

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 3.

A Pretext, Not a Protection

What annoys the man on the street in the latest nickel deal of the Ontario Government with the nickel trust is that it ties the government up tighter than ever with the trust, and leaves Canada and the British Empire more in the lurch than before. The whole object of a revision of the situation is to give the British Empire thru Canada and Ontario untrammelled control of the nickel deposits and nickel production, which are the master key to the military forces of the world. It is incredible that the governments of Ontario and of Canada do not see this. It is still more unintelligible why, if they see it, they do not take such steps as Australia took in the case of zinc. The new arrangement to refine nickel at Port Colborne is coupled up with an agreement which not only does not strengthen Ontario's control of the situation but actually weakens it. The vested interest is consolidated and confirmed in the nickel trust, and on the pretext that all the nickel that Canada wants will be refined at Port Colborne, the government apparently agrees that all the nickel that anyone else wants may be refined wherever the nickel trust pleases.

Port Colborne has been chosen, we are told, because coal may conveniently be shipped there for the refining processes. What then becomes of the patent process, from royalties on the use of which Hon. Mr. Ferguson expected to derive such important revenues for the province? And what will happen to the refining should it ever occur that the United States coal was not available at Port Colborne? A smelter is to be established at Wainwright and this is well and may be a channel for relief should the international nickel trust ever fall in time of need, but it seems very clear that the trust still possesses the whip hand of the government, and the agreement to refine whatever nickel Canada uses at Port Colborne is merely a pretext under which the bulk of the ore is taken out of the country for those who want it. The Bremen is said to be due for another cargo for Germany.

A Clearing Policy Needed

As the details are collected from the fire area of Sunday's tragedy the horror grows. The heart-rending stories reported yesterday should make those responsible in the government realize that never again shall a similar thing be possible. The wild animals, the bear and the moose lay down with human beings in their death struggles. A wild cat, tamed by the fury of fate, purred and rubbed itself against a human companion in danger. A settler sat and sobbed by the remains of his wife and nine children. And 500 lives, it is estimated, passed out in that flame agony.

For years the government has been telling the people of Ontario that it is not expedient to clear the agricultural land. We have been assured that the timber was a rich possession of those who went west to live among it. The lesson was given in 1911, but the government paid no heed, and continued their old system. The lesson is repeated. Must it be repeated again? Here is a paragraph from a report sent down yesterday. It merely echoes the spirit of the messages sent constantly for ten years past:

Terrible as has been the loss of life, and the toll is daily mounting, there are features of the terrible forest fire which are not without their blessings. For instance, farms in the bushland that were about fifty cents an acre on Friday last, are today cleared, and are now worth anything up to \$2000 for the whole farm. The fire season did the clearing in a brief half hour, what it would have taken many weary months of toil to accomplish. Months here, should be years. The

minister of lands and forests, who permits settlement to go on under the old conditions, will have the blood guiltiness on his head of the next batch of victims whenever another forest fire sweeps thru a settled bush district. It would be easy to organize a clearing force, and the increased value of the land and the additional inducements to settlers to locate in Ontario would be the immediate practical reward of such a policy, not to mention the removal of risk to human life.

Bad Luck Twice

It is a mistake for the Hydro-Electric Commission not to take the public into its confidence and tell them frankly why there were two breakdowns in the transmission system this week. All electricians know what the trouble is, and there is no need to look wise before the people who have created the system and pretend that it is a mighty mystery. Besides it inspires confidence when everybody knows what is wrong. We believe the whole matter is fairly simple, and due to the extreme heat of the season. The insulators are not all manufactured with such extremes of heat and cold in view and when the metal is unduly expanded by high temperature the slight cracks in the porcelain which develop as a result, may easily cause a short-circuit. This in turn throws a heavier load on the oil switches than they are built to bear. The explosion which follows naturally causes fire. If this train of consequences is not the real cause of the breakdown, the Hydro Commission should hasten to state what is, and take away the opportunity for whispering hostility to the system to suggest something radically wrong. The Hydro Commission has had years of good fortune. Accidents occur in all businesses and the Hydro can afford to tell the truth about its occasional bad luck.

ASSESSMENT CONFIRMED BY COURT OF REVISION

Arguments of Hotel Counsel Swept Aside by Board.

Two more hotel assessments were confirmed by the court of revision yesterday. They were the property of John J. Meighen, at 108 East Front street, and J. J. Chadwick, 104 Sherbourne street. Mr. Haverson appeared for the appellants, but the court's arguments as he used on former occasions were swept aside by the board. The court reduced the business assessment of Gooderham & Worts, distillers, to the amount of \$369,177, because the British Government has taken over the plant, to be used in munition manufacture. The total amount in dispute was \$649,000.

CITY HALL NOTES

Three batteries, the 67th, 69th and 70th, called on the board of control yesterday and asked for recruiting funds. The controllers promised consideration. No action was taken regarding grants to aviation students as Controller Thompson was absent.

The board of control received Commissioner Bradshaw's report on tax remission yesterday, which urged that no revenue be cut off until other sources were opened up. The board decided on the strength of it not to grant remission of taxes on properties for military, patriotic or other purposes.

Grand Trunk Railway System—Civic Holiday Exposure.

The following special trains will be operated by the Grand Trunk Railway on Aug. 5th, in connection with Civic Holiday.
For Detroit—Leave Toronto at 4:40 p.m. stopping at Sunbury, Brantford, Paris, Woodstock, Ingersoll, London, Glencoe, Chatham, Windsor, arriving Detroit 10:00 p.m. (C.T.). Special train will also be operated from London to Sarnia in connection with special from Toronto.
For Colborne and intermediate stations—Leave Toronto 1:30 p.m.
For Lindsay—Leave Toronto at 4:40 p.m.
Special train will also be operated from Jackson's Point on Tuesday, Aug. 8, instead of Monday, Aug. 7.
Extra coaches will also be added to all regular trains leaving Toronto Aug. 5.

For one and one-third—Good going Aug. 5, 6 and 7. Return limit Aug. 9. Single fare—Good going and returning Toronto, Aug. 7.
For further particulars apply at city ticket office, northwest corner King and Yonge streets, Toronto. 456

MCKINLEY VEIN.

In the face of the new vein on the McKinley-Darragh at the 400-foot level is two inches wide of 2200 ounce ore and the wall rock for several feet back is yielding excellent mill rock. The vein has now been drifted upon for 20 feet and at every foot it has shown improvement until now it has all the characteristics of the standard high-grade vein at the McKinley.

As far as can be ascertained it is an entirely new vein—not an extension of other ore bodies worked at upper levels.

CHARGED WITH ARSON.

BRANTFORD, Ont., Aug. 2.—In police court today, Gavin Wallace was charged with arson, he having, it is alleged, set fire to the King's Hotel on Sunday morning last. No evidence was offered, the case being adjourned.

MICHIE'S BEAURICH CIGARS
3 FOR 25c
AT THE CIGAR DEPT.,
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MICHIE & CO., LIMITED

PREMIER HEARST TO LEAVE FOR ENGLAND

Sails in Few Days With Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education.

CARE OF WOUNDED

Comfort of Canadians in Hospitals One of the Many Objects of Visit.

Premier Hearst, accompanied by Dr. Pyne, minister of education, will sail for England in a day or two in connection with important public business. The premier has recently taken under his personal control the agent general's office in London, and it is his intention to study the situation on the ground and arrange for the carrying on of the work of this office on a broader scale than heretofore. Plans will be arranged as far as possible to meet after-the-war conditions, and the burden of work that will no doubt then be thrown upon this office.

The government since commencement of the war has taken a deep interest in and tried in every way possible to assist wounded Canadian soldiers in England, and representatives of the London office have regularly visited Canadians in the military hospitals and have done what they could to minister to the comfort and happiness of our wounded heroes. Mr. Hearst desires personally to investigate the character of the work being carried on and to make any additional arrangements that may be necessary for the continuance of this work in the most complete and effective manner possible.

To Study Work.
The premier and the minister of education, who superintended the construction of the Ontario Hospital at Orpington, will possibly be studying the work that is now being carried on there and make sure that the most complete equipment and greatest efficiency possible exists in connection with this hospital.
A study of war conditions generally will be made with a view to ascertaining the best manner in which the province can give additional aid. The premier and his colleague hope to be able to visit the Canadian soldiers both in England and in France.
Mr. Hearst does not contemplate a long absence, but will probably not be back in his office again for six or seven weeks.

NONE WERE.

London Daily Chronicle: The superstitious who changed the number in a private soldier's letter from "none were killed" to "none was killed," is doubtless a pedant, but he has been guilty of the sin which, above all others, the pedant would avoid—inaccuracy. For "none" is an adjective, meaning "not one," but also "not any," and a substantive coming after and agreeing with it is always understood. That substantive may be supposed to be either singular or plural, as "any" takes either number after it. "None were" is, therefore, often as correct as "none was."
Against such censoring we have received more than one protest. An equivalent of "none" that can be applied to plurals is much wanted in English, says one correspondent. "I should not, and will not, hesitate to say and write that none were killed. I shall turn up good precedents; and mean while the Latin will serve my turn quite sufficiently. Null, my censor, among the Romans thought this plural word ungrammatical."

THOUSANDS OF MEN REQUIRED FOR HARVESTING IN WESTERN CANADA.

Thousands of men are required to help in the great work of harvesting the western crop. The task of transporting to the west this great army of workers will fall to the lot of the Canadian Pacific Railway.
Excursions from points in Ontario to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta will be run, and special trains operated, making the trip in about 36 hours, without change or transfer.
Returning Trip West—\$12 to Winnipeg.
Returning Trip East—\$18 from Winnipeg.

Consult C. P. R. agents regarding transportation west of Winnipeg.
Going Dates.
Aug. 17 and 31—From Toronto-Sudbury Line and East, but not including Smith's Falls or Renfrew, also from Main Line East of Sudbury to, but not including, North Bay.

Aug. 19 and Sept. 2—From Toronto, Sudbury and South thereof.
Further particulars from Canadian Pacific Ticket Agents, or W. B. Howard, District Passenger Agent, Toronto. edta10

SCHUMACHER SHAFTS HAVE BEEN STARTED.

At the recent annual meeting of the Schumacher Mines, Limited, in Toronto it was decided to sink a four compartment shaft to a depth of 500 feet. This work has already been started, and as a preliminary a high galvanized iron fence has been built around the place where the shaft is to be sunk. The point chosen is near the town, alongside the railroad and about a few hundred feet east of the station. This shaft, it is understood, will eventually be sunk to a depth of 1400 feet.

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CULVERTS CHOKED WITH DEAD BODIES

Northern Prospector Tells of Gruesome Scenes Near Matheson.

REFUGEES ARRIVE

Many Exhausted Survivors Reach Toronto Without Money or Clothes.

Early 100 people were waiting for yesterday morning's refugee train from the north country. Most of them were able to extend hearty greetings to relatives and friends whom they met, but in some cases there were disappointments and fears expressed that the expected home-comer had perished in the north country.

Fred McMullen, the Matheson stage driver, related a terrible experience. "We were driving towards Matheson," he said, "when the fire overtook us, and the horses were killed. We were unable to get out of the stage, and made fast time, there was no possible chance of escaping the fire. The heat was terrific and the men on the stage had their shirts burned before we decided to take to a ditch and lay back to back. Even then we were not safe, and we had to beat out each other's clothing as the fire caught us. We were there four hours.
"We were absolutely cut off. The fire traveled over us to Matheson. The horses, after we turned them loose, made off, and we thought we had said good-bye to them, but after the fire had gone over we were surprised to see the poor brutes coming back to the stage. We hitched them up and started the trek for Matheson in the wake of the fire."

Gruesome Sight.
Scarcely any of them had clothes left, he said. He had nothing remaining but his boots. All the way in they came across the bodies of settlers, many of them right in the centre of the road. No less than 87 bodies were picked up and taken into town. One mother was found on the roadside with two little babies in her arms, and others grasping parts of what remained of her clothing. She had apparently tried to shield the children with her own body.
Mr. McMullen told of his immense relief when he found his own wife and family safe in Matheson. He estimated that 150 people had been burned to death in Matheson alone. He lost everything in the fire.
Darwin Ostroser, his wife and two girls were at Timmins and lost most of their possessions, although he told The World that the fire did not do much damage to Timmins itself.

Mrs. John Greer and her son Doug, who was a year old, and her husband, were burned down, and although their own home was not touched, she decided she had had enough and came to Toronto, where she will live with her sister, Mrs. McTavish, 440 Indian road.
Fought for Their Lives.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Moffatt, Matheson, were on their way to 28 Bright street, Edmonston, where they will live with relatives. They had to fight for their lives to get from their farm, north of Matheson, to safety.
Samuel and Mrs. Guss lost everything in Timmins. They are going to stay at the Iroquois Hotel for a while. Thirty-eight years' work, represented by a four and feed business, was swept away by the fire when William Worrall's business at Cochran was gulped up by the flames. A brother lives at Bathurst street and St. Clair avenue.

Lost Everything.
Percy Alderson and his wife told of having their little farm north of Matheson wiped out. Today they are practically homeless and arrived in Toronto wearing somebody's old clothing. They had to creep along the

ground for miles to pass the fire-swept zone.

All Dr. Lipsitt and his wife were able to save was a few old clothes and three dollars in cash. He had been to Iroquois Falls relieving another doctor when the fire swept the district. He drove home just in time to get his family away.

W. B. Muir, a prospector, declared every culvert was full of bodies near Matheson. One family of five, he said,

sought refuge in a well, which caved in and smothered them. He told sensational stories of finding bodies and hairbreadth escapes.
Herbert Robertson, his wife and two children said they were lucky to get out alive let alone save anything.

SENTENCED TO JAIL.
Found guilty of keeping a gaming house at 1056 East Queen street, William Laurence was sentenced to jail for twenty days by Judge Mills in the police court yesterday morning.

NEARING COMPLETION.

At the new Hollinger mill the foundations for the stamp batteries will be completed in two weeks' time and the foundations for the cyanide plant are making good progress. Preparation for the increased tonnage when the new mill is complete is taking on very large proportions underground.



A Horse's Neck
One of the finest drinks—a most delicious thirst-quencher, in any weather, hot or cold, if made with

O'Keefe's
SPECIAL PALE DRY GINGER ALE

Here is the way it should be made:—Cut the rind from a lemon in one piece. Hang rind on edge of glass as shown. Fill glass with O'Keefe's Special Pale Dry Ginger Ale. Add ice and stir. May be sweetened if desired.

Make it yourself or order at your club, hotel or soda fountain.

Be sure O'Keefe's Special Pale Dry Ginger Ale is used.

O'Keefe's, Toronto