

The Herald

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Imperial Press Conference

The Imperial Press Conference met in the Senate Chamber in Ottawa on Thursday forenoon last. On motion Lord Burnham was appointed Chairman of the Conference. His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada, graced the occasion with his presence, and delivered the opening address. It was a warm and appreciative expression of Canada's welcome to the members of the Imperial Press Union. The Prime Minister, Hon. Arthur Meighen, next addressed the assemblage and extended, on the part of the Government and the people of Canada, a cordial "welcome home" to the assembled press representatives. Hon. Mackenzie King, Leader of the Opposition, followed in a congratulatory and welcome address.

It is proper to state regarding the Imperial Press Conference that it is constituted of the press representatives who form the Imperial Press Union, and its members are the representatives of all the leading newspapers within the British Empire: some are proprietors and editors, or part proprietors and members of the editorial staffs. All the leading daily papers of London and of all the other large cities and important commercial centres of Great Britain are members of this Press Union and are represented at this Imperial Conference in Ottawa. There then are the representatives of the leading papers in all the overseas dominions and all other sections of the world that own allegiance to the British flag. Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, and all the other British countries in the Southern Seas have their representatives in this conference. In addition there are present in attendance representatives of almost all the leading papers within the Dominion of Canada, also representatives from the papers of Newfoundland. In addition to all these there are in attendance several representatives of the leading papers of the United States. Some of the representatives of papers from Great Britain are accompanied by their wives and daughters and the whole company constituting the Conference, or in attendance thereof, number in the vicinity of two hundred. Lord Atholstan, Proprietor of the Montreal Star is Chairman of the Canadian section of the Union, and the General Secretary, who has the supervision of all the arrangements is Mr. C. R. Crandall, Managing Editor of the Star.

His Excellency, the Governor General presided, having on his right Hon. Arthur Meighen Prime Minister, and on his left, Lord Burnham, Chairman of the Imperial Press Conference. In addition to these, those occupying prominent positions at the head table were Sir Robert Borden, Lord Atholstan, and several other notables including members of the Cabinet. The intellectual part of the program was first class, as was every other feature of the banquet. The speakers of the evening were His Excellency, the Governor General, Prime Minister Meighen, Lord Burnham, Sir George Foster and two or three other members of the Press Conference including representatives from Great Britain, Australia and Newfoundland. His Excellency the Governor General delivered a felicitous address referring generally to the work of the Press and extending again a hearty welcome to the visiting members of the Imperial Press Union, as well as commending in the highest terms the great work in which they are engaged. The principal speech of the evening was of course delivered by the Prime Minister, which was from every point of view, admirable, and his characterization of the particular functions of the press was, not only admirably thought out, but what might be considered, a most

kindness tendered the visiting Pressmen that they were completely taken off their feet and from one place to another were at a loss to find words sufficiently emphatic to testify their heartfelt appreciation of the generosity and enthusiasm of the welcome extended them. Lord Burnham, who is the Proprietor of the London Daily Telegraph, is the President of the Imperial Press Union and is the leading spokesman on different occasions when open meetings are held. The Conference opened in Ottawa on the 5th, continued on the 6th and 7th and an interesting program of entertainment was provided for the distinguished visitors, the different phases of which were sandwiched in between the hours which the members of the Conference devoted to very important business in connection with the press and such improvements as are desirable to render the newspaper service of the whole Empire even more efficient than it is at the present time. Very important discussions took place on each of the three days of the Conference regarding cable rates, improvements in editorial and news departments of the press generally and a number of other most important matters were taken up and discussed by the press representatives from every possible section of the farflung British Empire. The object of these discussions in the Conference is to render more satisfactory and less exacting, if that may be possible, the labors of those charged with producing and presenting to the public the great daily newspaper publications, in all the principal cities of the Empire.

The members of the Imperial Press Conference and their friends, were the guests of the Federal Government at a sumptuous banquet in the Chateau Laurier on Thursday evening. The banquet from every point of view, was eminently successful. It was indeed a most elaborate affair. The great dining room of the Chateau was appropriately decorated for the occasion and an efficient orchestra rendered excellent music during the evening. In addition to the instrumental music there were several excellent patriotic vocal contributions. The attendance was very large. The number of guests was possibly between three or four hundred.

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stagnant and authoritative statement as to what should be regarded as the duties and the privileges of the press. He commended in the highest degree the work of the Imperial Press Union generally and pointed out here and there what might constitute, in one place or another, certain shortcomings in newspaper work. As usual Sir George Foster entertained the company with a splendid oration. It is quite unnecessary to make any comment on the nature of a speech delivered by Sir George, as he is always admirable. Lord Burnham's address was comprehensive, patriotic and instructive. He reiterated the appreciation of himself and the other members of the Imperial Press Conference for the extreme kindness cordiality and generosity with which their every move had been received by the Canadian people as far as they had gone. He was free to state that a great many agreeable surprises had come to them from their visit to this country, which was, for a number of the pressmen, their first occasion for seeing any part of Canada. He fully appreciated the fact that the greater Canada of the West had yet to be seen and expressed the highest anticipation of the pleasures in store for himself and his friends before their tour was completed. It might be here stated that Sir George Foster had intimated that all they had seen and all the agreeable surprises with which they had been entertained were nothing to what was yet to come by the time the visitors had gone across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. He felt sure on their return that they would have a great store of most agreeable information to impart to their friends in the East. The banquet came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem about 11 o'clock.

Both at the opening of the Conference and at the Banquet His Excellency, the Governor-General, as well as Lord Burnham, and others of the Imperial Press Conference, made special reference to Sir Robert Borden, and expressed regret that he had suffered in health in consequence of his great patriotic devotion in the time of stress and high. His Excellency in particular was very warm in his appreciation of Sir Robert's great work and was most sincere in his expression of hope that rest from labour would restore him to complete health.

On Friday morning, just before the business sessions commenced, Hon. P. E. Blonden, Postmaster General, addressed the Conference in an admirable speech of welcome and congratulation, in the name of the French speaking people of Canada.

Sir George Foster was the speaker before the Conference on Saturday morning. His theme was Empire Trade, which he illuminated and adorned, as he alone can. He was applauded again and again, as he eloquently developed his theme, and received an ovation at the conclusion of his masterly address.

The members of the Conference and their friends were guests of their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Duchesse of Devonshire at a garden party Saturday afternoon, and left for Toronto Saturday night.

Britain is Ready

So much has been written during the last six years of the war that was to end all wars that it is difficult to realize that once again, after less than two years of peace, Britain and France stand at the brink of another great conflict. There is bustle and activity at the British War Offices and at the Admiralty these days, and the comforting messages are flashed across to us that the fleet is ready and the army awaits orders for the despatch of its divisions. Presently Premier Millerand and Lloyd George meet in conference again at Boulogne, and if Soviet Russia persists in its attitude of insincerity and defiance the war clouds will burst over Europe once more. Against such a contingency the world fervently hopes, for after the destitution and suffering of the Great Armageddon the Allies have little stomach for fighting.

Yet at the juncture of the times there can be no doubt. The Allies are pledged to support Poland not only in honor, but because a devastated and a dispirited Poland would let in the floods of Bolshevism and the seeds of discontent would find a fertile soil. Poland demands the right to national existence in return for the crimes that were committed by greedy politicians against her one hundred and fifty years ago. If self-determination means anything Poland surely has the right to self-expression. For centuries she was a powerful state, founded on ideals of democracy which were far in advance of the aims of her neighbors. She had her own language and her own literature, her own customs and her own culture, and the oppression of an autocratic state could not quench her national spirit. After a century and a half of such oppression Poland saw her opportunity, and her state was recreated at the conference table at Paris. The Allies, who made such a recreation possible, cannot leave her in the lurch in the hour of her tribulation.

It may be that the storm clouds will pass and the silver lining of peace will be visible in the next few days. If they are to vanish Soviet Russia will have to abandon the attitude of hypocrisy and of insincerity which has marked her conduct since the suggestion of armistice negotiations were first mooted two weeks ago.

Soviet Russia has used every subterfuge to enable her to continue the war. She wants to see Warsaw in the dust in order that she may reward the patriots who have flocked to the banner of Russia under the call of invasion. A beaten and humbled Poland would give Soviet Russia a new lease of life. France sees this clearly, and is in favor of the strongest measures. On Britain rests the chief responsibility, and the message comes that "Britain is ready."—Montreal Star.

The Building of Roads

Countries everywhere are giving increased attention to the problem of better road-making. In France, England and other progressive countries there is a constant demand for the best methods of roads construction and management. A Good Roads Association has for a long time past been carrying on an active campaign in England, and splendid results have been achieved. The Government of the United States created some time ago a special department to enquire into the condition of country roads, and to report on the very best and latest method of improving them. The Washington Bureau has worked largely on the plan of organized State Roads Associations. Model sections of roads have been built and literature concerning them sent to country and county councils. Massachusetts has a State Roads Commission, and an efficient corps of highway engineers. Three-fourths of the cost of construction and maintenance is paid by the State one-fourth by the municipalities. In many other States similar conditions exist. Good roads among countless other blessings mean less wear and tear on horses and vehicles. A farm pays better when there are good roads available. Finely constructed roads means catering to the tourist trade. With properly constructed roads the retail merchant will sell more goods; while the wholesale merchant and manufacturer will be benefited in turn. When so much prosperity and comfort can be got by acquiring good roads, it is not surprising that growing attention is being given to the subject.—Exchange.

Turning next to bank clearings, on the great volume of which remark has already been made, the striking feature of the last three months and a half is that the figures keep steadily above those for the corresponding periods last year. This is no doubt due in part to the rise in prices in the meantime; but it is hardly likely that this explains the whole increase. The figures fluctuate a good deal from week to week. In some instances the increase is roughly proportionate to the change in the wholesale price index number of the Department of Labor. But in other instances the rise in clearings is considerably greater. The rise in June clearings—the figures are taken from the Monetary Times—was roughly proportionate to the rise in prices; but in April the rise in clearings was materially greater than in prices. The first two weeks of July showed increases roughly conforming to the rise in prices; but the third week clearings were considerable in excess of the price index. Taking the general run of the clearings from week to week for the last three months—during which there has been little change in prices—the figures are just about holding their own. In April the clearings ranged from \$322,000,000 to \$404,000; in July they have ranged for the first three weeks from \$352,000,000 to \$412,000,000.

Judged by the current loans of the chartered banks, according to the official figures published by the Finance Department, business has been growing steadily during the last year. In May of last year the current loans totalled 1,071 millions; this year for the same month they were 1,349 millions. Again this rise may be partly due to the rise in prices. But prices have changed little during the past three months; and the current loans for June are 1,305 millions as compared with 1,322 millions for March. It is worthy of remark that during the three corresponding months of last year the current loan figure steadily declined; this year these figures have steadily increased.

Internal Trade Sound

Ottawa, August 5.—Information as to the extent and progress of our internal trade is very much less definite and satisfactory than that available in regard to our trade with other countries. An effort is now being made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to organize such information; but the work is yet only in its infancy. It is quite clear, of course, that our home trade is many times as large as our external trade; but that is about as far as we can go. An indication—but only an indication—may perhaps be derived from a comparison between

the statistics of bank clearings and the values of our combined exports and imports. Our bank clearings are now running along at the rate of eighteen billions a year or upwards. Our combined exports and imports for the last fiscal year were only two and a third billions. It has to be remembered, too, that bank clearings by no means cover all the transactions of daily business, though as to the ratio it would be hazardous to venture a guess. Still, while no definite figures are available as to our internal trade, bank clearings and other financial data do give a measure of direction at least. They do not give us information as to quantities of commodities handled, because the present high prices have thrown out all comparisons based on money. But they do tell us—for the immediate past at least in which values have been somewhat steadier—whether we are moving forward or sliding backward; and their message is distinctly cheerful. Quite a number of these financial measuring-rods might be selected; but for the present purpose five will suffice. They are business failures, bank clearings, loans, savings deposits and circulation.

Let us begin with the uncheerful subject of business failures, though the figures are by no means discouraging. The figures given are those collected by Dun's. For the first six months of the calendar year there were in Canada four hundred and fifteen failures with assets of \$5,600,000 and liabilities of \$7,600,000. As compared with the same period of last year the number of failures is thirty higher; but the sums involved are much smaller. The assets are only three hundred thousand dollars less this year; but the liabilities are less by \$1,700,000. As compared with 1918 and the war years, it is not surprising that this year shows up to still better advantage; but perhaps it will be surprising to be told that the numbers of failures are decidedly lower than those of the four years immediately before the war. Of course, owing to the great rise in prices the sums involved today are greater than they were before 1914.

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Department of Militia and Defence

Notice to Ex-members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Notice is hereby given to all concerned that ex-members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who are entitled to and who require post-discharge dental treatment must submit their applications to the District Dental Officer at the Headquarters of the District in which they reside on or before 1st September, 1920. Applications for dental treatment received after 1st of September, 1920, will not be considered. (Sgt. EUGENE FISKE, Major General, Deputy Minister Militia and Defence, Ottawa, August 3, 1920. NOTE—Newspapers will not be paid for the advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department. August 11, 1920—21

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 10th September, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, over Mount Stewart Rural Mail Route, No. 2, from the 1st January next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Mount Stewart and French Village, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector. JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, July 30, 1920. August 4, 1920—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 10th September, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, on the route, Cape Traverse Rural Mail Route No. 1, from the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen, and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Cape Traverse, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector. JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, July 30, 1920. August 4, 1920—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 10th September, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, over Eversard Rural Mail Route No. 1, from the 1st January next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Eversard, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector. JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, July 30, 1920. August 4, 1920—31

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For further information apply to W. K. ROGERS, City Ticket Agent, W. T. HUGGAN, District Pass. Agent. See that all Tickets read via Canadian National Railways, June 23, 1920—31