

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 13, 1924

WEST FACES THE SAME PROBLEM

The question of the support of the public schools is just as live in British Columbia as it is in any of the Eastern Provinces. At a recent municipal convention, which corresponds to our Union of Municipalities, a resolution was proposed, suggesting that the provincial government should consider a proposal to take over entirely the cost of the educational service and relieve the municipalities of the burden. It was the general opinion that unless some drastic legislation was enacted to furnish new revenues for school purposes from sources other than rural property, the ever increasing cost of education would mean that more and more property would revert year by year to the municipalities. If the government decides it cannot accede to these requests it is suggested that they levy a direct tax for education on all persons not now directly contributing any municipal land taxes and that fuller control of school expenditures be vested in the municipal councils.

There you have it. Taxation must keep pace with education and the other public services. There are a large number of people who think we cannot spend too much upon education, just as we cannot spend sufficient to please them upon the highways or public health. The demands of the people are not measured by the ability to pay, but rather by their own ideas as to what they would like to see accomplished. Undoubtedly we have many expensive fads. We build broad highways at large expense where narrow highways would do as well. We construct concrete bridges upon the plea that they will last forever, when we could get along for years with wooden bridges. We adopt the plans of educationists who think we cannot go far enough in training the minds of our young people, forgetting that most of those who are adults today were educated in the schools that possessed none of these privileges and which probably furnished us with that most practical idea of what to do and how to do it. Fills and fads must be paid for, and if the majority of the people want them the rest of the taxpayers must bow to their will and assist in paying the bills. It is not surprising, therefore, that in British Columbia, as in New Brunswick, the municipal councils should endeavor to find some way out of the difficulty and attempt to solve the problem of increased taxation that is facing them all the time.

MR. JOHN MARTIN'S VIEWS

John Martin, the Labor Member of the Legislature for the County of Northumberland, is fully justified after his attendance at the Unemployment Conference at Ottawa that New Brunswick is better off so far as the matter of general prosperity is concerned than any of the other provinces of Canada. He expects to report this at the meeting of the Government next week. It was quite evident, Mr. Martin said, that there was danger of distress in some sections of Canada if proper action is not taken. He told the Chatham World that some of the stories told of conditions in Western Provinces were rather alarming and made him feel that in comparison New Brunswick had every reason to congratulate itself upon its general prosperity. He in turn told the convention that in this province, except in Moncton and St. John, there was very little unemployment at present, and pointed out that in addition to all public works possible the immediate building of the new railway station at St. John and a new post office at Moncton would help out the matter of unemployment in those cities. Mr. Martin is a very careful observer, and his picture of New Brunswick conditions no doubt was listened to with keen attention by the members of the conference from other provinces.

DESPERATE CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA

Conditions in Russia, as described by Great Britain's diplomatic representative, Mr. Hodgson, are very embarrassing to foreigners who attempt to travel in the ordinary way. The British authorities had even to ask the Russian Foreign Minister not to permit the espionage inflicted upon their representative. Watchers noted the comings and goings of all British officials, and visitors to the British Mission have been shadowed and afterwards regarded with suspicion. It is unsafe after dark for a British subject to travel around without a military escort. The Bolsheviks are determined to prevent anyone from leaving the country. Mr. Hodgson reports that when he goes out even in the day time he finds it advisable to take two or three members of his staff with him. Ruin, he says, is to be seen everywhere in Russia. Factories are dismantled, machinery destroyed, and nothing less than five hundred million pounds would be the highest use in restarting industry.

PREMIER VENIOT ASKS A HEARING

New Brunswick Interested in Crow's Nest Pass Rates

In conversation over the long-distance telephone yesterday, Hon. P. J. Veniot, Premier of New Brunswick, informed The Telegraph-Journal that he had written to the acting chairman of the Railway Commission at Ottawa, requesting that no decision be arrived at with regard to the Crow's Nest Pass rates until the province of New Brunswick was heard. He mentioned the province of Nova Scotia would request the acting chairman that from what he had learned it was quite probable that the province of Nova Scotia would request to be heard, as well as Prince Edward Island, because the Maritime Provinces felt that they were vitally interested in whatever decision was arrived at.

TREATY MAY CAUSE BRITISH ELECTION

Quebec, Sept. 12.—That the Russian Trade Treaty may cause general elections in England as a result of the strenuous opposition it is bound to meet in the House of Commons was the opinion expressed by G. G. Dawson, editor of the London Times, in an interview this morning at the Chateau Frontenac. Mr. Dawson is on vacation in Canada and may travel to the United States after a trip to the western provinces.

ENGLISH DOMESTICS IN CANADA

Nearly 50,000 women have entered Canada as domestic servants since the close of the war, and yet the demand for household workers continues to exceed the supply. The immigration authorities say that "cook general" can always be absorbed in Canada. Since March, 1923, the women of Great Britain who have had experience in household service can secure loans for the entire amount of their passage, provided they are prepared to enter domestic service in Canada, and under this plan up to the end of last June more than 2,000 household workers had come to Canada, the loans being made to them totalling \$194,816. These loans are repaid to the federal department in small amounts, and up to the end of June more than \$26,000 had been returned to the Government. It is rather interesting to note that more domestics entered Canada during the fiscal year ending March, 1924, than in any year since the armistice. In those twelve months 15,284 entered, but only 292 of these came under the Empire Settlement Act. The present year promises to see even a larger immigration among women household workers, as 6,111 came to the country during the months of April, May, June and July. More than one-fifth of the immigration from Great Britain in the past four months has been domestics.

Preferential trading with the West Indies

have not increased Canada's exports materially. Up to the end of July, 1921, we sent goods there to the value of \$9,210,000, and last year they were \$10,848,000, an increase that is not considered satisfactory, and as far as Bermuda is concerned our sales there are \$50,000 less than they were two years ago. The United States apparently has a very strong hold upon the trade, largely due to their proximity to the market. It is feared that better steamship communication may not accomplish all that is desired, but there is no doubt that the Canadian people want the West Indies products direct and not through New York. In the matter of fruit particularly, Upper Canadians can import through New York and Boston without additional expense, but the fruit for the Maritime Provinces goes first to New York, then to Montreal and from Montreal it is sent to St. John, Halifax and other centres for distribution. There is no sense in that and there is so much mere expense that tropical fruit is these Lower Provinces is much higher than elsewhere in Canada.

The Increase in the population of the city of Montreal

is not, says the Gazette of that city, a subject for unthinking jubilation. The attainment of a million population is no matter for congratulation when it means overcrowded houses, overcrowded trams, overcrowded streets, and all the other discomforts and menaces to health involved in the endeavor to accommodate ten hundred thousand people in a municipal plant which would be none too adequate for seven or, at most, eight hundred thousand. Rather is it a warning to the civic rulers to bestir themselves and measure up to the new responsibilities placed upon their shoulders by the growth of this new giant among the great cities of North America.

Secretary J. J. Morrison, of the United Farmers of Ontario

is again in the limelight, denying that there is any farmer party. He said the U. F. O. has gone out of politics in accordance with a resolution passed at the last election held in Massie Hall, Toronto. There may be political discussions among them, but certainly there is not a United Farmers of Ontario political party. The name U. F. O., says Mr. Morrison, should not be used any longer. The good die young.

SEA-GULL

O, sea-gull, glittering over the calm water,
Do you, in your travels, thank God for the salt breeze,
Thank God for the pines down by the water's edge,
Thank God for the many fish in the sea,
For the spray dashed high on the shore,
For the scent of the wet seaweed?
Or, do you, like so many people in this world,
Glide onward without thought of the Almighty Giver.

—Vivienne Wainwright in July Nauticus.

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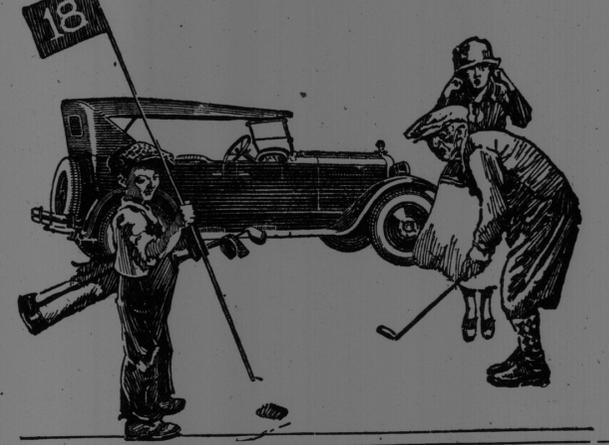
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