

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 12, 1919

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THAT \$10,000,000 GRANT.

In the discussion in parliament on the federal grant for technical education Mr. J. H. Sinclair raised an interesting question. He pointed out that in Nova Scotia domestic science and manual training are taught in the main public schools, while there are schools to train miners in the technical part of their education, and night schools in industrial centres. He added:

"Do I understand that the proposition we are considering means that if \$10,000,000 is contributed by the federal government to a province the latter must put up an equal amount? If I am correct in that, then, for example, in the province of Nova Scotia, where some of the schools giving instruction in manual training, domestic science, and so forth, are supported by the town or municipality, will the money so furnished be counted in the \$10,000,000 that will be contributed by the province?"

To this Hon. Mr. Calder replied that it was not proposed that the federal government should grant any assistance to the provinces for carrying on domestic science, vocational training, nature study, manual training or any of that class of work in the elementary schools, or even the ordinary high schools, and such expenditures by the provinces would not be taken into account. As to industrial classes, however, for the benefit of those already engaged in industries, the expenditure by the province on them which is largely for qualified instructors, would be taken into account. But he added:

"It is not proposed that any contribution made by a municipality for the establishment or maintenance of one of these institutions shall be taken into account. That is a matter of arrangement between the provincial government and the local authorities."

Mr. Sinclair and Hon. Mr. Fielding argued strongly in favor of recognizing municipal expenditures, and urged the minister to consider it in framing the bill. Mr. Calder replied that he had no doubt there would be no difficulty in coming to a working agreement with each of the provinces. Mr. D. D. McKensie raised objection to the proposal that the provinces must put up dollar for dollar, declaring that it was not in harmony with the system of free school education. He continued:

"If there is a poor province that cannot put up money for technical education it will receive none of this grant, and in any case it will not get any more than dollar for dollar on what it contributes. There is in the smaller and poorer provinces just as much talent, ingenuity and ambition among the young people as in the larger and more wealthy and populous provinces. The idea is to help the genius of our people in the way of technical education, and there should be nothing to prevent the minister from distributing this money in such a manner as will effect the purpose."

Mr. McKensie suggested as a remedy that each province be given at least a small lump sum, as is provided in the good roads grants, and this would ensure that no province would be left out. He feared that otherwise the wealthy provinces of Ontario and Quebec would get the bulk of the money.

Mr. Calder agreed to leave this principle for further discussion, with the idea that a minimum would be fixed. He also agreed that in a case where a city or municipality desired to erect a technical school, without any provincial aid, as is the case in Peterborough and Renfrew, it was worth while to consider whether or not the federal grant should not be made available to assist. Other speakers emphasized the point that money must not be concentrated in the large cities, but that technical training should be spread as widely as possible.

The bill was read a first time, but it was made clear that before it is finally adopted the interests of the smaller provinces and communities must be safeguarded. It has already been announced that the governments of the three maritime provinces will make a strong appeal for a stated grant to each province, the balance to be distributed according to population and in accordance with the other provisions of the bill now before the house at Ottawa.

Toronto Star: "One of the reasons urged against the reduction of the customs tariff in Canada is the need for very large revenues to pay pensions and interest on the war debt, as well as to provide for ordinary expenses. The same argument holds good for the retention and increase of the excess profits tax. Canada can no longer depend upon customs duties to meet its expenditures. These must be supplemented by other taxes, and no kind of taxation is fairer than that levied on excess profits and large incomes."

The preliminary report of the royal commission on industrial relations is expected to be before the government the first of next week. Action by the government on that report should not be long delayed, and should have a marked effect upon the industrial unrest throughout the country.

CANADA'S FINANCES.

Sir Thomas White, in the budget speech, made an impressive statement regarding the debt of Canada and the cost of the war. The cost of the war year by year was:

1914-15	\$ 60,700,475
1915-16	166,117,755
1916-17	866,465,814
1917-18	848,836,801
1918-19	450,000,000
	\$1,327,273,845

But the present year, so far as expenditure is concerned, with demobilization in progress, is also a war year, and Sir Thomas estimates the special war expenditure this year at \$300,000,000, bringing the total up to \$1,627,273,845. In the five years ending with March, 1919, there had also been spent \$832,737,839 on ordinary account, and \$180,277,873 on capital account. The total amount paid from revenue on account of the war during the five-year period was \$488,263,548.

Dealing with the national debt, Sir Thomas pointed out that it had grown from \$335,996,830 in 1914 to \$1,584,000,000 on March 31, 1919. Add to that \$300,000,000 for this year's war expenditure and the total will stand at almost \$2,000,000,000, an average of more than \$200 per head of the population. Even at that, however, Canada's position is more favorable than that of Great Britain and European countries engaged in the war. It is gratifying to know that the great bulk of Canada's debt is owed to her own people. In round figures the total outstanding securities of the Dominion government are held as follows:

In Great Britain	\$ 362,000,000
In United States	194,500,000
In Canada	1,510,000,000

Moreover the dates of maturity of these obligations are spread over so long a period as to make it fairly easy to provide for redemption. Sir Thomas White does not encourage the hope that a large indemnity will be secured from Germany, and rightly insists that the country prepare to bear the full burden by its own strength and pay from its own resources.

Discussing particular items, Sir Thomas White points out that the estimated annual interest charge will be \$114,000,000, compared with \$12,985,504 before the war. Last year \$17,460,000 was paid on account of pensions for soldiers and their dependents. This year it may reach \$30,000,000, and for a generation will probably run from \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000. In addition there will of course be the very large ordinary and capital expenditures from year to year. The estimate for expenditure on ordinary account for the coming year is \$270,000,000 and on capital account \$50,000,000. The entire expenditure for the coming year is thus estimated at \$320,000,000, with an estimated revenue on the basis of last year of \$300,000,000. It is to bridge as far as possible the gap between revenue and expenditure that parliament must make provision, though \$300,000,000 of the \$320,000,000 will of course be added to the war debt.

The summary of Dr. Beldand's remarks on the high cost of living in his speech on the budget, goes to the root of the matter. He said there were three ways of meeting it. First, increased production; second, reduced taxation on consumption; and third, bringing the profits to account.

There is talk of a permanent high cost of living board for Canada to investigate complaints. If the board has no power to enforce its recommendations the salaries of its members may as well be saved.

Three American states have already ratified the woman suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. Their example will be infectious.

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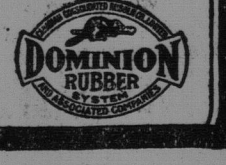
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REUBEN REDTOP'S RUMINATIONS

(Contributed.)

"Wall, I'll be shivered, if there ain't Deacon Hiram Hornbeam with one of them new-fangled paper smokes 'tween his jaws."

"Why, Deacon, what's got ye? Have ye gone back on the hay, or isn't the old day good enuff for ye when ye're hobnobbing with these city fellers. Just thing ye know ye'll hev a dose of that new disease—labor onest?"

"Easy, Reuben, Reuben, easy! Don't let that old tongue of yours wangle too fast. That smoke's all right, an' don't ye forget it. I got it honest, too. Ye see, I was moseying round that big brick barn down in the valley—the unyon station, ye know. Fust thing I seen was a big 'velcum' sign as big as a rainbow and with jest as handsome colors. Then I run up agin a big room, half filled with the ceiling with baskets of oranges, smokes, matches, chocolate, an' the boot-fuilest little Canadian flags that ever ye set yer eyes on. There was a lot of the purliest wimmen in there, a-doin' up parcels. They was all so joyful like that I tuck a deep interest."

"Fore I cud say Charley Robinson, a big feller with a smile that lit up his full face, grabbed hold of me an' pulled me in. 'Deacon,' he says, 'com in an' hev a smoke.' Then he pushed one of these paper smokes 'tween my jaws an' put a match to it. What cud a feller do? Of course, I smoked it."

"Who in thunder he, ye ses I?"

"We're the Welcome Committee, ses he. Rain or shine, summer or winter, we meet the sager boys an' welcum them to home. It's lovely work, deacon, lovely work; bin at it goin' on five year now. The boys like it, we love it, and we wouldn't give it up for yer hull farm, with yer old hat thrown in."

"Pretty good pay in it, I 'spose, ses I."

"Pay! We're the best paid bunch in all Canada. The boys smile at us with tears of joy in their bright eyes, an' say, 'Thank ye.' That's our pay, deacon. That's better than any gold ye cud give us. So long as the boys prechaise what we're a doin' we're well paid."

"I take off my ole hat to ye, ses I."

"Keep it on, Deacon. Ye'll git the flu if ye don't. Take it off to the sager boys; they're the fellers to do honor to. When ye see them a-comin' back all a-smilin', with arms and legs off, an' with eyes that can't see any more, ye feel like if ye cudnt do too much for them."

"Hiram, that suttinly does sound good. Now that ye've kicked up yer heels in the city ye'd better get back to the farm. Yer wanted there, jest now. The ole wimmen of me 'ave back all a-smilin', with arms and legs off, an' with eyes that can't see any more, ye feel like if ye cudnt do too much for them."

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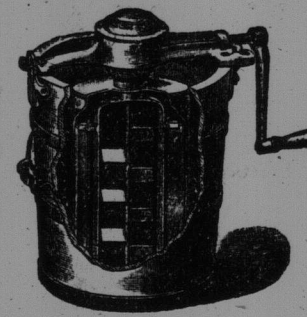
It made 'Lizzie' so unrestful when she seen this chump of an ole machine balk an' the way she ate up the hills to the settlement on the fleech was 'azin'. Good roads they were, too—easy digested by a ford. An' oh, such lovely scenery! Never seen the likes of it in all my born days. What hev we done down here that the Lord should be so good to us? I tell ye, Hiram, when ye're hungry for scenery jest take a scoot up thru those windin' shore roads of Moss Glen and Clifton an' over those eternal

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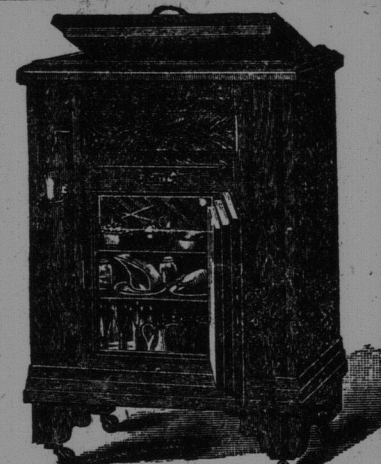
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