

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1934

A LIBERAL DEMAGOGUE

Mr. Mitchell Hepburn, leader of the Liberal party of Ontario, has denounced Premier Henry over the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor "during days of depression".

The Liberal leader is quoted as having made this extraordinary statement:

"In Ottawa I have never attended a function given by the Governor General. I did not attend because I am a true Democrat."

Mr. Hepburn, comments the Ottawa Journal, will not attend the Governor General's functions because he is a "true democrat", and true democrats do not go such places.

CANADIAN INTEGRITY

The Boston Herald, in a recent issue, pays the following tribute to Premier Bennett:

"Canadian good faith in the matter of public obligations has never been in serious question. True, the Ottawa parliament has its sprinkling, like other legislative bodies, of advanced thinkers, who will tell you that human rights are above the rights of property, a principle which in application means that one should not pay his debts when he wants the money for other purposes, in other words, when it is not convenient."

"Such specious talk finds no favor with the Canadian public or its representatives, and the recent assurance of Prime Minister Bennett was hardly needed. His emphatic declarations, however, are refreshing at a time when there is a tendency to flirt with the idea of scaling down lawful obligations."

"On this Dominion of Canada," he asked, "a young country, seeking capital, on the threshold of greater development than in the past, maintain its position among the nations of the world if we either repudiate or default? These are the alternatives, and we might as well face them. . . . It is easy to say we cannot do it (pay annual interest charges); but the answer is we must do it. We must do it or lose our reputation. There can be no half-way measures."

"Thus Canada refuses to choose the easiest way—forced conversion or repudiation. The views of Mr. Bennett will be echoed by his opponents. Any issue of debt evaded will find the great parties united against it. And Canada will gain in the end."

WORLD TRADE DECLINE

The League of Nations maintains a bureau devoted to the dissemination of Economic Intelligence. The bureau is sponsor for a review of world trade that is of special value at the present moment when business leaders in all countries are urging revival of international trade as a means of restoring national prosperity.

Analyzing the statement of the League of Nations Bureau, the Toronto Globe (Liberal) finds that the total volume of world trade during the calendar year 1933 had diminished about 30 per cent. in comparison with 1929. This is the greatest shrinkage ever recorded in the exchange of commodities between nations.

The decline in the value of goods exchanged in international trade has been even greater than in volume. The compilers of the League bulletin estimate that the drop in the price of goods exchanged, measured in gold, has been about 50 per cent. Measured in pounds sterling, the drop in prices is only about 30 per cent.

If the two sets of percentages as to volume and price-index are combined, it is established that, on the basis of gold, world trade in 1933 had only about a third of the value it had in 1929. Using the pound sterling as the yardstick, the value of world trade in 1933 was about half that it was in 1929. It must not be forgotten that the shipping industry

stick of 1933 was not as long as it was in 1929 before Britain gave up the gold standard.

The value and volume of world trade did not diminish in 1933 as much, comparatively as in the earlier years of the depression, but until the seasonal movements of last fall began the tendency was still downward. The statistics indicate that "world trade is in process of returning to normal, but at a very much lower level, and under much greater restrictions."

These facts are of particular interest in view of the phenomenal strides which Canada has made in recovering her export trade during the past few months. The progress thus achieved has been due to the Empire trade agreements, negotiated by the Bennett Government. Liberal politicians in discussing the trade situation invariably ignore the fact of the decline in world trade which is shown so clearly in the statement above quoted.

THE KING'S JUBILEE

Next year, says the Mail and Empire will witness the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of His Majesty King George V. Twenty-five years ago Canada was well represented at the ceremonies which marked the dawn of a new epoch in British history.

On that occasion a representative Canadian Regiment, the Queen's Own Rifles, was taken overseas by Colonel (now Major-General) Sir Henry Pellatt at his own expense, and the Prime Minister of Canada at that day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, held considerable distinction on the Dominion by the part he played in the entire celebration.

After a quarter of a century the Empire can look back with gratitude and gratification over His Majesty's wise reign. From London come reports that plans are being formulated for a suitable jubilee celebration. The observance should undoubtedly be of an Empire character, in which all of the King's Dominions would play a characteristic part in rendering homage.

OLD HAWK EYE

Sir Basil Thompson, the former head of the British Intelligence Service, is one of the five eminent detectives retained by the Paris authorities to trace the murderers of Stavisky, the failure of whose financial schemes was the immediate cause of the recent riots in Paris.

Sir Basil Thompson, says an exchange, ranks as England's greatest literary criminologist. He has told of actual occurrences as intriguing as anything the author of Sherlock Holmes told and as fantastic as Edgar Wallace in his most imaginative mood.

Old Hawk Eye, as he is known, is now seventy-three. After Eton and Oxford, he became Prime Minister of Tonga, in the South Seas, and returned home to take charge of Dartmoor prison. He rendered valuable service in the British intelligence service in war time, and in 1926 became head of Scotland Yard. He has been a prolific writer of crime fiction and serious essays. He believes the greatest crime deterrent is not to make punishment severe but to make it certain.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Recent dispatches from Great Britain suggest that the government is considering seriously disbandment of all uniformed political bodies. Sir John Simon recently declared that only the regular authorities could be tolerated for the maintenance of order. There is no room for any other in a law-abiding British democracy.

The public library movement, which has been given such an impetus in this Province by the establishment of the Carnegie demonstration library scheme, has evidently been making great strides in the Old Country in recent years. A correspondent in the London Spectator calls attention to the fact that 136 million books were issued by the urban public libraries of England and Wales in 1932, against 78 million issued in 1924. In the latter year, 16.7 per cent. of the inhabitants of the towns covered were book borrowers, in the former 11 per cent. These figures, says the writer, are striking evidence that public libraries are among the most valuable of the amenities provided by local government. Nevertheless, when it is recalled that public libraries cater for all ages, classes and interests of the

Notes By The Way

The pronouncements of Japan's foreign minister are frankly pacific and common-sense. It has long been the opinion of outside observers that war between Japan and the United States would only break out if the latter forced it. Japan also does not want to fight Russia if she can avoid it. Japan does, however, want to dominate the Far East, even though she might know by doing the co-operation of other powers in bringing order to China.

To crush Communism there is the big need, and the present state of Chinese disunion is so in which the Communists would, and have read early. The administration of Chiang Kai-Shek is flimsy and artificial, but it is the only semblance of strength and reality in China. Hence it stands to reason that the Chinese will ally themselves with Japan can persuade others to help her support him for Japan's ultimate benefit, so much the better.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland stated plainly his return to London from Canada and the United States, his opinion that there is no doubt that Canada is once more economically on her feet. Roosevelt, on the other hand, has described the Alberta Legislature as behind a petition asking that President Roosevelt pardon him. That appeal under the circumstances should certainly appeal to the warm-hearted president.

There is something peculiarly appealing in the case of James Fajewski who is asked to return from Jasper, Alberta, to stand trial for escaping from a United States penitentiary away back in 1919. He was sentenced for a crime he did not commit. He got away and came to Canada, married, became mayor of a town, and won the high regard of all his neighbors. He is standing by him. Members of the Alberta Legislature are behind a petition asking that President Roosevelt pardon him. That appeal under the circumstances should certainly appeal to the warm-hearted president.

We should have no illusions. There is still greed and craft and treachery among men. The Kingdom of God will not come down from heaven, but it will be brought about by the work of men. We are increasingly disatisfied with the kind of world that has been created, and increasingly conscious that our paramount need is for the spiritual satisfactions—Minneapolis Journal.

President Roosevelt is to launch an organized drive against gangsters and racketeers. Surely party politics and sectional interests will not thwart the President in this attempt to clean up the impudent and well-organized underworld.

Industry today, as it has not been for a long time in the past, says the Detroit News, is in the hands not so much of financiers, stock market speculators and the like, as of trained industrial managers who want to produce and sell, who have had experience in dealing with labor, who have that respect for the workers under them that is gained by contact and understanding—a comprehension not often found in an absentee stockholder. We fall to see in general wage increases either practical or an approaching breakdown that will lead to Communism. We see rather the American people trying out a plan that looks as if it might bring back prosperity; a plan that is being tried in the form of a strike.

I hear we may expect Hall Caine's "Life of Christ" about next Christmas. It was the poet-painter, Rossetti, who inspired the famous Marx novelist with the idea of undertaking this work, which must be regarded as the real masterpiece of the author. But Hall Caine's popular novel, Hall Caine has spent many years on it, reading everything bearing on the subject, and beginning his task of writing it as a young man. It has taken three years to edit the original manuscript and prepare it for publication. Hall Caine wrote a matter of three hundred words on the subject. It has been reduced to a volume of about 750,000 words. It was a bold enterprise on Hall Caine's part, for Renan has written a masterpiece on the same theme. But Hall Caine's work will be certain to have a wide sale. His readers were legion.

The news pages are the eyes of a paper. They chronicle what is going on in the world. The editorial page is the paper's voice. It tells what the paper thinks of what it sees. It may be fairly said that the news columns serve particularly our knowledge and the editorial page our intelligence—Christian Science Monitor.

Unless a country means to go the whole way to black dragons, black or brown shirts, directors or blue eagles, if a country wants to preserve popular government, it must not flirt with socialism in legislation controlling its economic structure. That is not to discourage definite economic plans, but to eliminate cut-throat competition and Capital-Labor conflict; but plans, if democracy is to prevail, must originate in industry and commerce, not in parliament, else the time arrives when a choice between Communism and Fascism alone remains.

Industrial reports from New York are taken as showing definite recovery also. However, Canada's economic situation is not so bright. It has pulled through without resorting to the powerful stimulants which have been applied to United States business. There is always a reaction after stimulants. The Ottawa agreements are not to be classed as economic medicine, but as a change of diet that is going to be permanent. It is surprising that the total population, and when one notices that in some towns 30 per cent. and more of the population are borrowed, it is surprising that the total population is not more depressed.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume any responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

MR. BOULTER'S QUESTIONS

Sir—The writer rarely replies to any press correspondence, nor is it his intention to pursue this question further than to briefly supplement Mr. McNeely's letter published in your issue of the 7th.

Mr. McNeely admits having reduced the price as we stated which is the point at issue and which lost the farmers of the province suffered. He then tries to excuse his action by attributing to the Potato Growers' Association a policy which my statement before the Agricultural Committee repudiated and denied.

He claims he has no desire to injure the Association. This statement needs some elaboration. In the month of December, Mr. McNeely adopted very questionable methods in having a steamer which we had chartered for Georgetown delayed. He had the information that the S. S. "Gunny" was coming to Georgetown. He also knew when and for whom she was to be chartered in St. John, N. B. He deliberately conveyed the information to the owner of the cargo that he wished the steamer delayed in her discharging as long as possible, (as Mr. McNeely was afraid she would have the dock before his company's steamer was ready). This innocent party at St. John was deceived and complied with his request with the result the steamer was unnecessarily delayed four days.

Had it not been for Mr. McNeely's interference with our business, we believe our steamer would have been loaded at Georgetown rather than Halifax. He also knew when and for whom she was to be chartered in St. John, N. B. He deliberately conveyed the information to the owner of the cargo that he wished the steamer delayed in her discharging as long as possible, (as Mr. McNeely was afraid she would have the dock before his company's steamer was ready). This innocent party at St. John was deceived and complied with his request with the result the steamer was unnecessarily delayed four days.

The conclusion is obvious. It is surprising that his organization, made up of business men who cannot condone such principles, is showing signs of disintegration. First: There was the direct violation of an agreement, reducing the price 20¢ per bushel. Second: The act of interference with the arrival of our steamer at Georgetown.

In his letter Mr. McNeely tries to smoke screen both these acts by dealing with business done under four and five years ago when conditions were so entirely different that a comparison such as he made (even if his figures quoted were true, or Col. Pull was again willing to handle the seed potatoes) would be fair, as the Association then handled from eighty to ninety percent of the Certified Seed and were compelled to store thousands and thousands of sacks for their members who had no storage of their own to properly protect their potatoes. In addition to storage charges, the spring price was invariably lower than the fall price thus reducing the price 20¢ per bushel.

As to the quota proposition, Mr. McNeely forgot to state that our average price for seed paid the growers in 1932 was higher than his company paid the farmers (not the dealers) and also forgot to state that he enjoyed for seed potatoes crop mortgage 1933 who hauled him tubestock potatoes when we were paying 35¢ and 40¢ per bushel. He forgot to state that he tried to buy Certified Candler Seed last December and that he was unable to do so because of our competition and preventing too wide a spread between grower and buyer.

In the first place we have a class of the most intelligent farmers to be found anywhere growing potatoes in the Dominion and secondly, the inspection service for both table and certified potatoes and for turnips is well administered and very satisfactory. We grow the finest potatoes and turnips in the world and the only fly in the ointment seems to be that the shippers or dealers are not taking full advantage of their opportunities but are falling down on their jobs.

This recent year's farmers were able to purchase their own fertilizer for cash there were dozens of shippers on the island operating independently and rendering faithful and satisfactory service to the community. These hard times came along and the farmers found difficulty in getting loans to buy fertilizer. Without fertilizer they were unable to grow potatoes and the larger shippers took advantage of this situation and supplied the farmers with fertilizer on crop mortgages or profit sharing basis. This gave virtual control to two or three shippers of about 70 per cent. of the potatoes grown on the Island, and afforded them unusual opportunities. It was stated by one of the shippers that they had no faith in each other, and without some measure of faith and confidence we cannot progress and unless we, as shippers, have the full confidence of the farmers neither they nor we can look ahead with any assurance. Unusual profits made by some of the shippers have made them ambitious and inclined to the idea that they could individually sell all the potatoes on the Island better than in competition. But we know that in a small City like Charlottetown, none of the shippers like to be forced to buy our dry-goods or groceries at the same particular store and the same condition applies to buyers of potatoes, and I am sure that if we all use our heads in a cool dignified way we can find some solution without having to be policed by a market control board, and can restore the shipping industry to its previous healthy condition and the shippers will resume their old time competitive friendships.

I do believe that all dealers should be licensed, but that no legitimate dealer should be refused a license. This would eliminate a recurrence of what happened a few years ago when different travellers representing drug houses and other lines were buying potatoes on a commission basis as a side line with disastrous results, one particular traveller bought upwards of fifteen cars of potatoes at a very high price and when the price dropped over night the dealers were left with their potatoes on hand and the 50-50-50 system was

Friend's Advice Brought Relief. New Feet Like Different Men. "I have suffered with pains in the back and limbs for several years. I tried many different medicines but always without result. I was discouraged when a friend advised Dodd's Kidney Pills. After taking three boxes I felt a different man. Backache is usually the first sign of Kidney trouble. Never neglect it. Turn confidently to Dodd's Kidney Pills."

That Body of Yours

Now is the Springtime born again. That the years fulfill. The lovely fruitfulness of Earth. But you sleep so still.

The April rain has rinsed the woods. Which the bluebells thrill; The buds are nodding wren cups For the dew to fill.

You cannot see them where you lie Alone on the hill. The hedge sploashed with cloudy spray May and hawthorn spill.

But we remember how you loved Thawed and daffodil; You wish the sun can warm no more. And the winds not chill.

—A. K. Ubbell, in The Empire Review.

not be found. Surely there is a remedy for this kind of business. Why not let us all bury the hatchet by-by-gones be by-gones and try and work out of the present unsatisfactory conditions into something more resembling a business deal. Let us hold a meeting and form some unofficial plan of free competition which would restore the confidence of the farmers in all of us and restore our confidence in one another as shippers.

I am, Sir, etc. CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. April 9th, 1934.

POTATO PRICES

Sir—I have read, with considerable interest, Mr. Boulter's letter in your issue of the 6th inst. and Mr. McNeely's reply in your issue of the 7th inst. and regret that in neither is to be found any real attempt at constructive changes which might improve the existing state of affairs.

While Mr. Boulter is alleged to create unfair competition by selling on a protection-against-market-decline basis, it is generally known that Mr. McNeely creates a whole lot of equally unfair competition by consigning shipments unsold. It would be impossible to criticize these two practices too severely—they are wrong in conception and principle—and bring ruin, not only to those immediately involved, but also to their competitors and to the farmers of this Province.

Boston and New York markets have been ruined by this consigning practice for weeks past, and if these two shippers would use their combined influence to stop these ruinous practices solidly and for all time then real good would come out of this exchange of criticisms.

Probably the most illuminating part of Mr. McNeely's letter is his referring to the prices which the farmers received for fall shipments of potatoes 1929 and 1930 from the P. E. I. Potato Growers Assn. and the Harris Abattoir Co. of which Mr. McNeely was then Manager; and also the average selling prices in New Jersey for those potatoes.

He shows that the P. E. I. Island Potato Growers Assn. paid its members on the fall pool of 1929, \$1.20 per bushel and that the average sale price realized by them in New Jersey was \$4.75 per sack of 150 lbs. The total cost of rail and ocean freight, duty as was then in effect, sacks and loading charges was \$1.28 per sack so that the total cost delivered New Jersey was \$4.28 and they sold for \$4.75 leaving a further profit for division of \$1.00 per sack or \$141.00 per car. On the fall pool of 1930, he shows that the P. E. I. Growers paid their members 40¢ per bushel and sold at \$4.00 New Jersey but afterwards reduced the selling price to \$3.75, leaving a further divisible profit of \$1.08 per 150 lb. sack or \$327.00 per car of 300 sacks. In each year he shows that the Harris Abattoir Company paid the farmers here 20¢ per bushel more than the pool price paid by the Growers, but he overlooks the fact in this regard that the P. E. I. Growers had a reserve of 15¢ per bushel in 1929 and 45¢ per bushel in 1930 which was, no doubt, held back as protection against future possible losses. In any case the Abattoir Company made a much higher selling price than the Growers' Association and also made a larger profit. But the Abattoir Company, a trading company, is out to make as big a profit as possible and is therefore beyond criticism. However,

ing two million dollars, it is hard to be an onlooker on the present situation as expressed by two letters appearing in your paper from two large shippers without offering some comment. To my mind there was never such a wonderful opportunity of rendering real service to our potato growers, if we can only find some fair and equitable method of preventing too wide a spread between grower and buyer.

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these large profits of over \$300.00 per car load average throughout the fall, clearly show that there was something wrong with our marketing system, they show a strange lack of competition which was undoubtedly facilitated by exclusive cargo chartering having given them a virtual monopoly. That this condition was, and still is, detrimental to the best interests of our farmers is too obvious to need comment; that neither firm has ever suggested the abandonment of this policy shows that, without outside interference, there is little hope of improvement.

I have an intimate and wide knowledge of marketing costs and know of no place in North America where the spread between producer and buyer is as great as here, and I believe that if the P. E. I. Island Growers' Association could cut their losses by elimination of existing practices creating such losses, that they could market potatoes cheaply and give better service than any shipping Company with large capital investment.

The fact that Mr. McNeely previously refers, in his letter, to the success of the crop mortgage fertilizer deal of his Association whereby farmers who took fertilizer from them will be paid nearly \$400.00 more for their potatoes than the cost of the fertilizer might create some suspicion for the very reason that this fertilizer deal was not referred to by Mr. Boulter or at the so-called investigation by the Agricultural Committee. We must remember, in considering this fertilizer deal, that it was forced on the farmers through adversity and the fact that some of the banks refused to advance farmers any money to buy fertilizer with for cash. It is a reasonable supposition also, that the unusually large profits made out of the farmers by the shippers during the previous seasons as above referred, contributed in large measure to the farmers' lack of funds. I understand that most of this fertilizer was supplied on a 25% profit over cost basis, and that would mean that the Associated Shippers Incorporated made a profit of around \$100,000 on the deal. Of course they took long chances and are entitled to long profits and the only thing that interests the farmers in this connection is whether their profits were too long and whether the banks treated them fairly. The bank which advanced the Associated Shippers Inc. the funds to finance this deal could have advanced the money to the various farmers individually instead of to the Associated Shippers Inc., whose capital is reported to be only \$50,000. A \$100,000 profit or 200% on their paid up capital is too much to make out of the poor farmers in

these hard times for a few months accommodation; for it must be remembered that the Associated Shippers Inc. also had a profit on every car of potatoes grown under these crop mortgage agreements. It is also rumored that members of the Associated Shippers Inc. used their influence with banks other than the regular bankers of the Association to have farmers refused loans for fertilizer, and if that is correct then it can be imagined that similar influence was used with the bankers for the crop mortgage. The farmers could not borrow money for fertilizer, there was no pressure brought on the Government to relieve the situation, they were forced into these crop mortgage agreements and the poor became poorer while the rich became richer. It was undoubtedly as a result of these crop mortgages that the Associated Shippers, the P. E. I. Growers' Association and the Harris Abattoir and another concern made the price fixing agreement which was intended to make them unheard of profits on the seed potato shipments of fertilizer.

The economical supply of fertilizer is so vitally necessary to our growers that no one would like the fertilizer deal to develop into a racket and unless the banks assist the farmers to pay cash and thus free them of these crop mortgages there is a danger of this happening. Last fall Senator Hughes suggested a Royal Commission, now Mr. McNeely suggests a thorough investigation and it seems very evident that, unless some more economical means can be suggested, a Royal Commission should be appointed to investigate the whole deal and find some way of providing sufficiently free competition to prevent the necessity for further criticism.

I am, Sir, etc. CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. April 9, 1934.

The origin of the practice of grafting apples is not known but Theophrastus, a Greek of the 3rd century, B.C. was very familiar with the subject.

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