

Another Object Lesson

AN ENGLISH STATESMAN TELLS WHAT GREAT BRITAIN IS DOING IN SAV- ING

A habit Dominions have not all learned.

(Historical)

Here in Canada where the raw material is yet abundant the need of the Saving Habit is not so rigidly enforced as it is in the Old Country. All Canadians have had to do so far, if they run short of work or the things that are un-

Under modern legislation the relations of the landlord and tenant have become greatly improved so that there is less trouble than formerly between them and today England is a vast producer of agricultural produce, and many of the farming class are reckoned among the capitalists, whose interest do not cohere with those who spend their earnings or returns in folly.

help toward, making good the national loss of capital from which we are now suffering. But much more is involved than this. The greatest of all industrial problems is the conflict between Capital and Labour. Up to a point this conflict is excusable. In dividing the proceeds of industry it is natural that those who contribute the labour should wish to enlarge their share at the expense of those who supply the capital, and vice versa.

In the United States many big industrial concerns make a practice of inviting their employees to buy shares in the capital of the company that employs them, and at once a new spirit in industry is developed. Labour and Capital then work together to secure a higher product, instead of quarrelling over the division of a small or one.

We have no statistics of the number of employees in the United States who have invested their Savings in the Company that they are shareholders in, but it is probable that there are a very large number, as the country is very large and the industries in proportion to its size. This is how Protection became so popular in the United States. Their manufacturing means of England's really great statesmen has lately thrown a match light. He calculates that there are at least 15,000,000 small investors in Great Britain, most of them wage-earners or members of wage-earning households. Their investments are mostly made in the Post Office Savings Bank, in Savings Certificates, in Government stock, in life insurance societies, building societies and other provident institutions.

Journalism

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had challenged attention from their oddity and grotesque appearance or manner—among them all Sir John looming large as a king, while great men supported him on the right and left, and stalwart and conspicuous men of note filled the front benches opposite.

Is it true that in both journalism and politics the bigger Canada produces smaller men? We would all be reluctant to confess it were it true, and it is not true; but there was undoubtedly a larger share of Canada's really great men in the first Federal Parliament than are in that body today. We have multiplied our great railway men, our mine owners, our cotton kings, our coal barons, our steel magnates, our captains of industry and merchant princes, our patent medicine nabobs, our bankers, financiers, insurance managers, land speculators, our charter-mongers and contractors, and these callings have absorbed a host of our shrewdest and ablest men. At Confederation, statcraft was viewed as our greatest calling, and though Ministers served annually for \$5,000 and Members and Senators for \$600, a seat in the Commons or Senate counted for more, relatively, than they do today, and attracted men of foremost ability, as they do not always now.

So there were great men and new men, and great and new questions as well, to furnish subjects for the pens of the gallery scribes and the editors at home in those days. There were three general elections in the first seven-year period, secession rampant in Nova Scotia and rebellion in the Northwest, occasional Fenian raids, the purchase of the vast Hudson's Bay Territory, the carving out of the first new Province therein, the bringing in of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, the binding together of the whole fabric with bands of steel by the Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific railways, the organization of the federal services, the making of one Canadian tariff to replace the differing provincial schedules, the abolition of dual representation, the bringing in of the ballot, the settling of the serious quarrels with our neighbors to the south. Over these and other great questions our statesmen debated and deliberated as serious men who were conscious that they were laying the foundations of a great State. And their ability and earnestness lent a dignity to Parliament which it scarcely possesses today.

There was, on the other hand, a strong note of provincialism among the members from the different Provinces, which made it difficult to fuse the various elements that were brought together, and even to enforce party discipline. This cropped up strongly when the first tariff was brought in and sent some of the New Brunswick supporters of the Government almost into revolt. That a bread-tax and further taxes on our West India trade would be imposed by the Canadians if once they got us in their power, had been zealously proclaimed by all the anti-Confederates in the Maritime Provinces and as earnestly denied by those who supported the Union movement. To the dismay of the Maritime Unionists, a duty on flour and increased duties on sugar and molasses was now proposed. They were loud in their protests. How could they justify such an outrage to their constituents? And yet, almost before they could realize it, the odious taxes were being railroaded through the House in concurrence on the report of the Committee of Ways and Means. Charles Fisher, a former Premier and Attorney-General, seconded by his brother-in-law, Charles Connell, hastily scrawled an amendment to refer back to the committee with instructions to strike out the duty on flour and reduce the duties on tea, sugar, molasses "and several other articles." That was all he had time to write before the evil would be consummated. In an instant the yeas and nays were called. "Charles Fisher and several other members" will stand up," sneered Sir John, with mocking reference to Fisher's loosely worded resolution. Some very angry New Brunswick members rose to their feet, with others from Nova Scotia, only to be outvoted by a laughing House. Thereafter there was a duty on flour, much more irritating than burdensome to the people of the east, and it did not lessen the irritation when the gossip of the lobbies and smoking-room repeated other sarcastic references of Sir John to the "two Charlies."

The bread-tax, as it was called, long remained a sore subject in the east, but the incident serves chiefly to show something of the sectional feeling of the time and also as illustrating Sir John's method of imparting a lesson in discipline. He was always quite intolerant of any independent action among his followers. The newspapers of the smaller Provinces in their then brief and sometimes prejudiced reports of the proceedings in Parliament, seldom failed to record even a trivial matter such as that just mentioned, and these had their effect upon the public mind. It was not long till Mr. Fisher accepted an offered judgeship, and Mr. Connell gravitated to the Opposition. The Maritime people were quite provincial yet, and it was not pleasant reading for them that their public men should be, even at infrequent intervals ridiculed across the floor, either from the Ministerial or the Opposition side. Hence, when Alexander Mackenzie retorted to Mr. Tilley that "the honorable gentleman's logic was as bad as his grammar," or when D'Arcy McGee intimated that Mr. Anglin "sat there, hot on a seat, but on a three-legged lie," the effect on the eastern mind was far more irritating than if the words had been applied by men of the same Province to one another. In not a few cases the men of the east and the west, like boys at school, formed their first acquaintance by an exchange of metaphorical hard knocks, only to become fast friends thereafter.

It happened once or twice in those early days that a newspaper man attending Parliament was assaulted by an aggrieved member whom the scribe had caricatured or criticized with undue severity. And many more were from time to time threatened with corporeal pains and penalties that were never realized. In the actual cases of assault there was no doubt considerable provocation, an the gallery was able always to make good either in the encounter or in the account of it, so that no members of the House had much to boast of. I was two or three times threatened, but fortunately escaped unbruised. The most trying ordeal, and it was more amusing than dangerous, was after having published a more or less graphic account of the fight between Bunster and Cheval in Room 13, incidentally referred to in an earlier number of these retrospective sketches. British Columbia had a very real grievance in the long delay which took place in fulfilling the terms of union, while the Pacific Railway was a bone of contention between opposing parties. The British Columbia members

were quite right, as the Prince Edward Island members are today, in insisting that the union compact should be carried out to the letter at whatever cost. None the less their complaints were a weariness to the House. That fact afforded no proper justification for Cheval accompanying Mr. Bunster's robust, if rather disjointed, eloquence persistently, night after night, with the music of the mouth organ and the Jew's harp. Mr. Bunster was in some measure justified in resorting to summary proceedings, and would no doubt have got even with his adversary had not the door of the locked room been, most inopportunistly for him, broken in, and the little Quebec man rescued just at the moment when he was able to bear away as a trophy a tuft of black beard torn

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Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

May 13, 1927

OUR CONFESSION:—God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death. Psalm 48:14.

PRAYER:—O God, Merciful and Mighty, Thou art God alone and we trust in Thee.

TO A MAYFLOWER

Beautiful emblem of Spring, Born 'neath an April sky, Far o'er the hills you sing, Winter's past, it is spring, here am I.

First of the wilderness flowers Bravely you blossom forth, Nurtured by warm spring showers, Caring not for harsh winds from the north.

Hardest flower of the earth, With your scented perfume, Ushering in the birth Of the springtime that comes when

you bloom. But why so early in May Do you wither and die, And your pink buds so gay Drop their heads 'neath the bright summer sky? —Carl P. Wetmore.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

MR. SAUNDERS' THIRD PARTY.

Sir,—One fact has been made clear in the third and last statement of Liberal policy. Mr. Saunders, and those by whom he is advised, are not prohibitionists on principle; they only want to get into office and power. If, after they are in office and power, prohibition is found to be still "unworkable," then they will submit the question of "government control" to the people and be governed by the majority. That, it will be noted, is precisely what the present government is about to do.

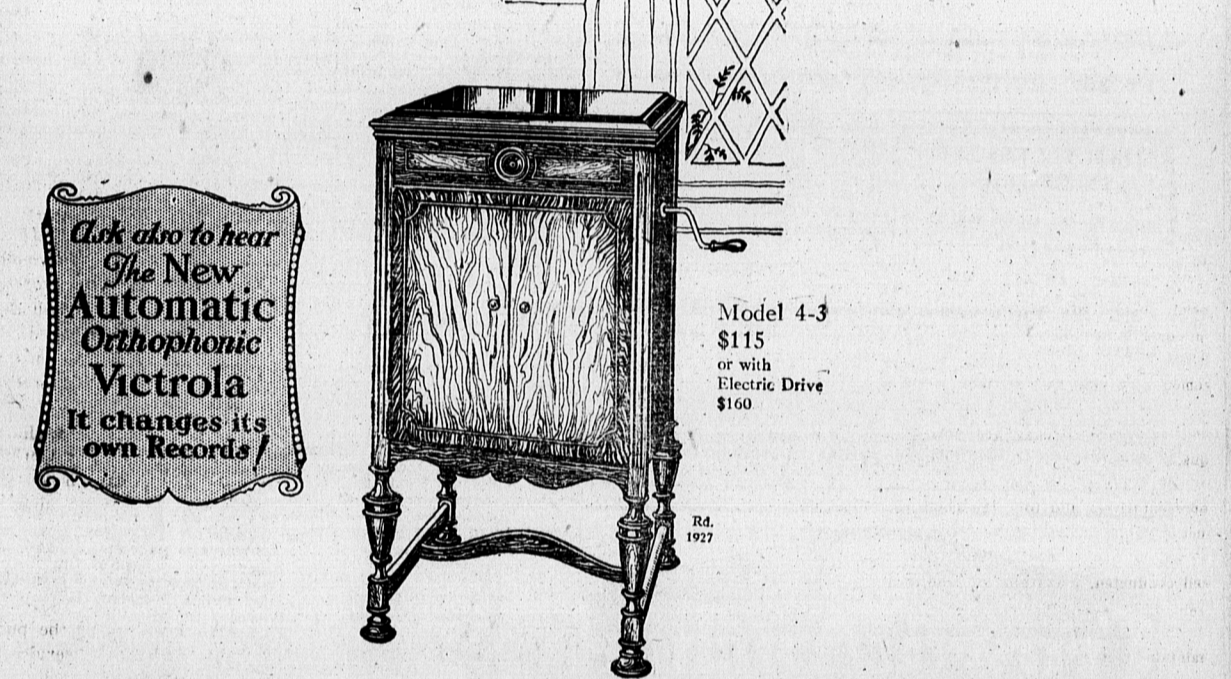
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They will appeal to the people Government Control two years later. They will hold a plebiscite. If a later majority of the electors should endorse their policy, they will enact it into law and proceed to enforce it. If the majority prefer to maintain a law which its defenders admit to be impracticable, Premier Steward will go out of office and make way for Mr. Saunders and



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MT. HERBERT, Tuesday, May 17th, 8 P. M.
WINSLOE HALL, Wednesday, May 18th, 8 P. M.
SUMMERSIDE, Thursday, May 19th, 8 P. M.
ST. ELEANORS, Friday, May 20th, 8 P. M.
SPRING VALLEY, Saturday, May 21st, 8 P. M.
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OLEARY, Tuesday, May 24th, 8 P. M.
TIGNISH, Wednesday, May 25th, 8 P. M.

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MRS. GORDON WRIGHT, OF SOUTH LONDON, ONTARIO, PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION, WILL ADDRESS PUBLIC TEMPERANCE MEETINGS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- Monday, May 16th, at 8 p. m., at United Church, Charlottetown.
Tuesday, May 17th, Powhill, 2.30 p. m., Cherry Valley, 8 p. m.
Other date and places will be announced later.

Mrs. Wright is a noted platform speaker and has cancelled many engagements in Western Canada in order to speak to the women and men of Prince Edward Island upon the issues now before the public.

All are invited to attend the meetings. 5499-5-13-41.