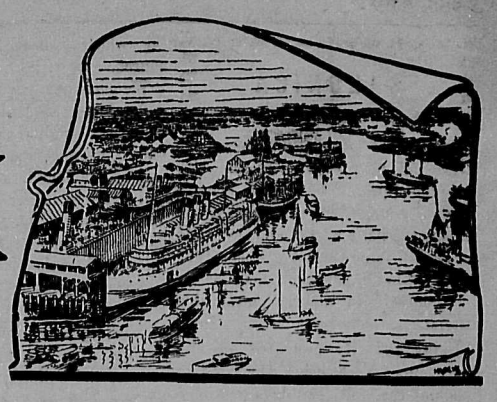
The Week



A British Columbia Newspaper and Review

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A Civic Calamity

WHEN A LARGE BODY OF MEN find themselves in the grave position of severing their relations with a public corporation with which they have hitherto worked harmoniously, it is certain that there must be some strong, underlying motives and reasons for their action. When a large public corporation like the British Columbia Electric Light & Tramway Company resolve to risk the disruption of their business and assume the responsibility of disorganizing a public service based upon generous franchises, it is but fair to assume that there are powerful forces at work that must not be treated lightly.

This article is entitled A CIVIC CALAMITY, but it might have with equal justice received the caption of a Municipal Calamity, or even a Provincial Calamity, because the strike of the employees of this corporation has such far-reaching consequences that it affects not only the large cities of the Province but also the rural municipalities and in a smaller degree the unorganized districts.

The business of this corporation consists in part of Transportation and in part of providing Light and Power. It is the former part of their undertaking that appears only to have been disrupted. There seems to be no disposition on the part of the staff employed in the Light and Power Department to join the strike of the motorneers and conductors, even though there would be a natural affinity and sympathy.

THE CASE STATED

Let us consider the position. Briefly stated, the case for the men is that wages have generally advanced in all trades and occupations; that the costs of living in every direction have increased abnormally; that the lesser-paid employees cannot square their income with their expenditure, and that it is better to face the possibility of non-employment for a season rather than face the steadily growing deficits which confront them. To this may be added that they recognize that labor is scarce, men are needed, both locally and in other places in the Province, and that also many of the men have other crafts or business to which they can turn their attention.

The case for the corporation is that their undertaking as far as Transportation is concerned exhibits no profit; that all costs of maintenance have materially increased since the war began; that it is useless apparently to increase prices for transportation, as it involves diminished use of their facilities; that they have the keen competition of the jitneys which they consider unfair; that they have offered a war-bonus equal to $100,000 per annum in order to meet the situation; that the demand of the men involved an outlay of $300,000 which meant a distinct operating loss; and that they would prefer closing down their transportation business rather than face a certain deficit. In addition thereto they state that an agreement had been entered into by both parties as to wages until 1918. Consequently the company lose any chances of profit: the men lose employment and wages, enter other occupations or drift to other places.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

In this contest between capital and labor, between employers and employed, what consideration is given to the *Public Service?* Both sides of the dispute have equal responsibilities to the people. The corporation cannot evade them for they secured their franchises through their strong avowal of the necessity for better facilities for civic transportation. The men cannot avoid their share of responsibility, for they cannot be permitted to enter other employments, drift to other places, and still hold the right of settlement to a question affecting the safety, convenience and comfort of the public generally. It may be that the expletive of the transportation magnate, Vanderbilt, "The public be d——d," might fit the personal views of both the corporation and the men, but the social or communal rights of the Province cannot be disposed of so easily as the utterance of an expletive.

The statements of both employers and employed are *ex parte.* Each side is striving to make the best of their own case, but is is quite certain that either are quite ingenuous or judicial in their statements?

THE CASE CONSIDERED

Let us consider. The men say that the costs of living have advanced. Granted. The company state that they increased wages in 1915, and offer a bonus again this year. The men reply that the amount of all increases, or, in other words, *the sum-total of the wages offered is not commensurate with the increased value of the necessaries of life.* THE WEEK considers this part of the case as it affects the lowest-paid employees, unquestionably true and correct. It is true that labor is in demand in other occupations and also in other places. It is further true that the advances already made, added to those offered would not meet the situation. The company state that they have offered increase of wages up to the limit of the financial ability of the undertaking, and that to do more would be to operate at a loss. Is this so? It is an unsupported statement, and demands both searching and careful enquiry. What are the overhead charges made to the transportation part of the undertaking? Are the head officials of the company, Messrs. Kidd, Goward, Tripp and others, paid upon the basis of boom times, or the genuine value of their services at the present time? It is stated, for instance, that the General Manager, Mr. Kidd, is paid $15,000 per annum for his services, and that he combines other side lines in order to eke out his precarious income. It is averred that the incursions of the company into real estate speculations are responsible for heavy charges on the Transportation system. It is also stated that the increase of the maintenance charges bear no appreciable factor to the situation generally. It is further stated that there are subsidiary or affiliated companies, or companies in which the directors of the B. C. E. L. & T. Company and leading shareholders are interested, that have paid handsome dividends and that this corporation is the milch cow that produces the dividends.

The jitney competition—which is classed by the company as unfair—should not, in the judgment of THE WEEK—be so considered. Every succeeding stage in the progress of the world is certain to bring the element of competition into every trade and calling. Railways superseded macadamized roads; steam superseded horses; electricity in some respects superseded steam. Finality is not written on human affairs: there is no last chapter. The jitney traffic met a public demand, and serves a public convenience, and governments or city councils would do well to let the public service find its natural choice and level. Foolish restrictions, other than those based upon human life and safety, should be absolutely avoided.

It is undoubtedly true that the public would resent increased fares. Yet it must be frankly admitted that this expedient cannot be overlooked, and the advertisements of the company may be intended to create an atmosphere of public acquiescence in the suggestion.

It is also true that a wage-agreement was entered into by both employers and employed, which in the minds of many would appear to be a sacred thing. Is it? War conditions do not savour of sanctity: the profiteers attitude is assumed regardless of human rights: the argument of ill-furnished homes, ill-clad women and children, and lessened food would properly break any agreement made either by angels or men. The ocmpany's offer strikingly repudiates their faith in the sanctity of an agreement, made when an extraordinary situation presents itself.

Cheaper wage-earners might be used. Youths of 16 or 18, or women from 20 to 50 might be employed as conductors, and possibly as motorneers, but would this be desirable? In other countries these methods have been adopted, and sometimes with success, albeit the spirit of the West—which is free from tradition—would allow a fair trial of such an expedient, if it was conformable with public interest.

The men say that they have no interest in the company's financial disabilities. The value of their labor in the market has increased and they want the increased price. Yet the two things have an intimate connection. No sane man can reasonably expect a company to operate at a loss: no decent corporation can expect men to work for less than fair wages or below the bread-line limit.

A CUL-DE-SAC

Is there no way of bridging over this difficulty? Is there no methods by which opposing forces can be brought together? Have the resources of civilization been exhausted? Cannot reason, conciliation and enquiry avail? THE WEEK suggests:—

(1) A public enquiry as to the facts by a committee nominated by the Provincial Government;

(2) Arrangements for the prompt resumption of the service.

(3) Recommendations as to the permanent continuance of the service, and a withdrawal immediately of all advertisements or statements made by either party to the dispute likely to create acrimonious controversies or influence the public mind.

First and last and paramount above all is the *Public Service.* Individual or corporate interests must not interfere with the public good. Communal right is supreme and must prevail. The Public must not be d——d, *it must be served.*

The Gage of Battle

IN its last issue, THE WEEK offered its congratulations to Hon. John Hart, the new Minister of Finance. At the time the article was written, the writer was not aware of any serious objection to the appointment, or that the new Minister would be opposed at the impending by-election. Events march with startling rapidity, and an objector was found, not in the ranks of His Honor's loyal Opposition, but in the Liberal fold itself. An able and experienced medical practitioner, one whose name has been indissolubly associated with organizations and movements of a progressive and humanitarian character, has flung his hat into the ring, and proposes to test the temper, sentiments and opinion of the electorate by an appeal to the ballot box.

Concerning the new Minister, THE WEEK does not withdraw one jot or tittle of its commendatory introduction in its last issue. In its considered opinion, the election of John Hart should have been conceded without a contest. The new Minister was fortunately free from the slightest complicity in any of the deeds that have been the subject of enquiry by committees and commissions, and which have given lovers of rigteousness anxiety and regret. *Yet it might have been.* As Treasurer of the Provincial Campaign Fund, he might have been tempted, and he might not have emerged from the temptation with a spotless record. As far as Dame Rumour can be credited, the fair name of John Hart—in his public career or private life—has not been stained. Hence there does not appear to be a strong case for opposition based upon the new Minister's known acts or deeds, or manner of life.

HON. H. C. BREWSTER'S GOVERNMENT

Why then oppose? In the judgment of Mr. Brewster, the Portfolio of Finance could be best filled from the ranks of his supporters by the appointment of Mr. John Hart. From within the circle of elected representatives there might have arisen "envyings and disputes," and it was well known that there were aspirants for the position from the Legislative chamber, and many arguments might have been adduced why the coveted position should have been given to another. Yet the Premier's office carries with it the responsibility of choosing the Ministers who shall form the Executive Council of the Province. The choice has fallen upon Mr. John Hart, and the citizens of Victoria are asked to underwrite the appointment.

VEXATIOUS OPPOSITION

Opposition or controversy for its own sake is not desirable. Good government does not depend upon unending disputes, although it must be conceded that searching criticism and examination of all matters of law and administration are most useful to the body politic. If, however, controversy or opposition is evoked for the mere love of fighting, then it ceases to be a virtue, or to be of any value to the State.

In any statement to the Press there does not appear to be any high ideal worthy of commendation on the part of the opposition to Mr. Hart, and it would rather appear that the hostile movement is personal or partisan rather than called out from high motives of State. If the object is to place Mr. Brewster's Government on trial for its misdeeds, or for its lack of zeal in public affairs, the opposition is to be commended. If anything less than this, then the movement must be considered as vexatious and factious. It is not a little significant that the historic opposition, under Mr. Bowser's leadership, does not consider it necessary nor fitting to provoke a contest and publicly appear to discountenance the project. It cannot be averred that the Conservative party is either lacking in courage or astuteness, and their resolve to refrain from the contest makes the opposition offered more inexplicable.

DR. ERNEST A. HALL

The candidate whose action forced the contest is a valued contributor to the columns of THE WEEK. His views upon political questions generally may be designated as progressive Liberalism, and his articles on "Social Justice" have been read with interest by our readers. He was an Independent candidate at the last election and at his meetings avowed his intention, if elected, of enrolling himself under Mr. Brewster's leadership. THE WEEK unhesitatingly declares its confidence in the honor, integrity and high ideals on public questions of Dr. Hall, whilst at the same time it impugns the wisdom of his course and does not justify his judgment. Mr. Brewster might reasonably urge that he is being "wounded in the house of his friends." For Dr. Hall does not conceal his admiration for the sterling qualities of Mr. Brewster, nor does he deny the excellent legislative achievements of the session not yet completed. It is difficult, therefore, to frame adequate excuses why a colleague should be opposed, who has been elected within the past few months to the Lgislative Assembly, and who has been honored with a high office involving the possibility of greater service to the Province and to his constituents.

A GAUNT SPECTRE

Insinuative, rather than assertive, the gaunt spectre of religious intolerance has appeared. Suggestive hints, reminiscent of base and hateful discordant controversies, have been made of the Minister's religious affiliations. If this ghostly visitant from the habitations of darkness appears in any guise or form during the contest, THE WEEK hopes for the fair credit of the Province that if mortal weapons can avail, it will receive its death blow. Nothing can be more tragic, nothing more shameful, nothing more ignoble could be witnessed than that a person's views concerning religion should be made an argument or a pretence or a reason why a vote should be cast for or against him. The noblest of men and women of every cult and creed and from the creedless ranks, have been found serving the State with passionate devotion and priceless loyalty; and THE WEEK expresses its unfaltering faith in Mr. Hart's unsullied justice and sincere impartiality in dealing with all matters that may even appear to have a religious trend or interest.

It is therefore with sincere regret that THE WEEK contemplates the candidature of Dr. Hall, and would earnestly hope that, if it is not too late, wiser counsels may prevail, and he may retire from the contest.

The converse of the foregoing paragraph is that Hon. John Hart may be returned without the formality of a contest.

" A Deed Without a Name "

"And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind.

—SHAKESPEARE.

HORROR OF HORRORS. It seemed to be scarcely possible to have added to the long list of unspeakable crimes done under the specious guise of military necessity and war. Yet it appears as if each succeeding month or period finds some new method of savagery, some barbaric act that strikes at humanity with fiendish malice. A fleet of German aeroplanes is sent across the seas with the capital of Great Britain as its objective point, and upon the peaceful unarmed citizens of the world's metropolis a fusilade of destructive bombs is let loose. With super-barbaric atrocity one or more fell upon a school where hundreds of innocent children of tender age had gathered, and when the page of this fiendish exploit was written, it was found that ten children had been killed and fifty others had been injured. From the bottomless pit of hell, could anything more atrocious have been devised, or the arch-enemy of mankind himself conceive of a more useless deed of savagery? Superman or superdemon, it matters not: the deed is unspeakable, and language itself is powerless to describe its horror. God of Heaven: under thy fair sky, on this green earth, where thy children might live in common brotherhood, can such things be? Stay, Thou, these murderous deeds!!

Hart the Financier or Hall the Fizzician: which? Excuse phonetic mistakes.

Jitneys are having a harvest; Tramways are taking a rest; Politicians are busy recruiting; People are grumbling and paying, while the old, old, world placidly jogs along.

SALONICA

The streets of Solonica are very dirty and narrow, and as the city does not appear to be laid out according to a plan, streets run in all directions, with many a twist and turn, and one never knows exactly where they will terminate, and you may easily find yourself in a very undesirable district.

Today the city presented quite a lively appearance, being decorated in honor of the visit (two days previously) of Venezelos. There is a Turkish district in the city, and the veiled woman was a common sight.

The Greek soldier, in his elaborate uniform, was quite conspicuous and evidently enjoying himself.

Numbers of school-girls, almost all dressed alike in blue, and carrying large satchels, like music cases, under their arms, were making their way to some central place. They appeared to be girls of about twelve years of age and upwards, and of well-to-do families. The boys belonging to the boys college also wear a kind of uniform, the caps are trimmed with a gold braid around them, all being alike.

We met a company of Russian soldiers marching through the city singing some military songs. A few of them sang what seemed to be a line, and then the others joined in a refrain and so on to the chorus, when all joined in. The voices were strong and powerful and the singing sounded very fine in the narrow street. They are all picked men, many wearing medals won in the present war. All appear to be of one age and like big children. They and the Serbs, too, all salute us, and we respond. Many Jack-tars were walking about, and they looked so fine and fresh, in so great a contrast to the dirty foul streets of the city. One asked us to direct him to the Imperial Hotel, and we put him on the right way. A Greek who could speak English a little, showed me a paper, with the same address on it, and asked for direction.

Solonica is rich in churches some of them being very old. We were very interested in one of the oldest of these, a Jewish church, which was built, below the level of the street on the traditional sight of the synagogue in which the Apostle Paul preached. We found some women who opened the church and conducted us round, and plainly showed their disappointment when we had to acknowledge that we were "Gentiles" to their question of "Are you Isaelites?"

I had a photo taken of myself with one of these old women, which will be quite a souvenir. The worshippers, of the ancient Jewish faith, sat all around the church, and the service, conducted in the ancient Greek, was not understood by the present congregation. The service is full of ritual, and the old rolls of manuscript writings used.

After leaving the friendly old ladies, we visited the traditional site of the house of Janus, and there are indications that a church at one time was built on the site. Another site is also claimed as the identical spot near which is now the Church of the Twelve Apostles. We met a priest, who was delighted at having his photo taken, and even offered us cigarettes! He was different in many ways from those we had previously met, being intelligent, and quite willing to talk, and when he discovered that one of us came from Canada, and another from Australia, he was quite excited and said he had read much of those countries.

The Greek church does not believe in images but allows pictures of Christ, Mary, the Apostles, and Saints, and the whole religion consists of symbols, ritual and superstition.

While we were in the different churches many people came in to pray, going to a picture of their particular Saint, or Apostle, bowing down and kissing the feet of the person represented.

We were rudely brought back from this ancient world to present day conditions, by visiting another very large church, partly in ruins, and forming a place of refuge for many homeless Serbs, and other refugees.

We wished to find a certain church that I had before visited, and enquired the way of all likely looking Jews, but evidently we failed to make them understand what we wanted, or what was more probable, they were loth to direct us. However, after a little time spent in explaining matters one seemed to understand and said "Jewish church close by," and told his ilttle girl to direct us. She took us through some narrow byways, all more or less very dirty, until we came to a gate in a wall. Here our guide left us, and passing through the gate found ourselves in a large garden surrounded with a very high wall. Close by the entrance was a large tank of water also walled in, and a little farther on we saw a building which appeared to be a small church.

We made our way across the garden and entered this building, finding just inside two small rooms on either side, and in one a number of men were sitting on the floor in a circle. One rose and came to us, and in very broken English and with much gesticulation gave us to understand he was the priest. He said he was a "Turko" and spoke to us of the Koran, from which we judged the church to be of the Mohammadan faith. He did not invite us into the room, or show us over the building, but he followed us out, and very kindly offered to show us the garden. It was quite a spacious place, having a minaret in one part, many fine laurel trees and an abundance of beautiful flowers. Evidently it was also used as a burial ground, for there were tombs here and there. We sat and rested in this most delightful spot watching gold fish swimming in a round tank of water with a fountain in it, which was set in motion for our special benefit. It was a great surprise to find such a place of beauty in the midst of unsavory surroundings. We thanked our guide for his kindness and departed with much salaaming. Outside the gate a crowd of children had gathered, evidently brought there by the little girl guide, for they beseiged us for "Backsheesh."

We passed a tower, with an open door, so taking our lives in our hands, we ventured in and up. It was very dark, with no windows, and extremely dirty and evil smelling, but we persevered and climbed up for about one hundred and twenty feet when we felt fresh air and welcomed the daylight once again. We came out on a little platform and below us was spread out the city looking like a big jumble of buildings composed mostly of low red-tiled roofs, while here and there one towered above the others. I brought away a nail from the top of this tower as a souvenir of our visit.

In the Turkish quarters are many interesting sights. The women were all veiled and the men wore the red fez and long cloaks. The dingy little shops have all kind of comical and peculiar articles for sale. Bakers and fruit stores abound, but there are stores of all kinds and manufactures too. They are all open to the street, and as you pass along you may see men making chairs, brushes, paper bags, turning iron, making tin goods and many other things.

The property owners must make quite a fortune out of their real estate, for not much space is wasted. One little store was not more than three feet square! There were no counters but the walls were adorned with the merchandise which consisted of small wares, and included postcards, cottons, etc., and the storekeeper stood in the center of his domain and thus sold his goods.

The next store to this was a book repairing one, and was only a big box, five feet high by three feet wide and deep! An exorbitant price is asked at first for anything, but you carry on a bargaining attitude till you finally turn away without purchasing, when usually you are called back and buy the article at half the price first asked, and when you return to your quarters find that you have paid twice the value of the article.

M. E. THORPE.

"And now, Jimmp, why is it that lightning never strikes twice in the same place?"

"Because," said Jimmy, confidently, "after it hits once, the same place ain't there any more."

DEAF PEOPLE

DEAFNESS AND NOISES IN THE HEAD can now be most certainly cured by the newly discovered "French Orlene." This new remedy goes right to the actual seat of the trouble, and effects a complete and lasting cure in a few days.

One box is ample to cure any ordinary case, and has given almost immediate relief in hundreds of cases which had been considered "hopeless."

Mr. D. Borthwick, of Dalbeattie, N.B., writes: "Your new remedy, which I received from you some time ago, HAS COMPLETELY CURED MY HEARING, AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS' DEAFNESS. I will be pleased to recommend it to all my friends."

Scores of other equally good reports.

Try one box today, which can be forwarded securely packed and postpaid to any address upon the receipt of postal order for $1. There is nothing better at any price. Address:

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WATLING STREET, DARTFORD,
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The Best of Workmanship Guaranteed

Vote For Hon. John Hart

A Vote for Honourable John Hart Means:

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An endorsement of the Brewster Government:

Development of the Agricultural, Mineral, Timber and Fishery resources of the Province:

Support to Premier Brewster in his fight for clean government:

Support to the Government in its fight against Canadian Northern and Pacific Great Eastern Railways:

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Progress and development for Victoria and Vancouver Island:

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A policy constructive, not destructive:

Encouragement and agressive development of industries on Songhees Reserve.

AN UP-TO-DATE CAFE FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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Lunch Counter and Bakery

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LOCAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Local Improvement Act, public notice is hereby given that a Court of Revision will be held on Thursday, the 7th day of June, 1917, at the Council Chamber, City Hall, Victoria, B. C., at 3 p. m., for the hearing of complaints against the Special Assessment of lots abutting on the following work of local improvement, namely, Grading and paving with a light asphaltic pavement Davie Street between Fort Street and Leighton Road, and constructing curbs and boulevards on both sides of said street, also surface drain and necessary lateral connections to sewer, surface drain and water mains.

The Special Assessment Roll in respect of the said work of local improvement will be kept open for inspection at the office of the City Clerk at the City Hall, Victoria, B.C., for at least ten days next before the day appointed for the sitting of the said Court of Revision herein advertised.

WELLINGTON J. DOWLER,
C. M. C.

City Clerk's Office,
Victoria, B. C.,
May 26, 1917.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Edgar Rayner, late of the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the late Edgar Rayner, who died on or about the 28th day of March, 1917, at the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, are required to send by post prepaid, or to deliver to the undersigned, solicitors herein for Robert Hemington Swinerton, Executor under the will of the said Edgar Rayner, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claim, and statements of their accounts, and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them, duly verified by Statutory Declaration.

And take notice that at expiration of one month from the date hereof, the said Robert Hemington Swinerton, will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice, and that the said Robert Hemington Swinerton will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any persons of whose claim he shall not then have received notice.

Dated at Victoria, B. C., this 19th day of May, 1917.

BARNARD, ROBERTSON,
HEISTERMAN & TAIT,

Tenth Floor, B. C. Permanent Loan Bldg., Victoria, B. C., Solicitors for the above named Executor.

May 19 June 9

OREGON & CALIFORNIA RAILROAD CO. GRANT LANDS

Title to same revested in United States by Act of Congress dated June 9, 1916. Two million three hundred thousand acres to be opened for homesteads and sale. Timber and Agricultural Lands. Containing some of best land left in United States. Now is the opportune time. Large map showing lands by sections and description of soil, climate, rainfall, elevations, etc., postpaid, One Dollar. Grant Lands Locating Co., Box 610, Portland, Oregon.

SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS

Coal mining rights of the Dominion in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of $1 an acre. Not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Applications for a lease must be made b ythe applicant in person to the Agent or Sub Agent of the District in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyer territory the land must be described by sections, or legal subdivisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of $10.00 an acer.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—Unauthorised publication of this advertisement will not be paid for. March 31.

At The Street Corner

BY THE LOUNGER

O' wa'd some power the giftie gie us,
Tae see oorsels as ithers see us.

It is in Uncle Tom's Cabin, I believe, that the remark is made. "Gals be so contrary. If yer thinks they do one thing, they al'ays do th' other," or words to that effect. My thoughts flew back to that wise utterance last night when I observed that the jitneys were packed to overflowing with mothers and babies and that in consequence tired working men were compelled either to walk home or be content with "standing-up seats" on the footboards. I should have thought that the dear ladies—God bless them—would have endeavored to finish their shopping in the early afternoon, so that they could get home in time to prepare the evening meal. I should have thought that for their own comfort they would have arrived early to avoid the rush. But "gals be so contrary." They seem to prefer to monopolise the jitneys at precisely those hours when others who have been on their feet all day require to reach their homes in restful comfort. With many it is doubtless mere thoughtlessness. With others, however, I fear that the only explanation can be found in the wise utterance of our childhood's classic. Whatever be the true explanation, however, it is much to be hoped that public opinion will assert itself, and thus relieve the tired workers of the cities of an intolerable grievance.

A golden opportunity for advancement presents itself in the Metchosin district. I am almost persuaded to apply for the job. I may be a little shy on some of the necessary qualifications but I may perchance have an over-plus on others. The advertisement states that: (1) A single man is required. Alas, I am no longer a single-man and my home is supplied with many tangible evidences of the fact. However, if I show a commendable readiness to desert my family and revert as nearly as may be to the single state I once enjoyed, it is possible that my deficiencies in this regard may be overlooked. Qualification No. 2 requires that applicant be "refined." Here I am quite certain that I shall measure-up to the standard. My reputation is that I enjoy only the best brands of distillate and that my indulgence has led to my being fined and refined quite often. Hence my confidence in my ability to satisfy the most exacting test in this direction. Neither does qualification No. 3 faze me at all. The applicant must be educated. Inasmuch as no particular branch of education is specified, I take it that each applicant is required to enumerate the branches of the arts and sciences in which he has specialised. Considerations of space prevent my here stating my attainments but readers may rest assured that my folks were quite tony and that my education is all that can be desired. The fourth qualif. is the one in which I claim pre-eminence. Advertiser requires a man to assist "round country store." My ability to walk all round a job without ever getting too much mixed up in it is too well known to need comment so that I feel quite sure that I could walk round and round that store in the country all day long without once intruding into its sacred precincts, and if in so doing I am "assisting" the advertiser in any way, I shall be only too glad to offer my services if only we can come to terms. It is, however, on the question of terms that I fear negotiations may break down. The advertisement offers this single, refined, well-educated gentleman the princely salary of $20 per month, with the prospect of advancement when conditions warrant. I hesitate to state just how many of my favorite brand the sum of $20 monthly will purchase. I fear that my post-graduate course may be sadly neglected and that my educational standard may not be well maintained. It is true that applicant will be treated as one of the family. That is as it should be, for unless one's appetite is "refined" to the vanishing point it is difficult to see how even the most cultured man could walk round and round that store without relapsing *into the vernacular*. The advertisement is signed by someone of the name of Hardie which is doubtless a mistake for "Hardihood." It is indeed difficult to understand how anyone can have the hardihood to expect anyone to remain single on that princely stipend of $20 per month. Married men would be only too glad to get in on such a chance as that.

Lounger.

SOTTO VOCE

BY THE HORNET

That Esquimalt banned the jitneys.

That this was done at the instigation of the B. C. Electric.

That the public interest was not considered.

That the plea of "safety-first" was a cloak for subordinating popular rights to private gain.

That Esquimalt has suddenly discovered that the jitneys are desirable after all.

That she is now encouraging a service she previously suppressed.

That if jitneys were unsafe then, they are unsafe now.

That if they are safe now they were safe then.

That now is the time for the jitney association to do some plain talking to the Esquimalt authorities.

That the repeal of the obnoxious by-law should be insisted upon.

That jitney men should give Esquimalt a wide-berth until the said by-law is repealed.

That the Liberals are fighting with (h)all their H(e)art.

That Mark Twain was quite willing to sacrifice his wife's relations.

That certain parties are quite willing to sacrifice their (H)all.

That the Doctor's high explosives shells proved to be damp squibs.

That the Doctor may be E(a)rnest, but that will not save him at the judgment Hall.

That his doom is surer than his judgment.

That from the judgment hall will emerge a (Dr) Hall of Judgment.

That conscriptionists are waiting for conscription before joining-up.

That they believe in "doing their *bit" with their mouths.*

That if only half their number would join up, conscription wouldn't be necessary.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Selective Conscription

As one who many years ago recognized in the roseate picture painted by the idealist of the future social condition certain desirable factors of human development and national progress, and who even yet has not wholly lost that socialistic concept, may I call attention to the fact that in the proposed selective conscription we have an application to socialistic ideal of the placing of every unit of man power in the position where he can be of the greatest service to the nation without duplication or competition, while the necessity of the measure and the method of application I must admit are the very antithesis of socialistic sentiment.

Selective conscription means mass action plus efficiency as opposed to individualism, competition and weakness. This is necessary, not only for the winning of the war but also for the conquering of forces and the elimination of factors among ourselves that have too long repressed energy, thwarted justice and destroyed much that is desirable in our national life. Selective conscription will be the first grand national triumph of a great socialistic principle.

Referendum

There is in some quarters a desire for a referendum upon the subject of conscription. Whatever may be our views upon what should be conscripted, the fact remains that if the matter of sending reinforcements to our boys in the trenches is to be decided by the cowards and the slackers who *have remained at home is to ask us* to submit to an outragement of justice incompatible with true British spirit.

Exemption of Clergymen

If the ideal of humanity is service, if our cause is just as is proclaimed from thousands of pulpits today, why should the clergymen be exempt from conscription? Have they not manfully responded, not only as chaplains but also as privates? Methodism has twenty-five per cent of its clergymen in uniform. No, we want no exemptions of a class whose stock in trade is teaching self-sacrifice and nobility of action; no special privileges to shirk or play the coward upon the part of the cloth—conscript the parsons.

The Conscientious Objector

There seems to be an opinion current that our consciences is that which determines right from wrong. This upon a little reflection our friends can see is not the case. Of two or more courses presented to the individual, conscience says take the right one but the inherent righteousness of the course is not determined by the opinion of the individual except as his information regarding such course is full and complete, and his judgment *logical and correct*. Who among us can continually measure up to this standard? Our opinions at best are liable to serious errors, and our conclusions are often at variance with facts. But for the conscience objectors I have some sympathy and much admiration, those who will submit to persecution, loss of property, and death itself for conscience sake, give evidence of a true worth that is not to be neg.ected in the estimation of a nation's best assets. They may be somewhat troublesome at present, but after the war is over we will need such men for their strength will be known and their value recognized. But the conscientious objector must remember that even if he is opposed to militarism, there are ample opportunities for national service outside the trenches. He may be as loyal growing grain or potatoes, or running a laundry as leading a regiment. The Week asks only that each man serve the nation in such capacity as will give the greatest efficiency.

ERNEST A. HALL, M.D.

THE TWO Y'S.

To be identified with the policy and administration of a great and good institution must ever be a source of pride and satisfaction to anyone so privileged. To realize that one's energies are being successfully directed *towards the uplift of your fellow*-man and the bringing in of the Kingdom of God will undoubtedly give zest and piquancy to life. Little wonder, then, that in the past three years the Y. M. C. A. being built upon an everlasting foundation and with governing principles as sublime as its base is sure, should find its truest and highest expression when it marched off with our fighting forces *into training camps and trench*, there to supply those needs of the soldier which while not so tangible as bully-beef or cartridges, and not tabulated in Army Service stock lists, are none the less vital to his existence as a man and success as a soldier.

When hostilities commenced we recall how the British Empire had to plan into existence an entirely new system for supplying munitions and food—how they succeeded is the wonder of the world today—but the Y. M. C. A. was ready, like our navy, with trained men and apparatus to go out at the very first call—and ever since then have been just where most needed, doing a noble work nobly.

To corroborate this statement it might be interesting to quote a few outstanding men of affairs who have recently paid tribute to the Associa*tions' worth.*

His Majesty the King, addressing a great assemblage in London, dwelt at some length upon the work of the Y. M. C. A. He said: "It has done everything conducing to the comfort and well being of the armies, working with consumate skill and knowledge of all the great needs of men."

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, speaking from close observation at the Front, says. "No man can be long in this country without realizing the immense value of this organization. I hope its progress and success in the future will be as wonderful as in the past."

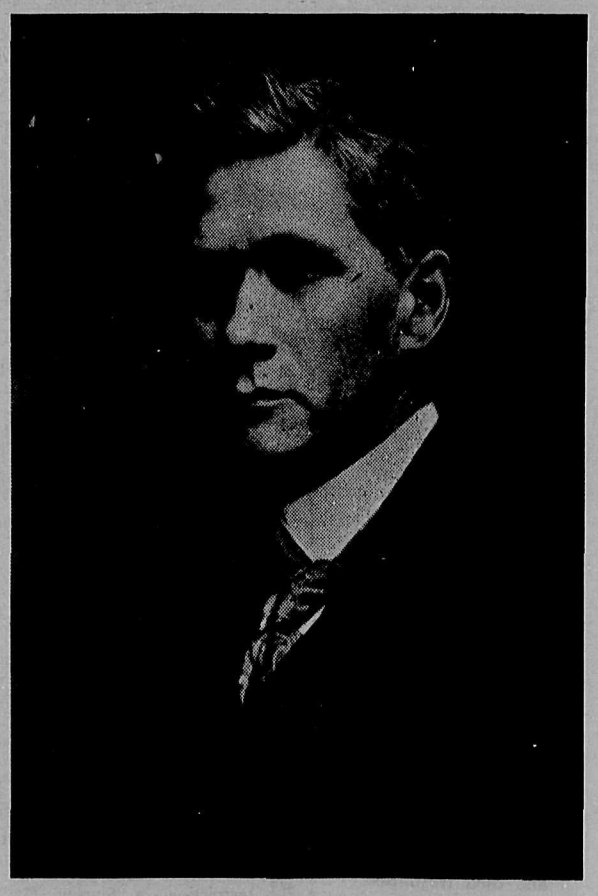
Sir John Jellicoe, writing home on behalf of Britain's "first line of defence," remarked: "I need hardly say that the Y. M. C. A. is of the utmost value to the men of the navy, and deserves all the support that can *possibly be given it.*"

No less significant just now are the utterances of President Wilson, who, in a recent executive order, following the call to mobilization of a million men for participation in the war, said: "Official recognition is hereby given the Young Men's Christion Association as a valuable adjunct and asset to the National Service and officers of all ranks are enjoined to render the fullest practicable assistance and co-operation in their magnificent work."

The local military programme of the Association has to a large extent been transferred from training camps to the hospitals and convalescent homes at Esquimalt and Resthaven, where our returned soldiers in ever increasing numbers are being nursed back to health. Here the visitor is impressed with a sense of restfulness *and homelikeness everywhere in evi*dence; especially is this so at Resthaven, where nature and art have been most lavish in the bestowment of favours. To men fresh from the congested centers of military activity, from the excitment of wars most frightful alarms, the change must be almost painful in its sweetness. Here, when the craving for repose has been satiated and healthful entertainment for mind and body are needed, our Y. M. C. A. comes along with their programmes of music, song and story, of addresses, lectures and outdoor sports, and, with that touch of brotherly sympathy, potent because disinterested, convinces men that God does care for them, and that He is using His Church and the Y. M. C. A. as honored instruments in expressing it.

R. G. HOWELL.

Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty



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After The War--*What?*

By WILLIAM STEVENSON

IV—THE HOPE OF A LASTING PEACE

A lasting peace: a peace that shall never be broken whilst the world lasts: this is the hope and dream of millions upon millions of people today. There can be no grander hope; no more inspiring prospect. Nothing that we can imagine possible along the line of human progress would produce such far-reaching and beneficent results.

But is a lasting peace possible? And, if so, how can it be attained?

Many people are wrestling with these problems. Among them literary men; thinkers; professors; statesmen of the first rank; politicians and talkers of no rank at all. All these may be classified and labeled according to temperament, professional training, general patriotic predilection or religious and philosophical bias. Among them you find the dreamer, the politician, the theologian and the business man. Among them, too, there is abundance of theorising; rhetoric and high-faluting as well as sound sense.

Professor Felix Adler in his book, "The World 'Crisis'," a work of considerable merit and independence of thought, says: "I see no hope for peace, no promise of anything better than a temporary truce, to be followed by new struggles for the chastisement of offenders. . . . Perhaps for centuries to come the nails of war must still be driven through the hands and feet of humanity, but out of the crucifixion shall come transfiguration."

Professor Adler's book contains valuable suggestions as to how to bring about lasting peace, but his thinking hardly goes deep enough to get beyond the platitudes of the plutosopher's chair.

Even Mr. H. G. Wells, in spite of the regenerating influence which a war environment has had upon his religious outlook, expressed the belief that "there will have to be several more great wars before the world peace is established." (Vide "What Is Coming.") This is a safe prediction; yet it assumes a pessimistic view of human nature.

There are those who believe that war is a permanent factor in human development; that without it nations deteriorate and become flabby. The axioms of this school of thinkers are based on the philosophy of the jungle: man is a beast, therefore he will always fight. If people who reason thus were at all reasonable, they might be asked to contemplate the glorification of their theories in the height of satanic culture arrived at by the Germans. What hope, indeed, is there for a race of being who can only be kept half human by reverting every now and then to the beastialities of the primeval slime?

There are two classes of thinkers we should look to when we think of lasting peace.

The first is the sunny optimist or practical idealist.

The second is the man with a business head.

Both are needed in discussing lasting peace: and both will be needed to help to lay the foundations for such peace when the time comes.

Of the first of these, the highest type on the world-stage at present is David Lloyd George. Here is the typical idealist who has been bold enough to carry his idealism into the rough and tumble of the political arena, where idealism runs greater risks than it does among mobs.

Lloyd George is hopeful of lasting peace—

"Today," he says, "we are waging the most devastating war the world has ever seen. Tomorrow—and not a distant tomorrow—war may be abolished forever from the category of human crimes."

Again: "I can see a peace, not a peace that is merely the beginning of war, not a peace which will be endless preparation for strife and bloodshed, but a real peace, such as the world, the old world never had."

As a type of the business head, President Wilson is the most outstanding figure before the eyes of the world. No one at this moment sees more clearly, or gauges more sanely the world situation. In speech after speech since his great address before Congress on the 2nd April last, he has shown a true understanding of what a lasting peace means and how it may be achieved. Two statements will show how near he has come to the solution of the problem:

—"A steadfast concert for peace can never be maintained except by the partnership of democratic nations."

That is a simple sentence, but it is vibrant with force and insight.

Again he says—"Our object is to vindicate the principles of peace in the life of the world as against selfish autocratic power."

Let the reader note these two words,—"democracy"—"autocracy." Put these two expressions side by side, the one against the other. They stand as more than symbolic of what world peace, or world unrest leading up to war, means.

In other words, the fate of the world, as between a solid and lasting peace, and a makeshift peace, which will be prolific of future wars, will be determined by the ascendancy of either of these two powers—democracy or autocracy.

There are many things of which we are in helpless ignorance of regarding the kind of peace that will be made. But when we take up the question of lasting peace there are some things of which we may be reasonably sure.

Lasting peace will not come by one nation throttling another. It will not come by bringing Germany to her knees in the sense that she shall be utterly crushed. Germany has committed crimes black enough to bring her down to hell: but no human power can do that.

Lasting peace will never come if it is left to the statesmen and leaders of autocracies to devise it.

Profiteering parliamentarians; capitalists who gorge themselves by the exploitation of the workers; bastard patriots who delight in war because of the prosperity it brings to their nefarious schemes of self-interest;—none of these will help to make a permanent peace. They are the makers of wars: the lineal descendants of the kingly tyrants who led their serfs to battle whenever it pleased their royal whim.

It should never be forgotten that in its inception this was a rich man's war.

"It was a war," says President Wilson, "determined upon as wars used to be determined upon in the old unhappy days when peoples were nowhere consulted by their rulers, and wars were provoked and waged in the interest of dynasties, or little groups of ambitious men, who were accustomed to use their followers as pawns and tools."

It was not democracy that made this war.

Listen to Lloyd George:—

"The democracy of France did not want the war; the democracy of Italy hesitated long before it entered the war; the democracy of this country shrank from it. Shrank and shuddered and would never have entered that cauldron had it not been for the invasion of Belgium. The democracy sought peace. The democracy strove for peace, and if Prussia had been a democracy there would have been no war."

Herein lies the clue to the solution of our problem of lasting peace. When it comes it will come only through the coming together of the democracies of the world: that is the peoples: the workers, the men and women who carry the world's burdens: who toil for it, who slave for it, who go hungry and naked that others—the idlers—may wallow in ease and luxury. These are the men who bear the brunt of the suffering and the devastating miseries of war. And these are the men who alone may be looked to for the creation of a permanent peace for the world.

In the case of this war it is probable that the class who made it will be the class that will make the peace.

But it is always possible for the people to say their say. In this respect Russia has led the way. She has dethroned her weakling Czar: swept away her corrupt aristocracy. Her people will be all the better represented at the peace-making for getting rid of these royal encumbrances. Russia may be depended upon to do her best to secure a permanent peace. Can we say the same of Britain and her Allies? Will the people of Canada have a say in the councils which will lead up to peace? Or will her real sentiments regarding this terrible war be stifled by the syren bewitchments of unscrupulous but powerful profiteers and the empty promises of windy politicians?

Let all who are interested in this hope of lasting peace direct their attention to the proposed "League of Nations for the Enforcement of Peace."

At present we are like people wandering in a land of darkness and the shadow of death. The night is black: it has been a long, long night: brave comrades fall by the way; there is weeping on every side: behind us, around us and above us black night reigns: hideous dreams and fears are ours as we think of the abysses out of which we have come and into which we may yet fall: but there is a rift in the clouds ahead: may not this be the sign of the dawn? With steadfast tread and hopeful courage we face it: bend our energies towards it: hail it even though dying: conquered we cannot be in our quest for the light that shall mean lasting peace for the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOCIALISTIC

Editor, The Week.

Sir:—The daily press is full of persistent condemnation of the Socialist element in this country, while continually commending those in Germany, in spite of the fact that both stand for the same principles.

Two statements have been made which would be very difficult to prove to any unbiased reader.

The first is that every soldier at the front would vote for Conscription.

Have the pressmen been to the front and interviewed every soldier? Have they read every letter that has come back from the front? If not, then they are in no position to make a statement of that kind. They take altogether too much upon themselves when they undertake to speak for all the boys at the front and put into their mouths words which exist probably only in their own minds. Whatever their own opinions may be, let them at least be fair and not make statements which cannot possibly be proven.

The second statement is in connection with Conscription of Wealth. They say: "We have all the money we went, it's men we need."

Are there writers unable to distinguish between possessing a thing and borrowing it? If we have all the money we need for prosecuting the war, why do we pay 5½ per cent on billions of dollars and so lay up a legacy of debt that will take generations to pay off? If that is having money, then there are thousands of us now struggling under mortgages who are quite wealthy and don't know it. Strange idea, that, of possession!

If it is right to conscript at all, let us conscript both men and money.

Why should we go to a mother who has already given one son and demand of her another, and leave it optional to the man next door whether he gives his wealth?

Why should we say to the one man: "You must give us yourself, we will take all the care we can of you, all the protection we are able to give you you shall have, but you have no guarantee that we shall return you: you must take your own chance on whether you or any part of you come back home; and then say to the man with money, "We want your money, but we leave it to you how much or how little you let us have and we give you the guarantee of the whole nation that it shall be returned to you intact and with interest.

Is that a square deal to the former? If one must take his chance, why not the other?

But, IS Conscription right? Is it right to take by force anything from anyone which we have allowed them to become legally possessed of, whether it be national wealth or personal liberty? I think not.

There are no doubt many arguments that can be used to show that it is necessary for the individual to submit to many curtailments of personal ideas of action for the benefit of the community. This is seen:

(1) In family life; when the strong must protect the weak. Above the individual we have the family tie.

(2) In civic life, where certain restrictions are necessary in order to protect one another. Above the family, the civic authority.

(3) In provincial and national life; so that law and order may be secured. Above the civic, the national authority, but beyond that we come into a wider sphere where matters of conscience are concerned. There, no family tie controls us, no civic authority can say "Do this or that," no national voice can say "yea" or "nay." Above all these there is a man's conscience, his own personal conception of what is right and wrong, and when we attempt to interfere here by force we are striking at the fundamental principle of individual liberty. Between a man and his Maker, no barrier must be placed. Man is faced with a personal responsibility and no authority of any kind has the right to force him to act contrary to conscience.

W. E. PEIRCE.

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50-FOOT LENGTH, COMPLETE, WITH COUPLINGS AND COMBINATION SPRAY NOZZLE

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¶ Don't let it spoil for the want of proper cutting or attention when with a SPENCER LAWN MOWER you can keep it in good trim in a few moments. ¶ All our Lawn Mowers are thoroughly reliable, and made by the best garden implement manufacturers in this country. ¶ The following prices are the same as those asked in former years and the same standard qualities:

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12-inch $4.90
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16-inch $5.90

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4-blade, 12-inch $8.25
4-blade, 14-inch $8.50
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4-blade, 18-inch $10.25

Better-Grade Lawn Mowers
12-inch $7.25
14-inch $7.50

Four-Blade Lawn Mowers
12-inch $5.90
14-inch $6.25
16-inch $6.75

Sprays, free or deluge, 50c, 60c and $1.25

Grass Catchers special at 75c
Pruners, 45c and 75c
Grass Shears, 30c, 60c, $1.45
Sprinklers, 35c, 50c, 75c, $1, $1.25 and $1.75
Working Gloves, regular 15c, two pairs for 25c
—Hardware, Second Floor

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

Doctor: "Did that cure for deafness really help your brother?"

Pat: "Sure enough; he hadn't heard a sound for years, and the day after he took that medicine he heard from a friend in America."

A gloomy religion is far from God. A sad gospel is a contradiction in terms, like a black sun.—Henry Van Dyke.

"Us fellers at Crimson Gulch decided," remarked Broncho Bob, "as how we're fer peace. The general sentiment was that we'd be more peaceful if we'd disarm."

"But you are carrying a gun."

"Yes. Everybody is waitin' fur everybody else to disarm first. I'm kind o' 'fraid this reluctance an' suspicion is goin' to start some hard feelin's."

Four separate gifts of fifty pounds each have been sent to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society by the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (Canada) per Mrs. Boomer, President of the Local Council of Women, London, Ontario, to equip four cabins for ship-wrecked and destitute seamen in the society's homes.

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Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative, used as directed, is guaranteed to restore gray hair to its natural color or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. Price $1.00, post-paid. Write **Tremain Supply Co., Toronto, Ont.**

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