

The Toronto World

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TORONTO AND THE POWER COMMISSION.
Grave and important general questions are involved in the organization and operation of the Toronto Power Company, which, on the authority of Mr. William Mackenzie, is in intent and effect the Toronto Street Railway Company. This new power company holds and controls the Electrical Development Company and the subsidiary company that constructed the transmission line. It is in course of acquiring the Toronto Electric Light Company, which, like the Street Railway Company, holds a city franchise.

When these arrangements are completed the generating, transmitting and distributing plants supplying Niagara electricity for Toronto light, power and transportation will, along with the street railways and the radial railways, be under one control and may therefore be manipulated in any way that suits the capitalists and financiers who exercise it. The position would be extremely enough but for the protection afforded by the scheme of the hydro-electric power commission. Even as it stands the city is confronted by a situation calling for the utmost vigilance and for the conference of large, additional powers on the Ontario Municipal and Railway Board, and their extension to all municipal franchises.

What is emphatically needed in Ontario is a board with the large and ample powers of supervision and regulation of all public service corporations, such as are possessed by the public service commissions of New York, acting under the provisions of the enabling statute, which came into effect on July 1, 1907. Among the matters subjected to the New York commissions and bearing directly on the Toronto situation is the transfer of franchises or stocks. Not only may no franchise be transferred unless with the approval of the commission, but no railroad, gas or electric corporation may directly or indirectly acquire the stock or bonds of any other franchise-operating corporation unless authorized by the commission. And other sections provide that no merger or consolidation shall have the effect of increasing the capitalization and that there shall be no issues of stock, bonds and other forms of indebtedness without in order from the commission stating that the issues are reasonably required for the purpose of the corporation. And for ascertaining the propriety of the issues the commission may hold an investigation, examine witnesses and call for all books, contracts and documents necessary to show the true nature of the transaction.

When the City of Toronto granted franchises to the Street Railway Company and the Electric Light Company it had a right to expect that these services would be run on a straight independent business basis, that their capitalization would be fair and reasonable and that due regard would be had to the public interest in the conduct of the transportation service. In the case of the street railway it is evident that the commission, by its interpretation placed upon it by the private company has practically read the reserved powers out of the contract. And the introduction of the power company as a holding company with its identification of corporations whose interests are divergent and conflicting involves new dangers by creating an irresponsible monopoly during the remaining years of the franchise agreements. The city has an undoubted right to ask for an investigation into arrangements touching so closely two important public services and for legislation securing that contracts for the supply of Niagara power made by nominally independent but really controlled companies among themselves shall be subject to approval by a public board. The city council should take this matter up without delay, and should press forward with the construction of the public distributing plant. The power scheme of the government and the possession by the city of an independent supply of Niagara electricity is the best preparation against a possible hold-up when the franchises expire.

A BUSINESS SYSTEM FOR CIVIC EXPENDITURES.
Could commercial or financial enterprises stand the immense unnecessary drain on resources that municipalities seem content to submit to? We know not. Yet there is no reason why the

people's money should not be as sagaciously and economically administered as are the funds of private enterprise.

That the establishment of a central purchasing agency would save the city at least \$1,000,000 a year in administrative cost and that the amount saved on purchases of supplies would foot up not less than 25 per cent, which would approximate \$4,000,000 more yearly, was the opinion expressed by Dr. Fred Erick, Cleveland, who is engaged in promoting better municipal management, at the hearing of the legislative committee which is investigating New York's finances, the other day.

What would it do for Toronto?

Yesterday the Toronto Globe published without comment the following despatch:

Montreal, Dec. 2.—The chiefs of the two political parties are in conference here today regarding the results of the recent elections. Among those taking part are Messrs. L. P. Brodeur, H. B. Ames and P. D. Monk. It is expected that an agreement will be come to by which there will be no protests. If, however, no agreement is come to eleven seats of the Conservatives will be contested in the courts and twenty-five of the Liberals. December 5 is the last day for filing protests.

Probably few readers stopped to think what an item like this means. Could there be a more cynical comment upon the Elections Act or upon the sermons and sermonettes which adorn the secular press?

If this despatch be true, there is reasonable ground for believing that electoral corruption has prevailed in 36 out of the 65 ridings in Quebec. Yet we are asked to believe that a minister of the crown and two reputable members of parliament get together to prevent the truth from coming out. A similar report has been published in the Toronto newspapers, which avers that Hon. Geo. P. Graham and Mr. Barker, M.P., are arranging to saw-off election protests in Ontario.

It seems to be considered all right this practice of "sawing-off." Of what use then is it for parliament to pass elaborate laws against electoral corruption? Is the Aylesworth Act to be enforced? Surely his colleagues will not withhold from its author, who by the way is the attorney-general of Canada, any information which they possess. The Conservative members, above named, are gentlemen of high standing. Mr. Ames, in his own riding, not long since, unmasked a criminal law to bring the mat-factors to justice. He should not weary in well-doing.

If the saw-off is a proper thing why not have the negotiations conducted in public? And why confine these immunity baths to lawbreakers who defy parliament by infractions of the Elections Act? To be consistent we should not object to the man who is charged with theft, arranging a "saw-off" with his neighbor in the dock, who is charged with arson.

THE POOR BARN'S CHRISTMAS BANQUET.
Probably no lines of Burns' are more often quoted with approval as embodying an ideal at once simple and noble than those of the well known stanza:

"To make a happy fireside clime
For weans and wife,
That's the true pathos and sublime
O' human life."
In Toronto this coming Christmas Day there will be many happy home gatherings, whose atmosphere will radiate all that the festival means to old and young. But unfortunately there are even in this land of opportunity and in this prosperous city, hundreds of bairns for whom Christmas will not be gladness without the helping hand



O'Keefe's STAR BEER
A NON-INTOXICANT
A light temperance drink embodying all the good qualities of the finest lagers. The rich, creamy, delicious flavor of Star Beer has given it tremendous popularity. Less than 1% alcohol—absolutely non-intoxicating.
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The Success of the Christmas Pudding depends upon what goes into the bowl.
Only the Best is good enough, and the Best is at Michie's.
Currants, Raisins, Candied, Peel Flavorings, Almonds, Spices, Etc.
Michie's Cooking Sherry 65c. a Bottle
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Political Intelligence.

The British Columbia papers, irrespective of party, treat the Conservative gains in Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo as a distinct victory for Premier McBride. The Prince Rupert Empire (Ind.), however, will not admit that the premier is anything more than a skillful politician. It says:

Better terms is a cry of political mendicants, and Premier McBride has been a political mendicant all his life, not having brains enough to formulate an issue that would appeal to thinking people who are not mendicants. Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo were carried by the more Conservatives because there were more Conservatives on the voters' lists than Liberals; and there are more Conservatives than Liberals on the voters' lists of every district in the province, because the men with authority to take the declarations of men who make applications for registration were Conservative, not Liberals, and were appointed by the provincial government. But while Premier McBride is without a constructive brain, he can give the Liberal leader of the opposition cards and spades and big and little game that politicians play at in fixing and running elections.

The Montreal Star has some words of counsel for the new member of parliament to quote:

"The new member of parliament is coming in for a good deal of advice. The best we can give him is to keep himself free from 'tangling alliances' with any of the bi-partisan graft combinations which he will find working so smoothly and silently in the house of commons. The great requirement for a member of parliament who is to do effective work is absolute freedom. He must be free of man's echo, no corporation's chatter, no party's pawn. No other member must be in a position to close his mouth because he knows that he has been concerned in a 'deal' or a 'steal.' He must keep himself free to say what he thinks and vote as he believes to be right. If the new members of parliament will but inject independence into the deliberations of the body, they will accomplish a vast amount of good. When they attend caucus, they must do so to demand progressive policies and courses, 'house cleaning' by their organizations, and not to receive orders to vote in any way or to speak at the word of command. The new members can be lost in the welter of party politics, or they can stand out as a distinct group who have not learned the 'pat' of partyism or the predatory instincts of the Plum Tree Club."

WANTS \$5000 FROM ESTATE.

John Dymont has a Peculiar Claim Against Uncle's Executors.

A statement of claim has been filed at Osgoode Hall by John Dymont, who is suing the executor of the estate of his uncle, the late Nathaniel Dymont of Barrie, for \$5,000. Plaintiff is twenty years of age. Twenty years ago he entered into a five-year partnership with his uncle in a business in Barrie. At the expiration of the term, he was charged with my uncle's wages until he became 21. My uncle at that time, and on several occasions, subsequently said that he would remember me in his will, and he did so.

"In the year 1901, while I was asleep in bed, my wife and family left my house in West Flamborough Township and removed nearly all the furniture and effects, and I never saw them again. In the year 1905, he says, 'I had talks with my uncle Nathaniel at the Woodbine race track in Toronto just previous to my going to St. Louis. My uncle took me by the hand and said, 'Johnnie, I think as much of you as I ever did. I never changed you as I ever did. I haven't forgotten you. I won't live long.'"

"In the will of Nathaniel Dymont he left \$5000 to his nephew, John. Of this, the plaintiff says: 'This, the plaintiff says: whatever that said legacy of \$5000 was intended by my said uncle for me.'"

MUST KEEP HOTEL.

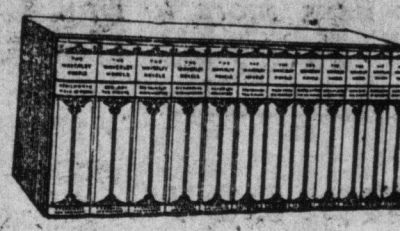
Editorial World: Your editorial is usually very fair and full of good reasoning, but I wish to take exception to part of the last paragraph of your article in to-day's World, "The License Reduction Bylaw." You say: "It is proposed to drastically interfere with businesses in which men have invested their means, and to absolutely destroy, without compensation, many thousands of dollars' worth of property." In a previous paragraph you refer to the commissioners' ruling men to improve their premises. I understand that they were required to do so according to the law. Surely if the increased hotel accommodation was needed for the requirements of the public, then the money expended in improvements will not be "destroyed," as you put it. There are so called hotels in Toronto to-day where they do not cater to either dining room or lodgings trade. All the reductionists desire is the withdrawal of liquor. If the hotels are needed, they can or should exist without the bars. If your article is only right to exist only as drinking hotels, and should be closed, as they are only a menace to society.

Both Guilty.
Charles Baldwin and Edward Moran were found guilty by a jury yesterday before Judge Winchester on the charge of stealing a manure cart from H. F. Allsopp of 87 East King-street on Nov. 20th last. There was a recommendation for mercy in favor of Baldwin. According to complainant's evidence both the accused asked to see some furniture carts. Immediately after they left he missed one of them and started in pursuit. He said they went in the front door of a hotel and out the side door and he took them at Colborne-street. He thought he saw Baldwin pass something to Moran. The set has not yet been recovered.

81-83 Guelph and Return daily until next Friday, Dec. 11th, by Canadian Pacific direct line. Fast train at convenient hours. Tickets good returning until Dec. 14th. Don't fail to visit Guelph during the winter fair week. Tickets on sale now at C. P. R. office, corner King and Yonge-streets.

EATON'S DAILY STORE NEWS

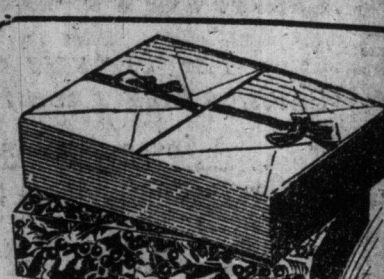
Gift Suggestions in Books and Stationery



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A list of "sure-to-please" gifts from an assortment complete in new, seasonable, artistic goods and all priced to induce your buying the Christmas gifts in the Book or Stationery Department.

We would suggest you do your Christmas shopping now, before the last 10 days' rush.

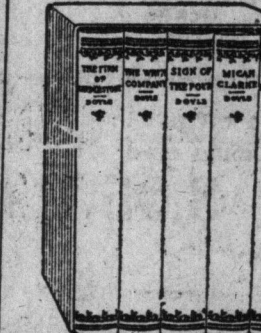


Richly Decorated Box, in holly and berry design, contains 1 quire high-grade linen-finish paper and 24 envelopes to match, tied with scarlet ribbon, greeting card enclosed 25

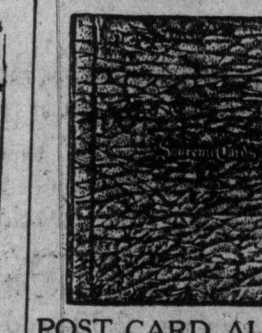
An Abundance of Suitable Book Gifts



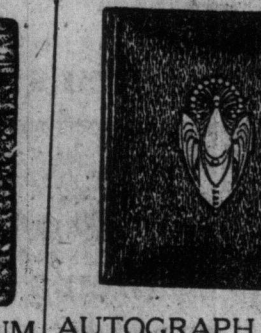
Rosa N. Carey's works, in 5 vols.: Mary St. John, Esther, Not Like Other Girls, Only the Coverness, Queenie's Whim, cloth binding, gilt titles and good, clear type on fine paper. Price, in box 1.50



Conan Doyle's Works, 5 vols., bound in silk ribbed cloth, titles, "Firm of Girdlestone," "White Company," "Sign of the Four," "Micah Clarke," "Study in Scarlet," price in box 1.50

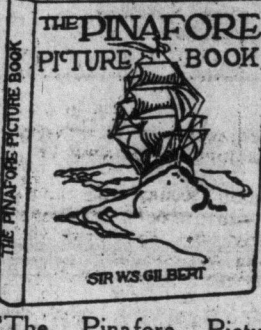


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The Windsor Magazine, 5 numbers each, including 6 mos. volume, numbers 23 to 27, the latter including up to May, 1908; price, each50



The Harrison Fisher Picture Book, "Bachelor Belles," being passages of poems illustrated in full colors by Harrison Fisher; price 3.00

Suggestions From the Stationery Section



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