

THE TORONTO WORLD

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Walter Harvey, Agent.

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RESTORE THE SAFEGUARDS.

Now that the judicial committee of the privy council has taken upon itself to change and vary the plain meaning and intent of the agreement between the City of Toronto and the Street Railway Company, the question may well be asked whether the safeguards of which the city has been deprived should not be restored by act of the provincial assembly. Even if, from a legal point of view, the privy council has extended due justice to the citizens by holding the clauses derogating from the exclusive rights given to the company to have been inconsistent therewith, and therefore nugatory, the fact remains that they formed part of the consideration for the franchise and were intended to be and accepted as being valid and binding on the contracting parties.

Whether the legal interpretation placed on the agreement be technically sound or the reverse there has been a distinct failure to uphold the equities of the case. A situation has been created, thru the removal of the supervisory control given to the city council and engineer, which may in the near future imperatively call for legislative remedy either directly or by an enlargement of the powers of the provincial railway board.

Proposed by the public utilities bill now before the legislature of the State of New York and approved by Governor Hughes, this measure was rendered necessary by the gross disregard of public rights exhibited by the public service corporations of that state, a disregard paralleled in its measure by the past proceedings of the Toronto Street Railway Company.

Sections 51 and 52 of the New York bill provide that if in the judgment of the state commission any railroad or street railroad corporation does not run trains enough or cars enough or possess or operate motive power enough or does not run its trains with sufficient frequency or at a reasonable or proper time upon a reasonable time schedule, the commission shall have power to direct any officers or servants of the corporation to secure service to be given.

That such regulations are required is entirely due to the fault of the companies affected themselves. It was the desire to secure proper service in the interests of the citizens which caused the inclusion in the Toronto agreement of the clauses now declared futile for their admitted purpose. The franchiseholders now escape from them on an interpretation which disregards a vital part of the consideration in respect of which they got the privilege of operating the street railway. Equity calls for a legislative remedy.

THE NEW POSTAL REGULATIONS.

Canadian newspapers have profited largely from the indulgence of the postoffice department, they are business organizations and they will appreciate the business proposition point of view.

While the new regulation will mean to the newspapers greater cost for distribution, still it is within their power to adapt themselves to the changed conditions. It may be that they are at present over-taxing their advertisers in favor of their readers.

There will come a time when they must decide whether they will raise the price of their subscription or increase their advertising rates. This also is a business proposition.

In any event it does not become Canadian journalism to whine over the action of the federal government, which, so far as The World can see, stands in this particular instance to distribute more justly the burden upon the postoffice department.

QUEENSLAND IMMIGRATION LEAGUE.

Canada's phenomenal success in attracting old country emigrants appears to have been the prime factor in the movement, now general in Australia, making for abandonment of her not merely passive, but actively hostile attitude towards the influx of new citizens.

The league that led to the discouragement of immigration to the great island continent were due in large measure to its political conditions and the influence of the extremists of the labor party who held that competition for employment must necessarily affect the rate of wages.

The commonwealth now finds itself being rapidly outstripped in population and industrial and agricultural development by the Dominion, and is beginning to realize that its national salvation requires the adoption of a more liberal and progressive policy.

The near future will certainly witness a keen struggle for the British emigrant, and it must not be taken for granted by Canada that her present lead will be maintained. This is one of the considerations that render it in the highest degree advisable to protect intending emigrants to Canada from inaccurate and misleading representations and to secure that their first impressions are of a favorable and satisfactory character.

In the issue of The Queensland, just received, an account is given of the Immigration League of that Australian state. Its objects are "the education of the Queensland people as to the need of increased population of the agricultural class; the dissemination of information, both in Australia and in Europe, with regard both to immigration and land settlement; practical assistance and advice to immigrants arriving in Queensland; and the advocacy of a vigorous policy of placing city people on the soil."

The league was launched in October last as a branch of the Immigration League of Australia, but a month later became independent of the general organization and is now preparing to carry on an active propaganda on its own account. In the appeal issued by the general manager, reference is made to the volume of immigration entering Canada, and the necessity of adopting "the Canadian policy of sending practical farmers to Great Britain and the continent to talk and who know what they are talking about, in the rural districts of the old land and the continent."

Queensland has an area of close on 100,000 square miles, and includes the whole northeastern portion of the Australian continent, while its total population is only a little over the half million. The state is therefore keenly interested in the "Asiatic" situation and has taken to heart the warning: "Fill your northern territory; therein lies your danger." Although subtropical in climate, Queensland possesses an exceptionally fine wheat growing belt, and the government has steadily pursued the policy of resuming ownership of the large runs originally sold at 60 cents per acre. The price paid averages \$5. The government is disposing of the agricultural land at the price it pays, plus the cost of survey. It may, therefore, prove a formidable rival to Canada as a new home for the British agriculturist. Ontario may learn something, too, from the determination of Queensland to conduct its immigration campaign independently of the federal authorities. The Dominion government does what it can to guide Canadian immigrants westwards to the loss of the eastern provinces, and Ontario can best secure its fair share of them by adopting a similar course to that of Queensland. This province offers exceptional advantages for the British agriculturist and should be for him a congenial home.

ENGLISH ACTORS AND GERMAN CRITICS.

Germans have always prided themselves on having been the discoverers of Shakespeare to a waiting world. Certainly since Goethe hit his torch at the flame of the great English dramatist, Germany has regarded the poet as the incarnation of the German spirit. Now, where has Shakespeare met with more tender and reverent treatment, carried

go into effect May 1st, and embrace Muskoka, Lake of Bays, Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, Sparrow Lake, Temagami, Cobalt, Grand Trunk agents will give full information and issue tickets which will permit stopovers at address J. D. McDonald, district passenger agent, Toronto.

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Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*

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AT ALL GROCERS.

SALARY CUT IMPERATIVE

PASTOR CAN'T FILL PEWS

Resignation of Rev. J. B. Silcox of Bond-St. Church Explained by Trustees.

Trustees of Bond-st. Congregation at Tabernacle claim that the reduction in the salary of Rev. J. B. Silcox, who has resigned the pastorate of the church, is forced upon them owing to their inability to make the receipts meet the expenditures.

While admitting the great ability of Rev. Mr. Silcox as a preacher, S. Brown, chairman of the finance committee, says he has not been able to make good in keeping the seats full, which is the very life and vitality of such a church as Bond-st., for it is without any endowment and depends entirely on the support of a limited membership and the offerings of its congregation.

A very large portion of the liquidation of the church's debts during the past two years came out of the church's jubilee fund, and for the first time in three years, the church paid all current expenses. He came to Toronto at a salary of \$500 a year less than he received in his old church.

This, it is claimed, Rev. Mr. Silcox has failed to do, and hence the proposed reduction, which has still to be ratified by a meeting of the congregation before it can go into effect.

When Mr. Silcox came to Bond-st. Church he was given a salary of \$2500, and that last year, for the first time in three years, the church paid all current expenses. He came to Toronto at a salary of \$500 a year less than he received in his old church.

A meeting of the congregation will be held on Wednesday night, to take action on the proposed reduction of salary.

In a letter read to his flock on Sunday, Mr. Silcox claimed that the debt of the church had been reduced \$7000, and that last year, for the first time in three years, the church paid all current expenses. He came to Toronto at a salary of \$500 a year less than he received in his old church.

The senate was only a group of officials appointed and maintained by one party or the other.

No government had any right to demand a political test from an applicant for public service.

It was as well to dismiss a look-keeper on a canal or the doorman of a public building as it was to dismiss one of the higher government officials. We have often witnessed the crucifixion of these minor officials, when the higher branches of the service were protected by public sentiment.

The existence of the patronage committee showed that public offices were not to be the legitimate spoil of the party.

The senate was the creation of the party, and the party was the senate. The first issue in the movement for civil service reform was the issue of the senate, and the senate was the issue.

The reform is demanded in the interest of the country, and of the service itself.

The annual reports were presented at the close of the meeting, which showed the present membership to total 1210. The largest single attendance during the year was when a company of 1000 men, led by General Booth of the Salvation Army.

The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$383.

Officers for 1907-1908.

The following officers were elected: President, John Turnbull; first vice-president, T. H. Mason; secretary, A. E. Huestis; assistant secretary, J. H. Huestis; treasurer, J. H. Huestis; literary correspondent, J. H. Huestis; committee, A. F. Park; J. M. Lator; E. N. Armour; F. H. Huestis; J. P. Mackay; Professor W. S. W. McLean; M. H. Irish (ex-officio); auditors, W. E. Lang and C. W. Fleming.

AT OSGOOD HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Masters' Chambers.

Cartwright, master, at 11 a.m.

Judges' Chambers.

The Hon. Chief Justice Meredith at 11 a.m.

Divisional Court.

No sittings of divisional court until Monday, May 6.

Court of Appeal.

Peremptory list for Tuesday at 11 a.m.:

1. Attorney-General v. Hargrave (continued).

2. Mol v. C. P. R.

Toronto Non-Jury Sittings.

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1. Toronto C. & B. Co. v. Crown

2. Alexander v. Cook.

3. Carriere v. Hyslop.

4. Farry Sound v. Flanner.

5. Ferguson v. Blisky.

6. Brand v. Kinning.

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MR. TURNBULL PRESIDENT

TORONTO CANADIAN CLUB

Last Speaker of Season, J. S. Willison, Who Says Senate is Merely Agent of Party.

The closing meeting for the season of the Canadian Club was held at McClenahan's last night, the retiring president, Mark H. Irish, being in the chair. The election of officers for the ensuing year took place. John Turnbull is the new chairman.

J. S. Willison spoke upon "Civil Service Reform."

Mr. Willison spoke strongly in condemnation of the senate, characterizing it as "the creature of the party, performing no other service than to act as the agent of the party."

He said the subject of civil service reform was not popular among politicians. Political evils flourish luxuriously during times of great prosperity and the only certain cure for corruption was a period of "hard times."

In Great Britain.

Political abuses by party favor seemed certain under party politics. Yet in Great Britain and most of the European countries corruption in the civil service was practically unknown. Offices, when vacant, were given to candidates in an open examination.

No candidate in the British treasury office made application for promotion save thru his official superior. Applications made thru members of parliament would induce the application of the cabinet ministers had little power to aid applicants.

The state railways of New Zealand were also closely safeguarded to prevent improper appointments in their service.

Emancipation of the civil service from party control had been made necessary in England in order to ensure freedom from crown abuses.

In the United States political corruption was a serious evil. When public offices under Andrew Jackson were looked upon as legitimate spoils for his party.

Reform began with Blaine, and Roosevelt had given the movement considerable help and impetus.

Conditions here had never been as bad as in the United States of 30 years ago, yet there was a need in Canada for some system to protect the civil service from the attacks of a vote-buying party. During the last two years there had been more dismissals from the service of the federal government than in the ten years previous.

Under the present conditions it was almost impossible to have a free government, and a representative civil service.

One difficulty was that the examination for our civil service was a qualifying and not a competitive one, and the test was purposely kept low.

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That's big value, men.