



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP-DILLIS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

One Third Goes for Interest

Interest on funded and unfunded debts took 30.30 per cent. of Canada's revenues in the fiscal year 1936-37, the Finance Department said in a return tabled in the House of Commons to questions by Robert Fair. The whole debt of Canada at March 31st, 1937, was given as \$3,572,884,936, and the interest on it took \$1,374,103,445. Mr. Fair asked figures concerning debt totals since 1912. In the 1912-13 fiscal year Canada's total debt was \$353,888,794, and the interest on it of \$12,605,882, took only 7.47 of national revenues.

Other Northern Attractions

By the time our readers have this issue of THE FREE PRESS in their hands, the editor will have attended the first part of a three-day newspaper convention. This (Thursday) evening, a group of 100 editors and their wives will be aboard a special train for Northern Ontario for the second part of the convention.

It seems we are due to find out that Northern Ontario has attractions other than fishing. Hon. P. Ledue, Minister of Mines, is to be a member of the group and a visit to the mines at Timmins and Kirkland Lake is the objective of the second part of the convention. We don't for a moment believe that three days will give much of a conception of this great north country and its wealth. But we do hope to get a peek that will perhaps give us a better understanding. The story won't be fishing next week. But we may have something to say about mining. We anticipate the trip with a good deal of interest.

Altogether Too Practical

Some day during the summer we suppose a half-hearted effort will be made to observe Father's Day, and quite likely someone will suggest that he be given a necktie or a pair of socks, or a few smokes. That's just what's wrong with the observance of Father's Day. It's like the fathers, far too practical. Add a little sentiment. Tell how he walked the floor night after night, in order that the rest of the household wouldn't be disturbed.

It might also be told how he went to work to earn the bread for the family when he was really too ill to work. Let the sentimentalist pens get to work on extolling the virtues of the fathers of the land, and the florists suggest an appropriate flower to wear in honoring the dad, and Father's Day will come into its own.

But what sentiment is there in a necktie, but hanging, or socks but need of a change, or tobacco but a burning up of Father's Day, to be popular, will have to have more sentiment. Let's see, what month is it held in anyway?

A Fund of Knowledge

An unique gesture toward employees was made by the Canadian Pacific Railway recently when it issued a library of ten books covering phases of the company's activities and providing a general and helpful course of education in affairs of the day. The library, arranged by the company's own publicity department, was issued in individual volumes, dealing with a variety of subjects. Only two of the books actually deal with the railway and its problems. Other books deal with topics such as Public Speaking, Correspondence and Salesmanship, a Dictionary of Correct English, Self Taught French, Economic History of Canada, an Introduction to Economics, Biographical History of Canada, and the book Canada Sings, with 188 familiar songs arranged for four

voices. The whole library not only tends to give the workers on the C.P.R. an opportunity to understand the problems with which the company is faced, but gives also an insight into the business in which they are employed and in many cases financially interested. It was originally expected that about 1,000 copies would be wanted by employees, but the demand was so great that it ran to 15,000 copies. A set of the books, forwarded the editor, is greatly appreciated. We consider them about one of the most useful small groups that it has been our privilege to peruse. The subjects covered are so common-place in every day life that their uses are multitude.

A Cheer for Democracy

In Lincoln Cathedral there is a 723-year-old document. Written in Latin, it is the charter of democracy, the genesis of the British system of government and of the constitution of the United States. Every schoolboy is familiar with the title, Magna Carta, and with the circumstances under which, on June 15th, 1215, it was signed by King John at Runnymede.

It is a long document, covering the whole field of society and its administration. To sum it up in a sentence, it was a guarantee of security against arbitrary rule to all men within the realm, whatever their station in life might be.

Because, as Calvin Coolidge wrote, "Magna Carta is the background of all that we have," some years ago there was founded in the United States the International Magna Carta Day Association. Its object is spiritual unity of the English-speaking nations.

The movement has travelled far. This year, many thousands of people in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa will meet to commemorate, at meetings and church services, what has been called Interdependence Day.

During the week of June 12th, United States and Canadian war veterans of military establishments in the Niagara districts of both countries will unite to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta and Anglo-American amity.

It is good that amidst the din of Nazism, Fascism and Communism, there should be heard a cheer for the principles of freedom under which the English-speaking peoples live. Maclean's Magazine.

EDITORIAL NOTES

June, the month of brides, roses. Oh yes, strawberries and green peas.

Automobile production in Canada during 1937 totalled 207,000 units, compared with 162,159 in 1936.

The completion of Mill Street surfacing is still in the negotiation stage. In the meantime bump and bear it.

100,000 shares of Bank of Canada stock, held privately, are to be purchased by the government, and the bank will be completely nationalized.

Saturday night saw one of the biggest crowds in town on any evening for some time. All streets in the business section were jammed with parked cars.

Canadian cattle exports to the United Kingdom for the first three months of 1938 totalled 9,824 head, compared with 409 in the in the corresponding period of 1937.

The raise of the penalty for hit and run drivers is one increase that will be supported by the public generally. \$500 or six months in jail is not a bit too much for many of these callous drivers.

Not all large families have been a drain on parents' pocketbooks. The Dionnes, Nagles, Timlocks, Smiths and MacLeans large families have all given the parents a nice financial boost.

The by-law prohibiting dogs running at large gives no permission to allow the animals loose after dark. Upset garbage cans would indicate that many dogs have this privilege of night prowling.

The gross value of commodities produced on Canadian farms in 1937 was estimated at \$1,051,698,000, a decrease of \$27,873,000, or less than one per cent. compared with the preceding year.

Strongest objections regarding disposal of Chorley Park emanate from Toronto. A few of the city folks evidently miss this piece of entertainment, and objection is even raised to its gift as a hospital, or anything else.

Final statistics for 1936 show that the total value of manufactures of primary non-ferrous metals and non-ferrous metal products in Canada was \$351,164,860 compared with \$288,523,250 in the preceding year. This was a gain of 21 per cent., the greatest for any year on record.

The Tweed News issued last week a splendid thirty-two page edition. It commemorates the fifty-first anniversary of the News and combines Old Home Week with the occasion. It is well illustrated and arranged and the edition is a credit indeed to the publisher, S. R. Curry.

MAKING CANADA

A Better Place in Which to Live and Work

A Series of Letters from Distinguished Canadians on Vital Problems Affecting the Future Welfare of Canada

Specially Written for Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

Dear Mr. James:

I may say that I am greatly interested in your project, for one reason because I believe that your Association can do much to improve the welfare of the Canadian people by the influence it has in moulding public opinion. The hard times of recent years have led to a great deal of misunderstanding and, in turn, have spread some dangerous philosophies which have interfered with the natural process of economic recovery. In my opinion we need for the completion of this recovery not only a return to good crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces, but also strong resistance against the radical ideas which have become all too prevalent in the past seven or eight years. So long as a spirit of independence and a belief in democratic principles and methods obtain throughout rural Canada, we are in no serious danger of taking such desperate measures as have been introduced in certain other countries, partly to relieve economic distress, and partly to satisfy the dictatorial aims and ambitions of men who consider themselves superhuman.



B. H. LOGAN

At present I can think of nothing more important than that the traditional independence and democratic beliefs of our rural population be maintained, and I am sure that your Association has done, and could do a great deal more, to keep, and perhaps strengthen, these beliefs. I should welcome the opportunity of discussing this matter further with you.

Perhaps you could find it convenient to visit Toronto in the near future and fall on my knee.

Yours very truly,

B. H. LOGAN,

Past President, The Canadian Bankers Association, President, Canadian Bank of Commerce.

CANADIAN LIMESTONE

HAS MANY USES

Limestone, which constitutes about 87 per cent of the Canadian stone production, surpasses any other rock in the number and diversity of its uses and in the quantity consumed for industrial purposes. It is marked in a variety of forms ranging from large squared blocks of dimension stone, for use in construction, to extremely fine dust, used chiefly as a mineral filler. The bulk of the output is crushed and screened for use as road metal, concrete aggregate, railroad ballast, and as flux in metallurgical plants. Large quantities are also marketed in the crude or broken state for use in chemical and metallurgical industries. In the rock wool industry the newest of the limestone industries siliceous and argillaceous dolomitic limestone, or calcium limestone, is converted into a light fibrous insulating material known as "rock wool" which is being widely used as a thermal and sound insulation, and as an acoustical material.

New uses for limestone are continually being developed. The dolomitic variety when crushed or when calcined, has long been used as a refractory material for retting the bottoms of basic open-hearth furnaces, but its applications as a refractory have been limited because of the readiness with which its air-slakes, and also because of its chemical activity. Recently a method has been found of combining dolomite and also calcium limestone with silica in the presence of a stabilizing agent to give a refractory product that contains no active lime or silica and will not disintegrate, and is comparable in refractoriness with materials that are several times as expensive. A present use of limestone that is capable of enormous development is in agriculture. Through the necessity of applying limestone or lime to agricultural land in order to maintain or increase soil fertility has been emphasized for years by authorities on agriculture, the quantity so used in Canada is still very small, whereas if the proper quantity were applied it would constitute one of the vital outlets.

A number of new limestone quarries were opened in Canada during 1937, and several quarries that had been idle for some time were re-opened. Limestone is quarried in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, and the Canadian production in 1937 for general use, exclusive of that used for building stone, lime and cement is estimated at 5,190,000 tons, valued at \$3,990,000, compared with 3,704,451 tons valued at \$2,894,859 in 1936. The production for all purposes in 1937 is estimated at 7,000,000 tons. The increased production was largely from quarries in Ontario and Quebec, which supply the greater part of the output, and was due in a large measure to an increased demand for limestone for road construction, railway ballast, and for use in the chemical and metallurgical industries.

INDIA TAKES A HAND

Although India is one of the greatest wheat producing countries of the world, its wheat exports have been negligible until recently. From 9,000 tons in 1935-36, Indian wheat exports expanded to 231,000 tons in 1936-37, and for the eleven months ended February 28th, 1938, the amount was 438,800 tons. The bulk of these shipments have been destined for United Kingdom ports, and during the past twelve months Germany has taken an increased share.

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ON THE HYDRO THRIFT PLAN

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