

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1880.
A morning newspaper published every day in the year by The World Newspaper Company of Toronto, Limited.
R. J. Maclean, Managing Director.
WORLD BUILDING, TORONTO.
NO. 40 WEST RICHMOND STREET.
Telephone Calls:
Main 5595—Private exchange connecting all departments.
Branch Office—40 South Main Street, Hamilton.
Telephone Regent 1344.
Daily World—2c per copy; delivered, 50c per month, \$1.35 for 3 months, \$2.60 for 6 months, \$4.00 per year in advance; or \$4.00 per year, 40c per month, by post in Canada (except Toronto), United Kingdom, United States and Mexico.
Sunday World—5c per copy, \$2.50 per year, by mail.
To Foreign Countries, postage extra.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 25.

Now is the Time for Street Car Company and City to Settle.

There appears to be a very general desire among certain classes to settle the strike by having the men paid proper wages and letting the people who ride on the cars pay higher fares. Several authorities in government circles have made statements of this description, and it would be wise for all those in authority to note well that such a proposal would be no solution at all, and entirely unsatisfactory to the public of Toronto. It may suit people who ride in motor cars, and who never enter a street car from one year's end to the other. What do they know of street cars who only motors know?

The people have a contract with the street railway company, and that contract is not to be judged by the profits in any one period, but on the returns over the whole period for which the people have to pay. The people's case is simply this—that if the company had made proper provision by any kind of reserve for the contingencies and emergencies of a thirty years' contract there would be no difficulty at all now. The company's gross and net revenue has been adequate over the thirty year period to meet all proper claims upon it, and neither the government nor any other authority has any right to impose any expense upon the public beyond what the contract calls for.

The company asserts that it cannot pay higher wages, that it has no money. But improvidence is no excuse for its own self-imposed evils, and it is no justification for unjust demands. Such an improvident contract as the street railway company has for its electric power supply is an example of why the street railway is unable to pay its men. But the main difficulty has been the payment of dividends on unnecessary stock holdings. Be this as it may, the company has obviously kept no reserve against such an emergency as the present.

We believe that the people, in spite of the situation imposed upon them by the company, would be willing to strain a point and relieve the company, as far as it is possible to do so, of the burden it has imposed upon them, if the company would be willing to relinquish its contract. The city and the company agree together, without prejudice, to recognize the present date as September 1, 1921, and proceed to close out the contract in all respects as if that date had arrived, met with very favorable comment. There would be no more objections to be raised to the procedure than there will be in 1921. There will be compensations on both sides for any possible disadvantages. The company avers it cannot pay the men adequate wages. It is, therefore, running at a loss, and should be glad to relinquish its contract. The city will be relieved of two years' intolerable haggling and squabbling over street railway conditions that constantly go from bad to worse and lower levels yet.

There need be no violation of the contract. As it was extended for ten years, it can be contracted for two. An immediate settlement could be effected. The city would take over the whole system, and start in on an agreement, link up the civic with the city system, and start in on a real reconstruction of Toronto. If the people were asked to vote on this today they would agree. If the company is in earnest in what they say about their shortness of cash, they should hasten to approve of the plan. It would relieve Toronto of a tremendous incubus which is holding back the city more than any other one factor. Those who raise objections have no grounds that will not be equally valid two years hence, when we must deal with what now is being done voluntarily. If the company refuse, then we shall know that their professions concerning the present strike situation are insincere.

Germany and the Peace Treaty.

Dr. Otto Bauer, the new premier of the German government, is quite as strong as his predecessor in his linguistic descriptions of the peace terms. He declares that "a defeated nation is being violated body and soul," and the general expression is that the peace is being signed under compulsion by a people incapable of resistance. There is not the slightest doubt about this, but a peace signed under compulsion is a natural sequel to defeat in an aggressive war. It will be difficult to prove that the German nation is being violated body and soul. Nothing beginning to look like what they did to Belgium or France or Rumania or Poland or even the Brest-Litovsk treaty with Russia has been proposed to Germany. The Germans, in fact, are getting out very lightly compared with what might have been exacted from

them or with what they proposed to exact from us had they won and we lost.

The peculiar thing about their protestations is that while they complain about being compelled to submit to superior force in signing the treaty, they will not admit that they have been defeated. They are still celebrating the victory of their army and navy, and have characteristically celebrated their conquest of the British navy by sinking all their vessels at Kiel and Scapa Flow so that they may not fall into the hands of the enemy. There is evidently a screw loose in the German mentality.

There is no competition among the Germans as among Canadians for the honor of signing the peace treaty. If Germany manages her affairs properly the men who have signed the treaty may be regarded in the same light as Americans now do the signers of the Declaration of Independence. It may be difficult for the Germans to see it, and some of them are insisting that the front rank racials shall not be delivered over to justice. Properly understood the peace treaty is a real Charter of Liberty for Germany, and they will be wise to see it fulfilled in every particular.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

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

MEMORIAL FOR NURSES

Editor World: In reply to a caption in your issue of the 24th, "Nothing but honor to nurses," I am glad to say that the memorial committee in charge of the Cavell bronze memorial, lately illustrated in a Sunday World, intends putting the names of the Ontario nurses who gave their lives in the war, on the side panels. The fund is under the patronage of Her Excellencies the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Hendrie, the provincial government and the city. The required amount has yet been reached, and Mr. A. E. Donovan, M.A., the treasurer, will gladly receive donations of large or small, to this end, at 584 Huron street, Toronto.

One Interested

OSGOODE HALL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Court.

Wednesday, June 25, at 11 a.m.: Re Olin, v. Y. Amos, Pappakeriazis v. Paramount, v. Langley, v. Dinick and Holford.

Master's Chambers.

Before J. A. C. Cameron, Master. Boye v. C. E. L. Babcock, for defendant, moved to set aside judgment, notice of trial, and costs to defendant, on the ground that the plaintiff's examination was defective.

Martens v. Stewart—B. Long, for defendant, moved to strike out defendant's counter-claim for failure to answer questions on plaintiff's examination for discovery. P. Arnold, for plaintiff, moved to strike out counter-claim. Reserved.

Ontario Motor Car Co. v. Gray—J. H. Gray, for defendant, moved to set aside proceedings. J. S. McLaughlin, for plaintiff, enlarged to 31st inst.

Aut. for defendant, obtained order dismissing action and vacation. His depends on consent without costs.

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McCowan v. Jermyn; Jermyn v. Jermyn—Frank Regan for defendant in both actions moved for order vacating certificates of his petition. R. H. Lennox, K.C., for plaintiff McCowan. U.C. for plaintiff Jermyn.

U.C. for plaintiff Jermyn. An early and efficient service is assured. Orders telephoned to Main 5308 will receive prompt attention.

Re Matthew H. Smith—G. Munnoch

POLITICAL NOTES

The provincial Liberal convention committee put in a warm day yesterday preparing the ground for the general meeting this afternoon. There was a wide range of discussion upon the subject and form of the resolutions which, when finished, will constitute the policy of the provincial opposition.

Naturally, the referendum had the lion's share of attention. The presence of ladies at the conference accounted for this. Liberal ladies, like Conservative ladies, are preeminently inclined to a head-over-ears immersion in the water wagon. They would have the convention read out of the party all who do not vote four "no's" upon the referendum ballot paper. The attitude of the delegates, however, is to regard the referendum as an essential business of the party, and as soon as the decision is known the political party in power is bound to act upon it. The Liberals, however, are inclined to make a party issue of the referendum, and to offer the present form of prohibition. They say that a referendum is a referendum, and that it is not a referendum, and they will go to the limit to repudiate and eradicate it. The outlook after a Liberal U.P.O. victory at the polls in the next election, supporting the prohibition, would be the destruction of the liquor in the cellars of the wealthy. A rural delegate declared yesterday with a smile of keen anticipation: "The first visit of the patrol wagon, with Solomon and Courian on board, will be to Government House."

Taxation figures among the political problems of the Liberals. To the ordinary man, the assessment act of the provincial legislature is a more serious concern than the tariff at Ottawa. There is a taxonomic drive which has invaded the Liberal party in favor of province-wide taxation of land values. Ottawa has been given the opportunity to try it out for the instruction or edification of other municipalities; but it is not at all certain that the ratepayers of Ottawa will accept the plan.

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PROPOSE INCREASES IN ALL PENSIONS

(Continued From Page 1).

For Totally Disabled. (c) That the additional pension for a married member of the forces, who is totally disabled, be increased from \$96 per annum, as it is at present, to \$180 per annum.

(d) That the additional pension for the first child of a widow or the first brother or sister of a deceased member of the forces be increased from \$144 per annum, as it is at present, to \$180 per annum.

(e) That the pension for the first orphan child or orphan brother or sister of a deceased member of the forces be increased from \$248 per annum, as it is at present, to \$350 per annum.

(f) That the addition to pension for those who are helpless, and in need of attendance be increased from \$300 per annum, as it is at present, to \$450 per annum.

The increases proposed in sub-sections