

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 29, 1923

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TAXATION PROBLEMS

In two Canadian cities, Toronto and Victoria, the question of the method of raising taxes is now under serious discussion. A despatch says that Toronto will vote on January 1st on a single tax by-law, which provides for graduated reduction over a period of ten years, and the final elimination of the tax burden on buildings and improvements, business and income and its transfer in proportional degree of land values. The City Council of Toronto appointed a special committee to report on the single tax issue, and its conclusions are adverse. We quote: "The committee finds that the proposition is economically unsound, and would have a disastrous effect upon the raising of revenue for city purposes. It would be discriminating in its application, and many millions of wealth, now paying a fair share of taxes, would escape taxation. Furthermore, the proposition is unjust, inequitable and unworkable."

In Victoria the discussion has been provoked by a proposal to remove or reduce the tax on improvements. This has called forth a telegram from one of the leading bond houses of the Dominion, concerning which the Victoria Colonist says:—"The telegram states, it is understood, that it has been suggested that the city of Victoria revert gradually to the plan of tax on land alone, and that the city's own experience and that of other municipalities which formerly adopted single tax as a basis during the past ten years does not appear to justify such a move. On the contrary, the bond firm believes the past points to the advisability of increasing rather than decreasing the improvement levy, particularly in view of the city's difficulties in balancing its budget. The firm says it feels very strongly that any action to reduce the improvement tax would be a backward move and would have a very bad effect on the market for the city's securities, and it trusts that the move is not seriously proposed."

Mayor Hayward of Victoria has replied that he is convinced "the city will not make the error of reverting to the single tax or reducing the present tax levy on improvements." The matter will come before the 1924 Council, and as the city has some bond issues to float next year the improvement tax would be a backward move and would have a very bad effect on the market for the city's securities, and it trusts that the move is not seriously proposed."

SIR CHARLES STRIKES BACK

Sir Charles H. Tupper has given to the press a vigorous reply to the charges made against him by members of the Government of British Columbia, declaring that they are simply reviving talk which was silenced in 1909. He goes into each charge and repeats his former explanation, and quotes rather effectively some eulogies of himself some years ago by men who are now denouncing him. Sir Charles reminds the Government that the Provincial Party wants an investigation of charges which it has made, and that any references to himself cannot obscure the issue raised. He says:—"A large proportion of the taxpayers properly desire to ascertain through a Royal Commission whether their trustees have been faithful to their trust or not. Their vindication would cause general rejoicing throughout the Province. Counter charges against individuals who are not in the position of public trustees seems to be senseless. The 'tu quo que' argument can have no force. Its only effect is to cloud the real issues. How senseless it would be in bankruptcy proceedings, for instance, where directors are charged with misfeasance, for them to ask the court to enquire into the character of the creditors who have been defrauded."

Both Sir Charles and Gen. McRae challenge the Government to make a thorough investigation of the Provincial Party's charges, and declare their readiness to meet any charges made against themselves.

Members of the Provincial Party are writing from several places in the province, defending McRae and Tupper. One of them says:—"What a golden opportunity John Oliver and his ministers are missing. Let us presume that they are wrongfully accused by General McRae and the Provincial party. Let them behave like the innocent man, with dignity. Appoint a Royal Commission, with commissioners free from political bias and of high integrity, lay all possible information before them, and when they find they must if they are innocent, that there has been no wrong doing, then Mr. John Oliver and his ministers will be more firmly seated in their ministerial chairs than ever before, and with such finding exit General McRae and the Provincial Party. If they are innocent they are missing the chance of their political lives and

acting the part of fools, and as such are not fit to govern the Province. If they are not innocent they are assuredly not fit to retain office."

The Government has agreed to appoint a Royal Commission, but the Legislature has given it power to enquire into the motives of those who charge that a member of the Government and the present leader of the opposition received \$50,000 from a corporation for campaign purposes. This obviously was not intended to facilitate the enquiry into the charges. The Provincial Party, as such, has no friends on either side of the House, since it has assailed both.

WANT STEEL INDUSTRY

The Legislature of British Columbia has voted \$2,000,000 to be used as a bounty on pig iron produced in that province. The Federal Parliament will be asked to grant a like sum.

Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, said that all natural conditions in reference to raw material, coal, power and other requirements, were favorable for the establishment of an iron and steel industry in the province. He expressed confidence that within the near future such an industry would be operating in British Columbia. He said that one of the big coal companies of the province was going into the question on its own account, and had ample capital, asking no bond guarantee. It was, however, favorable to the bounty proposals. British Columbia, he said, had contributed its share towards the \$12,000,000 distributed in bounties to establish the iron and steel industry in Nova Scotia and he had been assured by Hon. W. S. Fielding that the Dominion was favorably disposed towards rendering similar aid to British Columbia. The Minister said further that the Government had been given to understand that there was a real desire on the part of British capitalists to enter upon this enterprise, which careful experiments appear to have shown could be made a practical success. The ores are magnetic, and experiments made at the Northwest Experiment Station of the United States Department of Mines showed that a sponge iron readily convertible into pig iron at a cost below local market quotations. The Minister said further experiments would be made and he hoped to see a small plant producing pig iron and steel in British Columbia before the next session of the Legislature. The House was so much impressed by the presentation of the case that the vote of \$2,000,000 was unanimous.

The people of British Columbia are evidently determined to develop their resources as well as build up a great world-port at Vancouver. They do not permit dissatisfaction with Ottawa to prevent them from putting forth efforts to attract capital and build up industries based on their natural resources. In that they set a very excellent example.

Manchester Robertson Allison Limited have compiled a statement setting forth the facilities and advantages of the port of St. John, the growth of its trade, and the importance of routing Canadian trade through Canadian ports. This statement has been sent to hundreds of houses in Canada and abroad, with whom the firm does business. It is a timely and valuable advertisement for St. John and a very proper reminder to Canadians of the duty they owe Canada to route traffic through home ports. Publicity of this kind is most valuable in giving information to those who do not know all the facts about St. John and in creating a sentiment favorable to the development of home ports.

Winter has come with the first real snowstorm of the season, but the mildness of the weather is still an unusual feature at the end of December. The lumber operators and the farmers will rejoice that now they can get into the woods to do work which has been deferred because of the absence of snow. At most the winter cannot now be long.

The fire loss in the United States in 1922 was 16,000 lives and \$500,000,000 in property value, and the report which gives this information says nine out of ten of the fires could have been prevented. Hurry, carelessness and waste are characteristic of this generation, on both sides of the border.

Premier Veniot submitted to the commercial travelers last evening figures regarding the wealth of New Brunswick which make good reading as we approach the new year. He estimates our agricultural wealth at \$147,000,000 and manufacturing establishments at \$104,000,000.

As the year draws to a close France cannot escape the knowledge that her Ruhr policy, to which Britain object-

ed, has not produced the expected results. Will wiser counsels prevail in 1924?

The value of settlers' effects going out of Canada in the last year was twice as great as of those coming in. This is one proof of the movement of population to the States, lured by the prospect of work at high wages.

The pigeon that sought rest and safety on a policeman's shoulder in last night's storm was a wise bird, but the desk-man must have gasped when he saw the officer walk into the police station with this unusual prisoner.

The loss of the French dirigible Dixmude, with a large crew of men, is the latest terrible tragedy of the air. All hope is now abandoned. The conquest of the air, however, will go on. The spirit of man is unconquerable.

Great Britain takes it as granted that a Labor Government is to have its chance, however short-lived it may be.

M. Venizelos has returned to Greece. A new chapter in Greek history opens. Will a republic be declared? That seems most probable.

Press Comment

TWO WESTERN VIEWS.

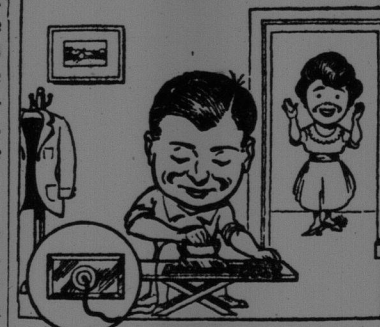
(Victoria Colonist.)
The result in Kent County is another warning to the Mackenzie King Government that it has not succeeded in establishing itself in popularity in the country. Strictly speaking, the turnover in the latest by-election means that the Government is in a minority in the House of Commons, but that does not signify that its tenure of office is immediately threatened, inasmuch as the majority of cases the Progressives are found voting with the Liberals. Its position, however, is so precarious that it will have to adopt compromise policies, and there is little doubt that at the coming session the Progressives will exert their influence and strategic position to secure further tariff reductions. A Government cannot be said to want such as are implied by the results of the latest by-elections. One or two more of such happenings might well be sufficient to precipitate a general election, for while the support of the Progressives may be relied upon by the Government up to a point, some issue will arise that will combine the viewpoints of the Conservatives and the Progressives, and involve the defeat of the Government in the House of Commons. Kent County's decision may herald a Federal election before the end of 1924.

(Vancouver Sun.)
Mackenzie King is now forced to the point where he must at once go to the country, or else make an alliance with the Progressive party. He cannot allow Canada to any longer drift along without some definite national policy and without authority to enforce that policy. Neither can he with dignity to himself and his party continue to cling to office as Mr. Meighen did in 1922. When Mr. Meighen took over the premiership, his authority was questioned. Had he gone at once to the country, there is no question but that his government would have been returned to office with a large majority. Instead of going to the country Mr. Meighen jockeyed around for position until he jockeyed himself out of office. Today the authority of Mackenzie King is questioned, and very properly so. Instead of running a Liberal government on straight Liberal principles, Mackenzie King has allowed parliament to run him, so that for the past two years in place of having government by party Canada has had government by coercion. Faced with such a situation, the obvious, the only thing for Mackenzie King to do, is go at once to the country, or to houseclean his own cabinet and adopt an aggressive policy for the country which will bring into his government solid Western support. Canadians are dead anxious to make progress; they do not want a Tory policy, and they do not want Mr. Meighen for premier. But if Mackenzie King attempts to jockey along in the present situation he will land himself and his party exactly where Mr. Meighen did—out of office. What will Mackenzie King do?

HOLDING REAL LIVE ELECTION

San Salvador, Republic of San Salvador, Dec. 28.—Advice received here from Managua, says the various political organizations of Nicaragua, including the Liberals and Conservatives, have named 26 candidates for the presidency of the Republic.

The advice said that feeling is running very high and that great excitement prevails among the people of Nicaragua.



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THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS.

(By Rear-Admiral Ronald A. Hopwood.)
"And it came to pass, that as I made my journey and was come nigh unto Damascus, about noon..."—St. Paul.

We saw the light at noonday, bright "thru" the haze smoke.
Calm and clear 'mid the tumult we heard His voice that spoke,
In blood was dipped His vesture, Faithful and True His word,
But now—our eyes are blinded—tell us "Who art thou, Lord?"
Grey is the road to Damascus with fallen Empires' dust,
Might of itself corrupted, treasure by moth and rust,
Only there lived unchanging, first fruit of those who died,
Jesus the persecuted, Christ was crucified.

We saw the light at noonday, and when we seemed to fall,
Pledged we our utmost faith to that Thy Truth prevail,
But now—our eyes are hidden, we cannot see Thy face
Nor hear Thy voice in the clamour of Senate and Market-place.
Old is the road to Damascus, pregnant with memories be:
"Nathan alone the chosen, tho' many were such as he,"
To conquer the pride that hindered a gift no wealth could win,
Then he went down to Jordan, washed and was cleansed therein.

We saw the light at noonday and buried our dead thereby,
Nathan, a King we laid him where Kings and Princes lie,
Royal, because a Servant who gave the best he knew,
Plead we again in his Silence, "What wilt Thou have us do?"
Strait is the road to Damascus, but wide for such as dare
Transfigure an Empire's gospel, and preach of Service there,
Fetter and cross for guerdon, would you receive your sight?
Arise and go to Damascus, and Christ shall give you light.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Some Compensation.
"Your little brother is rather bow-legged."
"Yes, if it wasn't for the fact that he's very cross-eyed too, he wouldn't be able to keep his balance."

That Accounts For It.
Visitor (at studio): "How did you get that actress to do such wonderful grief in the new picture?"
Director: "I told her I was going to cut down her salary."

Whaddja Mean?
"Pa, how did those prehistoric monsters look?"
"I can't remember that sonny, ask your mother."

Couldn't Appreciate It.
Judge: "Why did you strike this prisoner?"
Prisoner: "He had the nerve to wish me a Merry Christmas—me, with a wife, mother-in-law, and six children on my hands."

Insulting.
Flapper: "Officer, arrest that man. He insulted me."
Police: "All right, miss, but what did he do?"
Flapper: "I made eyes at him and he refused to flirt with me."

Heartrending.
Editor: "Don't read your manuscript. Just recite the main points of the plot briefly. Is it new and exciting?"
Author: "It is. Why in chapter five a case of thirty rans and a horse-drawn boxcar and find it loaded with onions."

A Modern Child.
Child Movie Fan: "Is that you, Santa Claus?"
Father: "Yes. Lie still!"
C. M. F.: "Drop the whole sack and fade out, or I'll turn my gun on you!"

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Home Sweet Home
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Nearer My God To Thee
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When You and I Were Young
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ENGINEERS DISCUSS GIVING SCHOLARSHIP

A meeting of the council of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick was held in the city on Tuesday night. The members present were: B. M. Hill, Fredericton, president; G. G. Murdoch, vice-president; H. F. Bennett, F. P. Vaughan, J. D. McBeath, of Moncton, K. S. Pickard, of Sackville, councillors, and J. A. W. Waring, secretary.

The council considered awarding a scholarship to the University of New Brunswick, and other business of the association was brought before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the association will be held in St. John on Jan. 30, 1924, and it is expected that a large number of engineers will be in the city to attend the meeting.

YOU CAN LINE YOUR OWN STOVE WITH FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRE CLAY

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The inventor, O. K. Johnson, 246 Craig St. W., Montreal, is offering to send a lamp on 10 days' FREE trial, or even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him today for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the agency, and without experience or money make \$250 to \$500 per month.

FORTY PASSENGERS SAVED FROM WRECK

Copenhagen, Dec. 28.—The 811 passenger steamer King Haakon, which left Harwich, on the English east coast, Wednesday night for Esbjerg, on the Jutland coast of Denmark, was stranded yesterday near the Island of Fanoe, in the North Sea, off Jutland. A wireless call for help brought tugs to the assistance of the vessel and all her 40 passengers were taken off. The transfer is described as a considerable feat in seamanship.

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guarantees that upon reaching a certain age in life, you will receive a monthly cheque for \$50, \$100, \$200, \$250—as you may now decide—and this monthly payment cannot cease as long as you live.

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When they were younger they did not have the chance now offered you. It was not then possible to secure such a convenient and certain provision as this Monthly Pension Plan.

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Age 55—Strange how these assets have depreciated! Fifty Dollars a month is good interest on \$10,000, and not to be despised.
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