

Miss Macphail's Letter

The last week and a half before adjournment the Commons concerned itself with an attempt to prevent the long recess, lasting until the 20th of May, with the Farm Loan Act as amended by the Senate, the lowering of interest charges made by Insurance Companies to 6 per cent., the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Mass Buying and Price Spreads and the deadly combat between the Hon. H. H. Stevens and Hon. C. H. Cahhan.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Price Spreads and Mass Buying has at last been tabled. It is a bulky volume of 500 pages. The long recess will provide members with an opportunity of reading it and coming to some definite conclusion regarding its many recommendations.

A large section is devoted to the primary producer. In reading it one hits on sensible bits like this: "Unless the primary producer is restored to a position where he has purchasing power commensurate with his importance, there can be no stable basis for prosperity." And later: "The primary producer has borne the brunt of the depression. He was the first and greatest sufferer."

The report goes on to state that it is not that the primary producer has produced too much, nor that his products are not needed, but simply that they cannot be sold at a price sufficiently high to maintain for him a reasonable standard of living nor, paradoxically enough, at a price sufficiently low to permit necessary consumption by all those in need.

Government and educational bodies, had, up to this time, the report says, been assisting the farmer by experimenting productive methods, rather than with the equally important problem of marketing what he produces. Emphasis now might well be placed on the latter.

Speaking of the packing industry, the reports state: "Canada Packers Limited is the dominating unit, with a business greater than the next five packing companies combined. This has almost eliminated competition." The report draws attention to the fact that there was uncontradicted evidence given by a former official of the Canada Packers that in Toronto it was the usual practice for this firm to arrange with Swifts before the market opened as to the prices to be paid for the purchase of livestock.

A half page of the report is devoted to the effect of shipping livestock direct to the packing plant by

trucks. When livestock is delivered direct the producer must take the packers own weight, on the latter's scales. In the case of hogs, the producer must take the packer's grade also. That is, the producer in shipping livestock direct from the farm to the door of the abattoir is in the hands of the packer as to weights, grades and prices.

Discussing prices, the report states: "The prices paid for livestock shipped direct is said to be the market price. The market price is the price set where there is a competitive market, namely, on the public stockyards. The evidence submitted to us showed quite conclusively that the packer, with his large supplies shipped direct, frequently abstained from buying upon the public stockyards. That is, he is not so keen a buyer when a substantial portion of his demands have already been met by direct shipment and a slow or draggy market results."

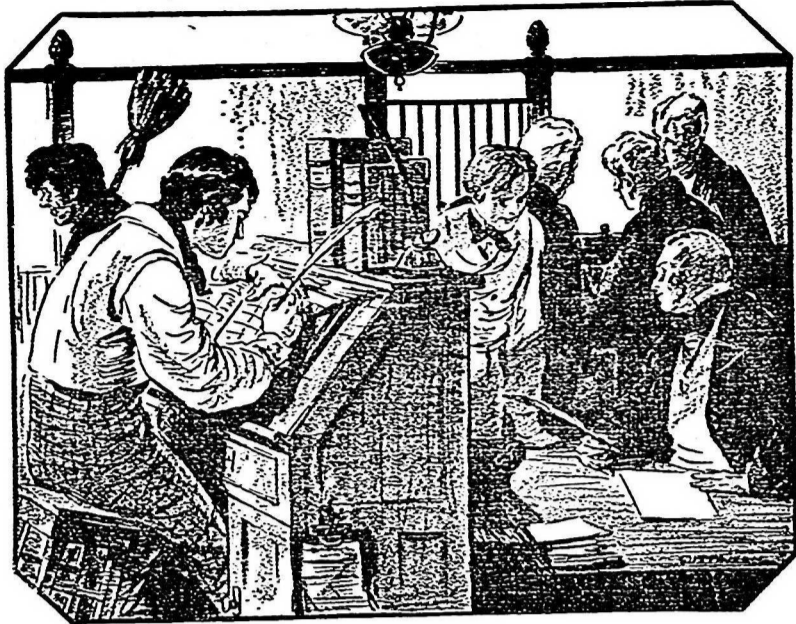
"We recommend, therefore, that all shipments of livestock should be made to the public market, where reasonably possible, to give all buyers an opportunity of competing for them and to prevent shipments being used as a club in the hands of the packers to break down prices on the public stockyards."

It was clearly evident in the battle of words between Stevens and Cahhan that the sympathy of the majority of the Conservative members was with Stevens.

That Mr. Stevens has captured the popular imagination there is no doubt. A couple of paragraphs out of his recent speech show clearly how this wonder has been accomplished.

"To whom have I been unfair?" said Mr. Stevens. "I think the answer is clear and I should like to review it. I was charged with being unfair to Mr. MacLean of the Canada Packers; I have been charged with being unfair to Sir Joseph Flavelle and the Robert Simpson Company; I have been charged with being unfair to the T. Eaton Company; to the Imperial Tobacco Company; to the National Fish Company and others. Charges have been made that I was unfair and prejudiced to these concerns."

"I now ask this question: Has anyone during the last fifteen months, five of which I was chairman of the committee, and subsequently a private member of the commission, charged me with being unfair to the workers, to the farmers, to the growers of vegetables and fruits, to the small merchants from one end of Canada to another, or to



FROM A STAFF OF SEVEN TO SIX THOUSAND STRONG

From less than a corporal's guard to the equivalent of six regiments—this graphically illustrates the growth of the Bank of Montreal's staff in 117 years.

On the 23rd of August, 1817, the first four employees of the Bank of Montreal were appointed. They were the cashier, an accountant, a paying teller and a second teller. Shortly afterward a discount clerk, a second bookkeeper and a porter were added.

These seven constituted the original staff when the modest establishment on St. Paul Street in Montreal

opened its doors on Monday, November 3rd—an establishment which was destined to play a conspicuous and beneficial part in the development of Canada's resources.

Throughout the many decades that have followed, the Bank of Montreal has made increasing effort to provide a banking service always adequate to meet the requirements of Canada's development.

The original staff of seven has grown to 6,300, loyally serving the public through 500 branches extending from sea to sea—and overseas.

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ESTABLISHED 1817

HEAD OFFICE .. MONTREAL

MODERN, EFFICIENT BANKING SERVICE...the Outcome of 117 Years' Successful Operation

Markdale Branch: A. G. ROBERTSON, Manager

Chatsworth Branch: R. T. DUNLOP, Manager



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Don't just take it out in smiling. Tell him he's a chip off the old block . . . via Long Distance.



● Long Distance is ready under any circumstances. It's easy to use, and the cost is small. For as little as 30 cents you can talk 100 miles or so. See the rates in the front pages of your directory.

the cattlemen who appeared before that committee?"

The rich man has few defenders these days.

The Senate amendments to the Farm Loan Act have certainly not improved the measure. The amount which any farmer can borrow is reduced from \$7,500 to \$5,000. The total loan can now not exceed 50 per cent. of the value of the farm and the farms against which Federal loans have been made will be put on a preferred list which will prevent the municipality selling them out for taxes. It leaves the municipality in a helpless position.

The last couple of days were devoted almost wholly to a discussion of the public works program, with the opposition strong enough to prevent the vote being taken before the recess. One project, the building of a tunnel from Toronto to the island, at a cost of a million dollars, was so strenuously opposed that it is likely to be dropped. Toronto members said a promise had been made regarding this tunnel as early as 1912 but the opposition argued that the million dollars would be better spent on slum clearance in the city of Toronto.

The Prime Minister, much improved in health, sails to-day on the liner "Paris" for the Old Country where he will attend The King's Silver Jubilee.

House of Commons,

Ottawa.

20th April, 1935.

Agnes C. Macphail.

In Days of Yore

(Continued from page three)

cantile life. Mr. D. L. Munroe, his successor, takes possession this week.

Mr. C. Sproule, who has been in charge of the post office here for a short time, has been engaged as head teacher in the Flesherton public school.

Mr. Suggott, who has been tax collector in Osprey for a number of years, now takes possession as the assistant postmaster here.

40 YEARS AGO - April 25, 1895

Local and Personal

Miss Trillie Littlejohn is home from Toronto on a visit.

Mrs. McFadden sr. has been visiting her son in Mono for some weeks.

Miss Lillie Hamilton of Toronto is visiting her sister, Mrs. James E. Matson.

Mrs. J. E. Marsh and Miss Maggie Rutledge spent a few days last week in Toronto.

Mrs. Sarjeant of Barrie is visiting her son, Mr. Fred. Sarjeant, and her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Fiesher of Flesherton.

Miss Lizzie Leader of Whittington is spending the Easter holidays with Miss Nesbitt.

Mr. R. W. Bright, principal of the school, and his two sons spent part of last week visiting with relatives at Mount Forest.

Lily Oak

Mr. Robert Clark erected a new barn on Saturday.

Mr. John Robson of this place has left to try his fortune at the Sault.

Goring

Fothergill Bros. have had a busy winter in the swamp taking out shingle bolts. They will start their mill soon.

Mr. E. Sparling is busy making timber for his new barn. Mr. T. Moore has the contract.

Mr. Lamb is working in the new blacksmith shop here.

Mr. P. Sparling has let the contract for his new wood shop.

Mr. Robert McCullough had a wood bee last Thursday.

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30 YEARS AGO - April 27, 1905

Personal and Local

Mr. Eugene Lucas spent Easter in Toronto.

Miss Flossie Irwin is home from the O. S. Collegiate for Easter.

Miss S. Armstrong is home from Collingwood for a short visit.

Miss Gertie Burnside spent a few days in Dundalk last week.

Messrs. W. S. Perkins and Jim Bowler spent Good Friday in Dun-

dale.

Mr. Gordon Hill left Tuesday for the West.

Miss Mabel Plewes returned to Owen Sound this week to resume her studies in music.

Mrs. Norts of Huttonville has bought Mr. A. F. Wyville's brick house recently occupied by Mr. John Pickett and will come to Markdale to reside in the fall.

Mr. Robert Mercer has purchased a ranch at Rosedale, B.C., and Mrs. Mercer and son, Stinson, left here on Good Friday for their new home.

Mr. W. H. Brown, who has been clerking in F. T. Hill & Co.'s store for about two years, left on Monday for Owen Sound where he has entered the employ of McLaughlan & Sons, biscuit manufacturers, as a traveller.

Mr. H. Mercer has purchased a corner lot on Mark Street, next to P. McCullough's residence, from Mrs. Rae.

Mr. Charles Bansley, late of Stayner, has purchased from Mr. J. B. Walden the blacksmith business opposite the Revere Hotel.

Mr. Jas. Ryan has sold fifty acres of land, being the west half of lot 4, con. 6, Artemesia, to Mr. Jas. Nash.

Berkeley

N. A. Flynn and family and Mr. and Mrs. John Ransome returned from North Bay a short time ago and have once more taken up their residence in Berkeley.

Mr. and Mrs. Hare of the Berkeley Hotel spent Easter with friends in Owen Sound.

Haskett Bros. of Markdale are this week putting in a new furnace at the Presbyterian Church here.

Robert Ritchie and Wm. Walker returned to Peterboro on Monday after spending a few days in this vicinity.

Rocklyn

Among those leaving for the West from our village are Mr. Harry Lang and Mr. Leonard Clark with his wife and family.

Mr. Michael Foy is ill with an attack of rheumatism.