

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 15, 1912.
THINGS WILL BE BETTER IN THE WEST.

The World has every sympathy with those farmers of the west who have not yet been able to get their grain shipped out, and also with the farmers who have not even been able to get their wheat threshed. But it must always be remembered that the people who are in this predicament are unfortunately not the great bulk of the farmers of the west. Any number of farmers have had their grain threshed, have shipped it, sold it and got their money; and immense quantities of grain are being shipped out every day now to the relief of other farmers who are selling and shipping. As a case in point, take that of the Canadian Northern Railway. A year ago that company had on Dec. 31 shipped out 24,000,000 bushels for the farmers along its line; at the end of December last, over 44,000,000 had been shipped over its line and sold, nearly double. And a news item from the west goes to show that the Canadian Northern, the its elevators at Port Arthur are full, will be able from now on to send out a lot of its wheat by Duluth, and thus give relief day by day to farmers along its line. We also see by the despatches that the Canadian Pacific is using all its energy to ship out wheat by train to storehouses in the east here and to Duluth. We further hear that the C. P. R. has room in its elevators at Port Arthur for 5,000,000 bushels. If this is so, it certainly ought to allow the grain from the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern to be put there, and the Canadian Pacific ought to ask the government to assist the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern to get their wheat over the C. P. line from Port Arthur to the storehouses here in the east. In passing, is the elevator over at Port Colborne owned by the government at the present time idle, and could it not be utilized for storage?

And now we come to the main issue, and that is, what ought to be done for the relief of the western farmer? We believe the western farmer must provide his own granary on his own farm or co-operatively with his neighbors, and that any government assistance given in this respect must be from the provincial authorities. The farmer and the provincial government ought to provide local storage, and it ought to be so located that no trouble will be experienced in obtaining advances upon grain stored there from the banks until it can be sold and shipped out.

As to terminal storage—the storage in elevators—we believe that ought to be controlled by the Dominion Government. There must be more of these big elevators—batteries of them.

By an expenditure of \$500, a farmer can have a good corrugated iron wheat granary, holding 5000 bushels, on his farm, and he can extend this by sections as fast as he wants it, at a proportionate cost. Every farmer here in the east has to find such a storehouse for himself, and he has found it. He has to put most of his hay in barns and his threshed grain in his granary, and he has found a way of doing it. It is only just to the farmer in the west that his brother in the west should take care of himself in the same way, or that if he wants government assistance, he should look to his local government.

But inasmuch as the railways must be allowed the best part of the year to move the crop, it is essential that the crop be adequately stored at the terminals so as to permit of reasonable handling of the season's crop. We can never expect our railways to be run profitably if they have to move all the grain of a year in two or three months. That means idle equipment at a great cost to somebody; but the equipment of elevators is comparatively cheap and gives the advantage of large quantities of grain being stored in our own country every year, which, for many reasons, is desirable; and yet allows people to get their money either by way of advance or by way of sale for the grain without any difficulty.

As to next year, it is therefore incumbent on the government at Ottawa to see that more elevators are built at Port Arthur and Fort William, also on the Georgian Bay and in Montreal and other ocean ports. It is equally important that the provincial governments and the farmers organize a better system of local storage. With the increased railway facilities that are being provided and with these improved storage facilities, there is no reason why the present congested state of affairs should repeat itself on any other future occasion.

A CITY FRUIT MARKET.
Controller Foster has taken a good

line in his advocacy of a city fruit market. It is unfortunate that the city officials always seem to get on the wrong side of questions of this sort. If the railways and the radial lines are to perpetuate the present monopoly the people will have no gratitude for Mr. Harris. Where there is a will there is a way, and if Mr. Harris be willing he can materially assist the development of the plan, than which none is more necessary for the benefit of the citizens. A good deal was said last year on this score, and there is no doubt of public feeling. What other cities have done Toronto can do, and it is unworthy of Mr. Harris' reputation to throw cold water on the proposal. We want neither cold water nor hot air on these matters, but reasonable business handling.

OUR OPERATIC VISITORS.

Toronto is very well entitled to extend a sisterly greeting to Montreal in connection with their common interest in high-class music. The attendance at the performances of the Montreal Opera Company this week are a sufficient testimony of Toronto's appreciation of the splendid enterprise of our eastern fellow-enthusiasts, and it may be said that the testimony is a sincere tribute to the artistic merit of the productions, for we fear that our citizens would scarcely flock to the opera on the mere magic of the name of Montreal.

The Montreal Opera Company, like some of our local musical organizations, owes its continued existence to the support of some public-spirited men like the president of the company, Lieut.-Col. F. S. Melgion. What is done by the state in highly cultured nations like France and Germany, is left to the good taste and spirit of private citizens in English-speaking lands, and while there are some advantages in this, there is yet the great defect that the masses get the impression that these great musical events are not for them. The humanizing influence of great music is of such potency that it is the more to be regretted that the many have not the privileges of the few in this respect.

With Lieut.-Col. Melgion are associated Sir H. Montagu Allan, C.V.O., J. L. Perron, Esq., K.C., and Lieut.-Col. W. A. Grant as vice-presidents; Hon. J. L. Decarie, M.L.A., Rod. Forget, Esq., M.P., E. Fabre-Surprey, Esq., K.C., and C. R. Hooper, directors, and as honorary directors Bryce J. Allan, Esq., Boston, M. Camille Belandier, Paris, Henry Higgins, Esq., London, Eben D. Jordan, Esq., Boston, Clarence H. Mackay, Esq., New York, Mon. Jean de Reeske, Paris, Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., Toronto.

From their extensive repertoire the company has or will produce during the two weeks of the engagement Puccini's "La Tosca," "La Boheme," and "Madame Butterfly," Gounod's "Faust," Massenet's "Manon," Rossini's "Barber of Seville," Verdi's "Rigoletto," Bizet's "Carmen," Gounod's "Roméo and Juliette," only once produced here before, and such novelties as Massenet's "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame," Leroux's "Le Chemineau," and Gustave Charpentier's "Louise."

The last alone would make the engagement memorable, as last night's crowded house might certify. The company does great credit to those who have taken the responsibility for the performances. The conductors are men whose experience and reputation are sufficient to ensure artistic and musically renderings, and the soloists are of exceptional ability. Those who heard M. Hubert as Meophistophiles on Tuesday evening realized that only once or twice in a generation they enjoyed such singing. The orchestra is one of entirely unusual excellence and apart from the singers altogether, is a treat to hear.

Toronto is indeed fortunate in being able to supplement the performances of her own musical organizations with such productions as are furnished by the Montreal Opera Company.

THE COUNTRY HAYFORKED!

The Telegram cartoon got near it last night, when it said that "implement" in the Grand Trunk Pacific contract meant "horse-rakes." It should have said "hayfork." It was the best instance of a "hayfork" deal that we've ever seen put over. Where were the "law officers of the crown" and the minister of justice at the time the "hayfork" clause was inserted?

Another batch of streets are having their names changed. We ask again why Howland-road is allowed to remain down east off Gerrard-street while Howland-avenue is found up on Bloor-street, near Bathurst?

There should be no question about the choice of concrete for the new Gerrard-street bridge. It is much the cheaper in the long run, besides being handier and less noisy. The Wilton-avenue bridge is highly ornamental. With another such at Gerrard-street and the magnificent span of the Don viaduct further north, the Don Valley will be the show place of the city.

WM. A. ROGERS COMPANY.

From the report, published elsewhere in this issue of The World, submitted by the board of directors to the annual general meeting of the Wm. A. Rogers, Limited, it will be seen that this company enjoyed another prosperous year. While the profits for 1911 were not quite up to those of 1910, this, as the president, Mr. S. J. Moore, explained, is not surprising in view of the general condition of business throughout the United States during most of the period under notice.

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Even at that, in both volume of business and amount of net profit, last year ranked second in the history of the company. Of the latter amount \$206,808.60, the dividends on preference and ordinary stock amounted \$180,025, and the balance of \$125,783.60 has been retained in the business. The directors gave expression to the welcome belief that they are justified in increased rate of dividend upon the common stock from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent., beginning the first quarterly distribution at the increased rate on April 1 next.

The directors have also decided to issue the balance of the common stock, amounting to \$182,860, at the rate of \$150 per share, available for subscription by preference and common shareholders, in proportion to their holdings. This will provide additional capital to the extent of \$244,235, which it is intended to utilize in future business extensions. Further testimony to the profitable character of the business is afforded by the bonus of 10 per cent. payable in common stock of the company and to be distributed among shareholders of record on Feb. 15. When this is paid it will make a total distribution on bonuses of \$486,560 to common stockholders in three years. Another factor of importance is the excellent showing made in the matter of the surplus of quick assets, which has increased during the year under review by \$141,682.22, and now stand at \$1,446,732.84. This is equivalent to \$127 per share of the company's preferred stock.

SELECTION OF BRITISH PREMIER.

Editor World: In your leading article to-day on the selection of the next British premier, you make the statement, "Lord Salisbury selected Mr. Balfour as his successor, and as the leader of the Conservatives. Mr. Gladstone, in the same way, selected Lord Rosebery, and not the Liberal members."

Allow me to say that this statement with regard to Lord Rosebery is not in accordance with fact. Mr. Gladstone did not suggest Lord Rosebery as his successor; indeed, it is known that had he been consulted by Queen Victoria he would have recommended Lord Spencer. This is made clear in Morley's "Life of Gladstone." Perhaps there is no part of this work more interesting than that dealing with the resignation of Mr. Gladstone, and his audience with Queen Victoria on his retirement from public life. "He told me," writes Mr. Morley, "that he had no reason to suppose that the Queen might advise as to his successor. After some talk he said that if asked he should advise her to send for Lord Spencer. As it happened, his advice was not sought."

J. H. Vianivombe.

Toronto, Feb. 15, 1912.

We are obliged to our correspondent for this correction, as the passage he quotes escaped our memory at the moment of writing. In effect, it strengthens the argument that hitherto the prime minister of the United Kingdom has been selected by royalty and the aristocratic element rather than by the people.

BRAMPTON BRITISHERS AWAKENING.

The fact that at the present time there are in Brampton nearly 300 people hailing from the old country seems sufficient reason for the desire on the part of many of them to come often and in closer touch with each other. Newcomers are arriving every year, and many of them feel lonely, strangers in a strange land. Nobody knows about them; very few care. Many of them have to suffer from the shortcomings of others who preceded them and are not interesting specimens—even to the churches. Then there are those who sooner or later become identified with the churches, and at once their social life becomes limited to the particular church with which they have allied themselves, and they seldom get an opportunity to mix with those who go to another church, even though they may have a great deal (from the British point of view) in common.

Many there are, again, with set convictions, and altho the vast majority

seem willing and anxious to assimilate Canadian ways and methods, it seems only human that a man between 20 and 40 years of age should wish to retain a little of his former self, and even though he cannot have "his pipe and his glass of beer," he does not like to lose interest in the land of his birth, nor can he forget the little club where he has whiled away many a pleasant hour.

Conditions in Brampton are somewhat different from those obtaining in the British Isles, but there should be nothing to prevent Britishers and the descendants of Britishers having a meeting place where they can enjoy their smoke, their games, a good discussion, or an occasional musical evening. Who knows what latent talent may await development in our midst? Imagine a real cricket club for Brampton in the summer and for the newly-arrived immigrant in the spring a welcome from countrymen, who may be able to help him on his way.

The lonely hired man on the farm should have an occasional invitation from those with homes of their own—

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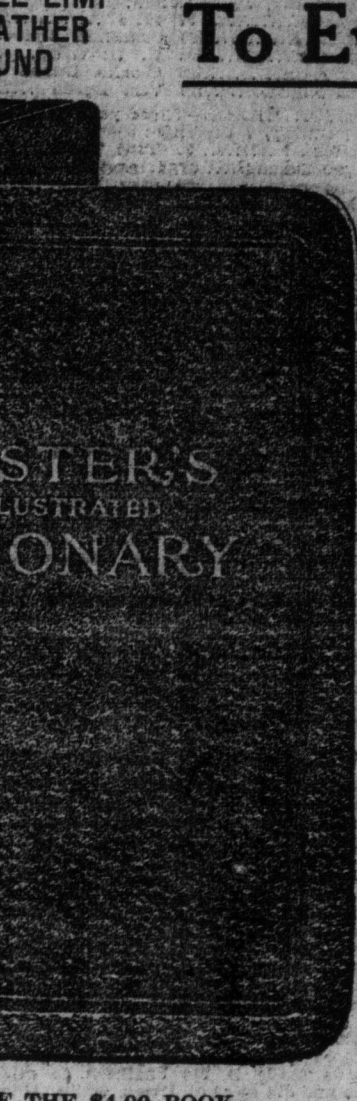
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