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A Flimsy Excuse

On more than one occasion during the last session of the Legislature, Premier Lea endeavoured to repudiate his responsibility for the blunders and incompetency of the Saunders administration by saying that he, Mr. Lea, was not then in office as Premier. That, of course, is a mere sophistry and will not fool the electors, as it was obviously intended to do. It does not tally with the Premier's domineering attitude towards his former leader, whose advice he was wont to ignore even in legal matters, and whose presentation of our subsidy claims he flouted by publishing, under his own name, an entirely different schedule of claims on the very day on which Mr. Saunders filed his brief at Ottawa.

That Sales Tax

"My honourable, bluenose friend, the ex-Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) played with a matter of percentages when dealing with the sales tax; he stated that the budget now before the House had raised the sales tax 400 per cent. True, but it is also true that the government of which he was a member raised the sales tax 100 per cent. That 100 per cent increase was a much greater increase than the 400 per cent of which he now complains, because they then doubled the sales tax raised it from 3 per cent to 6 per cent tax will bring in 52 millions of the House increases the rate from 1 per cent to 4 per cent, so that the sales tax to-day is but two-thirds of that imposed by the government of which my hon. friend was a member. He suggests the 4 per cent tax will bring in 52 millions of dollars. If that be true, then the 6 per cent tax of my friends opposite brought in $48,990,076 more than the 52 millions he estimates for the present year's tax. This is evident from the fact that for the year ended March 31, 1924, the sum of $100,990,076 was collected by way of sales tax under the government of my hon. friends opposite." Col. Cantley, M. P., (Pictou) in the budget debate, House of Commons, June 15.

A Bubble Universe

The Belgian mathematician Lemaitre has demonstrated that Einstein's universe "has properties similar to those of a soap bubble." It is unstable, although not quite in the same way as the actual soap bubble we blow with a pipe. "The instability of the universe," says Sir James Jeans, who quotes Lemaitre and endorses Einstein's theory of Relativity, "takes the form of an incapacity to stand still. As soon as the universe comes into existence, it starts swelling out in size, and must go on expanding indefinitely. It is not so much like the soap bubble we have blown and detached from our pipe, as it is like one we are still blowing.

"It would be amusing," says the London Daily Telegraph in commenting on this latest theory, "to make an anthology of the mental pictures of the changing conceptions of the universe which scientists have put forward from time to time. There was Ptolemy's picture of the universe like a great hollow sphere of glass with the earth exactly in the centre. We went on from that to the image the majority of men still cling to, of a universe of innumerable spheres whirled round and round as though at the end of pieces of string.

"Sir James Jeans provides a picture which seems very characteristic of the thought of the present age: it is an image of the universe as a soap-bubble which is still being blown up. Here is an admirable figure of the world of fragility and indecision which the moderns build, but it is not quite new. 'The World's a bubble and the life of man less than a span,' says Bacon; and now it seems that Einstein proves him right."

Another Lost Art?

It is to be feared that the advent of the typewriter has produced the tendency in many young people to regard good handwriting as rather unessential in the modern world.

If such be the case, says the Ottawa Journal, it is a terrible mistake. And the sooner that impression is removed the better. The typewriter is an excellent accession to modern business. And it is really remarkable to what extent it has displaced the need for handwriting, even in respect to bookkeeping entries.

But no employer wants to waste time nowadays trying to decipher the slovenly hieroglyphics of a clerk too careless to take trouble to make his notes even passably understandable at a first glance. We do not take too much stock in graphology, but it is quite possible that the experts are right to some extent even in claiming that handwriting gives a pretty clear index to character and also to ability in some directions.

Medical men and lawyers, of course, are privileged persons in this, as in other respects. Nobody presumes to expect of them that their writing shall be intelligible to the ordinary layman.

But it would be disastrous to allow the idea to develop among students that they can afford, practically, to ignore the need for good handwriting. And this simply because they have learned to handle a typewriter.

The old lady who replied to a letter from her son by telling him she liked his telegram writing best evidently had suffered some. Not a few employers could tell their own tales in that respect. It will be well for our young people always to bear in mind that even a good penman, writing in a hurry as occasion sometimes demands, may not always be at his best. But a bad writer can only become worse under such circumstances.

An Old Chicago Custom

Justice administration in Chicago is strikingly illustrated in a recent dispatch from that gang-ridden metropolis. When one, John C. Baschler failed to appear on a criminal charge before Judge Joseph Finnegan, explanations were demanded. We quote from the dispatch:

"What kind of a man is this," asked Judge Finnegan, "who fails to appear to answer charges of operating a confidence game?"

"Your honor,' said the defense attorney, "it is not Mr. Baschler's fault he is not before you. He is sitting, not standing, before Judge Joseph McCarthy."

"And what, may the court ask, is he doing there?"

"He's a juror in a criminal case."

"What kind of a case."

"Operating a confidence game," answered the defense attorney.

"My word," mused the judge.

Editorial Notes

It wasn't the Bennett budget that boosted the provincial gasoline tax.

The boastful bragging of Liberal speakers at Liberal conventions would sound more effective if the Lea Government was not in such an obvious state of funk.

After abusing and misrepresenting the policies of the Federal Government in every conceivable way, wouldn't the Lea Government cut a nice figure going to Ottawa for the subsidy settlement which it failed to secure when its own party was in power?

Mr. Mackenzie King complains that Premier Bennett "is trying to make a reputation for himself as a gentleman who makes promises and also as a man of his word who keeps his promises." (Hansard, June 16). That is something that will never be said about either Mr. King or the Lea Government.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Durham Chronicle a well known farm paper in a recent editorial says. "It must be particularly pleasing to our farmers to know that under the present tariff they will have the privilege of serving their own home market. With climatic conditions against him, the Canadian farmer, whether he was in the truck gardening, fruit, or mixed farming business, was handicapped by the inroads of southern grown vegetables and the like, the result being that he only supplied the tail end of a market that should have been his from the start. The sale of cattle is another item. The United States has ruled against the importation of Canadian cattle, cream and eggs into that country. Then why in the name of common sense, should Canada allow United States beef and farm products to compete in Canada against Canadian farmers?"

Inflation of the urban population is largely responsible for the progressively increasing acutness of economic depression in recent years. And it is manifest that the great destiny of urban population adds to unemployment distress and to the problem of coping with it. How to reverse these conditions by inducing a movement of population from city to country, is the question of the day. The problem is a vital one, and is already being grappled with by practical economists both in Europe and America.

While Soviet Russia is dumping cheap wheat and butter into other countries, her own people are starving. A despatch from Riga states that American engineers who have arrived there report serious riots in Moscow, the headquarters of Sovietism, due to the high price of bread, which is $1.25 per pound. At that price bread is prohibitive even to highly paid workers.

Another Daniel says an Ottawa exchange came to judgment in Toronto Tuesday in the person of the Rev. G. Salem Bland, who, in the course of a socialistic address to a church assembly, announced that "capitalism is on its death-bed." He applauded what the Bolsheviks in Russia are doing, proclaiming that Russia is the only country in the world where there is no unemployment. So, nearly a century ago, people like Mr. Bland could proclaim that there was no unemployment in the Southern United States, where all the workers were slaves. Mr. Bland, of course, does not know what capital is. Capital is simply the surplus product of human labor.

There is something appealing and pathetic in the figure of the ageing Briand—still suffering from his rebuff when candidate for the Presidency—addressing with his old passionate sincerity and eloquence, but with lessened confidence, a great gathering of war veterans on the subject of peace. M. Briand of all men does not mean to disarm France. What he means is to enlist France in an active effort to bring about conditions in Europe which will render war less likely. Just at the moment, he probably wold feel that France must not goad the hard-pressed Germans too far. It is easy for France to maintain military superiority over disarmed Germany, so long as Germany is not driven to desperation. But a desperate Germany might turn on its creditors with all the fury of a cornered rat; and there is no guarantee that sixty-odd million maddened Germans, backed by the eager desire of Russia to support revolution everywhere, might not overwhelm Poland and Rumania and present France with far too colossal a task if it undertook the duty of salvaging them. Yet if France abandoned her Eastern Allies to a Soviet combination, she would need a far larger army than she has to day to guaranteen the inviolability of the Rhine.

American interests are understood to be negotiating for a controlling interest in a leading British motor company. Such an aspiration, whether or not it is fulfilled, is by no means surprising. The McKenna—duties have well nigh extinguished the British markets for American cars, whilst at the same time Americans are not slow to appreciate the advantages secured for manufacturers by Protection and Imperial Preference.

A petition for the admission of women to the ministry has been referred says the Edinburgh Weekly Scotsman to a committee for consideration. It is obvious that their entry to the ministry will not be without opposition. The opposition is not likely to express itself in a declaration that women are unfitted for the responsibilities. Women have entered into business and the professions and have made good; and it would be passing strange were the ministering sex excluded from the ministry on the ground of unfitness.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

WHY EXHAUST GAS IS DANGEROUS

A couple of years ago you may have read about the Philadelphia traffic policemen stationed in the centre of the traffic in the heart of the city. They began to feel weak and listless, were removed to the outskirts of the city for duty, where they again became their old healthy selves.

It was found that the exhaust gas from the great number of motor cars in the heart of the city was actually replacing to some extent, the oxygen in their blood, and this was what was causing the trouble.

Now we need ozygen to keep the body processes going properly. When you do any physical work, you use up some of the oxygen in the muscle and give out carbon dixoide. This means of course that if you do hard physical work that you will need more ozygen; in fact you may get to the point where you are actually using up more oxygen than you are taking in, which means that you are robbing other tissues of the body of their oxygen for the time being. This is called getting into debt in your oxygen account, and Yale research men, investigating this matter, found that oarsmen during a hard race used up so much oxygen that it took a long time for them to get enough back into the system by breathing, to repay all the tissues that had given up some of their oxygen during the hard race.

And now research men are finding that a nerve that is deprived of, or is getting enough oxygen rapidly loses its power to conduct or carry the nervous impulse. It has been proved also that a nerve uses oxygen and gives off carbon during the passage of a nervous impulse and that this causes heat just as when a music works.

Dr. Otto Warburg has been able to show that the tissues have iron containing respiratory ferments that can take in oxygen of the air, and convert it into oxygen that can be used by the tissues. However carbon monoxide—the exhaust from automobiles—can also combine with these ferments in the tissues, and actually prevent or interfere with them making the oxygen.

Therefore if there is too much carbon dioxide in the air, then just to the extent that there is too much, will there be that much less oxygen for the needs of the tissues.

&

I am hoping for the day when autmobile manufacturers will be able to have this exhaust gas consumed in some way. In the meantime if the exhaust pipe ran up the side o fthe car, and the exhaust gas was thrown off at the top of the car it would be well above man's level, and we'd escape the fumes.

Liberal View Of Budget

(Moncton Transcript, Liberal)

While people all over the Dominion are analyszing the new tariff regulations, it is realized that it is still to early to say what the effect of the revision will be. It has been made clear that some of the changes are by no means popular but no doubt that would have been the case had the regulations been changed in some other way.

The increase in the sales tax is a substantial one, but it was understood that a sharp upward revision would be made in this tax. Mr. Bennett seems to have tried in some degree to alter the vicious form of double taxation with respect to certain dividends, but there would appear to be little confusion regarding the new stipulations, all of which will be fully explained in due time.

There is a difference of opinion, of course, regarding the increase in letter postage, but the upward revision in this connection will provide a very handsome revenue. Many people had hoped that the income tax would be reduced rather than increased, generally speaking, but they are disappointed.

It will be noted that the list of tariff changes covers approximately one-sixth of the total list. This falls very far short of the complete revision which was promised by Mr. Bennett during the special session of Parliament last September. It is intimated that the work involved in a revision of that kind would have been so heavy that the Prime Minister—Finance Minister simply did not have time to undertake it.

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.

INFORMATION WANTED

Sir—As the entrance to P. W. C. is almost due, could you print in an early issue a few important events for the benefit of children in whose homes very little reading of current events is practised. Also what is the five year plan of the Soviets; why are the natives of India forbidden to manufacture salt for their own use or for exportation and what is the real trouble between Mussolini and the Pope.

I am, Sir, etc.
PRINCE COUNTY

(1)—The Soviet Five-year plan is a scheme adopted by Russia to bring about increased production in certain industries. An objective with regard to both quantity and value of output has been set for each of the succeeding five years. In the meantime the working people—and all the men and women of Russia are, for practical purposes, included in this category—have been compelled to submit to sacrifices in the hope and expectation that at the end of the five years money will flow plentifully into the Soviet coffers from the export of surplus products, resulting in the standard of living of the workers being correspondingly raised.

(2) Salt is a Government monopoly in India just as matches are in France. India was a free trade country, the only practical means of raising general revenue being by excise taxation. As salt is an article of general consumption the Indian government decided that was the logical article for a universal tax. Ghandi and his followers also argued logically that to give the Government the maximum of peaceful annoyance it would be best to resist the salt tax, which can be done only by procuring salt out with the government monopoly.

(3) Mussolini is a reactionary dictator and will tolerate no opposition from any quarter whatever. He began his regime at the head of an armed force, dissolved parliament, dismissed the government, muzzled the press, and suppressed all civil organizations which did not receive his imprimatur. He started the Facist movement in which his word is law, obedience to his will being imperative. From time to time there have been mutterings of discontent and dissatisfaction with Mussolini's absolutelism always put down with an iron hand. Recently the Duce conceived the idea that the religious clubs, called the Catholic Action, had included in their numbers, political opponents of his who aspired to a return to constitutional government, so forthwith went the order to suppress them. The Pope the Supreme Head of the Church, protested, and as the result of dipolmatic correspondence, the order of suppression has been withdrawn, although Mussolini still continues to breathe threats and maledictions against anyone who would dare to even think of a return to the Magna Charter of political freedom.—Ed. G.

MR. MEIGHEN TO HYDRO.

(Ottawa Journal)

Premier Henry of Ontario seems to have inherited Mr. Ferguson's capacity to enlist the ablest brains to serve in public posts. An example of this, certainly, is the appointment of Mr. Meighen to the board of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. No better choice for this or any other public post could have been made, and Mr. Meighan's presence on the Commission will guarntee that Hydro's business will be looked after with the maximum of ability, plus an unimpeachable integrity.

Creditable to Mr. Meighen, too, is the fact that he is willing to serve the public in this useful capacity. Too often it happens in this country that men who have held high positions are unwilling to serve in semmingly humbler capacities, this resulting in a public loss. Mr. Meighen, by exhibiting the British attitude that public service is eminently honorable, no matter what the role has set a splendid precedent. And it is a fine thing to have his unrivalled talents back in public harness.

A Complete Statement

(Ottawa Journal)

It would be a most helpful and admirable thing if, by some means, Hansard or pamphlet copies of Mr. Bennett's Budget speech could be placed into the hands of every business man, industrial leader, farm and labor leader, teacher and professional man in the Dominion. For it is the most complete and authoritative statement of the country's financial position, in all its aspects, that has been given to the country since the war. What Mr. Bennett did was to return to the old British tradition of what a budget should be, namely, an accounting to the people of the position of their estate. Mr. Bennett has often said that the position of a government corresponds to that of the trustee of an estate and must always keep in mind a trustee's duties and obligations.

There is nothing mysterious or terribly complex about the finances of a country. They are only made to seem mysterious by the jargon employed by some people who think they are financiers, only blurred and confused by finance ministers who are content to mumble off a lot of figures and percentages given them by some official without troubling to explain to the House and to the country what they are about.

Mr. Bennett was minute and almost microscopic in his explanations, yet simple and clear in exposition. He spoke for nearly three hours, went into every hole and corner of our expenditure and our income and financial position as a whole, yet a collegiate student could follow him easily wherever he probed. It must have entailed an enormous amount of labor, and it showed a fine heart and conscience as well as a good mind but it was all tremendously worth while. The effect of it all, indeed, is that nobody in Parliament or in Canada need longer remain in ignorance of where the country stands, and that in any democracy, is a vitally important thing.

Mr. Bennett, let it be hoped, has created a precedent which his successors will honor. And, in the meantime, the more people who read his statement, the more will Canada be strengthened and informed and given a sounder and more sensible perspective of what is here and ahead.

Returning Canadians

(Exchange)

Senator Rufus Pope has been impressed by the number of Canadians who in the past three months have returned from the United States and taken up their old farms and holdings in the Eastern Townships. In a published statement he says the majority of them motored back with their families with sufficient savings to enable them to make a good beginning in their native province. Senator Pope rightly says that these people are purchasers of live stock, implements and furniture, and are not of those who fall into the bread lines.

But the lesson the Senator particularly desires to impress upon the public mind is that those who did not migrate to the United States are better off than those who went away and returned. The coming of the latter, however, has made a demand upon housing accommodation and farms are being renovated and again put under cultivation. The returned families tell of the unemployment in New England factory towns and the generally dismal prospect which moved them to return to Canada. The latest returns of migration from Canada to the United States show a continued decline in that movement which has now reached small proportions. That and the fact that the movement back to Canada is gaining force are a source of universal gratification as their coming is also a source of great benefit to their native province.

The Poets' Corner

RESURRECTION

The stars are stones of tombs which dot the white
The sallow-darkened graveyards of the sky;
Stones do not prophesy; but mourning night
Bends o'er the shining crosses; we will die.

In that far garden we will drain the cup,
The vine's gold moon cup, and our life will flee;
Then after, scattered amaranth will take up
Star garlands for our immortality.

—John Durkan, in London New Statesman

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Water Wings 50c
Witch Hazel Cream 35c
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