

The Week at OTTAWA

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OTTAWA (CP)—Largest single loan in Canada's history is before Parliament, and while much is being said about it, approval of the \$1,250,000 loan to Britain is practically a foregone conclusion.

Although its size would dwarf a pre-war budget, the Canadian loan has been approved in principle by the four main parties of the Commons. Only a handful of members have registered disapproval.

This general approval is based on an appreciation of Canada's position in the post-war world and on a new concept of international trade.

Supporters of the loan point out that Canada is essentially a trading nation, with a highly specialized line of goods to trade. With large exports in such commodities as wheat, lumber, base metals, fish, meat and cheese, the Dominion lacks such things as petroleum, coal, citrus fruits, steel products and textiles.

Unless she can sell her surpluses, Canada cannot buy the things she needs. And often it is impossible to sell to the particular countries from which she buys. Thus it is important to Canada, and to other countries in similar positions, that international trade be organized along multilateral lines.

In order to accomplish this, a large reorganizational program is necessary to help war-torn nations re-establish themselves. To help other nations back on their feet Canada has advanced a total of \$664,500,000 in credits which will be used by these nations for purchases in this country, assisting their rehabilitation and at the same time building up future markets for Canadian products.

A special arrangement was needed to cover the United Kingdom because she is Canada's best customer, and hence the building up of British trade—not only with Canada but with other countries as well—is of prime importance to the Dominion.

The loan, devised by Finance Minister Hales, is the keystone in the financial measures and arrangements made by this country for international trade and reconstruction. It fits in with a general culture of international co-operation based on the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

This picture, described recently by a high trade department official, is one of low tariffs and free trade. To avoid a repetition of the self-inflicted policies that were followed after the First Great War, with such disastrous results.

Fertile comment on the loan came last week from J. H. Macdonnell (PC, Muskoka-Ontario), chief financial critic for the Progressive Conservative party. He said that if Britain did not receive a loan from Canada, the United Kingdom would be forced to form a sterling bloc from which Canada would be excluded.

Further explanation came from Finance Minister Hales: "Cut off from trade or faced with a severe loss of markets abroad, we could not maintain even our present standards, despite whatever success we might have in securing full employment. Given access to expanding foreign markets and to imports of things we require we can make our own employment effective in yielding us living standards far beyond any the average Canadian enjoyed before the war."

While suggestions of bread rationing came from Britain last week, Canadian officials said there was little likelihood of any such step in Canada, whether or not the United States put bread rationing into force. It was explained the Canadian population was too small for bread rationing to have any appreciable effect on wheat supplies.

Meanwhile Agriculture Minister Gardiner outlined the basis of the government's plans for supplying food to hungry countries. Food control organizations, such as the wheat, meat, dairy and special products boards, had authority to allocate food supplies and ship as much food as could be spared to where it was most needed. Special drives for food were unnecessary, Mr. Gardiner said.

"Our organization works," he stated. "Give it a chance by saving food leaving it in the shops. Thus less and less will be removed from sources of supply. It will be taken by our boards and delivered to those who know what to do with it."

The best way to help starving countries, he told Canadians, was to "leave at home." The food control organizations would take care of the rest.

Hemmed by many and loud complaints from urban centres concerning the housing problem, the government has tossed part of the responsibility back in the laps of the municipalities. However, the move has been met with doubtful welcome by some cities.

An order-in-council announced by Reconstruction Minister Howe provides that the municipalities now have broad authority to cancel or refuse building permits for construction work considered non-essential. Explaining it, Mr. Howe said the government would continue to maintain equitable distribution of materials. However, should the municipality decide to use building materials to build motion

picture theatres or other places of amusement. "That municipality can hardly complain if a shortage develops in materials for construction of houses."

Mr. Howe added it was impossible to judge from Ottawa the relative necessity of proposed construction projects. The executive of the Canadian Federation of Mayors, on the other hand, said a true picture of relative necessity could not be gained by a town. Ottawa and Toronto boards of control decided to ignore the order and let building contracts as before.

Ottawa's Mayor Stanley Lewis said refusal of a city to grant contracts for commercial buildings would simply divert materials used mainly in such construction to centres which were unrestricted and might result in driving away industries which wished to locate in a particular city.

Last week, however, the government re-affirmed its decision to let the order stand.

\$10,000,000 PROGRAM TO END TELEPHONE RURAL LINES

As the first stage in a \$10,000,000 program to expand and improve rural telephone service, the Bell Telephone Company of Canada has added 5,400 more rural telephones to its system in 1948, it was announced this week.

Carried out in spite of the shortage of materials and manpower, these additions bring the total of rural telephones served by the company to the record high of more than 56,000 at the beginning of 1948. And there are also approximately 110,000 rural subscribers of independent companies with access to Bell lines through connecting arrangements.

It is proposed during the next few years to reduce the number of telephone subscribers on a rural telephone line, and this alone will require over 1,000 circuit miles of additional wire, with thousands of pole replacements, cross-arms, etc. This reduction in load will enable existing rural telephone users to get an improved service, and will be carrying out the recommendations made by subscribers themselves in answers received from a rural opinion questionnaire circulated by the Bell Telephone Company in 1945.

In order to provide for growth on existing routes, a further two to three thousand circuit miles of wire will be required, and to extend service beyond present routes, it is estimated that almost 3,000 more miles of poles and wire must be constructed. This latter change will encourage the provision of service in the fringe areas of exchanges.

Construction charges have now been reduced so that the company pays the cost of extending poles on public highways at least half a mile per applicant. Furthermore, poles on private property leading in from the highway will be supplied free up to 750 feet. Beyond 750 feet, there is an installation charge of \$5.00 per 250 feet.

In addition to this \$10,000,000 program, rural telephones will be converted as rapidly as possible to the same system as that in large cities. This will permit the installation of telephone sets which are more convenient to use than the present types.

MUST HAVE PERMIT TO IMPORT PLANTS

Before ordering nursery stock plants for importation into Canada from another country, an application for a permit must be made to the Chief, Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

In the application, details must be given as to the number, kind, variety, and value of the plants; the name and address of the importer and of the shipper; to what point (other than the address of the importer) the plants are to be forwarded by parcel post, express or freight.

If no prohibited plants are included in the application, a numbered permit will be issued to the applicant without charge. If the parcel is to be sent by parcel post, a special mailing label will be sent with the permit. The importer will then send his order, quoting the number on the permit, and enclosing labels, if issued. When the nearest Customs Office notifies that the shipment has arrived, the permit will then be surrendered to the Customs with the other clearance papers.

PUBLIC SPIRITED PEOPLE

A leading reason why progressive towns go ahead is that they include many public spirited people. Such folks are a blessing to any community, and it is impossible to thank them too warmly. Usually these people have plenty of personal and business cares which would naturally take up all their time and attention. Yet somehow in their busy lives they manage to squeeze out a little time here and there for public and organization work. Their experience and judgement are extremely valuable. They know how to make an appeal that interests the public and secures co-operation.

There are a large number of people who are willing to take hold and do active work in town activities. The community is greatly indebted for the efforts and enthusiasm, and the community that possesses a good number of such people is sure to make progress and present an attractive life.

HOME LIFE IMPORTANT

If we are to have a healthy community life it is necessary to have healthy home conditions and environment. Where conditions are clean and healthy in the home one is likely to find higher ideals of citizenship. There is more likely to be a higher respect for law and order and a finer courtesy among citizens as well as a more definite appreciation of the finer arts. The kind of life our citizens live in their homes tends to reproduce and express itself in community life. When home influences are clean, wholesome and elevating there is always a better and finer type of community spirit and citizenship. This is a statement that can easily be proved from the past experience and history of communities.

Today considerable space is used in our newspapers, periodicals and books; considerable time occupied in discussion, investigation and surveys; considerable matter sent over the air by radio; and considerable expense involved in the correction and administration of justice. This is all because of the lack of a proper home environment. The influence of a home is paramount. A mother's sweet, kindly disposition, founded upon that love that is inexhaustible, does permeate into the family when there is understanding, co-operation and support between parents. However, when parents are at dagger points, when relationships are strained, when idealism is at variance, all these finer qualities of the mother are lost. When the mother is attracted to the beverage rooms, when these evil associations destroy the finer things in womanhood, when children are neglected, there is but one result, which we have to-day in our overcrowded courts of justice. Home life can only be strengthened by a strict observance of the laws of the Creator. When these laws are ignored and broken, nothing but distress and disgrace follows in their wake. Parents, the responsibility is yours. It is to your children that you owe this responsibility.

WHAT HAS SWEDEN DONE?

A story is going the rounds pointing out the things which Sweden has done in a way of social services, comparing her progress with the efforts of Canada along similar lines.

It is a pleasure to see our Canadian up-lifters returning once more to Sweden for their inspiration. The circle is now complete. They will soon be home again Sweden was their first love. Since then they have roamed the world pointing out the wonders of other lands, suggesting that other countries and governments are much wiser, more generous, than our own.

Circumstances make Sweden an excellent country to quote. It is some distance from Canada, we haven't much opportunity for finding facts by direct contact. Its currency unit is different from ours. This permits looseness of statement, some even assuming that crowns have the value of dollars. Sweden has kept out of two wars, provided both sides with ammunition and supplies thus growing rich, through a tragedy in which she had no active part. No one blames the Swedish people for this, they have the right to sell where they can sell for the highest price and they have every right to stay out of war if they are able to do so.

This happened with Sweden—not with Canada. For ten years out of thirty-two, almost a third of that period; from 1914 to 1918, then from 1939 to 1946, we have devoted our efforts to freeing the world from despots, Sweden practically alone among the industrial countries of the world was able to enjoy peace while finding excellent markets among her neighbors.

Our national debt moved up from \$314,000,000 in 1913 to \$2,248,000,000 in 1920. Not very much of this was paid off between wars. We started again in 1939 with a debt of \$3,152,500,000 and the debt grew until it reached \$11,298,000,000 on March 31st, 1945. There is much more to be added. This does not represent all our costs. We met a great deal of them out of current income. Sweden directed her efforts to other things—we by force of circumstances had to go to war. In any comparison allowance should be made for varying circumstances.

What strange minds some people have! Twenty or thirty years ago few Canadians sought for inspiration in other lands. But now when Canada is a leader among the nations—when everywhere there are words of astonishment and praise for our accomplishments, there are many whose minds roam over foreign lands seeking for means to disparage their own.

Oh yes, let us hear about other countries. Almost any nation has some things which others might envy but let the searchers for help exercise a measure of detachment, a regard for the realities of the things they are discussing. Strange isn't it, how few migrate to these distant heavens: When Canadians leave home they cross the border into the United States. Austin Cross, a well known Canadian journalist, mentions the case of a woman, now an M. P., who years ago visited New Zealand with the idea of making her home in that country, and after careful study of conditions decided to return to Western Canada and settle down at Windthorst, Saskatchewan.

Floods Big Problem For Aussie Farmers

Losses in Various Areas This Year Estimated at \$8,000,000

SYDNEY, Australia (CP)—Twenty persons are feared drowned in floods which have rampaged through the northern districts of Queensland and New South Wales and through Tasmania and Victoria.

Millions of dollars worth of farm property has been lost and damaged and much valuable stock drowned. In Victoria alone, the losses are estimated at nearly \$8,000,000. In Queensland losses are almost as high following the worst floods on record.

Floods are not new to Australia. They occur almost regularly every year. Generally, they follow long periods of hot weather and drought conditions when the weather breaks suddenly with cyclonic storms.

The floods this month followed that pattern. A cyclonic storm crossed the north Queensland coast, flooded thousands of square miles with territorial rains, and then moved on to New South Wales and Victoria where it spent itself.

In Tasmania, the floods were caused by a storm moving in from the sea and followed two years of record drought. The floods usually occur between December and March, which are the Australian summer months. December is often the hottest month of the year and its humidity creates the conditions for cyclonic storms. March brings the change-over from summer to autumn when rain becomes more abundant.

But the floods are not general throughout the States. Areas around Sydney and Brisbane, for instance, experienced heavy rains this month but without floods. These were confined to the northern parts of the two states.

This is simply because they follow the path of the cyclone and naturally have their greatest effect in areas which are low-lying and cut by rivers which can overflow.

Floods are one of the three big weather menaces with which the Australian farmer may have to contend with in any year. The other two are bushfires and drought.

The three generally run a vicious cycle. Months of hot weather will cause drought, drought is generally followed by bushfires and these by floods.

PLAN TO DIG

ST THOMAS, Ont. (CP)—City authorities decided recently to stake out about 50 garden plots for citizens who have applied for them. Officials say nearly all applications come from apartment residents.

Easter
Special LOW FARES
10¢ any time Thursday, April 16th, until 2:00 p.m. Monday, April 22nd.
RETURN: leave destination up to midnight Tuesday April 13rd, 1948.
The long weekend offers an opportunity for a visit to home or away with friends.
CANADIAN NATIONAL

Central Vermont Century Old

THE Central Vermont Railway, the New England link of the Canadian National Railways—is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary and the changes in motive power that have taken place on the road during the century are portrayed here. The old "Governor Paine", built at Philadelphia in 1848, three years after ground was first broken on the construction of the railway, was designed to haul a passenger train a mile a minute with its one pair of 78-inch driving wheels. It cost \$10,000 and is reputed to have once run a mile in 43 seconds. The modern, "700 class" diesel shown above it, is one of a fleet of ten freight engines now in use on Central Vermont lines. It has ten driving wheels, a tractive effort of 88,000 pounds and weighs 68,000 pounds. Carrying 20 tons of coal and 13,000 gallons of water, it is 65 feet long. The "Governor Paine", like the "Abigail Adams", the first locomotive owned by the C.V., was a woodburner.

In a message to Governor Proctor of Vermont, on the occasion of the centenary, R. C. Vaughan, chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways, and president of the Central Vermont, said: "For a hundred years the Central Vermont has served the people along its line and in the contiguous communities and, linking the United States and Canada, has been and continues to be, an invaluable instrument of international good will. We in Canada cherish the friendship of the United States, a friendship tried and proven in two world wars, and we look to this friendship to be a mighty power for stabilizing the world."

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