

The Toronto World

A Morning Newspaper Published Every Day in the Year. MAIN OFFICE, 83 YONGE STREET, TORONTO.

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THE READING CAMP ASSOCIATION

The seventh annual report of the Reading Camp Association, of which Mr. Alfred Fitzpatrick is the founder and present secretary and superintendent, puts vividly before us the needs of a large group of frontier-laborers for whom very little has thus far been done by church or state.

There are in Canada at least 250,000 men engaged in lumbering, fishing, mining and railway construction camps, removed from the refining, restraining and educating influences of civilized life. Many of these men are foreigners, unable to speak our language; many others, the Canadians by birth, have had little or no education, and all of them are forced for many months of the year to a 10 or 12 hour day of monotonous labor and a night spent in a crowded camp where it is almost impossible to read or write or even get away from the unedifying conversation of the crowd.

To meet such conditions the Reading Camp Association was organized by Mr. Fitzpatrick some eight years ago, and its activities have grown steadily year after year as the character and results of its labors appealed to the public. It aims to provide for each group of workers a reading camp, either a tent or a box car or a log shanty—with chairs, tables, papers, magazines, books, writing materials, etc., and a college student to take general charge of the camp and give instruction to all who can be induced to desire it and work for it.

The work of the Reading Camp Association has already commended itself to the Governments of Ontario and Manitoba, which both give it a small annual grant. It has also appealed successfully to a considerable circle of friends, but it could easily utilize to good advantage a far larger revenue than it now has. Its work is inspired by the broadest humanitarianism; it aims to help all the men on the frontier irrespective of creed or tongue and consequently every broad-minded citizen ought to be anxious to see it succeed.

The bill allows fourteen years as a period of grace within which compensation for the withdrawal of licenses will be granted on a continually diminishing scale. After its expiry nothing will be paid a dispossessed license-holder, and the property rights inherent in the monopoly created by the action of the law will revert to the state, which thus regains the free hand it should never have lost.

KNITTED COATS

For Gentlemen and Ladies. For All Outdoor Sports. Fine Imported Coat, 3 pockets, silver grey, trimmed navy, for \$5.00. Special line grey, white and brown, \$3.50, for \$2.50.

WREYFORD & CO.,

JAEGER DEPOT. 85 KING STREET WEST.

NEW JOINT MANAGER FOR CANADA LIFE

Frank Sanderson, Chief Actuary, Receives Promotion From the Board of Directors.

The board of directors of the Canada Life Assurance Company have announced that at their last meeting they appointed Mr. Frank Sanderson, M.A., F.F.A., to be joint general manager of the company.

A FEW INCHES WHICH MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The World desires to direct the attention of the department of marines and fisheries to what may be an oversight, but nevertheless constitutes a grievance on the part of Canadian shipbuilding interests on the great lakes.

On Thursday last The Globe and The Star contained an advertisement calling for tenders for the construction of a steel ice-breaking mail and passenger steamer for use in Northumberland Straits, to be delivered at Charlottetown, P. E. I. The vessel is to be 250 feet in length, 46 feet breadth and 27 feet moulded depth.

The World is assured on unquestionable authority, that if the department will request the modification referred to, at least two, and possibly three, tenders from Canadian shipyards will be submitted.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS FOR CANADA.

For some time past we have been urging upon the government the necessity for a reorganization of the board of railway commissioners, in order to make that body an efficient force for good throughout the country.

We believe that many members of both political parties are sincerely desirous of assisting in the passage of legislation introduced for the benefit of the people of this country, and no hesitation should be shown by anyone in giving credit to the government (no matter what political party may be in power), when measures are proposed which admittedly make for the welfare of the people.

As The World has taken a prominent part in the demand for reform, perhaps at this time it may not be amiss to point out for the consideration of the Hon. George P. Graham some of the reasons why the present board has failed to meet the expectations of the people, and to offer some suggestions with regard to the reorganization, bearing always in mind the idea that the board exists for the purpose of protecting the public against the abuses which undoubtedly exist in connection with the handling of freight and passenger traffic in Canada.

The original purpose for which the board of railway commissioners was created was the supervision of railway rates. From various causes this matter has been pushed into the background, and to-day the tariffs published by the railways are accepted and tacitly approved by the board, without inspection or analysis.

The changes which were rendered necessary in the personnel of the board may to some slight extent have been responsible for this state of affairs, but the real cause of the inaction of the board has been the fact that its members had not the necessary knowledge of railway business which would enable them to criticize the tariffs intelligently.

Then, again, new duties were constantly being imposed upon the board of railway commissioners, until, indeed, they got so hopelessly behind that it became a physical impossibility for them to cope with the volume of work placed before them.

It should be borne in mind, however, that if the members of the board had been experienced railway men, a great deal of time would have been saved, as they would then have been in a position to deal with the different questions with full knowledge and from a practical standpoint, instead of having to study them out on a theoretical basis.

Practical railway men, who are traffic experts, are required upon the board of railway commissioners, and the aim of the government should be to secure men competent to deal expeditiously with the questions submitted, rather than leave these to railway theorists who are obliged to learn by degrees how to handle intricate and novel points of railroad administration.

The government should profit by the lessons of the past, and make the reorganized board one that will be effective for good. This can only be accomplished by appointing men who thoroughly understand the transportation problems of the country.

The time has passed for experiments in this direction, and the government will do well if they take steps to convince the people that they are sincere in their desire to better existing conditions.

THERE'S NO SPLIT IN THE OPINION QUESTION

Mr. McNaught Declares Government, Commission and City Are Working Together.

So much misrepresentation and "hystrics," to use Premier Whitney's phrase has been appearing in the press recently regarding the hydro-electric and the city's interest therein, that the average citizen may well be confused.

Explicit denial has been given by Premier Whitney and other cabinet ministers to statements that the Electrical Development Co. directors had made offers of their plant and assets to the government. The only basis for this story is the fact that common friends of the Electrical Development Co., the Electric Light Co. and the government, would have liked to arrange a basis of negotiation among them.

Probably no one knows the whole situation better than W. K. McNaught, M.L.A., a member of the hydro-electric commission. "With regard to the statement that an offer was made to the hydro-electric power commission by the Electrical Development Co., I can say that no such offer was made," he told The World on Saturday.

THOUGHTS OF THE COUNTRY.

Editor World: Hurray for Billy Maclean, the one man who stands head and shoulders above all other men at this present time for the toiler—especially the farmer—working and striving for the interests of the man who tills the soil. What a mighty good thing it would be if there were but a half dozen or so more such men holding power, representing the people of Ontario; the corporations and monopolists would not live in and hoist so much of the promise of the land, and the public would have a share of what was going.

The position of the city and the commission is in the interests of the city and the Light Co. to get together. They could not do so till they knew something of the electric Light Co. Mr. McNaught declared he was as much in the dark about the contract as anyone.

"I am going to take the matter up next week," said the mayor, "I have had a great many things to attend to, including a visit to Chicago over the windmill question, but I intend to get serious business to break off negotiations with the Light Co. without full consideration."

"The board of control and myself are unanimous in the belief that it is the duty of the city and the Light Co. to get together, and we will carry it out, unless ordered otherwise."

WM. A. ROGERS, LIMITED. From the annual report of Wm. A. Rogers, Limited published in another page, it will be seen that this company had another prosperous year, and its net profits were \$135,649.32, being the largest in the company's history.

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Mr. J. Moore was re-elected President, and Mr. J. L. Morrison Vice-President of the Company. The following gentlemen constitute the directors: J. J. Moore, J. L. Morrison, Robert Kilgour, Wm. A. Rogers, Hon. Chas. H. Duell, Hon. W. Caryl Ely and Hon. H. S. Duell.

THE ST. LAWRENCE ARENA.

Editor World: I notice in an evening paper of Feb. 26, an article regarding an application to the board of control by Dr. Young on behalf of the National Horse Show Association.

I notice that the city has made a grant of \$100 to the association and has taken the association's bond covering this amount. I also notice that of this loan the association have repaid only \$200 to the board of control, which, of course, goes to show that they must be in financial straits.

As a ratepayer of the city I would like to know from the board of control what security they have taken for the due payment of this indebtedness and any interest that may accrue thereon.

Notwithstanding the fact that the association had not been able to pay

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED.

THE HOUSE THAT VALUE BUILT

WELCOME MARCH.

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It has long been a habit of stores to be ready for the different seasons when they were supposed to open. This store is always ready for anything. Ready in March with all the requirements that the people will demand if spring opens early, and ready with the goods the people need to wear and use if winter continues.

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190 YONGE STREET, TORONTO

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The season for making Marmalade lasts only a few weeks, and the bitter Oranges we have received from Messina for this purpose are excellent.

Michie & Co., Ltd.

7 King St. West 5 Telephones.

—pure and sparkling —clear as crystal —rich as cream —that's

O'Keefe's Special Extra Mild ALE

Conference Open to All. Public invited to Tuberculosis Conference on Wednesday Afternoon.

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