THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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TAXES RAISED AGAIN

Well, the budget has been brought down in the House of Commons and what do we find? Higher taxes for everybody to pay and less money with which the average man can meet his debts; and so the vicious circle grows. Higher duties and taxes have an adverse effect on trade, cutting down the consuming power of the country, lessening the imports and causing a heavy drop in revenue received by the government. Then there is a deficit in the Departmnt of Finance and more taxes added. This country is taxed to the limit of its ability and it comes most heavily on those who can ill-afford the extra expense of living, while those who can stand the extra taxes do not pay their just share. Take for example, the income tax. The minimum taxable income, is under the new law $2100 for a married man for which the tax is $3.00. On an income of $300,000 the tax imposed is $121,978.50. In this case a sixty per cent. tax could be imposed which would still leave a very comfortable balance on which to live. While the tax on the small salary is not very high it is as high as the taxee can afford. The new tax of two cents per pound on sugar also hits the low salaried man a heavy blow and it will mean that the consumption of this necessity will be greatly reduced. It will also mean more economizing by those who have been practising this virtue during the past two years or more. All of Canada would have been pleased to have seen import duties and excise taxes reduced, believing, as they do, that the increased imports and increased buying would bring in greater revenues.

A MAD WORLD

The world is becoming madder and madder every day. Over in Japan a nation decided that it wanted some more territory, so it captured Manchuria. Then, because Jehol adjoined Manchuria it decided to capture Jehol. Now, because the Chinese resent the activity of Japan the latter country is sending an army of invasion into China proper, and will probably not stop until it comes into contact with European interests in China, which are many and varied. Then what will happen?

But Japan is not alone in its crazed activity. The man Hitler, who recently became the dictator of Germany, is showing exactly the same spirit exhibited by Japan in the far East. He began persecuting the Jews, or rather did not discipline the persecutors, and this raised the ire of Jewry and most of Christendom as well. This storm of indignation is resented by the Hitlerites and he has decided to go ahead and do the very thing he has denied being guilty of, and the persecutions will go on. He is one of those erratic geniuses who believe he might as well "have the game as the name." Therefore we say the world is becoming madder every day. Will it result in chaos? We confess to a pessimistic attitude towards a milleninmistic view of world conditions, which at the present time are in a most chaotic state.

TOO MUCH LAW

What a tinkering of laws goes on yearly while the legislators sit in the Assembly at Toronto and continue to add to, subtract from or obliterate the statutes which we are all supposed to obey. We believe that one man of good sense could take the tomes of laws issued yearly since Confederation and compress the really necessary laws into one fair volume, which could be well understood by the wayfaring man, and would not require amendment oftener than every five years. At present scarcely a statute is enacted that is not doomed to revision again and again, and we are governed by enactments almost without number. Indeed, he is a very wise man who, at the close of the day could deny that he had not been a lawbreaker time and again. That is not all. The law enacted one year is sometimes found to be unworkable or its provisions are so involved as not to be understandable, and along comes an amending measure. All this gives practice to the legal fraternity, and the laity are left with the belief that the law was not invented that they might understand it.

EDITORIAL ITEMS

It is pitiable to think of the high hopes being instilled in the minds of United States beer drinkers with the inauguration of 3.2 beer. Ontario's 4.4 beer was not considered a very tasty drink.

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Five Toronto policemen have been taken into custody for theft while on duty. We must not condemn the whole force, however, as eugenics will always produce a few throwbacks. In the opinion of a well-known American, the Toronto police force is the finest in the world, with the one exception of London, England. That is something to be proud of, even if a very small percentage do yield to temptation.

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John Buchan, the Scottish writer, rises to remark that "Facts are vital, but it is very hard to be certain what are really facts." John has learned before this how extremely difficult it is—in writing history for example—when a declared "fact" is real and when it is merely the assertion of persons, things or happenings.

Won From Dundalk

What was probably the last game of the season was played here on Tuesday night, when the Dundalk seniors were defeated by the local team 7-5 in 10 minutes of overtime. The game was fast and clean and was well handled by referee, Reg. Boyd Bill Patton was the star of the game and played his best game of the season, with four goals and one assist to his credit.

Boyd scored the first goal at the opening of the game on an assist from Patton, followed by Claridge bulging the twine for Dundalk.

In the second frame Haslow and Thompson counted for Dundalk, while M. Johnson netted one for Flesherton.

The third period was fast and high stick carriers were many, with many penalties being handed out. B. Patton and G. Boyd put the locals up and M. Thompson evened the score of 4-4.

In the overtime the locals were too much for the visitors and B. Patton scored three goals while M. Thompson netted one for Dundalk. C. Thompson played real hockey and was the star of the Dundalk team. In the overtime he suffered a broken shoulder when he crashed into the boards.

Flesherton — Goal, E. Ferris; defence, M. Johnson, B. Phillips; centre, B. Patton; wings, H. Best, G. Boyd; subs., D. Sled, E. Johnson.

Dundalk — Goal, W. Wellwood; defence, M. Thompson, C. Thompson; centre, Holtzman; wings, C. Cobean Haslow; subs., White, Mills, Patton McGirk, Claridge.

Items In Budget Speech Discussed

Once more the budget has been presented to the House of Commons and like most budgets it has some encouraging and some discouraging features. The income tax was increased but the increase on smaller incomes was much greater than on larger incomes. A correspondent for the Ottawa Citizen worked it out; on a $2500 income there is an increase of 650 percent over last year, while on a million dollar income the increase is but 10 percent.

Soldiers receiving a pension, who are employed by the government, will, according to the budget as at present written, lose their pension while thus employed. It is said that the Minister of Pensions and the Minister of National Defence did not know that this matter was being dealt with in the budget until they heard it read in the House. The soldiers are very much incensed and little wonder. The budget speech assured all and sundry that in the case of a conversion loan, contractual obligations made some years ago, would be respected; should not then contractual obligations made with soldiers be respected? It is true there are a few cases of returned men receiving large salaries who also have a pension; in such cases there could be no objection to the discontinuing of pension payment during the time the pensioner received a substantial salary. But the legislation as it stands is grossly unfair to the men physically wrecked in the Great War. A very large sum of money is being spent this year on the nonpermanent force (volunteers); it would be very much more humane and sensible to use this money for the continuing of pensions to the deserving and needy.

The corporation income tax rates were increased to 12½ percent and exemptions removed. A tax of 5 percent was levied on interest collected in foreign currency on Canadian bonds, when that currency is at a premium in Canada, the tax becoming effective on April 1st. A 5 percent tax is to be collected also on all interest or dividends paid by Canadian debtors to non-residents. The sales tax remains at 6 percent but the exemptions are fewer. A special tax of 2c. a pound was levied on sugar. Excise taxes will also be applied to materials used in the brewing of beer, papers and fillers used in roll-your-own cigarettes (I should judge at the instigation of the cigarette manufacturers), distilled spirits used in medicines, perfumes, extracts, etc., and proof spirits used in fortifying native wine. The stamp tax of 3c. is now applicable to cheques of any amount and the tax on postal notes is increased from 1c. to 3c. There was little change in the tariff. The total deficit in the budget is $156,122,000.

A Royal Commission is to be appointed to study the organization and working of our entire banking and monetary system. If the commission is a good one and the examination thorough, the results will be very beneficial to Canadians generally.

The plight of the farmer, so often advanced by us in the House and in the country, has been acknowledged by the 'stabilization of farm products' clause in the budget. It is not at all what we wanted. We wanted Canadian money brought to a parity with the pound sterling, which would automatically raise the prices of farm products, increase the purchasing power of the farming community and in this way help lift the country out of the economic bog in which it is at present mired. By the plan proposed, the British pound is to be valued at $4.60 when the sale of certain farm products is considered, that is, it is a bonus the amount of which is found by substracting the day to day value of the pound from $4.60. The scheme is designed to help those exporting live cattle, hogs, bacon, hams, meats, poultry, fresh and canned fish, tobacco, cheese, milk products, canned fruit and vegetables, maple products, eggs and honey. But will it?

It will certainly automatically assist those who sell the products named and if the farmers had great co-operatives which handled and processed their own products, the benefit would accrue to the producer directly. As it is there will be a time lag at least and only experience will show whether or not it benefits the farmer.

At best, the bonus will be paid out of taxation, which works out to mean that the producers will pay heavier taxes in order to pay some of themselves a bonus. Controlled inflation would have meant that the government put new money into circulation, issuing treasury bills or putting Dominion notes in circulation for the goods and services we require to distribute. The budget is altogether a deflationary one—higher taxes resulting in less revenue but decreased purchasing power on the part of the people, slashed expenditures again resulting in lower wages and less purchasing power.

While the expenditures of the individual, the municipality, corporation and even the province, must be kept within the bounds of income, or anticipated income, the Federal government is not governed by the same conditions. The Federal government can make the money needed—engrave it, print it, what you will—and it is now clear that the sovereign right of the state to create money must be utilized for the benefit of the people. G.D.H. Cole, of Great Britain states it thus:- "Where the private investor refuses to invest, governments will have to step in." Stuart Chase, the noted American writer and economist, says:- "The depression could be broken by feeding huge streams of new purchasing power into the industrial system. If you want to call it inflation all right, I am not afraid of the word."

Mr. Coote put the matter very clearly before the House, as follows: "At a time like this we cannot rely any longer upon private initiative to put money into circulation. That means that the government must act and in this instance I refer to the Federal government which has control of the economic forces determining employment, etc. It has full control of railways, and immigration; the responsibility rests with the Dominion government."

To keep money in circulation, Mr. Coote went on to suggest that the excellent scheme outlined by the Prime Minister three years ago in relation to income tax, should be followed. A one percent tax on $1,000 income, two percent on the second thousand, three on the third and so on, but not stopping at 25 percent on the twenty-fifth thousand as the Prime Minister suggested, but carrying it on until it reached 99 percent on $99,000.

This week we have had the privilege of having Mr. W. Arnold-Forster of Great Britain, son of the Rt. Hon Arnold-Forster at one time Secretary of State, and great-grandson of the great Dr. Arnold, address the members of the House, or at any rate such numbers of them as cared to come to the Railway Committee room. Mr Arnold-Forster was here to urge members of the Canadian House of Commons to organize a branch of the British Empire Peace Federation designed to promote disarmament and peace throughout the world. In Geneva in 1929 I had the pleasure of meeting this learned and enthusiastic man. He was that year acting as secretary to Lord Robert Cecil whom he holds in very high regard. The amount of energy he put in to his four addresses yesterday was amazing and inspiring. This man is an artist of repute. Most artists would not care to travel so intensively, lecturing and writing, in a cause that can scarcely be called artistic, yet Mr. Arnold-Forster considers no price too great to pay for the securing of justice and peace. He believes the situation in Europe is very grave and that preventive action will need to be taken quickly.

Should any of you have the opportunity of seeing the film based on Noel Coward's play "Cavalcade," do seize it. It is particularly well played and will, I am sure, do much for the cause of peace.

The room in which we are working has been made very beautiful by the many gifts of flowers sent by members of the Commons to wish me 'Many Happy Returns' of my birthday. I wish we could share their beauty and fragrance with you.

House of Commons,
March 25, 1933.

—AGNES MACPHAIL.

YOUNG PIGS SCARCE

Indicating a distinct change in the hog industry outlook, J. A. Carroll of the Department, said: "A month ago while in southwestern Ontario, I noticed good young sows with litters of ten, selling as low as ten dollars. On several markets suckling pigs found slow sale at fifty cents each.

"However, owing to the increase in the price of hogs, approximating $1.50 a cwt., suckling pigs sold at Waterloo, last week, for $2.50 each.

"Undoubtedly, anticipation of increased price due to the Ottawa Budget provisions, will increase even further the demand for young pigs, and the prices realized.

"Young pigs are likely to continue scarce as, according to Dept. of Agriculture estimates, sows to farrow in the first six months of this year, will number approximately 13% less than in the same period of 1932."

The prognosticators who prophesied March would be lamb-like were lion.

Dancing

in Fraternity Hall
FLESHERTON

Wed., March 29
at 8:30 p.m.

Round Dancing
Orchestra
Dorothy Foster's 4-piece
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