

# The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 15, 1924

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## HERE'S A CHALLENGE

That clever political correspondent, Mr. Gratton O'Leary, a son of New Brunswick who has won recognition at Ottawa and among Canadian readers generally, will undoubtedly cause a sensation by a series of articles he is contributing to MacLean's Magazine. MacLean's has had him engaged for some months investigating "the cry of extravagance" and "Ottawa's Ory of Extravagance" is the title of his first article. This first one, with cartoon illustrations, appears in this week's MacLean's and fills three pages.

In his opening remarks Mr. O'Leary declares his articles have no relation to the fortunes of any political party. Of his purpose he says he aims solely to make clear the financial position of Canada to reveal what our taxes are, and why; to show their reaction upon our economic life; to discuss their lighting effect upon capital, development, employment, immigration and living costs.

Having made these remarks Mr. O'Leary proceeds to say that at the basis of Canadian debt and taxation is "the profligate extravagance of federal administration at Ottawa," and that "it is a spirit of waste, a squandering that permeates practically every department of our government." He says it is evidenced in everything the administration buys, or builds, or does, and in the "pork barrel," while "it is found in the Civil Service" to the growth, size, overmanning, housing, working hours, waste and inefficiency constituting "a national disgrace." Getting down to cases he submits these figures concerning the inside Civil Service:

Fiscal year	Number employees	Total salaries
1913-14	8,709	\$ 8,163,981
1914-15	10,267	11,113,599
1915-16	12,742	13,866,091
1916-17	14,739	20,449,511

The armistice was signed during the year 1918-19, but the cost of the inside Civil Service went on increasing in cost to an enormous extent. Mr. O'Leary points out that including the inside and outside services there were in 1923 no less than 29,204 employees with salaries aggregating \$50,855,721. He points out further that while the increase in the population of Canada was 22 per cent the increase in size of the Dominion Civil Service was more than 85 per cent, and its cost nearly 200 per cent.

Mr. O'Leary contrasts Canada with Britain in this respect. The latter has reduced the personnel of Civil Service to within ten per cent of what it was before the war, while in Canada the number of civil servants is nearly twice as great as in 1914, and 2,000 greater than when peace was declared, with the cost nearly \$10,000,000 greater.

Dealing next with the Department of Customs, Mr. O'Leary presents a table covering the period from 1900 to 1921, but it will suffice to take the years 1914 and 1921. In 1914 there were 3,985 employees, and the salaries aggregated \$4,248,000. In 1921 there were 4,015 employees, getting \$6,646,816 in salaries.

Continuing the contrast with other countries, Mr. O'Leary shows that Britain since the war reduced her expenditures from \$2,000,000,000 to but little over \$200,000,000, reduced the debt out of income in three years by \$430,000,000, and cut the floating debt from \$1,000,000,000 to \$200,000,000. The budget was balanced and a sinking fund established. Turning to the United States, Mr. O'Leary notes that the liability of that country was cut last year by nearly \$2,000,000,000, while there will be an enormous surplus this year making possible a great reduction in the income tax. Turning to New Zealand and Australia, figures are quoted to show they have made substantial debt reductions. New Zealand has also reduced her income tax, restored penny postage, removed the income tax from farmers, increased the aid to soldiers, reduced the amusement tax and abolished the duty on tea.

The Irish Free State despite its troubles has kept its ordinary expenditure well within the revenue. Canada, on the other hand, says Mr. O'Leary has been steadily plunging into heavier taxation and debt, while all solvent nations are economizing and all Anglo-Saxon nations have reduced or are reducing taxation. The year 1923 is taken as an example. Britain produced a surplus last year of approximately \$400,000,000 and reduced taxation a shilling the pound. The United States reduced the debt \$2,000,000,000, produced a huge surplus and proposed an enormous reduction in taxes. Australia produced her budget. New Zealand produced a surplus of more than \$6,000,000 and made heavy tax reductions. Canada increased the national debt by \$50,000,000 and practically doubled the sales tax.

Turning to the debt of Canada, Mr. O'Leary shows that it increased from \$1,882,008,268, or \$116.30 per head, in 1917, to \$2,902,247,197, or \$880.20 per head, in 1922. Then there are the debts

of the provinces, which increased between 1919 and 1923, according to the Royal Bank of Canada, from \$194,000,000 to \$371,000,000, while the funded debts of the ten leading cities of Canada increased from \$243,000,000 to \$428,000,000. Adding the municipal to the provincial and federal debts, Mr. O'Leary believes the total debt per head of population in Canada is not far from \$500, and he asks if it is any wonder Canadians are crossing the American border at the rate of 10,000 per month, as per U. S. immigration head-tax figures.

Turning to federal taxation, Mr. O'Leary says that twenty years ago the total taxation by the Dominion Government was \$43,389,112 while today it is about a million dollars a day. Customs taxation is nearly twice what it was twenty years ago, he says, while special taxes are imposed at the rate of three millions a week. The total federal, provincial and municipal taxes he estimates at \$800,000,000 a year, or about the heaviest taxation in the world, being about \$100 per head.

In his next letter Mr. O'Leary will deal with "The Civil Service, a Sink-hole for Millions." Without vouching for the accuracy of all his computations it may fairly be said that the figures he presents, and the comparisons, are certain to arouse public interest and challenge the attention of public men.

Mr. Henry Thornton has again declared that the C. N. R. must be kept divorced from politics, and that if business methods are permitted to prevail the day is not far distant when these railways will no longer be a burden on the taxpayers. If freight rates are to be reduced, however, the price, he says, will have to be paid. Sir Henry appears to regard a "sane and aggressive" immigration policy as better than cutting freight rates. What can the Maritime Provinces do with immigrants if their enterprise is strangled by inability due to high freight rates to reach a market?

Rev. William Lawson is vindicated. The evidence given at the inquest last night bears out what Mr. Lawson said about what he was told about the confession of man boy Godwin. There is been quite too much mystery about this affair. There was no reason to deny or throw discredit on what was published in this paper about the alleged confession of the boy. Nothing was to be gained by secrecy. Everybody has been asking why this boy was detained so long in the police cells, and there was no reason why the question should not have been frankly answered.

The Canadian Parliament will meet on Feb. 26, and the Government will be in a minority of four. It must get a certain amount of Progressive support to enable it to carry on. This it is believed will be decidedly lively, as the Conservatives are much more confident than they were a year ago.

Despite the general good times there were far more bank failures in 1923 in the United States, with greatly increased liabilities, than in 1922, and also many more than in 1921. While the Canadian banking system needs a probe, it is much more stable than that of our neighbors to the south.

The British Parliament assembled today. The general expectation is that a Labor Government will soon be formed and given its opportunity to declare a policy. Upon the favor or disfavor with which the Liberals regard that policy will depend the fate of the new Government.

The visit of Hon. T. A. Crerar and Premier Dunning to Ottawa has not resulted in any announcement regarding their future relation to the Federal Government.

Hon. W. S. Fielding's health is improving. The whole country welcomes this news.

## ASK PREMIER TO FREE McLACHLAN

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—Release of James McLachlan from Dorchester Penitentiary where he is serving a term for sedition was urged by members of the executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, who conferred with Premier King and other members of the cabinet this afternoon in regard to organized labor's annual legislative programme.

One of the outstanding suggestions was the abolition of the sales tax. The Labor delegation also urged abolition of the Senate or curbing of its powers to veto legislation passed by the House of Commons. They favored such changes in the Bank Act as would ensure depositors against loss.

About \$50,000 automobile accidents occur in the United States every year.

## Press Comment

### LAW AND OBSERVANCE

(Detroit News.)

It is our common weakness that we rejoice in abiding by laws only so long as the laws coincide with our ideas, and when they do not, we yell that our liberties are being taken away from us. But it seems as if, ever since the first colonies crossed the sea, someone's liberty has been violated. It would be nice if we could all do as we pleased; but as long as we have communities and civilization, we are going to have our lives regulated by laws, and often those laws are going to be outgrown and are going to be found very difficult to change.

### THE NEW OUTLOOK

(Lord Haldane, in Sunday Times.)

Labor has attained to commanding power and to a new status. There is no need for alarm. The result of the general election may prove a blessing to us if it has awakened us to our neglect of something momentous which has been slowly emerging for years past. The old Conservative party had hardly awakened to the fact that the Liberal were, in point of fact, just a little superior over the problem. Much more than middle class politicians of the abstract faith are wanted. Labor may not know clearly what it is really summing up to recognize, but at least it is using a powerful trumpet, and is calling us from our couches of repose.

### A LESSON IN SHIPPING

(Wall Street Journal.)

American wonderment at the success of foreign shipping may be easily understood when the sharpness of European boat owners is noted. The Joseph Magna, a French steamer, arrived in Boston the other day with 5,000 tons of Welsh anthracite. It was the first of five coals to make the trip. After discharging her cargo, the steamer proceeded to Norfolk, to load a cargo of bituminous coal for a French port.

The steamer collects freight both ways on the 8,000-mile trip, carries the same commodity both ways, and, at present coal prices, saves many consumers at either end. Welsh anthracite underseas Pennsylvania anthracite in New England and West Virginia coal underseas Welsh coal in France.

### GETTING CHINA INTO BAD COMPANY

(Vancouver Sun.)

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, leader of South China, predicts a world war within ten years in which China, Germany, Russia and Japan will be united to fight against "today's imperialistic oppressors."

Dr. Sun may or may not be able to speak for South China, but it is doubtful if the great political sagacity of Japan would permit the Japanese people to get into the kind of bad company afforded by one bankrupt nation and another that holds the world's record for revolutions and counter-revolutions.

If Dr. Sun wants to protect himself against "today's imperialistic oppressors" he had better get away from the business of building up trade with "Oppressors" usually stop oppressing when such oppression begins to mean a loss of profit.

### ITS OWN PUNISHMENT.

(Saskatoon Star.)

"Anybody can drink booze if they want to," says the Kansas City sheriff. "The punishment is in the drink itself." Liquor carries its own punishment. So do arsenic, strychnine, morphine, heroin and other poisons. The observant have for decades recognized the necessity for society to protect the unwary from misuse of these chemicals. It is not as if the punishment were too heavy on the man who drinks the stuff; usually he can be spared any punishment. But the penalty falls upon innocent victims, upon women and children; hampers the progress of the whole community, creates rivers of sorrow, misery and shame. Therefore the community in order to protect its own health and welfare must deal with the drinker and with the heaviest traffic which creates and entombs him.

Young men, and older ones who should know better, today are spending a good deal of time and energy chasing after beer which is about as interesting and profitable as water, and after home brew from which any mere brute would turn away in disgust. The effort it takes to lift a glass to the lips.

### CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AT WASHINGTON

(Vancouver Sun.)

Canadians will receive with a great deal of pleasure the report that the British Government not only favors the appointment of a Canadian ambassador to Washington, but was, in fact, the originator of the idea in the first place.

Aside from the fact that official representation in the United States is essential in the case of a country that has growing commercial relations with the American republic, the incident gives most satisfaction in that it defines most clearly the attitude of Great Britain towards the political expansion of Canada.

According to the inferences of international law no country attains full nationhood until it maintains representatives in foreign countries and the appointment of such representatives is a full sign of that country's independent sovereignty. Great Britain's attitude in this matter confirms Canada's international status.

This British viewpoint, while theoretically weakening the technical bonds between Canada and Britain, will have the actual effect of making them much stronger. Anything that puts the Dominion in the light of subsidiary units of Empire is a menace to the Empire, and anything that tends to define the Empire as a union of free independent states makes the Empire just that much more secure.

### THE PENALTIES OF CRIME.

(Toronto Globe.)

The Board of Directors of the Big Brother Movement and the Toronto Presbytery have expressed their disapproval of the prominence given to the press to the escapades of criminals, as tending to glorify crime and criminals. The measure is to some extent deserved. In the Ryan case an anti-dote may be found in the sentence of life imprisonment with the lash, and in the remarks of the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Austin Ross: "He is a pitiable object. He knows that his career is over. He knows now that there is

## NO BALLOTING IN FREDERICTON NOW

### All Candidates Are Elected by Acclamation—Hay Unopposed

(Fredericton, Jan. 14.—Today was declaration for the annual civic election in Fredericton as well as nomination day for the by-election to fill a vacant vacancy in Wellington ward caused by the resignation of R. L. Phillips as alderman to become mayor.

City Clerk George R. Perkins went through the formality of declaring Mr. Phillips duly elected Mayor and also declared six aldermen elected. They are: Wellington ward—W. L. Jennings, Wendell K. Hay, St. Ann's ward—F. L. Cooper, one son. His first work was running a milk route in this city. Later he was for 28 years with the wholesale grocery firm of A. F. Randolph & Sons, for 21 years of which time he was a commercial traveler. In 1915 he went into the automobile business and he is now head of Phillips & Pringle, Ltd. Principal interest at City Hall hinged upon filling of the sixth vacancy in the council, the aldermanic post for Wellington ward, which had been vacated by Mayor-elect Phillips with one year of his term uncompleted.

Wendell K. Hay, of the firm of W. A. Hay & Son, was the only candidate nominated.

### CHATHAM CHIEF HERE

Chief of Police Peter Coughlan of Chatham, was in the city yesterday having brought a patient who was admitted to the Provincial Hospital. Chief Coughlan returned to Chatham last evening.

### MORE THAN QUEEN.

(Kansas City Star.)

Her dress was worn and faded. Her hair was out of date. And her face was growing wrinkled. Aged from sacrifice and grief.

Just an ordinary woman. Who had known too much of care. Yet the little brood about her. Saw an angel standing there.

How they loved that faded bloom. How they basked in her voice. And the ripple of her laughter. Made each little heart rejoice.

More than queen and more than goddess. For she ruled and loved and taught. While the honor that they gave her. Men have often vainly sought.

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### GIVES PAPER ON JAPAN.

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## LIGHTER VEIN.

Keen, but Nervous Amateur—"I say, old chap, what shall I do if they ask me to sing?"

Candid Friend—"Don't. Why, sing of course—it'll be their own fault."

Dinner Have Queer Ideas. Angry diner—"You call this clam chowder? Why, there aren't enough clams in it to flavor it."

Waiter—"We don't try to flavor it, sir; all we do is put in enough to christen it."

Full of Pluck. Countryman (to dentist):—"I wouldn't say nothing extra for gas. Just put her out, even if it does hurt."

Dentist—"You are plucky, sir. Let me see the tooth."

Countryman—"Oh, 'tain't the tooth; it's the toothache, it's me wife. She'll be here in a minute."

Couldn't Be Done. "Why d'ye ye noo buy your meat from me noo?" asked a Glasgow butcher of an old customer who had taken to dealing with one of his competitors.

"Well," replied the old woman, "I last I got free ye, I could have sold my butts w' it."

"An' why did ye noo dae it?" asked the butcher sarcastically.

"So I w'd if I could have got tacks tae hang through it," she replied.

## Lord Beatty's Gargle.

Good tales of the sea come naturally to Earl Beatty, and one of his best concerns a certain officer of the King's navy who had for many years suffered from chronic sore throat. At last, while on leave in London, he determined to see a specialist about it, and accordingly paid a visit to Harley street.

The doctor he consulted, being a great believer in simple remedies, asked him if he had ever tried salt-water gargling.

"Well," was the reply, "I've been tormented six times."

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## ENDORSES PLAN TO AID BANK MERGER

Quebec, Jan. 14.—Resolutions providing for a government \$15,000,000 bond issue to aid the merged banks, Nationale and Hochelaga, were put through the legislative assembly today.

The opposition wonders what the government, after having established this precedent, will be able to say the shareholders or members of other organizations who become victims of disastrous national enterprises. If the government can justify its measure the opposition will not be against it on account of party feeling. The opposition has sympathy for the Banque Nationale depositors and for the holders of Machine Agricole National bonds.

## HEALING SOOTHING ANTISEPTIC

For Injuries & Skin Troubles

Lam-Buk

Mary Seymour, last of the full-blooded Wasco tribe of Indians, died recently at the age of 113 years.

## Order Your Farm Help Now

IN VIEW of the great demand for farm help existing in Canada, the Canadian Pacific Railway will continue its Farm Help Service during 1924 and will enlarge its scope to include women domestics and boys.

THE COMPANY is in touch with large numbers of good farm laborers in Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Holland, Switzerland and other European countries and through its widespread organization can promptly fill applications for help received from Canadian farmers.

In order to have the help reach Canada in time for the Spring operations farmers needing help should arrange to get their applications in early, the earlier the better, as naturally those applications which are received early will receive first attention.

Blank application forms and full information regarding the service may be obtained from any C.P.R. agent or from any of the officials listed below. THE SERVICE IS ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE.

## THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

Department of Colonization and Development

WINNIPEG—