

# Public Forum

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which are withheld from the public, and in which ignorance of the law is no defense for its violation.

Are there any of these laws framed to give a man protection in the ownership of what he has earned, bought and paid for; to vest in him a right to live peacefully in his community? Or do they, or how many of them, follow the trend of too much modern legislation, giving the offenders the preference of the law and its administration over that allowed to the honest and law-abiding citizen. I am, Sir, etc.

LEK.

## MEAT REGULATIONS

Sir:—In your report of proceedings in the Legislature, as found in

the Guardian of April 14th, I notice when Mr. McKinnon interrogates the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the meat regulations, as existing at the present time, between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and asks what steps have been taken by the Minister to have the present barriers to unrestricted interprovincial trade in uninspected meat products removed, and with what results.

From the discussion that ensued during, and subsequent to, the Minister's reply, it is quite obvious that the members taking part were, to say the least, unfamiliar with the subject under analysis.

That Mr. McKinnon started off on the wrong foot, is indicated by the fact that the first five lines of his query constitutes a statement that is not correct. While it may be presumed that he was only substituting for his colleague, (with whom this subject has become a pet perennial since his first appearance in

the Legislature), yet he should have been more cautious, as slips of this kind are not readily excused, especially when coming from one who has had an experience of several sessions on the floor of the House.

Mr. Linkletter's part in the discussion seemed to indicate that he too was treading on unfamiliar ground, but notwithstanding the fact that he may have considered it a worthy one, it is difficult to understand why he should indulge, even momentarily, in rapid calculations that do not bear much relationship to facts. For instance, he says that if we had unrestricted access to the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick lobster and humber camps, it would mean at least \$20,000 extra money to our farmers, on that portion of their hogs offered to the trade in the fall of each year. In 1933, approximately 40,000 hogs were slaughtered in, or exported for slaughter from, Prince Edward Island. Probably 40 per cent of this number, or 16,000, were sold in the fall up to and including the month of December. No more than 5 per cent, if that many, of the hogs sold at any time in this Province, are graded as heavy; so that 5 per cent of 16,000 or 800 would, at the outside, constitute the total volume of heavy hogs shipped from Prince Edward Island during the fall of 1933. If Mr. Linkletter's deductions therefore, if correct, indicate that an annual loss of \$20,000.00 is being sustained by the farmers who raise these 800 heavy hogs. This is at the rate of \$25.00 per hog, or to simplify a bit further, 10c per lb. is lost, on the average 250 lb. heavy hog, because they cannot ship to the mainland Provinces in the usual way.

Mr. Jones who was undoubtedly responsible for introducing discussion on this subject, volunteered, as usual, to be the source of information to which enquiries might be directed. It did not appear to make any difference whether he knew facts or not; what he did not know he just imagined (this on his admission) and from these premises he proceeded to make his rather dubious deductions. In reply to a question by Mr. Wright, he referred to the members of the Agricultural Council and Livestock Shipping Clubs, in a somewhat scoffing manner. The former however, were benignly forgiven, on the grounds that they were "young and enthusiastic" and apparently not too well acquainted with the Shipping Clubs he is content to leave suspended from the curled wind-up of a gratuitous sneer. Of course this happened some years ago, when matters were conducted rather loosely? But now with the brains of the south side of the laboring oxcart, the position of responsibility in the affairs of State, nothing of such a nature dare be perpetrated. The wrongs that have been done must be undone, even to the extent, if necessary, that force be applied. It should be remembered that Mr. Jones never a customer has been, or even interested in, co-operative marketing of livestock or any other farm product, and it looks now as if he might be definitely antagonistic and has chosen to become aligned with a certain group, who, ever were, an unaccountably always wrong, and opposed to the principles and practices of organized selling. Well, his choice is his own business, but he should remember that a great many of those upon whom he must depend for practical support on a "Day of Reckoning" are the supporters of the various Shipping Clubs throughout the district, and have through already decided how to deal with him when the opportunity arises.

If Mr. Jones, or any other member of the Legislature, is anxious to find out the personnel of the Agricultural Council, he must refer to the provisions of the Pure Food Act became applicable to the inter-provincial meat trade in the Maritime Provinces. The Agricultural Council was organized under the auspices and by authority of the provincial Department of Agriculture, either to cordis of proceedings of all meetings should and must surely be, on file with that Department. A reference thereto will reveal who the Federal Health of Animal Branch was asked to make changes in the regulations that would be of benefit to the Livestock industry of the Province as a whole, regardless of the possibility of its interference with the activities and personal gain of certain groups.

I am, Sir, etc.

**J. A. GILLIES,**  
Secretary, P. E. I. Co-Operative Livestock Marketing Board.

"MANY A SLIP TWIXT CUP AND LIP"

Sir:—Premier Campbell's labored dissertation to argue a few more months of life to a government already "in extremis", reminds us of that drowning man grasping at straws. If we pass his contention at its full claimed value it does not insure a day of the much desired extended lease of life, for there is the painful reflection of fact that—there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

He admits that this Parliament dies a natural death in 1940. The faint hope is only that the Executive lives on, while there is "money to spend". But that path is paved with thorns and adversity. One of the drawbacks is that the feed troughs are only left open to the cabinet portfolios. The whole thirly of the dead Parliament are out of their sessional indemnity. Its members who hold positions of "crucial importance" in the Government, pass out of their jobs, to be numbered with the Government unemployed.

For in 1941 there can be no session of the House, no Ministers, doorkeepers, clerks, speaker or the usual retinue of Langers-on, and no special printing and press subsidy to support the tottering fabric.

And so, with its whole army turned out in the cold, there would naturally be a united clamor for the remnant of barnacles to let go their hold. This action to the advantage of public favor now so overwhelmingly turned against them, would stuff their resting places with thorns, and their merry-making with gall.

Then constitutional usage comes in. A Lieutenant-Governor or a Governor-General can dismiss his ministry at any moment. This is the inevitable procedure. The Ministry has lost the confidence of the people. How can a government claim that confidence without an elected member to give it support?

This has its precedents. We recall that incident of fame in Quebec, when Governor Anglin, of his own volition, dismissed the Mercier Government and dissolved the Legislature. We also refer to Lieut. Governor Carvell, in our own Province, himself a Conservative in politics, dismissed his Conservative Ministry, refusing to grant a general election, when three by-elections left an adverse majority of only one, and called upon the Liberal leader to form a government, to whom he also granted a dispo-

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Such reactions are called residual effects.

A Fertilizer made from a mixture of  
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**NOTICE**  
**Highways Closed To Motor Vehicles**

Commencing on this date, until further notice, all paved and gravel highways in this Province are closed for motor vehicle traffic, except in such cases where the total weight of vehicle and load does not exceed 4,000 pounds.

Anyone driving on provincial highways contrary to this order shall be duly prosecuted.

Dated the 5th day of April, A. D. 1933.

By order,  
**P. S. FIELDING**  
Clerk of the Executive Council

porary commutation of the death sentence on his famous (or infamous) "Milk Bill", he is reported as saying:—"He believed the Act had the approval of the majority of consumers, producers and distributors, notwithstanding the campaign waged against it by a certain individual in the press."

Veracity, outside of modern Liberal strategy, still has its outside standard of propriety. What does the lover of simple truth think of this statement, in part:—"I believe a majority of consumers" approve of their pockets being fished by the medium of a "Milk" or any other of the Government's taxation schemes? And this statement, from a public man, representing a constituency of truth-loving people. In truth, unless such can be found amongst the small remnant of hard-boiled Grits, (small now almost to extinction) he could not locate a single "consumer" to "approve" the outrage. Or a producer to openly declare it an advantage to any outside of the combine.

The gist of it is in the fact that only the "Consumers" of Charlottetown are the victims. It is that type of Hitlerism which, at a long distance range, behind fortified entrenchments, hurls his destructive bombs into a community innocent of any harm, either to him or his party. And he took care to be sure that his home land was to be free from the long distance attacks. Had some member

of the Legislature proposed an amendment, making the Act applicable to the "consumers" of Summerside, and the non-combine producers of the Kensington district, prohibiting them selling their "Milk and Cream" to Summerside patrons, how quick would we see the white livered pallor suffice his countenance, and with Mr. L. R. Allen and their colleagues bury this "approved" Act under a deluge of imprecations. They dare not make such an attack upon their own constituents.

As an Act involving a question of revenue, parliamentary usage required that it be introduced by a government member. Why was this time honored custom abandoned? Affecting primarily and almost exclusively the City which it taxes, and incidentally the Second and Third Districts, whose farmers are penalized, why was it not introduced, as the custom was, by a City member, or, alternatively, by a member of the Legislature of these adjoining districts? Wasn't it the strong sense of danger, the scarcity of "bravado", that originated this long distance shooting? It may be said that even in the Inferno there may be something to "approve." Warmth, for instance, in zero weather. You may find it in the disreputable "Milk Act." For instance, in the wake of the exposures of "A certain individual", and some others whom Mr. Wright pretends to have forgotten, the

"Milk Act" and its chief staunch-look, after exploiting what they considered a safety zone of damage, dissolved into a comatose hibernation from which they have not emerged since, in evident consciousness that if they dare another dip into the consumers' pockets, it would produce a state of riot beyond their control.

Was it sarcasm of Mr. Trainor, or that periphrastic pronouncement that Charlottetown consumers were done with him, that he "approved" giving the Act an added year of rest, like the Polar bear, sucking paws under the snow drifts of seclusion and safety from public indignation?

Then halt to the bravado of the long distance harrier from Bedeque, and to the transparent discretion of Charlottetown and Second and Third district members in letting another do what they feared to do themselves.

How true it is,—"No feat is nobler than a brave retreat?"  
I am, Sir, etc.

**LEWIS F. TANTON.**

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