

# Our Letter from Ottawa

BY AGNES C. MACPHAIL, M.P.

Usually these articles are dictated in my office on Saturday morning, direct to the typewriter, or rather, to a very efficient secretary who manipulates the typewriter. But this time the layout is entirely different. I am lying comfortably in bed, just having finished a brew of gruel, and am now all set to talk on to the portable typewriter an article which promises to be short and not very interesting. I want to tell you the name of my secretary and how she happens to be mine this session, but she won't have it.

The flu never passes me by. I have a fairly good dose of it, and it struck me at a most inconvenient time, causing me to miss the only break so far in the monotony of the session. I read in Hansard that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Gardiner had a first-class row over the appointment of John Vallance, ex-Liberal M.P., as head of the Farm Rehabilitation scheme (effort to overcome the drought conditions). Mr. Bennett said that John Vallance couldn't be in town a half hour without talking politics and, while he didn't blame him for being a strong partisan, he did think it disqualified him to work in this particular field, which should be above and apart from politics.

This looks like the pot calling the kettle black, since Mr. Bennett, previous to and during the last election, had appointed many Conservative partisans to high positions in the public service. Mr. Sullivan, ex-M.P., was made Deputy Postmaster General over the head of Mr. P. T. Coolican, who, had the appointment been made on the merit principle, should have filled the post. R. K. Smith, another Conservative M.P., was made Deputy Minister of Marine.

Mr. Bennett has been so very agreeable this session that it was hard to distinguish him from, shall we say, Mr. King or Mr. Dunning, especially Mr. Dunning. It would have been a pleasure to have seen him "in character" again. And Mr. Gardiner he has a worthy opponent. It is the greatest pity that the flare-up was over only the miserable business of patronage.

Mr. Gardiner made a really magnificent speech on the whole subject of the rehabilitation of western lands. He spoke out of his long experience on the prairies, both in Western Canada and the State of Nebraska. He made it clear that much rain in the great wheat-belt resulted in either frost or rust and he expressed the opinion that the drought area of Western Canada was now passing through much the same condition as that which struck Nebraska during the five years he lived there in the last century. He did not take a despairing view of the outlook. He pointed out that the people had in the main stuck to the area and expressed the belief that in ten years there would be more people there than there are now, if in the meantime the problem of rehabilitation was well handled.

It surprised me to hear Mr. Gardiner say that one-fifth of all the improved farm lands and more than a quarter of all the occupied lands of Canada are in the drought affected prairie areas. The whole drought district contains 60 million acres, 30 municipalities and a population of 600,000.

A good crop at a good price in the area described above has produced as high a return as \$1,180,000,000, while in a poor year returns have dropped as low as \$254,000,000.

It was at this point that the chills and fever started and I went home to bed, and haven't since had the energy to read the conclusion.

It's a bit of bad luck that the flu has caused me to cancel two of the most interesting dinner engagements I have had this session. The Hon. T. A. Crerar and Mrs. Crerar are entertaining at dinner to-night at the Country Club for the Hon. Percy Pease, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Lands of Queensland, Australia, and were good enough to invite me. And on Thursday (the day the chills and fever started), Mr. Fraser Elliott, Chief of the Income Tax Branch of the Department of National Revenue, and Mrs. Elliott entertained in their beautiful new home, and I was one of the absent guests. (And a new dinner dress

is still in its wrappings). But more serious is the cancellation of the emergency peace meeting, or at any rate my part in it, at the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, on Sunday afternoon. I do dislike not being able to keep my speaking engagements. I feel, possibly, an undue sense of responsibility about them. But, unless the temperature becomes normal very rapidly, I will be in this same place to-morrow, rather than discussing "Do we want increased armaments in Canada" at the Uptown.

Mrs. Martha Louise Black, member for the Yukon, urged the government to issue a million silver dollars in commemoration of the coronation. She argued that it would be beneficial to the silver mining industry in Canada, would be a suitable souvenir and would profit the government—"For every sixty cents worth of silver which is struck off in silver coins the government clears approximately \$1.15."

Mrs. Black was supported by Mr. Reid, Liberal, New Westminster, B. C., who for some years has advocated the use of silver as money or as a monetary base.

Mr. Dunning, in replying, gave little encouragement. Apparently the dies for coins are made in London. Before the abdication of Edward VIII steps had been taken to have the King's head appear on Canadian silver dollars but none had been issued. Now new dies must be made and Mr. Dunning did not think that they could arrive in time to have Canadian silver dollars in circulation before the coronation. He pointed out, too, that King George V silver coins (dollars) are available at all the banks, but are in little demand except in areas interested in the production of silver.

Early in the week, Mr. Denton Massey, the popular (as well as good looking) member for Greenwood, one of the Toronto seats, precipitated a very interesting debate on the problem of housing. He made a good speech, which revealed a deep interest in the living conditions of the people. He expressed the view that good housing will do much to eliminate juvenile delinquency, crime and ill health. Quoting from the Bruce Commission report, he showed that juvenile delinquency in good housing areas was 7.9 per 10,000 of the population, while in areas where housing is totally inadequate and slum conditions exist the rate stands at 36.6 in every 10,000.

On the basis of public health alone, it is necessary to improve housing conditions. He showed that in Glasgow the death rate per 1000, where families lived in one room, was 29.9, and where families lived in four rooms, 10.8, or just one-third. And, further, that in Canadian cities of over 25,000 population there are 95,000 families on relief and of these 9% occupy one room and 11% two rooms.

Mr. Massey recommended that a sum as large as the relief bill, approximately 100 million dollars, be spent in housing. Such an expenditure would not require upkeep, as other public works do, but would in time be repaid by the purchaser. Housing was an ideal method of putting money in circulation, since 80% of the cost is used in labor, direct and indirect. Housing and slum clearance would absorb skilled labor, unskilled labor and would provide for apprenticeship on a large scale, thus assisting youth.

Mr. Massey admitted that the Dominion government had difficulty in giving such a lead, due to the B.N.A. Act, which allotted property and civil rights to the provinces; and to the taxation of property values, which discourages building.

Mr. Dunning replied in a very interesting way. The Dominion Housing Act is but a beginning, he admitted, but within the ambit of it he believes that many useful housing schemes may be fitted. On January first, 1119 family units had been built under the Housing Act, at a cost of \$5,376,000, and a good deal is being done to encourage the building of lower priced homes.

I made a short, not entirely uninteresting speech on Swedish housing, but I'm too tired to tell you about it.

AGNES C. MACPHAIL  
Ottawa, February 13, 1937.

## CEYLON

Mr. Bill Cairns is on an extended holiday in the city.

Miss Dorothy Snell is spending a week in Owen Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kirk, sr., of Berkeley were visitors on Saturday with their daughter, Mrs. A. C. Muir.

Mr. Sangster Hemphill and Miss Maud Hemphill were at Laskay on Friday attending the funeral of Miss Watson.

Mr. Farquhar Oliver, M.L.A., returned to Toronto on Tuesday.

Mr. F. D. Cairns, Mr. J. F. Collinson and two daughters, Margaret and Jean, were in Toronto on Friday where they attended the funeral of the late Mrs. James G. Collinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bailey and family of Shrigley visited on Sunday with Mrs. D. Macphail.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb. Corbett, Proton, were callers on Monday at J. P. Collinson's.

The community extends its sympathy to the Adams, Hargrave and Vause families in the sorrow they have been passing through.

Mrs. Anna McMillan has returned from Owen Sound, having recovered from her tonsil operation.

Mrs. Murray Farnell underwent an operation in Markdale hospital the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Archie Sinclair spent a few days last week in Toronto.

The Ladies' Aid meets at Mrs. Jas. Pattison's on Tuesday evening, February 23rd, instead of Wednesday evening, at 8 p.m. The roll call is to be answered with the name of a book and its author. There will be a Valentine Program in charge of Mesdames Gibson, Sinclair and Mrs. Genoe. Cake: Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. T. Stewart; sandwiches: Mrs. Snowden McLeod and Mrs. Earl McLeod.

Ceylon Sunday School enjoyed a skating party at Flesherston rink last Tuesday with a lunch after in the basement of St. John's church. Races and broom ball were enjoyed with prizes for all taking part. Mr. Archie Muir took a load of children over in his truck while several other cars accommodated the crowd.

Messrs. Joe and Wilfred Campbell have returned from camp in the north.

Mrs. J. D. McLeod and Mr. J. D. Campbell were the lucky winners at the progressive euchre party held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sturick last Thursday evening. The consolation prizes were won by Mr. J. D. McLeod and Mr. Jack McMeekin. Progressive euchre parties have become very popular on Stone's Line this winter, young and old participating in the evening's merriment.

The community was filled with sorrow when it was known that two homes were bereaved over the weekend.

Little Florence Janet, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Adams, died very suddenly late Saturday night. The child had been ill with flu for a couple of days and was cutting teeth at the same time, and although receiving every care, she suddenly expired. Florence would have been two years old on March 3rd. Rev. Service had charge of the private funeral Monday afternoon, burial taking place at Flesherston. Jim Kennedy, Melville Hunt, Emerson Plester and Charlie McWilliams were pallbearers.

Mr. Benjamin Hargrave of the East Back Line passed away Saturday night about 11.30. Mr. Hargrave had suffered a broken hip early in the week from falling on the ice, and the shock was too much in his delicate state of health.

The late Mr. Hargrave was born on the Townline of Egremont in 1867 and came, when one and a half years old, to the old homestead where he spent his entire life, receiving his education on the 5th Line of Artemesia.

Thirty-seven years ago he married Susan Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Thompson of the 3rd Line, Artemesia, and she, with one son, Mr. George Hargrave, survives.

Mr. Hargrave is survived by two brothers, John and William of Dundalk. A sister, Jane, died fifty-five years ago.

The funeral will be held from his late residence on Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Pherrill of Markdale Anglican church having charge of the service, interment taking place at Maxwell.

A total of \$110,000 will be spent upon the construction, maintenance and repair of the Grey county road system in 1937.

# Collection Results

"Received your cheque for \$40.43 on ..... note and want to thank you for the capable manner in which you attended to this matter." Taken from a letter dated January 21st, 1937.

Can we be of service to you? Remember our terms "no collection no charge for our services".

## KELLY & AIKEN

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## EUGENIA

Born—On Friday, February 12th, 1937, to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Goddard (nee Miss Hilda Genoe), a daughter, —"Blanche Marlene."

Mrs. Thos. Genoe of Ceylon is with her daughter, Mrs. Goddard, at present.

Mrs. A. Cameron attended the funeral of her cousin, Mr. Thos. Blakeley, at Flesherston on Saturday. Mrs. Chas. Martin also attended the funeral, as the late Mr. Blakeley was her uncle.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Parliament have moved from apartments in Mr. Jake Williams' residence to Mr. John Magee's home, where they have rented a few rooms.

A number in this locality are laid up with severe colds.

On Friday evening the Y. P. U. met in the basement of the church for a social time as well as the regular meeting. The basement was artistically decorated with hearts, mottoes, streamers on the occasion of St. Valentine's Day. Mrs. C. Martin presided, taking the devotional and discussion periods. The topic of discussion was "Youth and Romance." Miss Dinsmore was organist for the evening. Hymn No. 500 in the Hymnary opened the meeting, followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison. Scripture passages were read by Miss Phyllis Graham, Miss Dinsmore and Miss Mabel Betts from Chap. 24 of Genesis, which told of the notable romance of Rebekah and Isaac. Prayer was offered by Miss Dinsmore, after which the social period opened by a "Friendship" chorus followed by a reading, "St. Valentine," by Miss Dinsmore. Other numbers were "A Valentine Chorus" by the Y.P.U.; Duet by Arthur Proctor and Burton Campbell; Community singing by all; Recitations by Margaret McMillan and Marge Martin; Three Musical selections by the Orchestra—Miss Dinsmore, organist, Miss M. Park, violinist, with Dorothy Falconer, Ruth Graham and Jean Proctor on guitars and Margaret McMillan on the ukulele; A Trio by Burton, Arthur and Evelyn Campbell, accompanied by Evelyn Campbell chording on the organ (Dennis chorded well for a little lad); Two Contests, "Musical Hearts" and "The Stings of the Spooks", were conducted. Miss Phyllis Graham directed a "heart" contest which resulted in partners for lunch (she thought she made some pretty good

## DORNOCH

The Women's Institute held their monthly meeting on February 11th at the home of Mrs. Jas. Crutchley. There was a good attendance. After the Lord's prayer was recited in unison the roll call was answered by some witty joke. It was decided that Mrs. E. B. Dargavel and Mrs. V. J. Sweeney would attend the Interior Decorating Course in Durham in April. A very good program was enjoyed by all and a dainty lunch was served by the hostess and assistants. The March meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. E. B. Dargavel.

A number from here attended the funeral of the late Neil McCormick, which was held on Friday. The remains were interred in Rocky Saugene cemetery.

Mrs. Colin McIntyre has gone to visit her son, A. D., and Mrs. McIntyre at Flesherston.

The flu has been quite prevalent in this neighbourhood. We are pleased to report that the patients are recovering.

Mrs. P. J. Coffey is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. Exie Sweeney.

Mr. James Lang of Okanagan Valley, B.C., is visiting friends here. Born—On Saturday, February 6, 1937, to Mr. and Mrs. Swanson, the gift of twin girls, Sheila and Shirley.

## MAXWELL Y. P. S.

The Y.P.S. held their regular meeting in the Church hall on Friday, Feb. 12th, with a good attendance. The meeting was in the form of a Valentine social, with the president, Rev. A. Bushell, in the chair. After the opening exercises Miss Jean Ross took the topic, "Youth and Romance". The program was put on by the ladies and consisted of a duet by Delmer Seeley and Jean Bushell; readings by Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Adam; a dialogue by the junior members; games and contests. A lunch served by the men brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

matches). Lunch was served, after which the president thanked all who assisted in and attended the function. "God Save the King" was sung and all departed for their home. The proceeds will go to the M. & M. fund.

Mrs. W. C. Hanley is visiting in Flesherston with her daughter, Mrs. W. Akitt, who is ill.

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