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London, Ont., Friday, April 29.

ARE THE PAYMENTS OF SALARIES TO SIR ADAM BECK EITHER JUSTIFIED OR LEGAL?

Part of Sir Adam Beck's letter in reply to the attorney-general is very interesting. Read the following:

Who Can Challenge?  
"Under these circumstances, I am curious to know who can have any status in challenging the validity of these various payments, unless, indeed, it is the attorney-general himself."

This is not only interesting but rich. What becomes of responsible government?

Then take the following:

Situation in 1917.  
"This was the situation, when, in 1917, the hydro-electric power commission acquired the capital stock of the Ontario Power Company by purchase of the shares of that time a new board of directors of the company was elected, and I, as chairman of the hydro-electric power commission, was elected president. Since then the business of the Ontario Power Company has been carried on as a separate undertaking of that company."

"It is now being so carried on. All contracts and engagements with customers, including the hydro-electric power commission, are being carried out as company transactions, in the same manner as they were carried out prior to the purchase of the shares. This involves the performance of all duties and all the work of those who prior to that time had been the officials and officers of the company."

This is richer still. The hydro-electric acquired control of the Ontario Power Company and the head of the hydro-electric was elected president. The Ontario Power Company is continued as a separate company and all contracts and engagements with customers, including the hydro-electric power commission, are being carried out in the same manner as they were carried out prior to the purchase of the shares. Who has a right to challenge or complain? Carry this operation a step or two further. This adds \$6,000 to the salary. Let us start another company, or buy control of another company, and keep up the old organization, but the head of the hydro is to be the president. His salary is to be \$6,000, and so on ad infinitum, multiply the companies and multiply the president's salary. "Darn the expense, chuck on another herring!" Who has a right to question it or complain? The country was too young in the days of the Family Compact. They were the days of small things anyway, but this is a good idea. Every time you want another \$6,000 organize or buy another company and express surprise if anyone has the hardihood to claim any right to question or criticize such an act. What a tussle the head of hydro would have making a contract with the president of one of these companies. It is tough. It is the hand of Esau and the voice of Esau, too.

THE REASON FOR MOUNTING COSTS.

Some decidedly interesting facts in reference to increased railway costs and deficits are revealed in an investigation made by the Wall Street Journal. If conditions in Canada are similar to those across the line, it is no wonder that there is a deficit running into millions. The Journal points out that when a locomotive goes to the shop for repairs, men of three, four, even of five crafts have to be used to do what the men of two crafts and even of one craft did four years ago.

When a locomotive headlight generator has to be removed, six men have to be employed to do what after all is a simple job—an electrician with his helper, a sheet metal worker and his helper, and a machinist with his helper. Four years

ago two men, a machinist and his assistant, did the whole job.

When a railway engine boiler springs a leak, three craftsmen, each with a helper—under the rules that now regulate railway labor—have to be employed to make the necessary repairs.

Four years ago an ordinary handy shopman could change a nozzle tip in the front end of a locomotive; he could do it today if the rules would permit it. But the rules require that six men shall be employed to do that small task—a boilermaker and his assistant, a pipeman and his assistant, and a machinist and his assistant.

These are all railroad shop craft jobs. All the workmen are highly paid. All belong to the skilled labor classifications. For each illustration given a hundred more might be cited, all calculated to show just what the railroads of the United States are up against.

ARE WE APPRECIATIVE?

To many people the next three weeks are the most delightful of the whole year. With millions of buds bursting open, flowers on every hand, and the wonderful verdancy that Spring alone produces in evidence everywhere, the picture is a delightful one. A drive through the country or through the tree-lined parks and streets of the city makes one rather grateful that Western Ontario is enjoying its usual peace and prosperity. In striking contrast are the stories of unrest and want in many of the larger centres of population. In even greater contrast stands out the news carried by many of the cables. Pitiful famine in China, upheaval in Russia, one of the greatest strikes in history in England, unrest and real want in many parts of Europe. These are only a few vivid touches in the picture, high lights that stand out in a glance at world conditions. And the return of normalcy in these countries seems a long way off. In the meantime the people of London and vicinity are free to carry on with their various occupations, undisturbed by either famine spectres, the shadows of revolution, or threats even of any serious industrial disturbances. One can easily imagine if people from some of the lands mentioned could suddenly find themselves located in this district living in comfort and security, how grateful and how relieved they would feel.

PERMANENTLY DEPRECIATED.

Europe's currencies are unlikely ever again to regain their pre-war international values, according to Dr. Henry A. E. Chandler, economist of the National Bank of Commerce in New York. The reason for this, he says, is the radical reduction of the purchasing power of this money. Even the re-establishment of normal trade balances could not alone bring the exchanges back to par, he points out.

"With two or three exceptions there is nothing in the European situation to justify the hope that the present currencies of the former belligerents will return to the pre-war mint parities," Dr. Chandler says. "The actual parity to which present exchange rates tend to conform is, in the case of most of the currencies of the former belligerents, so far below the old mint parity that for purposes of analyzing our present problems the latter may be considered obsolete."

"Gold has practically disappeared from the channels of trade of nearly all important European countries, and in its place we find a group of heterogeneous paper currencies, which have been issued frequently in such volume that many of them lack any semblance of stability of value."

"The exchange problem is, of course, extremely complex, and even those most familiar with it hesitate to offer explanations of some of its most puzzling details. However, some widely-spread misunderstandings arise not so much from the complexity of the problem as from failure to recognize certain clearly-established major elements in the situation. The first step is to point out two principal sources of misunderstanding, viz., our habit of thinking in terms of the pre-war mint parities, and our habit of trying to explain all exchange problems in terms of the international trade balance."

"In measuring the extent of the depreciation by the difference between the pre-war mint parity and the exchange rate many people have been led into serious errors. In the case of most of the currencies the range of possible fluctuations is actually much narrower than such a method of measurement would suggest. The exaggeration of the possibility of these fluctuations has, in some cases, led to a needless degree of uncertainty, and therefore to placing impediments in the way of normal international trade. Again, in misunderstanding the nature of the post-war parity many people have been led to purchase foreign currencies for speculation hoping that the exchanges would return to the pre-war levels."

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO SATURDAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—Since confederation the total subsidy allowances granted by the Dominion Government to Ontario have been \$76,601,945 (\$219).

2—The Prince of Wales (King Edward VII) laid the cornerstone of the Parliament buildings at Ottawa in 1870.

3—Dr. A. L. McCrimmon is principal of McMaster University, Toronto.

4—The area of Yukon is 207,076 square miles.

5—The largest herd of elk in the world is in Manitoba. It comprises between 4,000 and 5,000 head, and is one of the last known herds on the continent.

6—The marine department has charge of the meteorological service of Canada.

7—The coureurs des bois, or "runners of the woods," were Frenchmen who, in the early days, broke away from the restraints of civilization and went to live with the Indians, to share their freedom, explore the wilderness, and carry on the fur trade.

8—Etienne Brule was the pioneer explorer of the Province of Ontario, including Georgian Bay, the country of the Hurons and the Neutrals, and Lake Ontario. He was the first explorer of the northern state of New York and the St. Lawrence River. Although a Frenchman, in 1629 he piloted the English to Quebec, where he served them during their occupation. Later he returned to the country of the Hurons where he was clubbed to death and eaten by the savages.

9—Conscription, introduced during the great war, came to an end in England, March 31, 1920.

10—Cape Breton was called formerly Ile Royale.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS.

1—What is the total subsidy allowances granted by the Dominion Government to Manitoba since confederation?

2—Who is principal of Knox College, Toronto?

3—Name the first three Canadian high commissioners in London.

4—Who is Charles Sangster?

5—When was Canada's first trans-continental railway completed?

6—What administrative department has charge of the maintenance of winter communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland?

7—Who were the seigneurs of New France?

8—Why were Cartier's voyages opposed by the merchants of St. Malo?

9—What is the meaning of the title "K. T.?"

10—Who first attempted to make a map of Canada's lake region?

LETTERS

DENIES THE CHARGE.  
To the Editor of The Advertiser:  
Will you be good enough to publish the following over my own signature regarding the inaccurate statements of certain press reports and headlines?

I have not placed on record, and I positively refuse to place on record, any apology for expressions not made by myself in relation to the council meeting of March 7. I have never at any time said what the Toronto Globe charged me with, saying viz: "That members of the legislature could or might be bribed."

HENRY B. ASHPLANT.

OTHERS' VIEWS

HOW TO LET THE FURNACE OUT.  
[New York Herald.]

The first thing to do, in the important process of laying up the home heating plant for the summer, is to let the fire go out. If you can make the furnace think that it is midwinter and that you are going to be absent all the evening the fire will die in a few hours. If, on the contrary, it is evident to the heater that you want the coal quickly to turn grey and cold it may be several days before the trick is done. In a warm spring a furnace fire has more vitality than a rich grandchild.

STILL EXPERIMENTING.  
[Dearborn Independent.]

Government never will be efficient through and through because that is not what Government exists for. But in its tasks, in the various things it undertakes to do as specific services for the people, it should be a model of efficiency. After all is said and done, Government is a business organization, and some of the things it does are the culmination of national purpose and aspiration. It is as foolish to require efficiency of a Government as of a poem. That is the sphere of government—efficiency. But if it is a matter of digging a canal, of surveying a road, of delivering a letter—if it is anything like the things men undertake in individual or lesser corporate capacity, then we have a right to expect of the Government a perfect performance.

These services, however, are but a part of the work of Government. They lie on the factory side of Government, so to speak, and should be organized under efficient superintendents who are held responsible for results. But there is a great region of policy and progress where efficiency, by the very nature of the case, cannot be maintained, and where wisdom is indispensable. Efficiency consists in doing in the best possible way anything which we already know how to do. But in the field of government there are some things which we have yet to learn how to do. We are still in the experimental stage.

WHAT DOES LABOR WANT?

[Farmers' Magazine.]

No Government in Canada has given the rights of labor more consideration than has the Drury Government in Ontario. Two members of the cabinet represent Labor. Several statutes particularly favorable to labor interests have been made law. Labor men are consulted on all important matters. Yet we find rampant criticism of the Farmers' Government at some of these Niagara peninsula labor meetings. What does labor want? Will labor be satisfied without complete dominance of the situation? These questions are being asked by sane men everywhere, and labor men of influence would get further if they put their ears to the ground. There is such a thing as traveling too fast.

## COCAINE SWEEPS PARIS; SMUGGLED FROM GERMANY

Drug Habit Grows in Horrifying Swiftness in Night Life of Gay Capital.

PEDDLERS GETTING RICH

Women Predominate Among Addicts—Old Foe Suspected of Secret Purpose.

PARIS, April 28.—Bartenders, newsboys, waiters, chauffeurs, and in fact nearly every one who caters to the Montmartre public, as well as to the people of other Paris quarters, are getting rich from the sale of cocaine, according to social investigators, who are unanimous in declaring that more cocaine is sold in Paris in a single night than elsewhere in Europe in a whole month, while the prices at which the drug is offered defy all competition and are certain to attract cocaine addicts from all parts of France.

So far the Paris police have been unable to prevent this illicit traffic in cocaine, but they have captured one stock of the drug worth a quarter of a million francs, and which had been hidden under the bed of a woman, who is being held for trial. With this evidence, the police, it is understood, are tracing the ramifications of a highly organized band which directs the cocaine traffic here from drugs purchased in Germany, and which are smuggled across the frontier and finally distributed to agents in the Paris underworld where the packets are sold at five francs for each half gramme of cocaine.

The fact is that the French laws are not severe enough against the illicit sale of drugs, persons who sell them in this way being punished by only a few days in prison, which is easily compensated for by the enormous profits these drug vendors make. One chauffeur, when questioned, admitted that his "patron" handed to him a hundred packets nightly, all of which were sold before midnight, with a profit to the vendor of 50 francs.

In the vicinity of the Place Blanche so accustomed have many chauffeurs, waiters and bartenders become to the demand for cocaine that they merely smile and deliver over a packet of it when one whispers "Have you any?" and if the night's supply has not yet arrived any one of them will point out another trafficker in the neighborhood, who will share his profits with this man. Meantime other agents are scattered throughout Paris seeking new clients who may be too timid to invade the Montmartre drug centres. Recognizing drug users by their dilated pupils trembling lips and uncertain steps, these agents boldly address them in the streets with the information, "I have got it."

According to police inspectors in more changes hands within five minutes after the addict has been approached by a vendor, either passing under cover of a newspaper or slipped under an apron saucer in a nearby cafe.

"But the stranger thing is that most of the drug users here are women," a report on the drug evil says. "Only a few men addicted to the drug habit have been observed. Just as in the days when abstinence was France's greatest menace, the women have taken up to greater excess than the men the habit of either snuffing cocaine or, if they are further advanced in ways of administering it, resorting to a corner in a subway station and injecting it with a small hypodermic needle."

The report ends with the assertion that drugs of all kinds are being supplied by Germany in the hope of causing a collapse of the French morale and of weakening the next French generation to such an extent that France will not be able to combat Germany's still dominant militarism.

LOWTHER AND COURTENAY MANY YEARS IN ENGLISH SERVICE.

LONDON, April 28.—Two of its most famous figures will soon be lost to the House of Commons. One of them is the speaker, the Right Hon. James W. Lowther, who is about to retire and was talked of for some time as a possible ambassador to the United States. The other is Sir Courtenay Libt, who for nearly 20 years has been clerk of the House, and who has just tendered his resignation on the ground of "age and infirmity."

In the letter in which he expressed his desire to retire, Sir Courtenay Libt pointed out that his intimate association with legislative work in this country and in India has extended over 50 years, and said he believed that he had longer experience than any man living of the technical side of legislation, and in the number of his years he can claim to be the oldest official of the House.

It is stated that a peerage will also be conferred upon the famous clerk of the House. It is fitting enough his retirement should coincide so closely with that of the speaker, whose chief adviser he has been. Sir Courtenay was appointed to the clerkship in 1902, three years before the Right Honorable James Lowther—who is almost as famous as a swordsman as he is as a parliamentarian—was appointed to the chair.

When first Sir Courtenay became known to the general world outside of the closed doors of the civil service, it was as the centre of a tremendous storm, which swept the Anglo-Indian community. It appears now like a storm in the case, however, for the modest proposal of the Libt bill, as it was called, was to give certain Indian magistrates the right to try British litigants; but all Anglo-India rocked as if it were the end of creation.

Having begun his career as a barrister-at-law, Sir Courtenay Libt became legal member of the council of the governor-general of India in 1882. This is an office which only a man of great distinction, of profound learning and of great tact could fill with success.

One of the last appointments made by Mr. Gladstone before his defeat and resignation in 1885 was that of Sir Courtenay to the post of assistant parliamentary counsel to the treasury. Three years later he became parliamentary counsel, and then, in 1902, Mr. Balfour named him as clerk of the House of Commons.

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