

The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 1.

A Lesson for 1917

This is the year in which America is going to learn for what the entente allies are fighting Germany. The New York Tribune tells us that the people of the United States are allies and foreigners when the war is under discussion, and their sympathy is not with the allies as it is represented to be.

Perhaps the people of the United States have been more concerned about the profits of the war than about the losses of the war. We should like to have their opinion on this. The story of the little six-year-old boy who wandered off the street curb when the order had been given to keep the street clear. A soldier kicked him in the back and broke it, so that the child died instantly. A protest to an officer elicited the remark, "It is only a Belgian child, and that is our way."

Perhaps the people of the United States are preparing to compromise with this "kultur" and tolerate it, and become friendly with it until the time arrives when they shall be compelled to submit to it and adopt it or rise against it, and we are not prepared to compromise with such brutalism. As Germany broke the back of the little child and for as little reason, she broke the back of Belgium and of Serbia, and she will break the back of Europe if she can. President Wilson and his people may stand afar off and watch with polite neutrality, but if there be a watch on the ramparts of heaven this New Year's Day it is not in a spirit of polite neutrality that it is kept. America has to learn this year what the allies are fighting for. It is the old, old cause, fought for thru the ages, truth and justice, liberty and peace, the spirit of humanity itself. We shall fight till the last man and the last penny if need be, but we hope and believe that 1917 will see the end of the tale.

Hamilton and the Radicals

Sir Adam Beck has done more for Hamilton than any citizen of that city has ever done for it. In carrying out and putting into effective operation the hydro-electric system, Sir Adam bestowed a perpetual blessing upon the people of Hamilton, the value of which is difficult to estimate too highly, and that value will increase yearly. The saving in light and power rates is only too readily forgotten by those who have been freed from exorbitant rates in the past, and many strangers have come who do not realize what a great deliverance the hydro service accomplished.

Sir Adam comes to Hamilton with another proposal, very much on the lines of the former one. It deals with traction instead of power and light. It offers similar advantages, cheaper rates, better service, profits going into the pockets of the people instead of into the pockets of a few stockholders. The same old arguments are being used against the project as ten years ago against the hydro-electric system. Surely the people have not forgotten. They must still believe in Sir Adam, now that he has shown himself to be correct in his forecasts. They must have the same confidence that he will make good now that they had when they gave him the opportunity to make good as he promised, and as he has done.

When the corporations combine against Sir Adam Beck, the people must be sure that it is not the people's interests that are being considered. The representatives of the working men like Allan Stucholme and Gordon Wilson, are clear about the advantage the people will gain from the radial roads. The corporations declare that they will injure Hamilton and benefit Toronto. In Toronto the corporation leaders tell us the radicals will injure Toronto and help Hamilton and other places. Why then are the corporations so anxious to build radial roads themselves? Their roads, we are told, will benefit all the places thru which they run, but the people's roads would work injury! Surely the people are not so blind as to be deluded by these foolish statements. If radial roads are profitable for the corporations that want to build them, they will be profitable for the people. What benefits one benefits all, for the prosperity of the country is a mutual affair, all alike reaping the advantage. The development of St. Catharines and the peninsula will do more to benefit Hamilton than anything else that can be proposed. This is why the corporations wish to build the road and skin the cream, while they tell the people they will only get sour milk.

Sir Adam Beck has proven trustworthy before on the hydro-electric proposals. He gives the same assurances now regarding the radial roads. They will be no burden, he declares, as he declared of the hydro-electric system. They are a necessity, and this is a great opportunity to get them.

The electors of Hamilton will be both foolish and ungrateful if they

do not vote for the radial bylaw. We believe they will, and that they will support Sir Adam in one more triumph.

An Election Note for All Cities

There are certain broad principles to be kept in mind in the municipal elections today, which should guide any voter who feels doubt about how to mark his ballot. Of the positive issues of a purely municipal character by far the most important before the public is that of public ownership. It comes up in many different ways, but is acute in the hydro-electric and the street railway situations, with all that depends or is connected with those central matters. The Toronto Electric Light Co.'s franchise terminates in 1919, and the street railway company's franchise in 1921. All who enter the city council till those franchise issues are disposed of should be carefully regarded by the elector, and only well-approved public ownership men should be elected. The possibilities of obstruction are almost infinite in getting any large measure of public ownership thru the various processes of legislation. The tactful opposition is even more difficult to deal with than the open and violent, and the prizes are so large that corporations feel justified in resorting to any description of legal device to prevent the will of the people in this policy going into effect.

One of the uncertainties of elections depends on the opacity of the voters. They have a privilege which the king has not, and they neglect to use it. They are also careless when they vote about selling their vote—not for money or value received of any kind, but for friendship. Men promise their friends to vote for some one else about whom they know nothing. They have the assurance that he is a good fellow, but they would not sign a note for him on such an assurance. Yet they will vote away the control of their property to a man of whom they know nothing, and grumble all year about their taxes. Toronto is very much in the condition in which it is because people vote for candidates they do not know. Better make sure of the good man one knows than imperil his chances by voting for an unknown quantity in the person of a stranger. As it happens the candidates for the board of control are all well-known men, and voters should have no difficulty about assuring themselves of their positions on all the momentous questions before the city.

As we have stated, we regard the public ownership of the electric and traction franchises the most important of all. Closely associated with this question is that of the financial policy of the city. There is definite and general agreement about the necessity of retrenchment in general expenditure, but there are necessities for the sake of economy in connection with the hydro-electric system and the civic car lines, which make for economy on the principle that a stitch in time saves nine. A wise discrimination will make a radical difference in the outlook for public ownership. There should be no hesitation, therefore, in voting for the hydro-electric bylaw, which will provide for the construction after the war of the great Chippewa installation. This will provide the cheapest power obtainable from Niagara, and means heavy economies to Toronto and all the other hydro municipalities. The people in Toronto, Hamilton and the other large cities are a unit about this policy. The corporation interests are a unit against it, against hydro radicals and against all hydro development, which cheapens electric service to the people and reduces the cost of living.

Central Y.M.C.A. Will Hold Annual "Open House" Today

Central Y. M. C. A., 40 College street, is holding its annual New Year's "open house" today, and extends a hearty welcome to all Toronto citizens. An attractive program has been arranged, to last from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. In the gymnasium and swimming pool interesting athletic events will be featured, including a swimming and fancy diving gala, during which Reg. Bloomfield will introduce a series of clever canoe feats. A reception, with refreshments, will be held from 2:30 to 5:30, and the evening's attractions include a musical in the auditorium, at which a number of the city's leading musicians and entertainers will be heard.

KEEN IN WARD FIVE, New Alderman Having a Keen Contest With Their Veteran Opponents

The aldermanic contest in ward five has been very keen. The two new men have been making the veterans hustle. Ald. Plewman's friends are confident that he will return a winner. His work for equal taxation, "pay express delivery, better conditions on Davenport road, straightening of civic financing and the removal of the civics stables in Willowdale Park, has gained him much support. The electors also are pleased this year with the opening of the Bathurst street entrance to the Exhibition. Ald. Plewman's admirers say he has "made good" with a vengeance.

GET GOOD SUPPORT, Mrs. A. C. Courtice and Dr. Caroline Brown are both candidates for the board of education for 1917, the former in ward one and Dr. Brown in ward five. Both have the support of the local council of the W.C.T.U., and a number of other organizations of women.

TO CONSIDER RESIGNATION, At the morning service in St. James' Square Presbyterian Church yesterday, Dr. Andrew Fraser, one of the elders announced that a congregational meeting will be held on Friday night to consider the resignation of the minister, Dr. Andrew Robertson.



NEW YEAR'S TREAT FOR MEN IN BASE HOSPITAL

Provided by Members of the Catholic Soldiers' Aid.

Thru the medium of a "box shower" held in St. Francis' Parish Hall, the members of the Catholic Soldiers' Aid were able to give a New Year's treat to the men of the base hospital on Saturday afternoon. The chapel-hall of the hospital was crowded during the entertainment, which preceded the distribution of the boxes, and every member was heartily applauded.

Captain D. O'Connor, chaplain, presided, those who contributed to the program being the Misses Annie O'Connor, Gertrude Corbett, Mead Collins, Marie Smith, Teresa McKenna, and Victor Gaylor. Among those who had charge of the shower were Mesdames Bellisle, Carey, Lawrence, Donagan, Small and the Misses Lea, O'Brien, Campbell, Bellisle and Hart. A generous contribution of "smokes" was made by the Women's Patriotic Association of St. Cecilia's Parish.

Captain Noble, chaplain at the hospital, thanked the ladies who had brought the cheer to the soldiers. He also referred in generous terms to the pleasant relationship between himself and his associate Captain O'Connor, whose transference to another field of duty he regretted. Father O'Connor expressed the pleasure he had always found in his work among the soldiers, and spoke in the highest terms of the cordial co-operation of Captain Noble, Mrs. Ambrose Small and Miss Hart, said a few words on behalf of the women present.

After the boxes were distributed a tour of the wards was made by the visiting party.

WORKERS WILL VOTE IN MONDAY'S ELECTIONS

Mayor Asks Manufacturers to Let Them Off Two Hours for That Purpose.

An appeal to munition manufacturers has been issued by Mayor Church, asking them to let their employees have two hours off on Monday, in order that they may cast their ballots in favor of the hydro-electric bylaw. He points out that the hydro has done a lot for the munition plants.

William Hagen of the Machinists' Union does not think there will be any difficulty in the men getting the time off to cast their ballots on Monday. Campbell Reeves, secretary-treasurer of the John Inglis Co., H. Watkins, works manager of the Fairbanks-Morse Co., and an official of the Canadian General Electric Co., also stated that the men would have no difficulty in securing the necessary time to vote on Monday.

MANUFACTURERS' LIFE PROMOTIONS.

J. B. McKechnie, general manager of The Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, announces that the directors have made the following official appointments: L. A. Winter to be treasurer; A. J. Prest to be secretary; and E. S. Macfarlane, assistant secretary. All three have been for many years in the service of the company, the new treasurer for twenty-four years, the new secretary fifteen years and the assistant-secretary thirteen years.

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UNSELFISH SERVICE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

Ald. Maguire's Work Entitles Him to Head the Poll.

Alderman Maguire, who is seeking election for the eighth successive year in ward three, will undoubtedly repeat his record as head of the poll, as was the case last year. Alderman Maguire in his civic career has been broad enough to view his position as larger than that of a ward politician, and has consequently taken an active and decided stand on all the important civic questions. He has done commendable work on behalf of the hydro-electric, and has neglected his campaign.



was during the present contest to assist the postal authorities in every possible way so as to lighten their burden as much as possible. The postmen will call at the different houses, ask how many males between the ages of 18 and 65 live there, and then leave the required number of cards to be filled in. The way the men of Toronto can help is by taking the cards as soon as they are left and filling them in correctly so that the collection of them may not be delayed.

TORONTO HAS BUT ONE MURDER IN DECEMBER

Statement of City's Vital Statistics Up to the End of the Year.

The approximate fire loss for December is estimated at \$752,000, bringing the total of the year's fires up to \$1,705,000.

During the month of December 17 citizens met with sudden or violent deaths. One case of murder is reported, it being that of a male infant found in Rosedale ravine.

The 17 sudden deaths are as follows: Died suddenly, 5; found dead, 5; accidentally killed, 3; gas poisoning, 1; killed by motor car, 1; killed by street car, 1; murdered, 1.

December's total of 17 deaths brings the total for the year up to 215, while the average number of cases investigated each month at the morgue is 18.

TURKEYS CHEAPER

Brantford, Dec. 31.—The price of turkeys took a drop here for New Year's owing to the fact that many Brantforders had deserted the bird for others at Christmas, leaving markets glutted. They were offered at thirty-four cents per lb. and did not sell fast at that. Eggs are now five cents each.

TREMENDOUS LOSS THRU SPECULATION

Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba Gives Vigorous Address in Winnipeg.

EXPLOITATION OF LAND

Only Third of Great Tract of Arable Farms Under Cultivation.

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—Tremendous loss to the west by the illegitimate exploitation of land was the theme of a vigorous and brilliant address by Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Alkins at a banquet given by the travelers, sales managers and credit men's association. Sir James astonished 600 guests in attendance with the statement that of 100,000,000 acres of arable land granted to homesteaders, soldiers, railway corporations, Hudson Bay Company and various private interests only one-third was being worked.

The address of the lieutenant-governor was so complete with detailed figures showing the wanton waste and speculation of the west's greatest asset as to indicate long hours of study and research on the question.

Besides indicating the evil, Sir James suggested a remedy. In New Zealand, he said, the practice of the government was not to alienate public lands entirely, but to let them on the leasehold system. Leases, being for terms of 999 years, were practically freehold, but the government retained the right to control conditions of residence and of cultivation. A similar method, Sir James intimated, was needed in Canada to check speculation in land and ensure the use of our natural resources.

SPAIN POSTPONES MOVE FOR PEACE

(Continued From Page 1.)

Disposed to Wait.

"Nevertheless, the Spanish Government, having in consideration the noble desires of the American Government, which are worthy of all peoples, is disposed to associate itself with every negotiation which has for its object the facilitating of the humanitarian work of ending the present war."

"Spain, however, will suspend all action until the time when her efforts and work in favor of peace can be more useful and efficacious than at the present time. Until then the Spanish Government believes that it would be opportune to declare with regard to an entente of the neutral powers for the defence of their interests, that it is disposed now, as it was at the beginning of the war, to commence negotiations which might lead to an accord capable of uniting the now belligerent powers."

CAUSES GREAT IMPRESSION

Paris, Dec. 31.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Madrid says the Spanish note, coming soon after the declaration by the minister of foreign affairs, concerning the torpedoing by German submarines of neutral vessels, has caused a great impression in Germanophile circles in the Spanish capital.

DELIVER REGISTRATION CARDS

Brantford, Dec. 31.—Postoffice letter carriers here have completed the distribution of fifteen thousand national service cards. Today in all the churches the pastors made an appeal to men to sign and hand back these cards on Wednesday next, to give the government an indication of those ready to serve the empire in any way where their services will be found the greatest use.

EDDY'S MATCHES

Although somewhat increased in price owing to the continued high prices of potash, glue and other raw material, are of the usual high standard of quality which has made them famous for two-thirds of a century.

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HEAVY POWER DRAW

Hon. J. B. Lucas Recommends Economy in Lighting to Aid Munitions.

"It is a curious thing that during the Christmas week there is more power used than at any other time during the year, in spite of the fact that many factories are partially shut down for the holiday season," said Hon. J. B. Lucas, member of the hydro commission, on Saturday. He attributed this to the somewhat excessive illumination indulged in during the festive season.

In making this observation, the attorney-general suggested that as there was a distinct shortage of power for the manufacture of munitions, every possible economy in lighting should be exercised as a patriotic duty.

With the additional 4000 h.p. remainder of the 50,000 h.p., which the commission expects to receive from the Canadian Niagara Power Company, about January 8th, the commission expects to be able to worry along for the present, unless there is an unexpectedly large demand for fresh supplies of power.

SIR SAM UNCOMMUNICATIVE

Sir Sam Hughes, with a bad cold in his throat, was at the King Edward hotel, Ottawa, Saturday. Asked if he was going recruiting in Quebec, he replied: "I am not making stump speeches. He left Toronto the same night."

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