

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1925

THE "INVISIBLE DEBT"

While partisan politicians are manipulating the public accounts of Canada and arriving at conclusions to suit their own special purposes it is encouraging to note that earnest and capable non-political financiers are looking seriously into these matters and giving the results of their findings to the public.

The Montreal Board of Trade, composed of men whose personal interests are interwoven with the development of Canada, have been making a study of our public finances and the conclusions they have arrived at are by no means satisfactory. Knowing that there has been a deliberate concealment of accounts they have been figuring out the "invisible debt" of Canada, that is the debt and the accumulations of debts that do not appear in the public accounts. Their conclusions have been startlingly confirmed by answers to questions asked by Sir Henry Drayton in the House of Commons since the presentation of the budget and the alleged surplus.

Sir Henry asked what additions had been made to the funded and unfunded debt of the Canadian National Railways and affiliated companies during 1924, and the total amount of interest on the total of all these debts last year. The reply was that the total addition to these debts last year was \$113,889,186. The total interest charge last year was given as \$69,632,747.

The Montreal Board of Trade has been directing attention to the fact that in the form of Government bond guarantees, and the resulting interest charge therein, there has grown up a large invisible debt, and that, instead of paying \$135,000,000 a year for interest, which is only the interest charge on the national debt, the country is actually paying about \$170,000,000.

The estimates for last year's expenditure as they passed Parliament provided for a total expenditure on the Canadian National of \$56,000,000. Subsequently supplementary estimates for \$7,500,000 have been submitted. How the other amount was incurred it is impossible to say in the absence of details. These will be forthcoming when the Minister of Railways makes his annual statement or during the consideration of the estimates in committee.

The amount of the fixed charges due to the public has increased during the year by about \$3,300,000; those due to the Government have been increased by only about \$1,100,000. This has been due chiefly to the circumstance that the financing is being done through the guarantee of bonds. As long as the needs of the railway were being met pretty much out of consolidated revenue, the amount of interest due to the public remained stationary, but with a change in the method of financing this charge necessarily is increased.

EDITORIAL NOTES

People are getting ready for Easter, all except Prince of Wales students.

The Boot and Shoe Stores say they never have been busier than during the past ten days.

Quebec Legislature is expected to prorogue this week after one of the shortest sessions in its history.

The roads will be ready for autos long before May 20, notwithstanding Mr. Newbery's advertisement of an alleged late spring.

The City Council deserves congratulatory.

gratulations upon having had carried away the street scrapings before they were dried to dust by the sun and wind.

The Union controversy appears largely a trial of mental strength and leadership between Islanders—Rev. Dr. Clarence McKinnon, Pine Hill, on the Pro-side, and Rev. Dr. D. J. Fraser and Dr. Cyrus McMillan, McGill, on the Anti.

Even the proposed increase in the slack coal duty is more a shadow than a reality. It seems the chief importers are coke manufacturers and coal gas manufacturers, both of whom are to receive a drawback.

Dogs on the streets at night are causing a great deal of trouble to pedestrians. A citizen has been so pestered with them that he threatens that if he has occasion to be out after ten o'clock he will carry a revolver and shoot at sight. People are not worrying overmuch about opposition fault-finding with the public accounts. It is an opposition's business to criticize, and fortunately there is little it can find fault with in either the financing or the administration of the Stewart Government.

The South African Government has abandoned British preference of the one sided sort, and has revised the Union tariff on a quid pro quo preference basis. It is believed the government intends to introduce this revised tariff and to drop the British preference, says the Morning Post. The Federation is also informed that the South African government is preparing most favored nation commercial treaties with certain foreign countries.

It is no wonder Toronto wanted stronger beer to buy for it seems that in almost every street someone had a Revenue license to make home brew. During 1924 10,041 Ontario people notified the department of customs and excise that they were making home brew. Of these, 2,743 lived in Toronto, 2,303 in Hamilton and 557 in London. In Ottawa there were only 71. Up to February 20 this year, 1943 had sent in notices. In 1922 and 1923 six distilleries and 21 commercial breweries were licensed by the federal government. In 1924 the number of breweries increased to 25. All these were renewals of licenses issued before the Ontario temperance act was enacted. With such an organization it was not difficult to rouse popular sentiment in favour of stronger beer.

The Montreal Gazette sums up the budget as follows: "Blessed are they that expect little for they shall not be disappointed." An advisory tariff board upon which will be shifted some of the responsibility which normally should devolve upon the Government. An export duty upon electricity; a measure designed to check smuggling; a slight increase in the anti-dumping duties, a few negligible tariff alterations which affect only a limited number of citizens to only a limited extent; an illusory surplus coupled with an increase in the public debt and a few vague hopes with no material foundation. These are the sparse crumbs of comfort thrown to a people weighed down with taxation and disheartened with conditions which the Government seemingly has not the presence to visualize and for the amelioration of which it assuredly lacks both the wisdom and the energy.

The debt of Canada has been divided into two parts with the double object of deceiving the people and forming a basis for a faked surplus and a pretended debt reduction, which has no existence. The Dominion and the people of Canada are as much bound to pay the railway debt as they are to pay the war debt or any other public liability. The new way to pay old debts has behind it the object of enabling acting Minister Robb to figure out a baby surplus under precisely the same circumstances as those under which Finance Minister Fielding admitted a large deficit two years ago.

That it why Sir Henry Drayton says the Robb budget is "an insult to the intelligence of the people of Canada." Any debtor who would attempt the same methods with his banker would be regarded as either a knave or a fool. Mr. Fielding who was as good a party man as Mr. Robb was honest in his budget statements. And his method of public accounting in the matters of debt, surplus and deficit were the opposite of those now adopted by his acting substitute in the Finance Department.

Notes By The Way

Kissing goes by favor as between the Federal Government and cities. Quebec is a Liberal city and port. One of its electoral divisions was long represented by the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And the harbor of Quebec is under the control of a commission, as are also the harbor of Montreal, Vancouver and other large Canadian cities. They have a Liberal harbor commission in Quebec as befits a large Liberal city. The personnel of the commission is changed somewhat from time to time as when a commissioner dies, or is promoted to another and higher official position but the political complexion of the commission does not change.

The other day some questions were asked in Parliament concerning the commission among which was this: "Have the harbor commissioners of Quebec paid interest on the amounts borrowed from the Dominion Government? If not, what is the amount of the said accrued interest to date?" The answer of Hon. Mr. Carlin disclosed, among other interesting facts, that since the commission was organized on its present basis, some ten or twelve years ago \$8,426,809 had been advanced by the Government on which no interest had been paid, and the amount of the unpaid interest is about \$1,980,000.

The Quebec harbor commission is one of the oldest in Canada. The harbor commission of Vancouver is comparatively new but Mr. Carlin admitted that the total liability of the Vancouver harbor commission to the Dominion Government at the end of last year was \$10,136,900, one-half of which was advanced during 1924. Behind the eight million dollars advanced to the Quebec harbor commission is an old account of millions on which a little interest was paid years ago, but long since virtually lapsed. What is the value of these loans and advances to harbor commissions on which no interest has been paid for twelve years?

Of course a Liberal harbor commission expects liberal treatment from a government of the same stripe and gets it. And if one harbor commission pays no interest for twelve years on the millions advanced to it by the Government why should the others pay? Taxpayers are well named. They must pay taxes. Their money is taken and advanced to harbor boards, or loaned to the National Railways on interest and they don't pay the interest at all, or pay part of it when they get good and ready.

Unpaid interest due by the railways to the Dominion amounts to \$131,000,000, as stated by acting Finance Minister Robb the other day. He also intimated that this sum is not taken into account "as an asset." It is different with the monies advanced to the harbor commissions which are treated as good assets and are credited as such in reducing the net debt of the Dominion. That is one of the reasons why nobody knows within hundreds of millions what the actual debt of the Dominion is today.

The Government has power and uses it with a lavish hand to advance money to the National Railways, or to guarantee loans obtained by the railways. When the railways do not pay the interest on these moneys, or on their own borrowings guaranteed by the Government, the Government must pay and does pay the interest and the taxpayers are levied upon to pay it back to the Government. That's the way the taxpayers' money goes to make good the arrears of unpaid interest.

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By James W. Barton, M.D.

EFFECTS OF MASSAGE

One of the things the "flying Finn" Nurma, has emphasized since he came to America, is the value of massage. Nurma has some right to talk to us when he remembers that after breaking world's records in New York one night, he took the train to Chicago the same evening, then he broke some further world's records the following evening, then that same evening took the train back to New York and broke some further world's records the next night. That is in three successive nights, with the thousand mile journey each way between New York and Chicago, he broke all these world's records. Some one has put the matter this way.

Massage is simply the working of the muscles and thus giving them exercise, and therefore would be a good thing for an invalid who was unable to take exercise. The massage would stimulate the circulation and thus help the heart and lungs, and therefore all parts of the body. Thus athletes who have done strenuous work can have their circulation quickened, and fatigue products thereby removed in a short time.

However some one else asks this pertinent question: "If massage is really exercise then that exercise will manufacture more fatigue products and you will increase fatigue instead of lessening it."

In answer to this, some Philadelphia investigators show that the fatigue substances, lactic acid and the acid condition of the blood do not follow massage as they do after exercise. That massage actually removes these products and renders the blood more alkaline has been demonstrated many times.

Now how is this accomplished? The increase in circulation has always been considered the big factor. That is, as mentioned above, the manipulation of the muscles by massage so stimulates the circulation that the fatigue products are carried away in much less time.

However, under certain conditions due to certain substances from ductless glands they open up, as it were, and permit an increased amount of blood to go through them and on into the veins. It is no thought that by massaging the muscles these little vessels are persuaded to open up wide and take care of more blood, thus ridding the system of fatigue products in a short time.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

March 30, 1925

PERFECT PEACE:—Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusts in thee. Isaiah 26:3.

A DAILY VERSE

LISTENING—While all the world lies sleeping in the night, I listen here. I light the beacon fire. I stir the silence. Turning the figured dials To work a miracle On coils and webs of wire.

Then whispers mock me From beyond the hills, And voices call me From across the sea. But yours? Ah, no. No miracle yet brought That dear loved cadence Through the night to me.

Never a voice As soft and kind as yours, No message I may wildly claim as mine; Even the tapping At the casement there Is but the pentience Of leaves upon the vine. —Josephine Hemsley

Character Reading

The Message of the Finger-nails—Now we come to the nails. They not only indicate a person's character, but they are also important guides to health.

Long, narrow nails show sweet temper, an artistic nature, and very often their owners have the power to do really beautiful needlework. Unfortunately, they also show bronchial trouble, so if you have a husband or child with these nails, be careful of them when "the cold winds blow."

That Body of Yours

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.

DUSTY STREETS

Sir.—Several of our streets, including Brighton Road, are in a disgraceful condition. The residences of Brighton Road have for the past few days been treated to clouds of dried horse manure and other filth. If it does not rain to-day let our Street Committee set the water cart to work and wet the streets and then sweep up the filth. The time for thinking is past, action is needed.

I am, Sir, etc. BRIGHTON ROADER

CHURCH MERGER MORALS

Sir.—"Merged" is the wording of the Act. "Merger," not "Union," is correct. "Union" is a drawing together of free people, a right that all should have. But "merging" a free Church wiping it out by civil law, when its members wish to remain in it, is tyranny, and is declared by learned counsel to be beyond the power of Parliament. Appeal to the Privy Council of the Empire has therefore yet to be made against this Merge, tyanny, for the safety of religious liberty now and in future. Meantime, apart from its tyranny, note its morals—

The latest example of these morals is its report on the vote. When the ballots, day after day have given a constant majority against it; when the total vote to date is ninety-five thousand for it and one hundred thousand against it; when in Ontario, the main body of the Church, the vote is fifty-nine thousand for it and seventy-two thousand against it; that Merge gives, day after day in the public press, in large headlines "Church Union, Three to One," "147 congregations for Union to 537 against it," etc. etc. with never a hint that the majority of those 147 "congregations" are small stations, some of which have neither church nor reported membership.

Of these 147 "Union Congregations" in all Canada, 45, about one-third, are given as in Saskatchewan, while the total church membership of the fifteen Presbyterian churches in that Province is a little more than half the membership of the one Presbyterian of Toronto.

One of those fifteen Presbyteries in Saskatchewan is named "Kamsack" and has been acclaimed all over Canada as a "large western Presbytery, unanimous for Union." That Presbytery has two self-supporting pastoral charges and its fields with sixty-two "congregations" and stations. Its total reported membership is 741, and its sixty-two aided "congregations" have a total reported membership of 489, an average of less than eight members each. How would the "large western Presbytery" represent its assets?

But the morals of the Merge in reporting the vote mark its whole course. It runs true to form. Note some instances of many—

1. Its promoters were given office in the Presbyterian Church on their taking solemn oaths "to maintain and defend the same" and "to follow no divisive course from the present order established thereon" and they are using their positions, thus obtained to blot out the Church entrusted to their care.

They entered into unanimous agreement and declared to the people that "Union... must carry the consent of the entire membership"—and have "practically unanimous action," and when they found a great and growing opposition, they applied to Parliament to force the Merge and blot out the Church in spite of the people; their agreements "a scrap of paper."

3. The Merge constantly points to the twenty "Articles of Faith" in its "Basis of Union" as its Doctrine or Religious Belief, but never a hint that no one is asked to subscribe to those "Articles of Faith."

4. It pretends to retain the rights of the people, when not a member of its General Council need be first elected to office by the people, as is the case with the Presbyterian Assembly.

5. It tells the people that they can "call" their minister "as at present," but seldom lets them know that "the right of appointment shall rest with the Settlement Committee" an arbitrary official power unknown in the Presbyterian Church.

6. It professes to answer Christ's prayer and to do away with overlapping, waste and "sectarian strife," and it is thrusting its new sect everywhere, with overlapping, waste and strife heretofore unknown in Canada.

"Many," said the Master, "shall come in My Name and shall deceive many." "By their fruits ye shall know them." This Merge has come in His Name and has deceived many. But, in ever-growing numbers as they come to know it, the people are turning against it; fifty thousand at the last vote in 1911, seventy-three thousand at the second vote in 1915, and one hundred thousand in the third vote, not yet complete. And the Presbyterian Church, strong and true and free, a Church of the people, pledged to the Great Truths of the Word of God will continue—and many of her people who have been misled will yet return to their Mother Church. May I note, in closing, the kindness of Anglicans and Baptists in many places, in giving the use of their buildings to Presbyterian authorities, when the church-homesteads which they and their fathers have builded have been taken

A Pension for your Wife. You may leave your wife "well fixed" when you die, but her lack of business experience in administering your estate may cause it to dwindle away and in a few years leave her penniless. If, however, you invest in an Imperial Life policy, you can direct that the Company pay to her a regular monthly income as long as she lives. Under this provision the Company guarantees to pay the income for not less than twenty years. In this way you can relieve your widow of the anxiety, trouble and risk which the investment of the insurance money would involve if paid to her in a lump sum at your death. You should know more about this and many other liberal features of Imperial policies. Write for descriptive booklet now—while you are insurable. Your doing so will place you under no obligation. It may save you a lot of future anxiety. Address: THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE Company of Canada. HEAD OFFICE - - - TORONTO. A. R. McINNIS, District Manager, Royal Bank Building, CHARLOTTETOWN.

more remarkable. A recent statement in the Toronto "Globe" quotes a letter from Saskatchewan which church roll, yet many of these are... "Checking up the Unionists" reported as voting for Union. returns in the West is a mighty... Another letter is quoted as saying: "Places are reported as being... I have lived in... "Places are reported as being... for a number of years and I have been unable to... since in a while in the summer and... where there is not a dollar's worth... of property and only a few families... Considering that the Act provides... the vote in order to determine... property rights and that the vote... for Union have no membership at

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