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J. H. BROWN, Man. Ed.

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THE NATION'S BUSINESS

The following reprinted from the December 19th issue of The Financial Post, should prove of vital importance, not only to the farmers of this province, but of Northumberland County as well.

"Stirred up by the recent articles running in The Financial Post showing how impracticable were the efforts and how inefficient were the methods of the Departments of Trade, Agriculture and Labor in meeting the present emergency, the Government is responsible for the following inspired despatch which has been sent out from Ottawa:

"The government is planning an active campaign to stimulate agricultural production of all kinds in 1915. Hon. Martin Burrell is arranging for a series of conferences throughout the Dominion in January and February, at which the farmers of the various districts will be called together and given full information as to conditions in Europe, and the great demand for food supplies by the allies while the war is on. The best means of meeting these demands will be fully discussed by the farmers and those who address them."

The Post's articles on this subject have not been intended as criticisms of the Government, but rather of the system under which Cabinet Ministers are selected. As a rule, the selection does not fall upon the best men available for the vacant posts, men with successful experience in the fields which they are called upon to administer. On the contrary, the appointments are generally awarded in return for party services or with an eye to the political influence the new Minister may wield in his section of Canada. The result is that, under this system, party interests are frequently considered before public advantage. The Financial Post has been urging that in this, the greatest opportunity for extending Canadian trade which has ever occurred, the Ministers referred to above have not risen to the emergency. Though no doubt directed with the best of intentions, their efforts have been quite inefficient.

This will be seen by referring to the despatch above quoted. Mr. Burrell proposes to tell the farmers throughout Canada of the great demand which has arisen for foodstuffs on account of the war. Thanks to their local newspapers, however, every farmer in Canada already knows all about this, and further thanks to the urgent suggestion of a brainy railway man who started a campaign early last autumn, in which he was supported by these papers, there are few farmers who have not already prepared for the greatest crop on record next year.

That part of the campaign is therefore, wasted effort, and consequently inefficient.

Suppose Mr. Burrell's scheme were as he seems to think, the one thing needful, where is he to find his big corps of lecturers? The Provincial Governments are now at their wits' end to find such men. He will be compelled to appoint, in most cases, incompetent party workers—a class of men who seldom show much capability. More than that, what will the cost be? Good men cannot be got under \$30 to \$40 a week, and another \$25, perhaps \$50, will have to be added for expenses, traveling, supervision, etc., say, \$75 a week. Most of them will not be worth their salt and the attendance at their meetings is likely to be small.

The Financial Post makes this suggestion to this well-intentioned Minister: There are in this department, in the agricultural departments of the provinces, in the agricultural colleges, and on the farms, a number of very able, enthusiastic, public spirited men whose practical experience if followed out would enable

the average farmer to double the present average income from his farm.

A committee of the best of these men could concentrate on a series of the most practical and telling suggestions. This is the work being done by the splendidly-edited agricultural newspapers—which, by the way, Hon. Mr. Burrell in his capacity as a party man proposed to suppress. The best of these agricultural papers are not read by the mass of farmers, but only by the more enterprising class. There are, however, few farmers who do not read and swear by their local weekly. The Government should, therefore, arrange to present this series of practical and timely suggestions in the form of well-displayed announcements in these local weekly papers, regardless of whether they are Liberal or Conservative. It is a business, not a party, proposition. In this way all the farmers of Canada would have an opportunity of profiting by the advice of the best agricultural experts, and the cost should be much less than the totally inefficient plan proposed by the Minister of Agriculture.

If this suggestion were intelligently carried out it would give a tremendous impetus to the increase in quality and quantity of farm products to be sold and turned into money. The farmers are the most generous spenders when money is plentiful, and the investors, merchants, manufacturers, financiers, and other business interests for which The Financial Post is the mouthpiece would all also greatly benefit."

The suggestion made by The Financial Post is one that will be sanctioned by every farmer in the Maritime Provinces who are desirous of and appreciate the invaluable assistance being rendered them by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Some few years ago this same policy was advocated by Mr. J. B. MacLean, of The MacLean Publishing Co., Ltd., at the annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association, but at that time it seemed impractical to the majority of the members present.

As is suggested above, owing to the scarcity of lecturers, the Department would be compelled to appoint incompetent party workers, and at an expense much greater than would be in the proposed scheme of The Post, besides only a small portion of the farmers would be reached.

There are few farmers who do not take a local paper, and whereas many of them would have to leave their farms and journey to some nearby town, though the expense might be small, the scheme proposed by The Post would not only be a benefit to all local papers, but the farmers would have on hand for future perusal what they would have, by the government's proposed scheme, to carry home in their heads.

This is a matter of great national importance, and now that the government has taken such a stand for the development of agriculture, we believe that by adopting the Post's proposed scheme they will be spending their money, not only more wisely, but more economically, and in a manner that will bring about in a more practical way the end they have in view.

WHAT RUSSIA HAS DONE

(Standard Dec. 14)

At a loss to the Russian government of very many millions of dollars annually the sale of vodka has been prohibited throughout the Czar's domains and yet the Russian Minister of Finance is not dismayed over the prospect of having to recoup from other sources that loss. He states that "through the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors, in accordance with the will of the Emperor, who is anxious to see his people healthy and sober, the country has been deprived of one of its most important sources of revenue, but he is convinced that, however much this may be felt by the treasury, the creative power of the sober Russian people applied to the enormous natural riches of the country will enable future budgets of the empire to be based on new principles."

Long ago, Mr. Gladstone, who made his first reputation as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was always thereafter regarded as Great Britain's ablest financier when asked if the liquor revenue received by the government was not indispensable, replied: "Give me a sober people, not wasting their earnings in strong drink, and I will know where to find the revenue." When a community is prosperous, other items of taxation swell, and people can easily bear additional taxation. The Russian Min-

LOGGIEVILLE ITEMS

Of Interest to Readers From Our Regular Correspondent

Dec. 28—The joy of the Christmas season in the town here was somewhat restrained by the presence of sickness and death in the community. Mrs. Elizabeth Johnstone, one of the town's oldest and most highly respected ladies was called from the scene of this busy life on the morning of the 23rd inst. The deceased has been residing for some time at the home of her son, John R. Johnstone, station agent here. Her death was due to pneumonia. She was in her usual good health until about ten days ago. The late Mrs. Johnstone was a devout Christian lady, and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. Her cheerful, happy manner won for her many friends who will miss her greatly. Very general regret will be felt far beyond the bounds of this town, as she was well known along the Miramichi. Among the mourning relatives are her two sons John R. and James A. of this town, and her daughter, Mrs. McDonald of Miramichi. She also has one son residing in the West. To the bereaved family the town here extends sympathy. The funeral was held on Christmas day, in the Interment in Riverside cemetery, Chatham. The pallbearers were Messrs. William Archer, William G. Loggie,

Minister of Finance says: "The revenue which in the first two months of the war showed a considerable decrease, has since displayed a permanent upward tendency." No wonder. The Russian peasantry, instead of spending their spare time in stupefaction amid squalor, are now alert, thrifty and surrounded by domestic comfort.

THE MATCHING FINANCIERS

It is said that the London Stock Exchange will re-open for the transaction of business shortly after the beginning of the New Year. This move, which has been anticipated by the British Treasury Board, has finally been decided upon in consequence of the favorable news with regard to the progress of the allied armies on the Continent. The re-opening of the New York Stock Exchange some weeks ago, has resulted in a feeling of greater confidence in American business circles, and a gradually increasing demand for high grade municipal and industrial securities.

That the financial stringency will be still further relieved when the London Stock Exchange once more opens its doors may be confidently anticipated. What is especially reassuring is the conviction that this move on the part of cautious British financiers would not be considered for a moment were it not that substantial progress has been made by the Franco-British alliance.—Sydney Post.

Philip Fallon, John Walls, Robert Loggie and Albert Loggie. The service at the house was conducted by Rev. E. E. Mowatt, assisted by the choir. The hymns sung were: "Forever with the Lord," "The Lord is my Shepherd," and "The Sands of time are sinking."

Rev. E. E. Mowatt took farewell of his people here yesterday. Large congregations assembled to hear his closing sermons. The text of his evening address was Acts Chapter 20th and 22nd verses. Rev. E. E. and Mrs. Mowatt and family left on the noon train today, for their new home in Chipman, N. B., and they are followed by the cordial good wishes, not only of the congregation, but of the community. Before leaving they were remembered with gifts from several of the church societies.

Much sickness still prevails in town here. Among those who have recently taken ill are Mrs. Martha Thompson, Mrs. Fred Kelly and Mrs. M. Thibodeau.

Rev. George and Mrs. Wood of Chatham were in town today. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Loggie on the arrival of a new member in their family.

Miss Ruby Baker who spent the vacation at her home here, returned to Boston today.

Miss Bertha Russell of Fredericton spent a few days of the past week in town.

Wesley Dempsey is visiting relatives in Boston.

RICHIBUCTO AND REXTON PERSONALS

(Continued from page 5)

Teaching at Sussex returned home Saturday to spend her vacation with her mother, Mrs. Frank McInerney. Her sister Miss Annie who has been teaching at Dalhousie, returned home the same day.

Louis Lanigan who is employed as manager of a lumber company at Bridgewater, N. S., is spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keedy Lanigan.

Miss Stella Burns who has taught at Youghal, Gloucester Co., came home Saturday to spend her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Burns, South Branch. Miss Sarah Palmer who has been attending Normal School returned home Friday to spend her vacation. Misses Clara and Minard Palmer, who have been teaching at Shediac Cape and Upper Dorchester, respectively, are spending their vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Palmer.

David Thompson and little granddaughter, Mae Beattie, left Saturday for Campbellton and Bathurst to visit relatives.

George C. Machum, principal of the Superior School here, went to his home in Fredericton, Saturday, for his holidays.

Miss Druella Smallwood of the intermediate department of the Superior School has gone to her home in Harcourt for her vacation.

Robert B. Fraser, B. A., who teaches the Fredericton Junction Grammar

CREAGHAN'S BIG JANUARY SALE
STARTS MONDAY, JANUARY 4th
EVERYTHING IN WINTER GOODS CUT IN PRICE.

On Monday next we open our doors to the biggest of our Annual Winter Sales. We have gone through our entire stock and have slaughtered prices right through them all: Winter Coats, Furs, Suits, Sweaters, Flannellets, Blankets, Comfortables, Underwear, etc., All priced from 10% to 30% below regular prices. There's a long cold winter ahead and we advise you to buy during this big clearance.



We Wish You A Happy New Year

School, came home today to spend his vacation.

Robert Scott who has been attending Dalhousie College, came home Saturday for his holidays.

The smelt fishing season so far has been very successful. The price at present is five cents per pound.

The entertainment given in the public hall last week, under the auspices of the Red Cross Society was very successful and afforded much amusement for the large audience present. The farce entitled "The old maid's convention" was very funny and the musical and literary specialties were well received. The part of Professor Pinkerton which was taken by Robin Jardine of Edinburg,

Scotland, was especially well taken. The ladies did their part splendidly. Piano accompaniments were played by Misses Helen Carson and Amanda Maillet, piano solo by Miss Edith Scott.

William Forster formerly of this town, but who now holds a position as superintendent of a railway in Nebraska, was in town last week on a visit to his aunt, Miss Eliza Forster. Mr. Forster has been absent over twenty years and has been very successful in the home of his adoption.

BORN

At Medicine Hat, Alberta, to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Maltby, on Dec. 23rd, a son.

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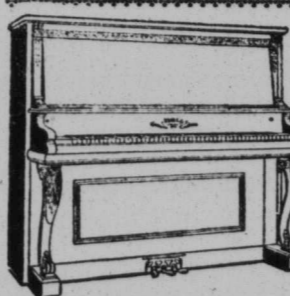
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