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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1936

REDUCED TAXATION

The reduced tax rate announced for Richmond Hill for the year 1936 is welcome news to the taxpayers. Reeve J. A. Greene and members of the municipal council during recent years have demonstrated that they have a keen appreciation of the insistent demand of the ratepayers for relief from the crushing burden of taxes. A reduction in the tax rate is received with enthusiasm by the ratepayers not only for the amount of money actually saved but also as an indication that those entrusted with the public business are doing all possible to administer public affairs in keeping with the ability of the taxpayer to pay. Reductions from year to year also act as an incentive to those who are behind with their tax payments and assists in the collection of arrears. The action of the Board of Education in re-considering their estimates at the request of the council and reducing their demand on the taxpayers by some \$300 is evidence that all local public bodies are co-operating with the same purpose of doing all possible to reduce taxation in Richmond Hill. This spirit of co-operation is most commendable and should meet with the hearty approval of the ratepayers.

TAX ARREARS

(Trenton Courier-Advocate)

The town of Trenton would have a working capital of over one hundred thousand dollars if all the taxes were paid. If the town had that one hundred thousand in the bank, it could meet all its obligations, and not have to pay interest to the banks on borrowed money. Efforts are to be made to collect this vast amount of unpaid taxes, and even if only seventy-five per cent of it eventually reaches the town treasury, the town would still have a nice tidy sum and the townspeople would have less worry about Trenton's financial affairs.—Trenton Courier-Advocate.

"AGIN THE GOV'T."

In an Ontario town where a by-law to bring an industry into the community was being voted on, there were nine votes cast against it. It would be interesting to know what prompted those nine individuals to vote against something that was going to give employment to twenty-five persons, that would mean the erection of a ten thousand dollar factory and that would pay a certain amount of taxes into the community every year. In all towns and villages where such a vote is taken there are always a few who hide behind the secrecy of the ballot and mark their X against it. If these persons could only be found out we see in it an interesting story of why they voted against such a by-law. Was it because there was fear of a raise in the taxes, or had the promoters of the company refused or neglected to purchase the factory site from them, or are there people in every community who are naturally bent on being against everything—just like the Irishman and the government, and who have never voted yes in their lives nor never intend to.

SHOULD PRESERVE HIGHWAYS' BEAUTY

Highways have been built with too little regard for conservation or development of natural beauty along the way. Some highways, of course, must be strictly for service and that means cutting down distances and providing straight ribbons of road, but on the other hand, all use of the highways is by means restricted to business. Recreation and pleasure motoring is a large factor and in this connection steps should be taken to preserve and enhance natural beauty and to create public interest in historical spots. Beautiful, restful and more interesting highways mean more tourists and more revenue.

THE EXPENSE OF SPEED

One of the interesting discoveries with regard to automobile motors is that when you step on the gas your gasoline expenditure mounts with your speed. Thirteen makes of automobiles were tested to ascertain if that fact applied to them all. The result was uniform, disclosing that oil as well as gas consumption increases. The following is the tabulation of tests announced by the American Automobile Association: 30 miles an hour, 18 miles per gallon; 60 miles an hour, 12-6 miles per gallon; 80 miles an hour, 8.6 miles per gallon. Oil consumption is seven times as great at 55 miles an hour as at 30 miles an hour. This is, we suppose, no concern of a person who starts out on a trip at eighty miles or more per hour. Doubtless he never worries about the bill—his widow can take care of it out of the insurance money.

MIGHT BE TRIED

Here is some real common sense we recently found displayed on a card in the corridor of a hospital: "Never utter a discouraging word while you are in this hospital. You should come here only for the purpose of helping. Keep your hindering, sad looks for other places. If you can't smile, don't go in."—Aylmer Express.

SMALL TOWN LIVES ON

The small town is not doomed, says a western publisher. The big city has its glamor, but, given their day's fling in the city, the town folks come back to the home town happy. They are glad to be away from the city where traffic, strange faces, different trade customs and a hundred and one other tiresome things have to be contended with in the course of a day. Their whole heart is to be found in the things of the small town and the country. So long as this vast majority cling to the things they love, small towns will continue to exist. They will not be wiped from social, commercial or professional maps until there comes a generation that prefers glitter to gold, the unreal to the substantial.—Gananoque Reporter.

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, February 11—Parliament opened in sombre and somewhat chastened mood. The recent death of the sovereign was reflected in the absence of much of the traditional glitter of the opening ceremony, and in the cancellation of all social events in connection with it. Members wore black ties and subdued raiment generally. The first word uttered in the new parliament was not, as is usual, the formal motion to appoint a Speaker, but an expression of loss at the death of the King, and the desire of the House to convey at the earliest possible opportunity its condolence to the new monarch and the Queen Mother.

What Hon. Ernest Lapointe described as a 'tempest in a teapot' but which nevertheless created some painful moments for all concerned, was responsible for the 'chastened' mood of the opening. Usually it is the unanimous desire of all parties in the House to agree upon the selection of a Speaker, who henceforth is the guardian of the rights and privileges of all members, and is expected to display an impartiality in keeping with the high traditions of the office. (Mr. Bennett Objected)

This year the leader of the Opposition, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, evidently performing what he regarded as an unpleasant but necessary duty, objected to the appointment of Pierre F. Casgrain, formerly Chief Whip of the Liberal party, and member for Charlevoix-Saguenay. Mr. Bennett did so because of an incident which was given wide publicity in the press at the time. Over one hundred employees of the House of Commons were given notice that their services would not be required after Jan. 31st, 1936, and a similar number of other persons were notified to come to the parliament buildings to replace them. This wholesale 'firing' was done, it was said, on the authority of Mr. Casgrain, who was then only a private member of the House. On the ground that these were 'permanent' employees and not temporary staff, Mr. Bennett charged that Mr. Casgrain had violated the statutes of Canada, and had shown himself no great respecter of the rights and liberties of parliament. Therefore, said the former premier, he was no proper custodian of these rights; and he was compelled to oppose his as Speaker.

(An Uncomfortable Period) Mr. Bennett spoke eloquently and incisively, and Mr. Casgrain evidently spent a very uncomfortable hour and a half, while the debate was in progress. Mr. Woodsworth associated himself with Mr. Bennett in the protest. Privately some of the Liberals were also in sympathy with Mr. Bennett. The government itself had subsequently acted to prevent the wanton discharge of a large number of employees of the House; and Mr. Bennett had only praise for Mr. Mackenzie King's action in the matter. But it was obviously a painful situation for the prime minister, who was on the horns of a cruel dilemma. He was compelled to recommend in the warmest terms to the House a man whose conduct in that respect at least he had showed he disapproved, by the action he took to countermand it. He could hardly, however, throw Mr. Casgrain overboard after having given him the post, on an incident of the sort,—certainly not without incurring the deep-seated enmity of many French-Canadian supporters. Hon. Ernest Lapointe made a brief but ingenious reply to Mr. Bennett; and the latter avoided a still more ugly turn of affairs by offering to allow the Speakership to be settled without a recorded vote.

(No Excess of Party Emotion) Normally the opening of the House after such a sweeping election might have justifiably seen a certain amount of party preening of feathers and expressions of smug satisfaction. Aside from mild applause when the prime minister entered, there was, however, little or nothing of the sort. Members of the Liberal party realise on the whole that they are in no enviable position, with a serious depression still on their hands, with Liberals in power in eight provinces, and no excuses likely to be accepted by the public if things don't improve. Some of the younger and more aggressive Liberals are saying to each other (I heard some of the expressions on opening day) that Canadian Liberalism is very much on trial, and that if the party doesn't display an active and effective sort of Liberal doctrine now it will be all up with the Liberal party in its time, just as it was with the Conservative party last year.

The Speech from the Throne contained only one surprise. "A full inquiry will be instituted into representations which continue to be made respecting monopolistic control of the importation and distribution of an-

thraxite coal" the speech announced. The wording of the section dealing with the nationalization of the Central Bank suggests that the government proposes to buy out a majority control of the stock now in the hands of the public as well as secure control of the directorate.

(The Speech From The Throne)

A summary of the Speech from the Throne serves as a compact program of the session for future reference. The following extracts or condensations give this in tabular form:

- 1. "You will be asked to make provision for a national commission, which will co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in an endeavor to provide work for the unemployed, and in the supervision of unemployment relief."
2. Transfer of relief camps to Labour department being effected; "every effort will be made to close the camps altogether at as early a date as expanding employment opportunities permit."
3. Anthracite coal inquiry announced as set forth above.
4. "The Canada-United States Trade Agreement will be submitted for your approval. You will also be forthwith advised of the basis on which normal trade relations between Canada and Japan have been restored."
5. "It is proposed to restore to Parliament its control over taxation and expenditure by ending all measures which have deprived members of the House of Commons of this control, and which have served to invest the Executive with unwarranted arbitrary powers."
6. "Every effort will be made to substitute stability for uncertainty in the administration of customs laws."
7. "It is intended to ask Parliament to make such changes in the ownership and control of the Bank of Canada, as may be necessary to give to the government a predominant interest in the ownership as well as effective control of the Bank."
8. "You will be asked to consider amendments to existing legislation respecting the Canadian National Railways which will serve to afford a greater measure of governmental authority and responsibility to Parliament."
9. "It is proposed to make the present position of radio broadcasting in Canada the subject of inquiry by a special committee of the House of Commons."

10. "Steps have already been taken with respect to the reorganization and consolidation of government services, which it is believed, will further their efficiency and effect much needed economies. These will be supplemented by legislative measures to which your attention will be invited."

11. "A Bill to provide for the creation of parliamentary secretariats will be submitted for your consideration."

In deference to the memory of His Late Majesty King George, the debate on the Speech From the Throne was not proceeded with last Friday, but was set over until Monday of this week. Because of the large number of new members, and the usual inclination of new groups to discuss current issues on the opportunity afforded them by the Debate on the Address, it is quite possible that the time of the House will be occupied on this for a few days. There is, however, an inclination becoming apparent in recent years to proceed more directly to government business and let the Throne Speech debate take its chance along with other government motions, rather than letting it have right of way as formerly.

(A Strange New Aspect)

The House which assembled last Thursday presents a very different appearance from that which dissolved seven months ago. Mr. Mackenzie King is like the old lady who lived in a shoe: he has so many followers he hardly knows what to do. The Liberals flow in solid waves down the whole of the government side—140 of them; and the overflow occupies 38 seats on the Opposition side, to the left of the Speaker, who is, therefore, surrounded by Liberals.

Next to the Liberals on the left is the comfortable little 'bloc' of 40 Conservatives, followers of Mr. Bennett, survivors of the storm. Next to them again, also without even a row of empty benches to divide off or discriminate, is a double row of C.C.F. members—with this striking anomaly, that Mr. Woodsworth is seated as a deskmate of Hon. Harry Stevens. It is all very well for Mr. Stevens who can hold a caucus right there in his seat, but Mr. Woodsworth cannot even consult a colleague on party tactics without Mr. Stevens being an unwilling eavesdropper of the whole conversation.

Mrs. George Black is a deskmate of Hon. Earl Rowe. Miss Macphail finds herself seated beside John Black more, Social Credit leader, the latter's followers occupying the famous 'south-east corner' of the House made notable through the efforts of the

'Ginger Group' in the last parliament and the one before. There are 17 Social Creditors in all. The opposition is small but highly vocal and will probably give a good account of itself.

Notice to Creditors

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MATTHEW GEORGE McQUARRIE, Farmer, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 51 of the Trustee Act, R.S.O. 1927, chapter 150, that all parties having claims against the estate of the said Matthew George McQuarrie, who died on or about the 23rd day of October, 1935, at the Township of Vaughan, in the County of York are required on or before the 26th day of February, 1936, to send same to Hadwen MacQuarrie, Esq., Maple, Ontario, one of the Executors of the Estate, with full particulars of their claims.

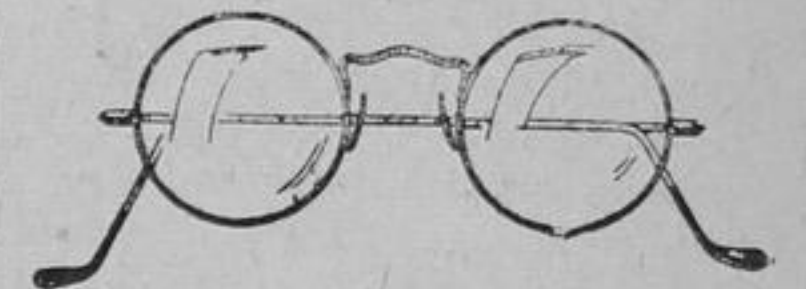
AND TAKE NOTICE that after the said date the Executors will distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have notice, and that the said Executors will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any person or persons of whose claims notice shall not have been received at the time of the said distribution.

DATED AT TORONTO THIS 27th day of January, 1936.

A. CAMERON MACNAUGHTON, 80 King St. West, Toronto, Solicitors for Matthew Hadwen MacQuarrie, Myrtle Emma MacQuarrie and Mary Olivia Bowman, Executors of the Estate of Matthew George McQuarrie.

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