

London Advertiser

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1924.

"Public" Works.

According to a cartoon in the Toronto Globe, Toronto is waiting for Ottawa to build a bridge in connection with its harbor improvements.

It is largely a local undertaking, and the advantage will accrue to Toronto. It takes a lot of reasoning to show why public money, gathered from Vancouver to Halifax, should be used for such a purpose.

The same rule applies to many things which have for a long time passed under "public works."

A great deal of the expense has been for plans that were largely local in their purpose, and the only way in which they could be classed as public works was because the public provided the money.

Claiming the North.

Secretary Denby of the U. S. navy announces that the big airship Shenandoah is going to make a trip to the north to photograph—and presumably claim—lands that are adjacent to that section of United States.

There would be no particular harm in the trip, but the Washington authorities would be well advised if they were to state quite definitely to their neighbors of the north what they have in view, why they want more land in the north, and what right they have to expect that they can go ahead and lay claim to it.

Canada extends about as far north as it is possible to go, and Canadian jurisdiction has been well established in that country.

The time for explaining is before the trip starts, and there should be the utmost frankness on the part of Washington, and a willingness to state just what she has in mind.

Stolen Property.

A necklace of pearls, formerly the property of the royal household in Russia, has been sold in New York for a sum not far removed from half a million dollars.

The family to which it belonged have all been murdered and their jewels stolen.

It would be interesting to know how the stolen property of a murdered family can be sold in polite society.

\$100,000 for \$100,000,000.

Washington is trying to find the particulars in connection with a loan of \$100,000 to the former secretary of the interior, Albert B. Fall, for the granting of very valuable oil concessions in California.

Mr. Doherty, who secured the lease, made public property of the fact that he considered it possible to make \$100,000,000 out of the deal, involving as it did territory held in reserve by the U. S. government as a naval oil reserve.

The scandal—and it is a scandal—will not make good material for the Coolidge campaign, and the Republicans are passing an uneasy time waiting for the outcome of the action by the senate and the courts.

It is one of those cases that cannot be "explained." Mr. Fall was a public man, dealing with property that had been held in public trust during the terms of Presidents Wilson, Taft and Roosevelt.

The \$100,000 handed to him without security and without interest is looked upon as a bribe made to secure the oil concession.

A scandal of this sort is just what the Democrats were looking for, and apparently it arrived in plenty of time for the presidential election.

Some Changes Needed.

It is a hard matter for a city council to do the thing it should do. Consider the financing of the civic garage and storehouse. London has a lot of equipment used in carrying on public works, and it was scattered; no place to check it up, make repairs and have a system that would operate to prevent loss.

So the 1923 board of works decided to build such a place, the estimated cost being about \$25,000. Now it is discovered that the council had no authority to do the work, and once more the blame comes out that the members may be liable for the cost themselves.

It might be well for those using this threatening phrase to state that there is nothing in it. It is on a parallel with operating for appendicitis on a man suffering from toothache.

The Municipal Act should be made workable on this point. This storehouse needed financing, and there

are two ways to get money: (1) put the amount in the estimates, or (2) issue debentures.

This storehouse was not a local improvement such as a pavement that could be charged on a frontage basis, therefore no debentures could be issued. Neither was it of general interest because it was to house equipment used in the carrying out of local improvement contracts. It was just in between the two, and there was no place for it to go.

Yet, for all that, it is a necessary work, and the board of works of 1923 were right in going ahead. But if some ratepayer with a penchant for technical points chose to take up the case, he could no doubt puzzle the board of works by asking them to quote chapter and verse telling why or how they could do this work.

The point should be made clear, and besides the public is not impressed nor are aldermen alarmed by the cry that they will be liable for the cost of the work themselves.

The Municipal Act needs a little shaking up to make it possible for aldermen to do the things they should do and impossible for them to do the things they should not do.

The Income Tax.

The movement, started in St. Thomas, for doing away with the municipal income tax, and likely to be taken up elsewhere, is bound to enlist a following because there is some reason to object to paying two taxes on the one income.

Two courses are open, (1) to cut down the expense so that taxation will be less; or (2) to cut down the taxes so that expenditure will have to be less.

For some years all our spending bodies have been casting about for new ways to bring in more revenue. Cities have indulged in this by taking as many things as possible out of the general rate and putting them on as special frontage or service charges, and yet allowing the general rate to remain as high as ever.

The provincial governments have reached out for amusement taxes, for taxes on real estate transfers, and all manner of things. The federal government has touched incomes, business in nearly every way.

Once a source of taxation has been exploited and has proved its ability to yield a revenue, it is a hard matter to pry that source away from the collector of taxation. The cry for more revenue to provide for more expenditure goes on, and the known source has got to keep on providing.

The quest for more revenue and new revenue has run its race. The way to reduce municipal income tax is to take away the need for it. Were it reduced on any other basis it would simply mean shifting the tax to some other landing spot.

Children, Beware!

A special menu for children will be used on the dining cars of the National Railways. It will be an up-to-date contrivance with a chart at the side showing what children should eat in order to grow like the National earnings.

But the average youngster never gets inside a dining car. There is still enough thrift in the land to pack salmon sandwiches, bananas and the odd piece of cake in a shoe box, the eating starting about the time the train starts to move.

And it will take a lot of finely designed menu cards to batter down this last remnant of national thrift that makes a railway ticket possible.

Cannot Be Justified.

Toronto Globe pictures Premier Ferguson as having to scrub up the legislature after it being used by Hon. E. C. Drury.

The Toronto paper should go ahead and specify what it means by all the dirty footprints Mr. Ferguson is trying to scrub off.

The inference that Mr. Drury left a record that Hon. Howard Ferguson is called upon to clean up is an insult to Mr. Drury that has no substance in fact.

Note and Comment.

By offering a peace prize Mr. Bok appears to have set himself up as a target for everything outside of a sixteen-inch shell.

Regina Leader says the Manufacturers' Association was wrong in saying "Our taxes are staggering." The western paper contends it is the taxpayers who are doing the staggering.

The young lady going to Technical School today learns to cook and sew; the young man's hand is trained so that he can build a house. Now, then, if Cupid can find time to walk around the building all should be well.

Two young Toronto men are in court over a shooting charge. They were keeping company with the same girl and had a fight to see which was the better man. The young lady, not the court, should be able to settle this question.

Rarebits By Rex

HYMNS OF HATE.

I Hate Bachelors.
They're usually such nasty guys;
They smooth their hair and roll their eyes;
They go on sprees and criticize
The marriage pact.
And when I flirt with maidens fair
They order me to "take the air."
And just because I'm wed they dare
To crab my act.

I Hate Husbands.
The henpecks who avoid all strife;
The peepers of married life;
Who always call their wives "the wife."
Or "meet the Missus."
They do housework without a sigh
And by their high example, try
To make my wife believe that I
Should wash the dishes.

I Hate Sheiks.
They wear such gorgeous, natty clothes
That make mine look like—goodness knows!
They manicure their hands and toes
And swank about.
The girls all claim they never fall
For any of these sheiks at all.
Yet at each dance and every ball
They cut me out.

The cold weather has left us at last
—with a runny nose and ten chilblains.

It's all right to be born with a silver spoon in your mouth. But you usually marry a maiden who makes you fork over.

The United States won't recognize Russia. Yet people who visit the big cities across the border often find it pretty hard to recognize the United States.

William Jennings Bryan denies he is decent from a monkey. This is good news for the monkey.

"Why don't you write some sentimental sob stuff?" asks a subscriber. Well, here goes:

Love built a little bungalow
To please his Lady Fair,
And planted a young columbine
And planted violets there.
And then a little balcony
He built beneath the oak
Where she could hear the oriole
The moment she awoke.

Complete it stood, within, without—
No detail he forgot.
In June a hundred roses bloomed
About the tiny lot.
Aglow with pride he gave her all,
And said, "It's yours, my star."
She sighed and whimpered,
Where is the motor car?"

Whiskey probably improves with age, but age doesn't improve with whiskey.
We have come to the conclusion our pet must be a police dog. He is always hanging around the cook.

To the Editor

He Cannot Agree.

London Man Believes That an Injustice Was Done to the Secretary of the Miners.

Editor of The Advertiser:
Sir,—A more daring disregard of the liberty of the people of Canada could not be imagined than the trial and conviction of James B. MacLachlan, former secretary of District No. 26, U. M. W. of A.

MacLachlan was tried, convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Dorchester Penitentiary, on the trial taking place at Halifax, N. S., contrary to the meaning of the British North America act, which lays down that the trial must take place at the scene of the offence. MacLachlan should have been tried at Glace Bay, N. S., hundreds of miles from Halifax, and had he been tried there, he would have been found "not guilty."

Are the people of Canada going to allow their liberty to be thus trampled upon without any protest? I do not wish to enter fully into details of the case, except to show that a great injustice was done to this man, and that an injury to one is an injury to the whole.

Yours truly,
LOVER OF JUSTICE.
Dundas street, London.

He Had To Drop Out.

Old Member of Fraternal Society States His Experience in the Matter of Rates.

Editor of The Advertiser:
Sir,—Having noticed several letters in your valuable paper regarding the increase of insurance rates in fraternal societies, I would like to state some facts in connection with my case.

About 34 years ago I became a member of the Canadian Order of Chosen Friends, and have since paid all demands on me for insurance rates and lodge dues. About ten years ago our insurance rates were raised, and we were given to understand that these rates would place the order on a solvent basis, and that no further increases would be required.

I am on the verge of 70 years of age, and as insured for \$2,000. This will now cost me \$140 a year, which I am unable to pay, therefore, I am forced to drop out, and my family, whom I was trying to protect, will lose this money.

According to the laws of this order, when a member arrived at the age of 70 he could draw a percentage annuity of his insurance. This has now been wiped out.

Why this order is charging over twice as much as other friendly societies I cannot understand, and there is no guarantee that their rates may not be further increased.

Surely this should be a warning to the young men not to make such a venture as we old members have as they have no guarantee that they would not be treated in the same manner.
IRA COLLINS.

The Guide Post—By Henry van Dyke

THE UNEXPECTED TRIAL.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed.—Luke x., 33.
The Samaritan who rode down from Jerusalem to Jericho had nothing to do in the morning but follow that highway and take care that his beast did not stumble or hurt itself, or get tired out so that it could not finish the journey.

He was just a "solitary horseman," and all that he needed to do was to have a good seat in the saddle and a light hand on the bit.
But at noon, when he came to the place where that unknown victim of the "hold-up" gang lay senseless and bleeding beside the road—then, in a moment, the Samaritan's duty changed, and God called him to be a rescuer, a nurse, a helper of the wounded.

Read the lives of the heroes of faith, and you will find that they are all like this.
They set out to perform, not one task only, but anything that God may command.

They accept Christ's commission, and set sail upon an unknown ocean with sealed orders.
That takes courage.
It is a risk.

But for the spiritual as truly as for the temporal life the rule is, "Nothing venture, nothing win."

And is it not infinitely nobler and more inspiring to enter upon a career which runs so close to God that he can speak into it and fill it with new duties at any moment than to make a contract to do a certain thing for a certain price, as if God were a manufacturer and we were his mill hands?

It seems to me that this is the very proof and bond of friendship with God, this calling of faith to an unlimited and undefined obedience.
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CAN EUROPE HOLD TOGETHER?

Chapter XX: Is Russia Coming Back?

This series of articles is a simple but accurate explanation of world conditions, from the point of view of a distinguished specialist. These articles are the result of his most recent tour of Europe, made especially for securing the data—a trip on which he visited sixteen countries, talked with the premiers of half of them and the finance ministers of twelve, and in field observations secured a mass of facts. Mr. Sinclair says finance and economics can be told so simply a child can grasp them. His articles prove his claim.

By JOHN F. SINCLAIR.

I saw Alexander Kerensky in July. He is the editor of a Russian daily paper in Berlin, where 400,000 Russians now live. Still a young man, in his early forties, possessing all the fire and enthusiasm of youth, he has become one of the most interesting personalities in Europe.

"I do not know how long the present government of Russia will last," declared this former premier of Russia, "but I do know that Russia will live. She has not yet started to write her name on history's page. Russia will come back."

Before the war, Russian exports exceeded imports. In 1913 her exports totalled 782 millions of dollars and her imports totalled 707 millions of dollars. You see she had no problem involved in paying her way. More than half of all her exports in that year were foodstuffs. From 1914 to 1917 she imported more than she exported. Since that time both her imports and exports have dwindled almost to nothing. Russia since 1917 has not been a factor in international trade. As a result, prices of grains have greatly increased on the world market, and the American and Canadian farmers have thereby received higher prices for their products. The return of the Russian grain to the European market from this year on, as now, seems very probable, can only spell lower prices to the farmers of America and Canada.

She has many problems to solve. One of the most serious of them is that of transportation. Before the war, the old imperial government gave 500 million dollars a year from the national treasury to assist the railroads and to keep the railroad rates down to a low figure. Now after the wreck of war and revolution, the department of transport in 1922 asked the department of finance for 33 million dollars and received 15 million. Still the railroads attained 33 per cent of their pre-war transport in 1922. The program for the next three years calls for 508 new locomotives and the repairing of 1,800 old ones. Both freight and passenger service are greatly improved over what they were two years ago, but conditions are very serious.

Trusts Run State Industries.

The state-owned industries of Russia are now operated and managed by so-called "trusts," of which there are 459, covering 4,425 shops employing 818,000 workers. These trusts are directly responsible to the supreme council of national economy. The entire profit of each trust is turned over to the state treasury, but the state, as such, is not responsible for the debts and obligations of the trust. The trust is responsible for its obligations only to the limit of its capital. Each trust is managed by a board of directors, appointed by the supreme council of national economy, which interferes very little with detail operation. For the year 1922 most of the trusts in the lighter industries show a profit, while those in the heavy ones, like iron and steel, show a loss.

Seventy millions of dollars' worth of products were taken from industry by the government in the first half of 1922, for which no compensation was given. Not until October, 1922, did all government departments pay for all the goods that they ordered. This meant a very severe strain on certain of the trusts. The lighter industries began to improve first. The trusts handling cotton, woolen, sugar, furs, rubber, brass, paper, tobacco, matches, chemicals and leather, are today showing a profit on the national books. No great credit problem is involved in the handling of these. Russian matches are being exported and are under-selling those produced

in a pound in 1923. Cotton production is now about two-thirds of pre-war production. Still Russia must import 35,000 tons of cotton for 1923, and also 5,000 tons of wool. The lighter industries are coming back. It is the heavy ones that cause the real problem.

Of the 274 men now on the highest boards of the department of government industries, 204 have had university education. Before the revolution 75 of this number were technical engineers, while another 51 of them were managers in private industries.

Steel Production.

In the coal industry production has increased during the past year from 25 to 35 per cent of the pre-war production. The iron and steel industry is in the worst shape, with less than 10 per cent of pre-war production. The belief in Russia is that these industries will be the last to revive, for the credit problem with them has not been satisfactorily solved.

This brings us to the government budget.

In 1913 it took 150 millions of dollars to run the government of Russia, and there was no deficit. In 1923 the expenses are expected to be 575 millions of dollars, and the income 480 millions. The difference, 95 millions, is made up by the government issuing new, unsecured paper rubles. In 1920 Russia raised less than 100 per cent of her expenses. In 1921 this was increased to 45 per cent. In 1922 she raised 60 per cent of her expenses, and in 1923 she expects to raise 85 per cent. Beginning with 1925, the commissioner of finance expects to make his receipts balance with his expenditures. Until then Russia will continue to issue new paper money (rubles) just as she has since the revolution, and the paper ruble will continue to go down in value. In 1913 an American dollar would purchase two rubles. Now it will purchase 180 millions of them.

At first the Soviet government deliberately debased the currency, so as to eliminate money as the medium of exchange. It now sees the fallacy and the utter futility of such a policy. Here again Russia has completely changed fronts. The government of Russia is giving to no problem more study than that of money and

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credit. Recently it secured the services of Professor Gustav Cassel of Sweden to act as financial adviser. Professor Cassel is recognized as one of the greatest authorities in the world on the whole subject of money and credit. As a result, the State Bank of Russia has been reorganized, with a paid-up capital and surplus of 30 million dollars. It has now 220 branches scattered throughout Russia.

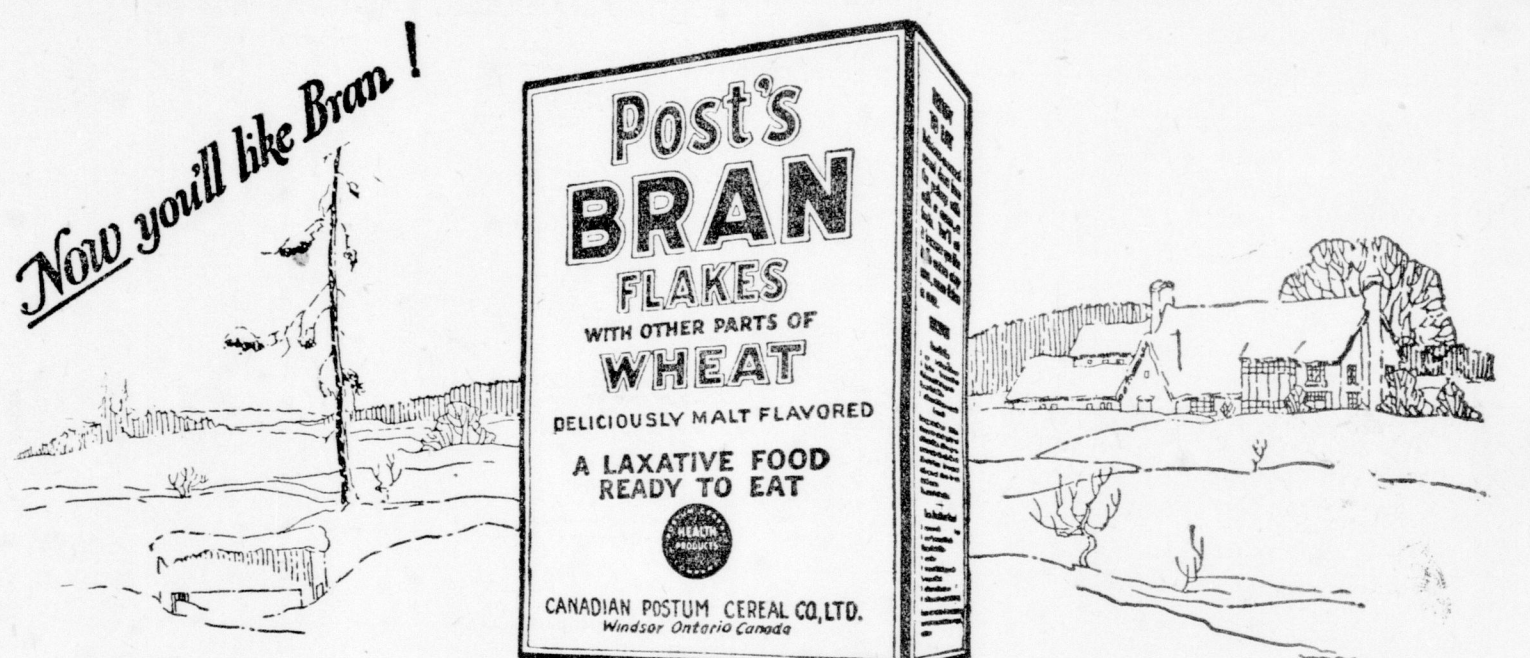
Believe Now in Gold Standard.
"Yes, we believe in the gold standard. The State Bank of Russia in issuing its new money is proceeding on that basis," declared Mr. Scheiman, president of the State Bank. "The law under which we are organized requires us to carry 20 per cent gold reserve against our total bank notes issued and outstanding. We have today 40 per cent, or twice our legal requirements. The new Russian money, the czernovetz, is equal to 10 gold rubles (\$5.15), and is the best secured currency in Europe today."

On Aug. 16, 1923, the State Bank of Russia had issued and outstanding \$81,000,000 in new czernovetz money notes. This amount is secured by \$26,000,000 in gold reserve. This is a gold reserve equal to 44 per cent of the notes outstanding. The new czernovetz is now quoted on the London market at a higher figure than the English pound sterling.

"Mr. Scheiman, will you give me gold if I present a czernovetz to your bank for payment?" I asked. "No, we will not part with our gold. But I will give you dollars or English pound sterling for your czernovetz. That should be satisfactory." Of course, Russia's paper money outstanding in 1913 was worth \$25 millions of dollars, and she had nearly 600 millions of dollars in gold to back it up. Today she is far down the economic and financial scale. But the problem is less to determine how far down she is, than to see if, economically and financially speaking, she is moving in the right direction. Her record since March, 1921, shows that she is. She is recovering her financial position.

Russia, the rich child of nature, has been forced to play a lone hand during the past six years. Gradually she has come to realize that her salvation would not come from without, but from within Russia. That she is on the road to economic and financial recovery within her country, there can be no doubt. She has resolutely set to work to bring her government expenses within her receipts, she has re-established the gold standard in order to rebuild her shattered machine of international credit. Her success along these two lines during the past two years has been very striking. Russia is coming back.

I left Russia with one thought uppermost in my mind: Russia is now far more able to live without Europe than Europe is to live without Russia.



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