

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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LONDON CONFERENCE

The Canadian delegates to the World Economic Conference, headed by Premier Bennett and Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance, are now on the high seas, having received a most enthusiastic send-off at Montreal on Friday. There is a feeling generally that the Conference, which opens in London on June 12, must result in some substantial relief of the present economic situation, and the Canadian Prime Minister has stated that so far as he is concerned, he is ready to do all in his power to achieve this objective. It is realized on both sides of the Atlantic that much depends upon the concessions the United States is prepared to make, particularly in regard to war-debt payments falling due on June 15.

Members of the Canadian Government believe the major questions before the conference relate to war debts, security of nations like France from invasion, tariffs, increase in commodity prices, and the creation of some international monetary yardstick.

As to war debts, it is felt the United States will have to modify its position. The debtor countries have been unable to pay in gold, and the American Government has refused to take goods. Thus, if the World Conference is to succeed, it is considered inevitable that the United States will have to agree to two-way trade.

HEARTENING REPORT

Reporting on the general business conditions in its June report, the National City Bank of New York has the heartening review of the situation:

"The business upswing which set in after the banking holiday has continued during May at a very encouraging pace. Business men are accustomed to a tapering off of the 'Spring rise' at this time, and naturally expect markets to turn quieter after such a volume of forward buying, as has been placed during the past two months, but the advance evidently has more than a seasonal impetus, and so far has shown little slackening.

"In May, for the first time in nearly four years, the volume of trade and industrial production has exceeded that of the same month in the previous year, and such a comparison heartens all business men. Prices are better, and in a good many lines where the struggle has been to keep down the red figures, black ink is being used again. Moreover, order books are better filled than in a long time. The industries are assured of a higher rate of operations during the next two months than in the same period last year, and they will give more employment and hence more support to business.

"Improvement in international relations is a factor in the optimistic feeling. With the Economic Conference meeting in London on June 12, the nations for the first time are approaching in concert the problems of the currency demoralization and trade restrictions which have destroyed trade and depressed prices everywhere; and following President Roosevelt's disarmament message to the nations the Conference gathers in a more hopeful atmosphere than had appeared possible. This message was a very timely and inspiring stroke. The European political situation was undeniably clouded, and the fear that a crisis was approaching between Germany and her neighbors over the armament question was creating a considerable tension. The effect of the President's message and its reception abroad was to relieve this fear and clear the air, and since it is unlikely that much progress in economic reconstruction could be cancelled the appropriation for \$50,000,000 for new railway terminals in Montreal, it was assailed by certain newspaper in Toronto, Montreal and other parts of the country. That was in 1930, when the depression had been a year under way. Many of those who then called for huge outlays on public works are now preaching and insisting upon drastic government economies. The Prime Minister and his colleagues were the first to apply the brakes. "That," notes the Toronto Mail and Empire, "was long before Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce woke up to the need and took the sawdust trail.

made under strained political conditions this is a change which may prove of great value in the economic situation.

"The prospect for the farmer is more favorable, outside of the area in the Southwest where the wheat crop has failed. Not only have prices of farm products advanced sharply, but they have gained relative to other prices, increasing the farmers' purchasing power over other products. Since the first of April the farm products group in the Department of Labor's weekly price index has advanced 17 per cent and the foods group 10 per cent, these advances comparing with a rise of 3 per cent in all other groups combined. This readjustment will have to go considerably farther before the balance is restored, but any turn in that direction is of the utmost value, for the disparity between farm and other prices, which has blocked the normal exchange of goods between the farm and industrial populations, and destroyed the purchasing power of both, has been the most stubborn condition prolonging the depression. Economists of all schools of thought agree that a better balance between prices is essential to restore prosperity, and that higher prices for the staples that are depressed are needed, their differences of opinion having to do only with the means employed to bring this about.

"In these developments the divergent economic schools may both find ground for encouragement and for an optimistic attitude. Those who are impressed by the hazards of the inflationary program which the Congress has empowered the President, in his discretion, to carry out, see reason to hope that a natural recovery in business and in the price level may render the employment of these measures, in a hazardous degree, unnecessary. The genuine character of the business improvement, as revealed in the rise of production, the growth of employment, and the evidence of an increased purchasing power, should be recognized. It demonstrates a recuperative power in business which is derived from the needs of the population and the efforts of business men to do business, and from improvement in the supply and demand relationship in various markets. It shows that the readjustments made in the economic system during the depression have not been ineffectual, and that as economic relationships are improved the pendulum, which always swings too far in either direction, will swing back of its own accord. Now that there is more hope of extending these readjustments into international affairs, there is correspondingly more hope for a continuing trade recovery; and if this comes about prices will continue to recover also. Once business makes a start upward, it will gather impetus as it moves, provided its natural tendency to recover its equilibrium is helped and not hindered by the policies of governments and of the individuals who make up the economic organization."

MR. RHODES' ADDRESS

The demand for further governmental economies, made by Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, formed the subject of an interesting address before the Toronto Liberal-Conservative Business Men's Association by Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance, prior to his departure for the Economic Conference at London.

The Minister pointed out that much of his time at Ottawa is devoted to hearing on alternate days deputations asking for larger expenditures and delegations requesting lower taxation. He recalled that when the present Administration cancelled the appropriation for \$50,000,000 for new railway terminals in Montreal, it was assailed by certain newspaper in Toronto, Montreal and other parts of the country. That was in 1930, when the depression had been a year under way. Many of those who then called for huge outlays on public works are now preaching and insisting upon drastic government economies. The Prime Minister and his colleagues were the first to apply the brakes. "That," notes the Toronto Mail and Empire, "was long before Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce woke up to the need and took the sawdust trail.

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"Mr. Rhodes obviously welcomes the assistance of these converts to economy, though they are only newcomers to the penitential beach. It was the new Ottawa Government which in 1930 reversed the extravagant policy of the former ministry and began lopping off needless appropriations—beginning with the huge allotment for the Montreal railway terminals and extending the process throughout the several departments of government. There was a great outcry against the curtailments thus enforced, but the Government insisted and persisted in travelling the new road which it had chosen for itself. It introduced a finance control and auditing system, which has saved the treasury a vast amount of money. It stopped making appointments to the Civil Service and announced that no vacancies occurring through death or retirement will be filled except upon clear proof that the public service actually requires new appointments. This reform alone, we understand, while it is merciful, reduces the number of civil servants by perhaps four thousand a year.

"Altogether, controllable expenditure has been reduced by \$81,000,000 per annum in the last three years, and is now several million dollars less than it was twenty years ago. In short, the cost of government on ordinary account per capita is lower than in 1914. This despite many new services, including Workmen's Compensation and enforcement of the eight-hour day on government works. The man on the street should not forget that uncontrolled expenditures are sixty per cent. of the total and that pensions and other services to returned men absorb more than half of the available revenue."

SEES BENEFIT

Coincident with the announcement, made at Amherst by Dr. W. A. Found, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, that a market for 660,000 pounds of canned lobsters, at reduced tariff rates, would be available in France as a result of the recent Franco-Canadian trade treaty, came word from Washington that a reduced express rate on cooked lobster meat in unsealed tins had been authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission. "Both these arrangements," notes the St. John Telegraph-Journal in a leading editorial, "should prove beneficial to the Maritime Provinces."

SAVE THE ROAD SIGNS

Engineers of the Provincial Department of Public Works report the destruction of a large number of road signs which have been placed by the Automobile Association for the convenience of the travelling public. Last year a grant of \$350 was given by the Government to the Association for this purpose; even larger grants have been made on other occasions, and the work subsequently carried out has been of great benefit, particularly to visiting motorists. With the tourist season reopening, it is most discouraging to find that many of these signs have been effaced or destroyed. The Mounted Police have been notified and will take steps to prevent further damage in this connection. It is scarcely necessary to add that the authorities will expect to receive the full co-operation of the public in preventing further acts of vandalism on the highways. Doubtless much of the damage has been caused by thoughtless boys, but this does not remedy the fact that replacement of the road signs will entail considerable expense out of the provincial treasury.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Who uttered the immortal phrase "Lafayette, we are here?" The ringing assurance was given by an American soldier at the tomb of Lafayette in Picpus Cemetery, France, on July 4, 1917. It was meant to be a reminder that American soldiers in going to the help of France were repaying a debt which the young Republic owed to the gallantry of Lafayette. It has become notable as one of the most felicitous phrases coined in the course of the war, but the authorship has been in dispute. It has been attributed to President Wilson and more generally to General Pershing, either of whom would have been glad to say it had he thought of it at the right time. Further to complicate the matter, both President Wilson and Marshal Foch attributed it to Pershing. The truth is that the author was Colonel Charles E. Stanton, who died recently.

The British Government, after much pressure from leading economists and churchmen, has resolved to relieve unemployment by a mass attack on the slums. It has evolved a five-year plan for which it will seek the co-operation of local councils and all housing authorities and those numerous building societies which cover the country and have enormous investments and financial reserves. The benefits of the scheme will be three-fold. Miles of slums will be wiped out. New houses in sanitary surroundings will be built for workmen at low rentals. An army in the building trades will be given work, and the expenditures on materials will stimulate many industries. The policy of the Government has been to subsidize private enterprise in the construction of houses for workmen and retain control over the rents.

The very frugal Dutch are now lifting up the bottom of the sea for agricultural extension. The dairy industry of Holland is a national asset. Six thousand men are at work on their great reclamation work of reclaiming submerged lands, which also have served to solve the Dutch unemployment problem this winter. However, another quarter of a century will have to pass and another \$375,000,000 be spent before the work of the reclaiming the submerged land of the Zuider Zee can be completed.

Perhaps Austria is where the term "taxoline" came from. At any rate, taxes on gasoline, amounting to 24c. a gallon plus other fees have resulted in 16,500 Austrian automobile owners turning in their license plates in three months, says the Associated Press. This is a clear case of how the government can kill the goose that coughs up the shekels.

Included in the list of authors represented in Hitler's huge bonfire the other day of 20,000 "un-German" books was Helen Keller, the famous blind deaf-mute—who had given her German book royalties for all time to be expended in aid of German soldiers blinded in the world war.

Dr. Alfred Rosenberg has a considerable reputation in Germany as a subtle and judicious negotiator. In the view of the ordinary Briton Dr. Rosenberg is singularly maladroit. Herr Hitler, the German dictator, sent him to London last week to combat the accounts of his alleged tyrannies. British people have never been in love with dictators. They like still less the dictator who offends them by laying at the foot of England's memorial to her liberty loving dead the swastika emblem of German tyranny. That was the tactless act of Dr. Rosenberg.

Poland has greatly strengthened Danzig's case for union with Germany by her creation of a purely Polish port at Gdynia. She can no longer claim that Danzig is essential to her economic life, since she has now another outlet to the sea, which threatens to absorb in time the greater part of Danzig's trade. Danzig is faced with economic ruin; she has responded with a growing agitation for reunion with Germany. It is apparent that reunion would only hasten ruin if it were not accompanied by some sort of tariff compromise with Poland. If reason ruled the world it should not be impossible to reach a compromise, upon the lines which give the Czechs the use of Hamburg as a free port.

Australia has the right attitude towards foolhardy and vainglorious fliers. They became such a nuisance, getting lost in the Australian desert and having to be rescued at great trouble and expense, that flying over the interior of the island has been prohibited. Before issuing such permission, the authorities must have a guarantee that the plane is in good condition and costs of any



By James W. Barton, M.D.

YOU SHOULD KNOW YOURSELF

A preparatory boarding school of 100 boys of teen age has on its staff an outstanding leader in boy's work. He has brought into actual use the thought in those lines of Bobbie Burns, "Oh would the power the gift give us To see ourselves as others see us."

Every boy in the school sits down and writes his opinion, his true opinion of every other boy in the school. He puts down all his good points, and also his bad points. As all the boys of the school write about every other boy, then the general opinion of the boys and not the "jealous or envious" opinion is known.

Thus as this leader teacher interviews each boy, and the interviews are long, the boy is actually shown to himself his "inside" self, his good points and bad points, just as he looks into a mirror and sees his "outside" self.

You can thus see how that boy, knowing in his heart that he is learning the general opinion of the boys and not just that of one or two or of a few, will immediately "know" himself.

And, to really know himself means that he is likely to be free from mental ailments not only in boyhood but when he becomes a man.

Now it is this same form of treatment, teaching the patient to really know himself that is curing and preventing a considerable number of mental cases.

After a patient has been thoroughly examined and no organic cause found for his mental symptoms, then his troubles are only in his mind, which is not functioning or working properly.

Accordingly the doctor gets the patient to talk very freely about himself, and to tell what other people say about him or to him.

As Dr. A. McAusland, Toronto, points out, these talks with the patient require interest, patience, time and labor. When the physician obtains such knowledge he is well prepared to proceed to the task of making his patients understand and know themselves. He does this by explanations and repeated statements of the real conditions to his patient.

The Poets' Corner

THE LAWN-MOWER

"Out of your dark seclusion you are brought, Old Juggernaut; Protesting, till the kindly oil anoints Your creaking joints. Then forth you trundle, ready for your duty To verdant beauty. Your blades revoive; green valiant spears in vain Resist; again The garden's coolest, most refreshing scent Is evident. I love the rhythm and the movement flowing Of old-time mowing; The sleepy tune of glittering scythes that pass Through the long grass. Your voice is harsh; to keep you in your place Demands no grace; And, like the cuckoo's, your reiteration Breeds irritation. Yet, when I hear you first, there seems a glamour About your clamour. I listen — 'What—lawn-mowers on the wing? 'That sounds like Spring!'" —Gertrude Pitt, in the Manchester Guardian.

rescue will be borne by the fliers themselves. The most obvious evil of unemployment is lack of means to obtain the necessities of life, just as the main object of employment is to obtain these. But just as work is good in itself, so enforced idleness is bad. Idleness is boredom, idleness of exercise for bodily, mental and spiritual faculties. "The supreme evil of unemployment," says Walter Lippmann, "is that it is demoralizing. To provide food to keep men alive is an easy task in a country suffering from over-abundance. The food exists, it can be had, it can be distributed.

That Body of Hours

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.

LOBSTERS FOR FRANCE

Sir,—In your issue Monday, June 5th, your Editorial called attention to new treaty between France and Canada and specially mentioned Canned Lobsters stating "a market for 660,000 lbs. will be available." This sounds like a large quantity and think the wording is apt to be misleading as packers would conclude a new market was being opened up. This is not so as France has been a buyer of Canned Lobsters from the beginning of the industry. What has happened is that under the new treaty a provision has been made for the above quantity (about 9,000 cases) to go into France under a slightly reduced duty of about 50 cents per case. Any quantity over this pays the regular duty. What benefit this is going to be is extremely doubtful.

The quantity involved is so small, being possibly only a quarter of the regular exports to France, that at first glance it seems more of an aggravation than anything else and is certainly causing a great deal of confusion and trouble. Had the arrangement been made that all purchases could have gone in even at a slightly higher duty it would have been much better. The general opinion is that the present arrangement will be of very little benefit, if any. Possibly the only benefit is that the duty into France will not now be raised to make it prohibitive as was one time feared.

I am, Sir, etc., A. B. FISHER,

(Our correspondents' views are at variance with those expressed at the conference of lobster men held at Amherst last week. The Canadian Press thus reports the meeting: "Lobster packers of the Maritimes and others interested in the industry conferred here with Dr. W. A. Found, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, and approved a plan allotting the new French market of 660,000 pounds made available recently by treaty. No final decision was reached as to the apportioning of the market, but Dr. Found declared he would submit the plan before the Department of Fisheries for its approval. The scheme contemplates allotting each shipper an amount based upon his average shipments to France in the last three years. A reserve of ten per cent would be maintained to care for contingencies. Re-allotment would be made at the end of October." The St. John Telegraph-Journal and the Fredericton Gleaner carried the following independent report: "A market for 660,000 pounds of canned lobsters will be available in France, as a result of trade agreement endorsed on May 12 between that nation and Canada, it was announced when lobster packers from all sections of the Maritimes, members of the canned fish division of the Maritime branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, gathered in Amherst today (May 31) to discuss with fisheries officials and Dr. W. A. Found, Ottawa, deputy minister of fisheries, a quota plan which could be effected satisfactorily under the lower tariff. Under former tariff arrangements, the duty on canned lobsters in France was 68 francs per 100 kilos, gross weight, but under the new treaty the rate has been lowered to 42½ francs per 100 kilos. Dr. Found said that no definite decision in regard to the quota plan would be made until he returns to Ottawa to consult with other officials of the fisheries department. The plan submitted today met with the general approval of the packers." It was on the facts as thus reported that The Guardian editorial comment was based.—Ed. G.)

SINGING Since singing is so good a thing I wish all men would learn to sing. —William Byrd.

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The Session At Ottawa

A series of articles dealing with the business of the recently prorogued session of the Dominion Parliament.

PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION

As a result of recommendations by the Audette Commission, composed of representatives of all associations of ex-service men, radical changes have been made in the administration of the Pensions Act. A great many telegrams were received objecting to the abolition of the Tribunal and retaining the Board, and a compromise was made by combining the two. Each clause was reviewed, and concurred in by representatives at Ottawa of the ex-service men and by a Committee of the House of Commons, as a result of which an unanimous report was presented and adopted with practically no discussion.

In 1930 the Soldiers' Tribunal was appointed by which it was intended that returned men would be given the benefit of the doubt as to their entitlement to pension. The purpose was to remove from the applicant the onus of proving that he was entitled to pension and it was generally understood that there would be no appeal from the Tribunal's ruling except by the applicant. Instead of this the Board of Pension Commissioners appealed from the majority of decisions made by the Tribunal with the result that appeals accumulated and the returned men were no farther ahead.

Colonel Arthur of Parry Sound, Chairman of the Committee, stated that this new bill reorganizes the administration of the Pension Department. It has nothing to do with pensions in the ordinary sense. It was found that after the amendments to the Pension Act of 1930 the courts, as then organized, became greatly congested, and in consequence the Audette Commission was appointed in 1932 to inquire into the whole procedure. The members if the Committee included five officers of the Department, five representatives of the returned soldier bodies, and one judge. The unanimous opinion of this Committee was that there should be only one court of first instance, thus shortening the procedure.

The new body to be formed is to be called the Canadian Pension Commission. This body, which is composed of members of the old Board of Pension Commissioners and certain members of the Tribunal will consist of not less than eight or more than twelve persons. This Commission will be divided into quorums of two members each, which will travel from place to place and receive applicants in person, reviewing their cases as the old

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Tribunal did. The Board of Pension Commissioners as at present existing and also the Tribunal will be done away with as separate bodies but the present Soldiers' Advocates and the Pension Appeal Court will be retained.

A very important phase of the bill is that there is no appeal from a favourable decision of the Commission as such, that is, a decision favorable to the applicant.

Another feature of the bill is the provision for a reviewing officer whose duty it shall be to determine whether the Canadian Pension Commissioners shall appeal from a decision made by one of its traveling quorums. He is an entirely independent official attached not to the Appeal Board nor to the Commission but is appointed directly by the Governor-in-Council and is responsible to no particular body.

An amendment was inserted which carries out the accord entered into between the Government and the associated veterans. This is that retroactive to May first no new wives and new children will be added to the list of dependent pensioners. It is estimated that the Government will save \$35,000,000 over the next five years by this rule.

At present there are between 1,300 and 1,400 cases before the Appeal Court. The new bill overcomes this congestion by allowing two quorums to be formed and two courts to be working at the same time. The bill also provides for additional members to the Appeal Court should business accumulate beyond the ability of the two quorums and courts to dispose of it.

In addition to the cases before the Appeal Board there are 1,400 already prepared to come before the Tribunal as it recently existed. These new cases are presented at the rate of about three thousand per year.

Pension awards will be paid by the Comptroller of the Treasury and not, as heretofore, by the Pension Department.

The amendments to the Pension Act struck out from the bill the clause which would enable the new Canadian Pension Commission to reopen, on the ground of "error,"

(Continued on Page 9)