POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 31, 1924

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PROVINCIAL FINANCES

Had there been no disastrous floods last spring, and were the province freed from the burden of the Valley Railway, concerning the administration of which it has not a word to say, the Veniot government would have been able to report a surplus of nearly $70,000 at the end of the year 1923. This is the essential fact to be borne in mind in criticism of the financial statement issued today. It is not the fault of the Government that the floods caused an extraordinary expenditure of more than $300,000, or that there was a deficit of more than $261,000 in Valley Railway operation, making a total deficit for the province to face of more than $524,000.

The addition to the debt of the province thus caused is greatly to be deplored, but cannot be laid at the door of the present Government, whose expenditures on ordinary account for the year were kept well within the receipts.

Opponents of the Government will of course seize upon the fact that the debt has been increased as a reason for denouncing the administration. Despite the fact that there is a surplus on current account, the expenditures in some departments in excess of the estimates will be represented as proofs of extravagance. The Government, however, will be able to reply that the ordinary public works expenditure in the public works department was influenced and make greater by the floods, while forest fires made a greater demand upon the department of lands and mines.

The Government as well as the people cannot but lament the increase in the debt, which means an increased interest charge to be reckoned with, and we can only hope that floods will not come soon again, and that the burden of the Valley Railway may soon be lifted as it should have been long ere this by the Dominion.

There are two gratifying facts to be noted. One is that the assets of the province still greatly exceed its liabilities, and that its credit is very high among investors. Its sinking funds are in good condition.

The people have also the satisfaction of knowing that the facts are all before them. Price, Waterhouse & Co. have made a thorough examination of the books and accounts, and nothing is concealed. They give a clear statement of the exact financial position of the province.

The statement reveals the need of prudence and economy in making up the estimates for the coming year, and of keeping the expenditures as low as the actual needs of the public service will permit. The revenue of the province is not large, and the fixed charges are not light. There is not a great margin to deal with, and the present state of business in the province calls for as much lightening of the burdens of taxation as strict economy may make possible.

DR. NORWOOD

Rev. Robert Norwood and Rev. H. A. Cody were fellow students and room-mates at King's College. Charles G. D. Roberts was one of the college professors. Today all three are men of note in the literary world, both in Canada and the United States. Rev. Mr. Cody was one of those who went last evening to greet Dr. Norwood in Pythian Hall, and welcome him again to St. John.

Dr. Norwood is a Canadian living abroad who does not lose touch with his native land. Indeed he declares that one needs to live outside of Canada for a time to comprehend the Dominion and grasp the full significance of its relation to the rest of the Empire and the United States.

In a brilliant address in Pythian Hall last evening, before members of the Canadian Clubs and other citizens, he spoke of Canada's great mission. She lies between Great Britain and the United States. She speaks the same language. She is the interpreter. It is hers, through the medium of a common speech, the speech of the Anglo-Celt, to break down prejudices, to promote understanding, to spread the sentiment of brotherhood. To no nation, he declares, has come so great and wonderful an opportunity, and he pleads that petty things be put aside that Canada may fulfil her high destiny.

Dr. Norwood had nothing to say about material resources, industry or commerce. His theme was the soul of the nation, inspired by the loftiest motives and seeking human betterment along avenues of comradeship, in harmony with the Divine conception of the unity of the human race.

When to the gift of oratory are joined the imagination of the poet, a high conception of patriotism and a ready command of pure English, the listener receives such an inspiration as does not pass with the spoken word. Last night's audience was deeply impressed because it was lifted up to the heights and shown a land of promise, where the spirit of human brotherhood quells the discordant voices of the forum and the market-place, and love prevails because there is real and mutual understanding among the sons of men.

As on a former occasion Dr. Norwood resented the assertion that Canada has no literature, and predicted a great future both for art and letters in the Dominion. To that end, however, our people must have greater faith in themselves; and it is well that the gifted speaker laid emphasis on this essential requirement. Not vanity, not noisy self-assertion, but calm faith and earnest self-expression will accomplish the desired purpose.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

Two points of view regarding the drain upon the Maritime Provinces in the removal of so many active young people to the Western Provinces and the United States were given on Tuesday by speakers at the Social Service Council. One, speaking for Nova Scotia, alluded to the success attained by many who go away, the prominence to which they rise, and the service they render. He gave expression to the conceit that it is a fine thing for Nova Scotia to provide other parts of the continent with brains. It was a contribution made to world welfare. This sounded well, but the other side of the shield was presented by another speaker, also from Nova Scotia. He pointed out that if our brightest minds go away, and the drain continues, it means a lowering of the physical and mental standard at home. The feeble-minded do not go. They remain and reproduce their kind, and in course of time the result must be a problem of serious proportions. This aspect of the case deserves consideration. We will never be able to prevent the departure of adventurous youth or of those who have the pioneering spirit—the wanderlust that is a characteristic of the British race; but a drain that equals the natural increase of population is far too great to be borne. Every effort should be bent toward such a development of our own resources as will give opportunity at home to the largest possible percentage of our people. We rejoice when those who leave us become citizens of distinction in the communities in which they fix their abode, but in their going we have lost just that amount of initiative and energy which we ought to be able to command for the development of these provinces; and no newcomers can quite fill the place of those thus lost to us. If we were too densely populated there would be no alternative for many but to go away. If it is asserted that we are not able to give our young people their opportunity, and unhappily it may be so asserted without fear of contradiction, the thing to do is not to nurse a feeling of pride that they will do well elsewhere, but to change the conditions which apparently make it necessary for so many of them to go. Their native provinces need them and ought to devise means to offer all of them a livelihood.

WHERE A CUT IS POSSIBLE

The Toronto Globe, quoting the remark of Mr. Howard Smith, President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, that business cannot stand existing internal taxation and that it must be reduced, says:—

"There is agreement among those acquainted with the situation that several of the Departments at Ottawa are heavily overmanned, and that this is true of what is known as the outside as well as the inside staff. The cost of collecting the national revenue has increased enormously in recent years, due, no doubt, in part, to the technical troubles attending the collection of the income and sales taxes. There seems, however, to be room for a fairly deep cut in the appropriation for revenue collection, which has increased from $43,740,000 so recently as 1921 to $47,919,000 in 1923. The cost of civil government also has increased far more rapidly than the population. It was set down at $8,784,000 in the Consolidated Fund expenditure of 1921, and increased to $10,114,000 in 1923."

Child welfare has perhaps been more emphasized than any other subject at the Social Service Council meetings. In contrast to the sentiment of today, note this extract from the Peterborough (England) Gazette of a century ago:—"On Thursday last there were committed to the gaol at Oundle five infants, the eldest eight, the youngest four years and a month old, for being found playing in a turnip field. . . . The children were summoned before the Rev. C. E. Isham, who sentenced them for the space of seven days in a cold, damp dungeon, to live on bread and water. The youngest child was, on the intercession of its mother, liberated on the following day, but the rest, we believe, have borne their sentence."

Press Comment

THE WOMEN VOTERS.

(Victoria Colonist.

Out of the controversy on the woman voter one fact emerges clearly and that is that there is need for the education of women in a political sense. That is evident everywhere that women have the vote. Their domestic or social duties absorb them so much that they have little time left to inform themselves on political issues, or else they are not sufficiently curious or interested enough to examine those problems in an analytical sense. Until they do the woman's franchise will not be intelligently exercised. The process of education will necessarily be a slow one, but it was a slow one, too, in the case of the male franchise and it is very clear that there is still a considerable percentage of the male vote at all elections which is very much misinformed. Women's political organizations can accomplish much, but outside of these there is still the conception of the individual woman herself finding time to study political issues now that she has the privilege of exercising her influence at the polls.

AND THIS IS THE LAW!

(New York Herald.)

Put the crown of absurdity on the head of the immigration laws of the United States. If you doubt that they have won it read the details of their latest accomplishment:

The family of a man who was born in Germany, but who works in America and has taken out his first citizenship papers here, arrived at Ellis Island from Europe.

The five children were admitted because the German quota was not exhausted.

The mother was barred out because she was born on a Dutch ship in the port of Antwerp and the quotas for Holland and Belgium were exhausted.

The mother was compelled to return to Europe. She did not take the children back because she hopes to return when a Dutch or Belgian quota is open and she would have no assurance that by that time the exhaustion of the German quota would not exclude her children.

If you read of such a stupid and brutal thing being possible under the laws of ancient Rome you would say that there was no real civilization in that old empire.

But this stupidity and brutality are not only possible but practiced under the immigration laws of the theoretically enlightened United States of America.

HARNESSING THE TIDES.

(New York Herald.)

Ever since man solved the riddle of getting power from water the boundless energy of the tides has stirred the imagination of scientists. Yet although our modern prophets frequently picture the future as drawing its electrical energy from harnessed tides, actually little has been done in that direction beyond experiments on a small scale.

France promises the first extensive test of the practicability of harnessing the tides. At L'Aber-Vrach, on the north coast of the peninsula of Brittany, there is a strong tidal flow up and down the channel of the small river Dlouris. In general the conditions resemble those of the Bay of Fundy, though on a reduced scale, the maximum differential between rise and fall being 25 feet as against Fundy's 65 feet.

It is proposed to harness this Breton river with two dams, one to impound tide water and one to control the stream itself. French engineers estimate that the tidal water will produce 3,600 horse power a day, enough to repay the investment in two years. If success attends the effort, tidal power plants no doubt will be intsalled in many estuaries on long and narrow seas, where the tides and tidal races are strong enough to make exploitation profitable. The fiords of Norway and the inlets of New England, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia offer many possible sites for developments of this character.

AN IMMIGRANT BOY'S FATE.

(Ottawa Citizens.)

The people of Ontario have been stung to fierce resentment over the case of a young immigrant farmhand, Charles Bulpitt, who was found hanging in a barn on the farm of Benson Cox, Colborne township, Ontario, on December 23. The disclosures at the inquest prove among other things that the brutal farmer worked this boy from 4 a. m. to 10 p. m., that he was beaten with a whip, and that he was paid a wage of $75 a year. The crown attorney, in examining Cox at the inquest, said that the affair had caused publicity which would have "a damaging effect on immigration." He is right, but why shouldn't it?

Bulpitt was one of those boys who was sent to Canada by an English institution to be placed in the care of farmers to whom they are hired out. They are usually shown pictured in the illustrated section of the newspapers leaning from railway carriages on their way to the land of their adoption, smiling hopefully at the prospect before them. Usually penniless and parentless, they make pathetic little human figures. And reports show that they mostly make good.

In the same issue of the newspapers carrying the story of young Bulpitt was an announcement from Commissioner Lamb of the Salvation Army Immigration Service that more of these boy immigrants were to be brought to Canada and placed on farms. This system of sending out defenceless boys from their home land has an unpleasant aspect, but properly supervised no serious objection can be taken to it. It is to be hoped that an example will be made of the Colborne farmer, for Canadian people will feel as keenly about the matter as British. And it should be possible to prevent such brutal abuse of the helpless in the future. It will not only injure immigration, but it will leave a stain on Canada's conscience, to allow the present instance to pass without adequately dealing with the man responsible or without taking immediate steps to see that all boys placed on farms in this manner are treated decently and humanely.

COMPANY INCORPORATED.

A Fredericton despatch last night said that the Dominion Storage Battery Company had been incorporated with head office at St. John and capital stock of $59,000. Those incorporated are Harry A. Smith and William D. Gunter, of Fredericton, and Herbert J. Rodgers, of St. John,

THE BLIND MAN.

(Arkansas Gazette.)

Swift as a falling curtain, dark descended;
While light of noon, and then the light was o'er,
And I shall never know if things remembered
As fair, are fair no more.

For me the dusk still weaves its olden glory,
Purple and pavonine in rich brocade,
Each dawn comes back—I hear the city waking—
In jacinth and in jade.

Friends of my youth are fixed in youth eternal,
Gallant bright youth that time can never blight;
And the gay laughing girls remain enduring
Visions of sheer delight.

Still clear I see the passion flowers blooming,
The lilacs trembling to the spring's caress—
Thank God for this; my blind eyes in their closing
Closed upon loveliness.

—C. T. Davis.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Cannot Be Too Careful.

Subscriber—"'One Wife Too Many.' The story of a bigamist, I suppose?"

Much-Married Library Assistant (absentmindedly)—"Not necessarily, madam."

The Fall.

In her own crisp dialect the Lancashire housemaid explained to her sympathizing neighbor what happened when the canvasser called. "First 'e knocked at t' door," she said. "Then 'e talked an' talked until I was tempted—"

"Dear me," interposed the other, "an' ye fell for him!"

"Sweet mercy, nay!" answered the other, shaking her fist. "'Twas 'e that fell. I 'it 'im."

A Sherlock Holmes.

(Ashland, Ill., Sentinel.)

The person that has been throwing grease on our porch I believe we know where it comes from. On the morning of January first, 1923, I tracked it from our house to forty or fifty feet of their back door, where they split it on the walk. I also saw the same person on Monday night at Mrs. Maxwell's store, while Mr. Bergen had charge of it, put a package in their pocket. They saw me. I believe they are the ones that set fire to our chicken house. If you don't want the community to know whom you are, you had better stop now. —J. T. Shelton.

DOHERTY ACCEPTS U. F. LEADERSHIP

Former St. John Resident to be Head of Party in Legislature

Toronto, Jan. 30—Hon. Manning W. Doherty, Minister of Agriculture in the Drury Government, informed the Canadian Press this afternoon that he had accepted the position of leader of the United Farmers of Ontario in the Legislature for the coming year, which will open here on Feb. 6.

Hon. Manning W. Doherty was for some time a resident of St. John. He was born in Toronto in 1875. He was educated at the Upper Canadian College and at Cornell University. He is practical farmer and lives on Clontarf Farm in Halton, Ont. His wife was Miss Dolores Cassidy, daughter of J. J. Cassidy, of Toronto. He was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in the general election of 1919.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. J. Judson Barker, says the Fredericton Gleaner, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Edna Maude Jenner, of Fulton, New York, to Edward Frank Bowman, of Syracuse, New York. The wedding will take place the latter part of August.

Tasmania has discovered oil shales of great importance.

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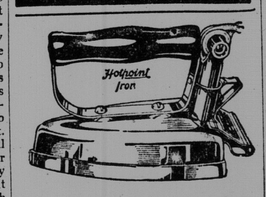

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Poems of Macdonald Run Gamut of Human Emotion

Wilson Macdonald, recognized as one of the leading Canadian poets, who has been on the Pacific Coast for some time and intends to stay until January 8, is spoken of as "the first Canadian poet to sing on all strings," says the Vancouver Sunday Sun.

"His poems run the gamut of all human emotion and his metre is now like a playful breeze and again like a hurricane, changing to the mournful sob of a soul in distress and now to the uneven rhythmic beat of the ocean," says Toronto Saturday Night, which journal said of Mr. Macdonald that the world had heard nothing like his poetry since the death of William Blake.

Recognized Abroad.

In "The Song of the Prairie Land," the poet's first book, which is now nearing its fourth edition, Mr. Macdonald gives expression to his innermost thoughts in a manner which lays bare his very soul:—

"I opened my cabin door,
And the starry hosts were gone,
And I knew that God had gathered their sparks,
To kindle the flame of dawn."

Although his efforts have been rewarded with greater appreciation in the United States and in spite of the fact that it was Europe which first recognized his genius as a poet, Wilson Macdonald feels it his duty to stay with the land of his birth. He states that he has refused many offers to go to the United States in the last 11 years. He was gratified, however, with the reception he had been accorded on the prairies and at the coast, particularly in New Westminster, Victoria and the University of B. C.

He's Not Orthodox.

"One of the things which delights me in Vancouver is the spirit of righteous protest in evidence at the university," he said. "The university of B. C. is as far ahead of Toronto in this respect as day is ahead of night. In the Ontario university there is too great a tendency on the part of the students to take just what they are offered without exhibiting the spirit of enquiry so necessary in the attainment of a true understanding of the inner meaning of life."

"Toronto dearly loves her hell-fire," the poet continued, in explaining why he felt that the good people of Toronto failed to appreciate his poems. "I am not an atheist, nor could I be called orthrodox. I am a thorough believer in a God as a great controlling force in the universe.

Poet Has Keen Mind.

This phase of Wilson Macdonald's belief is well expressed in the following verse from his poem "Barbary":—

"And ye are bound to a rule and law
Upheld by a chant and charm.
But we are fed from the veins of flowers
That redden an upland's arm.
O, in Barbary fair, we grow
A lily as white as snow,
And a damask rose to welcome those
Who fly from a creed's alarm."

A story is told of Wilson Macdonald which reveals much of his quiet thoughtfulness which is blended with a keen mind. He was reading his poems in a palatial home on one of the Thousand Islands.

He Claimed His Work.

Following the reading of "The Whipoorwill," a Boston professor rose and, asserting that Kipling was the "only modern poet," proceeded to read from a volume of Kipling.

When he was through, Mr. Macdonald said: "Well, professor, I agree, but have you read Kipling's latest poem, 'Purified'?"

With these words he picked up a magazine and read the poem in question.

"That is the finest poem Kipling ever wrote," said the professor when Mr. Macdonald had finished. "It proves that Kipling is still at his best."

"That poem was mine," replied Mr. Macdonald quietly.

Born in Ontario.

British Columbia has been the theme of one of the most beautiful of the Macdonald poems. One of the verses reads:—

"The prairies lands are God's plain speech; but here
Is writ, in stone, a poem by His hand;
Against whose glory Stratford's daring seer
Might fling his treasures like a grain of sand."

Wilson Macdonald was born near Port Dover, Ont., where he attended both the public and high schools. He studied also at Woodstock college and McMaster university. He spent two seasons in Europe, and has been accorded one of the highest honors a literary man can get—his poems are published in the London Mercury. The onl yother Canadian poet who attained this distinction was Duncan Campbell Scott.

Mr. Macdonald is publishing two books in the spring: "The House of Rebels" and "The Song of the Undertow."

PHONE WITHOUT RECEIVER OR TRANSMITTER A SUCCESS

Before long it will not be necessary to hold a telephone receiver to the ear nor to shout into a transmitter. All that will be required will be to press a button. Thereby the connection will be established and the speaker may walk around the room and yet hear distinctly and make himself heard.

An Italian resident of Berlin named A. Colombo has perfected the device, which is built on the principle of the radiophone, loud speaker and michophone ,and which can be attached to any ordinary telephone instrument. It has been successfully demonstrated.

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Banished By

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"Some few months ago I was troubled with bad blood which broke out on my face in the nature of pimples, boils and ring-worm, and I got so bad I really did not know what to do.

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"I cannot praise B.B.B. enough and I hope anyone afflicted like I was will get the same benefit I received."

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Regina .....Mar. 22 Apr. 26
Vedic .....Mar. 29 .....
Canada ..... Apr. 5
Doric ..... Apr. 12

SUMMER SAILINGS
Montreal-Quebec-Liverpool
Vedic ....Apr. 30 ..... Jun. 4
Canada ..May 3 May 31 Jun. 28
Doric .....May 10 June 7 Jul. 5
Megantic..May 17 June 14 Jul. 12
Regina ...May 24 June 21 Jul. 19

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New York-Queenstown. Liverpool.
Doric .....Feb. 9 Mar. 8 .....
Cedric ....Feb. 16 Mar. 15 Apr. 19
Celtic .....Mar. 1 Apr. 5 May 3
New York-Cherbourg-Southampton.
Majestic ..Feb. 2 Apr. 5 Apr. 26
Olympic ..Mar. 1 Mar. 22 Apr. 12
N.Y.-Havana-Panama-California.
Finland ..Feb. 7 Mar. 27 May 15
Manchuria.Feb. 28 Apr. 17 June 5
Kroonland..Mar. 13 May 1 June 19
N. Y.-Azores-Egypt-Mediterranean.
Adriatic .....Feb. 23
Lapland .....Mar. 5
N.Y.-West Indies-Panama Canal-South America
Megantic ..Jan. 26 Feb. 23
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The prices of refined sugar in Canada are on the upgrade. Following an advance of 10 cents per 100 pounds earlier in the week, the refineries yesterday put up the price of their product a further 10 cents. The price of No. 1 granulated here is now $9.00 per 10 pounds. Raw sugars were higher in New York yesterday, but the prices of refined remained unchanged at $8.25 and $8.75.

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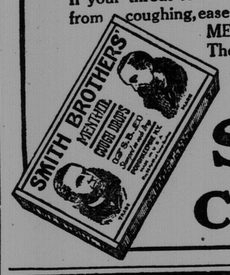
If your throat feels hot and feverish, or is sore from coughing, ease it with SMITH BROTHERS' MENTHOL COUGH DROPS. They stop the cough. Always

"Put one in your mouth at bedtime". 12



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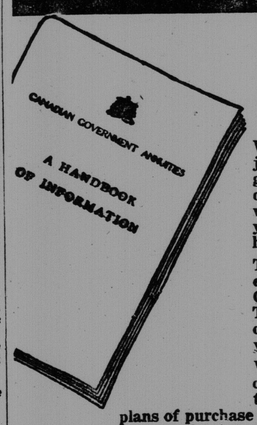

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