

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 1.

Controller on Wrong Tack.

We confess disappointment in Controller Hiltz at the meeting of the Hydro-Electric Association. That the controller even to hint that there might be a reason for the provincial government imposing new charges on the power development of the Hydro-Electric is at variance with the attitude of a representative of a city, by long odds the leading partner in this great project. It is not for Controller Hiltz or any other representative of the municipalities who are linked up in the Hydro-Electric Union to try and satisfy himself that there is a reason for such new charges, but rather to take the position, and the only sane one, that the project was started on certain well defined lines under a thorough agreement made with the government, or in case of companies taken over, then with the government, and there can be no violation of these contracts. The Hydro Commission is producing power for those municipalities which are in the league and disposing of it at cost, after having made full provision for all expenses and getting aside a fund to take care of the capital obligations. There is no profit going to any one, and if any further obligations are put on the commission it would simply mean direct taxation on the users of the Hydro-Electric power who get their supplies thru the commission.

As the World has previously pointed out, if one section of the community awaits action by another section and then finds that it is good, tries to grab off a portion of the advantages which have thus been made, this is simply a resort to Russian Sovietism. If the farming community of Ontario are to get the benefits of electric power and light, the government should define some course by which this can be done, and if the farmers are entitled to get this power at less than cost the government may be justified in giving initial aid to this end. The World has no objection to this but certainly does not agree with the idea that the Hydro-Electric Commission should be called upon to divide up its funds and bear a larger expense to give cheaper than cost power and light to some other section of the province. Mr. Drury and Adam Beck ought to be able to frame up a fair method of getting the farmers all the power he wants without taxing those who have already taxed themselves for themselves.

Unrealizable Debts.

Sir George Paish, one of the world's leading economists, has come to the conclusion that some of the European nations involved in the war will be compelled to repudiate their debts. This, perhaps, is responsible for the suggestion which has been made in various quarters that it would be well if the war international obligations all round were called off as between the allies. There is a certain point in countries, municipalities, and in companies at which debts, or in the case of companies, capitalizations may be reached, and it is impossible to have realistic assets against the interest or dividend payments made thereon. The war, with most of the European countries, simply over-capitalized their resources, and to try and retire these debts, to say nothing of paying interest on them, is attempting the impossible.

Writing off debts against creditors is not the nicest thing to contemplate, but when a debt becomes impossible to collect it is better to accept the inevitable, write it off, and forget it. Big debts are all right when they have something tangible behind them, but they are thoroughly misleading and perhaps even a disadvantage when they hold out a hope which cannot be realized. Perhaps after the United States has had some further experience in the present condition of international trading they may be willing to conclude that this is one of the quickest ways by which to get back to more normal conditions of world trading.

North Toronto Sewers.

A property owner in North Toronto complains that he is unable to build because the works department has refused him permission to utilize the sewer which fronts on his property, claiming that the system is carrying its capacity. This is a situation that calls for serious attention of Commissioner Harris and his department. The sewerage system installed in North Toronto was under the advice and inspection of the late E. Ald Murray, who was accepted as an expert in his line at that time, and the undertaking which he installed was stated to be sufficient for a population of 40,000 people. North Toronto's population is not much

THIS IS WHAT COMES OF AN OPEN WINTER—AN EARLY SPRING



MRS. HOUSEWIFE: Now, hubby, these are a few things I want you to attend to this spring.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The World will gladly print under this heading a correspondence under the signature of "Taxpayer," writing on the matter of school taxes. As space is limited they must not be longer than 200 words and written on one side of the paper only.

SCHOOL TAXES.

Editor World: In your issue of yesterday a correspondent under the signature of "Taxpayer," writing on the matter of school taxes, says, "There are too many instances in this city and its suburbs of a most unreasonable comparison between the tax rate of supporters of the public and separate schools, not to call for a protest when demand is made for a proportion according to Catholic population upon the revenue derived from the public utility corporations."

Your correspondent then gave an instance of the tax on the separate schools on the outskirts of the city, both occupied by Catholic families, one of which sent the separate school board and the other to the public school. The public school supporter paid \$12.15 in taxes and the separate school supporter \$6.25, a difference of \$5.90. As a separate school supporter I found the statement somewhat surprising and called upon a member of the separate school board to explain the difference in the tax on the city hall, both of which testified that your correspondent was wrong in his calculations. He did not know them so in the facts as he knew them. The instance he quoted occurred two years ago, at that time the tax levied on the county for separate schools was not as high as that on the city, but according to the separate school board and his testimony, the separate school board of this nature. The testimony from the public school board was that at the present time the tax in both cases is the same, made. "Are both taxes the same?" the reply was in the affirmative.

As the letter of your correspondent was altogether misleading I trust you will find space for the above and oblige me by publishing the same.

New York Telegraph hearing that Canada will stop export of liquor into U. S. asks what America has done to Canada that we should hate her so? Well, if we can't get it, why should they?

New York has a controversy on as to whether spooning should or should not be allowed on city buses. So far that is one problem Toronto's transportation commission has not to face.

Could one of the Ontario government officers be charged with the removal of the cattle embargo before the British public and thus saved all the expense of Eon. Manning Doherty's visit? In any event Mr. Doherty has no status other than as a citizen of Canada.

Ten thousand people are said to follow crime as a business in Chicago, and judging from Chicago papers have been quite brisk with them lately.

The Germans earned such a reputation for veracity during the war and since that time that they have been called on to be related this week in London will probably not be as touching as the one of the allies, which will be a touch of another kind.

A 17-year-old clerk of hitherto blameless habits walked out of a Chicago bank with \$772,000 in bonds and has not since been seen. Now, will they blame the bank, or was it that the sight of so much money lying around was too much for him?

Ottawa papers had much to say about Toronto's lapse from the path of righteousness when our own police raided a cock fight. But since the Ottawa authorities found a main in full swing last Sunday afternoon we may gather that Ottawa is not so dreadfully good after all.

Ex-Controller Sam McBride does not seem satisfied with the arrangement which has placed Controller Maguire in the mayor's chair while Mayor Church is absent from the city. The ex-controller knows of one man who would have done the job well if he had only been given a chance.

U. S. COURT UPHOLDS THE FARM LOAN ACT

Washington, Feb. 28.—The federal farm loan act was held constitutional today by the supreme court. This is the act under which land banks were established to extend loans to farmers.

Millions of dollars in loans to United States farmers have been held up pending a decision of the court. In this case, which was brought by Charles W. Smith, a stockholder in the Kansas City Title and Trust Company, the court has enjoined that institution from investing its funds in bonds issued by the farm loan banks.

SAXONIA IN PORT.

Halifax, N.S., Feb. 28.—The Cunard liner Saxonia, which arrived late last night from Company's ship, Cherbourg, docked this morning to land 204 passengers and 56 bags of mail. The steamer sailed this afternoon for New York.

LABOR MEMBER DIVIDES HOUSE

(Continued From Page 1.)

forces also united in opposing it on the ground that it would tend to discourage people from holding property. The Speaker declared that the second reading of the bill was lost. Mr. Hontela was not satisfied and secured a vote, with the result as voted above.

There was a long discussion on the second reading of Wellington Hays' bill to provide for the double platoon brigade system in places over 100,000 population.

The bill was given a second reading. Fitness to Marry.

The bill of Dr. Forbes Godfrey to make it compulsory for applicants for marriage licenses to first secure a medical certificate as to their fitness to marry, was not given a second reading, but was held over for the present. The measure reads:

Before a license or certificate is issued there shall be delivered to the issuer or deputy issuer a certificate in writing, signed by a legally qualified medical practitioner, and stating that he has personally examined each of the parties to the intended marriage, and that neither of them is an idiot, imbecile, epileptic or lunatic, or a feeble-minded or defective or sexual pervert, drug habituate, habitual criminal, habitual vagrant, or suffering from venereal disease, tuberculosis or cancer; that in his opinion the general condition of each of the said parties is such that the offspring of a marriage will probably be of normal mentality and physique.

Necessary Measure.

In supporting his bill Dr. Godfrey said it was a step towards improving the health of the people of the province and should receive the government and provincial sanction.

The provincial secretary, however, thought the measure was too far in advance of present public opinion. He would decrease it if the bill were passed. Nothing should be done except in association with the other provinces.

Mr. Tolmie, the other calmly, said to a question of morals and in considering the question of public opinion should not be entertained. The bill should be sent to committee and fully discussed.

C. F. Swayze (Niagara Falls) would have a conference held of all the provinces and states on the subject of the continent with a view to taking action that would protect public health.

The premier thought the bill had much to commend it. It would bring about an ideal condition. But he would not give great weight to many of the points and strike a blow at the bill. He would, therefore, he thought, should be allowed to remain over till next session.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson wanted the bill discussed by a special committee.

The attorney-general understood the whole marriage question was under consideration and that a general bill would be brought down. Dr. Godfrey's motion was therefore, he thought, should be allowed to remain over.

The bill stands for the present.

A caucus of the Labor members of the legislature yesterday was held at the parliament buildings to consider amendments to the workmen's compensation act, which was introduced in the house by P. Heenan, Labor member for Kenora. The amendments will seek to provide that all coming under section two of the act, including municipalities, railway and navigation companies, shall take back injured workmen after they have recovered from their injuries, and place them in some form of employment while they may, together with the amount they receive from the workmen's compensation board, be ensured of a wage commensurate with that received before injury.

The move is directed more particularly against one railway company, which the Labor men claim has been content to allow the injured workmen to drag along on the money derived from the compensation board, and to provide that the injured workmen shall be introduced by the company into the labor market, where they were often given jobs as flagmen and in similar positions on the railroads. The speaker said that this practice has been dropped.

QUART PRICE OF MILK IS REDUCED IN KINGSTON

Kingston, Feb. 28.—(Special).—Milk is reduced from fourteen to thirteen cents per quart here today. Local conditions of distribution are the sole cause for the reduction in prices. Without compulsory pasteurization or certification the city market is wide open, and milk producers who are not tied up by contracts for a special period are in a position to undersell the market. The statement there is an appreciable increase in supply.

THE CODE OF THE MOUNTAINS

By CHARLES NEVILLE BUCK. (Copyright, 1921, by W. J. Watt & Co.)

(Continued From Yesterday's World.)

At last, Red Newton shrugged his shoulders in the fashion of one who has no call to meddle in the affair of others, but as fresh aspects of the matter presented themselves to his consideration, a very real danger to all his family arose to confront him. For Newton to shoot Henry Falkins before the deacon's little plan for the assassination of the Honorable Cale Floyd and Jake Paley had been carried out would precipitate a clan fight and seriously interfere with his desire to kill Henry Falkins. He had been carried out would precipitate a clan fight and seriously interfere with his desire to kill Henry Falkins. He had been carried out would precipitate a clan fight and seriously interfere with his desire to kill Henry Falkins.

So suddenly interrupted at the threshold of his statement, a man from the lowlands would have betrayed himself with an exclamation, or at least have struggled noisily in the grip that thwarted him. Now Spoooner was a man of a certain amount of self-control, and he was not to be hurried by a sudden interruption.

He crossed the stile, hewn in rough steps from a poplar stump, and strode over to the broken millstone that served as a doorstep. He shouted, "I'm a-comin'!"

"It's me, manny. Let me in."

No outward sign of surprise broke from the cabin at the announcement of the prodigal's return. He heard only the rasping of a bar being drawn from its socket, and then the door swung open. Newton entered, and he came from a distance to avoid the scenting of surpluses, but he had reached the threshold, does not knock.

"Who's that?" called a high-pitched, shrill voice from the interior. It was his mother's voice, and Newton replied, "It's me, manny. Let me in."

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(Continued From Yesterday's World.)

night chill came, it was customary to kindle an evening fire. Always in the past his great-grandfather, old Luke Spooner, had sat at the right-hand corner of that hearth, mulling over his long white beard. Newton wondered if he would still be there. He had been almost a centurion when they took the grandson away to the penitentiary; he sight almost gone, his hearing almost lost, his brain wasted to a remnant of nightmare brooding, but his physical vitality holding out like a spent and stubborn fortress. Once he had been among the most feared of feudists, tireless, unafraid, vindictive, and now, reflected Newton. He must have died by this time. One member of the family only would greet with any feeling akin to welcome. His father had in his rough way been fond of him, and he had an equally virginal fashion had reciprocated the feeling. It had never been expressed in words or demonstration, for these things the mountains are as chary as a strictly often in the lone warfare of quarrelling and bickering between his father and mother, while Newton regarded as a natural and universal incident of family life, his "pappy" had taken his time and reason him from "whopping."

Newton thought he would be glad to see his father.

He crossed the stile, hewn in rough steps from a poplar stump, and strode over to the broken millstone that served as a doorstep. He shouted, "I'm a-comin'!"

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(Continued From Yesterday's World.)

"I reckon that's your business." After a while he rose and went to the corner of the room, where once his few belongings had been kept. He evidently fished to find that for which he sought, for he came back to the fire and demanded.

"What's my rifle-gun?"

His mother was still sitting on the edge of the bed. She had fished her clay pipe and lighted it with a coal from the fire. Once more her voice carried the note of anxious embarrassment, and she tried to give it an inconspicuous quality, as she replied:

"Well, ye see, Newty, after pore pappy died we had a heap of trouble. Pore Luke the good Lord had done plumb forgot us in his providence. The house had all the cawn, an' the hawg died off like es of them was blighted an' so—"

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