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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1947

The Taxation Racket

The discussion on the Jones Government's new taxation bills—one of them is euphemously called a "licensing or registration" bill but it means the same thing—has brought out many points of significance. One is the fact that these bills are all of a kind—they are downright measures to continue the special wartime taxes from which we were promised relief at the earliest possible moment.

That these taxes were to have been discontinued after the war was revealed in a striking manner in the Legislature by Mr. Heath Strong, in the case of the deletion of three little words from the long preamble to Bill 17, which provides for the aforementioned "licensing or registration" of corporations and individuals on a retroactive basis.

Need anyone ask why this was done so surreptitiously? Evidently those who drafted the bill did not wish the taxpayers to be reminded that this was strictly a wartime measure. The same applies to the extra corporation and provincial gasoline taxes which have been imposed; they are all emergency taxes intended for war purposes, improperly continued as normal peacetime taxes and even extended in scope as in the case of Mr. Hughes' "catch-all" amendment to the Registration Bill.

Other Provinces, it has been argued, are adopting the same tactics, all following Ottawa's greedy example and basing their impositions largely on bills drafted by Federal Government bureaucrats. Nowhere does there seem any prospect of relief—unless our Provincial Treasurer has something up his sleeve in the Budget he is scheduled to bring before the Legislature today.

Post-War Rebuilding

In a bulletin entitled "A Glimpse of Post-War Europe," Mr. John H. F. Turner, superintendent of the Foreign Department of the Bank of Montreal gives a graphic account of the chaos created by the war. In his concluding paragraphs he says:

"In all the Continental countries, excepting Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, the task of rebuilding and re-equipping plants and factories, rebuilding homes, and placing railway transportation facilities on anything like a pre-war basis will be arduous and costly. Long term loans and credits will be required and already some have been forthcoming. Given freedom from threat of further war or acts of aggression and equal opportunities to participate in world trade, they should prove worthy of the confidence placed in them by extension of credit and assistance.

"The bankers' lot in these war-ridden lands has been and continues to be a strenuous one—destruction of premises, reduced staffs resulting from call-ups for active service, difficult living conditions and malnutrition, with increased volume of work in many departments due in part to returns and reports required under wartime controls. However, all now are energetically endeavouring to reattain their pre-war stride, although still severely handicapped by a number of the foregoing problems which can be solved or surmounted only gradually.

"We in Canada, so much more fortunate, should endeavour to comprehend the fearful experiences of our banking friends abroad in those war years. For instance in England a bank officer would perform his Home Guard duties well into the night; spend a goodly portion of what might be left of it in an air raid shelter, spend hours journeying to and from the office in overcrowded conveyances travelling in complete blackout; then would work all day long to the tune of aircraft passing overhead, both friend and foe, the near and distant explosions of bombs and the ever attendant heart-rending fear, 'Did one fall near home?' These particular experiences may not have been the lot of bankers on the Continent apart from Germany, except infrequent and isolated occasions, yet their daily life was attended by varying hardships and, in all too many cases, real physical suffering—lack of heating, food and clothing and the constant fear of what the Germans might do next. While circumstances of war and enemy occupation had far-reaching effect on finance and banking in general, one is informed that the occupation authorities interfered to a very minor degree in the day-to-day functions and operations of the banks; nevertheless, some of the precautions taken by bankers to safe-

quard customers' interests were fantastic in their ingenuity. Assets of great value were moved under the very noses of the Germans, sometimes with their unwitting assistance. Tremendous risks were taken, such as providing paymmts to underground workers and strikers and financing escaped prisoners and internees.

"Bank offices were closed during the war only when premises were made untenable by bombing or other acts of destruction. However, many services were drastically curtailed with the practical elimination of international trade, exchange and stock and bond trading. In banks, as in other business activities, workers in most of the occupied countries were encouraged, and even taught, to go slowly; to do as little as possible and take as long as possible to do it. Otherwise, if an office, plant or store showed evidence of being overstuffed, there was real danger of a certain number of employees being drawn therefrom and drafted into other labour or perhaps deported to Germany. It will be appreciated that it is not easy to change back to pre-war tempo after such experiences and conditions.

"Continental European banks as a whole are now severely handicapped for adequate staff, both in numbers and experience, and with resumption of international trade and increased volume of business generally it is virtually impossible to provide a standard of service measuring up to pre-war traditions. Various methods and steps are being energetically explored to improve this situation.

"Particular mention is made of the esteem and affection of the Dutch people for Canada but this is by no means confined to The Netherlands. All Europe—in fact the world—has been profoundly impressed by Canada's wartime performance in placing such fighting forces of men and women in the field and in its generosity in coming to the aid of the needy and less fortunate near and far. Likewise Canada is admired for her effective action in holding the price line, in combating inflation and the wisdom shown in devising and administering equitable distribution methods. It is indeed an enviable reputation, but what a responsibility to ensure that we maintain it in our international relations and in the quality of the goods and services we supply for the markets of the world! In this respect Canada is confronted with a challenge which cannot be minimized, a national duty for all Canadians to shoulder."

EDITORIAL NOTES

That irrepressible ex-Speaker from King's Mr. Hessian, lets "the cat out of the bag" with reference to the proposed deal for a fourth Supreme Court judgeship. Evidently it is not so much the legal interests of the Islanders that are at stake, but the personal interests of the politicians.

According to Mr. H. P. Hartley, Superintendent of the Maritime Insurance Commission, the Province is the most prosperous in the Maritimes. We have much less unemployment, and the prospects for employment much greater, including the \$4,000,000 terminal construction job at Borden, besides much other construction work. This apart, too, from the demand, steadily growing, for help on the farms. Everything indicates an era of expanding prosperity on the Island, including the extensive development of our tourist traffic.

Apropos "Bachelor vs. Spinster" controversy this from a London daily correspondence column may prove interesting: "In my middle forties I find myself a homeless bachelor because I was a wanderer in my youth. How I envy those with home, wife and children. As a youth I despised those who looked for safe jobs. Off I went to Australia, Canada and the U. S. A. Home again after all these years I see those I despised endowed with the coveted things I lack. The wanderer may find prosperity but without a wife it isn't worth much.—L. H. J., King's Langley Herts."

The American Civil War began this date 1861 with the capture of Fort Sumter by the secessionists. Lincoln immediately proclaimed the blockade of the Confederate ports (a deed which alienated foreign powers, especially Britain which depended on the south for cotton) and sent General McClellan with his army south who recovered West Virginia, but a series of successive reverses culminated at Bull Run in July, and at the close of 1862, McClellan was directed to resign. After Gettysburg, the Confederate cause failed, and when Grant became Commander in Chief, the North had it practically all their own way till the Southern President, Jefferson Davis was captured in Georgia, in May 1865.

That milk from contented cows has extra nutritive as well as advertising value has been demonstrated in experiments conducted under the auspices of New York State. A cow at liberty to wander about in a "loafing barn" pays off with milk of higher nutritional content than does her sister anchored to a stanchion. Such a bovine lounge should have a ceiling at least ten feet high and the cow should be free to enter and leave at will. Allowed to pick her spot for rumination, she will keep herself cleaner, run less risk of suffering injury and consume more of the roughage essential to the best milk.

Wonderful to be told we are soon to have an unsinkable man-of-war—this on the authority of Mr. Winston Churchill. Addressing the Institution of Naval Architects in London, he said: "Once you have great surface warships—and among these I include aircraft carrier—you will be driven to the inevitable logic that those guardians and carriers must be protected step by step from the attack of other surface ships until something which I cannot give the secret away tonight, but it may be called an unexpungeable naval vessel—is found to give sanction to the whole operations which proceed around a battle fleet."

Notes By the Way

When a woman goes on a drastic diet, she has one or both of two objectives in mind—to retain her girlish figure, or her boyish husband. — Wall Street Journal.

With good weather at hand, youthful bicycle riders should be warned against reckless riding on the roads. Bicyclists need to keep far off to the side of the highway and should not cut capers which endanger motorists and themselves. The worst menace is the show-off rider who does not bother to hold onto the handlebars. Boys and girls are entitled to have their bicycles, but they need to be sensible riders. Accidents are too frequent. — Boston Post.

One of the two Indian skeletons found last autumn during the excavation at the ancient Indian village of Cahigue near Warrimster, had two lower jaw bones. The Midland Free Press Herald reports. This mysterious fact was explained when the skeleton was found to be that of a woman. That at least is the solution offered by Professor T. J. McIlwraith of the Royal Ontario Museum, who was in charge of the digging. Pity the poor Huron who had the dame for a squaw!

It is not unusual when a man is picked up on a drunk charge, convicted and is unable to pay his fine, that he has to go to jail and his family suffers and must be given civic relief. Perhaps it would be better to make his serve his imprisonment at weekends so that he could continue to maintain his family. Various experiments have been made to handle the situation. The city of Cleveland, for instance, sends habitual drunks to a factory and their pay is sent to their families. Maybe if habitual drunks knew that a sentence would mean they would have to work all during their terms, they might be more careful the next time. — Niagara Falls Review.

Disbandment of the United States customs border patrol will have a serious effect on the people in this area. This force has links with a romantic but turbulent period along the stretch of river, the era which coined the not very brilliant pun, "The far-flung bottle line." Various American politicians are bewailing the decision to disband the force. They protest that the border will be left with no protection whatever against smuggling. As its duty is to keep Canadian goods out of the United States, and we have nothing in which a major contraband trade could conceivably be carried on, it is difficult to see what real harm is being done except to a few attractive jobs. — Windsor Star.

Sympathy is being widely expressed for the New York bus driver who started out in his big vehicle and drove to Florida. Public opinion can be of little help to him, for he is in the tolls on a charge of theft. But he can at least have the satisfaction of knowing that many people understand the urge which led him into his escapade. The man simply succumbed to deadly monotony. It is easy to understand how driving over the same route endlessly would torture a soul that longs for freedom. But certain people must do these jobs and it would be dangerous to encourage them, even by suggestion, to break loose. That could lead to the pilot of one of our local train ferries suddenly starting out for Hawaii. — Windsor Star.

President Truman is an early riser with a very definite purpose in mind. He climbs out of bed about 5.30 every morning, while most of the nation is still asleep, to go for a brisk walk so as to keep his weight down. As a result, the secret service, which guards him, has had to put on extra men. The secret service found it much simpler to protect President Roosevelt than President Truman. The late Mr. Roosevelt didn't arise until mid-morning. He never went for a stroll. Now the secret service has gone to Congress to request more money to protect the more active Mr. Truman. All this presents an interesting prospect that someone in our economy-minded Congress now busy searching for ways to save money, will say the chief executive ought to budget his food intake to restrain the Presidential waistline so that Federal expenditures may be held down. — Chicago Daily News.

Since cleanliness means better environment and sanitation aids health preservation, national health officers at Ottawa commend the spring cleaning habit. "While creating orderliness in the home, spring cleaning removes health hazards which may lurk in litter accumulated during winter months," they note. The picture which health educators must expose, if they would arouse Canada's concern for health, isn't always a pretty one. Authorities admit that some of the things they have to say about dirt and disease aren't "nice." But then, they point out, one cannot wash away germs, germs, sewage and vermin. On the other hand, those are problems which must be discussed if the public is to be given the plain facts about health hazards. The people's appreciation of these dangers, and approved measures for avoiding and overcoming them, is essential to advancement of the national health standard. Nature's own remedy is recommended by the medical profession for "Spring Fever." The tonic is simply compounded of lots of vegetables and fruits, plenty of water, and milk, adequate sleep and as much fresh air as one can get. This, say the authorities, is much to be preferred to the old-fashioned spring tonic of sulphur and molasses. — Brandon Sun.

For Men And Women Of Good Sense

Most Grits, being men of good sense, admit that elective Government run their course and eventually are turned out of office. The same Grits, those men of good sense, look back on the long career of the MacKenzie King Government and admit, maybe a little grudgingly, that a change at Ottawa, following a general election, is not unlikely to come in the not-distant future. Mr. Bennett's five years were just a lucky recess for Mr. King. The seeds of the depression that plagued Mr. Bennett were not of Canadian sowing. As a Grit would say, even a good government would have been turned out in 1935.

The Question of the future of Mr. King's government is complicated by the fact that Mr. King's health is indifferent. Mr. King is undoubtedly more capable in politics than any other leader not sick. But the Prime Minister's health does intensify the problems of the present time.

What is the alternative to the present Liberal government in Ottawa? In 1940 the voters said none. In 1945 the voters said none. But not so emphatically.

There are to-day so many things wrong with the Government that voters generally would turn it out if a promising alternative were in sight. Taxes are too high; Mr. Abbott's budget will not reduce them much. The bureaucracy now has too much power; Mr. Abbott's bribery of the less rich provinces shows that the heavy bureaucracy would bind us hands and feet. The present Government would further control our thinking by expanding the powers of the government radio. Mr. Dieffenbacher's proposed bill of rights would not have been thought of if the present Government were not attempting to modify or curtail our much-wanted British liberties.

These are only a few of the charges which may legitimately be levelled at the Government. It is not because it is a Liberal government, but because it is an old government, one that has come through a major war and has been granted almost as much power as cost Charles I his head.

The likelihood is small that the Liberal government would long survive Mr. King's laying down the burdens of office. There are highly capable men surrounding Mr. King. But the lieutenants who would be captain have all failed so far to demonstrate their ability to command the loyalty of the other lieutenants, or of the House of the country. There is only one Mr. King, for which Liberals thank the Deity and oppositionists curse their luck. Mr. King's great success as a party leader has been his ability to win sufficient support in all parts of the country to keep him in office. And this has been accomplished through nearly a whole generation without his gaining any noticeable personal popularity.

Some of the votes given Mr. King in 1940, and even more of those got in 1945 were from disgruntled citizens of independent mind who, in the first instance, didn't have any use for the late Dr. Manion and who, in the second instance, were anything but impressed with Mr. Bracken.

What will be the attitude of these same voters in 1947? or 1948? or 1949? or 1950? (Though no one guesses that a general election will be delayed beyond next year.) No public criticism of Mr. Bracken has been severe. He has appeared in these pages. Mr. Bracken has been one of the most exasperating persons ever to lead an opposition party in Canada. His ability has been successfully concealed from the public. The official Opposition in Ottawa under his direct leadership has been no more effective with nearly 70 members than it was when it had less than 40 members under acting leader Gordon Graydon.

And yet it is possible that the voters at the next election will vote for Mr. Bracken, at least in eight provinces. They will vote for him because he is the alternative to the present Government which has run its course, and is now living on borrowed time, borrowed taxes and borrowed liberties of the subject.

The Gallus "oll says that Mr. Caldwell can't be Prime Minister, for he has less than one voter in five who would take a chance on him. The funny-money boys may ally with the Bloc Populaire in Quebec and still they would not be anything but a nuisance in the House of Commons to those civil servants who are actual practitioners of the Social Credit theory. So, if the Liberal Government dies, as all governments must, the alternative is Mr. Bracken.

Mr. Bracken, maybe, would make a good Prime Minister. He wouldn't be a Sir John, who wangled a confederation and a transcontinental railway; or a Sir Wilfred, a habitant who was adopted by Ontario; or a Borden whose mature wisdom was valued at Versailles; or a Meighen who was the expert of all time in nailing a hide to a fence; or a Bennett, whose assurance was exceeded only by his pety; or a Mackenzie King, who can commit all opposition parties to policies and avoid committing his own.

Eire News Letter

(By John Dauphinee, Canadian Press Staff Writer, Dublin.) Eire's population has reached an all-time low of 2,953,452 and this preliminary report of the 1946 census has brought a spate of demands for government action to stop the emigration flow. There has been no suggestion for a ban on Irishmen going abroad. What is sought by government critics is such an improvement in wages, job prospects and living conditions that they will be better off at home.

Since 1936 the population drop has been 14,968. But during the 10 years births exceeded deaths by 174,947. Together these figures show that emigration totalled 189,942, most of it presumably during the war when high-paid jobs in the United Kingdom were an attraction to low-paid Irish workers.

In some lines the trend is being reversed, with carpenters, cabinet-makers, painters, bricklayers and others in the building and furniture trades coming home. But the resumption of overseas emigration, stopped during hostilities, is certain to bring an increased drain.

Spokesmen for the opposition Fine Gael party say that Eire is bracketed with France, Czechoslovakia and Japan as a country where wages generally have fallen below the 1937 level; and Eire is the only one of the four which was a neutral. "Of our 3,000,000 population in 1938, only 181,000 earned over £3 a week," Patrick McGilligan, Fine Gael member for Dublin north-west, said in the Dail. "Now only 15,000 are getting over the present equivalent (in purchasing value) of that £3 a week."

McGilligan said Prime Minister De Valera, when seeking funds in the United States for his Fianna Fail party 17 years ago, had told the people there that a remedy for the problems of emigration and unemployment was staring Eire in the face. Yet at least 200,000 men and women have left Eire since Fianna Fail assumed office.

Irish newspapers have been campaigning for greater government efforts to provide work for everyone who needs it and security for those who lose their jobs. The Irish Times called editorially for an Irish effort to match the United Kingdom's production drive. "Simply to accept the fact of emigration as a natural law would be a confession of final and absolute defeat," it said.

Besides those going abroad, there is a big internal drift from rural to urban areas. All the agricultural western counties lost population between 1936 and 1946 and all major population centres, except Cork reported gains. Dublin's population went up from 472,958 to 506,365 for an increase of more than seven per cent.

This is one reason why unemployment in Eire is more than 75-000 despite the heavy emigration. The government aim, as stated by De Valera, is to provide more employment by building up the manufacturing industries, but factory construction takes time and coal and raw materials are scarce. Production this year is unlikely to exceed the 1946 level when the number of persons employed in industry was the highest on record.

However, the gap between conditions in Eire and those in the United Kingdom and overseas is so great that a further loss of population is expected—and a big one, at that. Taxpayers' money. He didn't launch into great schemes. He didn't try to trade a promise of pie in the sky for a bottle of real milk. Mr. Bracken as Prime Minister would go slow. Canada under a Bracken government would have a chance to catch its breath in the heading race to greatness among nations. The citizen who this month must complete his income-tax return could be sure that, under the cautious Bracken, his dollar paid to Ottawa would be spent carefully.

None can argue convincingly that Mr. Bracken ever would have been successful in carrying out a Commanda raid. Few could fancy him as a Prime Minister in time of war. But as the head of a Government following a war he 'ould be reasonably successful in getting us back to some sort of balance. At least he is the best in sight. And nations, like carpenters, can use only the tools they have.

RENEW DESOLATE LAND CAPE TOWN — (CP) — A plan, costing about \$102,000 will convert 3,500,000 acres of waterless, fly-infested African land into healthy farm land which will produce 600,000 tons of vegetables oil seeds a year to relieve the world shortage of fats.

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The Poet's Corner

THE WORLD VOICE I heard the summer sea murmuring to the shore Some endless story of a wrong The whole world must deplore.

I heard the mountain wind conversing with the trees Of an old sorrow of the hills Mysterious as the sea's.

And at the haunted day It seemed that I could hear The echo of an ancient speech Ring in my listening ear.

And then it came to me, That all that I had heard Was my own heart in the sea's voice And the wind's lonely word. —Bliss Carman.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

EDITOR'S REMINISCENCES Euston Street was the northern border of Charlottetown when I came here in 1885. The West Bog adjoining Government Pond, and the old Barracks on the heights now known as Dundas Esplanade, with a few scattered houses owned by the Hon. Mr. Douse, Mr. Simon Davies and others, covered the western border. The East Bog and the Gas Works were at the eastern end of the town. The harbour, where now there is the pork factory, with the wharves and the shipyards were on the south.

"Outside these limits there were a few houses; but all of Ward Five north of Euston Street was still "out in the country", a place of resort for mayflower pickers in the early spring and for blueberry pickers in the summer. "At the entrance of the town from the Malpeque Road, on the left, there stood the ruins of a fine old residence that had been occupied by several early Lieutenant Governors and by John Grubbe, Esq. It was known as "the Grubbe house". The upper part of the plot on which the old house was going to ruin, then called Gallows Hill, was vacant. It was annually, and for several years after I came to town, a scene of the annual horse and cattle show.

"A beautiful jail with a high wall round it was then the chief feature of Pownall Street. It was popularly known as "Harvie's Brig." Several houses of the olden type remain on Pownall Street, as here and there in other streets throughout the city. They were mostly small, dun and drab, lacking ornament of any kind. But the estate farm of 1866 clustered the southern part of the town between Dorchester and Water Streets from Pownall Street on which it began to Great George Street. St. Dunstan's Cathedral, then a wooden structure on the northern side of Dorchester Street, narrowly escaped the sweep of the flames. The City Building, including the general post office, the police station and city court room, together with the little round or octagonal Market House, were situated on Queen Square on the north of which — across the street — was the old Apothecary Hall of which the late Theophilus Desbrisay, Esquire, was then proprietor; and several other old buildings, one or two of which, enlarged and improved, remain — fronted on Queen Square as far as Walker's corner, now the site of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Further east was Mr. Treneman's watch repairing and jewelry store. The Provincial Building, then known as the "Colonial Building," was in outward appearance much as it is today, but it lacked steam heating and the modern conveniences; and the Law Courts building had not yet been erected."

(From an address, about 1900, by the late Mr. W. L. Cotton.)

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