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SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1926

ONE CENT In Greater Saint John.

TWO CENTS Elsewhere

TAX ON MAIL ORDER HOUSES IN N.B. ASKED

R. M. A. ENVOYS APPEAR BEFORE GOVERNMENT

Baxter Doubts If Province Can Legally Impose Levy

IMPOST OPPOSED

If Constitutional, Premier Promises to Give Matter Earnest Consideration

FREDERICTON, March 23—Premier Baxter told the large delegation of the Retail Merchants' Association, appearing before the government this morning to press for a special tax on mail order houses doing business in New Brunswick, that it was his legal opinion that such legislation would be unconstitutional for the Provincial Legislature and that the remedy could be applied by the Federal Parliament, whose power to tax was unlimited, controlling as it did transportation and taxation.

He added, however, that he would secure the legal opinion of an eminent authority, not retained by either side, and, if that opinion differed from his, the government would give most earnest consideration to such a levy.

One of the most vitally necessary policies of the present government was to secure new revenue. Premier Baxter said, but he did not want to rush into dangerous legislation on the matter. The Premier added, however, that with respect to mail order houses having a lease in the province there was a possibility that such could be taxed in a constitutional manner, but that the trouble arose in regard to houses outside the province.

Speakers Heard

Speakers for the merchants were F. Sanford, M. E. DeWolfe, St. Stephen, M. E. Grass, Saint John; A. E. Mcweeney, Moncton; H. S. Campbell, Fredericton; N. B. Douglas, Ottawa. At the conclusion of the Premier's reply, he was applauded by the delegation which numbered about 50.

Opposition to the proposed bill was voiced by John W. Gaskin, Covedale member of the West County Municipal Council. He contended that mail order houses were not destroying the small country store as claimed by the Retail Merchants and that the mail order houses were a benefit to the province in the distribution of wages to employees.

Objects of Bill

C. F. Sanford, K. C., was the first speaker for the Retail Merchants. The object of the bill the merchants were advocating was to impose a tax on mail order houses of five per cent on the gross business done in the province by such mail order houses.

He claimed the competition was raising the retail merchants' trade, and unless something were done many would be driven out of business. In addition to helping the merchants, such a tax would provide new revenue for the government. Mentioning T. Eaton & Co., Ltd., Moncton, Mr. Sanford said he had been informed that this company paid no income tax in the City of Moncton during the last three years.

The Premier intervened here to ask Mr. Sanford regarding the legal and constitutional phases of such a tax, particularly in regard to mail order firms doing business in the province without having a base in the province.

Mr. Sanford replied he could see no reason why such a penalty as provided in the proposed bill could not be recovered in the province where the mail order house operated. He declared that such legislation would be intra vires of the legislature.

Premier Doubtful

Premier Baxter replied he was very much afraid of the constitutionality of such an act although he wanted it understood he was in entire sympathy with helping the merchants and secured revenue for the province.

Walter G. Dewolfe, St. Stephen, discussed the bill with respect to the fairness and equity of such a measure concerning the merchant who serves as a distributing agent. He claimed they were entitled to fair competition. He declared the argument that such an impost would increase the cost of living was a fallacy as mail order houses did not deal in butter, milk, eggs, etc., and other such necessities of life. He contrasted the contribution of the merchants to the community life as compared with that given by the mail order houses.

M. E. Grass Speaks

M. E. Grass, Saint John, said he wished to emphasize the fact that the merchants were not seeking any special privileges in this matter. He said one mail order house in New Brunswick paid \$300,000 in one year in postage alone.

Quoting from the secretary's annual report, Mr. Grass said that three members of the Retail Merchants' Association in Saint John had failed in the last year in addition to a prospective

Continued on Page 2, column 4.

Chinese Slayer Dies Despite Money and Prayers of Countrymen

Clothes May Make The Woman But They Part The Married

At Least, That's The Conclusion Reached By Divorce Judge Gemil

United Press. CHICAGO, March 23—Twenty-two years on the bench, the larger period as arbiter in divorce cases, has caused Judge William N. Gemil to the conclusion that clothes are the upstanding subject that part the married. He has written a book, "The Kingdom of Hearts," based on his experiences.

"It is the duty of the dressmaker," the Judge writes, "to fit the filmy garments to airy fairy Lillian, but it is the duty of her husband to fit them to his pocketbook. When he fails and throws up the sponge, it is the duty of the judge."

Extravagance, Judge Gemil recalls, is a familiar word in his court, but a difficult one to evaluate.

"How many new hats ought a good wife to buy per annum?" the chapter on clothes queries. "And what ought she to pay for each when her husband's income is \$1,000 a year?"

"When you have solved that, increase his income all the way up to \$10,000 and decrease it down to \$4,000 per year and guess again."

"All these must be judicially answered or the strike won't be settled."

Other reflections include articles on "The law of love and love and law," "The law of affections" and "Jealousy and suspicion."

STEEL PACT LIKELY TO AFFECT CANADA

Britain, France, Germany and Belgium Arrange to Ban Competition

British United Press. LONDON, March 23—The gigantic steel pact which will most likely have an important effect on Canadian interests, regarded as the most important industrial following a recent conference in Paris.

Under it Britain, France, Belgium and Germany are calling a halt to the feverish competition in the making and marketing of steel rails, and adopting the system of export quotas. It is presumed that the agreement forbids signatories from competing against one another in home markets.

FORMER TORONTO NEWS MAN IS DEAD

W. A. MacDonald Was Known as Pamphlet Vendor Outside London Theatre

British United Press. LONDON, March 23—W. A. MacDonald, the Canadian of Scottish origin, who sold philosophical pamphlets written by himself outside the Pavilion Theatre every night, has just died at the age of 80. A student at a Canadian University he worked on the Toronto Globe and edited the Farmers' Advocate 40 years ago. He was known to thousands of Canadians by his patriarchal white beard and was regarded as an authority on philology and phonetics, having thousands of correspondents in all parts of the world.

GETS THIRD SET TEETH

SASKATOON, Sask., March 23—H. C. McQuarrie, a Prince Albert business man, is cutting his third set of teeth. The new molars, which appear to be sound, are pushing out the old ones. McQuarrie is 68 years old.

Mabel Normand Again To Be Questioned On Director's Death

DETROIT, Mich., March 23—Mabel Normand, motion picture actress, will be summoned to his office for questioning in connection with the murder of Wm. Desmond Taylor, picture director, as soon as he gets back to Los Angeles, Asa Keyes, prosecuting attorney, of Los Angeles, said yesterday.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 23—Mabel Normand, who returned here recently to re-enter motion picture work, after a lapse of two years, states that she is "quite anxious" to tell the story regarding the William Desmond Taylor murder several years ago.

MARITIMES ARE MORE THAN GOOD TOURIST PLACE

People Must Not Neglect Development of Industries

ADVICE GIVEN

Sir Geo. E. Foster Says Bid For Tourist Trade Is More

WHILE declaring the Maritimes to be ideal for summer tourists and predicting a marked advance in tourist business in the next few years, Sir George E. Foster, who is in the city to speak on the League of Nations in St. Andrew's church hall tonight, warned against the neglect of serious development of the basic industries.

In the course of a chatty interview in his suite at the Adelphi Hotel this morning, Sir George said the Maritimes had something far more substantial than a playground, something that awaited only energetic development.

CANADA AND THE PACT. Discussing the motion of J. S. Woodworth, the Labor member from Winnipeg, submitted at Ottawa yesterday, which raised the question of Canada's responsibility in complications arising from the foreign policy of the United Kingdom, Sir George said that both Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Parmoor, the Motherland, had said, Canada's non-participation in the defence would not prevent her being excused from "bearing" from the aggressor. It was simply a question of being a member of the British family, peace treaty or not.

TO ADDRESS STUDENTS. Following his talk here tonight, Sir George will deliver a lecture at Mount Allison University, Sackville, in substituting the Josiah Wood Foundation, which provides for two lectures each year by prominent Canadians, on subjects of an inspirational national character. These lectures are to be given in the lecture hall of the university, which will be impressed with the necessity of strengthening their Canadian identity, personal character and loyalty to the motherland.

OF GENERAL INTEREST. L. Arthur Cannon followed, presenting the case for the Quebec Harbor Commission. He submitted that his case was one of more than local interest. There was a general popular opinion that the transcontinental should be more utilized for the movement of grain.

"It's easy to get a crowd when you are asking for reduction in rates," suggested E. P. Flinto, counsel for the Canadian Pacific Railway. "We are simply asking that some rates be made that will bring business to the railways," replied Mr. Cannon.

BOOSTS NATIONAL PORTS. Mr. Cannon reviewed the Crow's Nest statute, pointing to the stated purpose of the agreement to develop Canadian trade through Canadian ports. The through rate on export traffic was at no time to be greater than the rate through foreign ports for exportation which it could lawfully control.

He filed as exhibits a series of agreements between the city, the harbor commission and the railways regarding the undertakings in respect to the special arrangements made for the arrival of the transcontinental at its Quebec terminal. The crown had special obligations toward Quebec. The city had paid sufficient in developing its facilities to deserve special consideration at the hands of the railway commission in the revision of rates.

"We have seen other cities grow and prosper and we are glad, in the old capital of Canada. We are not asking favors but only for our statutory rights," said Mr. Cannon.

USE OF N. T. R. For one session after the transcontinental was finished in 1916, it had been used as it was supposed to be used. That was during the few months of the six cent rate.

Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways, had said that this had been a profitable rate. But a prohibitive rate was soon applied and scarcely a single bushel of grain had passed through Quebec since 1916, although there was an elevator capacity of two million bushels.

Mr. Cannon quoted the conclusions of a senate committee of 1922 on the export grain trade, recommending a rate to promote the use of Canadian ports.

STERLING EXCHANGE. NEW YORK, March 23—Sterling exchange irregular. Great Britain 4.53-15. France, 3.59. Italy, 401.3. Germany, 23.88. Canadian dollars 11-12 of one per cent discount.

Moncton Firm Mentioned In Biscuit Merger

Canadian Press. MONCTON, N. B., March 23—Negotiations are now under way for the second merger of big biscuit manufacturing concerns in Canada, within a year. The McCormick Manufacturing Company of London, Ont., and the J. A. Marven, Limited, of this city, together with other concerns located in Edmonton, Winnipeg and Montreal, are considering plans for a merger at an early date, according to information here. The merger is being promoted by the Dominion Securities Company, of Montreal, according to directors of the local concern, and while no stock issue is contemplated, a bond issue of about \$1,000,000 will probably be made.

QUEBEC HARBOR CASE IS HEARD BY RAIL BOARD

Canadian Press. OTTAWA, March 23—The submissions of the Quebec Harbor Commission under the general freight rates case for the harbor commission, and the railway commission this morning.

L. Arthur Cannon appeared as counsel for the harbor commission, and E. Theriault, M. L. A., appeared for the City of Quebec. H. J. Symington, counsel for Manitoba, stated the case for that province. The case for that province was presented as counsel for the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. Symington in a short statement reminded the board that under statute it was bound by Crow's Nest rates on grain and flour east of Port Williams to points in existence at the time of the agreement in 1907.

The legislation of last year did not place limitations on the agreement. It did not affect eastern Canada where the Crow's Nest rates applied as in 1907.

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Syrians Threaten Damascus Carnage Again

Foreign consuls in Syria are taking steps to protect the lives and properties of their nationals, following a threat by Syrians who are in rebellion against French rule to sack Damascus and burn and kill as ruthlessly as did the French in their massacre last year. Photo shows the condition in which the city was left by the French bombardment, and native troops guarding a road leading into the place.

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LOCK AH-TAM IS EXECUTED; SLEW WIFE, TWO GIRLS

Large Fund Was Subscribed For His Defence

INSANITY PLEA

Condemned Man Meets Death Calmly, Acknowledging He Did Wrong

Canadian Press. LIVERPOOL, Eng., March 23—Lock Ah-Tam, the former benevolent Chinese merchant, beloved of all who knew him, died on the gibbet in the prison here today for the murder of his Welsh wife and their two handsome daughters, Doris, 20, and Cecilia, 17.

The murder was committed apparently without reason, during a celebration in his home. After he had slain his wife and the two girls, he called the police on the telephone and told what he had done. He was immediately arrested.

WORLD-KNOWN MAN. The murderer was 32 years old and was known by his countrymen throughout the world. He came to England 20 years ago, became naturalized and married a Welsh girl. He became wealthy through his business transactions and was powerful but mysterious. Thousands of his needy countrymen were aided by him. He was well known in the Chinatowns of New York and San Francisco.

He advanced the theory that his client's mind had been unbalanced by business worries, but nevertheless he was found guilty. Prayers and fasts were also carried out by Chinese in many parts of the world for Lock Ah-Tam.

ADMITTS WRONG. "I am ready to meet my fate," Lock Ah-Tam said last night with calm stoicism to Percy Youd, a local politician, who organized a petition for reprieve.

"Tell everybody who signed the petition," the condemned man added, "that I am extremely grateful to them. I am content and happy. I am aware that I have done wrong, but I shall shortly join my loved ones and they will understand."

The prisoner had a final talk with his son last night.

DATES SET FOR U. S. PROHIBITION HEARING. WASHINGTON, March 23—The prohibition issue which has agitated both houses of congress at this session is to be given a public airing before a Senate committee during the two weeks beginning April 6.

Senator Messers, Republican, Colorado, will have charge of the hearings and he will attempt to hold both the wet and dry strictly to the subject of the bills at issue. Each side will have six days for the presentation of its case.

THE WEATHER

SYNOPSIS—The low area which was over the Mississippi Valley yesterday has moved northeastward with increasing intensity to the Lake region, causing showers in many parts of Ontario. The weather has been fair and mild in nearly all other parts of the Dominion, but there are indications of colder weather setting in over the western provinces.

FORECASTS: Gale: Rain. MARITIME—Strong winds or moderate gales from south and southwest with rain tonight and Wednesday.

NEW ENGLAND—Rain this afternoon and probably tonight. Wednesday fair, not much change in temperature, fresh to strong south winds this afternoon, shifting to west tonight.

TEMPERATURES. TORONTO, March 23—Lowest 5 a.m. Yesterday night

Victoria ... 42 54 42
Calgary ... 40 58 38
Edmonton ... 32 55 32
Winnipeg ... 34 55 32
Toronto ... 36 48 36
Montreal ... 32 42 30
Saint John ... 34 42 30
Halifax ... 36 50 36
New York ... 42 56 40

Girl, Clerk 22 Years Ago In Brooklyn Gas Co., Becomes President of \$5,000,000 Firm

NEW YORK, March 23—"Little Miss Dillon," a clerk in the Coney Island branch of the Brooklyn Gas Company, 22 years ago, has become President Mary E. Dillon, head of that \$5,000,000 corporation, and probably the only woman president of a gas company in this continent.

Elected yesterday, Miss Dillon today will take up the direction of more than 500 workers serving nearly 40,000 consumers in Brooklyn.

Miss Dillon has been vice-president and general manager of the company since December 4, 1924. She visited Europe last year, where she inspected public utility companies.

Miss Dillon is the wife of Henry Farber, a wholesale coal dealer, but retains her maiden name "to avoid confusion to customers."

"I am not wedded to my business career," she says. "I have a perfectly good husband, and the fact that I now head a large corporation does not interfere with my home life at all. It's just a matter of arrangement with friend husband."

World News In Short Metre

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The entire vehicular equipment of the city public works department was destroyed in a \$200,000 fire here yesterday.

NEW YORK—Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, on his return from the West Indies yesterday, said he saw evidences of drunkenness only in Porto Rico, a United States possession.

BOSTON—A small crystal set on the Cunard liner Caronia picked up trans-Atlantic conversations in recent wireless telephone tests, it was reported on the arrival of the liner here.

NEW YORK.—Charles Meyers, 48, a waiter, who committed suicide, left a note asking that his body be cremated and the ashes scattered among the New York cabarets.

CHICAGO.—Plans for a new \$25,000,000 electric generating station on the shores of Lake Michigan in the Indiana side, are announced by Samuel Insull, public utilities magnate.

NEW YORK.—Pneumonia caused 608 deaths in New York City last week, and 87 persons died of influenza, the greatest number to die of that illness during the present wave of respiratory diseases.

MONTREAL.—On the termination of the present voyage of the Red Star liner Pittsburgh, which began at New York on Saturday and is due to end at Antwerp next Monday, the name of the ship will be changed to that of Pennland.

P. Q. LUMBERMAN DEAD. WATERLOO, Que., March 23—Alderman Louis Mos Adam, 57, who has been prominent in the lumber business for years, passed away here this morning after several months' illness. Mr. Adam started his lumber operations by cutting cordwood to fire the first engine over the Drummond County Railway.

THE COUNTESS' PLAY OPENS IN NEW YORK. NEW YORK, March 23—The Countess Cathcart's play "Ashes of Love," produced by the Countess and with the Countess as its star, opened last night for a one week engagement before a packed house, which seemed to derive its chief amusement from situations and action which were reminiscent of the melodrama of two decades ago. The play closed in London after a slain, and witnessed the tragedy.

According to Maddison, Pasquale conversed with him occasionally while both were patients in the hospital, and that Pasquale had told him that he had heard voices at night, outside of his shack, saying "I am going to get you, Benito."

Witness in B. C. Murder Case Tells of "Queer" Actions of