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ONTARIO AND ITS PUBLIC FRANCHISES.

Surely the time has come when in Ontario at least the relation of the statute law to the ownership and operation of public utilities and services of all kinds should be revised and substantially changed. That is doubtless a true explanation of the sudden popularity of municipal ownership in America, which attributes it to the realization on the part of people of the fact that private ownership and operation of public services is the inevitable precursor of political and municipal corruption. A party system patterned largely on the machine methods in vogue in the United States has brought about in Canada similar results to those found in that country—that they are not on so vast a scale has been due to restricted opportunity, not to difference in character. The people of Canada are beginning to recognize that the main issue in the Dominion and provincial political fields is whether the state is to control the monopoly-holding trusts or is to be controlled by them. The first necessary step in the process of reform is the readjustment of legislation so that it will hereafter favor, not hinder, the development of public ownership and operation of all monopolies.

It must never be forgotten that municipal ownership and operation of public services is not socialism. Socialism proposes by the nationalizing of the means and processes of production to eliminate competition; public ownership means that the monopolies created by the people and owned by the people remain the property of the people and be operated for the benefit of the people. There is nothing revolutionary about this proposition; the wonder is that the soundness of it should ever be questioned. The supply of gas, electricity, transportation in satisfaction of a universal need, should be accomplished in the most efficient and cheapest manner possible; if more is taken from the consumers than is necessary a burden is being borne by them which they should not be asked to carry. And the duty of a really democratic government is to see that this burden is not imposed, or, if it has unfortunately been imposed, to provide a fair and equitable method of removing it.

Take, for example, the case of a community which is about to meet the public need for street transportation. In the interest of the citizens transportation should be good and cheap; it can only be that if the capital expenditure is restricted to the proper cost of construction and equipment. If the franchise is transferred without conditions sufficiently securing this, it is not surprising that the original concessionaires make use of the opening to exploit the value of the franchise to the fullest extent it will bear. The franchise grant may be disposed of to an operating company at an enormous pecuniary profit; the cost of construction and equipment may be defrayed by a bond issue and a huge common stock created, all of which is water—or any other of the numerous ways of stock manipulation known to financiers may be employed. But whatever the plan chosen, the effect is the same. The citizens have to pay increased fares and rates that a return may be made, not only on the legitimate expenditure but on the water introduced for private profit. This is the all but invariable history of public utilities suffered to pass into the hands of private companies and corporations.

The citizens of Ontario are determined that this process cease; that the provincial resources and all public franchises be administered hereafter for the benefit of the people, and that wherever necessary for this purpose the franchises already yielded be reclaimed. Now that, for the first time in a generation, a provincial government is in power in sympathy with this demand, practical steps in furtherance of public ownership and operation of franchise monopolies and for the future protection of the people against corporation exploitation, are looked for and must be granted if the government is to retain the confidence of the people. What is needed primarily is a general statute enabling any municipality or local authority desirous of operating its public services to do this with a minimum of delay and expense. That statute should contain power to expropriate all franchises now in private control on fair and equitable terms, and also appoint a time limit on the expiry of which, all unlimited grants and renewable grants may be resumed on payment of the actual value of the plant and equipment taken over. A precedent for this can be found in the British Tramway Act of 1870, under which all the municipal street railways are now operated. But no precedent is needed to justify a proposition reasonable in itself and wholly in the public interest.

But more than this is needed to protect the people in cases where public ownership and operation is not proposed. After the experience of the past with regard to the bribery, corruption and improper influences employed by unscrupulous corporations to secure franchise grants or to escape from implement of obligations they have voluntarily undertaken, drastic regulations should be enforced to prevent future betrayals of public rights. Representative bodies in this capacity stand virtually in the position of trustees for their constituents and ought not to be allowed to deal with public property at their will. The necessity for stringent precautions has already been admitted by the action of the present government in absolutely refusing to sanction unlimited franchise grants. The principle thus admitted must be extended to cover unjustifiable concessions of every nature in connection with public franchises. All proposals of this class, as well as proposals for franchise grants themselves, should be submitted for ratification to the vote of the electors, who ought also to have the right to initiate procedure for the introduction of a system of municipal ownership and operation.

Such a statute should also specify the conditions legally attaching to all franchise grants, whether made by the government itself or by any public representative body. Among these would properly be provisions that the capitalization of a public franchise-holding company shall not exceed its proper capital expenditure; that the grant must not be transferred to any other party or companies except with consent of the grantors; that the holding company must be the operating company; that the company shall not receive more than a stated maximum return on its capital after all other proper charges are allowed for, and that at the expiry of its first term the franchise shall be resumable on payment of the actual value at the time the plant is taken over. These companies, too, ought to be subject to supervision, and an efficacious and prompt method should be devised for compelling performance of their contractual obligations. Let the citizens of Toronto consider how much better their position to-day would have been with their franchise-holders, had such conditions been incorporate in the agreements made between the city and the railway company.

But, however valuable such precautionary conditions might have been or may be, nothing exceeds in simplicity and effectiveness the way of straight public ownership and operation, either directly or by a commission, specially appointed. Government or municipal control of franchise-holding corporations has failed elsewhere, and is as little likely to succeed here. It may obviate the grosser abuses; it cannot eliminate the minor worries and annoyances, or the constant bickerings inseparable from the conflict between public and private interests. Nor will it avoid the corruption by which soulless corporations tempt public men to betray their trust. The purification of political life would be materially aided were public franchises placed out of reach of exploitation. It is up to the present provincial government to achieve a consummation so devoutly to be desired.

WHY BUY BACK YOUR OWN?

The Montreal Star has declared in favor of government ownership of public utilities, but against government operation. It points out that in Nova Scotia the minerals are owned by the province, but operated by private corporations. As to gold, silver and the like, this may work well enough, the royalties are a clear profit to the state. The same is not true of coal, or of any other utility that the people must of necessity buy from the corporations.

The man who rents his home and undertakes to board with his tenant, usually finds that the rent which he receives is counter-balanced by the additional price of his board. Nova Scotia receives $500,000 in royalties from the coal companies, who in turn collect $1,000,000 in excessive charges for the coal they furnish to the people. Cape Breton coal is cheaper in Montreal than it is in Sydney; it is cheaper in Boston, freight and duty paid, than it is in Halifax.

Our street car system is another example of public ownership and private operation. The city receives $1000 a day from the company, but it is money that comes from our citizens; it is money wrung from those least able to pay it. Why should a man surrender to another a thing that he needs himself, simply for the purpose of buying it back?

Those who favor public ownership and private operation would give away the melon, and then boast of retaining the rind.

YOUNGEST GETS PLACE.

The position of postmaster of the Town of Bowmanville is vacant. The applicants for the vacancy are many, but from among them all the Liberal patronage committee has chosen but one, and that one the youngest, R. D. Davidson, principal of the public schools. Forthwith there is mourning among the called, but not chosen. Davidson will be the new postmaster of Bowmanville.

Yet we cannot refrain from sympathizing with Editor M. A. James, who has been an ardent Liberal in himself, his family and his paper for thirty years, and often when the party was in ill repute and needed friends. For thirty years he has dreamed of being postmaster of Bowmanville, but at last has awakened to the fact that he is not young enough. So with Dr. Beith, brother of Robert Beith, ex-M.P., now abroad. So with Tom Bingham, who gave Jonas Thornton the double-cross. All not young enough.

But isn't the application of the rule, that the youngest applicant gets the place, a wise one, or at least as wise as any one that can be made by a patronage committee? Some good citizens believe that fitness should be the first qualification of a government official. Others think party magnitude should decide, but when all applicants are equally big, how impossible to decide! By all means, let the age limit be applied to applicants for government positions, a sort of chloroforming standard, that may be better than others, and certainly can't be worse.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

"To Thine Own Self Be True."

A SERMON FOR THE AVERAGE MAN.

"Be open-minded, but once convinced, be loyal to your conviction. In matters political, do not compromise with wrongdoing. Follow your convictions, not party cries or political dictation."

This in substance was the farewell counsel to his people from Rev. Jabez T. Sunderland, who, yesterday morning, preached for the last time at the First Unitarian Church, after six years of pastorate. Before beginning his sermon, Dr. Sunderland read the "Bond of Fellowship," which briefly contains the essential objects of the Unitarian Church. They are (1) worship of God; (2) free religious enquiry, and, (3) promotion of truth, holiness and love among its members and in the community.

An eloquent sermon was preached from the text: "To this end was I born, and for this I came into the world, that I might bear witness to the truth."

The great men of the world, he said, had been esteemed great, because they had the courage of their convictions. Socrates, Elijah, Isaiah, St. Paul and the Christan martyrs, Luther, Servetus, Priestley, Channing, Parker and a host of others could be cited as examples. Loyalty to conviction benefits the man who displays it. His intellectual vision is clarified and his will is strengthened. If convictions are not lived up to, deterioration sets in, followed by atrophy of conscience, paralysis of will and spiritual decay and death.

Loyalty to conviction gives us great influence with others, while any disloyalty to our beliefs reacts upon our children and our associates and thru them upon the community in which we live. It was often said that it was unimportant what a man believed if he was sincere in believing it. This could not be true. The man who accepted a counterfeit $10 bill, believing it to be genuine, was not helped by the sincerity of his belief. The man who bought a worthless horse was not benefited by believing that the horse was sound. The men who honestly believed that anything their political party did was right, and that they must support its candidates, whether good or bad, did more injury to the state than men who had no convictions at all. We should try to believe right, and then try to persuade others to believe like us. Every man was bound to speak out and tell his views, however unpopular they might be.

But the preacher was of the opinion that the worst form of disloyalty was to profess sa faith and then not live up to it. Christ had denounced hypocrites, above all other sinners, and the Mahometans believed that there were seven hells, and that the lowest and hottest of them all were reserved for hypocrites.

After the sermon several persons came forward and joined the church.

Dr. Sunderland has received a call from Hartford, Conn. His successor has not yet been chosen.

Told in The Sunday World

The destruction by fire of the main warehouse of the Canadian Oil Co., on Strachan-avenue, early Saturday morning caused a loss of about $100,000. Over 200,000 gallons of oil were lost. The total insurance carried is $138,250, distributed among 22 companies. The management praise the fire department for their good work.

A Vancouver despatch says that the supreme question in politics to-day concerns Asiatic labor in Canada. Two thousand Hindoos have come in this year and are doing railway and navvy work on the coast.

Details of the hydro-electric commission report on power development in the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron districts.

Members of the Russian revolutionist committee declare that the latest plot discovered at Peterhof was aimed against Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaivitch.

The five Americans who will contest for the Vanderbilt auto cup were chosen Saturday after an exciting finish to the 297-mile test race. The crowd thronged the track after three had finished, and the other two were selected by the judges. A speed of 90 miles an hour was attained.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland announces to the Methodist conference that he will accept their rulings and will remain with the mission department. In revising the ritual, the new form of service for the Lord's Supper was rejected, a prayer was adopted in the marriage ceremony, but the proposal to delete "in Thy wise providence" from the burial service was not supported. Probationers will be licensed, under certain conditions, to administer the sacraments, and perform marriage ceremonies.

Saturday's heavy rain and windstorm upset several skiffs in the western gap, and three canoes at Balmy Beach. Many downtown business places and streets were flooded.

Mr. Borden will address a series of meetings in Renfrew. Gerald's White's election is pretty well conceded.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the I. O. O. F. passed a resolution appreciative of their reception in Toronto.

The new rector of St. Peter's Church, Hamilton, has abolished "ritualism" from the services.

Over 400 natives were killed by Dutch troops in a battle on Bali Island in the Malay Archipelago.

J. S. McClelland of St. Catharines, advocate of the "flat earth" theory, is dead.

"Rev." J. J. Smith, who once preached in Toronto, and sold mining stock, which purchasers believe now to be worthless, is reported to be in jail at San Quentin, Cal.

Fatal railway wrecks at Guelph Junction and Sundridge.

Corner-stone laid of the Tabernacle Church, Markham-street, the congregation of which are dissentients from Walmer-road Baptist Church, and their departure "a protest against infidelity and duplicity in regard to revealed truth." The church will cost $15,000, and may be open by Christmas.

The Standard Publishing Company has received an Ontario charter, and may publish a daily paper in Toronto in the Conservative interest.

Eight houses in the Village of Wales, near Cornwall, were burned on Friday night. The whole place was seriously threatened.

Full accounts of Saturday's sporting events.

NEW STATION AT SUNNYSIDE TO ACCOMMODATE PUBLIC

Suggestion Meets With General Approval, But It's Optional With Railways.

The idea of having South Parkdale railway station transferred to Sunnyside as suggested by A. M. Orpen to the board of control seems to have met with very general approval, and it is endorsed on all sides from the fact that it would not only be a great convenience to Parkdalians and people living in the northwest district, but it would minimize the danger at Sunnyside level crossing if the trains had to stop there instead of at Parkdale.

Controller Jones stated that the suggestion seemed to him to be sensible, particularly as it would provide splendid street car facilities to North and South Parkdale, and with the car line up Roncesvalles-avenue would be a boon to those people who live in the northwestern portion of the city. The station at present, he said, is in a most illogical position, and is not of much convenience to any of the mass of people who would patronize it at Sunnyside. Then the fact that it would do away with the danger at that nerve-racking crossing at the beginning of the Lake Shore-road was in itself sufficient to commend it.

Controller Ward is even more warm in his endorsation of the idea than Controller Jones. He knows the district to a standstill and thinks the change would be one more of the manifest signs of Parkdale's progressiveness.

Ald. J. J. Graham favors the change as soon as it can come along, and residents of his constituency would welcome it.

Ald. Dr. Harrison also endorsed it on the understanding that it must be the South Parkdale station which should be transferred to Sunnyside. This station, which is a short distance from the exhibition grounds, is away from the cars. It is on the line of the G.T.R. and C.P.R. trains for Hamilton. It would not do to change the north station, Dr. Harrison says, because many trains stop there that do not go thru Sunnyside at all.

The above opinions are only a sample of the general sentiment, but, as Controller Jones points out, about the only thing the city can do is to ask the railway companies to make the change for the benefit of all parties concerned.

Ald. R. Fleming is in New York.

Dr. T Alex Cauder Davies returned to the city on Saturday from a trip to Erie, Warren and Pittsburg, Pa.

Men's Clothing at Little Cost, Tuesday

RAINCOAT TIME NOW, SURELY. If you're not provided with a good coat here's a chance in a hundred to get one—and at a greater saving of money than you've known this year on a raincoat.

High-grade cravenette—brown or gray, striped—or a plain olive. Generous length; fit splendidly, because carefully tailored. Sizes 34 to 44. The price..... **5.50**

TROUSERS? Don't say no because the price is only 95c. Unbeatable as "work" trousers: well made and fine wearers. Of heavy, dark colored tweeds in neat pattern. Sizes 32 to 42. The price, a pair..... **.95**

THIS BIG, POPULAR TRAVELLER OVERCOAT must sell on its own merits, for the price doesn't hint at its worth. To attempt to make these garments to sell right along at this figure would be a losing venture from the start. Every one of this lot means a matchless overcoat buying chance.

The stylish, new single-breasted shape, of splendid wearing material—black ground with gray thread and green stripe; velvet collar; sizes 36 to 44. The price..... **7.49**

MAIN FLOOR—QUEEN STREET

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED — 190 YONGE STREET TORONTO

CHAMBERLAIN'S ILLNESS MYSTERY OF THE MOMENT

Family Said to Be Keeping True Condition a Secret for Political Reasons.

New York, Sept. 23.—The World today prints the following story from London:

The illness of Joseph Chamberlain is the great mystery of the moment. He has not been seen by any one outside his own family and physicians for three months, and until one day early this week had remained thruout the phenomenally hot summer in his London house.

On Wednesday Austin Chamberlain announced his father had arrived at his family place near Birmingham; that he had only an exceptionally severe gout attack; was exercising daily on his own private grounds and would certainly keep his engagement to address the public meeting on tariff reform to be held Oct. 3 at Nottingham.

Nevertheless, his friends are profoundly incredulous and contend that if he is well enough confidently to expect to undergo the strain of addressing a mass meeting a month hence his family would have taken the surest means of giving the lie to the grave reports in circulation by taking him to Birmingham by train, where he could be seen by independent witnesses alighting from a railroad car, instead of which he was smuggled down secretly, and none of his Birmingham friends has seen him since his arrival.

A World correspondent learned thru an unimpeachable source this morning facts of Chamberlain's illness. A few days after the Birmingham celebrations in honor of his seventieth birthday beginning in July, he went one evening to dress to go out to dinner with Mrs. Chamberlain. As he was late coming downstairs his wife finally went up to his room and to her horror found him lying insensible on the floor of his dressing room. A doctor who was summoned declared it an apopletic seizure and for a few days the worst was feared. For several weeks he completely lost his speech, falling into an apathetic condition apparently recognizing nobody and gouty complications also supervened.

No doctor's bulletin was ever issued concerning him, only vague statements inferentially contradicting the serious reports of his condition. The World correspondent hears this is the second paralytic seizure he has had, the first being very slight and passing off quickly.

The only explanation of the pretense maintained by the family is if the termination of his public career be admitted it would provoke another severe crisis in the Unionist party, already distracted by differences.

Chamberlain's disappearance means the disappearance also of the tariff reform movement, which exists only by reason of his advocacy. Balfour, who accepted tariff reform only to preserve his nominal leadership, will quickly drop the policy which contributed so largely to Unionist disasters.

SWEET CAPORAL

CIGARETTES
STANDARD OF THE WORLD

AT OSGOODE HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Master's Chambers.

Cartwright, master, at 11 a.m.

Weekly Court.

List of cases set down for hearing Monday, Sept. 24, before the Hon. Mr. Justice Teetzel, at 11 a.m.: 1, Re Cement, Stone and B. Co.; 2, Robert v. South Western; 3, Robert v. South Western; 4, Beattie v. Dickson; 5, re Mufflitt and Mulvihill; 6, Crawford v. Bank of Commerce.

Divisional Court.

Peremptory list for hearing before Falconbridge, C.J.K.B.; Britton and Clute, J.J., on Monday, Sept. 24, at 11 a.m.: 1, Rex v. Union Life; 2, Payne v. Murphy; 3, Evenden v. Standard Art; 4, Smith v. McIntosh; 5, Burton v. C.P.R.; 6, Sherlock v. Toronto.

Court of Appeal.

Peremptory list for to-day at 11 a.m.: 1, Gibson v. Gardner; 2, Drouland v. Welsh; 3, Paradis v. National Trust.

Jury Sittings.

Peremptory list for to-day at 2 p.m.: Stokes v. McBurney; Nixon v. Giddings; Brock v. St. John; Bremner v. Toronto Railway; McKergow v. Comstock; Crown Bank v. Clark.

Non-Jury Sittings.

Peremptory list for to-day at 11 a.m.: Cavanagh v. Glendinning; Wilson v. Henderson; Hisey v. McCaul; Wills v. Belle Ewart; Fulton L. Co. v. Truss Co.; Andrews v. Small.

A Hard Question.

The question of whether a man is compelled, on examination for discovery, to answer whether or not his employe was addicted to drink, was argued before Master in Chambers Cartwright, at Osgoode Hall on Saturday. In the case of Canavan against the Wm. Harris Co., the plaintiff moved for an order to strike out the defence of the defendants for refusing to answer the question. The master reserved judgment.

Trial Postponed.

W. H. Comstock of Brockville, thru his counsel, succeeded before the master in chambers on Saturday in having the trial of the action brought against him by Percival S. McKergow postponed for two weeks. Both Mr. Comstock's business manager and his physician made affidavits to the effect that he is too ill to attend. The costs lost by reason of the postponement were given to the plaintiff in any event, but the costs of the motion were made costs in the cause.

A Nice Point.

The Bank of Toronto at Port Hope has $1060.97 standing to the credit of the executors of the estate of the late Job Dickson, which amount was deposited to the credit of the account by cheques signed by all of the three executors. On June 2 notice was given to the bank by Job Dickson, one of the executors, not to pay out any money at the credit of the estate without the signature of all three executors on the cheques. Afterwards a cheque for $1000, drawn and signed by two of the executors, as executors of the estate, and made payable to one of the two executors signing, was presented to the bank for payment and was refused. The Bank of Toronto, considering it unsafe to pay any cheques drawn upon the estate, unless signed by the three executors, have applied to Master in Chambers Cartwright, to be allowed to pay the money into court, and for an inter pleader order. The master is considering his judgment.

DEATH OF JOHN MOONEY.

Brockville, Sept. 23.—(Special.)—John Mooney, a prominent citizen, died this morning, aged 82. After coming from Ireland in 1840 he settled in Prescott. He navigated the St. Lawrence, Rideau and Ottawa rivers for some time, then conducted a large pottery at Johnstown, below the Fort town. He filled positions of custom officer at Prescott and Maitland, and for upwards of thirty years was fishery inspector on the river from Cornwall to Gananoque. When the government changed in 1896 he lost the position of fishery overseer, and soon afterwards the office he held at Maitland in the customs was abolished and he was superannuated. He leaves a large grown-up family.

Crowd Sees Flogging.

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 22.—In the presence of nearly 500 persons, Charles Conley, the negro who was a few days ago sentenced to fifty years' imprisonment and to receive thirty lashes for attacking Mrs. Beatrice Frankish and her daughter two weeks ago, was publicly whipped to-day in the yard of the Newcastle county workhouse.

More than 2000 persons sought admission to the workhouse yard, which was too small to accommodate all.

You'll Fancy Yourself in Berlin or Hamburg or Dresden when you drink O'Keefe's Pilsener Lager.

It's our new brew—just like the famous light beers of Germany. Brewed of choicest hops and malt—and stored until fully aged.

"Pilsener" is the newest of the O'Keefe's brews and it bids fair to be the most popular.

Try it.

O'Keefe's PILSENER Lager

"THE LIGHT BEER IN THE LIGHT BOTTLE"

Money cannot buy better Coffee than Michie's finest blend Java and Mocha, **45c lb.**

Michie & Co., Limited

A GREAT NUMBER.

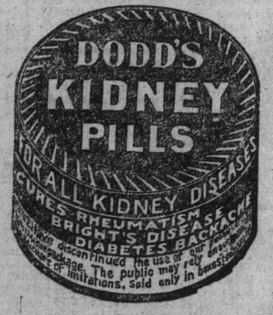
On Tuesday last The Winnipeg Telegram, issued a paper containing 34 pages, by far the largest edition, it announced, that has ever been produced by a Canadian newspaper west of Toronto. Its keynote is given in the caption introducing the varied supplements to the regular sheet, "Watch Winnipeg Grow." This remarkable example of western enterprise deals "with almost every conceivable feature of western development." Altho naturally it has special reference to Winnipeg it is really designed as an advertisement of the great west and of that city as the metropolis of the great west.

Not only is their abundance of special articles descriptive of the various branches of commercial, industrial and agricultural activity in Western Canada, but these are profusely embellished with excellent and really artistic illustrations of the men who are making the west, their achievements and the country itself. What is of particular interest and does infinite credit to the management of The Telegram is the fact that the designing, up to the ornate cover, the engraving, the presswork and the binding are all home made—the product of its plant and talent, and at its disposal every day in the year. The World congratulates its energetic western contemporary at this splendid demonstration of its resources and the ability it commands. As a vade mecum of the situation in the great west Tuesday's edition can hardly be excelled, and it deserves the widest possible distribution.

HIS OPTIMISM.

In a letter to The World Francis Wayland Glen, ex-M.P. for South Ontario, who is now a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., says:

"'In the sweet bye and bye' we shall all be fellow citizens (not subjects) of the greatest, grandest and noblest republic on the earth with the free consent of the vast majority of all those directly interested."

Extra Steamer Montreal to Liverpool in November.

The Canadian Pacific steamship department have just sent out advice that they will despatch the Lake Manitoba from Montreal, Nov. 24. This will be the last steamer down the St. Lawrence this season, and no doubt will be well patronized, as she is well known as a steady, comfortable vessel, and having an unexcelled service generally. Apply to S. J. Sharp, 80 Yonge-street, Toronto, for full information.