

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1925

The Evening Times-Star

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SHIFTING TAXATION.

The extent to which the sources of taxation have changed in Canada since the pre-war years is well illustrated in a recent bulletin issued by the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, in which the revenue and expenditures of the Dominion are classified. The customs taxes last year supplied \$121,000,000; excise, \$38,161,000; the post office, \$28,868,000; and public works, \$790,282. Prior to the war these were almost the only sources of income for the federal government but the first of the war years saw the beginning of additional taxes, and during the following years new and important sources were tapped. Thus for 1923-24 the inland revenue and sales tax produced more than \$120,000,000, and the income tax \$55,204,000, and these, together with the business profits tax and other taxes born of the war, made up a total of \$192,000,000, or almost exactly as much as was derived from the old and what may be called the regular sources of taxation, including the tariff.

Few taxes have disappeared. In fact nearly all the war taxes which were introduced persist. In the matter of expenditures we are again reminded strongly of the extent to which we are mortgaged by the war, for first on the basis of the estimates for 1924-25, and then on the basis of the actuals for 1923-24, the total revenue last year was a little more than \$400,000,000. Interest charges make the greatest call upon the Dominion's resources, amounting to \$128,860,000; the general charges of government, including administration of the departments, cost nearly \$140,000,000. The pensions, soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and military and naval expenditures require \$69,000,000; public works, including public buildings, roads, aids to navigation, etc., \$18,767,000; railways and canals, \$7,947,000; post office, \$31,738,000; administration of justice, \$7,028,000. Then there are the charges for colonization and immigration, for agriculture, for fisheries, for mines, for lands and parks, and the deficit in connection with the C.N.R. and the C.G.M.M. The total expenditure last year was \$398,610,000, which does not include amounts spent for capital expenditures. The pre-war taxation would do little more than pay the interest charges on our debt to day. The call for national economy is heard all over the country, and it is loud and insistent. At the moment the outlook for a substantial reduction of Dominion taxation cannot rightly be described as rosy, yet the country needs taxation relief and the demand for it is certain to increase.

CABINET RECONSTRUCTION?

There is talk in Ottawa, in connection with the retirement of the Solicitor-General, to the effect that considerable Cabinet reconstruction is likely to be brought about before there is a general election. It is not thought that the Solicitor-General added greatly to the Government's strength either in the House or in the country, but his retirement is followed by expressions of regret in his own party, accompanied by the statement that the circumstances involve no reflection upon his integrity. The correspondence exchanged between Hon. MacKenzie King and Hon. Mr. McMurtry, which was read in the House, did not go into the history of the case, but the circumstances leading to Mr. McMurtry's retirement are generally well known. He stepped out because of transactions in which he became interested before he became Solicitor-General and which, while in no way affecting his honesty, rendered his retirement necessary, or at least expedient, in view of the Government's proposal to vote aid to those who lost money through the failure of the Home Bank.

Some years ago a firm or company in which Mr. McMurtry was an active figure secured a loan from the Home Bank on security which at that time was regarded as adequate. Subsequently came a great drop in land values in the West, and still later the Home Bank collapsed. The liquidator was unable to agree with Mr. McMurtry and his associates as to the value of the property given as security and it is supposed that ultimately the matter will go into court. When the Government decided to give aid to the depositors the McMurtry transaction began to loom up as a possible cause of embarrassment to the administration. There appears to have been fear that if Mr. McMurtry retained his office it might be charged by hostile parties that the relief bill should be regarded as interested legislation, as in a sense it would reduce the losses of the depositors through many transactions, in one in which Mr. McMurtry and his associates were concerned. Mr. McMurtry, who represented Manitoba in the Ministry, was the youngest member of the administration. He retains his seat in the House.

for to do so would be to impede the unity and peace of India, and that training for self-government must develop at the provincial end. It is held that, when Indians have demonstrated their capacity to govern provinces of 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 people, then it will be time to consider the transfer of the responsibility for the central government, but not before. No official pronouncements have yet been made, but it seems likely that the outcome of the present deliberations will be on those general lines."

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

A Haunt of O. Henry's

"Joel's," the resort that O. Henry knew so well, is going, but the "cabaret" as an institution goes on. The short story flourishes in American literature, but it has changed since the days of the man whose name at one time meant the American short story, whose work was the model for a great many writers. It is used to go to "Joel's" and at the "newspaper" table would sit for hours, smoking cigarettes, while he wrote from time to time. "Joel's" was a resort for newspaper men, though whether it was any more "Bohemian" than the country where Bohemianism is impossible, it would be hard to say. Here the man who was William Sidney Porter spent a great many hours, looked on, thought, smoked and wrote. It is nearly fifteen years ago that O. Henry passed from the scene of fiction, which he must have suffered hideously and yet without being left with an abiding and morbid memory in his heart. He had seen and known the seamy side of life, had consorted with those who make no contribution to society's improvement, had heard their stories; above all, watched their psychological processes and it left him, a better natured, better hearted figure than many who pride themselves on the breadth of their psychologies. His work was somewhat gone out of fashion, yet without being left with an abiding and morbid memory in his heart. He had seen and known the seamy side of life, had consorted with those who make no contribution to society's improvement, had heard their stories; above all, watched their psychological processes and it left him, a better natured, better hearted figure than many who pride themselves on the breadth of their psychologies. His work was somewhat gone out of fashion, yet without being left with an abiding and morbid memory in his heart.

It is natural enough that people in the country should be reluctant to testify against one another. They are anxious to preserve friendly and neighborly relations. Moreover, the question of damages is frequently involved, and at times there is the fear that those who give evidence may be subjected to reprisals. Nevertheless it is highly necessary that every bush fire should be followed by prompt, patient and thorough investigation in order to bring the responsibility home. The very knowledge that prosecution will follow the securing of evidence sufficient to warrant a bound to have a salutary effect. The man who breaks the regulations and starts a fire which destroys some of his neighbor's property as well as some of his own cannot be granted immunity merely on the ground that he had no criminal intention. If he deliberately violated the rules which it has been necessary to establish he must be brought to account, and when that is done the warning is likely to prove effective over a wide area.

Still Kill the Goose

(Boston Transcript.)
Why are we all so dumb? It is at least a thousand years since the man who killed the goose that laid the golden eggs was plainly shown to be a fool. Any child could see that this hairy man of securing one lamb Sunday dinner only cut off the owner of the goose from comfortable and assured supply of a thousand good Sunday dinners which might have easily bought from future sales of eggs had he not annihilated his golden incubator. For centuries, we say, children have known this. Men and women have known it. In fact, everyone knows it who is not committed for life to a State asylum for the insane. And yet we go right on killing our gold-producers as fast as human energy, coupled often with devilish ingenuity, possibly can kill them.

Secretary Hoover has just been remarking at Washington upon one highly popular form of this ruinous slaughter. "Thirty years ago," he said, "the annual take of dead fish in the States from Georgia to New York was over 50,000,000 pounds. But from over-fishing the catch has steadily decreased until during the last few years it has averaged less than 10,000,000 pounds per annum. This is a decrease of 75 per cent. At one time 25,000 people found profitable employment catching shad. This has now ceased to be an industry in many places altogether. Towns and villages which formerly thrived upon it are now groggy and poorer." And the Secretary continued:

Now here comes the sardonic humor. The Federal Bureau of Fisheries transplants young shad into California where there was never a shad before. Under the careful protection of the California Fish Commission they thrived until this year California will ship about 2,000,000 pounds of shad 3,000 miles into the Atlantic seaboard states, where they are solemnly sold as the great and rare delicacy of the Atlantic waters.

How could economic sanity be greater? As Mr. Hoover sums it up: "We deliberately destroy a great food supply by untrained exploitation. We destroy a great industry and the livelihood of many people, and change a necessity (which once paid for a few cents a fish) into a luxury (which now sells for \$1.75 upwards per fish). What are we ever going to do to stop this sort of madness?"

One Explanation.
A possible explanation of Panu Nauru's prowess as a runner is found in the official statement, just published, that Norway has 44,000 more women than men.

Setting the World Right.
(Toledo Blade.)
Many people are so busy telling the world what is wrong with it, they haven't the time to improve it.

Wonder Spots of The Empire

Red River Fossil Beds, Alberta

(Copyright.)
Museums in many distant parts have sent expeditions into the valley of the Red River, Alberta, to uncover specimens of the wonderful fossil remains that have been discovered there in recent times. Fossils in a remarkable state of preservation were first found in 1910 by a naturalist exploring for the United States National Museum. The find was made in the Cambrian rocks, the oldest rocks which contain evidence of organic life on this planet. The rocks of that portion of Alberta marked the bed of a very ancient sea. Some authorities have expressed the opinion that it was the first portion of this continent to become dry land. The formation is shale. Upon layers of this shale the American naturalist found the imprinted remains of huge vertebrate animals and reptiles were found and many specimens were soon en route to the leading museums of the world. Canada was not behind the others in making use of this discovery. The Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa has mounted two or three magnificent specimens of the Alberta dinosaur, and the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto has done likewise.

The larger fossils belong to a much later period in the story of early life development than the first discovery in 1910.
I Wonder.
(Elizabeth Chellis Adams in Christian Science Monitor)
Do all the stars stand silent at salute When slow the regal, misty moon appears?
Or does a burst of joyous choral song Attune to world-wide music the spheres?
Announce the rising glory of the night? I wonder if the watching trees keep mute
Or hum low reverent praise, when all Black trunks and slender branches creep a light
As up through clouds in silver chariot The Queen of Evening, glorious and bright,
I wonder if the watching wood stands dumb,
Or joins the stars in sentimental hum.

A Warlike Sound.
(St. Paul Pioneer-Press)
A new word recently contained the following terms: Blockade, squadrons, censorship, armada, offensive, sea-planes, submarines, patrol, navy, fleet, naval base, court-martial, head-quarters, dispatches, prize blood, shield, bullets, machine guns, bullets, escape, blood. What was the item? Three guesses. War? Not exactly. I wonder if the watching wood stands dumb,
Or joins the stars in sentimental hum.

ATLANTIC CITY, May 29.—Declaring that the reckless use of firearms by men of the dry navy, "if not curbed, may result in unfortunate casualties," United States Senator Walter E. Edge sent a telegram to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to day requesting that "ordinary country" be shown to boat captains by the government officers. The telegram follows closely on the heels of a protest uttered at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last night by Jacob Blaw, a director.

OTAWA, May 28.—Public works estimates for Prince Edward Island totaling \$82,850 were voted by the House of Commons in committee of supply this afternoon.

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PROTESTS RECKLESS USE OF FIREARMS

Senator Calls Washington's Attention to Practice of Dry Navy Men.

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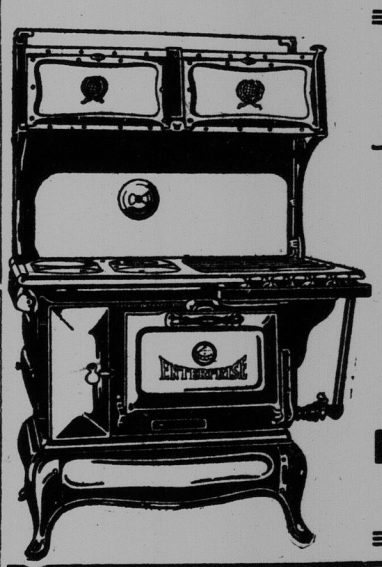
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SAINT JOHN MAN ON WORLD TOUR

A. J. LeLachur Is Enjoying Leisurely Circuit of Globe

Writes of Odd Clash of Old and Modern Life on Docks of China.

A. J. LeLachur, who was for some years in the employ of W. H. Thorne & Company, is now enjoying a leisurely trip around the world. He is a relative of John LeLachur of the firm of T. McAvilly & Sons. He writes to a friend of the contradictory conditions regarding equipment in China, where he was travelling, when he wrote the letter referred to. He wrote: "Arrived this morning at 9.30 at Sabang, Sumatra, on the Rotterdam-Lloyd liner, S. S. Patria, for bunker coal. On one side most up-to-date machinery is loading the coal, while on the other side coals with baskets are doing the same thing!"

FOUND IT WARM.
Mr. LeLachur described his trip in French Indo-China, partly by a slow ship and much of it by auto. The temperature averaged at its lowest 80 degrees and much of the time 95. The temples of Angkor, he said, represented a large community 700 years ago, when more than one million people lived there. He said that less than 5,000 people resided there now and 90 per cent. live in bamboo or grass huts. The forest jungle has overgrown everything. The trees whose roots started to grow on the roofs of the old temples, have gone in between the stones, searching for a way to the ground and have in their progress downward swelled and knocked down the greater part of the buildings. The French are clearing this jungle, but are making slow progress against great odds. It was told Mr. LeLachur that these ruins were not

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driving the car, had to go into the ditch to avoid a collision. Murray and Murray appeared for Rubenstein and J. A. Creighton for Father Barry.

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FATHER BARRY GETS VERDICT FOR \$478

Jury Finds For Plaintiff in Damage Case Over Collision.

NEWCASTLE, N. B., May 29.—A verdict for \$478 was today awarded Rev. Edward Barry, of Bartington Bridge, against Louis Rubenstein for damage received to Father Barry's car when it ran into a ditch due, the jury found, to negligence on the part of Rubenstein, who was driving a horse and two wagons in the opposite direction. The case was heard in the Circuit Court before Mr. Justice Crockett and jury, and witnesses for defence testified that Rubenstein was on the wrong side of the road and that Miss Barry, the plaintiff's sister, who was

The Groom's Gift to the Bride

GEORGE ANDERSON had the reputation of being a practical young man without much sentiment. Consequently, when it transpired that the groom's gift to the bride was a Mutual Life Insurance policy on his own life for \$5,000, some of her friends laughed and said, "I told you so."

But Nellie didn't laugh. She looked at the policy and a mist came into her eyes. She knew that the sentiment George felt was deeper than that which is expressed by trinkets of gold, silver and precious stones.

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