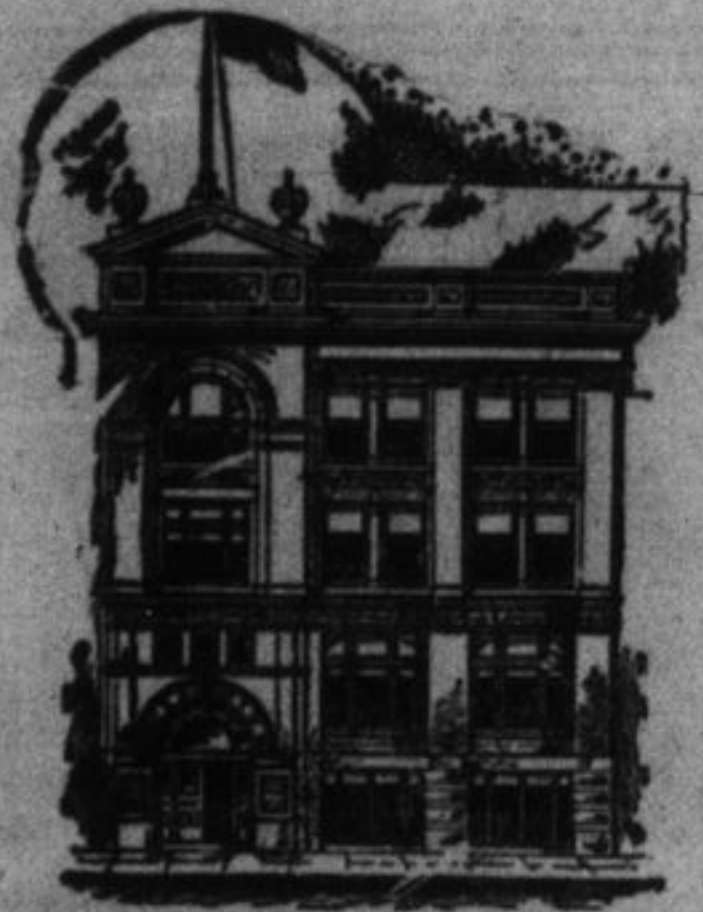


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NEW PARTIES IN ONTARIO.

New parties are talked of in Ontario. The Hydro-Electric difficulty has created a serious cleavage between the government and municipalities that have power contracts. The fine talk of Hon. Mr. Ferguson and Hon. Mr. McGarry does not allay the turbulent feeling which was engendered towards the close of the legislature. The municipal union fears the trespass of the government which was supposed to be behind it in a friendly and financial way.

Now this government is going to control the Commission's work by the presence and check of a government official. His imprimatur will be of greater consequence than the imprimatur of the chairman, Sir Adam Beck. That Sir Adam is submitting to this indignity is impossible to believe; and yet the attorney-general professes to have a letter from Sir Adam giving his consent or sanction to it all.

The Hydro-Electric Commission may accept of its humiliation for a time, but sooner or later it will resent the dictation of the government, and without the municipalities that were supporters of the government in the west it will have to go. One of its members is said to see the end of the government in the next election.

The Licensed Victuallers are said to be anxious to punish the Hearst government for its deceptions. The liberals do not expect any favors from the liquor men, and will not get them. The Licensed Victuallers will be eager for an independent fight. The conservative party, however, composed of several warring elements, will be too much for the Ferguson-McGarry faction. They may all go down together.

CITY AND STREET RAILWAY.

At the Utilities' Committee meeting the Campbell offer of surplus power, at .75c per kilo-watt hour, was duly accepted. The Whig hoped it would be. Orders were given to carry the contract into effect. This was done notwithstanding that Mr. Ross, of Montreal, gave an elaborate opinion which had been read and re-read by the commissioners. It was designed to make them sit up and think, and the exercise did them good. This is the second time that an expert's opinion has been secured by the commission and tenderly tyed away.

The plans suggested in connection with the street railway have not been matured and for good and sufficient reasons. At a previous meeting it was practically decided to remove the company's steam plant from the power house and replace it with electrical machinery which was to cost about \$8,000 or \$9,000 some months ago. Now, when the company, by an agreeable arrangement, are disposed to buy it, the initial outlay is figured at \$12,000 or \$13,000. This sudden and extraordinary increase in value is due to the war.

The company is not disposed to invest so large a sum of money at present in view of all that it is undertaking in behalf of a continued and improved service. It may do so later, for surely there must be a fall in value when the war is over, and skill and capital are free to make for commerce the machinery it makes in place of munitions. Hence for the present the street railway company will be content with a low rate of power, 1.20c per kilo-watt hour, and let the future produce the facilities of which due advantage will be taken.

A SHAM BACK-DOWN.

Washington, says the New York Herald, whose correspondents are adepts in the feeling of the public pulse, is assured that Germany will do anything in order to avoid a rupture in her diplomatic relations with the submarine campaign "upon strictly legal grounds." The declaration will forewarn "all intention of attacking any unarmed merchant ship without warning or without assuming the responsibility for the lives of all persons on board, save during such time as the merchant ship resists or attempts to fight."

If the United States government is content with assurances that do not mean anything it will have all it wants of them. It has had such assurances from the beginning of the chapter, and they have been so often ignored that Germany has come to treat any of the president's representations lightly. Meanwhile, and as part of a great scheme, in which the hyphenated Germans have embarked, congress is being bombarded with telegrams, hundreds of them, written in New York and mailed all over the States with instructions to have them signed by sympathizers and sent to Washington at the expense of the "American Embargo Conference."

A member of congress, Senator Huston, has exposed the whole nefarious plot to deceive the United States government and to weaken it in the eyes of the people. It has cost something to do this, but alas, it is said, "the masks have been torn from the faces of those who pretended to be acting in the interests of peace, but who as peacemakers have laboured to spread discontent and cause perhaps insurrection in the country."

IRELAND'S LAST TROUBLE.

The Irish insurrection has reached a climax through the surrender of the leaders and the dispersal of the riotous mobs. They continued in action long enough to expend their strength and cause a sacrifice of life which will be long remembered. Now that the trouble is over, and peace has been restored, men will ask what all the difficulty has been about. The desired information comes from one who is in authority upon the subject, namely, the Marquis of Aberdeen. He is in Canada at present, and while passing through Montreal consented to an interview.

The marquis says the Sinn Feiners represent a small and turbulent element in Ireland. Not until influenced by German emissaries, however, had there been any thought of violence in the form which it assumed. The element referred to is made up of persons who have had peculiar ideas with regard to government. They have dreamed of an independent Ireland, of a sort of republic with a presiding genius as its president. They have been noisy in talk, but the marquis does not think they had any plan of physical violence until the war broke out and the German agents pointed the way to action.

The Sinn Feiners were joined in their movement by those who followed Jim Larkin lead in the riot years ago. These are of the population of Dublin, and of a social condition most distressing. Upon both—the Sinn Feiners and the social degenerates—a change may come at the close of the war, when self-government for Ireland automatically comes into effect. Meanwhile the furies of the misguided mobs have spent themselves. These mobs did not have behind them the law abiding and industrious people of Ireland. They were bound to fail.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The school board has taken to a new diversion. It relieves the monotony of debate by having the secretary read the Whig's editorials.

The Toronto News is concerned because the parliament of Canada is hampered with the work of a commission which is considering the war contracts of Canada. A matter of \$148,000,000 is not an insignificant item. It ought to be considered at any time.

The Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Companies will get aid in cash from the federal government, and to the extent of a good many millions of dollars. The bonds of the companies, which cannot be sold during the war, will be taken as collateral security.

The Immigration Department has been interested in securing farm help from the United States, and in abundance, and finds that the movement has been affected. In what way? By the rumors of conscription? People object to be numbered. How many? In what walks of life?

The Ottawa Free Press advises that judgment on the shell contracts be withheld until the commission is through with its enquiry. Sure, but why does the Free Press not act upon its advice? Why belabor Mr. Carvell to the extent of a column because he persists in asking ques-

tions in the interest of the people whom he represents?

The Northcliffe press has demanded conscription in England. All the single and eligible young men, it insists, should be compelled to serve in the army. The Northcliffe Company, however, does not believe that any of its staff should serve, and application has been made for the exemption of them all from military duty. Is this consistent?

PUBLIC OPINION

Not All.  
(London Advertiser).  
Oh, yes, Premier Hearst, J. R. Fallis was undoubtedly indiscreet, but, that's not all.

The Greatest Act.

(Montreal Star).  
After all, though, we must concede that the German "High Seas" Fleet did accomplish a remarkable achievement. It went to sea.

An Explosion in Hamilton.

(Hamilton Spectator).  
God help Canada, if such miserable creatures as Armand Lavergne were any way near a majority! He would be a disgrace to any country.

A Man's Chance.

(Ottawa Free Press).  
War is more than a dreadful calamity, for Hon. Mr. Patenaude. It also gave him his opportunity—the opportunity to change his views and get a cabinet job.

A Collapse at Hand.

(Exchange).  
The report that von Bernstorff is on the eve of a nervous breakdown is serious news to Germany. If the Imperial German Ambassador to the United States loses his nerve, he loses his biggest asset.

The Truest Patriot.

(Toronto Globe).  
The men who have risen in Ireland regard John Redmond as a traitor to the cause of Irish nationality. The truest patriot and the most enlightened statesman Ireland has had in her service since constitutional agitation for Home Rule began.

Print Bills Tell a Tale.

(Canadian Courier).  
Government printing bills are sometimes illuminating. It cost the country in 1915 over \$372,584 to print the bills, debates and proceedings of the House of Commons. For the Commission of Conservation—whose carefully compiled reports and bulletins are often very valuable—the bill was \$87.24. The Commission's reports cannot be said to be more valuable than Hansard. But for its \$87.24 the nation certainly gets better value than for its \$372,584.

What Dr. Bland Heard.

(Winnipeg Free Press).  
Dr. Bland said that he secured his facts from Col. Mullins, inspector of supplies for the west, during a conversation on the train. Throughout the hearing this morning there was an inclination on the part of the

commission to treat Dr. Bland's evidence as the purest hearsay, and his statements as generalities. But Col. Mullins corroborated every one of them. He declared that contractors had been discovered giving short weight on bread and coal, supplying worthless beef and inferior bacon and jam, and providing hay, the bales of which were filled with rank stough grass and fox-tail. These men had been "pulled up" in their attempts to get ahead of the government; but the majority of them still continue to supply goods to the government, and none of them were punished. Nobody seems to know how long these practices were in force. There would seem to be something for the commission to consider further in this regard.

KINGSTON EVENTS  
25 YEARS AGO

Policeman Craig ill of typhoid. R. Bushell appointed purser on steamer Pierrepont. Last section of the wall of old St. Joseph's school to-day. Inspector Chamberlain recommends erecting a new residence for the pallor. Civic wharves and harbor committee discusses the inadvisability of putting up public baths at the foot of West street.

AMERICAN PRESS.

The Irish Rising.  
New York Sun.  
How serious the disturbance is the public here has no means of knowing. That it has been long in preparation and carefully planned is recognized. The British censorship has now succeeded in suppressing all the disquieting news it endeavored to keep from the world, and the conduct of the Ministry in the treatment of Ireland since the beginning of the war has been sufficient evidence of the danger that existed. The Government is now indignantly assailed because of its lenient policy; yet it must not be overlooked that the application of stern measures before the commission of an overt act would have had serious and far-reaching consequences that England's rulers were in duty bound to avoid if avoidance was possible by repression of the agitators by force would have had political effects at home, in the colonies and in foreign countries that must have multiplied the difficulties of a nation engaged in the prosecution of a complex and perplexing task.

The opinion has been widely, though not unanimously, held here that Mr. Redmond's policy carried promise of great good for Ireland, and would accomplish results not to be attained by violence. Plainly, the programme for which he has labored is now imperilled, and on this account the Sinn Fein uprising may cost its authors support and approval on which they have confidently counted outside of Ireland.

Cheese sales: Campbellford, 17 9-16c; Stirling, 17 3-4c to 17 12-16c; London, 18 1-2c; St. Hyacinthe, Que., 16 1-2c; Belleville, 16c. Harper's Weekly has been acquired by the Independent Corporation, and is to be incorporated by the Independent.

RANDOM REELS

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

DUST.

Dust is something which is put on the roads by Nature and allowed to remain there by man. Nature is prodigal in her gifts, and man owes much to her generosity, but it sometimes seems as if she could restrict the output of her dust factory to good advantage, instead of working in three shifts during the touring season.

Dust is caused by the sun reaching down with one hand and extracting from a country road a lot of water which contained necessary moisture. The sun is no doubt a great luminary and helpful to the corn crop, but as a road-maker it is a bigger joke than the township trustee who operates with a disc harrow. Just about the time that a long stretch of sand road gets to the point where it can be travelled over without using profanity or non-skid chains, the sun opens up on it at close range and repairs it so that a humming bird can't get through on a pair of stilts.

Dust is a greater hindrance to human happiness than mud, which never gets into the house except when dragged in by the elephantine foot of a forgetful husband. No architect was ever able to design from creeping in on its hands and knees

and causing intense mortification of spirit to a housewife who was not expecting company. When a cloud of red-clay dust is backed by a strong west wind, it is harder to fight off than an attack of the prickly heat. Some parts of the country produce more dust than others, and divide freely with the tourist who complains of the price of table-board.

The favorite method of disposing of dust is to sprinkle the streets on which the Mayor and City Council reside. This makes a very valuable home of the Mayor very valuable, and it also makes a rousing campaign argument. On circus day the street-sprinkler can make more money carrying water to the elephant, so that the city of the parade is over most of the inhabitants look like the employees of a powder mill. Some cities keep down the dust by covering it with a rich, dark-brown coat of oil, which is at once worked into a large number of Axminster rugs with entire success.

The only cure for dust is a sea voyage. One has ever explained why our forefathers located on the wild, sand-choked prairie instead of choosing some dustless site like that of Venice, where the men dust-act was ever able to design from creeping in on its hands and knees

Rippling Rhymes

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are everywhere; they are the motorist's despair, they're ruinous to sport; for if, in searching through the town, I run a half a dozen down, they have me hauled to court. It seems to me unfair and mean that coin I need for gasoline must go in paying fines, or damages, at the behest of walkers I've knocked galley west, and telescoped their spines. Oh, how aggravated a driver feels, when some one gets beneath the wheels, and spoils a costly tire! My sentiments, at such a time, if they were couched in song or rhyme, would melt a wooden lyre. Pedestrians look round with scorn, when I toot warnings on my horn, their actions seem to say: "Just climb our persons if you dare, with that old tumbrel you have there—we have the right of way!" They elench their hands and set their teeth, and wildly throw themselves beneath my offensive car, and then the peelers come along, and drag me, innocent of wrong, where the jurists are. And there I pay another fine, from this depleted well of mine, and hear the cad say: "You demons of the buzz-buzz cart, who knock pedestrians apart, will find it doesn't pay!"



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