

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1935.

KING'S ROAD RECORD

For the past four days the local Liberal press has devoted itself to an intensive campaign of abuse and criticism of the Bennett Government's highway improvement policy.

Mr. Bennett was promptly on his feet. "That," he said, "is the most unfair statement ever made in Parliament by anybody and it happens not to be correct."

Mr. LADNER, (Conservative): "What about Old Age Pensions?" Mr. MACKENZIE KING: "I am glad my hon. friend speaks of that."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: "I think it is, yes; I have come to the conclusion that it is a thoroughly vicious principle."

Not content with damning the principle, the Liberal leader went on to taunt the Provinces for coming begging to Ottawa. "Charity," he said, "begins at home, and the provinces have followed that maxim pretty closely themselves."

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Philip Sassoon, British Under-Secretary for Air has just informed the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce that the Government intends inaugurating a transatlantic air route from Britain to Canada, and the United States this coming summer.

Addressing a gathering on the furthering of education, the Prime Minister urged that attention be given not only the national training of youth but that international thinking be ingrained in the student, as well as an understanding of Christian principles.

The amazing progress that has been made in the oil industry in the Old World is indicated by an event that happened a few days ago in the Near East.

The Royal Commission on price spreads and mass buying, which has concluded its lengthy series of investigations will return a substantial dividend to the Federal treasury.

The great enthusiasm which the national campaign for Federal All-at-Sixty is inspiring was seen at the great mass meeting at Hammonds last Sunday.

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Notes By The Way

The Post commends the recent news from England to jittery American observers who are turning red with fury as they contemplate the President's \$2,000,000 relief budget.

The merciless drive against left-wing Communism in Russia that has been manifested of late has moral for those outside of Russia that they may not quite get.

Another cause of breathlessness is the natural treatment in these cases is to not take the exercise or do the work at the rate of speed that causes the breathlessness.

It has been found that when too much acid is manufactured in the system either by hard work or exercise, or by eating too much food of the acid forming type that breathlessness will occur.

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HEART AFFLICTIONS NOT THE ONLY CAUSE OF SHORTNESS OF BREATH

It is now quite generally known that the first symptom in any heart ailment is getting out of breath easily. This is one finds that certain exercise or work which formerly caused no breathlessness now does so.

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Another Medical Lieut. Governor

(Fred Williams in the Mail and Empire)

The medical profession, which has given so many notable men to the ranks of our politicians and statesmen, has gained fresh honor by the selection of another of its members to represent the sovereign in a provincial government.

Ontario has such a man in Hon. Dr. Herbert Bruce, and now New Brunswick will honor as the King's representative, Hon. Dr. Murray MacLaren.

He has for over four years been the head of the department of pensions and health.

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The Farmer And His Debts

Address by M. A. MacPHERSON, K. C. (Dominion Department of Finance)

When you take the Western Provinces of Canada, as the newest part of this country, when you consider the schools, churches, institutions, highway systems, power systems, elevator systems, railway systems, that have been built in an almost unbelievable short space of time it can be readily seen how most certainly this could be done only in the face of, to some extent, mortgaging the future.

There were periods of temporary difficulty, setbacks in small districts or in individual cases but generally the advance was maintained and the debt load was increased.

Then suddenly, with the coming of the greatest economic depression known to man, commodity prices collapsed. Coincident therewith in large areas of the West was not so kind as it had been and immediately a situation of great difficulty developed.

Embarrassment for the farmer whose liabilities were generally short-term liabilities which became due and were in default. Difficulties developed for the rural municipalities which were providing local services at the will of the farmer.

This meant high taxation, necessarily imposed to provide the services, now hard or impossible to collect. Difficulties as well resulted for the creditor class who had loaned the money of their shareholders, their policyholders, their depositors or those for whom they had acted as trustees.

In practically every province of Canada in some form or another moratory legislation was provided. It was not satisfactory. It did not remove the farmer from his position of default. It hindered the creditor and his operations, unsettled him and he as well was dissatisfied. Confidence did not exist.

Confidence and credit being synonymous terms meant that farm credits were at the lowest possible ebb. Month by month the problem became more acute, and as it became more acute naturally there developed on the part of the farmer, in some instances, a sentiment of suspicion and distrust as against the creditor, and with the creditor, a feeling of suspicion and distrust in so far as the farmer was concerned.

I do not suggest that this is true in respect of all creditors or of all farmers, but I do suggest that a situation was fast developing where on the one hand the farmer as debtor and on the other hand the creditor were getting further apart and any sympathetic understanding as between them was fast disappearing.

I submit to you with all confidence that the school of thought which teaches that every man's hand is against everybody else is not fundamentally true in so far as Canadians are concerned. In the final analysis everyone—almost everyone—in this continent is debtor or creditor, is anxious to help the other fellow out if the other fellow is in distress. This is fundamentally correct, but however fundamentally sound and true it is it will avail us nothing if there is permitted to exist, through misunderstandings as between the two groups, clouds of suspicion and distrust which should be and can be dissipated.

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Mr. Bennett And Unemployment

(Calgary Herald)

Critics of Prime Minister Bennett's startling economic reform policy are harping much just now upon his 1930 promise to end unemployment in Canada and claiming that he did not keep that promise, for which reason they doubt whether his present promises mean anything.

It may be that thoughtful people in 1930 assumed that Mr. Bennett proposed to perform an over-night miracle when he made that promise. It is certain that he had no such idea and certainly no one with a clear understanding as to what was then going on could have entertained so foolish a notion.

At a matter of fact the Prime Minister has from the moment he assumed office up to the present time labored steadily, persistently, and in considerable measure successfully, to cope with the unemployment situation. True his approach to the problem was spectacular as was that of the United States president, but there is good reason to believe that ultimately his methods will be productive of more permanent results than those of the "New Deal."

Making the federal authority in general measure responsible for maintenance of the unemployed has been a sanction for cash contributions to that end, immediately upon assuming office. Those contributions have continued to this date. Wide-spread distribution of this Government money has certainly effected more permanent results than those of the "New Deal."

Another of his moves that also saved catastrophe was Government assumption of the wheat export situation at a moment when nothing short of a miracle would have averted complete collapse of the economic structure of Western Canada. That move was of so great benefit to the people of the farms.

But the truly scientific move made by the prime minister to end unemployment was in his successful negotiation of the much discussed Ottawa agreements. It was evidently clear to Mr. Bennett that only in a revival of trade in export fields could there be any hope of permanent relief from unemployment. To depend upon the passing out of Government cash to remedy permanently such a situation would have been as foolish as to hope to be able to lift oneself by one's boot straps.

The Ottawa agreements are making good. In the past nine months Canada's Empire export trade has increased over 27 per cent. That means a decided increase in gainful employment for a considerable number of the unemployed. In large measure it explains why it is that Canada's peak of 750,000 unemployed has been reduced to about 460,000.

Yet there are those who would have us believe that Canada's prime minister forgot his promise to end unemployment the moment he made it and that he has done nothing since then to implement it.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of a subject of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian and its readers. The opinions expressed are those of contributors.

TREASON OR HERESY, WHICH?

Sir,—Which is it? treason or political heresy that impels the Liberal organ to republish that scathing denunciation made by Mr. J. A. MacLeod, President of the Bank of N.S., of the Mackenzie King "no policy" "laissez faire" party? And why rehash, repeatedly, old worn out editorials in any case. Nothing new to print?

I am, Sir, etc.

TIME-KILLING OBSTRUCTION

Sir,—The "No Policy" press have the gall to charge Conservatives at Ottawa with putting on debates to kill time, to enable the government to prepare legislation. Even Mackenzie King had the audacity to announce this charge in Parliament, only to be forced to swallow his words when Premier Bennett called him to account with the blunt statement that, "It is not the truth."

To show how the Mackenzie King Liberals are holding up the country's business by cheap talk let me refer to one day's (last Thursday) debates in Hansard. In this every Liberal speaker criticised and denounced almost every clause and every line of the "Trade Agreement," often most viciously and in the end voted for the motion. They were afraid to vote as they talked.

Subject to interruptions the space filled by Liberals in the pages of Hansard was but a mere 9 columns, Mackenzie King 26 columns, Howarth 11 columns, Total, 58 1/2 columns. On the Conservative side Harris, the mover, 13 columns; Hanson, Minister of Finance, 10 columns; J. H. Myers 3 columns. Total 26 1/2 columns. Just one-third of the time absorbed by the government side a fine House. Killing time, forsooth.

A review of almost any issue of Hansard will show the same result: wind-bags impeding business by interminable talk and the most irrelevant criticism of everything they can conjure up to take against time, but when the vote comes they vote with courage enough to vote as he talks.

I am, Sir, etc.

A GOOD NAME

Sir,—The three thousand year old proverb, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches," is as substantial a truth today as it was when it emanated from the lips of wisdom.

The Hon. R. B. Bennett has been in Parliament about twenty-four years, during which the issues of Hansard display truth and an conscience in all his utterances, candor and unflinching courage to all. At times he has been compelled to call a spade a spade, but not of his own choosing. In all of that twenty-four years of public debate can anything be found to parallel this:

"Mr. Mackenzie King: 'If I am not mistaken, the British delegation were told prior to their departure if they did not come across in the way the government wished, trade would be speedily turned in the direction of the United States.'"

"Mr. Bennett: 'I am not interrupting, but that is an incorrect statement, and I must at once call it as being untrue.'"

"Mr. Mackenzie King: 'I know as a matter of fact that negotiations were commenced two years ago.'"

"The Prime Minister said negotiations were about to commence."

"Mr. Bennett: 'I will say that is not a correct statement.'"

"And in this one debate, two simple pages of Hansard (419 and 420), trip Mr. King up in no less than five distinct prevarications and attempts to misrepresent the Premier. What a contrast to the dependable and straightforward adherence to truth and fact that shone out so clearly in the Hon. R. B. Bennett's twenty-four years of public life."

I am, Sir, etc.

THE SNOWING OF THE PINES

Softer than silence, stiller than still

Float down from high pine-boughs the slender leaves.

The forest floor its annual boon receives.

That comes like snowfall, tireless, tranquil, fair.

Gently they glide, gently they clothe the bare

Old rocks with grace. Their fall a mantle weaves

Of pale yellow than autumnal shavings

Or those strange blossoms the witch-hazels wear.

Athwart long aisles the sunbeams pierce their way;

High up the crows are gathering for the night;

The delicate needles fill the air; the jay

Takes through their golden mist his radiant flight;

They fall and fall, till at November's close

The snow-flakes drop as lightly—snows on snows.

—Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Poems.

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