



THE HOME OF The Acton Free Press

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EDITORIAL

Revenue from Income Tax

Since the income tax was imposed in Canada in 1917 as a source of raising revenue for the Dominion Government, approximately \$744,000,000 has been collected. The average yearly collection of income tax for the first 13 years amounted to \$52,604,895.21, while for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1932, the total collection from this tax will reach, it is estimated, \$61,000,000. About 20 per cent. of the total revenue of Canada is raised by the income tax. In the United States about 57.77 of the total revenue comes from income tax and in the British Isles the income tax returns approximately 41.74 of the total national revenue. The Canadian Government does not impose income tax on interest or dividends paid to non-residents. The cost of collecting the income tax since it has been in force in Canada, and also the Business Profits War Tax, which has returned over \$198,000,000, has been less than \$26,000,000, or about three per cent.

Spring Optimism

It's spring time—at least this week, with its warm sunshine, had all the earmarks of that season. And with the opportunity to get out-of-doors comes a feeling of optimism. There is the winter's accumulations to be cleared away. The farmers can prepare for their work on the land and in the action of getting out on the land and the expectation of seed-time and harvest, forget some of the financial problems that have seemed unsurmountable. The town dweller, who may have found the winter, with its forced inactivity irksome, can now, with the advent of spring weather, find an outlet for his activities about the home and garden. For those who can afford improvements it would seem that the present is a most opportune time for their fulfilment. Labor and material costs are the lowest that have been quoted in years. It is extremely doubtful if they will go lower, and it would appear that those who can invest in improvements this year will be making a substantial saving. The odd painting, repairing or building job can best be done now. After all, the money put in circulation but returns again to be re-distributed.

Restore Public Confidence

The delayed investigation undertaken by the Ontario Government into Hydro payments is again to be resumed. Truly the whole affair is enough to cause illness of more than those who are obliged to listen to the evidence and untangle the affair. It would seem that those who could untangle are very loathe to render what assistance they may. After months of prodding the investigation has been widened in its scope to include the payment to John Aird, Jr., of \$125,000 from the Beauharnois Corporation. It is intimated that Hon. G. Howard Ferguson will give evidence before the investigation that will now be conducted by Justice Orde. In the interests of Hydro and of those who desire to have public trust re-established in all institutions, it is time for a complete revelation of all these mysterious financial manipulations. It is no time to tantalize the public mind by merely a whitewash investigation. If there is guilt among those who are in high position let them shoulder their responsibility. We want no demonstrations in Ontario, such as have been carried out in Newfoundland. The public confidence must be secured in its institutions and no matter where the guilt lies, British justice should be dispensed.

A Brake, Not a Propeller

Doubt is sometimes useful in an emergency, but it is not constructive. It is a brake, not a propeller. The more you doubt, the less you do. You cannot put the same kind of effort into your undertaking when you are uncertain as to the outcome, as you give when you are convinced that you will succeed. Doubt weakens friendship. Doubt is disastrous because so often it springs from self-distrust. You doubt the success of your undertakings because you doubt your ability. You doubt your friends because you do not feel that there is anything in you to compel love and admiration. If you can see success beyond struggle, if you expect the same loyalty that you give, it is because you believe in yourself.

Where a Saving Would be Noticed

It appears that it costs the C. N. R. about \$149,402 per year for the upkeep of the President. The items given to make this amount in a news article, the other day, were: "Sir Henry's salary, \$75,000; special allowance, \$15,000; salary from G. T. Western, \$5,000; salary from Central Vermont, \$5,000; salary from Ontario Car Ferry, \$5,000; sundry directors' fees, \$250; personal expenses, \$24,152; free house, estimate \$20,000." The average individual will naturally say that the President is greatly over-worked. With so many desires of securing employment it would seem that the division of labor and salary could, like other matters calculated to lower railway costs, come in for some adjustment. Unlike some of the small savings inaugurated a very slight percentage on big amounts is at once productive of real saving.

The Department Saves Alone

Even the school pupils are called upon to assist in raising additional funds. The Departmental examinations, which formerly cost a dollar per paper will be \$1.50 per paper this year. The maximum for Middle School students is \$10; Upper School pupils \$15; and Lower School exams are a maximum of \$5. Just at a time when students' parents may find it difficult to keep the children at school, the increase in the fees is not an incentive to continuance of education. Fees for presiding officers and their assistants at Entrance examinations have been reduced from \$9 and \$7 per day respectively to \$7.50 and \$6. Fees for reading answer papers of Entrance candidates have been reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.25 per pupil. Each pupil writes eight papers. At any rate, the Department is out to save money, but there appears to be no assistance tendered to those who make an effort to give the children the advantage of education.

Canada's Mineral Production

Mineral production in Canada for the calendar year 1931 is valued at \$227,456,365. Production of metals reached a total value of \$118,636,071; fuels, including coal, natural gas, crude petroleum and peat, were worth \$54,588,933; other non-metals, the principal items being asbestos, gypsum, salt, quartz, feldspar, and sodium sulphate, totalled \$10,849,170 in value, structural materials, including brick, cement, lime, stone, sand and gravel were valued at \$43,382,191. The principal items in the metallic production were: gold, 2,695,291 fine ounces valued at \$55,715,120; copper, 293,154,655 pounds worth \$24,185,119; nickel, 65,666,320 pounds worth \$15,267,453; lead, 267,339,203 pounds worth \$7,260,060; silver, 20,558,216 fine ounces worth \$6,140,739; and zinc, 237,245,451 pounds worth \$6,059,249. The platinum metals, including platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, etc., aggregated \$2,813,547, a large increase over the previous year. Gold production increased by 28.2 per cent. over 1930. Ontario was first among the Provinces in the value of mineral output with \$96,126,990. Quebec was in second place with output valued at \$35,673,395. British Columbia, in third place, had mineral production valued at \$34,302,146. Alberta was in fourth place with an output principally of coal, natural gas and petroleum, valued at \$23,970,783.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With the rural communities demanding a reduction in rates, and the Government demanding a toll on the rates, the position of the telephone companies is not an enviable one.

It's spring time and clean-up-time and the urge to be out-of-doors in the bright sunshine will do much to chase away the gloom of the winter months. It is a time of optimism, when nature leads the way.

There have been 596 postmasters fired since 1930 when the Conservative Government took office. It's fortunate that there wasn't as much furore over each individual case as that which the Simcoe dismissal caused under the Liberal regime.

The St. John's riot caused property damage estimated at \$10,000. It was rather an expensive way of registering disgust for those in position. Had all other peaceable means failed before this was tried? The public always pays, anyway.

The Mitchell Advocate observed its seventy-second anniversary last week. In a historical mood, the editor last week pointed out the many improvements seen during the years and was optimistic of the future of Mitchell and proved as a good local paper should be—a real booster for the home community.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Free Press by GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Every morning for the last few days I have wakened to the glorious music of the most spontaneous Te Deum one could wish to hear. There is no accompaniment from musical instrument; no words are used, but the joyous knowledge that "the year's at the spring" is transmuted through a rare melody of sound from the hundreds of little song-birds that fly hither and thither from bush, tree and shrub. It is a wonderful Te Deum, this song of the birds and it never fails to waken a responsive chord in my own heart nor do I forget to be thankful that I have my hearing. There is so much we take for granted; think what it means to the deaf to be shut out from nature's music, to the blind who are denied the sight of spring flowers and to the bed-ridden who are perhaps suffering too greatly to take any pleasure in living. And it is so lovely to feel that bright warm sunshine even though the wind is cold and the air is warm as we must not take any liberties with the changing seasons. But we do not mind—we can wait a little longer, certain at last that Spring real spring, is definitely on its way. We still have mud and plenty of it but what matter? We have reached the stage of hoping that sometime it will dry up. Yesterday I went to a meeting and once more had the pleasure of hearing Nina Moore Jamieson give an address. It would be no hardship to hear her, on an average of about once a week. Her subject this time was "The Advantages of a Farm Woman in Journalism." It was, of course, particularly interesting to me and I was amused when she spoke of other people imagining writers to be specially gifted with inspiration. "Inspiration," said Mrs. Jamieson, "is rare. It comes on an average about once a year. There is supposed to be a good deal of perspiration in connection with writing but let me tell you there is a large amount of desperation! A writer may have a contract for a weekly article and there is just so much space that her editor expects to be filled up every week and sometimes ideas won't come. Then she spoke of the different letters that came to her, most of which were appreciative but there was one, which was not and the writer of it asked her how she could possibly imagine that her Mrs. Jamieson's farm and family affairs could possibly be of any interest to outsiders; that her children were the dullest she had ever heard of and that her home life must be one of the most hum-drum existences. (The writer later apologized and explained the letter was written when she was in a neurotic mood and had to take it out on someone.) Of course the letter gave Mrs. Jamieson an awful shock and I can quite understand what she felt because I, too, often wonder what impression my articles make on the public when they are largely taken up with our own affairs at Ginger Farm. Sometimes I imagine my readers must think my articles are made up of a mighty "I" because a whole column is mainly taken up with what I or we think, do, or say. But, think for a minute. If I want to write that way and you care to read it, although it may be ordinary enough yet there is no harm done and no one's feelings are hurt. But supposing I write of what I know or think I know, of our neighbors' affairs, how long should I last? Neighbors would cut me in the street, the mail box would be crammed with letters demanding apologies and explanations and the editor of our paper would also have a most uncomfortable time. It so happens that I have never received an abusive letter but I have had people who doubt that there are many people who have just that same idea of Chronicles of Ginger Farm. In writing it is something one must face—directly one comes before the public eye one naturally becomes the target for public criticism. For that reason it is best to err on the side of safety, even at the risk of being thought frightfully egotistic.

There was another thing Mrs. Jamieson said with which I entirely agreed. "Writing," she said, "is, I imagine, something like drink. Once you get into the way of it you can't give it up. That is so true. Time and again I have looked around at the various jobs that I might do and I have thought "Now I won't touch my typewriter for a whole month." I have never yet stuck to that resolve. Instead of speeding up things such a resolution impedes progress because my head gets cluttered up with ideas which worry me until I get them down on paper. They may not be any good—often they are not, as rejection slips are not unknown to me, but they serve as a safety valve—as an outlet for expression, which if denied, makes me very much like my favorite remedy for colds—lemon and soda and its effervescent qualities.

Such a joke—Partner has just come back from the mill with the news that we are leaving the farm. How true the rumor got about we don't know but it is the first time we knew we were in the position to retire! But if it is hard times that are supposed to be driving us off, then all I can say is we did not give this place the nickname of Ginger Farm for nothing and come what may, we still have a good supply of "ginger" to draw from whenever the necessity arises. We shall look forward to hearing what we are going to do next.

Worms feed upon the vitality of children and endanger their lives. A simple and effective remedy is Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator.

TO HIS BANKER

Following is an actual letter written to a banking house, in response to its request for more collateral:

"It is impossible for me to send you a cheque. My present financial condition is due to the effects of federal laws, state laws, county laws, corporation laws, by-laws, brother-in-laws, mother-in-laws, and outlaws that have been foisted upon an unsuspecting public. Through the various laws I have been held down, held up, walked on, sat on, flattened and squeezed until I do not know where I am, what I am, and why I am.

"The laws compel me to pay a merchant's tax, capital stock tax, income tax, real estate tax, property tax, auto tax, gas tax, water tax, light tax, cigar tax, street tax, school tax, syntax and carpet tax.

"The government has so governed my business that I do not know who owns it. I am suspected, expected, inspected, disrespected, examined, re-examined, until all I know is that I'm supplicated for money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race, and because I refuse to fall and go out and beg, borrow and steal money to give away, I am cussed and discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, held down, and robbed until I am nearly ruined, so the only reason I am clinging to life is to see what is coming next."

ONE CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Judge: "When you work, what work do you do?"
Prisoner: "I'm an organist."
Judge: "How can a man with such a God-given talent as yours ever be out of a job?"
Prisoner: "My monkey died."

HELP—BOTH KIND!

Wife: "Henry, there's a burglary at the silver and another in the pantry eating my pies. Get up and call for help."
Hubby (at window): "Police! Doctor!"

reduced YOU CAN NOW BUY Red Rose Tea Red Label 25c 1/2 lb. 30c Orange Pekoe 38c 1/2 lb. 43c You now pay only a little more for RED ROSE than for cheap bulk teas. We refund the grocer the drop in price. WE BEAR THE LOSS

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