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Hon W. M. King

(Continued from page two)

tainty of conditions surrounding the iron and steel industry in the Maritimes, the Government does not feel in a position to make at present any pronouncement with respect to the Commission's recommendation of a renewal of the system of granting bounties with respect to steel when Canadian coal is used in its manufacture. The Government is prepared to accept the recommendations of the Commission concerning the establishment of harbor commissions for the harbors of Halifax and Saint John, and bills with reference thereto will be introduced at the present session. In connection with port development and the development of trade through Canadian ports, it might here be mentioned that within the past year increased loading accommodation has been provided for the elevator at Halifax; also that the bill respecting the Canadian National Steamships and to provide for the establishment of a West Indies service, at present before Parliament, will have an important bearing upon port development and trade of the Maritime Provinces. Mention should also be made of the enactment of 1923 whereby an additional discount of ten per cent. of the existing customs duty is allowed on goods entitled to the benefit of the British preference when shipped via Canadian ports, and of the enactment of last year which restricts the advantages of the British preference to commodities entering Canada via Canadian ports. In regard to harbor facilities in Prince Edward Island it should be stated that the Department of Public Works had begun a survey of the harbors of Charlottetown, Georgetown and Summerside particularly as to wharfage and storage accommodation prior to the date on which the Commission presented its report in this praticular the Commission's recommendation has, therefore, already been acted upon in part. The survey will be continued in so far as may be necessary fully to comply with the Commission's recommendations. I come now to the important subject of transportation and freight rates and to the far-reaching recommendation of the Commission that an immediate reduction of twenty per cent. be made on all rates charged on traffic which originates and terminates at stations in the Atlantic division of the Canadian National Railways, (including export and import traffic by sea from and to that division) and that the same reduction be also applied to the Atlantic division proportion of the through rate on all traffic in originating at stations on the Atlantic division (excluding import traffic by sea; and is destined to points outside the Atlantic division subject to certain modifications which may appear to be necessary respecting international rates and through import rates by sea). A bill will be introduced giving effect to this recommendation. With respect to the recommendation that the Railway Board should be vested with somewhat fuller supervisory powers, it is felt that if accepted this recommendation would bring about a radical change in the fundamental powers of the Railway Commission affecting the whole of Canada. It has no immediate bearing on the rights of the Maritime Provinces any more than of other parts of Canada and is of such a far-reaching character as to demand more mature consideration than has been possible up to this time. There is now before the Railway Commission the whole matter of flat percentage increases, known as horizontal increases which the Commission recommends should be taken into fresh consideration by the Railway Commission.

"A survey of what is required with respect to the needed railway service improvements on Prince Edward Island, will as recommended be made immediately in order that future action may be intelligently determined.

"The whole matter of ferry boats service between the Island and the mainland is now under investigation, as recommended by the Commission. Finally, as respects money grants to the province, the Government is prepared to accept the recommendations of the Commission to give immediate consideration to a revision or readjustment of the financial arrangements as between the Dominion and the Maritime Provinces. In this connection attention is invited to what is said by the Commissioners with respect to the increase and from Dominion aid the statement in reference thereto immediately precedes their recommendation and is as follows:

"The items of readjustment are obviously a matter for detailed determination and assessment so that the actual amount—as well as the reasons and purposes attaching to it can be recognized by the rest of Canada as fair and equitable. It is not possible, therefore, to make a final recommendation as to the increase and form of Dominion aid which is required to satisfy the just claims of the Maritime situation.

"To gain recognition by the rest of Canada as to the fairness and equity of any revision or readjustment of the financial arrangement as between the Dominion and the Maritime Provinces, it would appear that the proposed revision or adjustment should be made a subject of consideration in the first instance by a conference at which all of the provinces of Canada as well as the Dominion would be represented. His, indeed, is directly implied by the language of the Commissioners and by the reference which this portion of the report makes to "The revision of 1907" to grounds applicable to all other provinces as well as to the Maritimes. The contention of the Maritime Provinces they have been and are being dealt with differently from the Western Provinces, and to the territorial limitations the Maritime Provinces and their claim that extra provincial lands which came into the possession of the Dominion Government at the date of Confederation were acquired by purchase and have been developed and given value at the expense of the Dominion.

In order that there may be no delay in effecting consideration by a Dominion conference of a revision or readjustment of the financial arrangements as between the Dominion and the Maritime Provinces, the Government has decided to place this matter on the agenda of the Dominion-Provincial conference to be held, as already announced during the course of the present year. In that conference the Dominion will be in a position which it has not thus far enjoyed to present its views on the general question of the financial relations between the Dominion and the provinces as well as on the question of a detailed determination and assessment of the special claims of the Maritime Provinces, and every province will have an equal opportunity of stating its position.

"As already indicated, we believe with the Commissioners that the time is opportune for a readjustment of the financial arrangements between the Dominion and the Maritime Provinces, but it would not make for an harmonious and lasting settlement of the financial issue—a settlement based on due regard for the needs and interests of all the provinces and of the Dominion itself, to attempt to set a final figure now before the views of the other provinces and the position of the Dominion have been set for the settlement reached which public opinion will be prepared to accept for the same reason it is not possible, in advance of the deliberations of the conference and of the detailed determination and assessment which the report recognizes is necessary to accept the view for which no detailed grounds are advanced that certain sums set forth in the report should be regarded as the minimum addition that the Maritimes should have in any such revision. The final revision can only be made in accordance with the merits of the case as evidence of the desire of the Government to go just as far as it may possible in relieving any feeling of suspense, pending a final revision and in order to enable the Maritime Provinces in what the Commission describes as "their present state of grave necessity to deal with any special industrial or financial situation which in the view of their Governments may require public assistance we are prepared, without prejudice as to the amount to be arrived at as a final solution, to recommend to Parliament at the present session the making of special grants to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island of $857,000,000, and $125,000 respectively these amounts being the sums recommended by the Royal Commission as immediate lump sum payments. In concluding this statement, I may say that the Government hopes that by accepting as we have, the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Maritime claims virtually in their entirety, Parliament and the country will recognize in the attitude of the Government a wish to remove this great question as largely as possible from the arena of sectional discord and party strife and a desire to give our Dominion in the sixtieth anniversary of its founding a renewed expression of the spirit which animated the fathers of Confederation in their efforts to construct out of British North America a federal union under a system of Government devised to protect the diversified interests of the several provinces and secure efficiency, harmony and permanency in the working of the Union."

To Meet His Lordship

(By British United Press.)

LONDON, March 19.— "Well-known lady of title is willing to introduce Americans, Colonials, or others into English society; references and 'good renumeration' required."

The above "agony" in a daily newspaper heralds the ending of the "close season" for Americans and overseas cousins anxious to storm the ramparts of London society.

A few weeks more will see the arrival of the first big boatload of ambitious social climbs. Down the gangway will come pork kings, lumber millionaires, real estate monarchs, cinema sultans and social shahs, all armed with a golden key to unlock the exclusive doorway of the upper ten.

They will find the hard-ups of Society waiting for them with open arms and empty purses. Introducing wealthy Americans and Colonials into Society for a "consideration" has developed into an extensive business among the new poor with old names.

A discreet "agony" tells the social aspirant how he may realize his ambitions. An appointment follows, and if his credentials are good and his manners passable, he finds himself "taken up" and escorted round to dinner parties and social functions which, in the ordinary way, would be closed to him.

He is seen about with Lady Y or Lady X. He is permitted to present himself in their illustrious company at fashionable night clubs and restaurants. And if his bill for his little fling into Society costs him between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has rubbed shoulders with some of the bluest blood in England.

But the path of the social climber is not always strewn with Dukes and Duchesses. There are often snags and bitter disappointments.

Not all the cicerones who undertake to "adopt" wealthy Americans for a season can open the portals of Society to their guests quite so wide as they make out.

Not long ago a wealthy American paid $25,000 down to a man representing himself to be a "lord" on the undertaking that he was introduced into the best Society circles. The "lord" pocketing the cheque, replied affably that there would be no difficulty about that and invited the American to an exclusive dinner party, at which, he said, some of the oldest families in England would be represented.

The dinner party came off, and was a magnificent affair. Champagne flowed lavishly, the guests were delightful, and the American was duly impressed.

Unfortunately before the end of the evening a young girl whose conscience had evidently been pricking her, confessed that the whole affair was a put up business and that the so-called aristocrats were mostly out-of-work chorus girls and well-dressed nobodies.

The American demanded his money back—and got it.

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in
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Production
FLESH AND THE DEVIL
with
GRETA GARBO
LARS HANSON

A STORY OF LOVE AND TEMPTATION

CHARGED with drama, flaming with romance, here is one answer in a picture hailed as truly great! John Gilbert, acclaimed for his great work in "The Big Parade," reaches new heights in this revelation of a man's soul—and a woman's.

ORCHESTRA
And
SHORT SUBJECTS

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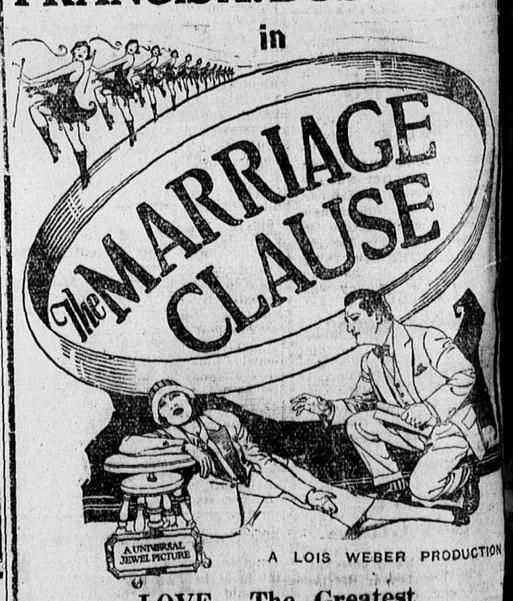

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Bringing Up Father —By George McManus

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL

The following is the standing of Mount Vernon school for the month of February.

Grade VIII.—1. Chrisebel Morrow, 2. Kathryn Morrow.

Grade VI.—1. Stewart MacLean, 2. Charlie Stewart, 3. Duncan Matheson.

Grade V.—1. Stuart Matheson, 2. Murdock Acorn, 3. Emma Morrow.

Grade IV.—1. Norman Wilson, 2. Bertha Belle, 3. Roddie Wilson.

Grade III.—1. Jonneva Morrow, 2. James Lutz.

Grade II.—1. Mary Wilson, 2. Billie Matheson.