

The Evening Times-Star

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INVESTMENT AT HOME

In the Business Review Mr. J. M. Robinson, of the well-known banking firm, makes some timely observations relative to home investment. He admits that some ventures in the home field have turned out badly for the investors, but declares they should never have been started because they did not suit the location. There are local resources to develop, on which industries to yield a fair return may be based, and Mr. Robinson would concentrate attention upon these. For years, he points out, capital has been flowing out of the Maritime Provinces to find investment elsewhere.

"In twenty-seven years selling securities," commented Mr. Robinson, "I have found the majority of our investors troubled with long range vision. They see the good things hundreds and even thousands of miles away and entirely overlook opportunities right under their noses."

That is to say, not only have we not been attracting outside capital as we should, but much of our own capital has gone to find investment in distant fields. This is not good business, from the standpoint of local development, which should deeply concern every citizen. Is it not true that if less capital had gone abroad there would not have been as large an exodus of people? Do they not follow where capital is? Do they not work providing employment and wages? Since it is obvious that these provinces must depend upon themselves, a first consideration should be the building up of local industries and enterprises by the use of local capital. What sometimes happens to credulous investors in far off fields is suggested by the following despatch from Houston, Texas:—

"S. E. J. Cox, oil promoter, was sentenced today to serve five years in the Federal penitentiary and pay a fine of \$15,000 by Federal Judge Hutchison, following his conviction by a jury on a charge of using the mails to defraud. The sentence is to run concurrently with one of eight years recently assessed against him at Fort Worth after his joint trial with Dr. Frederick A. Cook on a charge of using the mails to defraud. The charges were brought in connection with the use of the mails in the sale of stock in the Blue Bird Oil Corporation. Dishonest promoters of schemes to get other people's money, and especially the money of people far away from the field of operations, are always active, persuasive, and too often successful. We hear about money lost in a local venture, but if the whole story of what has been lost in distant ventures were told it would be a far more serious revelation. The people of the Maritime Provinces should cultivate more largely the habit of careful and prudent home investment, thus keeping their capital at work for the good of their own locality."

THE COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN

It is interesting to note that while the Ratepayers' Association of Halifax has declared in favor of the council-manager form of city government the Associated Property Owners of Vancouver, representing \$20,000,000, are moving in the same direction. The Sun says:—

"Adoption of a programme for the coming year and discussion of steps to be taken to forward the introduction of the city manager system in Vancouver will be the main items of business at the general meeting of the Associated Property Owners of Vancouver in the board of trade auditorium, Thursday night. Secretary A. E. Craddock suggests that public meetings should be held during the year, when speakers will deal with the city manager plan and other matters affecting civic administration. It is proposed also that a monthly bulletin should be published to keep members in touch with civic affairs."

Thus two Canadian cities, one on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific Coast, are giving serious consideration to a new form of government which has already been adopted by a great number of cities on this continent.

THE SCAREMONGERS

It is interesting now to read some of the utterances of the extreme Tory press in England just before the Labor Government assumed power. For example, the Sunday Pictorial said:—

"On Friday next, the nerve center of the British Empire will have fallen under the control of a group of men pledged to its destruction. The domination of Russia by just such a gang of cranks, crooks and fanatics as are about to form the British Government was the death warrant, not for thousands, but for millions of the Russian people. Our plight may prove even worse. Famine is never more than two months from our door. It (the Labor Government) can, and undoubtedly will, draw the teeth of the police force, which it instinctively hates and dreads. Next in turn will come the army and navy—particularly the army. They know well that the Air Force and the

Press Comment

A HOPE AND A FEAR

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)

The Ottawa Journal expresses the hope that in the outburst of zeal for economy, the indemnities of Senators and members of the House of Commons will not be forgotten. Up to a few years ago, the indemnity stood at \$2,500 a year. Today it is \$4,000 a year. There are 235 members of the Commons and 96 Senators, so that a reduction of \$1,000 in the indemnity would save the country \$331,000 a year.

It is always permissible to express a pious hope; but it is much to be feared that the zeal of our rulers and lawmakers for economy will not lead them so far as to begin at home and on themselves. The reason why so many of our remedies fail, is that we insist on trying them on others.

PROGRESS IN ITALY

(Ottawa Journal)

For the first time since the war, Italian savings bank accounts now show an increase over those of the pre-war period. Italy's total note circulation has been reduced by nearly 1,000 million lire since 1922 (the lire is normally equal to 20 cents), and is slowly but steadily climbing back from the depressing low level it had fallen to. The revenue for the last half of 1923 showed a very substantial increase over the corresponding period in 1922, and the same favorable condition is revealed in the figures of import and export. Italy is building up a substantial trade with Spain, from which she imports mainly raw materials and exports manufactured products. In fact there are signs that Italy is rapidly becoming, within her limited sphere, the workshop of the Mediterranean.

Altogether the Fascist and their leader Mussolini have shown themselves to be shrewd and practical patriots.

CIVIL SERVICE AND PATRONAGE

(Progressive Saskatchewan.)

Every now and then there is a rumbling indication that the Civil Service Commission might disappear and that the good old days of patronage would return. It is fairly well known that Hon. W. R. Motherwell, chairing the retiring hand of the commission, Mr. Motherwell makes no bones about it and is apparently honestly of the opinion that a minister of the crown can choose better service than a permanent commission. He may be right in that particular, but the introduction of the general scheme is opposed to the best interests of the service as a whole. Outside a few weather-beaten partisans there is no desire for a return to the days when men who had passed a lifetime in the civil service were promoted or even an opportunity for promotion arose in order to find a place for a man whose sole qualification was his party connection. It is well that these considerations should be brought to the notice of the public at odd times, for the Civil Service Commission is not safe from attack.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

(Brandon Sun)

Travers Sweetman is right in declaring that excessive taxation is the people's own fault. He was right, too, in saying it out in a sparsely attended annual meeting of the local Board of Trade. Those who do not vote or take any interest in government assist spendthrift politicians into power. The majority of the people are voiceless but not taxless. Only high taxation will waken them up. Representative government is based on the idea of majority rule but our majorities are so small that they are easily bribed. Selfish interests and one-way parties are grinding their taxes and our noses at the same time—and the people have no one to blame but themselves.

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

(Financial Post)

Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, of Ontario, in a speech in Montreal the other day, outlined his ideas of a proper forestry policy for Canada. He demands:—

Better methods of cutting timber to make possible the utilization of all timber.

More extensive use of the by-products now wasted.

Proper methods of slash burning to prevent forest fires.

An end to the slaughter of young trees for shipment to the big Canadian and American cities at Christmas time.

An embargo on the export of unmanufactured wood.

Mr. Lyons stated that the province of Ontario intended to start at once on a survey of the timber and water-power resources of the province in order that proper steps might be taken to provide for the reproduction of timber. He said also that re-forestation methods would be studied and that broader efforts would be made towards combating the menace of fire. To that end twelve or fifteen flying boats would be in use next summer and these would patrol the forested areas of Ontario daily. Quick detection of fires is essential to prevent their spread and airplanes would find the fires quickly.

Last year, said Mr. Lyons, more than 2,000,000 acres of forest land was burned over, 45 per cent of it new timber or second growth. It cost the province \$1,100,000 to fight forest fires or one-third of the whole provincial revenue from the forests.

The need for a national forestry policy for the Dominion of Canada that would protect the capital invested in the lumbering and pulp industries of the country has long been urged. Canada has many millions of dollars invested in her forestry industries and thousands of people find employment in these industries. Yet the entire superstructure of the forestry industry of Canada is in danger—definite, real, present danger. Unless drastic measures are taken to insure a future supply of raw material for these industries they will wane away in the years to come.

WOODROW WILSON.

(Frederick George Scott)
Into the storms of hideous night
He cast one mighty beacon light.
To blaze until the end of time
A guide, a messenger sublime.

The engulfing darkness hid the ray
Which heralded a nobler day.
And men made blind with blood and hate
Proclaimed the unyielding laws of fate.

"The hope is vain," they fiercely cried,
"For men must die as men have died!"
The beast which lurks in human blood
Alone can bear us through the flood.

"The battle to the strong must be,
The weak shall know no victory,
The power to drown in human pain
Must be a nation's right to reign."

And so the banner he unfurled
Was leered at by a wrangling world.
And nations settled down once more
To forge the instruments of war.

The fierce suspicion and the hate,
The poisoned tongue that aches the State,
And passions bitter than flame
Closed round his heart and overcame.

Thus at the stake of martyrdom
His spirit found his Father's home,
And in kind death's eternal peace
His broken utterance—release.

Well done, Great Soul, thy work remains,
And other hands will break the chains
Which bind us to the customary past,
And men shall see the light at last.

Well worth the Cross of Calvary,
If by that cross mankind is free!
Well worth the anguish of the road,
If men from these learn brotherhood!

LIGHTS REVEIN.

The Precedent.

Mother—(to small daughter finishing ice cream by licking the plate)—"Marjorie! What manners! Whom have you ever seen doing that?"
Marjorie—"Dogs."

The Tripping Tongue Again.

Hostess—"Won't you sing something for us, Marjorie?"
Young Women (modestly)—"Well, I'll try."

Hostess—"Yes, do try, at any rate."

Obedient Orders.

Walter—"Here, what are you doing with those teaspoons in your pocket?"
Customer—"Doctor's orders."

Walter—"What do you mean—doctor's orders?"
Customer—"He told me to take two teaspoons after every meal."

Two Minds with a Single Thought.

"It's a shame," cried the young wife, "not a thing in the house fit to eat. I'm going straight home to mama."

"If you don't mind, dear," said the husband, reaching for his hat, "I'll go with you."

NEWS NOTES

ABOUT BAPTISTS OF PROMINENCE

The following items are from the Maritime Baptist:—

Rev. Geo. McDonald, of the Victoria street church, St. John, goes to the assistance of Rev. L. W. Williamson the evangelistic services in Carleton County. Later, Mr. Williamson expects to assist Mr. McDonald at Victoria street.

Rev. H. J. Bloss, pastor of Hopewell, who has been laid aside for a short time, resting, is gradually gaining health and vigor to the gratification of his many friends. He hopes soon to take up again the duties of his field.

Rev. R. F. Durkee, pastor of the Penobscot group of churches, and his family have been much afflicted during the last year. The eldest daughter, Merle, must be operated on for appendicitis, making the fourth operation in the family within a year. In this crisis, the people of Portage Vale have come to their assistance with a gift of \$83.

On account of the coal mining trouble and because of illness now prevalent in Glace Bay, Rev. Gipsy John Haw-

kins and party have postponed their contemplated campaign in Glace Bay. From Feb. 17 to 29 they expect to assist Pastor McGorman at Mahone Bay; from March 2 to 14, they will be at the Tabernacle, Halifax, Rev. E. E. Daley, pastor, and from March 16 to 28, their work will be in Berwick, Rev. P. R. Hayden, pastor.

We are pleased to note the following concerning one of the veterans of the Methodist ministry of the Nova Scotia Conference and his good wife:—"On January 21 Rev. William Ryan of Auburn, Kings County, celebrated his 81st birthday. The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church held a reception at the Methodist parsonage in honor of the aged clergyman and Mrs. Ryan, who is also advanced in years, being 83rd year. She received a handsome bouquet of flowers, and both honored guests were complimented on their alert mentality and vigorous health. Mr. Ryan is the father of Rev. Mr. Ryan, a former Methodist minister of Windsor.

Rev. L. M. Weeks, formerly well-known as a pastor within the bounds of our convention, went to Ontario

many years ago and has there been engaged in pastoral service, continuously, until quite recently, when he retired, settling in Ottawa. The rest resulting from retirement has been very beneficial to Mr. Weeks' health. He supplied the Parkdale church dur-

ing the interim between Dr. J. A. Gordon's retirement and the coming of the new pastor, preaching with much of his old-time vigor. Mr. Weeks is president of the Ottawa Baptist Ministerial Association, where much of his ministry has been performed.

After fifty years spent in the ministry, twenty-two of them as professor of Church History and Practical Theology in the Free Church College, Aberdeen, Scotland, Prof. Stalker has resigned. Dr. Stalker is now seventy-five years old. He is recognized as in the front ranks of Biblical scholarship.

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