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WOULD SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT BY ABOLISHING SALES, OTHER TAXES

Abolition of the sales tax and other taxes which are draining the purchasing power of the country, would go a long way toward solving the problem of unemployment in Canada, R. J. Deachman, M.P. for South Huron, declared in the house of commons last week.

I venture to suggest to the minister of labor, the minister of finance and the prime minister that if we were to return to the tariff and taxation levels of 1930, our unemployment problem would be solved," he declared. "We are diverting a large amount of the earnings of our people from the purchase of consumer goods to expenditures upon relief, railways and other things, and there is not left a sufficient sum to provide a normal purchasing power for the people of Canada."

Increases Tariff
Mr. Deachman not only depreciated the duty aspect of the sales tax from one per cent. in 1930 to eight per cent. in 1937, but pointed out that the imposition on imports from other countries skyrocketed Canada's tariffs to their highest point in history. His comments were voiced during a debate in the house on unemployment in the country in which suggestions for eliminating it were advanced by various members.

"I would like to go back to 1930," he said, "and attempt to analyze the differences existing between 1930 and 1937. In my view the main cause of the unemployment we have today. In 1930, we had a one per cent. sales tax, while in 1937 we had an eight per cent. sales tax. In 1930 we had no excise tax, now we have a three per cent. excise tax in reality a tariff on that amount, upon all goods coming from foreign countries. In addition to that, we have a tariff which has reached heights never before approached in Canadian history. It is so high that I feel quite certain neither the minister of finance (Mr. Dunning) nor the minister of labor (Mr. Rogers) could by any possibility look over the top of it."

"We now have a tariff framed upon a new basis. Our customs tariff, which records the rates for the Dominion of Canada, is now distributed with blank pages here and there throughout the book. The object of the blank pages is to provide a place upon which one may write the real tariff, because the tariff schedule as it stands does not reveal the true situation. One must get the true rate from the customs branch by a special statement. Even then I venture to assert that if today I were to ask the minister of national revenue (Mr. Haley) the tariff on certain items of cotton goods from the United States he would have to tell me, 'Well, it is recorded in the book.'"

"But one must then add three per cent. to the tariff, and a further eight per cent. sales tax, and then if one wishes to follow it through to the last he would be told that in addition section 36 of the Customs Act has to be considered, through which special values are imposed upon products coming from the United States. To a certain extent that valuation depends upon the humor of the man who makes the valuation, or to go back to an old phrase, the rate of customs duty depends upon the length of the chancellor's foot."

Wrong People
Mr. Deachman contended that attempts to alleviate unemployment by further examination meant an undue heavy burden on persons in lower income brackets. He went on:

"When we consider these problems what do we do? The suggestions are many and varied. One man says we ought to provide unemployment insurance. Not long ago in the house I explained that after careful calculation I had found the earnings of the farmer amounted to \$362 per year while the earnings of the laborer in industry amount to well over \$600 per year. And so if we provided unemployment insurance we would be setting up further taxation upon people receiving less than \$400 in order to provide insurance for those receiving more than \$600. You are proposing to expend money upon public works, but I ask, when you have expended

money upon public works, unless they render a direct serviceable value, unless they have an exchange value to the community, unless they assist in the movement of commodities or in some way in improving the efficiency of our services in the Dominion of Canada, what have you? You have men temporarily employed in a particular business and as soon as that is over they have no employment. But if on the other hand we made some effort to reduce taxation so that we could free some of this money which is now spent upon taxation, I venture to assert that your unemployment would dissolve like the early cloud in the morning dew."—The Fort Erie "Times-Review"

HEALTH

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LET UNDERSTANDING REPLACE BLAME

The more we understand human behaviour, the less do we blame the child or the adult for behaving in what is, to us, an undesirable way.

Mary, a girl in her teens, has always quarrelled. She has never seemed able to play happily with her elder sister, and at school her life has been a continuous battle with the other children.

Sometimes, as so often happens in such cases, Mary broke one of our laws and found herself in court. It was then that someone read it would be desirable to study Mary and so try to find out the reason for her behaviour, in order to help her.

Mary's life at home had not been happy. True, she was often enough in the wrong, but to her that seemed to be of no importance because her parents blamed her no matter who was at fault.

Her school life was not much better. She had difficulty with her school work and she was blamed for this, being called stupid and lazy. Her teachers disliked her because she was a nuisance to them.

No one seemed to realize that Mary's fighting back and her quarrelling were perfectly natural things for her to do under the circumstances. She did not create her home or school situation so she certainly was not to blame.

In the home, Mary felt insecure. She was blamed and to her, the blame was unfair and she struggled to assert herself which is a much more healthy thing to do than to lie down and accept the situation.

Mary's intelligence is below normal, which would account for her difficulty with school work. She has no control over the intelligence with which she is born, so no blame can be attached to her on that point.

This problem did not, as a whole, arise because the child was of poor intelligence. That is merely an incidental. Mary is a problem because she has not been treated with understanding. It is the treatment which she has received—the lack of understanding—which has brought Mary to the court as a delinquent. Mary would have grown up to her present age a healthy child if her parents and the school had been able to give her sympathetic and understanding guidance, which would have made her feel secure in her home and in society.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College Street, Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

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Winnipeg, Man.—It was in the spring of 1888 that Robert Johnston embarked on his railway career. He lasted 24 hours and was fired. Nothing daunted, the 15-year-old lad was back the next day, this time under a new foreman. He lasted 60 years on his second try, now he is retiring from the post of roadmaster of the Canadian National Railway at North Battleford, Sask. Railroaders gathered from all over northern Saskatchewan to pay him tribute.

Richard was driving along the highway at the slow speed of sixty-five miles per hour. One of those inevitable speed cops caught sight of him and catching up ordered him to the curb.

"Oh, officer," he said, innocently, as he pulled up, "was I driving too fast?"

"No," growled the furious officer. "You were flying too low."

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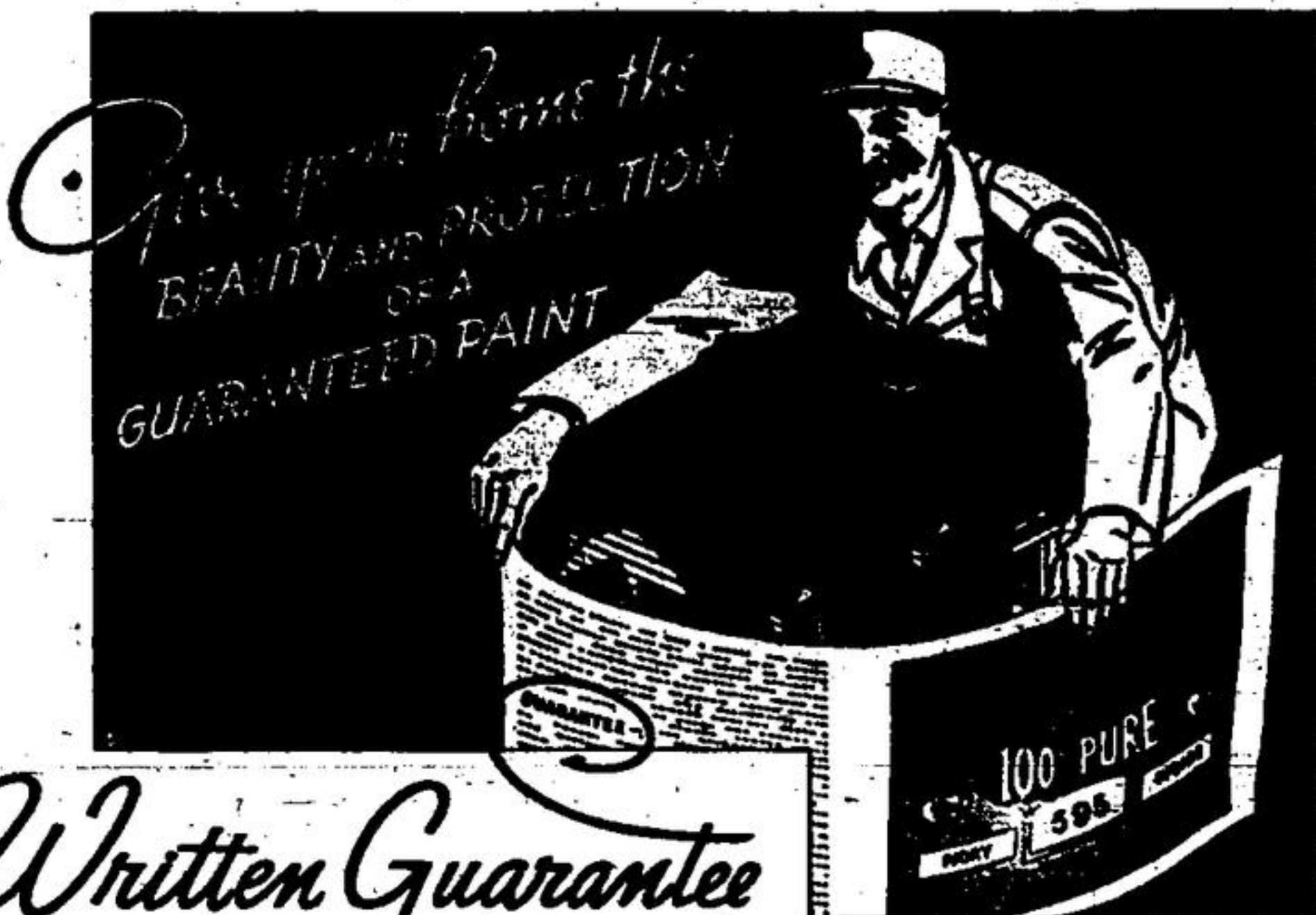
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