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MADE IN CANADA

P.E. Island Brief Presented At Ottawa

Financial arrangements between the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island. Brief presented at Dominion-Provincial Conference, April 30, by Premier J. Walter Jones, continued from yesterday's Guardian:

Duncan Commission

In 1926, a Commission was appointed to report to the Government of Canada upon the grievances of the Maritime Provinces.

As a result of the findings of this Commission (Duncan) some of the grievances were adjusted, and the long standing disability in which the Maritimes had been placed was alleviated to some extent by the interim subsidy award paid by the Federal Government and its confirmation and increase by the White Commission.

This Province did not accept the Duncan and White Commission findings as the final settlement of the fiscal relations that then existed nor did the province accept it as full settlement of all future demands for fulfilment of our various claims.

Audit Board

In October 1930, the Audit Board of Canada at the direction of the Treasury Board made an Interim Report to the Prime Minister as to the equitable re-assessment of the claims of the Maritime Provinces by virtue of the Duncan Report. The following is an extract:

"The Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island showed deficits in their Public Accounts for the last fiscal year, and the Province of New Brunswick showed a slight surplus. We are sure that if they made expenditures upon other public welfare services proportionate to that of other provinces of Canada, these adverse financial results would be far greater."

These large annual deficits are due to the inability of the economic resources of the province to meet the requirements of public expenditures needed to support that type of economic life that is regarded as the common heritage of Canadian communities.

White Commission

On February 9, 1935, the Report of the Royal Commission on Financial Arrangements between the Dominion and the Maritime Provinces was transmitted to the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada.

This Commission consisted of three members, the Right Honourable Sir Thomas White, Chairman, Honourable J. A. Mathieson and Mr. E. W. Nesbitt.

The Honourable Chief Justice Mathieson did not concur in the recommendations of the Commission Report, and filed a Memorandum of Dissent which read as follows:

Memorandum Of Dissent

Honourable John A. Mathieson, C.J.

I find myself reluctantly compelled to dissent from some of the opinions expressed, and the conclusions arrived at, by the majvinces are entitled to receive ority of this Commission.

The Report minimizes the importance of "Fiscal Need" as a guiding principle in determining the amount of subsidy which profrom the Federal government in support of provincial governments and legislatures.

From early days one first requisite to granting additional aid by the Dominion to a province was proof of "Fiscal Need" arising from causes for which the province was not responsible.

Such proof would, of course, not be required where the claim rested on damages as for breach of the Confederation Contract, or for compensation for the alienation of Dominion lands to other provinces.

There is no doubt that when the financial terms of union were first being considered, one controlling principle accepted was that in return for the surrender by the contracting provinces of their principal sources of revenue — the customs and excise — the Dominion was to grant such subsidies as would enable these provinces to carry on their local administration without resort to direct taxation. The records of the negotiations preceding Confederation, and of the statements officially made by Prime Minister, Ministers of Finance and other leading statesmen then and since that time, are replete with declarations to that effect. I shall quote but three.

On March 25th, 1907 (Hansard 1906-7, vol. III, p. 5292), Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:—

"Lower Canada would not have entered Confederation if, as a consequence, she had been obliged to resort to direct taxation to levy the revenues necessary to carry on her domestic affairs. What was true of Lower Canada was equally true of the Maritime Provinces. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, would not have agreed to enter Confederation if, as a consequence, direct taxation had to be resorted to. ..... Therefore it is not to be wondered at that when the provinces represented at that conference agreed to surrender to the central government the exclusive power of taxation by way of customs and excise, they should at the same time have stipulated as a condition precedent that a certain portion of the revenue thus collected should be returned to them, and a portion sufficient to permit them, without having recourse to direct taxation, to carry on their provincial affairs."

and on March 25th, 1907 (p. 5322), Honourable W. S. Fielding said:—

"The provinces existed before the Dominion, the provinces had to be brought together in order that the Dominion might be formed, and the provinces had the right to determine the terms and conditions upon which the Dominion should be created."

"When the provinces were asked to become parts of a great Dominion they had the right to stipulate the terms and conditions upon which they would enter, and they determined that they would not accept the principle of direct taxation. They determined that they must receive out of the federal treasury a proper proportion of these customs and excise duties which they were called upon to surrender. The principle of avoiding direct taxation, of raising money not only for the purposes of the Dominion but for the purpose of the provinces as well by indirect taxation, was recognized by the provinces from the beginning, had to be recognized from the beginning, one is justified in saying; otherwise, the provinces would not have come together. It is not reasonable to suppose — as has been suggested in the discussion today—that the provinces entered Confederation with the expectation that they should be called upon to resort to direct taxation, in a general form, for the purpose of maintaining their provincial governments and provincial legislatures."

and in the same debate (p. 5310), Sir George Foster said:—

"Unless compromise had been resorted to and the smaller provinces had been provided for so as to relieve them from the necessity of facing immediate and even approximate, taxation, we would today be a string of disunited provinces without confederation."

It is a fact difficult to explain that by degrees this fundamental principle has been departed from in practice. These Provinces have ceased to rely upon Dominion subsidies alone for many of their necessary public services and through the years have steadily increased in area and amount in the exercise of their provincial taxing power until it practically covers, in the Maritime Provinces at least, the whole provincial field, while the Dominion Government has also invaded the provincial field, notably in the case of income tax, and still the provincial deficits grow.

There has been a long drift from the firm anchorage which the Fathers of Confederation thought they had secured.

Some other notable developments have taken place in Confederation. The fields of taxation surrendered by the provinces to the Dominion have proved prolific sources of revenue, far in excess of what the "Fathers of Confederation" could have anticipated or even dreamed; while, on the other hand, the rigid limitations imposed upon the amount of subsidy to be granted to each province, in return for the surrender of its fruitful and expanding source of revenue, has left the Maritime Provinces, in particular, in a position of financial embarrassment that urgently requires a remedy.

The Report greatly minimises, if it does not quite repudiate, the relevance of the question of "Fiscal Need", when it says the provincial premiers "endeavored to show that their respective Provinces have fulfilled the condition of this test, namely, that the functions which the Provinces were discharging were necessary, that such functions were being economically carried out and that each Province had exhausted available sources of revenue." The Report objects to the acceptance of such evidence as a justification for such financial assistance as might be required to meet these needs. The objection is upon this ground, namely, "The Government of the Dominion would have to sit in judgment upon the question as to whether the provincial administrations have, or have not, been economical; whether or not a Provincial Government had exhausted all available sources of revenue; and whether all the functions which it was exercising were necessary in the degree to which they were being exercised." The Report continues, "Under our political system, from which the spirit of strong partisan bias can never be wholly excluded, grave abuse through favouritism towards individual provinces, and consequent discontent on the part of other provinces whose governments were not favourably regarded, would surely follow the acceptance of even this modified test of 'Financial Need' in the case of Provinces seeking further subsidies in aid from the Dominion Treasury." With all due respect, let me say that it was to obviate such objections and to answer these questions that the Duncan Commission and this Commission were appointed and empowered.

There can be no advantage in re-arguing or stating more fully now the questions which were so ably presented by the representatives of the Maritime Provinces before this Commission and so strenuously opposed by counsel, for the questions referred to this Commission remain undetermined by this Report, and that the increase of subsidy proposed will give but partial and temporary relief. The lapse of more than eight years since the Duncan Report went into effect granting provisional subsidies only, has witnessed such necessary increase in government expenditures in the case of all the Provinces as will quickly absorb the present proposed increases, and still leave them in a position to compel diminution of necessary expenditure on provincial services, or a further increase of provincial debt or of local taxation, or of all three combined.

These old British Colonies that formed the Atlantic bulwark of British North America, after bearing their full share of the cost of Canadian organization and development, should not be treated with less justice and consideration than is being accorded the Provinces whose lands they helped to purchase, to protect and equip for settlement.

The evidence produced before this Commission showed from early days a total absence of equality in the treatment of the different Provinces in Canada, both in regard to money grants by way of subsidy and in the gifts of vast areas of Dominion lands to some Provinces without any uniform plans and without any compensation to Provinces that did not share in the partition of the common property.

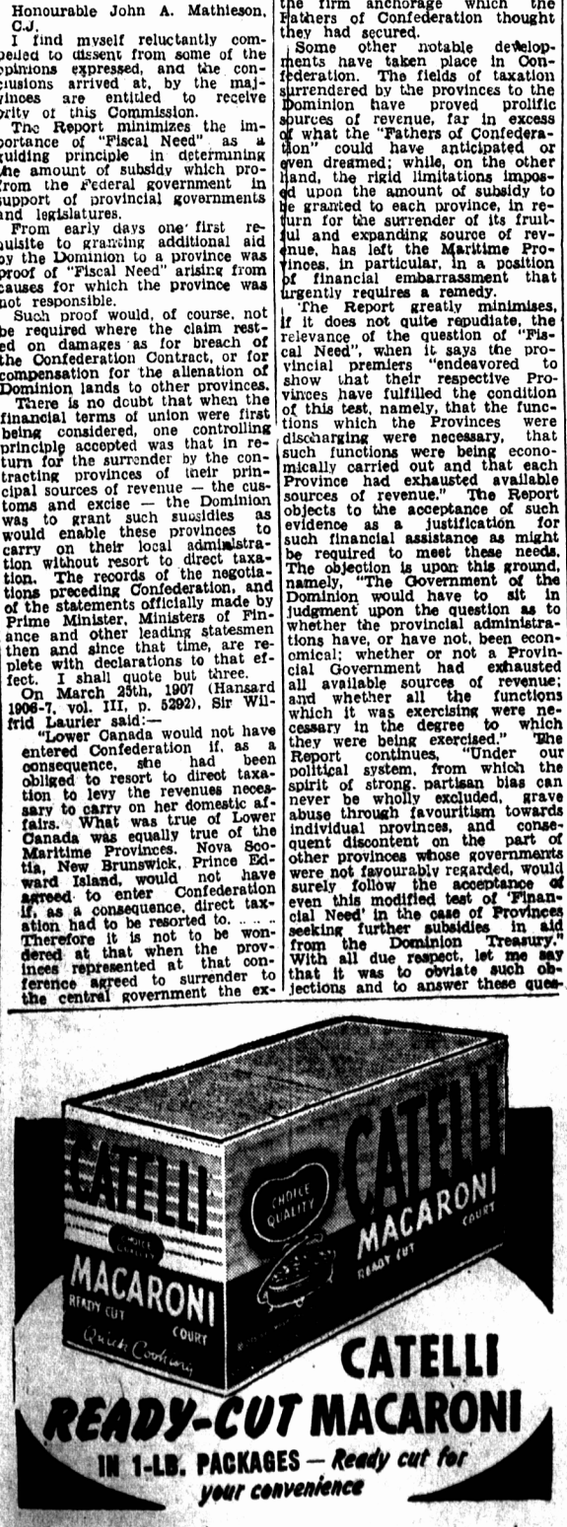
It was made clearly to appear on this inquiry that one of the major problems facing Canada today is the devising of some general plan for the adjustment of Dominion and provincial financial relations.

The practice which has existed from early days of dealing with single Provinces or groups of Provinces without due regard to the interests of all, may bring about a condition of grave unrest not free from danger to Canadian unity.

I wish to join in my expression of appreciation of the courteous and competent asistance of Mr Payne, Secretary of this Commission, and also of my old friend, Mr. MacCormac, of the Parliamentary Library, whose many kindnesses now and in former days I recall with gratitude.

Ottawa, February 16, 1935.

(To be continued)



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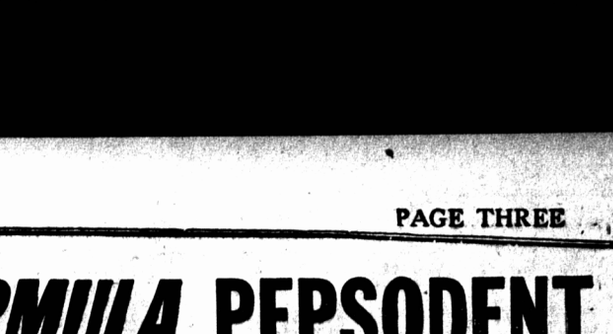

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"PEPSODENT TEETH" ARE WHITEST BECAUSE THEY'RE CLEANEST

Ellen's Diary

By an Island Farmer's Wife

(Continued from Page 2)

the stair. He slept quietly however, all unmindful of my presence. Covers rising and falling regularly and there was no sign of a troubled sleep. I slipped down where Jeanie waited, much relieved. The rest improved his condition but going by the various aches, which still persist in his bones, and a slight cough, we have come to the conclusion tonight, that he has picked up a common cold that has been too much for him, or perhaps a touch of the flu. James has been over to the house across the lane with some of his remedies and Jeanie has administered some on her own account. "I wish you'd go over now Ellen" James tells me "and see what you think of him."

* * *

So ours followed the trek to the sale this afternoon. By the time our dinner was over many farmers from the surrounding community as well as the adjacent one, were drifting thither; in wagons; on horse back and on foot. James chose the latter way of going and was soon crossing the dam. Jock was to "wait for Rob" I heard him say. Presently they too went up the hill and were lost to me beyond the maple grove. A loneliness came to the place then. Even Pard felt it. He reclined at the gateway, pointed nose on patient folded paws. There was really nothing to sit erect for now unless it might be to waste barks on the sea gulls and the crows—common sights to him nowadays. The women—kind too were at quiet tasks. Polly was sewing "running up" an everyday table cloth from bleached flour sacks. She hummed softly to herself as she stitched. Jeanie was polishing the windows in her sunporch, giving them an enviable lustre, I could easily catch from this distance. No team or other traffic was on the road. Our world was still.

* * *

And then, I must have dozed in the old armchair for Pard's barking awoke me in time to see him race down the lane. Teams came down the hill and away out the road I caught sight of moving specks of white. There I thought, are our men returning. It didn't need Jeanie's wave to tell me. I left the window then to place the tea-kettle nearer the flame—then came back to it. Jamie's Mutt-dog who I imagine was A.W.O.L. from his small master, came in advance; then James, driving Rob's mare. Behind these two the younger men led their purchases. Only a pair of young cattle but I knew no other buying could please them more. Any doubt as to a high price would be forgotten in the joy of ownership and farm planning. I do not know now what it was that made my eyes mist. I suppose it was because at that very minute, queer woman that I am, I caught a glimpse of the future and it came to me that with the turn of the years, not always will things at Alderlea, remain as they are today.

It is bright tonight if starless. At dusk, across the patches of snow and brownness behind the buildings and up towards the line, a robin trilled his song at the very end of day. And then from the old orchard another took up the lilt of it and I thought then, that no matter what "change and decay" the future may bring to me—I have had today. And now, for James is fidgeting. I must go "to see what I think of Mr. D !"

Until tomorrow . . . Diary

Good-night. . . .

ORIGIN OF—

(Continued from Page 2)

Though it has existed at least 4000 years, "Cinderella" has changed only slightly in its essentials. The changing of the sandal from fur to glass happened because of the peculiarities of the French language.

In medieval French, the word for glass was "vair," but it lost its meaning around the year 1600. From then on slippers of "vair" became slippers of "verre" (pronounced exactly the same), which is the French word for "glass."

Other fairy tales and rhymes developed from relatively recent political quarrels, when writers had to resort to fable form to criticise the government. "Humpty-Dumpty" comes from the days when the English rose up against King John, for instance.

The story of the "Babes in the Wood" was traced to the fifteenth century. It is founded on fact, for the whole story is carved on the mantelpiece of an old house in Wayland Wood, Norfolk, England.

Also based on fact is the story of "Bluebeard" who in real life was Giles de Retz, a heavy-whiskered Breton. He killed children (rather than wives, as in the fable) and used their blood to placate the evil spirits he conjured up to aid him in his search for the philosopher's stone."

On the other hand, "The House That Jack Built" comes down to us from an ancient Chaldean hymn.

And so it goes. Even the words "fairy" and "ogre" have their antecedents; "fairy" is said to have come from "Fata," the Fates; "ogre" from the word "Oigour," which was the name for the fierce murderous Tartar invaders of Europe in the ninth century. —N. M. Lobsenz in Vancouver Province.

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