

The Charlottetown Guardian

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This Was The Issue!

It was to be expected, of course, that the rank and file of the KING Government supporters in Parliament would oppose the motion of want of confidence unanimously indorsed by all the Opposition groups, on the subject of the Government's failure to take effective measures to deal with unemployment.

Nor is this surprising. That the much heralded "accomplishments" of the Employment Commission set up at great expense by the KING Government are largely achievements on paper, is evident from the facts and figures presented by Mr. DENTON MASSEY, Conservative member for Toronto Greenwood, during the progress of the debate.

Let us look at the record. The figures I shall use are compiled by the bureau of statistics. In May, 1931, there were 440,000 unemployed in Canada; in February, 1933, there were 713,000; in February, 1934, there were 584,000; in February, 1935, there were 552,000, and in October, 1935, when those who were promoting the "great principles of Liberalism" were sounding their clarion call from coast to coast, and referring in no uncertain terms to conditions in Canada as they saw them, there were 435,000 unemployed.

Mr. MASSEY: I have the figure for January 1936; it is 550,000. In the course of my remarks I purpose dealing with that slight reduction of ten per cent. from the preceding January. I have, too, a voluminous table which lays out in exact details the summary by months of numbers reported by provinces as having been afforded relief from May, 1932, to January 31, 1937. The figures are given per month and are divided mainly into two parts dealing with direct relief, and other relief projects.

"Picking the figures at random, let us look at February, 1933. In that month there were 1,533,842 on relief; in February, 1934, there were 1,491,059; in February, 1935, 1,433,891; in September, 1935, 665,285; in September 1936, 1,029,159 and in January, 1937, 1,301,530. In view of these figures it is difficult to understand how any hon. member who faces the facts therein disclosed can vote against the amendment as it is worded. The test of any effort is to be found in its results, not in the theory that motivates it or in the neatness of the applied pedantry.

Our Constitutional Safeguard

"Decisions of the Privy Council during the past few years have been inclined to lean in favour of centralization, in favour of the validity of Dominion legislation as against that of the Provinces."

The current issue of the Fortnightly Law Journal, commenting on recent Privy Council decisions, notes particularly "the complete absence of any sign of the heralded pro-Dominion trend of Privy Council judgments". And it proceeds: "The alleged favouritism shown by different Judicial Committees from time to time has been a product of pure imagination.... The Privy Council has clung to strict principles of law and let the victory fall to one side or the other as the justice of the matter, decided according to legal rights, has required."

So it is no wonder that imaginary political trends have been read into the classic statements of the law that with rare exceptions constitute the body of the Privy Council's jurisprudence upon Canada's constitutional document. "It may be," add the Law Journal editors, "that in the realm of practical politics the effect (of the B.N.A. Act) is to give the Provinces too much power. But after seventy years of that same federal system, it does not seem to have been the system that failed, but rather those to whom the electorate have entrusted the administration of that system. Current dictatorship and bureaucracy which are not the essential products of any system or any division of powers, are wrecking Confederation in spite, not because of the B.N.A. Act. In fact only that statute in its full force and independence of the Courts stands between the politician and the disruption of Canada's constitution."

Editorial Notes

Bagdad was captured by the British troops this date 1917.

In the case of Prime Minister King, absence will hardly make his heart grow fonder for his rebellious ex-chairman of the Tariff Board. When the cat's away even mice show a spirit of independence.

War thrills in Hollywood fashion brought derivative hood from motion picture theatre audiences in Madrid where the real thing is a part of the daily life. "Pull down the shade, you fool!" the audience shouted when one of the film characters, during a night air raid, rushed into a room, turned on the lights and started dashing off a dramatic letter of farewell.

Canada's purchase of two destroyers from the British government was mentioned in the House of Commons when Lord Stanley, parliamentary secretary to the Admiralty, said the agreed price for the two vessels was \$2,000,000. He said the Crescent and the Cygnet—rechristened the Fraser and the St. Laurent—were sold to the Canadian government at Ottawa's request to replace the Vancouver and Champlain.

If the light be let in on Mr. Hepburn's surplus, it will no doubt prove to be as non-existent as that of Mr. Macdonald's in Nova Scotia. It is a simple matter showing a balance on the right side by merely leaving out of account inconvenient items which should rightly be included. For instance Mr. Harrington showed in the N. S. legislature that the Macdonald government had piled up an enormous funded debt of \$87,000,000 for which they had provided only one-tenth of the amount, a sinking fund, or in other words it will take them 2,500 years to pay off their indebtedness at the rate they are now financing.

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev. Dr. Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram, assailing the "miserable propaganda for birth control", asserts that a larger population would solve the problem of railroad deficits. Recently returned from a trip to Canada, the Bishop told the House of Lords in a debate on the empire settlement bill that he had found railroads there that could not pay their own way without a larger population as potential patrons. He said he agreed fully with a railroad official who told him, "What we want is 10,000,000 more Britishers."

All is not well with Mr. King's majority in the House of Commons. In addition to the element for which Mr. Moore is the spokesman, there is the other element at the other extreme of which Mr. Jerry McGeer is the mouthpiece. Jerry it will be recalled, caused a sensation in the House last session by charging his leader with duplicity over his Central Bank policy, and was summoned to a caucus for discipline, but failed to attend. Jerry still goes strong as an independent Liberal, and may yet head an organized revolt against the King-Dunning Leadership. It will be recalled that the price Mr. King paid for Mr. Ian MacKenzie's previous revolt was the definite promise to the repentant sinner "of a place in my kingdom" when he got in to power. That's why Ian is now Military dictator.

Mr. Bernard Allen, of the Canadian National Railways, appearing before the Railway Committee, described the effects of "cutthroat" competition among truck operators, and declared the provinces in ten areas within which they had exclusive jurisdiction were not even exercising proper regulation. He charged, too, that the provincial governments in objecting to this part of the bill, were minimizing the extent of highway competition with the railways, and he stated that in Ontario and Quebec today there were 5,000 licences issued in each province to "for hire" trucks, that the increase in the number of such trucks, in Ontario especially, was out of all proportion to the growth in traffic. He estimated the loss to the Railways at \$3,000,000 per annum.

London Labor leaders regard their victory in London Council election as a mandate to continue their programme of slum clearance and other social reforms. Final returns gave Labor 75 seats to 49 for the Municipal Reform Party. It was a net gain of six for Labor, as they gained 10 seats but lost four. Similarly Municipal Reform, made up largely of Conservative, dropped 10 and gained four. "Thank you very much, London," said Herbert Morrison, Labor leader of the Council, in a statement on the result. Describing the result as a "splendid vote of confidence", he added, "I think we deserve it." Labor would go on to finish the job of giving London good government, he said. The party has been in office since the last election, in 1934, when Municipal Reform's 24-year grip was ended. More than 50 per cent. of London's millions of voters went to the polls, a decided increase over 1934 when public apathy resulted in but a 33 per cent. vote.

Notes by the Way

When the National Anthem becomes compulsory it really ceases to have much value. The playing or singing of it should be voluntary, a movement of the spirit. If an orchestra does not give the cue some member of the gathering may act as precursor and give the lead. It is certainly no act of true patriotism if people have to be compelled by law to make the gesture. If people do not want to pause for that purpose but grab their hats and coats and start for the exits it will only irritate them to be compelled to stand still for the extra minute. Happily, in this land the people are almost unanimous in paying tribute to the king.—Straford Beacon-Herald.

A great historian once said that the British Empire was won in a moment of absent-mindedness. It is true that there was little calculating foresight or diplomatic skill displayed in acquiring it. The Empire emerged as the result of characteristics inherent in the nature of the people who brought it into being. It was an expression of their life. Its foundations were laid in the character of its people. It has endured and expanded because their spirit has remained strong and virile. In face of tremendous opposition and severe losses it has become the most astonishing achievement of modern times.—Melbourne Argus

What is going on in Russia at the present time says Isaac Don Levine, an American who has written extensively on subjects connected with Russia, is "an invisible struggle between the Nationalist Red Army and the remnants of Lenin's internationalist old guard. In his view, a struggle between the rising force of Fascism within the Red shell of Russia and the retreating band of doctrinaire Communists who made the Soviet Russia revolution."—Saut's Star.

Outside of Great Britain the most prosperous part of the British Empire is South Africa. The revenues of the Government there are maintaining steady and substantial increases. In December last £3,143,255 was collected on Union revenue account, as compared with £2,444,228 in December, 1935. There will be another budget surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. South Africa has set its financial house in order.—Victoria Colonist.

The continuous effort of Germany to produce soldiers stronger, harder and more enduring than other nations, has motivated the discovery of a process that may be of considerable value in reinforcing human efficiency and endurance in physical tests. The method was outlined by Prof. Helmut Denny, of the Robert Koch hospital in Berlin. The process consists of increasing the alkaline content of the body, thus enabling it to rid itself more easily of acids, especially lactic acid, which is one of the special causes of physical exhaustion.—Gall Reporter.

A bill has been introduced at Ottawa that would make the words, "Quin," "Quints" and "Quintuplets" the exclusive property of the board of guardians of the famous Dionne sisters. This seems to be going pretty far. A quin may be found outside the Dionne family; likewise quints would still be quints if the Dionnes had not appeared, and quintuplets will still be quintuplets no matter what Ottawa may do about it. For these reasons the bill should be thrown out at Ottawa. There is the further argument against it that it may discourage other families from having quintuplets.—Regina Leader Post.

They restored order in the Guelph Reformatory with the strap. In other words the lads who thought themselves "tough" were given a sound thrashing. Many self-styled humanitarians will protest violently at such brutality if they have ever seen an angry mob milling round, they wouldn't. Mob violence can only be met with violence of some sort, and we feel that the reformatory authorities showed great restraint in handling the situation. In some penal institutions not in Canada, floor machines would have been barking and there would have been quite a few funerals. The thrashings may have knocked a little sense into the young chaps who still have a chance to make good after they leave the place.—Northern News.

Canadians have read with friendly interest, accompanied, of course, with strong disapproval of the so-called "rackets" practised by gangs in New York, Chicago, and other large cities in the United States, by which they exacted payments for alleged protection. It is another matter, however, when they are told by a special prosecutor that similar methods have been practised in Montreal by which the owners have been compelled to pay a million and a quarter dollars for protection. "When you have an illegal business," he said, "flourish and get customers for a year or two years undisturbed—well there is something wrong somewhere."—Brantford Expositor.

Having worked for three days with a dislocated neck, an Australian doctor had the dislocation pushed back into position when he was flung six feet after receiving a 11,000 volt shock from an X-ray machine. The doctor, a resident medical officer of a Sydney hospital, collided with a man in the surf. His neck was injured, but only a slight stiffness was felt. An X-ray of the neck was taken and, while waiting for the plates to be developed, the doctor continued his work. While he was assisting with the X-ray machine the doctor's head made contact between the side of the transmitting valve and the steel casing of the machine.—Australa Press Bureau.

Mussolini seems to have gone right up in the air over men for Italy's army. A real national shortage of potential soldiers to defend a country in emergency is a serious matter; it is, however, a desperate measure deliberately to encourage in peacetime raising large families solely for recruiting and to hold the whole of a nation liable to be conscripted from early youth

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Sir,—Unemployment is rapidly increasing in this province. We now have more than seven hundred idle men in Charlottetown and also a great many in Summerside, Souris and Georgetown. Without question this is the worst of all the governments to solve. First of all the governments should see that fair and just working conditions should prevail and also that adequate and reasonable wages should be paid. In a time of so much unemployment as supply money to the province should carefully consider what percentage was going to be paid out to labour.

We read of \$200,000 for harbour improvements at Wood Islands. We can be assured that a very small percentage of this money will be paid out to the unemployed of this province. Harbour improvements, such as dredging, etc., and as our province has not any machinery for this kind of work, the money would have to be paid to outside companies. There is no other amount of any importance in the estimates for this province to relieve the unemployed.

What is to become of all the idle men in Charlottetown? Spring is just around the corner and not a word about any working projects.

Is it possible that the government expects the city to find work for all those men? Did the local government make a sincere effort to obtain money from the Federal government for the Brighton bridge project? It appears to me and many more that there was not very strong or determined efforts made in this case. On the other hand some persons or probably a few persons had some great pull with the Federal Finance Minister as the \$200,000 was railroaded through in a hurry. Now this or any other amount would be very acceptable if the money was going to relieve unemployment.

This car ferry at Wood Islands may be of some benefit to the province but at the present time the unemployment problem should receive first consideration. Some big project should be commenced that would employ a great number of men.

The Brighton and West River Bridges would end unemployment in Charlottetown. It is needless to explain the benefits that tourists, farmers and business men would derive from those projects, they have already been fully explained from the platform and in the press. The wage earners of Charlottetown are being denied the things they need most. A few days' work now and then during the summer months is by no means going to keep them. I read a lot about tourists coming to our province and it helps to a great extent to have them visit us, but if something is not done soon there is a large number of idle, hungry men. The Legislative Assembly are soon going to meet and perhaps some kind-hearted member will take up the unemployment question and get something done under way in the early spring. Don't leave off everything until midsummer, as has been done in the past.

I don't expect too much from our city representatives as I don't think they have much pull, but still they could give a rally on the unemployment question. They could, if they felt so inclined, speak a little on the amount of relief that is being distributed in the city. If our local government was more generous the city officials would give more, but anyhow let them get busy and give the men some work, and try to get started before the weather gets exceedingly warm.

FRIEND OF LABOUR FASHION NOTES

Sir,—I remember, when I lived in a small town, that I greeted every friend, newly returned from New York, with the anxious question, "What were they wearing when you left?"

Long ago I discovered how needless that question was, and having recently come from the great city, I take this opportunity to reply to my friends.

Here in Charlottetown, "they" are wearing exactly the same coats, dresses, suits, hats, shoes, and other articles of apparel that "they" are wearing in New York, or for that matter, London and Paris. There are no fashion secrets anymore. The same style books are open to the secluded farmer's wife and to the most cosmopolitan lady. The same patterns are available to the humblest seamstress as to the most sought after modiste.

The owner of a dress shop, in the smallest town, either buys her gowns personally from the largest near-by city, or buyers with samples of merchandise come to her in either case the goods were bought originally by men and women who themselves attended the big fashion shows in New York, or even Paris.

Now are there "exclusive styles"? A lady may wear a fabulous sum for "an exclusive model" bought at one of those "salons" where a rich curtain hides the treasures within, and the door, barred by a dazzling porter, shows a tiny card, "By appointment only", and may, if she is so constituted, die of chagrin, a few days later, when she sees her gown, copied to the last button (of course of shoddy material and with machine stitching) in some horrid little shop and marked \$9.95! Or she may faint at her own dinner party, on

to old age. It suggests the alternatives of national decadence or aggressive intentions. In any case, it is placing false emphasis on the military side of national life. Big battalions with little or nothing behind them are both costly and purposeless.—E.C.

seeing her cherished dress worn triumphantly by her most hated "friend". This happens almost as often at a village-dress-dance. But there is no help for it. There is a copy-right law on styles as well as books, but how enforce it when the mere twist of a ribbon can technically label a gown as different, though it is absolutely similar in every other detail! Every dress manufacturer has scouts paid to ferret out and copy anything new in styles even before the original is completed.

Approximate of this point, when I left New York, I. Miller and Co., one of the most select "booteries" on the Avenue, prominently displayed in their window, a Spring slipper, new in color and style. A few days later I saw the same shoe, or it looked the same in color and material and style, in a window in Charlottetown. The price here was just one third. Why, or how, I do not know.

Coming down to details, black coats in New York, as well as here, were predominant. The best dressed women, those seen in the finest shops, theatres, cafes, wore simple black coats trimmed with silver fox! My loyal island heart leaped with joy when I noted how often two silver fox scarves were worn at once. Surely, thought I, many of these must come from Prince Edward Island!

In the matter of hats, I believe the women of the large cities are guided more by what is becoming than those of smaller towns, or amusingly enough, than those of the outlying districts of New York itself. The women of Brooklyn, or the Bronx, for instance, stonically wore the extreme cossack hats, the absurd pill box, the grotesque witch's peak, with less reservation than did her sister on Park Avenue. A truly sophisticated woman adapts the prevailing mode to her own type, while the less self-assured one swallows it whole and undigested.

I saw nothing new in the Spring displays. As always, suits claim- ed the centre of the stage. The adorable little bolero packet suit was featured, but the regulation mannish suit of tweed or serge or worsted or flannel, was still the most popular. Perhaps more is made of contrasting "accessories" in New York. For example, a navy blue suit, hat, shoes, are worn with brown blouse, scarf, gloves, or with red or yellow blouse, or a brown suit is combined with vivid green, yellow, or red; a gray suit becomes more effective when worn with touches of plum or the new carmelian shade; a turquoise blue tweed may have a tile red blouse in a Venetian red jacket is subdued by a dark-green skirt—an in'te variety of colors are arranged to make the indispensable Spring suit-interesting.

Again, the most expensive and beautiful suits and coats were trimmed in silver fox. However, in the display windows of the best known furriers on Fifth Avenue, luxuriant cross fox scarves were as much in evidence as those of silver fox. This, not only need we not cast yearning eyes toward the great cities, as far as style is concerned, but we can be proud to know that for her loveliest adornment, the most fashionable ladies, everywhere, are dependent, in part at least, on our own little island!

RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK RAILWAY "HIGH FINANCES"

Sir,—In a recent letter to the Guardian, Professor Jackman of the University of Toronto characterized the Canadian National Re-capitalization Bill as "high finance," and drew attention to a neat bit of legerdemain whereby the Bill provides that the accumulated deficits of the Canadian National will in future be shown as surplus of "black magic" in railway-govern- ment finance is the astonishing declaration that present bookkeeping methods, whereby loans made to the Canadian National Railway and shown both on the Dominion Balance Sheet and the Canadian National "Duplication" Sheet, constitute "Duplication of Liabilities." This contention is the most careful investigation. It is the real crux of the whole case for writing off liabilities in excess of \$1,500,000,000 from the railway balance sheet; for the proposal that the railway accounts shall never again be required to remain open to the public of the facts of the case, for allowing the published results to ignore entirely the interest on the hundreds of millions of dollars of money borrowed by the taxpayers to lend to the railway; and for the highly interesting thesis that, notwithstanding that the taxpayers still pay fixed interest rates on money they lend to the railway, the latter will be entitled to regard it as extraneous to railway liabilities.

Proponents of the Bill have stated that "the Duplication arises out of the assumption in the net debt of Canada of loans, interest thereon, and capital cost of the Canadian Government Railways concurrently with the inclusion of the same liabilities in the accounts of the National System." It is informative to see what is the precise position. The following shows the items comprising the alleged duplication of \$1,500,000,000 of liabilities as they appear in the railway accounts, side by side with the same items as carried in government accounts:

Table with columns: Dominion Balance Sheet, D.B.S. Asset Side, R.B.S. Liab. Side. Rows include Loans and Advances, Can. Gov. Railways, Unpaid Interest, etc.

For Vitality always use BRAHMIN ORANGE PEKOE TEA

canals, harbours and wharves. The unpaid interest is carried in the Consolidated Fund.

This set-up was adopted in 1920 by the Minister of Finance, Sir Henry Drayton, with the full approval of Parliament. J. C. Saunders, deputy minister of finance, drew attention to the change in his annual report for 1920, and stated that Cough Edwards, Morgan and Company, had been consulted, and that they had sought to have the accounts "set up more in conformity with those of banks, railway corporations and other financial institutions." It is inconceivable that a combination of the best legal, financial and accounting experts in the country would, after a mature consideration of the system of accounts as between the railway and the government which was "without corporate precedent anywhere on the face of the earth," or one which would produce a "duplication of liabilities" prejudicial to the national credit. It is impossible to believe that in the known commitments in respect of the railway were increasing so rapidly, no responsible person either in the railway or the government noticed that this practice created "duplication" until after the Royal Commission drew public attention to the huge cost of the national railway adventure.

The matter was not until 1934 that the auditors discovered what they termed a "misconception" as to duplication in the net debt. The present Bill goes far and has translated this misconception into a duplication into an actual "duplication." It is now argued that since these items are treated as "non-active assets," and included in any asset value, and as "not having been written off" by the Government as "net debt," hence, it is claimed that to recede what the Canadian National Railway owes the Government on the railway balance sheet is "duplicating liabilities" and constitutes an unreal transaction. Such reasoning, of course, chooses to ignore all sense of business relationship and proportion. Should not the parliament buildings and other public buildings, which are also included as non-active assets in "net debt," as "written off" and as "not having any value?"

Despite the apparent confusion with which proponents of the duplication fallacy reiterate their views, there is nothing incongruous or unorthodox in the manner of expressing the relationship between the railway and the Government of each. The published accounts of the evidence given before the Railway Committee in April, 1935, by B. J. Roberts, comptroller of the guarantee branch of the department.

It has been well said that "the whole theory of recapitalization is obviously dominated by a misconception. The small group who favour recapitalization have set out to eliminate application of liabilities and losses of the One Billion, Five Hundred Million Dollars between the published accounts of the National Railway System and those of the Dominion."

It is unbelievable that any recognized authorities not connected with the railway or the Government can be found who will admit the existence of any such duplication of liabilities. It is certainly high time that the "searching examination" referred to by Mr. Dunning, and urged by Professor Jackman, should commence. The present controversy might produce lasting results if it awakened a real public demand for constructive action to solve the railway problem, and confounded those who would see this problem minimized by the calculated deception of the Canadian people.

I am, Sir, etc. A. L. A. RICHARDSON Toronto March 6, 1937.

CIVIC FINANCING EXTRAORDINARY

Sir,—At a meeting of the City Council held on May 11th last the following resolution was moved by Mr. Russell Chandler, chairman of the light committee, and seconded by Mr. G.W. McLeod and carried: "Whereas the City of Charlottetown is the complainant in an investigation now being conducted by the Board of Public Utilities of the Province of Prince Edward Island into the rate structure of the Maritime Electric Limited.

And whereas the accepted practice in conducting public investigations in other provinces has been shown to be utterly frivolous and of such a plainly apparent unfounded nature as to cause the Board to decide that the filing of the complaint was unwarranted and mischievous to assess the costs of the investigations against the Public Utility Concern.

And whereas this assessment can be made only after the completion of the investigation while the necessary appraisal audit, etc., there are certain current expenses to be defrayed and whereas the Board of Public Utilities has asked both the City as complainant and the Maritime Electric Company Ltd., as the public utility concerned to provide the money necessary to carry on the investigation, therefore be it resolved that the City Council of Charlottetown hereby authorize the finance committee of this Council to provide the Board of Public Utilities with half the sum necessary for the conduct of the investigation provided the Maritime Electric Company Ltd. undertakes to provide the remaining half of the cost and be it further resolved that in the event of the Maritime Electric Company Limited refusing to provide half the

The Poet's Corner

SONNET The world is charged with grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of life, crushed. Why do men then now not reek their rods? Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; And all are seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell; the soil Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod. But, for all this, nature is never spent— There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; And though the last lights of the sun dim, Oh, morning, at the brown brink eases'ard, springs; Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with—ah!—bright wings. —Gerard Hopkins.