The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 25.

A Purchasing Commission.

One of the first national benefits to come out of the new union government is the abolition of party patronage in the purchase of supplies. The war purchasing commission under Sir Edward Kemp has already proved its usefulness in the most practical way possible in the midst of war by economy in prices and quality in material. It was on the satisfactory and effective results obtained thru this experience that the prime minister contemplates the retention of the commission and the extension of its activities to all departments of the government. Hitherto its duties have been confined to the department of militia and defence, the department of the naval service, and the department of justice in connection with internment operations. What has proved so successful in these will no doubt prove equally satisfactory in other directions. The imperial munitions board is making a suc-

cess of it in Canada. The policy is a great step towards applying business methods to the business affairs of the country. No store or factory could carry on business on the patronage basis and avoid bankruptcy. The war and its gligantic expenditures demonstrates that it is impossible for the nation to follow on a war scale a policy which even in peace times frequently laid a heavy burden on the resources of the country.

Hereafter there will be no patronage list in the government's purchasing bureau. All supplies will be bought on tender, after public advertisement or circular addressed to all known sources of supply. It means a saving of millions to the country, and adds another potent objection to any policy that favors a return to party government on the old line,

if anything, than last year. We have pleaded with of Dr. Bell, forty-odd years ago—in 1876, to be speothers for the taking over of the Grand Trunk Rail- cific. Boston can scarcely upset this alibi. way as the weak link in the chain of last year's ex-

will undoubtedly relieve the trame pressure. But it is no guarantee that there will be coal to convey. That is no guarantee that there will be coal to convey. That is a problem which rests with the United States au- Gardens." thorities. It is stated that so far as the fuel controller Mr. Bell is still fortunately hale and hearty. He action in a day like this, when may they of the United States is concerned Canada will be treated as one of the states and will receive her share of coal pro rata for the population. Just what that proportion is to be, and how it is to be determined, remains to be seen; and here we are again in presence of the fact that no organization of the details has been undertaken, and it is entirely doubtful whether evidence could be produced to satisfy Washington of how much coal we actually stand in need.

There is plenty of coal in the United States, if it could be got. But it has not been mined, and it is not being mined in sufficient quantities. There is coal enough to supply America's needs for centuries, allowing for the growth of population. But just at this minute there is not coal enough for Toronto, and there are hundreds of towns across the border as badly off, and some not so well.

The coal operators have been to a large extent responsible for the situation. The idolatrous worship of the fetish "law" of supply and demand by doctrinaires and profiteers has led to the curtailment of production in order to exact high prices. In addition, there is also a new element to be considered, an enemy element, but whether an enemy of society or an enemy of the nation is not clear. It is natural to suppose that Germany would have a hand in any movement that would diminish the output of coal and embarrass the production of war munitions. On the other hand, there is a class of alien labor, anarchistic, ignorant as the Russian proletariat, which would sacrifice the liberty of the world for its doctrine, just as others would sacrifice it for the law of supply and demand. Out of all this confusion and strain there must speedily come some solution. There have been great strikes and others are threatened in various mines in Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Dr. Garfield, the fuel controller, has stated that if necessary he will employ his authority and seize and operate the mines in the interest of the government and the people. In time of war there is no standing on ceremony, and Dr. Garfield is a man of his word

Canada is vitally interested in the situation not merely because it is war time, but because it is winter time. Had there been such weather this October as we have sometimes had the suffering would have been terrible.

Use All the Machinery.

Something our union government might consider is more effective use by the federal authorities of the machinery already provided by provincial and municipal organizations. Up to date the Dominion Government has dealt with the people, almost as the no other governments existed. This may have been necessary. as our provinces differ so widely in wealth, area, population and temperament, but another plan was certainly pursued and, we think, with good results in the

United States. The provinces and municipalities are eager to help, and they have helped in a wonderful way, but they have not been fitted into a closely-built machine. There has not been thrown upon them that sense of responsibility which comes of saying to a state or a province, "You must raise so much money and so many men." Quite possibly, for example, things might have gone better if more responsibility had been directly

thrown upon the provincial government of Quebec. President Wilson has made every state governor est city in Europe.

one of his lieutenants; and the sheriff of every county, The Union Government's Policy. and the mayor of every city, town and village has been impressed into the national service for war duty. At first many of the state governments were found to be poorly organized and illy equipped for the work suddenly thrown upon them, but in the main they soon which are: (1) The vigorous prosecution developed a high degree of efficiency.

Plainly a union government can utilize provincial Plainly a union government can utilize provincial tension of the franchise to women, and and municipal machinery more effectively than a party (4) adequate taxation of war profits and government. In Quebec, for example, the municipal increased taxation of incomes. head of a parish or township could be admirably used that the planks had included one for for registration and enumeration purposes by the union government, and corresponding municipal offiunion government, and corresponding municipal offi-cials will be found in nearly all the other provinces. The minister of finance and his associates in the Victory Loan are using our municipal organizations.

It is just possible that if each province had been given a quota of men to raise at the outbreak of the men on both sides are muttering malewar the Province of Quebec, under the leadership of dictions upon the party leaders who have the Gouin government, would have made a better placed them in the position of not knowing. At any rate, the necessity for conscription showing. At any rate, the necessity for conscription of following the party thru thick and thin, would have been sooner recognized by the country at and denouncing political opponents with large and might have been more temperately discussed all possible vehemence, was simple, easy in Quebec. We need a great deal of federal machinery, and to work it properly we must have a large the two parties have united and old pollnumber of federal officials, but none the less it would tical opponents are now fighting under be a good thing to more freely utilize the elaborate the same banner. Such a situation has network of governmental activity already furnished by municipal organizations.

On the other hand, there is force in the conten- of conclination which will aim to cement tion that every locality should have some official like rather than to discever the new politithe postmaster directly responsible to the national government. As things are now we cannot pay such an will not work in this election, and the official a decent salary or provide him with a proper Conservative and Liberal organizations office. When, however, the Dominion Government are recognizing this, and in not a few owns and operates not only the postoffice, but the rail- both sides of politics can meet together. way, telegraph and telephone services, we can have a This is as it ought to be, and it is, in bureau of communication in every small centre pre- fact, the only fair way to run the elecsided over and directed by an official responsible to tion. If our government is to be a union one, then we must, as rar as possible, forget our political likes and dislikes and of the Dominion Government.

The Bell Memorial.

It has been the custom for our United States cousins to claim the credit of having invented the tele- cized by some for its present stand in phone, and Boston even asserts that the first telephone favor of union government, and some of conversation was held in the hub of the universe.

Brantford has done nobly in commencentian the great Brantford has done nobly in commemorating the great We are sorry that any of our friends distinction conferred upon her by having had Alex- should feel aggrieved in any way, but we distinction conferred upon ner by naving had Alexander Graham Bell as a citizen when he completed his adians at this juncture, there is neither world-famous invention. Mr. Fred Salter, the European representative of the Grand Trunk Railway in protectionist, but only patriot and non-London, cabled from England his regret at being un- patriot. Loyalty is an excellent word, in spite of all the assurances, the statements and able to be present in Brantford yesterday. He was able to be present in Brantford yesterday. He was of reasoning that will make loyality to the promises of the authorities and others, the coal able to speak over the world's first telephone between Brantford and Tutel Heights, the home if anything, than last year. We have pleaded with

The memorial is one of the artistic monuments of perience. That the authorities should be satisfied to Canada, and is due to the genius of Walter S. Allward, ing, it upsets our plans and leaves it face another winter under even worse conditions seems the talented Toronto sculptor. His excellency the that we scarcely know what we are to governor-general took part in the ceremony and made expect. But even so, it may be quite There is a gleam of hope in the report last night it a national event. The monument stands in the old that a joint railway committee of management of all Bell homestead, which had been acquired by the Bell of a new element, a new spirit, into the the railways of the Dominion is being formed. This Memorial Association, which had been originated by political life of Canada, we would say, will undoubtedly relieve the traffic pressure. But it Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, and his excellency dedicated the without being too critical of the past,

> places no limit to the science to which he added so important a contribution himself, and in his remarks second from in its program, the abolition looked forward to the telephotoscope of the future by of patronage and it stands a vastly betwhich we shall see as clearly and as far as now the ter chance of succeeding than any party telephone enables us to hear.

What gives the telephone a more than Canadian habitation and a name is the recollection of a member of The World staff, at that time on The Globe in this city, that a cable came from the late Hon. George Brown, then in London, to his brother (the late Gordon

Brown, then in London, to his brother (the late Gordon Brown) that he had taken up the Bell invention with capitalists in that great city and that he had decided not to continue any further negotiations for its purchase!

"With the Children on Sundays."—By Sylvanus Stall, D.D.; 135 line drawings, 3 full-bage color illustrations, by Miss C. M. stud; 4 halt-tone pictures; large quarto volume, size 9½ x 7; full cloth, 330 pages; price, \$1.50. The Vir Publishing Co., 200-214 North Fifteenth street; Philadelphia, Pa.

For some years the bureau of municipal research has done splendid work in the investigation of problems of finance and organization in various civic and municipal activities, with the result that the patient and valuable work accomplished has done much to educate public opinion on the necessity of better business methods being applied in public institutions. Dr. Horace Brittain has been the man behind the work, and with a capable staff he has done an immense work in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many in setting for the set to be taken to the farman in cidentally to free his countering from the Children con Sundays."—By Armenia to rescue his auti counts, armenia to rescue he fault color illustrations. The bode decided to go dark in start the frutks are in dictant and incidentally to free his condition from the in setting forth the facts and actual conditions in many departments of our public affairs.

Last May a survey of the affairs of the General Hospital was undertaken by the bureau, and the result has been such that the trustees of the hospital have decided to give Dr. Brittain, who, by the way, is a doctor of philosophy and not of medicine, an opportunity for a year to apply some of his principles in a reorganization of the administration side of the hospital affairs.

Dr. Clarke will continue to be medical director and Dr. Brittain will be superintendent for this term, and those who know both gentlemen believe there could not be a happier combination. The investigation already proceeded with has shown the cost of maintenance to compare very favorably with that of similar institutions, and when the figures appear more favorable for other places the high standard of the Toronto General Hospital must not be overlooked. The daily cost per patient in Toronto is \$2.23, which is much better than any average, the New York Presbyterian Hospital requiring \$4.96 a day, the Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, \$4.02; the Lakeside, Cleveland, \$2.78; the Montreal General, \$2.65, as compared with the To-

ronto at \$2.23. Cheaper results are shown at the Royal Victoria, Montreal, with \$2.18; the Winnipeg General, at \$2.05; and the Cincinnati General, at \$2.01; and it may be that Dr. Brittain may find it possible to make a ten per cent, cut for Toronto. He has shown himself a

wizard of organization elsewhere, and there is no question that unexpected results can be attained by the application of skill and experience.

Those who have been interested in Dr. Brittain's work in the bureau of research will be glad to know that the present arrangement is a temporary one, and office in a state of collapse, and proved to office in a state of collapse, and pro that the present arrangement is a temporary one, and that Dr. Brittain's experience will be available in the fields in which we have been accustomed to observe him at work when the General Hospital has had the benefit of his attention.

In point of geographical elevation Madrid is the high.

Christian Guardian, October 24 Last week the new union cabinet issued its platform, which includes twelve planks, some of the most important of of the war; (2) civil service reform and the abolition of patronage; (3) the ex-

places both political parties in a very peculiar position, and some strong party cent years, and it has peculiar difficul-

If the men in the trenches can forget their politics, then the men at home can do the same.

The Christian Guardian is being criti-

Of course, as one of our correspondents points out, the present policy is disturbtempt any radically new and progressive hope to attempt it? Surely, if the government could-it will much more than atone for all the disturbance of party comfort it has caused.

BOOK REVIEWS

service is conducted. The children themselves do some of the preaching, and at the close of the service a chapter "With the Children on Sundays" is Questions are asked concerning the sons taught, and at the conc In addition to this, there are many Old Testament scenes which are enacted: The boy behind the sofa is Joseph in the Pit; the boy looking thru the slats o the chairs, which are placed around him is Daniel in the Lion's Den, and so on.
The entire book is new in the direction
which it takes, and there never has been
any book like it. Each of the 52 object and the full color page pictures and half-tone illustrations make the book ex

controwersial on its pages, and all parents will find it useful, especially the questions and little items of out-of-the-way information. The chapters are all so interesting in this volume that one could scarcely speak of them as studies, but, rather, as illuminating conversations with the young. Those who have much teaching to do, and often find that their lessons fall flat and are stale and unprofit. sons fall flat and are stale and unitable, will find it full of sugge bright and stimulating, from the page to the last.

"Red Pepper's Patients." By Grace S Richmond. Published by McClelland Goodchild & Stewart.

Those who have followed the fiery-headed, soft-hearted Red Pepper Burns thru Mrs. Richmond's previous works will gladly welcome another of these delight-This one is concerned especially with Anne Linton, who comes to Dr. Burns' office in a state of collapse, and proves a

"In Another Girl's Sroes," Stoughton.

Don't start this story if there are bills to make out or mending to do. It is just as funny and just as engrossing as any of Berta Buck's bright stories. Rose Whitelands was traveling to Wales to take a position as nursery gov-

"NOT AT HOME"



Anyone who likes books of adventure will get plenty of adventure in "The Path of Glory." It is full of excitement Path of Glory." Path of Glory." It is that of excitantal from front to back. Here is a young rian, about 20 years old, who has been brought up as the son of a retired English admiral. On the eye of the young man's decision to ask a young woman to marry him, and to decide whether he will carry at college or go into business, to marry him, and to decide whether he will stay at college or go into business, his father informs him that he isn't his father at all In fact, his father had been an Armenian, who escaped with his wife and baby 20 years before when the Turks were doing all the butchering in Armenia. The boy decided to go back to Armenia to rescue his aunt and cousin.

some utterly impossible situations in the story, but like all youths, Victor manages to overcome all difficulties. The story probably would appeal to boys more than anyone else, and as a boys story it's a good one.

"The Whistling Mother," by Grace S. Richmond. Published by McCleiland, Goodchild & Stewart.

war-time sketch for mothers and college to say good-bye before he went to war; the story of a woman's splendid courage of her triumphant patriotism, and of how she sent her son out to "help make the world safe for demo-cracy" with a kiss and a smile and not a single tear.

The North American Idea.

The North American Idea.

Dr. James A. Macdonald of The Globe has just published his addresses delivered last spring before the School of Religion of Vanderbilt University, Nashwiller, Tenn., under the title of "The North American Idea." McCleHand, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto. By North American idea, Mr. Macdonald means the inalienable right of a free people to govern themselves. He discovers and discloses the records of a speech of Palmerston, delivered at an Anglo-American dinner many years ago, and notable for foreseing the present war. Palmerston predicted with uncanny foresight the waging of a great war between despotism and liberty, either at the end of the last century or early in this. He allowed his hatred of Russia to lead him into one error, the belief that Russia would lead the forces of despotism and autogracy, whereas it was Germany.

Dr. Macdonald supports internationalism and he appears to believe that it will displace nationalism at the close of this war. Allied statesmen, however, have taken the other view. They have declared again and again that this war is for oppressed nationalisties. If the allies win a complete victory, they pursue to weak to handle heavy books.

erness when she meets Vera Vayne, the movie star.

Says Vera: "You wouldn't think I was a war-widow, would you?"

And everybody who reads the description of the "Vision" most certainly would not. She also was traveling to Wales to see "George's folks," and was very much in dread of the encounter. She realizes that if she looked and acted life nice quiet, little Rose Whitelands she might stand some chance of pleasing George's people. So the wild idea comes, why not "swap" jobs. Only Miss Vera doesn't good movie offer in view. But, poor good movie offer in view. But, poor

The Mexican Problem

C. W. Barron, a prominent American financial writer, has written a book on Mexico, entitled "The Mexican Problem" published by Houghton Mifflin Compan. He found Mexico, when he visited her, in a chaotic condition. The fighting was between local factions, leading families, and political parties. The Mexican character is childlike, dependent, and trusting, whether at work or at play, or in revolution. The Mexican, Mr. Barron says, is simply in need of a strong help.



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