



The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—Trade and employment figures are touching better levels. The total external trade for October was the best in five years. Total number of persons employed in Canadian industry on November 1st was the best since December 1st, 1930. It has been calculated that a continuation for another 12 months of the steep upward trend in employment of the past six months would bring the total about equal to that of the best pre-depression years. It would not, unfortunately, mean that all persons would then be employed. Since 1929 a large new army of young people have entered the labour market. Even allowing for retirements and deaths there are probably 300,000 more persons available for work now than there were at the beginning of the depression. Just the same, another twelve months of forward advance like the present would put a different face on things. About 125,000 persons have been added to industrial payrolls in the past six months, and while part of the gain is seasonal, the addition is much greater than the average seasonal advance. There are still over 200,000 families on relief, and perhaps as many single unemployed persons receiving relief. So that no illusion should be cherished by the authorities at Ottawa or elsewhere that the situation is not still very grave.

(Wheat Movement Better)
Trade between the United States and Canada is expected to be checked for the next four or five weeks by the anticipation of lower tariffs in the New Year, and this may cut down the record of external trade for the last two months of the year. But Canadian wheat and wheat flour is again beginning to move with fair volume after a long sluggish period. October plus November shipments are much the best in several years. A lot of the wheat is going into the United States in bond, as though for re-export overseas, but there is no doubt that the United States is going to need a good deal of our hard milling wheat before its own next crop is available. I have it on one authority that the total demand in the United States for Canadian wheat will approach 75 million bushels. If so, it will be a great relief for the Canadian wheat board, which just now has the difficult job of selling the current year's crop and also taking care of a carry-over which was not far short of 190 million bushels. Even in light years Canada has been able to export 150 million bushels in one form or another; if she can do that and sell an additional 75 million bushels to the United States a good bite will be taken out of the heavy surplus still overhanging the market.

Cheaper radios, electric refrigerators, textiles and some other items are promised by the abolition of arbitrary values on these commodities. A statement was given out by the new Minister of National Revenue last week. Automobiles and magazines have already come down in anticipation of lower duties.

(Those Relief Camps)
A committee consisting of Humphrey Mitchell, former Labor M.P. for Hamilton, R. A. Rigg, dominion employment service chief, and Dr. E. W. Bradwin of the Frontier College has been appointed to make a first-hand study of the relief camps operated throughout the Dominion, to make recommendations regarding them to the Labour department. They were recently taken over from the National Defence Department, and the Minister of Labour now states that he hopes that it will be possible to close them up inside of a year. While they were started as emergency measures and as such probably were superior to no measures at all, there has been considerable criticism about their effect on the young men who had to go into them, lacking other means of subsistence.

Early cancellation of the present ban against trade with Russia is suggested by the statement of one of the ministers that Canada was prepared to trade with all countries, making no exception in the case of the U.S.S.R. There is some difference of opinion as to whether a large trade would develop. Russia is still in the market for a considerable number of Canadian cattle, according to G. G. Serkau, who promoted the scheme to exchange cattle for coal and oil, of which so much was heard about three years ago.

The next major item on the federal program is the conference with the provinces.

Success ingredients: Initiative, aggressiveness, tact and a sense of proportions of this and that, these four and the greatest of these is the last.

Way Back in Liberal Files

FORTY YEARS AGO

From Our Issue of Dec. 5th, 1895

The East York Reform Association held their annual meeting at Unionville on Monday last. There was a large attendance, every part of the riding being well represented. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, D. B. Nighswander; 1st Vice-President, James Leys; 2nd Vice-President, E. H. Wilson; 3rd Vice-President, Alex. Muirhead; Secretary-Treasurer, R. J. Corson. Good speeches were made by Mr. John Richardson, M.P.P.; Ald. H. R. Frankland, Reform candidate for the House of Commons; Mr. H. P. Crosby and others.

A complimentary banquet was tendered to Mr. J. C. Stokes, Warden of the County of York, at the Clyde Hotel, last Friday evening. About 150 sat around the tables, the company being composed of members of the county council, county officials and friends. A pleasant part of the evening's program was the presentation of a gold headed cane to the Warden. Reeve Ramsden presided, and the vice-chair was filled by Reeve Hill. In response to toasts proposed interesting speeches were made by Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P.; Mr. W. F. McLean, M.P.; Mr. E. J. Davis, M.P.P.; Mr. J. W. St. John, M.P.P.; Mr. C. C. Robinson, Mr. J. K. MacDonald, Mr. J. Slater, Mr. E. A. Macdonald, and others. Every speaker referred in the highest terms to Mr. Stokes, the retiring warden.

A very interesting event took place at Carrville on the 27th ult., when Mill Ida Mellish, a well known and popular young lady of Carrville, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. James Pearson of Thornhill. The ceremony was performed in the church at 5 p.m. by the pastor, Rev. A. Bedford, and was witnessed by a large number of people. Miss May Mellish, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, while the groom was assisted by Mr. C. Wright of Queensville. After receiving congratulations from many friends, the bridal party—amidst showers of rice—accompanied by relatives and some of the most intimate friends of the bride, repaired to the residence of the bride's father where a very dainty repast was served, after which a very enjoyable evening was spent by all present. The bride was the recipient of many beautiful and useful presents, amongst which a handsome Oxford Bible was presented by Mr. W. Cook on behalf of the Sabbath School. The happy pair after spending a few weeks amongst friends, intend making their home at Thornhill.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Our Issue of Nov. 30th, 1905

A number of our citizens got out their snow shovels on Tuesday. Be patient. There may be lots of shovelling before winter is over.

The James Bay Railway men are working south with the rails. Rails are now being laid from Vandorf south, and trains are running on the section south of Beaverton.

The power on the Metropolitan road is to be increased from 1,500 to 3,000 horsepower, and the sub-station at Bond Lake will soon be greatly enlarged.

The following gentlemen have signified their willingness to seek municipal honors for the year 1906: Reeve I. Crosby; Councillors, Dr. Langstaff, C. Mason, J. H. Sanderson.

In the By-election in North York on Nov. 28th, Hon. A. B. Aylesworth defeated Mr. McCallum. Number of votes polled for Mr. Aylesworth were 2,729, for Mr. McCallum 2,235, giving Mr. Aylesworth a majority of 494.

The skating rink has been let for the season to Messrs. Will Gibson and Fred Hopper. We wish the proprietors every success.

Mr. E. W. Braun, has been appointed clerk of the Seventh Division Court, Woodbridge, of the County of York, in the place of Mr. John Natress, deceased.

WORTH-WHILE THINGS

Life is so full of worth-while things—Flowers that bloom, birds that sing, Willows that weep o'er a country lane,

Roses that nod in a summer rain. What thought the sky is clouded with sorrow?

Sun will shine again tomorrow! What is so blue as the azure sky, Smiling after the clouds roll by? Summer sunshine, winter snow, Red leaves whirling in winds that blow;

Sunset on a distant peak, Song of crickets in drowsy sleep. Life is so full of worth-while things, Raindrops tapping the window pane, Childish prattle, a friendly smile—All such trifles make life worth while.

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