

The Herald

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Those Murdock

Charges.

Challenged to show upon what it based its assertion that Mr. Murdock's letter of resignation from the Board of Commerce constituted the "most serious charges made against a Canadian Cabinet since Confederation," the Ottawa Citizen, after a delay of several days, admits that what it said was founded mainly upon the following paragraph in Mr. Murdock's letter:

That many of the honorable gentlemen composing your Cabinet saw in the former chairman's resignation an opportunity almost beyond their expectations to minimize the activities of the Board of Commerce and to prepare for its demise, and that several of them repeatedly undertook to thwart the board's desired activities by quiet and hidden restrictive opposition since that time.

Quiet and hidden! It was so "quiet and hidden" that Mr. Murdock did not dare to specify. What in the name of common sense would any body of inquiry that might have been constituted have to investigate in this? If Mr. Murdock had knowledge that any member or any number of members of the Cabinet interfered with the board, why did he not give their names? Surely it was his duty to do so. He had the law to support him. It was a law written plainly upon the statute books, a law with the operation of which nobody could interfere, a law which the courts of the land had a duty to enforce.

Under this law the Governor-in-Council, (the Cabinet) and the Governor-in-Council only, had a right to reverse the decisions of the board. And yet this Cabinet, which Mr. Murdock insinuates was hostile to him, never in a single case reversed or even modified a judgment of the board. All that the board had to do was to take the law and enforce it. A member of the Government was just as powerless as any member of the public to interfere, and if interference did take place, all that the board had to do was to invoke the processes of the law against the interference. Why did not Mr. Murdock do that? Why did he not meet this "quiet and hidden" interference by a public statement of the facts, and by an invocation of the law? The Board of Commerce, in this respect, occupies precisely the same position as the Railway Commission. Would the late Judge Mabee, or Sir Henry Drayton, have accepted interference from a member of the Cabinet "lying down"? The thing is utterly ridiculous.

So much for the "graveside charge made against a Cabinet since Confederation." We now come to another matter which, from the standpoint of ethics, affords a striking example of our neighbor's code of morality. After quoting some comment which appeared in The Journal on the day that Mr. Murdock's letter was published, to the effect that the matter would have to be thrashed out in Parliament, the Citizen proceeds:

But there was neither discussion on the floor of the House nor promise of an enquiry. Neither did the Government answer the charges nor invite Mr. Murdock to make good on them.

Now what are the facts? The facts are that the question was thrashed out in Parliament for

the greater part of a day, and that the Government, far from failing to ask Mr. Murdock to make good his charges, specially invited him to do so. Here are the words of Mr. Meighen, words which admit of no doubt as to just where the Government stood on the matter:

A scandal! Let any hon. member or any one else get up and charge against a member of this Government any act at all that went to impede the process of that law, and he will not wait very long to have that investigated. Let him tell us what the act is. Let Mr. Murdock do it. If no one is prepared to do it, why use this extravagant language? Further comment is unnecessary. When an antagonist is detected in two specific falsehoods in a single statement—using one to bolster up the other—further argument seems superfluous.—Ottawa Journal.

National Finances.

Sir Henry Drayton has done a sensible and useful thing in presenting the monthly financial statement in such a way as to enable the public to more clearly realize what is the precise financial position of the country. In former statements it was the custom to place various kinds of non-active assets against the gross public debt, the result being to give the country a false impression of its actual net obligations. Sir Henry Drayton has remedied this by a very plain process. He has simply written off a number of non-active assets, such as loans to the G. T. P. and C. N. R., which for the time-being at all events, are really not assets at all; with the consequence that the public is enabled to know exactly what is the net debt.

Another promised improvement is tabulation of the financial statement in such a way as to enable the reader to understand the amount of revenue being derived from the various channels of taxation. In past statements all direct taxation was included under "Miscellaneous Taxation," the result being that it was impossible to know just how much was being secured by each of the various taxes. In future this will be changed, and the monthly amount derived from every source will be stated separately.

The matter is of more importance than might at first be imagined. It is important because, as time goes on and direct taxation becomes established as a part of our fiscal policy, the people whose pockets are being directly invaded will want to know just how much money is being paid into the treasury, how it is being paid, and what is being done with it. National finance, in fact, is bound to long remain as one of the foremost questions before the country. With a huge national debt, involving heavy taxation, the country will hold Governments to a stricter accountability in the matter of expenditure than has ever been the case in the past, and rightly so. The era of extravagance, of expenditure based upon a semi-boastful optimism not supported by hard reality, is a thing to be left behind, and the Government that attempts to make it any part of its future policy will be courting the gravest trouble.

Sir Robert Appreciated

Expressing its regret over the retirement of Sir Robert Borden from the high office of Prime Minister, and its most sincere approval of the choice of Hon. Arthur Meighen as his successor, the Executive of the National Liberal and Conservative Associations of Ottawa have passed the following resolutions:

"Resolved that this Association profoundly regrets the fact that its esteemed leader for so many

years, Sir Robert Borden, has retired from the high office of Prime Minister of Canada, a position which he has held with such notable distinction. This Association also appreciates the fact that the retirement of Sir Robert from active political life marks the passing of one of the great men of the country, and one under whose guidance Canada passed with honor through the great struggle just ended.

"This Association desires to endorse the words of a great British newspaper upon the retirement of Sir Robert that 'he is one of the great figures of the war, and neither Canada nor the Empire can ever forget the debt they owe him.'"

"This Association also wishes to express to Sir Robert the hope that with his withdrawal from the turmoil and strife of political life his health may continue to improve, and that he and Lady Borden may enjoy a future of peace and contentment.

"Resolved that this Association desires to express its most sincere approval of the choice of the Hon. Arthur Meighen as Prime Minister of Canada, and to convey to him the assurance of the royal, enthusiastic and hearty support of its members. This Association is confident that under the leadership of Mr. Meighen the country shall continue to maintain the present high position attained by it during the great war, and shall enjoy a further period of prosperity and good Government."

The London Observer, one of the most influential newspapers in Great Britain, has the following to say about Sir Robert Borden: "We cannot believe that Sir Robert Borden's retirement from the Canadian Premiership means his final withdrawal from all public life. He has been one of the greatest servants of the Empire in our time possessed in Ottawa, London, Paris, he played the game sagacious, steady, sterling part with a cumulative effect of sheer character. He has sat in the Supreme Cabinet in Downing-street as the equal of any; he has led the advance of Canada to the status of full nationhood within the Empire. Through nearly twenty years of leadership, no statesman in the world has won a more honourable name. He is entitled to a long period of rest and quietness, but we feel that he will be needed yet and will not be called up in vain.

The Universal Language

Noting that members of the Northern Europe Peace Union have pronounced themselves as strongly favoring the adoption of English as the universal language, the Toronto Mail and Empire declares that those who are endeavoring to have Esperanto accepted as a universal medium of communication are wasting their time and labor. It asserts that English is bound to be the language of international intercourse and gives some interesting statistics showing the growth of its employment. A century ago the prediction was made by a German philologist, Professor Grimm, that English would be the chief language of the world, although it was then in sixth place among the languages of Europe. Fifty years ago it already had taken the lead, and according to an official report in 1911 it was used by 30,000,000 more people than the German language. In the distant trading places of the earth English is by far the most commonly used language of business. Lately, it has been rapidly displacing French as the language of diplomacy. It was used more than French at the Peace Conference, and it is common for statesmen and diplomats familiar with several languages to use English in their private communications with one another. Then, there is the notable fact that the ex-Czar and the ex-Kaiser carried on their correspondence between Berlin and Petrograd in English.

Earthquakes disturbed Los Angeles again early on the 26th. Police reports early today indicated the tremors caused no damage. Many people fled from their homes in their night clothes, and there was slight confusion while they lasted.

In Middle West.

Regina, Sask., July 24.—At least two people have been killed and a score injured, and property damaged to the extent of \$200,000 in a cyclone which swept the southern part of Saskatchewan Thursday afternoon, in the trail of severe thunderstorms which ran over the Province from west to east. The full extent of the damage to the crops, and the complete casualty list is not yet known. The greatest property damage was caused at Alameda, southwest of Regina. Here the cyclone cut a swath two miles wide for several miles. While there has been no loss of life in this town, the damage is estimated at \$100,000.

Regina, July 24.—Two killed, four-day-old baby missing, and the country laid waste in an area eight miles long and two miles wide east of the village of Froehner is the toll of the cyclone there. Today along the country roads for miles were scattered timber, clothing, household utensils, and farm implements. The body of Mrs. G. Holmes was picked up terribly battered half a mile from where her home stood, and not a trace of her four-day-old baby has been found. The nurse, Mrs. Byers, in whose lap the mite was lying when the cyclone struck the house, has been picked up 75 yards from the house.

Sixteen horses in the barn of David King were stripped of their hair. An eight hundred pound stallion was carried through the air half a mile and left uninjured. The village was in the grip of the storm for twenty minutes. There are rumors of heavy damage in the vicinity of Benson and Lampman. At Krounan, nine miles southwest of this city, there was a washout, and trains were held up for some time. At Moose Jaw, city power service and telegraphic services were tied up for two or three hours.

The cyclone southwest of Yellow Grass blew down a house on the Gartrell farm, severely injuring a man named Gilfoyle, who was blown about 30 feet into the air with the debris. Hale school house was also demolished. Hail hit the edge of Edenwold and Avonhurst districts over an area of 25 miles by 5, cutting the grain down clean as though by a mower. The G. T. P. roadbed was temporarily damaged by the cloud-burst. A cyclone is also reported between Minard and Breezy, on the G. T. P. boundary line, 117 miles south of Regina. Damage estimated at \$25,000 was caused when the elevator of the Security Elevator Company, at Estlin, fifteen miles south of Regina, was struck by lightning and completely destroyed by fire; the building was practically empty of grain. At Lampman, Sask., one farmer's child was killed, his wife and six other children badly injured, and all his farm buildings destroyed. At Regina considerable damage was caused by base-ant washouts. Lightning struck the Parliament building, but caused little damage. Telephone communication was out of commission for several hours. At a meeting of the Red Cross today aid was rushed to the stricken areas.

The Oldest Man in Canada Dead.

Ottawa, July 27.—Edward Hucksbone died last week at the residence of his son Robert, near Rankin, Renfrew County, at the age of one hundred and nine years. It was claimed by his children that he was the oldest man in Canada, and had lived under six British sovereigns from George III. to George V. He was born on the banks of the Ottawa River not far from this city, and survived by eight sons, one daughter, fifty-two grandchildren, and thirty-six great-grandchildren. He was of Irish descent, and it is said he enjoyed remarkably good health through his long life. He was conversing with members of his family a few minutes before his death. His wife died about twenty-five years ago.

Local and Other Items

One is often kept in the right road by a rut—Gustava Droz.

Merit is never so conspicuous as when coupled with an obscure origin; just as the moon never appears so lustrous as when it emerges from a cloud.

Sleeping sickness, the disease which has baffled physicians to check or determine its cause, has claimed its forty-fourth victim in Winnipeg since the first case found there about a year ago.

Mountains never shake hands. Their roots may touch; they may keep company some way up; but at length they part company and rise into individual, isolated peaks. So it is with great men.—Hara.

Advocates of free trade who ascribe the high cost of living in Canada to the customs tariff might note that official statistics show the cost of living in free trade England to have gone up 152 per cent. since 1914.

This is what a despatch of the 23rd from Paris says: With indications that France's crops would greatly exceed previous expectations the War Ministry today issued orders to all army commanders to organize their troops into harvesting units.

The first of the army airplanes to attempt to leave Erie, Pa., on their Mincola-Alaska flight came to grief because of the mud at the airfield. Plans No. 3, commanded by Lieut. C. C. Crumrine, was tuned up preparatory to flight, but after running several hundred yards along the field encountered a soft spot and stopped. Efforts were at once made to extricate it from its position.

Experts from the Marconi Wireless Company, who are at St. Johns, Nfld., conducting experiments in long distance wireless telephonic communication, announced that on the 23rd they heard messages from the Chalmersford Station, near London, more than 2,000 miles distant. They said that they recognized the voice of Captain Round, the expert in charge, and identified several words but failed to pick up any connected sentence.

A despatch of the 23rd, from Regina says: Saskatchewan's "million dollar rain" came today, and the crop throughout the province is now assured. From wide-flung parts of the province reports have been received of heavy rainfall with consequent beneficial results to the crops. In many districts, where the hot sun of the last two weeks was burning up the crops, the situation has been eased by yesterday's downpour and yields running from feed up to thirty bushels are now looked for.

Intelligence from North Sydney furnishes this information: French Consul Lacroix received from the Governor of St. Pierre, word that the half-century old brick hospital was destroyed by fire Wednesday night, and asked that French Hospital Ship St. Johanne be notified to proceed to St. Pierre as soon as possible with medical supplies, as those in stock were all destroyed. The hospital had 100 rooms besides dormitories and was valued at \$200,000. The hospital is usually well filled in summer, but not many patients were there last week. There is no mention of any lives lost.

There is every expectation at Ottawa that the Imperial Privy Council will pass on the Board of Commerce appeal at its present sittings in London. E. L. Newcombe, deputy Minister of Justice, who is now in London in connection with the matter will make application for leave to appeal in the case and if this is granted, as probably will be done, there will be argument on the merits. If interests opposed to the idea of the Board desire to be heard in the argument there will be sufficient delay to enable them to go over. The whole future of the Board of Commerce is bound up in the present appeal upon whether or not it has a right to function. The Supreme Court of Canada was equally divided and the decision of the Privy Council will remove any doubt. Meanwhile, the temporary Board will continue to act.

Mortgage Sale.

There will be sold, by Public Auction, in front of the Court House, Souris, in King's County, on Saturday, the Twenty-eighth day of August, A. D. 1920, at the hour of 12 o'clock noon: ALL that tract, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being at Souris, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows, that is to say: Commencing at the corner of Breakwater and Bloomsbury Streets and running South-West along the South side of Breakwater Street; three hundred feet; thence South-East along the East side of said Breakwater Street two hundred feet to the North boundary of a plot of land owned by Uriah Matthews; thence along said boundary line East four hundred and fifty feet; thence North-West along Bloomsbury Street four hundred and fifty feet to the place of commencement. Bounded on the West and South by Breakwater Street, on the East by land owned by Uriah Matthews, on the North by Bloomsbury Street, on which are the dwelling house and premises of Frederick Morrow and Isabella Morrow.

The above sale is made under, and by virtue of, and pursuant to a power of sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage, dated the Thirteenth day of April, A. D. 1919, and made between Frederick Morrow, of Souris, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, Merchant, and Isabella Morrow, his wife, and George W. Morrow, of Souris aforesaid, and John C. Underhay, of Bay Fortune, in King's County aforesaid, Trustees for the said Isabella Morrow, of the one part, and Ralph Brecken, of Charlottetown, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, Gentleman, of the other part; which said Mortgage was by Indenture of Assignment, bearing date the Twelfth day of July, A. D. 1920, assigned by Francis L. Hazard, of Charlottetown aforesaid, Master of the Rolls, Administrator, with the Will annexed of the said Ralph Brecken, to the undersigned, and because of default having been made in the payment of the principal and interest secured thereby.

For further particulars apply at the office of Arthur F. McQuaid, Solicitor, Souris, AMELIA K. GODFREY, Assignee of Mortgage, July 16, 1920. July 28, 1920—41

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 3rd September, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, on the route, Vernon Bridge Rural Mail Route, No. 2, from the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Vernon Bridge, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector, JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, 24th July, 1920. July 28, 1920—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 10th September, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, on the route, Tignish Rural Mail Route, No. 1, from the 1st January next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Tignish, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector, JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, 27th July, 1920. July 28, 1920—31

D. C. McLeod | W. K. Bentley, K.C. McLEOD & BENTLEY Barristers, Attorneys and Solicitors

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By morning train connection is made at Moncton with No. 13 train carrying through sleeper for Boston, via St. John, and with No. 1 Ocean Limited for Quebec and Montreal.

By afternoon train connection is made at Sackville with No. 3 Maritime Express for Quebec and Montreal. Connections at Quebec with Transcontinental Train for Winnipeg.

For further information apply to

W. K. ROGERS, City Ticket Agent. W. T. HUGGAN, District Pass. Agent. See that all Tickets read via Canadian National Railways. June 23, 1920—31

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