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GOVT. IN SESSION WEDNESDAY

FREDERICTON, Oct. 26—The provincial government spent most of the first session of their initial meeting since the general elections this morning conferring with Chief Inspector Wilson.
 All the members of the cabinet, including Hon. J. F. Tweeddale and Hon. Robert Murray, the defeated members, and Hon. L. A. Dugal, who did not offer for re-election, were present. At the conclusion of the meeting Premier Foster was reticent about discussing the subject of their conversation with Mr. Wilson.
 "I would not deny that the government discussed with Mr. Wilson the subject of his resignation as chief inspector," the premier finally admitted. Afterwards it was learned from an authoritative source that what happened was that the subject of Mr. Wilson's resignation, which has been discussed before the New Brunswick Temperance Alliance and in the news papers, but which has never officially come before the government.
 So far as could be learned no definite action was taken by the government and Premier Foster said that Mr. Wilson still remained chief inspector. Before the government meeting opened Premier Foster and enaid Fraser, president of the New Brunswick Temperance Alliance, were closeted for some time.
 Premier Foster said this afternoon that appointments to the portfolios of ministers defeated at the recent elections would not be made at this meeting of the provincial government.
 "There may be some surprises," was Premier Foster's only comment when asked at noon to forecast appointments to the vacancies of the N. B. Hydro-Electric Commission.

Stealing From Cars in Transit

Moncton, Oct. 19—A record of theft from the Canadian National Railways almost parallel to that at Napadogan (N. B.), last winter, stirred railway circles for many months, is contained in the recent developments unearthed at Truro where railway officers have been at work for several weeks.
 It appears that for some time past more or less suspicion has been aroused on account of the mysterious disappearance of goods in transit. Included in the list was a quantity of liquor consigned to parties in Nova Scotia. Immediately H. J. Paige, of Toronto, chief of the railway police, got busy and after some investigation found that numerous railway employees were implicated. Some sixteen employees, including eight operators were suspended from the service. Only one arrest has been made.
PROFESSIONAL PRIDE
 Counsel—After all, my client is only charged with simple theft. Prisoner—Simple! I'd like to see you do it.

THE LABOR SITUATION

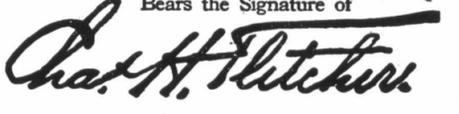
This is not to promulgate novel changes, but to sit tight. Government, after all, is nine-tenths administration and one-tenth discussion. There is the ideal and there is the possible. We would all like to gain our end per saltum, but it is simple wisdom to remember the Emersonian axiom that "There is no escape in all the world save by performance." Of infinitely more importance than seeking cheap shortcuts out of our difficulties by hazardous experiments in legislation is the simple recognition of the fact that, if we do not produce to the limit we are all headed for bankruptcy and starvation. High wages have not increased production. The quality also has fallen off. This is the almost universal testimony of business men. It is not impossible in our highly complex civilization for any one group to enjoy prosperity at the expense of all the other groups. Prosperity must be general, or it is a sham. The working man, e. g., can only enrich himself by enriching everybody else. When he strikes, and, in striking, retards production, the available capital of society is reduced by the exact sum which the lost production represents. There is less money in the world than there would have been had he not struck. His wages may be apparently increased, but in the end, he loses and must lose. The increase is entirely fictitious, and in the end it represents a loss.
 Reduce the capital of the world by any means whatever, and, since labor depends on capital, there will be fewer hands employed, because there will be less capital to employ them. What is wanted is a clear comprehension of the fact that our dollar, measured in the terms of the things we desire and need, is at present only worth fifty cents. If, through continued labor disturbances, malingering and strikes, output be still further reduced, it will sink steadily in purchasing power. It is an inexorable and terrible law, well summed up in the words of the Apostle, "If a man will not work neither shall he eat."

During the late war the whole country was placarded with appeals to practice thrift. Thrift is an excellent thing when not carried too far. Carried too far—and it easily may be—it degenerates into the detestable, unocial vice of avarice. We all desire to be nobly generous, according to our means. What is needed is discrimination in our purchases. To practise economy in food and necessary warm clothes is madness. Thrift carried too far will halt industry and produce suffering. Men must "live and let live." What we want is our daily bread, and a little margin for contingencies. We may have both, provided we all bend our backs and increase the supply of things we desire and need. If, however, we keep on bidding against each other for an ever-lessening supply of commodities, then the law of competition comes into play, and the man who is prepared to go highest gets whatever is being offered for sale. The price the highest bidders are prepared to pay fixes the market price for all. The rest must either pay the price or go without. As commodities grow less and less the price mounts ever higher and higher, until at length, the value of the dollar or the pound sterling or mark sinks so low in purchasing power that panic ensues and barter takes the place of normal exchange. Only substantial things now will buy substantial things. Paper is refused, and gold and silver disappear. At one bound, we are back to the days when the savage exchanged a slain animal for a supply of flints. This is precisely what has occurred in Russia. The Mujik refuses all paper; but is perfectly willing to exchange wheat for shoes or cloth. In no other way can trade with Russia and Germany be done at the present time. Exchange, as we say, has "broken down."
 If the Government had placarded the country with exhortations to produce ever more and more, and left thrift to take care of itself, as it would, we should have been in a better case. Let the Government address its counsels of thrift to the men who are stinking for one dollar an hour, and accompany it with the information that if they do not speed up production the world, including themselves, will starve. The farmers should have been urged to go into sheep and more sheep. A glorious opportunity was lost, and is being lost. For the working man, and, alas! the farmer, have got it into their heads that lessened production means continued high wages and prices. But limitation of output, viewed from any angle, is an unmitigated curse. The more there is produced the more there is to share. The lamentable fallacy, that limitation of output brings prosperity, is the pet obsession of British trade-unionism, and is spreading like a virus into the healthy blood of Canadian and American working-men. It can only end in disaster.

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