

## The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 24

## The Boy Who Never Grew Up

When the political history of Canada comes to be written, we fear that Hon. Mackenzie King will be briefly described and dismissed as "the boy who never grew up." He seems to face the most tremendous problems with the mind of a child. Take a child to visit the great power development plants at Niagara Falls and he will be mainly interested in a canary bird that happens to be winging in the manager's office. Faced by huge estimates for the public service at a time when ECONOMY is the urgent cry of the hour, the leader of the Liberal opposition frets and worries over the auditor-general's report. He does not accuse the government of extravagance; he does not show how the estimates can be cut down; he has nothing to say about large military and naval expenditures, but with raised voice and flushed face declaims over one of the four volumes of the auditor-general's report not being ready—something for which a few young girls in the binding department of the printing bureau are probably responsible, and at best a calamity which could and would be repaired in a few days' time. Faced by the tremendous problem of our national railways—a problem arising from world-wide conditions, vexing the United Kingdom and the United States no less than Canada—what constructive statesmanship is exhibited by Hon. Mackenzie King?

Has he anything to say about the supreme importance of promptly absorbing into and vigorously co-ordinating with the National Railways the old Grand Trunk? Does he suggest anything that may be done to operate the railways in a more economical and at the same time a more efficient manner? Does he declare himself for or against the principle of public ownership? On the contrary, he contents himself with moving in the house of commons a technical and almost academic resolution about the production of documents, which is so narrow as to preclude any real discussion of the railway situation.

Hon. W. S. Fielding tried to dignify the motion made by the house by Mr. King on Tuesday last by asserting that the principle of parliamentary control over public expenditures was involved. As a matter of fact, no such principle was at stake. The National lines cannot get the money necessary for their operation except by a parliamentary vote, and in asking for that vote thru the minister of railways they must satisfy the representatives of the people that the national railway is being operated by directors and officials who are honest, efficient and devoted to the public interest. That is not saying, however, that every individual member of parliament at his own whim can compel the railway officials to transport to Ottawa tons of documents to be laid on the table of the house or copied at a tremendous expenditure of time and money.

The demand for an indiscriminate production of papers involving an insinuation of unfair dealing, based upon the allegation that the directors of the National Railways are also directors of corporations selling supplies to the railways. If this insinuation is elevated to the dignity of an accusation the fullest investigation will be ordered and all relevant documents produced. But the investigation should be asked for in a business way and not made as a want of confidence motion. Otherwise the house would be asked to pass judgment before hearing the evidence.

No matter what may be said or done, the stockholders of the National Railways are the people of Canada. They cannot assemble at a stockholders' meeting, so they elect representatives to parliament. A committee of parliament, sometimes called the cabinet, sometimes the government, is the board of directors, and as such it must outline the general policy of the system and perform many of the functions of a board of directors. But to prevent political interference, to give the roads the highest possible operating efficiency, the government can and does commit the actual operation of the National Railways to a board of capable business men, who are told to run the road on business principles, and are guaranteed freedom from political distortion and interference of every kind.

Now, if Leader King can think of a better way to run the National Railways, the house and the country will listen to him with respectful attention. The problem is big enough to engage a master mind. It is too



## WILL MR. PLUVIUS PLEASE BE KIND?

## Unemployment Unrest

Contrary to the opinions of many of the more timid people, the meeting of the unemployed at Massey Hall passed off without any untoward incident. The World does not believe that there is any body of unruly element in the city of Toronto which would seek to do anything which is subversive of good government. The old British system of allowing people to air their grievances has never had any bad results, and the views ventilated at Massey Hall will do little harm in this community or the Dominion. At all times of distress and trouble there are individuals who think they can see an immediate solution of the difficulties, and are only satisfied that their ideas are incorrect after they have been put to the test. Thousands of times in the old country, meetings of a similar character have been held when times have been unfortunately unfavorable to the working classes, and like views to those heard here have been expressed. They have had the effect of soothing the feelings of the unemployed and in some measure opening up channels for the relief of temporary distress which existed.

What Toronto wants and what Canada wants is to see every man properly employed and decently fed and clothed. It will take time to bring this about and many temporary expedients will have to be undertaken before matters are properly adjusted. It is impossible to believe any fair-minded worker is disposed to expect or to anticipate that he is going to be maintained at the public expense. He naturally prefers to be self-sustaining, and every effort on the part of the various forms of government must be used to bring this about as quickly as possible. Men and their families have to be kept, and it is much cheaper for the community to find some outlet for a man's labor than to maintain him on charity, which he does not want and certainly resents. The time of year is now upon us when there is an opportunity to undertake public works, which can give a good deal of new employment, and the great question for all public bodies is to see that these works are proceeded with without delay.

## Remarked in Passing.

They say over 100,000 books have been written on the war. And yet there are those who fear we are likely to forget it.

New York paper states a ship has gone aground off Canada. Now we know just where to look for it.

How come this tremendous reported boom in wine and raisin imports into the United States. Can it be true that there is liquor in that land yet?

Germany is said to be standing on her dignity. Poor sort of support, we'll say.

Members of the U.F.O. government may not like fuss and feathers, but they certainly believe in keeping up the dignity of their rank as far as good furniture in their bedrooms will permit.

A woman inmate of a Milwaukee asylum has refused a legacy of \$100,000. Most people will say she is in her right place.

Berlin just won't pay the billion marks due the allies—but the latter seem to be getting into a fairly good position to garnish Germany's income and that will be as good a way of collecting it as any other.

Ten New York plumbers went to jail yesterday on charges of graft. How the times have changed.

The women are evidently not content to accept Sir Henry Drayton's charge that they alone are responsible for the high rate of exchange on the Canadian dollar. We know he was looking for trouble that time.

Legislature has adjourned until next Tuesday so that the members may

gather strength for another few weeks of talking.

A jury of women after being locked up for an hour and a half, found they could not agree. But after being locked up again for another hour or two they became unanimous. It was merely a case of some of them exercising their time-honored right to change their minds.

It is supposed you have seen this morning's issue of "The Courier," he ventured upon T. Elihu's opinion on this subject.

"I suppose you had the effect of a sharp-tongued prodding rod."

"Sitting down," he ordered, "I am in a voice to grow so thin and bodiless that even he heard the note of fear in it. Your knees are growing weak."

"I've just had an altercation with the crook, Gordon," he replied, "a very disconcerting altercation. He seemed to set himself like a high diver for the next plunge. I suspect somebody has been called."

"Suspect someone has squealed—suspect!" cried Banks. "Damnation, man, don't you ever approach an issue without quibbling? It's Tiverton—the drunken fool—or didn't you realize that, even after he'd been in the morning's paper?"

"I mean he'll tell—"

"T. Elihu's paper out an interruption. There was stuff in T. Elihu's Banks."

"Good God! And I've got to depend on you?"

Jamison offered no defence of his colleague. He lifted a haggard face and called Tiverton's name.

"He's called Tiverton," he remembered. He paused, decision was evident in the set of his jaw.

"Gardie in town," he asked. Jamison nodded.

"Get on your feet with him. And wait until you hear from me. I'm going to find out first if this dog means to see this thing through or is only waiting until he can bite."

Directly after luncheon Jimmy made his way to the little white house on the hill. Carol was not at home—it was the first time he had ever found her out. He called Tiverton's name.

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or more do naught but pound the hay. He simply lies from morn till night and eats what he is sent and when they try to make him move, he says: "I'm quite content." He spends his time in reading books and also daily news, and he keeps right up-to-date he reads our Rhyming Views. Perhaps that's why he's still in bed beneath the covers, for kindly people we have met, say it makes them tired. At first we thought we'd doped it right—accounted for his feat—we thought he might have been a scribe upon a morning sheet. We thought that in the dozen years that he has lain unmoved, he was simply making up, for sleep that he had lost. We thought he might have been a scribe, but it was not a go, because on reading more we found that he had lots of dog.

We'd understand his stay in bed if he was over here.

Where prohibition is the rage, and all to some is dear.

But he's in London, as we said, where

Why don't they feed him cakes of yeast to see if he will rise?

ALL LIFE INSURANCE

RECORDS BROKEN

The Metropolitan Had Its Greatest Year in 1920 and Leads the World in Assets, in New Business, and in Amount of Outstanding

of Outstanding Insurance.

The annual report of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company on the business of 1920 shows that the new year being \$28,519,770, and the assets making a gain of \$116,019,292 for a total of \$980,913,087. Dividends have been declared, payable to policy holders in 1921 amounting to \$10,819,369, of which \$8,361,281 is to holders