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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1924

CITIZENSHIP

In the many investigations which are taking place both in this coun- of the Creator, and to serve society try and in the United States, we are is to serve God. shocked at the widespread evil graft. Men in official positions have betrayed their trust, and have sold terests public resources, seem to be the favorable pastime of some who. by the mistaken votes of the citi- of the State. The ballot is the zens, have been elected to the seats of the mighty. We have not lost faith in the integrity of our public men on account of the faults of a few, but we have lost faith in the franchisement; the citizen who system that permits these few to boasts of his political indolence cause such material and moral damage as the investigations have shown.

The material damage may be repaired. The people may have re- life of the country manifested by course to the law-courts to recover, in as far as possible, the losses occasioned by the betrayal of their trust. But the moral damage is irreparable. The more conspicuous a citizen is by office, wealth or social position, the greater is his they can satisfy their own ambition obligation to be a pattern of virtue. and greed, care but little what A single glaring deed of profligacy becomes of the country, will never or dishonesty done in high places relaxes the moral tone of uncounted thousands. The salvation of the country is an exalted public opinion that is quick to reward with praise or to punish with opprobrium. A sound public opinion is the country's supreme court of good morals. With it tens of thousands are pre- convention or the public service ? served from evil ; without it tens of sands rush headlong into moral ruin. But this high moral public opinion is weakened every time there is evidence of graft in the administration of public duty. And yet it is only a high moral public opinion that can prevent such occurrences as have been related in the public press. Morality is the very soul of good citizenship. The deep abiding sense of duty, the quickly responsive moral conscience. can effect what interest, ambition, honor would vainly attempt. They who observe the ten commandments violate no civil law and are prompt to respond in action and sacrifice to the country's call. The nation may seem strong and prosperous, and at heart. the sentinels on its outposts may repeat that no peril is nigh ; but if sensuality, and dishonesty dwell in the hearts of the people, the strength of the nation has departed, and the dark shadows of death are fast descending upon it. Nations live by virtue, and the virtue of the people is the life of the nation. Religion gives life and power to morality. Without religion, without the recognition of a living God. the ruler of nations, and the everlasting impersonation of righteousness and its avenger, morality is vague in its enactments and feeble be conducted in any community in its enforcements. For civilized nations, the living God manifests undying religious spirit of the people is the surest hope of the majority of people will not take the nation. For if we have a religious spirit, then also must we have an house for books ; and will never do awakened conscience and where so at all for pamphlets or for there is an awakened conscience the magazines. citizens must realize the important their franchise.

The voters pronounce judgment to carry Catholic books; which instinct of self-preservation assert. upon the affairs of the nation. As they would do readily enough in ing itself ! they decide, so shall laws be enacted many cases if they were secured and enforced in city, province and against loss. Unfortunately, in the nation ; so during coming years, for present state of Catholic indiffer- Holy See, the year 1925 will be the into the pockets of the people of life or for death, shall the destinies of the nation be swayed. If the voters are without conscience in this ified in many cases in fearing that set and the regularly recurrent "Holy Year" or Year of Jubilee, which the Church ialism.' This excess of thirty-five of value, but the bankers did not voters are without conscience in this ified in many cases in fearing that sets apart as a time of extraordin- per cent. in the price of colonial seem very anxious to have such put their right, the days of democracy they would lose if they imported ary grace and privilege for all the meat over that from other countries are numbered. much Catholic literature.

While conscience is supreme, however, the citizen, when exercising awakened to the fact that their is set for the Ascension Day pre- are not to be appeased unless this his right of suffrage will spurn as a interests, both spiritual and mater. ceding so that on the 29th May and similar excess prices are deadly insult the proffer of a bribe. He will cast his vote for good and interests, both spiritual that he this year His Holiness will solemnly He will cast his vote for good and interests, both spiritual that he this year His Holiness will solemnly Catholic press, meaning by the interest, both spiritual that he this year His Holiness will solemnly proclaim the opening of the Holy While exports from the 'Mother' come from the former source. interests of the commonwealth may Catholic literature, whether in the will be issued specifying the privil- Country' are severely penalised, and be safely confided. When invested with legislative or executive power, newspapers. he will remember that such power

for the welfare of the country, not the Catholic laity ought to take an for the gratification of his own interest in the scheme and do all ambition, nor for the aggrandize- that they can to promote it, and Year of Universal Jubilee, goes back ment of friends or followers. they could give assistance in many to the time of Moses, and the While conscience is supreme no ways if they would only take such Hebrews under that dispensation ANIMATED DEBATE IN HOUSE Jugurtha will say, "Here all an interest.

things are purchasable." While conscience is supreme, citizens will be law-abiding, because they will increasing the circulation of Cath- Boniface VIII. was the first to regard the law of the nation as the olic papers; for the work of dis- introduce the custom to the modern law of the Master of nations. They tributing books and pamphlets will world. He did this by publishing a will respect the rights of one certainly be facilitated by attract- Bull exhorting the faithful to make another, because for them God is ing the attention of the laity to a pilgrimage to the tombs of SS. the guardian of rights. They will Catholic papers. A man who begins Peter and Paul, thus enabling them labor with earnest zeal to promote to read a Catholic paper will not to gain, provided the proper disposithe public welfare, and secure to stop at that; he will very probably tions were not lacking, a full remisthe nation peace and prosperity take up other Catholic publications. sion of all their sins. Among the because civil society is the ordinance Besides, the Catholic boy or girl multitudes who availed themselves the limelight in Parliament today

But conscience goes further. which is commonly designated as It informs us that we have it of Catholic books and pamphlets; absolutely in our power to deter- for not only will they have had a mine by whom and how we shall taste created for it by good reading be held but once in every century, their honor and integrity for a be governed. For the casting of from their earliest years, but they but with the coming of the Jubilee mess of pottage. To exploit the the ballot is the supreme act of will have had dinned into their ears of 1350, Clement V., then happily citizenship. Ballot in hand, the year in and year out the necessity citizen is a sovereign, and with his and the advantage of reading Cathfellow-citizens he decides the destiny olic books and pamphlets in order by Sixtus IV. when proclaiming the Banking and Commerce, said pride of the true citizen; the what is the attitude and the mind of proper use of it is a sacred duty. the Church and the Catholic point latest occasion being that of the evidence presented to him, and The citizen who does not care to of view generally. vote on election day deserves dis-

proclaims his own shame. Thoughtful writers stigmatize as the most serious peril of democracy the indifference towards the political respectable, well-meaning and educated citizens. These are the Catholics will not send far away to sary, however, to actually visit Rome the receipt of its charter. men who more generally eschew order a paper or a book. But if to gain the graces of the Jubilee. politics, while the selfish and the reckless, men who have private ends to serve and who, provided good for making large sales.

Catholic societies might very well findse countries in the societies might very well findse countries in the societies might very well findse countries in the societies of the societies in this known in due course by the proper timed to flourish, and it was re-way for Catholic literature. It is authorities. Meanwhile it is fitting a very sad thing to think of the to rejoice over the near approach of the societies of Catholic literature. It is the of extraordinary favor. be absent from the caucus or the voting booth. If there are throughout the land corrupt municipal administrations, venal legislatures, ture that are mouldering on the is not the fact largely, if not entirely, due to this, that capable and honest men find no time, have

NOTES AND COMMENTS

IT is pointed out by the London

As officially announced by the dip their hands as deeply as possible

faithful. According to an ancient is only one of the many cases that form of books, pamphlets, or eges and indulgences which the every effort made to keep them out Church grants to the faithful all altogether by production of all

When Catholic papers are making over the world, together with the colonial requirements in the Colonies is a sacred trust, to be used only efforts to increase their circulation, conditions necessary to gain them. themselves."

THE ORIGIN of the Holy Year, or

were privileged to celebrate it every The Catholic Truth Society would fifty years. But since the dawning do well to take an interest in of the Christian Dispensation Pope oclock by 188 votes to 27

who has been brought up in a home of this privilege, we are told, was when the House of Commons de-bated the resolution of William where there was a Catholic paper the great poet, Dante Allighieri. Irvine (Independent, Calgary,) call-ing for extended inquiry by a

ON THAT occasion Pope Boniface special Parliamentary committee especially with a view to reimbursement of depositors-into the whole matter of that bank's affairs. An amendment to this motion was removed by Frank Cahill (Liberal, reigning, fixed the term at fifty of the nature proposed be conducted by the Standing Committee on to know what able Catholics think ; Holy Year, 1475. This arrangemittee to sit concurrently with the ment has obtained ever since, the Judicial Commissioner, review the finally pass upon his findings. At midnight debate upon the amendopening year of this century under We recommend to Catholic socie- Pope Leo XIII, which will be fresh ment was still in progress. ties the work of placing Catholic in the memory of those still on the Charged by the Opposition eader with arranging a partisan papers in bookshops and on news sunny side of life. In that year, Leader stands. It ought not to be a hard 1901, over one million pilgrims investigation, and with seeking to restrict the field of inquiry, the thing to do. There ought to be a visited Rome during the twelve systematic campaign of advertising months. Within living memory it would enlarge the scope of the probe carried on to call attention to the is said the Eternal City has not held to cover every phase of the life of presence of Catholic publications such throngs from all nations the bank-not only from its birth to presence of Catholic publications such throngs from all nations on the news stands. Individual within her walls. It is not necesits death, but as well, every step leading up to its organization and

IRVINE PAINTS SOMBRE PICTURE they have them placed right at their By paternal action of the Holy hand, and then are carefully kept Father these may now be gained in referred to last year's revision of in mind of them, the chances are any part of the world by fulfilling the Bank Act, intimating that much the conditions attached to them. more thorough revision must soon be made. Under the act as revised, he said, "wildcat schemes" con-Catholic societies might very well These conditions will be made

seen fit to give fuller consideration to existing conditions. In the past shelves of publishers for years until IT HAS been well said that there is few months two great banks had at last they are taken out of print, scarcely a family of any note in been forced to write off millions of and honest men find no time, have no inclination, for the political convention or the public service? Well has it been said: "It is no the man who sits by his fireside reading the power of the printing press. to be informed that even the late The Catholic Truth Society where- Lord Morley, pronounced agnostic Province. ever established is doing good work, as he was, was not immune. We but the possibilities of the work are learn from an overseas contemporto his certain knowledge, were anyonly barely touched as yet. A few ary that this statesman's stepdevoted men can do good work, and daughter is a nun in High Park great is their merit for doing it, but Convent, Dublin ; that Lord Morley Canada. no work can be done on a great (or plain John Morley as he then was scale unless the masses of Catholics are brought to put their weight be-hind the work. Men may be ever so devoted personally; but they will work twice as hord and web web will "As mark of my ottaking system is already gone," declared Mr. Irvine. "And public confidence cannot be restored by any words of the Canadian Bankers' work twice as hard and much more will, "As a mark of my attacheffectively if they feel that the ment." It is further stated that weight not only of the authority of notwithstanding his apparent aloofthe Church but of the laity, is ness from Christian belief, Lord

whole matter in a nutshell. What NO ASSURANCE IN NEW METHODS Touching upon last session's legis-Canada and Australia and New Zealand and South Africa want is to lation as Irvine said it contained that would give any assurance to the into effect He would suggest reimbursement It is high time that Catholics custom proclamation to this effect could be quoted, and the Colonials I desire that this Parliament unequivocally say that this must be done." Funds for such reimburse-

THE HOME BANK

INQUIRY

ON THE RESOLUTION TO

REIMBURSE DEPOSITOR

(By Hector B. McKinnon

(Staff Correspondent of the Glo

'Parliament should make it known to the bankers that, unless this is done, charters will be cancelled," said Mr. Irvine, adding that, failing that, he would not hesitate to advise

taxation of the general public for the benefit of defrauded depositors. "The public should be prepared to pay for the blunders of their representatives." he said. Recurrence of such things as the

son report anent the losses suffered by the Home Bank in 1915 by the New Orleans deals, holding that such looses could not have occurred Ottawa, March 28 .- The Cahill

mendment providing for complete nquiry of Home Bank affairs by under government inspection. Guarantee of security of deposits much be inspection. (Liberal applause.) the standing select Committee on Banking and Commerce, carried at must be insisted upon, said Mr. Irvire, who charged that at present Ottawa, March 27.-Relations alleged to have existed between Sir the bankers owned the banks while the latter are profitable, "but the depositors are the owners when there Thomas White and management of the Home Bank of Canada came into is loss to be suffered." (Applause.) Finally, he asked: (1) That the report of the Royal Commission, failing inquiry by committee, be

ready this session: (2) that the Government promise reimbursement from some source, and (3) that the Government promise definitely further Bank Act revision. PRECEDENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT

E. C. St. Pere (Liberal Hochelaga) unreservedly supported the resolu-tion, and quoted the salvaging of ontiac) providing that any inquiry for reimbursement in the present instance.

That amendments to the Bank Act of last session had gone no further than the bankers were willing that they go, was the statement of R. J. Woods (Progressive, Dufferin,) who urged indemnification of depositors, provided it were proved tion res that any Minister of the Govern- by the ment, past or present, had been negligent or careless in administra-

R. J. Halbert (Progressive, Ontario) read a petition from 620 of Mr. holders living in that community.

"I prefer the Dominion point of Moving his resolution. Mr. Irvine M. Carmichael (Progressive, Kinder- report to who did not see that "our doubted the justice of a scheme of funds in the care of these agencies?

APRIL 5, 1924

menting on the amendment, the purpose of which, he said, was to delay for at least one year any Parliamen-tary inquiry. The whole policy of the Government had been apparent the Government had been apparent from the first; the first Order-in-Council issued in connection with the Home Bank had been merely "to get the hide of Sir Thomas White." (Applause.) The memor-ial presented by the Departieser" White." (Applause.) The memor-ial presented by the Depositors' Committee had been "a very con-venient one." (Liberal protests.) It had been, he repeated, very conveniently framed and very carefully worded, to suit the purposes of the Government. (Conservative applause.) The 'whole Order-in-Council based upon it, he continued, was not to investigate banks or banking, but "to see what was the matter with Sir Thomas White.

"Representations were made to other Ministers than Sir Thomas White," he continued. "Wh shouldn't we know what they were? Here the Prime Minister interrupted, to state that everything in connection with the Home Bank had been covered in the Order-in-Coun-Home Bank failure, he thought, must be made impossible by a rigid system of Government inspection. Mr. Irvine quoted from the Clark-claring that "if anything connected with this bank is left out, it will be put in." (Liberal applause.) The Government, he said, would ask the commission to go back to the steps

"Something more wrung from the Government," commented Sin Government," commented Sir Henry, as the Conservatives applauded. The worst service that could be done to Canada today, he went on, was to "make a smoke screen around this affair.' and the way to do that was to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Banking. The time to act, he declared, was at the present moment.

GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS PRECEDENT

Hon. E. M. Macdonald, Minister of Defense, ridiculed Sir Henry's statement that the purpose of the Order-in-Council had been to hide of Sir Thomas White. the La Banque Nationale as a precedent | The Government, he said, had been waited upon by a deputation representing 60,000 Home Bank depositors, which deputation had presented a petition asking that there be an inquiry into the affairs of the Home Bank over several years prior to its failure. The Government had decided at once to make investigation respecting the allegations made petitioners, following the course of a previous Government in We started out to do what the

depositors wanted us to do, said tario) read a petition from 620 of his constituents, praying that he plead the cause in Parliament of Home Bank depositors and share-bolders living in that community tions contained in the depositors petition, the Commissioner should to the parochial one," said A. armichael (Progressive, Kinder-But now the Opposition was widening banking system is useless" just be-cause one bank had failed. He the probing of the depositors the field to such an extent that allegations might be prejudiced. ndemnification which must apply to only some of the nine Provinces. Banking facilities were afforded, he Said, by Postoffices, and in some Provinces by Provincial Banks and Farm Loan Boards. Why did not Home Bank depositors have their White or any other Minister of White or any other Minister of Finance. (Applause.) Under the

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his evening paper, and saying how bad are politics and politicians, who will ever do anything to save us; it is the man who goes out into the rough hurly-burly of the caucus, and the political meeting, and there

faces his fellows on equal terms." Only in this way can we become intelligently informed about practical politics; only in this way can we form an intelligent opinion about men and events, and only in this way can we be adequately equipped to cast our ballot intelligently, which is our duty to do if we wish to be good citizens behind them. having the welfare of our country

CATHOLIC LITERATURE BY THE OBSERVER

(England) Evening News that A despatch from London, Conf13,000 only" will be required necticut, dated December 31st, from the public funds to defray the says that a Catholic book shop was cost of the Prince of Wales forthconducted there during the Christmas holidays by the New Haven a fortune that would be to most Branch of the Connecticut Council of us ! of Catholic women. Proceeds from

the sales were donated to Catholic Foreign Missions.

We cannot imagine any reason why Catholic book shops could not where there is a considerable Catholic population. Catholics often hold of Catholic books; for the trouble to send to a city publishing them.

Morley was greatly attracted by the ceremonies of the Church, and that he was sometimes seen at Mass in both London and Dublin.

EXTREME IMPERIALISTS in Canada will not derive much comfort from an editorial in an Edinburgh paper in regard to preferential trade coming visit to South Africa. What arrangements with the Coloniesnote, not "Dominions beyond Seas," but "Colonies." It can do us no harm to know what is thought of

IT SEEMS that even the English us in the Mother Land :

Methodists are accused of playing "We have repeatedly referred in with Popery. "Romanism," says a these columns to the brazen attempts London despatch, " is creeping into of the Colonies to exploit the Motherthe Methodist church, according to land for their own advantage. a complaint published in the official The attempt is cloaked under an organ of that body." The claim of Imperial and Patriotic guise, and it Himself in the Christian faith. The find some inconvenience in getting "Papal Infallibility," the writer is pushed forward by interests and asserts, is merely another term for parties that have their own selfish Committee Infallibility," and he purposes to serve. An illustration challenges his fellow Methodists to of these disgraceful attempts at deny that this exists amongst colonial ramps is to be found in the "Romanism " also, so it fact that the Dominions, recently appears, has crept into the Metho- tendering for the supply of meat to

And in places where it is impos- dist hymn-book, in which "as many the War Office, quoted prices thirtypart they play in the destiny of sible to support a Catholic book as eight pages are given up to the five per cent. in excess of those with the book shops that are there obody wants. Perhaps it is the nobody wants. Perhaps it is the time producers! This puts the avoided failures in the past. their country by the exercise of shop arrangements might be made 'Dies Irac'" which, he declares, which were accepted by the Argen-

salvaging of La Banque Nationale some day there would be Federal the Government of Quebec savings Canada. Province. Surely these were symptoms of something radically wrong! Other lending institutions

thing but prepared for eventualties that at any moment might arise in "If the public has lost confidence Association. Public confidence can be restored only by action, and the first necessary action is the re-imbursement of the 60,000 deposi-tors of the Home Bank."

SEES DIFFICULTIES AHEAD

It was inevitable, he continued, in the face of subsequent "runs" on other banks, that other mergers or actual failures among Canadian banks occur in the not distant future. Depositors were transferring their savings to various Proother vincial savings institutions ; potential depositors, afraid of all banks, were resorting to the practice of hoarding. True, he said, banks were continuing to issue "splendid statements," but "I have in my hand the last report of the me Bank — a splendid statement. (Applause.)

'Endeavors to establish confidence on a false basis were being made by the Bankers' Association and these efforts of the bankers, by pamphlet and otherwise were being aided and abetted by an influential section of the press. (Applause.) This is just the cock-a-doodle-doo of the Bankers' Association," said Mr. Irvine, amid renewed applause, adding that "the crowers" were studiously ignoring the crudities of the system for which they stood the system for which they stood. There is not one single clause in the Bank Act that gives warrant for any such assurance as is given out

branches throughout

SUPPORTERS FOR RESOLUTION

The resolution drew support from O. M. Gould (Progressive, Assiniboia,) John Millar (Progressive, Qu'Appelle) and T. L. Church (Conservative, North Toronto,) the last named declaring that the Canadian Bankers' Bankers' Association had not "played fair" with Parliament last session in conducting a powerful lobby in support of what they called "the best banking system in the world." Parliament, so far as

he was concerned, could have all the inquiries it wished, so long as it forced the Bankers' Association to pay back the losses to depositors. Applause.) Hundreds of people in his riding, he went on, were driven and he sought redress for those people, regardless of Royal Commissions or anything else.

"In my opinion they (the Bankers' Association) knew all about the affairs of this and other banks," declared Mr. Church, to general applause, referring to the Bankers' Association at the time of their action in providing members of the had been left by him Banking Committee, last June, with pamphlets describing the merits of the Canadian banking system.

Frank Cahill (Liberal, Pontiac) came out flatly for reimbursement. Under the Canadian system, he said, the average bank branch Manager had very indifferent training, narrow experience and a "knowl dge of nothing but bookkeeping. (Applause.) Bank failures Canada had been due entirely in

recent years to head office loans, speculative, but even the plause.) mostly Home Bank failure had meant less injury to the Dominion than did the "Merchants Bank fiasco." Mr. Cahill then moved that the matter of Parliamentary inquiry be re-ferred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

"HIDE-HUNTING" SAYS DRAYTON

Justice McKeown, review the evi-dence presented to the Commissioner, and finally consider the report of that officer.

MR. MEIGHEN LAUDS SIR THOMAS

Mr. Meighen entered at the outset upon a vigorous defense of Sir Thomas White. Behind the Order-in-Council he saw the sinister hand of partisanship. There were no allegations of malfeasance of office There were no of neglect of duty, or of errors of judgment, in respect to Sir Thomas White, contained in the petitioners' memorial, he declared. That Min-ister, Mr. Meighen said, had acted in a manner beyond criticism, and to investigate those actions this Government needed no memorial from any depositors' committee. Sir Thomas had left in the files in his office certain documents regarding into poverty by the bank failure, and he sought redress for those during the War. These documents were there in the department, and quite available for the Minister, long before there arose any sugges-tion of Home Bank failure.

Hon. J. A. Robb rose to state that the documents left by Sir Thomas White in the office of the Minister of Finance, enclosed in an envelope, That official had private secretary. sent them back to Sir Thomas without the knowledge or consent of

Mr. Fielding, and witho ut the latter ever having known of their exist-

Again Mr. Meighen insisted that documents relating to the bank had been left " in the department " by g." Sir Thomas White. They had been in left there to be handed "to his successor. Did that look as if they were private or confidential ? (An

MR. FIELDING NEVER SAW THEM

Here the Prime Minister made the deliberate statement that, immediately upon his return from England last fall, he had asked Mr. Fielding whether or not he (Mr. Fielding) had ever seen the docu-ments; had ever known of their ex-"Cut out this camouflage," de-clared Sir Henry Drayton, in com-to Sir Thomas White. "He told me