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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1921

THE RAILWAY ISSUE.

Policies and parties are in a great measure forgotten in Parliament in face of the railway tragedy. At last members realize the serious situation. Hon. Dr. Reid's statement has been made. He was in a cynical mood, and his attitude was that of a man who had lost confidence in his pet project. He practically told Parliament that there was no hope of improvement. It has killed government ownership. Members are nearly a unit in the belief that nothing but corporation control will solve the problem, but they lack the courage to tell the people the truth. Little encouragement can be gathered from Hon. Dr. Reid's conclusions.

"What is the best way to improve the situation? I am ready to take, in fact I seek, advice from any or every member of this House, or who ever may be able to make any suggestion of value. Our present system of administration by a board entirely free from interference by any Minister, by any Department, by the Government, is one which public opinion has demanded, and which, if we can carry it on and make the railway a success, is no doubt better for all concerned. The press and public opinion are very critical over our railway problem, and rightly so. Notwithstanding the dark side I have shown, I am still a firm believer in the ultimate success of our National Railways. But, as in other large institutions, success depends on how they are managed. This question is too big to be a political football. Might I ask the House to discuss it in its larger aspect rather than in some minor detail? Let us have instead a frank discussion of the whole railway policy."

There is no doubt Parliament will accede to Hon. Dr. Reid's request for a frank discussion. Many members want to know the worst, and fear that the Minister has been misled and that the seventy million dollar deficit is too modest an estimate if the cost to the country of Government ownership and operation of railways.

MAKING LIFE BETTER.

Old England has set the world a fine example in so many of the great things in life that when a community or national movement of any kind is launched across the seas, we instinctively feel that it must have a basis of success. Just now there is a movement on foot in the Old Land to drive away much of the dullness of village life. There, as here, village life, especially in winter, is sometimes dull.

In England, as in Canada, the trend has been from the countryside into the big industrial centres. The London Telegraph says the war has stirred the villages of England to their depths, and though here and there they would seem to have adopted some of the less desirable features of the industrial unrest of the towns, this stirring among the dry bones is generally welcomed. How can it best be helped and guided? An answer to that question is suggested by the account of a deeply interesting movement in Oxfordshire, conducted under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. It is an old idea in England to have an institute or club in every village as a centre and focus of its social life. But this movement carries that idea a long step farther. For it recognizes as a fundamental truth that of itself the village club simply cannot carry on. Its own resources—not only of money, for money, perhaps, is now the least part of the problem—are totally inadequate to provide the programme by which the community spirit is to be kept alive. There is not enough variety of intellectual or artistic talent in the village for the purpose. The Telegraph says "no one can move about rural England today even in the sleepiest hollows, without noticing that the old domination of the village by the rectory has virtually come to an end. Whether good or bad, village public opinion will not have it, and the awakening of the village is nowhere more clearly seen than here."

The leading principle of the new movement which has started in Oxfordshire, under the auspices of the

Y.M.C.A., is that each village club shall manage its own affairs in its own way, but shall form part of a county federation which has its active head centre in Oxford. Every night of the week during the winter months Oxford sends forth its missionaries of culture, or amusement, or sport, to the village clubs which are holding their special gatherings. At present the federation possesses a lorry and a car. "These separate on the night's journeys, dropping a dancing teacher here, a cinema outfit and operators there, a lecturer somewhere else, with, maybe, a boxing instructor from a gymnasium at one dark village, a concert party at the next, and a League of Arts specialist a little further on." The idea is to keep each federated club going with a special programme once a week or once a fortnight during the winter, so that interest may not flag. Oxford, no doubt, is a specially favorable centre, for it contains an abundance of all kinds of "talent." The Oxfordshire Education Committee thinks so well of the educational results already achieved that it has made a money grant to the society.

The new movement, which, while strictly encouraging local autonomy, is designed to bring the village club into constant touch with the intellectual life of a large town centre, and aims at dispersing the fatal dullness and torpor which settle down upon village communities as soon as the autumn mists begin to envelope the stubbles.

This movement may have some valuable lessons and hints for the people of Canada. The happiness of all the people is a matter of great concern. The craving is for more than material prosperity.

JUDGE WILSON'S RETIREMENT.

The retirement of Hon. William Wilson, Judge of the county courts of York, Simsbury and Queens counties, which was officially announced yesterday, has meant the passing from public activities of one of the best known public figures in this section of the province. It is almost fifty years since he was first elected to the York Municipal Council from the Parish of Douglas, and during all the intervening years he has been more or less in the public eye, either as a municipal official, as a member of the Provincial Legislature or as Judge of the County Court. In his twenty odd years on the bench Judge Wilson had the advantage of a well trained legal mind, and in his judgments tempered justice with mercy, such as would be expected of one with a big, generous heart among the outstanding characteristics of his personality. There are few more entertaining speakers than Judge Wilson; possessed of rare wit and humor and a good "story teller," he has been a prominent figure at functions of all sorts; he has been active in temperance work, in the various branches of the Methodist church, and in other organizations that he felt were operating in the best interests of the city.

A NEW BRUNSWICK PROTEST.

Montreal Gazette: "In opening the session of the New Brunswick Legislature, Lieutenant Governor Pugsley made a reference to the rights of the province, said they must be vigilantly guarded and upheld, and added that any attempt to tamper with 'either the letter or the spirit of the British North America Act, particularly with regard to representation in the Senate and House of Commons, must be viewed with the greatest apprehension and should be resisted to the utmost.' It was added that, 'the terms of Confederation, being the compact of the Union, should never be disregarded and should only be varied with the approval of all the provinces interested.'"

"The occasion for this somewhat strong pronouncement is not immediately apparent. There is no known movement on foot to tamper with the representation in the Senate or House of Commons of any of the provinces; and any such movement would rightly be viewed with apprehension. The plan adopted for fixing the representation in Parliament 'at the time of Confederation' may not have worked out as all expected. 'The provinces have not increased equally in population; and as a consequence some have today fewer members of the House of Commons than they had in the first Parliament. The changes have been made on a fair basis, however; and it would be difficult to devise a scheme that would work with greater evenness towards all. The one departure from the rule was made in favor of Prince Edward Island, which 'claimed that there was an understating that its representation in the House of Commons should not be reduced from the Confederation figure. The mistake is not likely to be repeated. It may be that the development of population with the present standard of representation will make the House of Commons too huge a body to be workable, and a new plan may have to be devised. That eventually is some decades off, however, and need not now cause anxiety. What it comes, the consent of all concerned will be important and necessary. Meanwhile the New Brunswick protest may be noted, without the occasion for it being outstandingly apparent.'"

IMPORTATIONS TO CANADA MUST STOP

Country is Facing Bankruptcy Unless Curtailment, Says Sir Henry Drayton.

Montreal, March 21.—Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, speaking today before the American Women's Club here, laid at the door of the Canadian housewife a large part of the responsibility for the shrinkage of the Canadian dollar in the United States market and uttered a warning that, if the Dominion continued on her way of lavish importation of United States goods at the expense of Canadian producers and manufacturers, national bankruptcy would be inevitable.

Canada's apex of international trade reached last year in a total of two and a quarter billion dollars, did not, in the Minister's view, stand for prosperity. He said that the colossal burden of war debt, of obligations to Canadian soldiers and of great debts grown out of the war in connection with the railway systems of Canada.

Unnecessary purchases, such as fruit, vegetables, eggs and textiles mean, he said, a charge of \$2 on every ton of coal in the cellars of Montreal houses, since the adverse rate of exchange inflated the price of every article thus imported.

ON A THREATENING CHARGE HE IS HELD

Coles Island Settler Accused by Neighbor—Appleby's Examination Closed.

Gagetown, March 21.—Sheriff J. P. Reid and Constable George McKay have brought down from Coles Island a prisoner named George Appleby, charged with threatening one of his neighbors with intent to cause him bodily injury. The prisoner, who is located on a little soldier settlement farm near Coles's, is a French-Canadian. He has a wife whom he married in England and three small children. It is alleged that the offence for which he was arrested was committed after considerable provocation. Meanwhile the accused is lodged in the county jail to await a hearing.

The prima facie examination of Geo. Appleby, of Upper Hampstead, charged with obtaining money under false pretences by means of a worthless check, concluded on Tuesday morning before Magistrate T. S. Peters. Evidence in the case was given by the plaintiff, G. F. London, a commercial traveller, of St. John, and M. G. Oddy, ledger-keeper of the Bank of Nova Scotia. In response to the enquiry of the prosecuting attorney, F. M. O'Neill, the accused replied that he had nothing to say and

BUSINESS-LIKE STATEMENT OF OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE

Under date of March 2nd, Mr. John F. Clark, the president of the company, Clark Bros. Ltd., writes us as follows:

St. Stephen, N. B., March 2nd, 1921.

Messrs. J. M. Robinson & Sons,

St. John, N. B.

Dear Sirs,—Complying with your request, I take pleasure in giving you our idea of business conditions in the shoe trade for the year 1921.

Our travellers are now in their territory, and are receiving a good volume of business for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. In normal times nearly all orders received at this season would be for summer and fall delivery. We are also receiving a large number of orders by mail and wire, which goes to show that the retailer is well sold out, and in NEED OF SHOES, AND WILL BE BUYING for his requirements from now on.

It is well understood that the Retailer has not been placing orders for some time past, as he has been unloading the heavy stock that he has been carrying for the past two or three years.

We have just received a wire from Mr. James Clark, our representative in Quebec and Ontario, that he has sold to one of the largest distributors of shoes in Canada an order amounting to about \$40,000. You can readily see from the foregoing that the trade is in need of shoes, and will be buying freely from now on, and we believe that this Company will receive all the orders that we are capable of turning out. We have sufficient orders on our books to keep us running for a considerable length of time ahead.

No doubt you are aware that during the dull period we were able to keep our factory running at nearly full capacity, when nearly all the shoe manufacturers of Canada and the United States were closed.

It has been generally understood that the shoe manufacturer has been making large earnings, but most of their earnings were lost on account of the decline in prices of raw material. We are GLAD TO SAY THAT WE WERE NOT CAUGHT WITH A HEAVY STOCK WHEN THE PRICE OF RAW MATERIAL DECLINED. The shoe manufacturing trade as a whole has been obliged to contend with the advancing market, while the prices of shoes was based on the price of material prevailing at the time they made their samples, and shoes would be sold from these samples, running over a period of six months in advance, and as the price advanced on raw material, they were losing a portion of their profits.

As we can see no reason why the market should show any further advances in raw material, we think the shoe manufacturers will be in a better position to earn a fair margin of profit on their turnover than they have been during the past few years, and we do not hesitate to predict for this Company one of the most successful years in our history, both to the amount of goods produced as well as the earnings, and I am sure that J. M. Robinson & Sons, as well as their clients will be well pleased with their connection with this Company.

Yours very truly,

JOHN F. CLARK, President

CLARK BROTHERS, LIMITED.

J. M. Robinson & Sons

MONCTON ST. JOHN

FREDERICTON

CANNOT TELL CAUSE OF WOMAN'S DEATH

Body of Mrs. Berry, of Albert Co., Too Far Decomposed, Says Dr. Abramson

Moncton, March 21.—Dr. H. L. Abramson, of St. John, provincial pathologist, was a witness at the preliminary hearing of Ezekiel Berry, of Forest Hill, Albert county, charged with the murder of his wife, Minnie Berry, when the case was resumed today.

Dr. Abramson gave an account of his post-mortem examination of the body on March 17th at Peticodiac. He said that the internal ear on the right side showed hemorrhage into its cells; that in the internal ear on the left side such condition was not shown. There was no fracture of the skull.

The hemorrhage on the right side might be caused by force on the out side ear, said the witness. It would be a severe blow, one of considerable force. In his opinion such a blow might be sufficient to produce unconsciousness as it caused hemorrhage of the internal ear. It would be more probably a blow at right angles to the surface to which it was applied. He had no idea how this blow might be applied.

"If one fell in water and hit the water with this blow be caused by the water," asked Mr. Goodwin, counsel for the crown.

No, it would depend on what was struck. In my opinion, deceased could not administer such a blow to herself.

Cross-examined, witness said: "I cannot tell the cause of the death of Mrs. Berry. I did not make an examination. The body was too far decomposed for the determination as to the cause of death."

PERSONALS

Miss Jessie Asten, the young daughter of Sgt. Major and Mrs. Asten, is quite seriously ill at her home on

Miss Rosa, of St. Luke's Hospital, New York, is spending a few days with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Ross, Charlotte street.

Andrew Randall, who has been the guest of his uncle, ex-Ald. Wm. McKay, for some weeks past, has returned to his home in Vancouver.

Miss Marie Hay, of Fredericton, is the guest of Mrs. Elmer Alexander, Queen street, for a few days.—St. John Telegraph.

Miss Harriet VanWart, of Fredericton, is the guest of Mrs. Hartt, 247 City Line, West St. John.—St. John Telegraph.

Miss S. C. Kelly returned from St. John last night.

March Notice.

Telephone bills are now past due. If not already paid, see notice on Page 3.

elect to be tried under the provisions of the speedy trials act on Tuesday, March 29.

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The glare of the sun on the snow is always unpleasant and often injurious to the eyes. If you require glasses for ordinary wear bear in mind that we make a specialty of supplying your correction in any tint you desire, or if you do not wear glasses we have a well-selected stock of Protectors with Plain Lenses which you will find to be a great comfort to the eyes, especially at this time of year. Our Dollar Special Smoke glasses will please you.

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We have a large assortment of these pens in stock now, self-fillers and ordinary, in fine, medium and broad points.

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