

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE WHITE REPORT

The eagerly awaited report of the White Commission on Maritime subsidy claims settlement has been tabled in the House of Commons and appears in detail in today's Guardian. The majority of the Commissioners, namely, Sir Thomas White and Mr. E. V. Nesbitt, recommend subsidy increases of \$1,800,000 for Nova Scotia, \$900,000 for New Brunswick and \$275,000 for Prince Edward Island. This constitutes a substantial increase over the interim subsidy payments awarded under the Duncan Commission report, but it is by no means satisfactory on a basis of final settlement, a fact which is strongly emphasized by the Maritime member of the Commission, Chief Justice Mathieson, who takes issue with his colleagues on the ground that their report minimizes the importance of "fiscal need" as a guiding principle, and states that the proposed increase will give only partial and temporary relief. In other words, while a substantial subsidy increase is unanimously recommended, the door has been left open, by reason of the minority report of Commissioner Chief Justice Mathieson, for further negotiation on a still more equitable basis.

From a provincial standpoint, it is highly satisfactory to note that Prince Edward Island's subsidy ratio has been increased over the interim grant recommended by the Duncan Commission. In the first instance Prince Edward Island's proportion of subsidy increase was 1 to 4 and 1 to 7 of the other two provinces. In the present instance the ratio is 1 to 2 and 1 to 3. The additional subsidy recommended is equivalent to a grant of \$3,000,000 at 5 per cent, bringing the annual additional subsidy increase for this Province up to \$275,000.

It is significant to note that the majority report of the Commission does not deny the fairness and justice of the case as submitted by the Maritime representatives and endorsed by Chief Justice Mathieson, but evidently consideration was given to the attitude of other provinces, especially Ontario and Quebec, and to the possibility of the Western Provinces demanding further concessions on their own behalf.

The suggestion of Chief Justice Mathieson that the claims of the Provinces for subsidy should be revised every ten years is a good one, and if acted upon will go a long way to remove any dissatisfaction arising out of the failure of the majority members of the Commission to adjudicate upon all the claims presented by the Maritime representatives. The fact that the Commission reached a divided opinion on this question is the strongest reason for assuming that the case is by no means closed.

The Commission report bears testimony to the convincing manner in which the claims for each of the three Maritime Provinces were presented. Without in any way reflecting on the other provincial representatives, it is evident that Prince Edward Island was particularly fortunate in the manner in which its case was prepared and presented, its ratio of subsidy increase, as recommended, being substantially the highest.

THE LIBERAL POLICY

The sincerity of the present Liberal criticism regarding unemployment relief may best be judged by the actions of the same party when in power. Speaking last week in the House of Commons, Mr. T. L. Church said in this connection:

"My hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) proposed a dominion-provincial conference to consider the question of financial relations between the provinces and the dominion, and secondly to consider unemployment, Canada's most urgent problem. The late Liberal government were nine years in power and had a report before them recommending sickness and unemployment insurance, and yet they did nothing to give effect to it. I myself brought this matter to the attention of parliament on many occasions in the nine years the Liberals were in power, and motions were also moved by my hon. friend from North Winnipeg (Mr. Heape). I was a member of the committee on industrial and international relations for many years, and I supported this particular policy from the time that I entered the house till I left it in 1930, and I continually brought the matter to the attention of the late government. As late as February 25, 1929, I had this question on the order paper:

1. Has the government any plans for providing employment for the great body of the unemployed? 2. If so, what are they and what action will be taken, and when? Answer: 1. The question of unemployment is one for the provincial governments. 2. Answered by No. 1. "That was all they thought of it. That was the government of which my hon. friend from St. James (Mr. Rinfret) was a member. On March 5, 1930, I asked the government this question respecting unemployment relief: 1. Has the government any plans for providing employment for the great body of the unemployed? 2. If so, what relief will be afforded? 3. Will the government accept the offer of the province of Ontario to provide one-third of the cost of certain forms of relief in conjunction with the federal and municipal authority; if not, why not? "Instead of answering that question the Liberal government asked to have it ruled out of order."

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature opens its first session today.

The temporary break-down in Mr. Bennett's health is unfortunate, but he has plenty able colleagues ready to carry on in the interim.

It was bound to come. Montreal property owners are sending a delegation to Ottawa for adjustment of interest and capital of mortgages on the same terms as farmers.

It was stated in the British Parliament last week that the only two countries in the world free from the dread Foot and Mouth Disease in cattle were Canada and South Africa. But the Minister of Agriculture could not let the opportunity pass of having a sly hit at us. The root of the disease had not yet been discovered, he said, but it was thought it might be in potato leaf!

Highlanders have reason to be proud of the fact that Australia considers a man who does not speak Gaelic to be an illiterate. Dr. Egon Erwin Kisch, radical lecturer from Czechoslovakia wanted to tour Australia. But the Government withheld its approval, and the only means of preventing his admission to the country was on the score of illiteracy. Unfortunately for them Dr. Kisch knew all the languages submitted to him as a test, till some one suggested Gaelic. That floored him.

The Ides of March may easily be taken to cover the period of from March 15 to 25. Plutarch tells us that a certain seer warned Caesar to be on his guard against a great peril on the Ides; and when Caesar was on his way to the Senate house, he greeted the seer with a jest and said: "Well, the Ides of March are come," and the seer said to him softly: "Aye, they are come, but they are not gone." Mr. King's friends should take note of the cases of both Caesar and the late Premier Stewart.

Toronto Saturday Night is following in the wake of the Financial Post and Montreal Gazette in reluctantly it is true conceding that Mr. Bennett is right in the method he is pursuing. "We have to record," it says, "our convictions, somewhat slowly arrived at but perhaps not the less sound for that reason, that the method adopted by Mr. Bennett for ascertaining what scope the courts can be induced to assign to the Federal power in matters like these is greatly superior to the method which is being advocated by the Liberal party."

The plight of Vancouver is truly lamentable. The Mayor, Gerry McGeer, told the Private Bills Committee of the British Columbia Legislature that it would be necessary to amend the city's charter to provide for the appointment of a Commissioner in the likely event of the bondholders applying to the courts for payment of interest. "Should this take place, it means we will be in the hands of the bondholders and in a condition of chaos by the end of the year," Mayor McGeer declared.

An odorless cabbage has at length been developed, which will be appreciated even more than a seedless orange. It is claimed for it that it will not "smell up the house" while cooking; yet dietetically and gastronomically it is a perfect cabbage. The way Prof. C. H. Myers, of the department of plant breeding of Cornell University got rid of the odor proves that the ladies have been right in turning up their noses at it. The old familiar "smell" turned out to have been only an evolutionary hang-over

Notes By The Way

Soldiers of fortune will be sorry to note that the trouble in Abyssinia appears to have reverted to the discussion stage preparatory to arrangement of neutral zones. This may be further evidence that, after all, while there may be a good deal of sabre-rattling, no country really wants a war on its hands. The world conflict is not altogether forgotten.—Ex.

The familiar question of the machine versus the man is revived by news from Washington. A government committee report that has been handed to Mr. Roosevelt accuses motor car manufacturers of complicating the unemployment and social problems of the United States by resorting to newer and faster machinery to replace man-power. The report says the industry has speeded up to a pace considered too fast for men of 40 years of age and that in some instances 19 men now do the work of 250 previously.

Sir Ambrose Fleming, the veteran scientist, who the other day poured scorn on the Darwinian theory of evolution, is the man who made broadcasting possible by inventing the thermionic valve. Although his invention is now in use all over the world, he never received a penny reward for it other than the retaining fee paid him by the company that employed him. He was also closely concerned in the early development of the telephone and electric light, and holds strong views on the way in which these enterprises were hampered by unwise Government legislation. Sir Ambrose is in his 86th year.—London Exchange.

The League of Nations has come to stay if our civilization is to endure. The world is beginning to realize that the alternative to the return to the old system of balances of power and heavy armaments among opposing camps and the prospect in the not distant future of another great world war.—General Smuts.

Canada's gold production for 1934 reached an astronomical total value of £21,000,000. Experts predict that during 1935 even this record will be eclipsed and that a total production of £23,000,000 will be achieved, Ontario leading the way with a production of over £15,000,000.

Three weeks ago the city of Aberdeen in Scotland, put on the market an issue of \$6,000,000 at three per cent. The prospectus announced that the city taxes of Aberdeen were lower than those of Glasgow, Edinburgh or Dundee, and that its public debt per capita was also lower than those of these three cities. What was the result? Within two days \$150,000,000 had been subscribed,—thirty times the amount of the issue. This means that the Scottish public is ready and anxious to lend money at a low rate of interest so long as it is assured of the reliability of the borrower and the latter's reputation for thrift, economy, and sound business administration.—Ex.

There is a story told of Sir Matthew Begbie, first chief justice of British Columbia, which, after nearly 75 years, seems to have an application to assessment problems in Vancouver. The story is that a farmer in the Kamloops area died and left his farm to his two sons. After a time the sons fell out. They could not operate the farm together and decided that it should be divided. But they could not agree as to the division, and the chief justice, who had something to do with the colony, was called upon to act as arbiter. Begbie's decision was worthy of Solomon. "John," he said, "which disappeared when good breeding was introduced."

It hardly required the assurance of Sir Francis Floud that notwithstanding recent extensive development of agriculture in the old country, Britain will still need our wheat. Speaking to the Women's Canadian Club in Toronto, Sir Francis said that some seemed to feel that the development of agriculture in Great Britain is dangerous to Canada, but I can assure you that, as far as wheat is concerned, Britain will depend mainly for its supply on overseas countries, such as Canada, which can produce it so much more cheaply than we can in ours, where we are at the present time producing only 23 per cent of our bread supply from our own soil."

Gradually Soviet Russia is realizing that all is not gold that glitters in Communistic theories, or dross that appears static in old time capitalism. It again permits churches to be used for worship, has decided to pay a man according to his work, has returned to ballot voting for elections, and last, but not least, has awakened to realize the value of home life. The Soviet has slowly but surely been increasing its emphasis on the family as against the free relationship of the sexes pursued at the outset. It has just issued an appeal to parents to give more importance to their children's home life. In line with the present tendency to supplement the work of schools with fire-side counsel which has been neglected on the theory that children more or less are the charges of state institutions, the official newspaper Ivestia warned against abandoning children to street-corner influences: "The importance of the family is clear," Ivestia said. A significant admission

That Body of Deeds

By James G. Cunningham

THE PROPER DIET IN RHEUMATISM

It is now definitely agreed among physicians that meats are not responsible for causing rheumatism nor do they aggravate these symptoms whatever.

It is now agreed that starch foods are at least partly to blame for the symptoms of rheumatism and that they aggravate these symptoms whatever. However a very interesting discovery has been made by Drs. Frank J. Sladen, Dwight C. Ensign, and Clark M. McCall, Detroit. In a study of 148 persons without arthritis (rheumatism), and 138 persons with rheumatism, it was found that the rheumatic patients did not really eat any more starchy food than did those who did not have rheumatism.

In spite of this, however, a craving for sweets was confessed, and on closer examination of the starch diet it was found that the rheumatic patients had a tendency to choose starch foods of the "non-protective" kind, and an insufficient amount of the starch foods of the "protective" kind. Thus the rheumatic patients favored oatmeal, rice, refined cereals, and pastries, potatoes and white flour and were shy on the use of unrefined cereals, butter, cream, milk, and fruits and vegetables—that is starch foods that contain large amounts of bulk or roughage and protective substances, and also minerals and vitamins.

The patients were encouraged to change from the non-protective starch foods to the protective starch foods, and to use the same amounts of the foods as before. These physicians state that following this diet there was a definite improvement in weight, bowel or intestinal action, the condition of the joints, and the general efficiency and well being in these cases of arthritis.

Now the point to remember is that the non-protective foods are all good foods and if fruit or vegetables are eaten regularly there will be no lack of minerals and vitamins and of general protection of body tissues from the standpoint of infection.

When there is definite arthritis or rheumatism, from the food standpoint anyway the protective starch foods as mentioned above should be eaten. It should be remembered of course that diet is not the only factor in the case of aggravation of rheumatic symptoms.

What did the march with? Well, so far as we can discover, the nothing more than the bald statement that there was a lot of unemployment in the country and that the Government was doing nothing about it. Which wasn't very effective. While Mr. Mackenzie was launching his rhetorical barrage, an official statement was being issued showing that last year, while most of the rest of the world was recovering but slowly, or not recovering at all, Canada was increasing her trade with the Empire by 24 per cent, her trade with foreign countries 20.9 per cent. That must have helped employment. This country can't increase its exports to the Empire countries by \$1,000,000 without a lot of the 31 millions going into workman's pay envelopes; there must have been busier factories and farms and a lot more purchasing power. And so with the gain to foreign countries. In other words, the Ottawa agreement with the other countries made by the present Government, did help employment. If Mr. Mackenzie has any doubts about the matter, let him ask Canadian producers. Let him ask some of our live stock men, or some of our fruit growers, or some of our mine operators. They will not hesitate about telling him.

What did Mr. Mackenzie himself propose? The answer is that Mr. Mackenzie proposed nothing. Not a thing. He spoke, of course, about "high tariffs, quotas and embargoes," but we can remember that in a recent speech in New York Mr. Mackenzie's colleague Col. Ralston, didn't hold out much hope of anything substantial being done about tariffs if or when Col. Ralston and Mr. Mackenzie's party took office. So not much hope there. What else did Mr. Mackenzie propose? Nothing else—except this: "We are prepared to shelve all other questions which are before this House, or may be presented, to discuss this emergent condition." To "discuss it." Mr. Mackenzie says that there is unemployment and hardship, and that things are terrible generally, and that the thing to do is to talk. It's a great policy.

Returning to the question of the probable date of the Federal Government's appeal to the people, it is of interest to note the observations made by the Ottawa correspondent of the Mail and Empire as to the political gossip in the capital. When the session first opened, he says, an early spring election was anticipated generally in Federal political circles. The opinion was based on the expectation that the Liberal Opposition would be militant in the last session prior to an appeal to the people and that the Government would make an issue out of the obstruction of its program and dissolve the House. Events, however, have not fulfilled this forecast. Instead of being militant, the Liberals have been apathetic. They have given the Government to understand plainly that they are not prepared to furnish it with any issue arising out of opposition to its reform program.

The other argument for an early election—that the Canadian Prime Minister who goes to the Imperial celebrations should have a mandate from the people—has not been pressed by the Opposition since the session opened. It was fairly well understood that the Government would be disposed to give serious consideration to such a contention if it were raised. For while the London gathering this year is main-

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WARNING TO FOXMEN

Sir,—We are informed that rabbits are being imported to this province for fox feed. We are advised these rabbits are carriers of a loathsome infectious disease known as "Tuberculosis," which is transmitted to foxes and human beings. In the case of the latter, about forty per cent fatal. The fact that the rabbits are frozen does not obviate the danger of infection. It would appear advisable that the practice be discontinued.

F. E. I. FISHER & GAME PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, W. HENRY TIDMARSH, President.

Mr. McKenzie's Proposals

(Ottawa Journal) Having become nervous watching some burn while his leader yawned, Mr. Ian Mackenzie got up in the House on Monday and moved a want-of-confidence motion against the Government. Mr. King had said he didn't want to talk about anything but reform, and little about that, so anxious was he to get on with it, but Mr. Mackenzie's baton in his hip pocket, bowed Mr. King out of the way; marched right into battle on his own.

What did he march with? Well, so far as we can discover, the nothing more than the bald statement that there was a lot of unemployment in the country and that the Government was doing nothing about it. Which wasn't very effective. While Mr. Mackenzie was launching his rhetorical barrage, an official statement was being issued showing that last year, while most of the rest of the world was recovering but slowly, or not recovering at all, Canada was increasing her trade with the Empire by 24 per cent, her trade with foreign countries 20.9 per cent. That must have helped employment. This country can't increase its exports to the Empire countries by \$1,000,000 without a lot of the 31 millions going into workman's pay envelopes; there must have been busier factories and farms and a lot more purchasing power. And so with the gain to foreign countries. In other words, the Ottawa agreement with the other countries made by the present Government, did help employment. If Mr. Mackenzie has any doubts about the matter, let him ask Canadian producers. Let him ask some of our live stock men, or some of our fruit growers, or some of our mine operators. They will not hesitate about telling him.

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Election Speculation At Ottawa

(Montreal Times) Possible dates of the Federal election continue to be a matter for speculation at Ottawa. Some of the political prognosticators at the capital have been quite insistent upon an early spring election, but the less impatient forecasters have set the date in the late summer or early autumn. In the end, however, Prime Minister Bennett will say when the people of Canada will go to the polls to pass judgment on his administration. Whether the date will be soon after the session of Parliament or late in the autumn, there is a growing confidence among the supporters of the Bennett Government that the people will decide to continue in power the man who has brought Canada through the years of the world's greatest depression in front of the nations of the world.

Returning to the question of the probable date of the Federal Government's appeal to the people, it is of interest to note the observations made by the Ottawa correspondent of the Mail and Empire as to the political gossip in the capital. When the session first opened, he says, an early spring election was anticipated generally in Federal political circles. The opinion was based on the expectation that the Liberal Opposition would be militant in the last session prior to an appeal to the people and that the Government would make an issue out of the obstruction of its program and dissolve the House. Events, however, have not fulfilled this forecast. Instead of being militant, the Liberals have been apathetic. They have given the Government to understand plainly that they are not prepared to furnish it with any issue arising out of opposition to its reform program.

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If Not Reform, What?

(Ottawa Journal) "What are the alternatives to reform?" asked Mr. Bennett in Toronto, and answered: "They are Socialism, Communism, or anarchy." This is much more than electioneering rhetoric. Little is more pathetic in these days than the people who go on talking as though nothing had happened between 1929 and 1935. Such people, curiously oblivious to what is happening to the world, go on speculating about "business getting better," or about the prospects of "the market," and so on and so forth, as though we were back in pre-war days, with no new and desperately confused and complex forces all but revolutionizing everything.

Then, and almost as bad, are the people who have read nothing or learned nothing since Adam Smith, who still talk as though we could find salvation in laissez faire, arguing to leave to entire "liberty" and free competition the wages of workers, the conditions of employment, the lot of children, the profits of monopoly, the gain of combinations. It would be as sensible as to leave an epidemic to run its course.

The world we have come to seems like a crazy world. We have poverty and hunger amidst apparent plenty. In the year 1934 we had nations destroying millions of dollars' worth of goods and foodstuffs while millions of people lacked clothing and food. Holland burned 15,000,000 flower bulbs and destroyed 100,000 pigs. The United States destroyed 9,000,000 chickens and 4,000,000 little pigs. Denmark incinerated 25,000 cattle. In New Zealand 5,000 lambs were driven into the sea. In the United States every third row of cotton was "ploughed in." Brazil destroyed 26,000,000 bags of coffee—and so on through the record.

To talk about going back to the classical economists of light or leading into such things is to talk madness. Adam Smith and Ricardo and Mill never contemplated such things; have no remedy for them. They are problems that have to be faced in the light of today's realities, which are not the realities of one hundred or fifty years ago. Nor can they be solved by nice theories.

There are those who rave about "liberty," who denounce "regimentation." But people rave and talked that way about the reform proposals of one hundred years ago. All the world knows the story of the English father, the cry of the children, the "horrors of the city slum," and the "song of the shirt." Dickens, Kingsley and Carlyle, knowing nothing of economics, and caring little for "liberty" that left thousands to starve, protested. But the great economists of those days, or most of them, opposed factory legislation, and a great Liberal like John Bright claimed the right—as so many are claiming now—to "do as he liked with his own." These people, canonized by some now, argued that strikes could not raise wages, that wage laws could not operate, that there was no hope for the poor except harder working children, and escape by emigration from their native land. Bright and Cobden, contrary to a common view, were no friends of the worker, or of social reform. Free Trade meant only cheapness; lower productive costs for his factories.

The good people who are now demanding that "business be let alone," or that we mustn't lay hands on capitalism, are no wiser than

ly of a congratulatory nature to His Majesty, there has been the suggestion that advantage may be taken of the presence of the Dominion premiers to discuss some Imperial matters. With the Liberals quite evidently disinclined to quit an early election on any grounds, however, the Government is left with the duty of arranging Mr. Bennett's attendance in London, and with the freedom thereafter of choosing the election date which it deems most suitable. The middle of June is the earliest time possible after the Prime Minister's return. An election in either July or August is not favored by Conservatives on the grounds of the number of city voters, traditionally supporters of the party, who are absent on vacation at that time. September, accordingly becomes the next month to be considered, and in it, the third Monday, the 16th, is understood to have been the subject of discussion. The stronger cabinet opinion, however, is believed to run in favor of a June election. The political tide is admitted to be running at the present time in the Government's favor, and a majority of the ministers hold the view that it should be taken at the flood.

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those who fought reform one hundred years ago. Their clamor about "liberty," when liberty means little more than license for a few to exploit the many, leading to revolution or anarchy, is silly. Are we to give people liberty to sweat their labor, to pay less than a living wage, to work women and children under intolerable conditions, to destroy competitors by despicable practices?

The whole of the living earth today is in process of revolution, and Canada can no more escape from that process than she can escape from existence. Long as we may for the "good old days," argue as we may against control and State interference, the stark facts are that control and interference have got to come if a vestige of capitalism is to remain at all. We may wisely limit the control, and we may go cautiously with interference, but we can do little else. Certainly to turn our industrial and business life loose to the unrestrained force of "liberty" and "free competition," to the things that have been revealed during the past few years, would be suicidal. Only out-and-out Socialism or Communism, Fascism, could be its end.

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