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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY JULY 23, 1920.

NOVA SCOTIA POLITICS.

Once again the Hon. G. H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia, is making an appeal to the electors of that province, and the elections are to take place on Tuesday next. Mr. Murray has supporters nominated in every county except Colchester, where Liberal and Conservative Farmers are opposing the straight Conservatives.

The Conservatives have no candidates in Digby, Annapolis, Antigonish and Guysboro counties, and only one candidate in Pictou, Yarmouth and Hants. In these counties the Farmers are opposing the Liberals.

The Legislature recently dissolved had still another session to run in the ordinary course of events, but apparently Mr. Murray felt that the present was an opportune time to seek a still further term of office, so he is making his appeal to the people now. He has had a long innings already, having been head of the Government since Mr. Fielding retired in 1916, on joining the Laurier Cabinet at Ottawa. In the twenty-four years that have elapsed since assuming the premiership, Mr. Murray has appealed to the people five times before the present occasion, and has carried the province each time. In 1897 the Conservative Opposition carried only three constituencies, and in 1901 only two. In the 1905 election their number was increased to five, but in 1911 and 1916 it did much better, and in the last House had well up to one-third of the membership.

Premier Murray has been so long identified with Nova Scotia politics that by many he has come to be regarded as more or less of a fixture, and his defeat would be looked upon as somewhat of a sensation in the political life of Canada. He is a modest, almost a retiring, gentleman, who has won in a notable manner the respect and confidence of the people of his province, as his long period in office testifies. Whether he still retains this confidence to a great extent as hitherto will be demonstrated on Tuesday. His policies have apparently met with the approval of the majority of the electorate in the past, though lately he has shown an inclination to depart somewhat from the course he has previously followed, and has entered upon a road building and electric power development programme, which is expected to add largely to the public debt. The people are now asked to endorse this programme, and their verdict will be awaited with interest.

One feature of Mr. Murray's election address will interest the people of New Brunswick, namely that which touches on the provincial subsidies from the Dominion Treasury. Regarding this, he says: "At the last session of the Legislature, a resolution was passed calling for an early conference with the Governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in reference to the claims of the Maritime Provinces against the Federal Government with respect to western lands and the cash subsidies paid to western provinces in lieu of lands. I deem this matter of the very highest importance, and shall press our claims with the utmost vigor for a readjustment of the federal subsidies on such a basis as will give to Nova Scotia a fair compensation for the alienation of vast territories in which our province had a proprietary interest."

Mr. Murray cannot press his province's claim too vigorously, and he will most assuredly find himself cordially supported in any efforts he may make by the Governments of New Brunswick and P. E. I.

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES.

In a country of long hauls, such as Canada, freight rates are an important item of business cost. The people of this country paid last year about \$250,000,000 to the Canadian railways, or, on an average, about \$40 each. The further increases in railway wages made inevitable by the granting of increases in the United States will raise the labor expense of the Canadian roads by approximately \$40,000,000. As on the National Railways, 75 per cent. of operating expense now goes into labor, this fresh additional outlay will have to come out of the public. That is, the average family will have to pay \$25 a year more in order that railway employees may get wages that now will average higher than the commercial rate.

The Mail and Empire declares that there must come an end to the increase in railway operating costs. If transportation service be too costly, or is inefficient, the country will not be able to carry its goods to market for exportation. It is frequently pointed out that the cost of railway traffic on this continent, and particularly in Canada, is much cheaper than in

Europe. In 1918, receipts of the railways per ton mile were 736 cents in Canada, 223 cents in Britain, 137 cents in Germany, and 862 cents in the United States. Canada's rate was lowest. The McAdoo award in 1915 increased the rate greatly. By the time new rate increases are allowed the American and Canadian roads sufficient to allow them to attain a reasonable footing, giving capital a fair return, the ten-mile rate here will be nearly double what it was two years ago. In a short-haul country like Britain, or in Germany, the total amount paid for freight haulage is relatively much less, and a rate increase does not carry the same penalty to the consumer as here, where we measure in thousands of miles, instead of fifties or hundreds. The railway employees are entitled to full living wages, but many of the schedules are likely to get far out of line with commercial rates for similar work. The McAdoo initiative set the snowball rolling and increasing, and encouraged the railmen in the belief that all they had to do was to threaten a general strike, and the public would be made to turn over the necessary millions.

If the average Canadian family of five now pays \$200 a year for freight and passenger transportation on the steam lines, and increases are to be made from time to time, at the demand of the railway unions, the effect can only be a reaction on the trade of the country. The only condition that allows the United States and Canada so much latitude in riotous living and reckless expenditures is the appalling condition of Europe. Our greatest competitors have almost destroyed themselves economically by war. But we have to watch our own path, lest it lead to similar difficulties.

CANADA'S EXPORT TRADE.

Three months' trade is too short a span upon which to predicate the condition of a particular industry with certainty, and especially is this true with respect to agriculture, the production of which is so largely dependent upon the propitiousness of the season. Last year the harvest was below normal, the wheat yield averaging only ten bushels an acre, yet the gross farm production is returned by the Bureau of Statistics as \$1,975,841,000, or seventy millions more than in 1918, and in excess of production in 1915 by the great sum of \$857,000,000. The money value of dairy products, butter and cheese, was last year returned as a trifle less than a hundred million dollars, a substantial advance upon the preceding year, and about double the value of these products in 1915.

These gratifying figures, however, are not reflected in foreign trade returns. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year the value of farm products exported, including animals and animal products, was \$109,709,000, while in the same period last year the export was \$156,843,000. The decline is serious, and it cannot be overcome until another harvest is reaped. If the Bureau of Statistics figures are accurate there has been an appreciably larger consumption in Canada of farm products, since the export trade has diminished, and the output of 1919 is returned as the highest on record. But, as the Montreal Gazette points out, little grain remains in Canada, though happily the crop outlook is excellent, giving promise of one of the best harvests ever gathered, and if this promise is fulfilled the foundation will be laid for another year of at least reasonably good business. Production must precede sales, and it is of very great importance in the stability of domestic trade that production be enlarged.

The pulp and paper industry has contributed materially to maintain the value of the export trade, wood products and paper of the value of \$66,160,000 having been shipped abroad during the three months ending June 30th, or double the amount of the export in the similar period last year. Pulp, paper and lumber are in fact about the only products in which increasing exports are shown.

Idleness is developing among railway workers, shoe workers and employees of woollen mills and clothing factories on both sides of the boundary in America, and it is not seasonal suspension of activity either. The undesirable tendency may have the effect of lessening the agitation for the shorter work day. The unemployed man is generally anxious for the opportunity to earn a living by working nine or ten hours daily, and more if need be. He needs his daily bread and work alone can bring it regularly.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Well Qualified.
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
The reverend gentleman who made the sensational gesture, punctuated with applause, to the Farmer-Labor party, said "England is God's enemy," and henceforth will become William Randolph Hearst's favorite preacher.

The Awful Numbers 13.
(Montreal Herald.)
Superstitious Conservatives in Canada are asked to shiver at the thought of thirteen members of the Borden Ministry being sworn as members of the Meighen cabinet on the 13th day of the month. They will surely shudder when they learn that Mr. Meighen is now the leader of the 13th Parliament. A Berlin correspondent writes that the superstitious are not inclined to back Mr. Feherbach as he is the 13th Chancellor of Germany. Anyway, he's not in luck at Spa.

The Union Party.
(Edmonton Journal.)
Several newspapers in commenting on the changes in the cabinet, lay stress on the former political affiliations of the new ministers. It is quite clear that much more importance is attached to these differences by those editors than by the members of parliament supporting the Government. Among the latter the old party lines have been almost completely obliterated. A new party is in existence and they are prepared to unite in advancing its interests and through it those of the country at large, without regard to what divided them in the old days. The fact that among the leading supporters of Premier Meighen in the House of Commons is a nephew of Edward Blake's, a nephew of Sir Oliver Mowat's and representatives of several other prominent old-time Liberal families, is the best indication of the completely new political alignment that has been brought about.

A BIT OF VERSE

A RUTHENIAN TRIBUTE.
(Edmonton Journal.)
A poem which Canadians, old as well as new, should be well acquainted with, is one written by Mr. Michael Gowda, for many years a well-known resident of Edmonton, in his native Ruthenian tongue. It came to the attention of Mr. E. W. Thompson, of Ottawa, on one of his visits to this city, who turned it into English. It runs as follows:—

O free and frolic home, Canada! Can we
Bears far o'er seas, call thee our country dear?
I know not whence or how that right may be
Attained through sharing blessings year by year.

We were not reared within thy broad domain,
Our fathers' graves and corpses lie afar;
They did not fall for freedom on thy plains,
Nor we pour out our blood beneath thy star.

Yet we have liberty from sea to sea;
Frankly and true you gave us manhood's share.
We who like wandering birds flow
To gather grain upon thy acres fair.

O Canada, in liberty we dwell till death;
Our children shall be free to call thee theirs.
Their own dear land, where gladly drawing breath,
Their parents found safe graves, and left strong heirs.

To homes and native freedom, and the heart
To live and strive, and die it need be;
In standing manfully by honor's part,
To save the country that has made us free.

THE LAUGH LINE

Mistake or Confession.
The nervous bridegroom was called upon to make a speech at the wedding breakfast.
Putting his hand on his bride's shoulder, he hesitatingly remarked: "Ladies and gentlemen, this thing has been thrust upon me."

Conversation Superfluous.
"Can your little baby brother talk yet?" a kindly neighbor inquired of a small lad.
"No, he can't talk, and there ain't no reason why he should talk," was the disgusted reply. "What does he want to talk for when all he has to do is yell a while to get everything in the house that's worth having?"

Reasonable Inquiry.
"What do you mean by an 'eight-day clock'?"
"One that will run eight days without winding."
"Huh, then how long would it run if you wound it?"

Quite Truthful.
He found all seats in the train occupied. Opening one of the doors, he exclaimed, "Why, this train isn't going!"
A general stampede ensued, and he took a comfortable seat, in the midst of the general indignation he was asked: "Why did you say the train wasn't going?" "Well, it wasn't then," replied the villain, "but it is now."

Long-Distance Call.
Mr. Tarzan Jones was sitting down to breakfast one morning when he was astonished to see the announcement of his own death.
He rang up friend Howard Smith at once. "Hello, Smith," he said. "Have you seen the announcement of my death in the paper?"
"Yes," replied Smith. "Where are you spending from?"

Common sense is the base of all laws, but the foundation is often out of sight.
Be not wise in your own conceit, and never mistake the conceit of others for wisdom.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Ma was in her room holding one hand up at her head and saying, O dear, I wonder who invented hed akes, O my, such a hed ake.

Wats the matter, ma, you got a hed ake? I sed.

Thats putting it mildly, sed ma. Meaning she had a fearsome one, and I thawt, O, I wonder if I can cure it by hipnotism?

Sounding like a good idea, and I got in back of ma's chair where she couldnt see me and started to wave my hands like a hipnotizer, thinking, 1, 2, 3, hed ake, I command you to disapear.

Wich I waited about a minnit to give it a chance and then I sed, How do you feel now, ma?

Worse, sed ma.

Maybe you feel better and its such a seprize it ony seems worse, I sed.

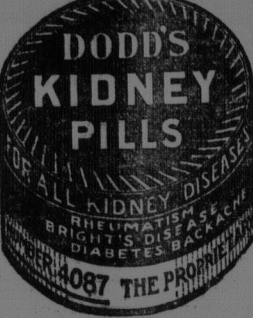
Maybe you have the sents you were born with and maybe not, O dear, wat a hed ake, sed ma. Me thinking, Gosh, thats funny. And I tried it agen, waving my hand diffrent frum wat I waded them the first time and thinking, Hed ake this is yer last chance, I command you to change yourself into a butter fly and fly away.

And I waited another minnit and then I sed, How is it now, ma? O, such a hed ake, its pounding like a million hammers, sed ma, and I sed, Gosh, does it feel anything like a butter fly, ma?

Does that? sed ma. And she gave me a worse krack feeling the opposite of a butter fly, and ma's hed ake didnt go away till after supper, either because the hipnotizm didnt have anything to do with it or because it took a long time to work, being hard to prove wich and me not feeling like asking any more questions.

THE GREAT IMPERSONATION.

Startling and prophetic as Oppenheim's previous novels have been, in this, his latest book, he has surpassed himself. "The Great Impersonation" is a happy blending of romance, mystery and intrigue so splendidly done that whoever reads it cannot help but be convinced that it is the best Oppenheim ever wrote. It is indeed a triumph of construction and treatment that grips the reader's interest from the start and does not release that hold until the very last chapter of the book.



A DANGEROUS WARNING—BLEEDING GUMS

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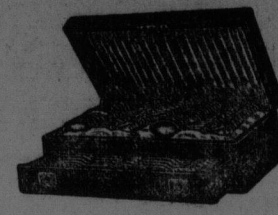
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