

The Markdale Standard

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Our New Style

With this issue The Standard is presented as an eight-page all-home print paper, the same size as our four-page style used since the beginning of the present year. Quite a number of our subscribers have been consulted and we are complying with the wishes of the majority in making the change. Newspapers all over Canada have been compelled to cut out unnecessary expenditures and the elimination of the ready-print portion of the country weekly has afforded a great saving. We have had no complaints from our readers because of the change made a few months ago and we hope our new style will receive the approval of all. The size and style has been adopted by numerous weeklies in Ontario and it appears to be quite popular and satisfactory.

Playing Politics With the County

The Hepburn Government with all its pre-election promises is certainly not living up to its economy promise as far as Bruce County is concerned, especially in reference to the Children's Shelter, an institution which up to the present time has been financed by the County Council at an annual expense of around \$4000. For that amount a building, an inspector and the feed and care of children are maintained. At a combined meeting of the Warden's Com. of the County and a committee of the Children's Shelter held at Walkerton last Friday afternoon the information was divulged that they intend to take over the management of the institution, replacing the present inspector, Rev. R. Purdue with a Government appointee and other officials in the same way. The information was also gleaned that instead of the cost being around \$4000 as at present, the County will be assessed around \$14000 under the Government control, which means that the taxpayers of the County will be assessed an extra \$10000 in the future.

The Children's Shelter under the present management has given excellent service and this latest move on the part of the Government will not meet with the approval of the majority of the ratepayers of Bruce. —Tara Leader.

The Week at Ottawa

by Frederick Edwards

With the vigor and forcefulness which characterize his important utterances, Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, Minister of Railways, spiked the "whispering campaign against this government, to the effect that we are out for amalgamation" of the two large railway systems. It was during his speech on the Budget delivered Wednesday that Dr. Manion branded this campaign as "of the most vicious sort". He laid blame for its source directly on the Liberal doorstep, and characterized the statement of a Toronto Liberal candidate that the Bennett government was about to merge the two systems as a "plain, ordinary, everyday falsehood".

"No one on this side of the House, either in the front lines or in the rear so far as I know, has come out for the amalgamation of the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway," Dr. Manion said. He reminded the House of an oft-quoted phrase which Prime Minister R. B. Bennett coined during a Winnipeg speech—"Competition ever, amalgamation never."

"This government is not favourable to amalgamation," he told the House. "In the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Railway bill of 1933 we incorporated clause 27 which forbids amalgamation. . . . The only man in this House who has come out openly for amalgamation is the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler, Liberal). He called it unification, but that to my mind is another name for the same thing. I repeat here what I said at Brockville and at Smith's Falls, that under present conditions there is no solution for the Canadian railway problem by means of amalgamation."

"I have never said this before, but I say it to-day," the Minister of Railways said emphatically. "To my mind such a huge monopoly as that would be a menace to the political and economic life of this nation. . . . I want it clearly understood that this government is not for amalgamation, has never come out for it, and anybody who makes statements to that effect willfully tells what is not true."

In vigorous fashion Dr. Manion ripped to shreds the Budget criticism of the Liberal financial expert, Col. J. L. Ralston. He defended the "poor man's" Budget introduced a week ago by the Minister of Finance Hon. Edgar N. Rhodes, and pilloried the Opposition for being party-first instead of Canada-first in their attitude toward government legislation of the past five years.

"Canada is on the march to better things. It will never be the same again, irrespective of the attitude of my hon. friends opposite or of any attitude on our part," Dr. Manion said. "There is a great progressive movement under way but unfortunately our friends opposite do not even recognize it."

From well-informed quarters in the Capital comes the rumour that there will be a month's adjournment of the House over the Easter recess. It will probably be from the second week in April.

To-day will see completion of the Mass Buying and Price Spreads Commission, which should be in the hands of Hon. R. B. Hanson, Minister of Trade and Commerce, not later than Monday (April 1). A minority report is being issued by E. J. Young, free-trade Liberal of Weyburn, Sask.

For more than a week Prime Minister Bennett has been receiving members of the Government daily in his apartment and is well on the mend. Hon. W. D. Herridge, Canadian Minister to Washington and brother-in-law of the Prime Minister, was a visitor last Thursday.

Sooner or later Canada will have homes for old soldiers, the House was told by Hon. D. M. Sutherland, Minister of Pensions. He indicated the possibility of utilizing military hospitals for this purpose.

Miss Macphail's Letter

Living drama is seen but rarely in the Parliament of Canada. There is so much unreality and pretence, staging and make-believe, in both the House of Commons and the Senate. But the scene enacted in the Railway Committee room when the Mayors of the principal urban municipalities in Canada presented their case to the members of both Houses was vital, moving drama.

The Mayors, barricaded behind a length of tables placed end to end, attended by secretaries and an important array of press men, faced Senators and Commoners. In short, powerful speeches, moving in their sincerity and seriousness, the chief magistrates of our great cities laid bare the plain unvarnished truth regarding the financial position into which the growing burden of relief had brought them.

Here were men who are, day after day, grappling with the problem of feeding, housing and clothing 16 per cent. of their entire population, under what is called relief. They were of the people; they saw the distress, felt the unrest, here conscious of the people's fears. They came to tell us about it. "We know" they said. "We are closer to the people. This thing cannot go on."

"In abundance we perish for lack of enough; men and women are idle, discouraged and breaking, yet work cries to be done. We come to you, the Central, the most powerful, but the most remote of all our Governments—we come to warn you."

They were an impressive group, especially on the front benches—Houde, McGeer, Simpson, Leeming and Wenige—straight-forward and aggressive, counting Parliamentarians but little, their problems all important.

The Mayor of Victoria, Mr. D. Leeming, a solid, English country-squire type of man, led off. One felt at once he was a cautious sort of person who took plenty of time to come to a decision but, having arrived at it, was immovable. His city, he said, stood for the safeguarding of capital investment, which was being threatened by unjust application of property taxes. Properties were being confiscated for taxes and the largest property owners in most of the municipalities were the municipalities themselves.

Mayor "Gerry" McGeer of Vancouver stole the show, with a telling attack on a financial system that allows want in the midst of plenty, in fact that causes it.

Every Canadian municipality, said McGeer, is facing alternative of reducing social services or defaulting on interest. His decision is made in regard to the matter. "I will not pay interest in Vancouver at the expense of any needful person," he stated.

"A lot of hooey is talked regarding contractual obligations," Vancouver's fighting Mayor said. If ten years ago two men had an equal sum of money, one put it in a home, the other in bonds, why should the man with the home be ruined in order to pay full interest on the bonds? It was not social justice, he argued, nor was it good business, since the home owner could not do the impossible. The result was that the municipality acquired his property and in turn could not pay the interest. The bond-holder stood to gain by showing greater consideration for the home owner.

Gerry McGeer is an advocaté of a new money system. In his opinion (and mine) the basis of all money should be goods and services available for distribution. That is, when we grow more or manufacture more we should make more money in order to transport the goods and services about from those who make to those who need. He pointed out the stupidity of 1,350,000 on relief, more than 20,000 men in concentration camps, abundant raw material and at the same time work needing to be done.

The pugnacious Irishman with his figure, indifferent to opinion, put the fear of the future into the hearts of the old type politicians of both parties, as he rasped out an array of damning facts against the money tyranny of to-day. Imagine their horror when he told them "if a sheriff comes into my city I will organize a riot and lead it to throw him (the sheriff) into the Bay."

The Irishman was laughing but people without a sense of humour took him seriously.

Camillien Houde interested me very much. He is the mayor who wants to solve unemployment, so it is said, by putting all gainfully employed women in homes—whose is not quite clear. Then too he has been for some time a much talked of man, by some thought to be a genius and by others a fool. He is short and unprepossessing in appearance, but has the graceful and polished manners of his race and though he speaks slowly, uses good English. He impressed me as being an exceptionally able man.

Mr. Houde plainly said that Montreal could no longer carry the relief burden; that they as a city were not responsible for unemployment; that if they quit paying relief there would be rioting which would bring the whole question to the Federal Government. He asked that the burden of unemployment relief be paid by the Federal Government. If this were done, Montreal would ask nothing further. Out of a population of a little better than 985,000, 19.5 per cent. are on relief at a cost of \$5,437,000 a year.

Mayor Simpson of Toronto spoke to the resolution that "from and after the first day of April, 1935, the Dominion Government shall take over and assume the entire cost of unemployment relief in the Dominion of Canada," which was one of the two unanimous resolutions presented by the visiting mayors.

He pointed out that unemployment is a national emergency and a national responsibility, the financial burden of which should not be loaded on the municipalities since municipal revenue is procured almost entirely from homes and home property. If taxation on property increased too much it defeated its own ends by making payment impossible and causing the property to revert to the municipality.

The fact was stressed by Mayor Simpson that the formal resolution, in the preamble, emphasized the danger to peace, order and good government which lay in the present situation.

Toronto is still solvent, Mayor Simpson claimed, and not in as great difficulties as many other cities, yet I notice his city is listed as having 18.5 per cent. of its population on relief, which requires a yearly expenditure of \$3,190,000.

The budget has been before the House most of the week. Mr. Ralston critised it for almost three hours without revealing any change in the Liberal attitude. In considering the budget one was reminded again of McGeer, who says that all governments are balancing budgets by taking out those items which they cannot meet—relief and railway in this case—and putting them in "extraordinary account". That was un-

doubtedly done this year.

The group in the "Southeast Corner" moved a sub-amendment to the budget suggesting that the pressing needs of the farmers and the unemployed should be financed by the social credit of Canada, thus avoiding a further increase in the debt burden of the country.

It was further suggested that a superannuation system be set up by which people over a certain age, possibly 60, should be retired on a pension of \$50 a month, to be paid from a national dividend. At the time of the 1921 census it was estimated that there were more than 300,000 persons over 60 gainfully employed. The superannuation of these people would make room for many of the younger generation who are at present unable to find employment.

Speaking on the sub-amendment, Mr. Coote, McLeod, Alberta, proposed a number of other ways in which a national dividend could be advantageously used. Provision for widows and the blind, disability and health insurance, and grants to education, might be financed in this way.

"We should make use of part of this national dividend," Mr. Coote said, "to relieve the small taxpayer. . . . we must take steps either by use of a national dividend or by some other method to restore the purchasing power of the people on our farms." 45 per cent. of our people are on farms and the average income of farmers dropped from \$1600 in 1928 to \$640 in 1933.

Mr. Coote stressed the fact that nothing was more important than a restoration of purchasing power to our farm people if we wish to bring back anything like a condition of prosperity.

It now seems sure that the House will adjourn for a long period at Easter, possibly five weeks, to enable the Prime Minister to recover and to attend the Silver Jubilee in London. All of which looks like a Fall, rather than a Summer, election.

AGNES C. MACPHAIL
House of Commons, Ottawa, 29th
March, 1935.

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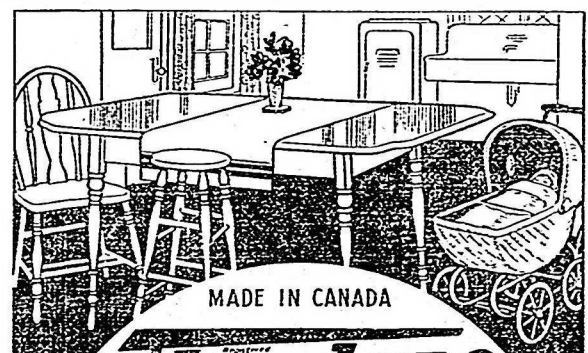
Dr. Allan Roy Dafeo, world famed as the man who brought into the world and kept alive the quintuplet daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Dionne. Fifty-four years old, five foot six tall and looks shorter because of baggy clothing. Would rather be what he is at Calander, Ontario, than the highest paid obstetrician in New York.



Charged the Dionnes \$15 for the job over at their house, \$3 each for the five of them. That's his rate for a baby—\$3. Has brought 1,600 babies, mostly French Canadians, into the world, making \$4,800 worth at the \$3 rate. None of his mothers have ever gone to a hospital. One night he drove four hours through a blizzard to rescue a woman shot in the brain. She was frozen and unconscious, but he saved her life. Three months later he delivered her of a baby boy. Both lived. Likes newspaper men and is amused at the publicity the Dionne job brought to him. Thinks men living without women, or women without men absurd, unhealthy, unnerving. Expects to live thirty more years.

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