

The Charlottetown Guardian

President, Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure... Secretary, Lieut.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, D. S. O.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1937

British Preference Threatened?

According to the editor of the Financial Post, now in Washington, strong efforts will be made on behalf of the United States at the forthcoming Imperial Conference at London to allow our American neighbors to "edge into" the Imperial trade picture by giving them a share in the trade preferences now enjoyed by the Dominions in the British market.

These news, it is expected, will be set forth to the Conference by Premier Mackenzie King, as a result of his conversations with President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull at Washington.

In other words, Mr. King will act as intermediary in furthering a proposal aimed to destroy the principle of Imperial preference on which the Empire trade agreements are founded.

United States, it is pointed out, is anxious to arrange a trade agreement with Great Britain; but there are many obstacles. One is the economic insularity of the American people themselves, expressed most vocally in Congress.

What Washington wants the British Dominions to do is share their valuable British market—obtained as a result of the Ottawa Conference, called by the Bennett Government in 1932—with the United States.

Canada and the United States are particularly competitive. "Having achieved, so happy a position in the vast and profitable United Kingdom market, after many years of unselfish devotion to the concept of Imperial preference, are the Dominions now willing to admit that the United States— which up to now has been the world's chief offender in the matter of prohibitive tariffs—ought to be allowed to edge into the British trade picture to a large degree?"

Men at the top in Washington, adds the Financial Post editor, admit that the chief difficulty will be to convince the world that the United States has reformed and will "stay put" as a low-tariff country.

Of chief interest to Canadians in this connection is the extent to which Mr. Mackenzie King will be prepared to go in advocating the policy of our American neighbors at the Imperial Conference.

Prime Minister, favours scrapping the preferences on bacon and other farm products which have been the sheet-anchor of our farm industry during the depression years, it is not likely that any strong objection will come from other Dominions.

Mr. King, in that event, will of course be acclaimed at Washington as a statesman of world vision, a leader in "economic disarmament" and what not. But these encomiums, even if accompanied by something more substantial in the way of tariff concessions to certain manufacturers, would be a pretty stiff price to pay for the loss to our farmers of their sheltered market in the Old Country.

And that, precisely, is what Washington is after. United States producers have seen with growing concern the increasing success of the Empire trade pacts. They have not been blinded by Liberal criticism in this country to the vital importance of these pacts, revealed month by month in mounting Canadian export trade figures.

If they are now desirous of scrapping the Smoot-Hawley tariff schedules which struck such a blow to Canada's trade under the first King Government, it is because the British Dominions, under Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett's leadership at the Ottawa Conference, outplayed them at their own game.

Canada's Imports

Canada's imports during the fiscal year ended March were valued at \$671,859,195 against \$562,719,003 in 1935-36, an increase of \$109,140,132 or 19.4 per cent. Imports from countries of the British Empire showed a gain of 11.5 per cent, rising to \$198,165,684 from \$177,721,310, while the total from other countries rose 23 per cent, to \$473,693,511 from \$384,997,753.

Imports from Argentina made a striking increase of 213 per cent, rising from \$3,744,062 to \$11,724,269, while imports from Australia increased 30 per cent, from \$7,277,099 to \$9,469,783, and German commodities rose 18 per cent, to \$9,907,685 from \$8,411,328.

Lord Greenwood claims that Prime Minister Mackenzie King beat him in all subjects at school except religious knowledge, and that he, Lord Greenwood, got a tract as a Sunday School prize entitled "Sideslips to Hell." Hamar Greenwood was a Welshman and a Methodist in those days, whereas William Lyon Mackenzie King was a Scotsman and Presbyterian on Sunday School comparison were impracticable.

follows, with 1935-36 figures in brackets: British West Indies, \$13,493,040 (\$12,154,727); British India, \$8,325,955 (\$7,458,125); Belgium, \$6,696,640 (\$5,093,778); France, \$6,454,161 (\$6,717,668); British Guiana, \$5,051,357 (\$4,757,937); Peru, \$4,958,013 (\$4,171,236); China, \$4,275,235 (\$3,717,181); Netherlands, \$4,252,491 (\$4,258,497); Colombia, \$4,196,883 (\$4,202,197); Switzerland, \$2,701,255 (\$2,573,070); Newfoundland, \$2,162,223 (\$2,019,282).

Speaking Of Holidays

Commenting on the decision to observe in Canada, as in the United Kingdom, the King's birthday on June 9 instead of on his natal day, which is December 14, the Ottawa Journal says it had hoped the Government would set May 24 for official observance of the Sovereign's birthday.

"It is a question," adds the Journal, "whether we are not tending to overdo public holidays. This year, in a period of less than four weeks, we have holidays on May 12, May 24 and June 9, with banks closed, the schools closed, a disruption of the business routine even though retail establishments do not close on all these days."

Editorial Notes

Ascension Day. \* \* \*

Accession of George V, 1910. \* \* \*

The "missing province" which had no representative in the Government delegation at the London reception banquet, was the Hon. Vincent Massey's own Ontario.

There should be no room for further criticism of the conduct of the Exhibition, now that such a representative and responsible advisory board has been selected to assist the directors.

The new Federal Conversion Loan is an attractive investment these days at approximately 3.1-4%. The bonds are not purchasable for cash, however, only in exchange for the Loan maturing December 1.

The Coronation celebration ceremony here will take place in the Forum next Wednesday at 3 o'clock. This will give ample time for the paraders to reach the rendezvous for the speeches, etc., and enable the Churches to have their services over in the forenoon.

Premier Hepburn must see the gulf waiting to swallow up him and his party when he makes such a desperate attempt to form a coalition government with his political opponent, Hon. Earl Rowe as Premier. Mr. Rowe appears likely to be Premier, anyway, without any advance promotion by Mr. Hepburn.

The United States House of Representatives approved its largest peace-time appropriation for purely military activities of the army Monday after beating down a Republican attempt to slash to per cent from the measure's total. Without recorded vote, it sent to the Senate a bill carrying \$416,413,382 to finance the military establishment for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Attention is called to the announcement elsewhere of the annual meeting of the Charlottetown Free Dispensary, which takes place to-night at 8 o'clock in the board room of the City Building. Dr. Creelman will be the special speaker. The annual Dispensary collection starts on Saturday when envelopes will be left at the homes, to be called for on Monday. It is hoped that as on other occasions the response to this appeal will be generous, in keeping with the important work which the institution is doing.

Dinner in London and tea in Montreal the following day is predicted by Mr. J. H. Parkin, of the National Research Council, Ottawa, who has prepared a comprehensive analysis of the various factors involved in the establishment of a trans-Atlantic air service. His paper, which takes into consideration the different problems and their solution, a discussion of the possible routes and types of aircraft being developed for operation between Europe and North America, will be presented at the semi-centennial gathering of The Engineering Institute of Canada, scheduled for June 15, 16 and 17 in Montreal.

We are not going to hear any more about the big salaries paid U.S.A. magnates in business or on the stage—at least not officially and authoritatively. The Doughton Bill repealing the section of the 1936 income tax law providing for publication of the salaries of corporation officials, etc., in excess of \$15,000 annually was passed, 229 to 112, by the House of Representatives. Progressives and Farmer-Laborites, joined by a few Democrats, fought the bill. Chairman Doughton of the Ways and Means Committee asserted that the publicity provision had proved only an annoyance to the 30,000 persons affected by it.

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Notes By The Way

Today the Far East is Japan. Any consideration of interest, any prophecy of the future, must be predicated on the dynamic force that is Japan. Unfortunately, in the past, objective appraisals have been colored with Occidental sentimentality.

That Body of Yours

EVERY NORMAL INDIVIDUAL HAS A DAILY RANGE OF TEMPERATURE. One of the mistakes often made by intelligent individuals is to take their temperature from time to time during the day, and count the rate at which the heart is beating.

Potato Products

(Hartland N. B. Observer) It is pleasing to note that the National Research Council of Canada has been busily engaged for some months in an effort to find out to what extent Canadian starch requirements can be supplied from the potato fields of the Dominion.

The Poet's Corner

EPITAPHIUM CITHARISTRIAE Stand not uttering sedately. Trite oblivious praise a love! Rather say you saw her lately. Lightly kissing her last lover.

Kidney Acids Rob Your Rest

Many people never seem to get a good night's rest. They turn and toss—lie awake and sweat. Often they blame it on "nerves" when it may be their kidneys.

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THE TWO MACS

Mail Orders Promptly Attended to. The vivid imagination of more primitive times found it quite easy to construct monsters by compounding different animals, Marshal Balbo, the Italian Governor of Libya, Africa by constructing a singular synthetic religion.

Saga For "Potato" Jones

(Hamilton Spectator) From his picture, one judges that he is a heavy, red-faced fellow. We shouldn't be surprised if he swore sometimes, and he probably likes his toddy before retiring. We are not surprised that his name is "Potato" Jones.

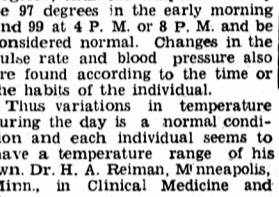
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and troublesome people should be made to take their departure. Some of them being born abroad, should be deported. Those who are not deportable must, somehow, be made to leave the country.

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Historic Site

(Frederick Gleaner) Familiar to practically all Canadians at least by name, and known to all students of Canadian and Empire history are the Plains of Abraham, where the final struggle was fought between Wolfe and Montcalm, and where it was decided that Canada would be part of the British Empire.

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