The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25.

A Progressive Step.

Two things are to be noted about the government policy for the nationalization of railways as expounded and expanded by the minister of finance. In the first place the main features of the Acworth-Drayton report have been accepted, with the difference of delayed instead of immediate action so far as the G. T. P. and the Grand Trunk Railways are concerned. In the second place, the opposition to this policy is centred at Montreal, and represents the antagonism of corporation interests, with the C. P. R. for a nucleus, to any policy of public ownership whatsoever.

The World, on the announcement of the government regarding the nationalization of the C. N. R., accepted the decision as a step in the right direction. This was done the more willingly that a policy of national ownership, once inaugurated, makes headway on its merits. The Intercolonial Railway, which is held up as a horrible example by opponents of public ownership, has more than justified itself in efficient service, the war service alone since 1914 being notable. Under competent management it furnishes a record, all things being considered, which has not been surpassed.

The government ownership of the C. N. R. implies union with the I. C. R., and probably a working partnership with the T. & N. O. Railway. The combination places the Dominion of Canada in possession of a transcontinental railway reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with a complete express system and a telegraph system.

Such a line requires feeders. In Ontario it must have access to Niagara and Buffalo, and the incorporation of the Grand Trunk with the national system is the simplest method of solving this problem.

The only objection that can be found for the policy is one that operates in Montreal, but not in Ontario. A publicly owned line will give fair service to all. There will be no discrimination for one and not for another. There will be no discrimination at all. A square deal for everybody is the essence of the public ownership policy.

For this or for whatever reason the Montreal interests are out in opposition to the nationalization of the C. N. Ry. It is of very little importance what their reason is, beside the fact that the C. P. R. is willing to give a vast sum of money for the Canadian Northern and relieve the government of its "load." This tenderness for the government and eagerness to relieve it of burdens which under other conditions it was as eager to impose, are signs that there is something highly advantageous to the fortunate person or party that gets possession of the C. N. R. If the C. P. R. is willing to give vast sums for the C.N.R. why should there be any hesitation about the nation itself investing sums less vast to possess itself of this desirable property. We may be certain that if it were not desirable the C.P.R. would not want it. Nor can we imagine that the giant corporation would go into the deal for philanthropic purposes only. It is a matter of pure, cold business and as such it must be considered.

The resolution of the government to face the railway situation will greatly strengthen it with the thoughtful people of the country who realize that the great war for the overthrow of monarchic autocracy would have a hollow ending if corporation autocracy should take the place of the other kind just overthrown.

Food Control Movements.

Alternate praise and censure have been poured out for the benefit of Hon. Mr. Hanna as a food controller, and no doubt he is gratified that it is not all blame that greets him. He appears to have abandoned any idea of controlling prices if he ever entertained it, and this cannot but be regarded as a weak point in the general policy. This is particularly felt in the matter of bread, as we have several times suggested.

In selling cheap fish at ten cents a pound, there was considerable local criticism based on the allegation that similar fish had been sold at nine cents a pound. There was nothing in Mr. Hanna's offer of fish at ten cents to prevent anyone who could sell fish at a cheaper rate from doing so. Fish at ten cents had a certain effect in reducing fish at 25 cents and intermediate prices towards the ten-cent level.

Another fish move that promises well is in co-operation with the Ontario Government by which Lakes Nepigon and Nipissing will be drawn upon. These are storehouses of shoals of the finest fish, not used for many years. The government has also undertaken to increase the output of the hatcheries and thus keep the stock well maintained.

In this effort the government will employ its own fishermen and will vend its supplies on some modified form of commission trading, the price being fixed very slightly above cost. The influence of this on other dealers will chiefly benefit local trade. The fish men make their major profits in United States markets, and their sales there, tho they may not be increased, will not be lessened. Such an arrangement should prove satisfactory to our great ally, while it will reserve all surplus catch for Canadian markets.

Mr. Hanna's order forbidding the sale or use of canned fruit and vegetable products till October, is a sensible move. No sensible person now, except in cases of extreme emergency, would use canned material when the fresh product is on the market. At the same time this may be to some extent a matter of price. Frequently it is cheaper to eat canned vegetables than to buy them at the store even in the height of their season.

In the midst of the war we are apt to forget the other enemy of mankind—famine. It is as a precaution against famine that all these measures are being adopted. It would be an excellent exercise for some of our housekeepers to read "Robinson Crusoe." There are no more fascinating passages in Defoe's classic narrative than those describing his harvesting and preserving and storing of food. Whatever the details may convey, the spirit of the story is that with which the whole country should be imbued.

The United States Government is making a trial of dried foodstuffs, of which there has been an extensive and growing use. The Chinese are adepts at this art, and a visit to any Chinese store will reveal an extraordinary number of dried foods, animal as well as vegetable. The dehydration of fruits and vegetables will be carried on more extensively in future, and in view of the tons of fruit annually wasted in Ontario the more the drying process is encouraged the better.

An Arab Kingdom.

There is a widespread impression that all Mahometans are Turks, which is very far from being correct. The Turks themselves form a comparatively small part of the population of Turkey. It is the policy of the Turks and not of Mahometanism to exterminate those of other races to give room for their own expansion, just as it is the policy of the Germans to exterminate the Belgians, French, Serbians and others, and not of Christianity. It is human nature, not the religions, that is bad.

It is important to remember this distinction in view of the development of the Arab kingdom under Hussain the First, King of Hedjaz, who as grand sherset of Mecca led the revolt against Turkish authority in January. The Turks were as usual oppressing the Arabs and there was nothing for it but to strike a blow for liberty. The Turks were thoroly defeated and driven out of the country, and there is promise of a revival of the old Saracenic culture, on which the civilization and chivalry of Europe and the west is almost entirely based.

The new postage stamps of the Hedjaz Government are beautiful specimens of Saracenic art, and indicate the pleasurable difference that exists between certain standards of art and others. The culture, the art, the wisdom of the true Moslem is nothing if not impersonal, and it is in the high atmosphere of such art that Saracenic genius finds its expression. If we are less universal we should not stultify ourselves by endeavoring to excuse our lower level.

TORONTO GIVES MONEY FOR THREE AEROPLANES

Treasurer of Canadian Aviation Fund Reports Receipt of Cheque.

The honorary treasurer of the Canadian aviation fund for eastern Canada, Captain D. A. Cameron, announces the receipt of a further contribution to the Canadian aviation fund in the shape of a cheque for $22,800 from the City of Toronto for the purchase of three airplanes. The honorary secretary states that one of these is named the "City of Toronto," and it can be seen at the Toronto Exhibition in a tent located in the rear of the transportation building. He further states that the names of the other two planes have not yet been settled; and that the three airplanes contributed by Mr. James Carruthers, of Montreal, bear the names "Montreal," "Winnipeg" and "Edmonton"; and that the war office has been duly notified of these gifts for the benefit of the army council and his majesty's government.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The Toronto World invites correspondence on subjects of current interest. Letters must be short and to the point—not more than 200 words at the outside. The editor reserves the right to cut any letters to make them conform to space requirements. Names will not be published if the writers wish them withheld, but every letter must be signed with writer's name and address, to ensure authenticity.

Political Situation

TORONTO NEWS.

Ottawa, Aug. 24.—The Canadian Northern Railway bill now before the house of commons provides that the government will take over the C.N.R. system for the people and turn it into a government road. This is the first step in the direction of public ownership of railways in Canada.

By acquiring this system cheaper transportation facilities will be afforded the people and the Canadian Pacific Railway will be prevented from charging exorbitant rates in the future. From the speeches of Sir Thomas White and others in the house of commons it is quite apparent that Baron Shaughnessy, president of the C.P.R., has joined hands with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and is using all his influence against the legislation with a view of deliberately obstructing its passage and if possible compelling the government to withdraw the bill and hand over the Canadian Northern to the C.P.R.

There is a well-defined report about the corridors of the house that the C.P.R. are willing to pay an enormous sum of money for the C.N.R. if the government were willing, to cut off competition by permitting the C.P.R. thus to eliminate a dangerous rival. The government of Sir Robert Borden, with the interests of Canada wholly at heart, would never consent to a railway monopoly of such a kind by the C.P.R.

The bill now before parliament gives the people a transcontinental line of their own, and it will be pressed to a final conclusion in both houses. The attempted dictation of Baron Shaughnessy in this matter recalls his open alliance with Sir Wilfrid Laurier against conscription—his alliance with the men who wish to desert the brave Canadians in the trenches of Flanders and on the bloody slopes of Lens. This is one of the outstanding features of the political situation. It is also stated that Baron Shaughnessy has informed Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the Canadian Northern Railway bill must get thru only by closure.

Ottawa, Aug. 24.—The political situation is now waiting on Winnipeg, where the western Liberal leaders and grain growers who were in conference with Sir Robert Borden in regard to the formation of a union government will meet today and tomorrow. A definite answer is expected by Monday at the latest.

While no one caan predict just what will happen, there is a feeling of optimism over the situation among unionists at the capital. The western war Liberals, who are in touch with the situation, are more hopeful over the outcome than at any time since negotiations were opened. It is generally admitted that the situation largely hinges around Hon. J. Calder, being because Saskatchewan is the crucial province.

Pressure is Strong.

If Mr. Calder agrees to enter union himself or to back union that will settle the matter. Information from the west is to the effect that the feeling is so overwhelmingly in favor of the formation of a national government that the western leaders are being forced into supporting union. This has already been proven in Manitoba, and the sentiment in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, it is stated, is rapidly crystalizing in the same manner.

Men who cling to partyism are still fighting union. The seriousness of the crisis which faces Canada is as nothing to them compared with their party. As far as the Conservative party is concerned the group is exceedingly small. The rank and file of the party are patriotically and loyally standing behind Sir Robert Borden, who, they recognize, is acting only from the highest motives and realizes better than anyone else in Canada the seriousness of the situation and the absolute necessity of all war elements uniting in order to save the honor of the Dominion.

Meet in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Aug. 24.—Definite steps have been taken by the Liberals and Conservatives of South Winnipeg with the avowed object of reaching an agreement as to the nomination of a candidate who will receive the united support of the two parties on a win-the-war and conscription platform. At meetings yesterday of both bodies committees of 21 each were appointed. These will confer at an early date with a view to selecting a suitable candidate.

Ottawa, Aug. 24.—While the governor-general has not yet assented to the military service bill, and will probably follow precedent and wait until there are a number of measures before coming to the senate to give oficial assent, yet the government is losing no time in making preparations for conscription. As a matter of fact, the delay in giving assent is not actually resulting in any delay in enforcement. There is much preliminary work to be done and this is in progress at the present time. This will have to be done anyway.

It is understood that Judge Duff of the supreme court, has consented to act as the supreme judge as provided under the act. The work of locating the tribunals has also been nearly completed. There remain only a few Quebec ridings where no tribunals have yet been located. The number of tribunals will run over a thousand.

The act provides for a board of selection to be established by joint resolution of the senate and commons. This board will name one member of each board of tribunals. The other member will be named by the senior country court judge in each county. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been asked to name half the members of the board of selection. So far he has given no intimation as to his intentions on the subject.

If he refuses, the government will name the full board of selection. The act also provides that the governor-in-council may draft regulations for the enforcement of the act. The drafting of the regulations is a big undertaking. This is being done at the present time. The result is that when the bill is finally assented to there will be no delay.

TORONTO STAR.

Ottawa, Aug. 24.—There can only be two reasons for the delay in making law the conscription bill. Either the prime minister hesitates to urge the governor-general to hasten his assent or the governor-general hesitates to give that assent for reasons best known to himself. For the delay the prime minister must be held responsible. If he desired immediate assent to the bill, and the governor-general refused to accept his advice, then the one and only course for the premier would be to resign and request that his successor be named. Senator Cloran, in his motion for a return of correspondence, merely voiced the feeling of many parliamentarians, that there has passed between the governor-general and the imperial authorities correspondence in which grave fears were expressed that more harm than good would be wrought under present conditions in Canada, if compulsory service were enforced before an election. It is obvious, however, that such suspicions cannot be confirmed. Senator Cloran secured a scattered half-dozen votes favoring his demand for the correspondence, and one thing is certain, it will not be brought down voluntarily, even if it does exist.

One rumor says that his excellency hesitates to make law a bill passed by a moribund parliament, before an election is held. Another is that he has advised Sir Robert Borden to complete the cabinet mending before he comes back to him. Another is that Sir George Perley is on his way to Canada clothed with authority to state the views of the imperial authorities on the question, and that the granting of the royal assent is being postponed until he comes.

Still another rumor is that the prime minister is afraid to put into force his own boldly-announced legislation. In addition to these rumors some Liberals declare that the conscription bill was designed primarily to wreck the Liberal party, that it has failed to do so, and that having failed in its intent the government can only foresee trouble in its immediate enforcement, while an election is pending.

It is stated that there is in contemplation the passing of an order-in-council under the War Measures Act specifically exempting from the provisions of the military service bill all men engaged in agriculture or other essential industries.

Whatever the reasons may be for the delay in making the bill law, there can be no manner of doubt that a condition of unrest and nerves is growing in the house. No one doubts that the premier is sincerely seeking for union. But the very fact that the conscription bill is being sidetracked, while the government desperately attempts to push thru the Canadian Northern bill and the soldiers' voting bill, may consolidate Liberal members against union. It was a noteworthy fact that the men who stood in the forefront against the clauses of the latter measure were Carvell of Carleton and MacLean of Halifax, conscriptionists both, and both mentioned as possibilities in the projected union cabinet.

On the other hand the delay in bringing into effect the conscription bill while the premier continues his negotiations for union, is creating a "soreness" among members on his own side.

Winnipeg, Aug. 24.—The western Liberals who have been at Ottawa to promote the movement of a union government have returned here, cheerful and hopeful that a further conference, which will be held in this city, will be of westerners, including Hon. A. Hudson, Hon. J. A. Calder, Premier Sifton, T. A. Crerar, and H. W. Wood. Premier Sifton and Mr. Calder came back from Ottawa in an especially happy mood.

One of the reports reaching here from Ottawa is that the cabinet will be equally divided between the two parties, with Premier Borden at its head, that Mr. Carvell will be minister of militia, and that the French representatives will be Albert Sevigny and Senator Beaubien. The announcement may come Monday or Tuesday.

TORONTO TELEGRAM

With the arrival of John M. Godfrey from Ottawa today the rumor runs that he has been assured a place in the union cabinet, and that J. G. O'Donoghue, who was also prominent in the Win-the-War League, is slated for the labor portfolio. A friend of Mr. Godfrey's, who chatted with him this morning, thought it not likely that he would accept the portfolio, tho he would not be surprised at it being offered to him. Mr. Godfrey, he declared, was such a self-effacing man that he would do nothing that would be likely to discredit the Win-the-War League by making it appear as merely a boom for himself. That Mr. O'Donoghue would be minister of labor he regarded as a probability. Senator Robertson is said to have declined the portfolio.

The impression gains ground that there will be no enforcement of conscription till the new union cabinet has been formed and has had a chance to get together.

Sir Edmund Out.

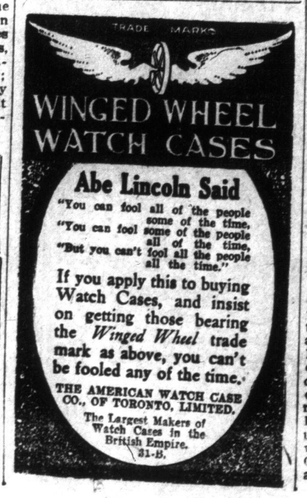
Sir Edmund Osler is definitely out of politics, it is announced. It was with difficulty that he was persuaded to offer himself at the last election, and his withdrawal now apparently leaves the nomination in West Toronto to H. C. Hocken, if that worthy desires to take it. A Liberal, discussing Mr. Hocken's chances this morning, declared that the Toronto Railway purchase scheme would be used against him as a side issue if he was to run in West Toronto. Louis Gurofsky is to be the Liberal standard-bearer there, it is said.

W. J. O'Reilly is mentioned as a candidate in the Liberal interests in South Toronto.

Foster May Not Run.

There is a decided doubt in North Toronto as to whether Sir George Eulas Foster will be a candidate there again. He has been offered several eastern seats, and he would not be likely to fight for the nomination here if any opposition were to develop. The Conservative candidate in North Toronto will probably have C. W. Kerr or Major A. A. Mulholland as an opponent.

It is declared that another member of the firm of Robinette, Godfrey and Phelan is taking a renewed interest in politics just now, and that T. C. Robinette, K.C., will try to wrest Centre Toronto from Edmund Bristol, K.C. Just what will happen there depends on what the Franchise Act to be introduced at Ottawa is like. If aliens are disfranchised Mr. Bristol will probably have a sure thing.



OFFICIAL PRICES ARE SET FOR COAL

Washington Authorities Decide on Fuel Costs at the Mines.

A BIG REDUCTION

New Figures Represent Radical Cut on Those Hitherto Prevailing.

The accompanying table shows the cost price of coal in Toronto, based on the prices fixed by the Washington authorities. The figures, in the case of anthracite, bring the coal in on Toronto tracks, and the cost of unloading and handling by Toronto dealers has to be added. According to the cost of living commissioner, it costs the local merchants about $1.87 to handle a ton of coal, so that, under existing conditions, the coal men will not be making a large margin of profit and do not intend to reduce the present price of anthracite coal.

In regard to the soft coal prices, there is much doubt in the minds of local coal men as to whether these figures will obtain or not, and there has been a meeting of the large American bituminous operators called for next Wednesday in Pittsburg, at which they will decide on a course of action.

Many of the operators have already stated that they could not mine coal at the price fixed by the government, and offered to turn the mines over to the government, rather than try to operate at the fixed prices.

Another grave danger in the bituminous field is labor trouble. A short time ago the miners were promised a substantial increase in wages, but, with the price of coal cut in less than half, the men see their increase disappearing, and threaten to walk out. This would involve between 60,000 and 75,000 men.

There is very little soft coal arriving in Toronto at the present time, and it is pointed out that, as far as Canada is concerned, price is a secondary matter to supply, and at the present time supply is the primary consideration.

Coal Prices as fixed by U. S. Government.

The prices fixed by the American Government for anthracite and bituminous coal, if it applies to Canada as well as the States, would make the cost on tracks in Toronto as follows:

Size.	Mine Price.	Freight to Bridge.	Operators' Profit.	Gross at Bridge.	Net Ton at Bridge.	Brokerage.	Freight to Toronto.	Toronto on Track.
	—Anthracite Coal.—							
Egg	$4.65	$2.00	$0.75	$7.40	$4.60	$0.30	$0.66	$7.56
Stove	4.90	2.00	0.75	7.65	6.82	0.30	0.66	7.89
Chestnut	4.90	2.00	0.75	7.65	6.82	0.30	0.66	7.89
Pea	4.10	2.00	0.75	6.85	6.11	0.30	0.66	7.07

Grade.	Mine. Price.	Freight to Toronto.	Duty.	War Tax.	On Track Toronto.
	—Bituminous Coal.—				
Slack	$1.75	$2.06	$0.14	$0.14	$4.09
Run of mine	2.00	2.06	0.14	0.15	4.35
Lump	2.25	2.06	0.53	0.17	5.01

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF UNIVERSITY STAFF

Changes in the personnel of the staff of the University of Toronto are announced in a statement issued at the institution yesterday.

Prof. J. E. Shaw of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, will succeed Prof. Northrup, who has gone to Chicago University as instructor of Italian and Spanish. Prof. E. A. Dale of Edinburgh is appointed to a position in the Latin department, while Prof. S. Beatty is promoted to the assistant professorship of mathematics. F. C. A. Jeanette, lecturer in French, has been appointed registrar of University College, to take the place of Prof. J. S. Will. W. D. Woodhead, an Oxford graduate, has been appointed a lecturer in the Latin department.

ALONE ON FARM WITH BUMPER CROP

Striking Appeal for Help Reaches Government Employment Bureau.

The demand for farm help far exceeds the supply available, stated Rev. J. A. Miller, of the government employment bureau at 15 East King street, yesterday. Two weeks ago an average of fifty men a day were sent out to the farms, but now the number had fallen to about thirty-five, and the need was still great. A number of men who had recently been released from munition factories had applied for work and had been placed on the farms.

The bureau has 200 applications on file from farmers who need men at once. He quoted from letters received which indicates the need in many localities. "I am all alone on a hundred acres with a bumper crop. For goodness sake try and get me someone." Another writes as follows: "I am completely stuck. I have forty acres standing in shock. I am alone and need help badly."

"If the manufacturers had kept their promises," said Mr. Miller, "to allow their employes to spend a week or two on the farms just now the situation would be relieved considerably and the farmers could save their crops."

EDWARD BOTTRELL DEAD.

Edward Bottrell, of Ottawa, died Thursday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Walter Borrett, 44 Tyndall avenue. He was in his 84th year. He was educated at Queen's University, and for nearly 45 years was connected with the distribution office of the house of commons at Ottawa. He retired 15 years ago, and since then has been dividing his time between Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Richard, of Ottawa, and Fred, of Moose Jaw, and two daughters, Mrs. Carrouthers, of Ottawa, and Mrs. Walter Borrett, Toronto. The remains will be taken to Ottawa for burial.

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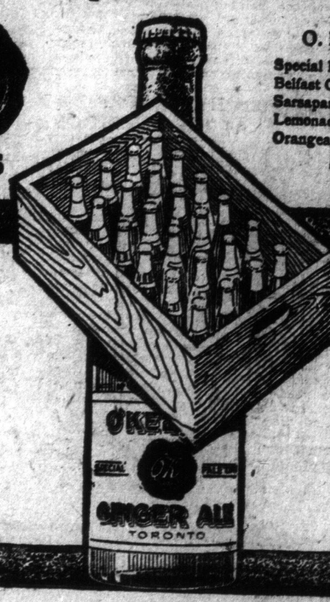

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