

The St. John Standard

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BUDGET TAXATION.

The Montreal Herald raises a question that has no doubt occurred to a good many others, namely, Why do the proposed new taxes come into operation immediately upon their announcement, and before Parliament has had an opportunity of discussing them even, much less before approving of them?

The reason is simply that the Government, which is responsible for them, expects that they will be agreed to as a matter of course. The House of Commons has supreme control of finance, and supporters of the Government are in the majority in the House. Should any particular tax ultimately fail to receive the sanction of the House, any duties collected under it would have to be refunded to the parties paying them. This is the view held by the British law officers, and it has been followed in this country for many years. It is true that it will be some weeks until the new taxes become embodied in the statute law; but a little reflection will show what some of the results would be if a new tax was announced some weeks before it came into effect. Not the least consequence would be a very considerable loss of revenue, due to people forestalling.

DEFICITS—AND HOW TO DISPOSE OF THEM.

The financial controller of the Manitoba Agricultural College has found a new way to overcome a deficit, and the method employed, while admittedly drastic and unpleasant for those immediately concerned, has this in its favor, that it certainly was effective. The man, employed as a lecturer, was the simple one of increasing the charge for board to those living in College, and making the increase retroactive, despite the fact that the board bills for the time previous had already been paid.

What a pity the Comptroller-General did not think of this brilliant scheme and suggest it to Premier Foster as soon as it became apparent that the provincial accounts would show a balance on the wrong side. A nicely worded letter to the lumber operators acquainting them with the situation, and informing them that the stampage had been increased fifty per cent., to date from August last, would of course have brought replies cheerfully acquiescing, and applauding the Premier for his happy solution of the difficulty. All the banks and other incorporated companies paying taxes would not doubt have readily fallen in line, also, if only as a tribute of their appreciation of so statesmanlike a method of getting out of a difficulty. The Premier really ought to see to it that he provides himself with some properly qualified financial advisers, who are able to think of these simple little expedients. His deficits year after year are getting monotonous.

GERMANY'S "DEMANDS."

A Berlin despatch says that the German Government is about to make a declaration touching the political situation. With respect to the Spa negotiations, it is said that the Government will lay its financial programme before the Entente, and "demand" guarantees that the Allies will not further impede the restoration of Germany by new occupations of her territory.

"Germany will also demand" the withdrawal of all colonial troops, punishment for all crimes committed by Allied soldiers; the restoration of the old frontier Customs duties and simplification of connection between occupied and unoccupied territory."

The old arrogance seems to be manifesting itself earlier even than it was expected. Is it any wonder that Marshal Foch wants his fellow countrymen to prepare for the next war? In the course of a recent speech he said:

"Which of us dares believe Germany is renouncing war on the morrow of her ruin—Germany which, inspired by sheer ambition, took up arms in 1871, 1870, 1871 and 1914 on the plea of historic necessity. Germany's neighbors, whether they wish to or not, will be forced to keep up armaments, and maintain strong frontiers, because, quite apart from the generous intentions of civilized humanity, there are historic realities and racial appetites just as there are geographic realities."

"How can we help mistrusting a nation which, reduced to impotence by the great Napoleon, was able, by its 'martial ardor, to re-establish itself and bring about complete overthrow of the colossal Napoleonic Empire, and by superlative militarism and 'methodic development, extended its 'authority from the East Prussian 'marshes to beyond the Rhine? Making war is its national industry, and 'might is its right."

No sane man but will say Foch is quite right.

THE EXPLOITS OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.

Secretary Daniels has a new complaint against Rear-Admiral Sims. The

Admiral, he says, didn't make separate records of the achievements of the American Navy in European waters, but accepted British Admiralty reports. And the British Admiralty acknowledged the proved sinking of only one submarine by the Americans. American vessels made 256 attacks, 24 of which were successful to the extent of slightly damaging the U-boats, and one to the extent of destruction. The Ottawa Journal says, it is not surprising that the Secretary is annoyed. He authorized Sam. Blythe to go over there and stay with the fleet for weeks, as a result of which holiday that verbose writer sent back to the States reports which indicated that the American squadron was the one little thing that was saving Britain from destruction by the submarines and the Allies as a whole from defeat. To judge by Mr. Blythe's reports at the time, it was a dull day in British waters when the sea was not beset by oil rising from submarines which had come to grief from contact with American destroyers or mines. After reading those reports Mr. Daniels would be justified in thinking the Admiralty was robbing the American navy of its glory in crediting it with only one submarine destroyed. The British Admiralty may have been too conservative in accepting proof from its own and foreign offices, and then again Mr. Blythe may have been led to err by the low visibility in the North Atlantic. Even American naval officers would admit the possibility of mistakes on both sides, remembering as they possibly do the famous battle between American warships in the convoy service and a school of porpoise-fishes—or was it a squadron of June bugs—the reports of which caused the American people to rejoice that the spirit of Dewey still lived in their navy.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

Some little resentment has been expressed by parents at the alleged officiousness of some of the medical inspectors of schools in this province, that they examine the children and order certain things to be done without any reference to the parents at all. This may be annoying to the parents, but it fades into insignificance when compared with the liberty of action that is said to be proposed to the medical inspectors in Ontario. It is reported from Toronto that a proposed amendment to the Public Schools Act to authorize the subjecting of public school children to compulsory surgical treatment may be put through by the private bills committee in the closing days of the session. To use a somewhat slang expression, this is certainly "going some."

It seems that the proposed Act would "compel surgical treatment of children attending the school" who are alleged to be "suffering from minor physical defects." It would only be necessary to have the opinion of the teacher and (where a school nurse or medical inspector is employed) of the nurse and medical inspector that "the defect interferes with the proper education of the child," and, after two weeks' notice to the parents, the state would confer the power upon a surgeon to perform the operation.

Such an enactment as is said to be proposed is worse than vicious, as it would, if put into effect, tamper with the very fundamental principles of family life. The legal and moral right of parents to determine whether their children shall submit to surgical operations or not, is one that should not be lightly interfered with. The utmost that the medical inspector should be empowered to do should be to advise, and leave it to the parents to be guided by the opinion of their own physician. Whether the surgical operations are minor, so-called, or more serious, the principle is the same: the parents' rights cannot be taken away without injustice, by arbitrary legislation.

The parents of public school children are entitled to the same consideration as the parents who can afford to send their children to private schools. It should only be necessary to mention this in the present democratic legislature of Ontario to make apparent the undemocratic tendency of legislation such as the bill to introduce compulsory surgical operations into the public schools.

THE FEAST OF WEEKS.

The Feast of Weeks, or Shavuoth in Hebrew, one of the principal Jewish holidays observed in Quebec as elsewhere, falls this year on tomorrow, the 23rd, when it will be observed in Reform Congregations, also on the same day and on May 24th in Orthodox Congregations. Special services will be held in all Jewish houses of worship, and in many of them the festival will be celebrated as Confirmation Day. These exercises, says The Quebec Chronicle, serve the two-fold purpose of signaling the pledge of loyalty on the part of the Jewish children to the faith of their fathers and of re-establishing the covenant of consecration to the One God and to the belief in His

justice and truth as manifested in history.

It also marks the graduation of the confirmands from the religious school where the children, boys and girls, have been taught the tenets of their faith, including a knowledge of the Bible and Jewish history, and also a reading acquaintance with Hebrew.

The Feast of Weeks was an agricultural festival in its origin which celebrated the gathering of the wheat harvest. A later tradition commemorates it as the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments and the Law on Mt. Sinai. Thus in the modern synagogue this ancient harvest festival assumes an historical character which gives it its greatest significance in the ritual.

The Reform synagogue stresses this historical feature of the Feast of Weeks as the anniversary of the dedication of ancient Israel to the faith in One God, and only in a symbolic manner refers to the agricultural aspect of the festival. The Confirmation service is thus the symbol of the ingathering of the first fruits of the spirit. The young people have been carefully instructed in their history and faith and express before the congregation their understanding of and loyalty to the religion of their fathers.

A Returned Soldier writes and makes the suggestion "that all the people having soldier sons buried in any of the local cemeteries, or who know of any friendless soldier that took any part in this great war that saved our Empire, carry a small bunch of flowers and a British flag, a small one, and deposit each on the soldier's grave, to let the world know that we have not forgotten our boys and what we owe to them. It is not much, but it will show that we revere their memory. If the Yanks can do it, why not we?"

MR. MEIGHEN'S TRIUMPH

(Editorial Ottawa Journal 11-2-20)
 Parliament on Friday witnessed a singular tribute to the genius and administrative capacity of the Minister of the Interior. On the presentation of the estimates of the Soldier Settlement Board members representing all shades of political opinion bore testimony to the efficiency in manner in which the soldier settlement scheme is being administered by the Board under the management of Mr. W. J. Black and under the immediate control of Mr. Meighen.

It was acknowledged on all sides that so great a contribution had been made towards the rehabilitation of thousands of returned soldiers. Everywhere there is evidence of the careful selection of men established on the land under this scheme and of the strictest supervision of their operations after they take up their own farms.

It is not often that a Minister of the Crown impresses a public body as Mr. Meighen did on Friday when he detailed the results of the first year's operations. Mr. Meighen was able to show that the Soldier Settlement Board has approved loans of approximately \$60,000,000, \$42,000,000 of which has been disbursed on behalf of men actually on the land. The number who have qualified to go on the land is in the neighborhood of 25,000. Sixty-nine settlers have already repaid their loans in full. "This," said Mr. Meighen, "is a splendid advertisement of this magnificent country. It is an advertisement which should be used in other countries of the earth to let them know what sort of a country Canada really is," and the Doctor continued to say that in the Minister's statement he found everything to commend and nothing to criticize.

Other members of the same party also lauded the work of the Board. Major Andrews (Winnipeg) observed that "The Liberal members of this House as well as the country at large may congratulate the Government on having enacted the most advanced legislation that has ever been put on the statute book in the country since Confederation," while Mr. Caldwell, (New Brunswick) said he felt like giving the Government every credit for this Act. "I believe," said he, "that it is a good thing and that it serves a good purpose. I believe that it will put returned soldiers into civil life who otherwise would not be able to establish themselves under such favorable conditions."

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was smoking and thinking in the sitting room, and I said, "Pop?"

"That's me, sed pop, and I sed, Wats you think, pop, I got a grate idee, do you see this little memorandum book? And I held out a little memorandum book full of dates and spaces and pop sed, Yes, I see it, are you the author of that?"

No sir, but I got a grate idee wot to do with it, every sent I get and every sent I spend Im going to put it down in this little memorandum book, so all always know exactly wot Ive got exactly wot I havent, I sed.

Good, fine, grate, sed pop, Im going to see you develop a sense of economy after all these years of sewing wild oats with your money. The biogriphy of every grate blazes man shows that he started in by keeping a little account book, thats the rite spirit, a penny saved is a penny earned, keep up the good work.

Yes sir, on theres just one trouble about it, pop, I aint got any money to start making a note of, I sed.

O, I sed, lack of capital well, that is a serious draw back in every financial undertaking. O well, suppose I give you a dime to start the ball rolling, how will that be? sed pop.

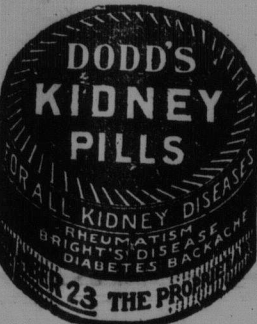
Fine, I sed, And pop gave me a dime, saying, Heer you are, make a note of it wile the pencils hot. Wich I did, and pop sed, Good, wot did you rite down? and I sed, I rite, 10 cents for the movie.

And I quick stuck the memorandum book in my pocket, saying, Did you see my hat around enywhere, pop?

Yee gods, gold bricks and frenzied finance, sed pop, And I found my hat by myself and went around to look at the pictures outside to see wats the best movie was.

live legislation that has been enacted since the war. It evidences a sincere desire on the part of the Government, and particularly of the Minister whose project it is, to meet the situation caused by the industry citywards, which set in before the war, and wacca has done more than anything else to produce the chaotic economic conditions which exist in Canada. Every encouragement should be given to our returned men to take up land and become producers of food. That they are embracing this wonderful opportunity to become established under the most favorable conditions is a matter upon which the people of Canada should congratulate themselves.

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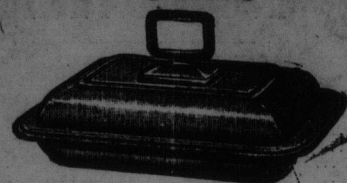
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