

The Toronto World

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THE WORLD OUTSIDE

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ON WITH THE SUIT

For business reasons the Consumers' Gas Company has reduced the price of gas to 80 cents a thousand. The installation of improved plant, more scientific methods of production and an increased consumption of gas have enabled the company to sell at a lower price. The fact that the company admits in its official statement that it is not suggested that the reduction is offered as a compromise with the city. The company, it appears, is able to make a cut of ten cents a thousand without impairing its profits and forthwith the cut is made.

In the spirit in which it is offered the reduction should be received by the city. It is not a concession. It is not offered as the price of the city's withdrawal from one or more of the legal contentions which it has advanced. The company in reducing the price of gas to 80 cents a thousand is presumably acting as it would if it had no legal controversy with the city. The city, therefore, should act as if it had received nothing from the company.

While the Consumers' Gas Company makes it clear that it is reducing the price of gas as a business measure and not as a compromise, it reduces the price of gas and withdraws from negotiation with the city simultaneously. The reduction is evidently expected to carry some moral effect, even tho it does not pretend to affect the city's case against the company.

The circumstances surrounding the reduction create a strong suspicion that an effort will be made to induce the city to abandon its suit against the Consumers' Gas Company.

Abandonment of the pending litigation must not be thought of. Scientific changes are taking place which promise the production of illuminating gas at a price which a few years ago was not thought possible. It is to be noted also that a year or so ago the Consumers' Gas Company sought to liquidate the city's legal claims against it with a reduction of ten cents a thousand in the price of gas.

What the company then offered as a valuable concession it now grants to the city as a purely business rate.

A reduction of ten cents a thousand does not approach the possibilities of cheap production in illuminating gas. Forty cents a thousand is not a dream, even tho it may not be the development of the immediate future.

In order to take advantage of every development in the cheaper production of gas, the City of Toronto must have judicially determined the nature of its relations to the Consumers' Gas Company. In its present position the city is helpless.

If the Consumers' Gas Company were able to sell gas tomorrow at 40 cents a thousand, Toronto would have no means of forcing a reduction of one cent below the price that rules to-day. We have heard a great deal of the legal opinion given by Christopher Robinson, K.C., discouraging further litigation on the part of the city. It is true that Mr. Robinson in a carefully guarded decision gave the city no reason to hope for redress for past offences of the Consumers' Gas Company.

Mr. Robinson did not say that the city would be unable to compel the company to live up to its agreement in the future. It may be that the city cannot recover what it has already lost, but because we have been at the mercy of the company for years is no reason why we should throw ourselves into its grip forever.

On no account must litigation be abandoned or checked for the pittance of ten cents a thousand in the price of gas. Let the city's rights be judicially determined. If it be shown that the Consumers' Gas Company is dealing unjustly with the city the Ontario legislature cannot refuse a measure that will compel the company to carry out its obligations to the city.

In the present position of affairs the legislature can say that it has no knowledge of an injustice. It can and would tell the city to prove its case in the courts. The courts, therefore, are Toronto's refuge, and the suit against the Consumers' Gas Company must be boldly and persistently pushed on regardless of the sop that has been thrown the city in the shape of a ten-cent reduction in gas.

RAILWAY NEEDS OF THE WEST.
The St. John says that it may be pretty true that there is room for four parallel lines across the continent. "There is room for four across the prairie country. It is not so certain that four are needed thru the Rocky Mountains or thence to the coast. Nor is it clear that four roads ought to be constructed between Lake Superior and James Bay. The Canadian Pacific line does not need to be duplicated north of that lake, except by a line very far north."

This goes to the root of the question. The growth of the west, the great wheat crops, the rapid influx of settlers, are being used as arguments for subsidizing another transcontinental railway. The difficult portions of such a railway, namely, the portions east of Manitoba and west thru the Rockies to the Pacific are the portions which will be put forward as requiring and justifying government aid. They are the portions which The Sun says are not absolutely necessary. British Columbia, it is true, requires railways, but it does not follow that a section of a new transcontinental railway would meet its needs.

The central fact to be borne in mind, however, is that three-fourths of the

present western traffic is lake and rail traffic. Three-fourths of the grain coming east is transhipped at Lake Superior. Hence, one line, north of Lake Superior, supplementing the waterway, would handle the business of four prairie lines. There are already two Canadian lines from Winnipeg to the lakes, and the true policy would seem to be to improve the facilities of these lines by double-tracking, additional rolling stock and hauling power, etc. The more the arguments for subsidies are examined, the weaker do they appear.

CHANCE FOR THE FARMER

The latest phase of Hon. Clifford Sifton's immigration policy is the proposal to despatch forty western farmers to Great Britain. These emissaries, it is proposed, shall portray the opportunities that Canada has to offer to some thousands of Britishers, and really result in the variety of schemes designed to coax the backbone of the farmer to Canada. Numerous devices have also been framed to people Canada with the dissatisfied population of the United States.

So far it is not apparent that Canada's returns in immigration have been in proportion to the efforts made to bring people into the country. The old theory that the country by its manifestations in great harvests and industrial developments is its own best advertiser is borne out by a scrutiny of the immigration returns. At the same time it is deemed necessary to send abroad an army of immigration agents there is no reason why farmers should not be represented in the bold array. We have sent all manner of men abroad. Defeated candidates, tired campaign orators, industrious ward politicians, are all represented in the band of immigration agents which is supposed to be rolling the population of Europe into the northern half of the western hemisphere.

Some of these men have done well. Some of them have been mere hangers on. It is safe to bet that the forty farmers who are to be despatched to Great Britain will show proportionately greater results for their labor than the men who have been selected from city and town on the strength of their devotion to party interest.

A Party of Protest does not seem an unnatural opposition to a Band of Bootlickers.

The brand of Cold that is being served up by the cars of the Toronto Street Railway Company might be christened No. 1 Hard.

Discovery of germs is proceeding at such a rate that the average disease will soon have to adjourn for lack of a quorum of bacilli.

Another rich strike is reported in the Yukon, but it is not stated whether the strike was made by prospectors or by government officials.

James J. Hill does not approve of subsidies, and it was doubtless to dodge them that he joined the exodus from Canada to the United States.

James J. Hill thinks subsidies entail a burden to the railways, but Canadian railways are patriotic enough to bear those burdens for the country's sake.

Opponents of a driveway on Adelaide-street seem to think that the movement should be initiated by an enlargement of the Emergency Hospital.

What a great joke it will be on the Consumers' Gas Company to the protest fund if it be shown that the North, Norfolk and North Perth were actually carried with prayers.

Five thousand dollars has been subscribed to protest the hydro-electricity. Some obliging mathematicians figure out what proportion the \$5000 bears to the amount that was required to carry those same hydro-electricities.

A moral crusade is being carried on against news agents in hotels who sell papers on Sunday. Should the traveler be compelled to buy his paper on Saturday and read it on Sunday, a great victory will be achieved.

A New York woman is charged with witchcraft. The story is that she gave another woman a decoction of tea which caused her to lose her sense of locality. The victim imagines that she is in one place when she is really in another. Many persons have suffered from this complaint but have not thought of attributing it to tea or witchcraft.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., says that few really understand the substantial injury against laying up treasures on earth. We should say so. Many misguided persons imagine that these words mean what they say, whereas they really mean nothing in particular, or anything that can be applied to the acquisition of wealth without inconvenience.

AN EXPLANATION.
Editor World: Re your reporter's account of the death of Mrs. Gowan in Saturday's issue, Jan. 17, I beg to inform you that most of the particulars are incorrect, and misleading. There was no dickering between John and Walter Gowan over getting back the old farm, which John had sold to his brother, Walter. Any loss that occurred to John was over buying a farm from a man named Logan, near the Town of St. Mary's. This man was a cousin of John's wife, and it was thru dealings with this man that loss was sustained. I may say John bought this farm to please his wife, at her request, but she refused, after he had bought, and refused to go to live on it, and John, then, to please his wife, sold it at a loss, and took back his own farm without sustaining any loss from his brother. It is not an ascertained fact whether a loss of money caused him to commit such a rash act, but it is known she was suffering from insanity. I hope you will be kind enough to correct this misrepresentation of any dealing between John and Walter Gowan. Thomas Gowan, Principal of Creemore Public School, Creemore, Jan. 19, 1903.

Piles.
To prove to you that Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain cure for piles, and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles, see what they think of it. You can use it and get your money back if not cured. See a box at all dealers or EDWARDS, BATES & CO., Toronto.

Dr. Chase's Ointment

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

Our January Sale on Thursday

For Thursday we have chosen the following values to emphasize the economies of our January Sale:

Sateen Underskirts

297 Ladies' Black Sateen Underskirts, deep flounce, two crimped frills, beaded, with rows of strapings, lengths 38 to 42 inches, January Sale Price, .69

Dress Skirts

Ladies' Unlined Dress Skirts, of Cheviot serge, December price was \$6.00, January Sale Price, 3.25

Ladies' All-wool Cheviot Serge Skirts, December price was \$7.50, January Sale Price, 5.50

Misses' Coats

Monte Carlo Coats, in heavy cloth and all-wool cheviot, our December price was \$7.50 and \$10.00, Thursday for, 4.50

Lustre Waists

Ladies' Black Lustre Waists, finished with tucks, sizes 32 to 42 bust, January Sale Price, 1.25

Children's Headwear

White Angora Wool Caps, selling to-day at \$1.65 and \$1.75 each, Thursday for, .95

Felt and Silk Bonnets, selling to-day at \$2.25, Thursday for, .50

Boots and Shoes

Ladies' Kid Button Boots, sizes 2 1/2 to 4 1/2, our December price was \$1.50, January Sale Price for Thursday, 1.00

Ladies' Black Sateen Juliet House Shoes, sizes 2 1/2 to 5, our December price was \$1.25, Thursday for, .75

Embroideries at 5c

1200 yards Cambric and Nainsook Embroidery, Ridges, 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches wide, selling to-day at 12 1/2 to 20c a yard, Thursday for, .05

Silk Laces

2000 yards Silk Chantilly Laces, in black and cream, 3 to 6 inches wide, selling to-day at 12 1/2 to 25c a yard, Thursday, .05

Handkerchiefs

90 dozen Ladies' Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, hemstitched, selling to-day at 15c each, Thursday, .25

Iron Beds

20 samples of Brass and Iron Beds, white and colored enamel, selling to-day at \$12.75 to \$18.75, Thursday for, 9.90

Sideboards

10 Golden Finished Sideboards, 75 inches high, 45 inches wide, selling to-day at \$9.75, Thursday, 6.90

Carpets and Rugs

1100 yards English Tapestry Carpet, choice of eleven up-to-date patterns, selling to-day at 65c a yard, Thursday for, .49

100 Reversible Smyrna Rugs, size 30 x 60, new goods that sold in December at \$2.50 each, Thursday to sell at, 1.89

Lace Curtains

213 pairs Nottingham Lace Curtains, 54 to 60 inches x 3 1/2 yards, selling to-day at \$1.36, 95c a pair, Thursday for, .95

English Cretonne

216 yards English Cretonne reversible designs for curtains or drapes, curd designs, in beige, blue and 20c a yard, Thursday, Sale Price, .125

Note Paper

200 Sample Paperettes, one to three quires each, selling to-day at 15c to \$1.25 each, Thursday, .38

Lamp Shades

25 Fancy Silk Lamp Shades, selling to-day at \$1.50 to \$2.00, Thursday and Friday, 1.00

Tinsel Belts

Ladies' Belts, graduated back, and front, adjustable, in black, white, pink, sky blue, cardinal, turquoise, navy blue and black, selling to-day at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per yard, Thursday for, .59

Lace Doilies

400 Real Hand-made Maltese Lace Doilies or Table Mats, selling to-day at 50c, 60c and 75c each, Thursday, .25

Prints at 8c

2000 yards Plain Navy and Cadet Blue Prints, cadet blue ducks and navy blue ducks, selling to-day at 8c and 12 1/2c per yard, Thursday at, .08

Flannel Shirts

Men's English Ceylon Flannel and French flannel shirts, sizes 14 to 18 inches, selling to-day at 50c, 60c and \$1.00 each, Thursday, .43

Men's Vests

English Corduroy Vests, in blue, drab and brown, single-breasted, no collar, sizes 34 to 46, selling to-day at \$1.30, Thursday, 1.00

Chinaware

Semi-porcelain Cups, Saucers and Plates, with gold lines, selling to-day at \$1.20 to \$1.75 a dozen, Thursday each at, .75

Wash Boilers

144 Tin Wash Boilers, with pit copper bottom, No. 8 and 9 sizes, January Sale Price, .99

Ladies' Watches

Ladies' Watch, 6 size, 14k gold-filled case, guaranteed for 20 years, with genuine all-jewel Waltham movement, a 14k gold-filled and gold-soldered chain, with jewelled gold slide, selling to-day at \$15.65, Thursday at, 10.68

Ladies' Corsets

25 dozen Fine Coutil Straight Front, sizes 18 to 30, colors white, black and blue, selling to-day at \$1.25 and \$1.50, Thursday, .85

Ladies' Underwear

Combination Suits, natural merino, January Sale Price, 1.90

Boys' Overcoats

Boys' and Children's Overcoats, in heavy frieze, cheviot and beaver cloths, all with velvet collar, sizes 21 to 26, selling to-day at \$4.25 to \$6.50 each, Thursday, 3.49

Fur Overcoats

Men's Overcoat Lamb Wallaby and Wombat Fur Overcoats, 50 inches long, high storm collar, selling to-day at \$15 and \$20 each, Thursday, 9.95

Men's Gloves

Kid and Suede Gloves, dome fastener, wool lining, selling to-day at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per pair, Thursday, .49

Women's Hosiery

40 dozen Cashmere and Lisle Thread Hosiery, sizes 8 1/2 to 12, January Sale Price, 50c to 55c per pair, Thursday, .25

Ribbons

7500 yards Ribbons, odd lines, in 2 1/2 to 3 1/4-inch widths, in rose, medium and dark colors, selling to-day at 2c per yard, Thursday 10 yards for, .10

Dress Goods

700 yards Venetian Cloths, 50 inches wide, in brown, green, purple and red, selling to-day at 40c per yard, Thursday for, .29

Taffeta Silk

250 yards Tucked and Hemstitched French Taffeta, sizes 14 to 18 inches, pink, sky blue, cardinal, turquoise, navy blue and black, selling to-day at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per yard, Thursday for, .59

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Hemmed Sheets

200 pairs Bleached Plain Sheets, size 2 x 2 1/2 yards, regular price \$1.20 a pair, January Sale Price, 1.00

White Quilts

500 White Crochet Quilts, full bleached, size 70 x 80 inches, January Sale Price, .65

Linen Towels

60 dozen Full Bleached Damask Towels, sizes 23 x 46-inch and 25 x 50-inch, selling to-day at \$1.75 a pair, Thursday, .88

Table Napkins

90 dozen Full Bleached Satin Damask Napkins, pure linen, 5-8 x 28 inch, selling to-day at \$2 a dozen, Thursday, 1.48

Pillow Shams

200 only Swiss Cambric Applique Pillow Shams, size 32 x 32 inches, selling to-day at 45c to 55c each, Thursday, .37

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Boys' and Children's Overcoats, in heavy frieze, cheviot and beaver cloths, all with velvet collar, sizes 21 to 26, selling to-day at \$4.25 to \$6.50 each, Thursday, 3.49

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THE STARS AND THE MAYOR

Observatory Chief and Astronomical Society—Matters Meteorological at Canadian Institute.

THE TROLLEY CAUSES THE TROUBLE

Advent of Electric Car Moves Magnetic Observatory From Toronto to Agincourt.

At the Canadian Institute rooms last night, an address was read by R. A. Stupart, P.R.S.C., on astronomical matters. Mr. Stupart said the world was awaking to the importance of solar physics, meteorology, seismology and terrestrial magnetism. Much good work had been done by the Toronto Observatory, and he was glad to say that Canadians generally were beginning to appreciate it.

The lecturer traced briefly the rise and growth of meteorological and magnetic science, and stated that the British Association in 1834 ordered a magnetic survey to be made of the principal lands of the two hemispheres. In 1837 a report was published, and in 1838 an expedition, partly subsidized by Queen Victoria, was organized under Sir John Ross and sailed for the Arctic on a voyage of discovery and magnetic investigation.

Canada and Van Diemen's Land were selected as being nearest the magnetic poles, and St. Helena, because it was in the sphere of least magnetic disturbance, and in these three places observatories were ordered to be erected