consent for payment out of court to plaintiff of $13,337.57.

Re Imperial Paper Mills Co.—A. McL. Macdonell, K.C., for the company, obtained order extending time for application for leave to appeal from judgment of Valin, J., of District Court of Niplissing, to and including Aug. 4 next.

Trial.
—Before Sutherland, J.—

The British Whig Publishing Co. v. Harpell.—A. B. Cunningham (Kingston), for plaintiff. A. MacGregor for defendant. Action to recover $1000 on four notes for that amount made by defendant in plaintiff's favor. The defence was that they were accommodation notes and given without consideration.

Judgment: I am of opinion that the notes when given were the notes of the defendant and not given in any representative capacity for the committee. Neither were the notes given for the accommodation of the plaintiff company or Mr. Pense, but because the plaintiff company, thru Pense, was pressing for payment of an account which at that time was the defendant's account and incurred in substantial part by him. There will, therefore, be judgment for the plaintiff for the amount of the four notes, namely, $1000, together with appropriate interest and costs.



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