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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1931

MR. KING AT HALIFAX

Surely Mr. King must have been misreported at Halifax where he is alleged to have said that nothing in the way of securing information on the unemployment situation had been done—that "everything was left to a minister, so that all the information available was a mere statement of expenditures." Mr. King is surely aware that the provincial governments co-operated to the fullest extent in furnishing the Federal Government with information on this subject, and that only after this information was received and checked up were the unemployment moneys allotted. Thanks to the prompt action of the Bennett Government, this Province has already received two substantial grants under the unemployment scheme. Mr. King, who refused, when in power, to give "a five cent piece" to relieve unemployment in a "Tory" province, now complains that the grants should not have been given until a Royal Commission had been appointed to "probe" the situation. In the meantime, presumably, the unemployed could starve. Mr. King, if anyone, should know the amount of red tape involved in receiving and implementing the findings of a Royal Commission. His own failure to implement, after three years, many of the important recommendations of the Duncan Commission is not forgotten in this section of the country. If the Liberal leader has no more constructive criticism to make than the carping statements attributed to him at Halifax, his visit to the Maritime Provinces may well be said to have "no political significance."

OYSTER AREA LEASES

Indifferent to the exposure of its glaring misstatements in a previous article, the Summerside Liberal press again endeavors to foist upon the present Conservative administration here and at Ottawa, the onus of responsibility for the leasing of oyster areas in Richmond Bay. In doing so it claims to be sponsoring the cause of the individual fishermen and complains that for its defense of the fishermen it has been "taken to task" by The Guardian. Such ridiculous misstatements can be answered very briefly. The Summerside Liberal press has never sponsored the cause of individual fishermen in so far as oyster leasing rights are concerned. When it had the opportunity of doing so, before the contract empowering the Mackenzie King Government to survey and lease the beds was signed by the Saunders Government in this Province, it had nothing whatever to say. The only defender of fishermen's rights was the Stewart Government which preceded the Saunders-Lea administration. And because Premier Stewart held up the contract at that time and refused to sign it on the ground that it gave insufficient safeguard to individual fishermen, he was severely criticised, not only by the local Liberal party but by Mr. A. E. MacLean, M. P., the Liberal Federal representative for Prince County.

While admitting that the contract signed by Liberal politicians in 1928 gave the Federal Government "full control" of the oyster areas of the Province, the Summerside Liberal press contends that "nothing" was said in that contract "about leasing the areas." This statement is absolutely incorrect. Indeed, it was for the purpose of leasing the areas that the King Government agreed to undertake the initial survey and experimental work. Here, in black and white, are the terms of the contract as signed on Feb. 27, 1928, by the Hon. A. E. Saunders, Premier of Prince Edward Island, and the Hon. P. J. Arthur Cardin, Minister of Marine and Fisheries in the King Government:

"3. The Government of Canada shall have the right and power of control and administration of the live oyster or other mollusk

beds or areas suitable for such, or shall investigate and endeavor to ascertain and shall take such means as it deems proper and advisable for the development of oyster or other mollusk growth and culture in said area. Provided the said Government of Canada shall not grant any of the aforesaid areas except by way of lease for a term of years and for the sole purpose of the production and cultivation of oysters or other mollusks within the demised premises.

"6. The lessee under any leases granted by the Minister shall, subject, however, to the Fishery Regulations of Canada, have the exclusive right to the oysters or other mollusks produced or found within the limits of their respective leases; provided, however, that in respect to public harbours this agreement, or any lease granted in pursuance thereof, or anything done or suffered thereunder, shall not prejudice the right or title of the Dominion to administer the same as provided by the British North America Act, 1867.

"7. The Government of Canada will furnish to the Government of the Province annually the names and addresses of persons, firms and corporations to whom leases have been granted as provided by Sections 5 and 6."

It was for the purpose of carrying out the specific terms of this agreement that Mr. Found, Federal Deputy Minister of Fisheries, visited the Province recently and not, as misstated in the Summerside Liberal press, to "decide" upon any new line of policy.

The responsibility upon the Liberal party for the leasing of the oyster areas of the Province must be evident to all our readers. It must have been clearly evident to the Saunders Government and to Mr. A. E. MacLean, M. P., when the agreement was put through with their approval and consent. Whether it is yet clear to the Summerside Liberal press we do not profess to know.

STRANGE NEGLECT

According to our local contemporary, the object of Mr. Mackenzie King's present visit to the Maritimes "is not for the purpose of carrying on a political campaign, but to get in touch with party leaders in the various provinces and discuss with them ways and means of strengthening their organization." Mr. King is visiting Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but not Prince Edward Island. Does he consider the problem of strengthening the Liberal organization in this Province a task too hopeless for "discussion"? And has he forgotten those loyal followers in Prince County who gave him the harborage of a seat on an occasion when he was in sore distress? In any event, his ignoring of this Province on his present Maritime visitation is anything but a compliment to his surviving supporters here.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Zealand's recently organized National Government, under the Premiership of Hon. G. W. Forbes, will appeal to the electors for a mandate on December 2. The result of the election is regarded as being doubtful, but the return of a new Parliament will stabilize the political situation and open the way for New Zealand's participation in the coming Empire-wide negotiations for an all-British trade agreement.

Official announcement is made of the pending reopening of the C.P.R. Angus shops and of other of the company's shops elsewhere in Canada. Altogether, some eight thousand men will be re-employed through this action. The shops affected were closed, wholly or partially, because of conditions beyond the company's control. The reopening order is not only a matter of great and direct concern to the thousands of employees themselves, and their dependents, but it will have a heartening influence generally as indicating confidence in the near approach of better conditions throughout the Dominion.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Every now and again a new adviser springs into the limelight with a new prescription for all the ills incident to the world-wide depression. The frequency of these prescriptions as well as what becomes of them after they are dealt out recalls the case of a Scotsman who imagined that he was not as well as he would like to be. Accordingly he consulted a doctor. The latter after a series of questions told him he must cut down his whisky ration to a fraction of its present size. Sandy listened attentively and when the doctor concluded his remarks arose, buttoned his coat and started for the door. The doctor reminded him that he required the usual fee for his advice. "I'm no tacking it," said Sandy curtly and strode out of the office.

While events of great moment have been transpiring in Western Europe this year there have been very interesting developments farther east concerning which little has been said in the press. Greece and Turkey have been successfully composing their differences. In October of last year Premier Venizelos and his Foreign Minister visited Angora, the Turkish capital and an agreement was made to protect minority rights. There were hundreds of thousands of people, Turks in Greece and Greeks in Turkish territory involved in the agreement, which also restored confiscated properties. A little over a month ago the Turkish Premier and Foreign Minister, with some members of Parliament and journalists visited Athens and friendship was further cemented. Both countries have been able to reduce their armaments. Such a change in the relations between them would have been regarded as extremely doubtful only a few years ago. They have set an example that is worthy of emulation in Central and Western Europe.

The man who is fit for office is not fit because he is a Protestant or a Catholic or a Mohammedan or a Jew, but because he is known among his fellow-citizens as a man of capacity and of worth. And only such men should be chosen for office, no matter what may be their social, political or religious affiliations.

The severest reason for the British Labor debacle is given by Miss Agnes MacPhail, who expresses her disappointment at the lack of intelligence shown at the polls by the British elector. This is the "unkindest cut of all." There have been times when the British elector has had some claim to be considered as a notch above a moron or a paranoic, but after the slashing rebuke of Miss MacPhail he will, no doubt, feel himself to be completely squashed and a fit subject for Bedlam.

The acceptance by the British government of Premier Bennett's proposal for an Imperial Conference at Ottawa next summer will place upon us in this country a grave responsibility. It is probably true to say that it will be "now or never" with all thought of an inter-Imperial tariff pact. If the Bennett Government in Canada, with a strong majority behind it, and the National Government in London, with an even stronger majority behind it, cannot contrive to strike a bargain and create a workable system of tariff preferences, then it is most unlikely that any other Minister will ever be able to do so.

We seem to be passing through a series of mild seasons of fall and winter, says the Boston Transcript. Not that they are changing for good. We can hardly hope for such a boon, in the light of past experiences. Most of us remember the terrible winters of the World War years, in one of which many suburban trolley lines hereabouts gave up the ghost and never got into operation again. It is a long, long time since we have endured such cold and deep snow. But soon or late Boreas will wake us from our dream that the Gulf Stream is crowding our New England coast, and remind us with a few of his old-fashioned blasts and buffets that he is quite on the job.

Any doubts which may exist in the minds of the younger generation as to the futility of war should be quickly dispelled by a glance at world conditions today. So much literature has been published in recent years, which despite its sordidness adds a certain glamor to armed fighting, that it is well to remember the world owes its present difficulties to one thing namely, a war that ended 13 years ago. Thirteen years which have culminated in the economic ills of the present are an ill-fated legacy. Those who have grown up since 1918 can only think of war in terms of hearsay, but they can quickly realize its senselessness in terms of business today.

That Body of Yours



By James W. Barton, M.D.

SOFT DIET IN ULCER

The word ulcer is an unpleasant one, and the thought of an ulcer of the stomach is particularly unpleasant, and yet a great many people have ulcer of the stomach and do not know it. They find that they get a pain or an uneasy feeling an hour or two after eating, and remembering that the food they ate was rough, had husks or seeds in it, they decide to go on a milk or liquid diet for a few days and soon feel better.

As a matter of fact this soft or liquid diet gave the ulcer a chance to heal and they haven't even thought of the possibility of an ulcer. Experiments show that where there is this regular pain at a definite time after eating, that rough foods—cabbage, cauliflower, celery and raw fruits—will prevent the healing of an ulcer whereas the soft diet permits the ulcer to heal.

Drs. G. B. Fauley and A. C. Ivy, studying the effects of diet on the healing of an ulcer, tell us that in a series of twenty-nine ulcers, 12 kept on a rough diet and 17 on a soft diet, all using the rough diet remained unhealed at the end of 30 days, whereas 14 of those using the soft diet were healed.

Another point was that where the diet was kept in a more liquid form, not too dry, the healing was quicker. The soft diet used in these cases was milk, bread, and mashed boiled carrots.

As you know the regular medical treatment of ulcer is a number of small soft meals during the day, followed by an alkali of some kind, as it is the hydrochloric acid in the stomach digestive juice that causes pain in the ulcer.

This method requires constant treatment by a nurse or a member of the family but it usually brings results.

However in small ulcers, in ulcers just getting started, the use of liquids and the soft diet will bring about healing and allow the patient to be up and about his occupation. It is rather good sense then when you have a regular pain in the stomach to avoid rough foods for a few weeks until the stomach feels 'easy' again.

India's Constitutional Problem

(Montreal Gazette) The constitutional conundrum has proved too difficult for the Round Table Conference on India to solve. Complete absence of even the approach of an agreement upon the conflicting claims of the majority and the minority communities in British India has forced Premier MacDonald to a decision to bring the conference to a close this week. This result is not surprising. The Federal Structure Committee of the conference prepared a draft constitution which contemplated the creation of a central two-chamber legislature for an all-India federation; but the whole situation in the conference was overshadowed and governed by the claims of Moslem and other minority interests to—in addition to the right of minority protection which, of course, is generally acknowledged—adequate representation under the new constitution, to the administration and control of their own educational institutions, and to various other privileges. All of this was complicated by issues of strictly communal representation—that is, of assigning a certain number of seats in the new legislature to the different religious denominations and ethnic groups.

No wonder that Mr. MacDonald bewails that this is the most disconcerting and perplexing problem that he has ever had to face in his life. At the same time, the Prime Minister declares that the British Government will not allow the failure of the Round Table Conference to solve the many and extremely complex questions that confronted it to be an obstacle in the way of carrying out Britain's pledges. But complete federal self-government implied by these pledges cannot be sanctioned before the peoples of India prove their competency to a solution of the prevailing difficulties, and there is poor prospect for the

acceptance of any settlement that can be devised and offered by the British Government, when nearly every word and act of that Government hitherto has been looked upon with suspicion, or damned with faint praise, by Gandhi, and almost invariably has been denounced as self-interested and even tyrannous by Gandhi's followers, many of whom will rejoice in the failure of the London conference and collapse of the Round Table Conference, there is bound to be great uncertainty and disillusionment. Short of the British Government finding some satisfactory modus vivendi, the future in India cannot be contemplated without foreboding.

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Ups and Downs

(Toronto Globe) Fifteen years ago—not a long period in world history—Ramsay MacDonald was a very unpopular man, and was denied even the privilege of playing golf on the links at Lossiemouth. Because of his pacifist views he was sent home from the Western war-front. No audience would listen to him when he tried to deliver an address. In short, the general public had no use for him. Now he is head of the most powerful Government, numerically, his country, or any other country, ever had.

Fifteen years ago also, Lloyd George was a national hero. He was recognized—and justly so—as the great driving force that organized the country to carry on war. An almost adoring people hailed him affectionately as "The Little Welshman," "The Welsh Wizard," the man who could and did do things. A united nation was thankful that he headed a coalition Government. Everywhere the stocky figure with the great shoulders and the shaggy head appeared, he was acclaimed as a national leader in a time of crisis. And so he was. Today he is in the political discard. From being head of a powerful Government he has descended to the leadership of less than a half-dozen of elected Parliamentarians, about half of them of his own household.

Britain Trains Them

(Ottawa Journal) Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has just added 32 junior members to his Ministry. They are chiefly, what are known as Under Secretaries. The duties of an Under Secretary, in the main, are to form a link between the Minister and the executive heads of a department, to answer for the department in the House, and to relieve the Minister of details. In this way, Britain escapes one of the weak points of Government in Canada, namely, the condition under which Ministers are over-burdened with routine, this impairing their ability to deal with large questions and with principles.

But there is something more. It is that the British system of Under Secretaries provides an admirable and necessary training ground for the higher posts of public life. In this country, for some curious reason, we assume that politics and public life are not things to which it is necessary to serve an apprenticeship. They know better in Britain. Over there, they know from long experience, that mere success in business, or in some profession, doesn't necessarily imply capacity for public life, but often the contrary. The result is that, recognizing that politics is a science, requiring training and experience and that Government is vastly different from ordinary business, they train promising young men for a public career. Practically every successful British Cabinet minister works his way up from a junior post.

It might be an excellent thing for our own Parliament and public life if we could find it practicable to adopt a similar system. There is altogether too much loose thinking in this country about the qualifications for Parliament and Government; this is not merely in the selection of Ministers, but in the selection of candidates.

"Generals will fight the next war simply by pushing buttons," says a writer. Wasn't that how they fought the last one?

The Poet's Corner

TO NIGHT

Swiftly walk over the western wave, Spirit of Night! Out of the misty eastern cave, Where, all the long and lone day-light, Thou wovest dreams of joy and fear Which make thee terrible and dear,— Swift be thy flight!

When I arose and saw the dawn, I sighed for thee; When light rode high, and the dew was gone, And noon lay heavy on flower and tree, And the weary Day turned to her rest, Lingering like an unloved guest, I sighed for thee!

Thy brother Death came, and cried, "Wouldst thou me?" Thy sweet child Sleep, the flimsy-eyed, Murmured a nontide bee, "Shall I nestle near thy side? Wouldst thou me?" — And I replied, "No not thee!"

Death will come when thou art dead, Soon, too soon,— Sleep will come when thou art fed; Of neither would I ask the boon I ask of thee, beloved Night,— Swift be thine approaching flight, Come soon, soon!

—Shelley.

Agriculture in Nova Scotia

(Moncton Times)

There must be something wrong with agriculture in Nova Scotia if the census returns for that province just to hand from Ottawa are correct, or approximately so. These returns show that wheat growing is almost a thing of the past, the acreage sown being 2,927, compared with 12,563 acres in 1921. Barley and mixed grains show some increase, about 25 percent, but this is more than offset by the decline in oats from 102,788 acres to 82,728. Probably there has been a considerable increase in fruits, large and small, the growing of which is more profitable as well as more agreeable, but the decline in the acreage sown to grains, coupled as it is with a smaller acreage in roots and hay rather indicates that Nova Scotians are not keeping the stock necessary to the maintenance of the fertility of the upland farms. Perhaps the heads of the experimental farms at Nappan and elsewhere will have something to say about the why and the wherefores of the agricultural situation in the neighboring province.

A small boy called on the doctor one evening, and said: "Doctor, I've got the measles, but I can keep it quiet."

The doctor looked up, puzzled, and asked the boy what he meant. "Oh!" suggested the small patient, "What'll you give me to go to school and scatter it among all the rest of the kids?"



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