

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 1936

CHILDREN'S AID GRANT INCREASED BY \$12,500.00

Twenty-three members of York County Council voted for a grant of \$45,000 to the York County Children's Aid Society which is an increase of \$12,500 over last year. Seventeen councillors voted against the increased grant and we feel that those seventeen more truly represented their ratepayers than the twenty-three who voted for the increase. According to statements made at the County Council the Children's Aid grant has increased from \$18,000 to \$45,000 in about three years. Is it any wonder taxes are high? We would suggest that the twenty-three members of County Council who voted for a \$45,000 grant take a trip around their municipality and visit some of the hard pressed taxpayers who are asked to pay the shot. There was an investigation of the York County Children's Aid Society a few years ago and it would appear that another investigation is due to find out the reason for the greatly increased demands made on the taxpayer.

\$1000 SALARY BOOST FOR COUNTY TREASURER

How would you like a \$1000.00 increase in your salary this year? To a great many people who pay taxes in York County this looks like a salary in itself but in this case the \$1000 increase was given to the treasurer of York County who formerly received \$3,000.00 per annum. This handsome increase was voted at the recent session of the York County Council with but one dissenting voice. The lone opponent of the increase was Reeve Gus Edwards of Mimico. He should be made Warden at the first opportunity. Of course this is only the first session and next January looks a long distance away. Probably the ratepayers will be so busy trying to scrape their taxes together next December they will forget all about it by the time the next municipal election rolls round. We would suggest that the ratepayers make a mental note of this one as it would be interesting to hear County Council members explaining it next nomination day. Surely the genial atmosphere of the session must have created the illusion that the depression was over. It certainly wasn't that the members of York's famous legislative body had money to spare because they found it necessary to increase their levy this year.

We have no doubt but that York County Council made an excellent choice a few years ago when they chose W. W. Gardhouse as treasurer and we believe that he has filled the position in a most capable manner. We congratulate Mr. Gardhouse on so gaining the confidence and respect of the members of County Council as to receive a \$1000.00 increase in salary. We cannot congratulate the members of County Council on their action in increasing the salary of any public official by one thousand dollars in these difficult times.

A CURE FOR COLDS

According to Admiral Richard Byrd, when he was on his expedition of exploration to the Antarctic regions, he discovered a sure preventative of colds. It was to be found in the exceedingly low temperature of those regions, which drops to 80 below zero. So if any of those who are afflicted with colds during the winter season wish to find relief from them they know where to go. The Admiral says that the bitter climate destroys the germs and no one ever takes cold in those salubrious surroundings. He points out that his chief meteorologist who suffered greatly all his life from colds and sinus trouble was completely cured. He gained 45 pounds, and there has been no recurrence of his trouble. That may all be perfectly true, but most people will conclude that a sojourn in the Antarctic regions as a cure for colds is worse than the disease. However, it is possible that there is one encouraging note in his message, and that is the confirmation of the fact that colds are chiefly an indoor malady, and that the great remedy is a plentiful supply of oxygen derived from the open air. It is the greatest health given in the world, and people do not need to go to the Arctic or Antarctic regions to find it.

NUTRITIONAL QUACKERY HIT

How do you eat? Do you eat what you like in portions dictated by common sense and moderation or do you eat things you do not like because some dietary quack has told you that you need to do just that because you must have your vitamins, calories, proteins, starches and whatnots? Do you force little Johnny and Betty to eat spinach and suffer the indulgence of alkali-forming meals because you have been advised to avoid the possibility of their getting "acidosis" caused by eating acid foods? Do you go to the trouble to serve starches at one meal and proteins at another? If you are a food faddist of any degree you will be interested in learning what a report of the committee on nutritional problems of the American Public Health Association had to say on the subject. Branding "acidosis" as nutritional quackery the report declared: "The great popular demand for information about foods and health during recent years has resulted in an increasing and alarming amount of exploitation of false and harmful ideas foisted upon the public by dietary quacks, faddists and self-styled nutrition experts."

"Acidosis," the committee report said, is a term frequently and effectively used by the purveyors of food fallacies. Nearly all the diseases that afflict mankind can be found enumerated as the result of acidosis. But, the report continued, the claim that acidosis will result from eating bread and meat or certain combinations of foods, such as proteins and starches or fruits and starches, is entirely unsupported by scientific evidence. Likewise the report held that the feeding of the whites or raw eggs to invalids and other similar dietary ideas were without basis. In reality, it pointed out, investigators have found that the white of eggs is much less digestible when raw than when cooked. The idea that proteins and starches are incompatible and should be separated and served only at separate meals is branded as one of the most common and extensively proclaimed nutritional fallacies. But, according to the committee report, this completely ignores the fact that a large proportion of staple food articles contain both starch and protein.—Pathfinder.

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Feb. 18—The House of Commons wasted the better part of a week on political oratory, but there were three or four bright patches in it. The responsibility for the flood of party feeling must be placed on the shoulders of Mr. Bennett, who spoke for over three hours in a vein calculated to draw fire from the Liberal ranks, which it did. It would, of course, perhaps be too much to expect of human nature that members should gather together after a hotly fought election without fighting a few of the battles over again on the floor of the House. Those earnest new members on both sides of the House, however, obtained, as the general public would have done, a rather distasteful first impression of our parliamentary machinery. They want action to deal with the present hard times; and the less purely party bickering there is the better they will like it.

(Three Able Addresses)

The most admirable addresses made in the Debate on the Speech From the Throne, aside from those of the leaders, who dealt chiefly with purely political issues, were made by Hon. H. H. Stevens, Hon. W. D. Euler, and M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. member for Rosetown. The two former are of course, veterans in parliamentary life, the latter a newcomer, but in presentation, at least, the member for Rosetown held his own with the best. I heard one parliamentary reporter of many years experience saying that Coldwell's style of delivery was the finest he had heard in the House since Michael Clark.

Mr. Euler, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, and chairman of the sub-committee of the cabinet on wheat, made a lucid and business-like statement of the present wheat policy of the government, answering the charges made by Mr. Bennett earlier in the debate. Mr. Bennett had protested against the manner in which the old McFarland board had been discharged, and had made a claim that speculators had been saved by government action from the adverse action of the market, this being at the expense of the wheat farmer and the country. Mr. Bennett had claimed that under the five years of his administration a considerably larger per centage of Canadian wheat had been imported into Britain than in the previous five years. He had denied that there was any 'sales resistance' against the McFarland board in the buying circles overseas, the alleged reason for their dismissal.

(Wheat Charges Answered)

These charges Mr. Euler answered. The present board was selling wheat, he said, in six weeks they had sold 65½ million bushels; and the board they replaced had sold only 12½ millions in a considerably longer period. He quoted from British milling publications to show how Canada's chief customers were pleased with the change of policy. The government did not intend to push Canadian wheat on the market at fire-sale prices, but they did intend to continue to offer it freely at competitive levels, getting as much for it as they could, but keeping it moving on the markets of the world. There is to be a parliamentary inquiry into Mr. Bennett's charges.

The main estimates were tabled during the week. They show an apparent saving of about \$12,000,000 as compared with last year's figures, but this will be reduced a little by the supplementary estimates. The disturbing feature of the estimates was the sum now required to meet interest on the public debt. It went up another three million dollars, standing now at \$140,335,078. What Mr. Dunning actually did was to trim fifteen millions out of current expenditures, but lost three million of the cost because of higher interest costs. Most of the saving was made by deferring the vote on social legislation, by a cut in the vote for the National Products Marketing Act, (Cheese bonus), and by reducing various subsidies and subventions. The only substantial increase in the estimates was in aviation, the Royal Canadian Air Force getting an increase of a million dollars; and the civil aviation branch over half a million.

There are several issues of government bonds maturing in 1936 which bear interest at five per cent; if these can be refunded at three per cent the interest for 1937 may at least be prevented from advancing farther. As it is, for every \$1 received in federal revenue, about 50 cents at the present time goes in interest either on the national debt or on the railway debt. But a hopeful feature may be seen in the fact that during the week the government was able to borrow \$80,000,000 for

the Canadian National at an average rate of only a little over 2½ per cent. This is a tribute to the confidence which the investing public has in the present government, which, in its adherence to a 'sound money' and 'no repudiation' policy is not one whit behind the previous administration.

(In the Best Tradition)

Hon. Harry Stevens made a constructive address in the best tradition. He called attention to the fact that through the anomalies of our voting system he represented nearly 400,000 voters, although the Liberals and the Social Credit members each represented only a little over 10,000 voters. He told the ministry that Canada was expecting great things of the new parliament, and pleaded with members to work together to find a common solution for present day ills. He praised the government for its intervention in the textile incident at Sherbrooke. He wound up with a challenge to the government. "I appeal," he said, "to the new members who have come here imbued with the doctrines of Gladstone of Bright . . . I believe the Liberal party, because of its history and its ancient principles, has an opportunity which is unsurpassed in scope . . . This is the house of the common people. Let us respect not only the sanctity of contracts, but the sanctity of Human lives."

Mr. Coldwell's address was more notable for its style than its content, perhaps, but he held the close attention of the House for 40 minutes. Several Social Credit members made their debut to the House. They showed a readiness of delivery and confidence of manner which suggests that we shall hear a good deal from them as time goes on. In the main they were inclined to express co-operation with the Liberal party; their criticism, such as they expressed, being mainly on the ground that while the Liberal program was in the right direction, it did not go far enough.

(The Social Credit Doctrine)

In a general way, the first Social Credit speakers adhered to the theories with which their name has become associated. They dismissed lower tariffs and other remedies as inadequate, and asserted that the real key to the present problem was the failure of the present economic system to distribute sufficient purchasing power to buy back the goods it was capable of producing. In a sense, although this is the first time Social Credit candidates as such have been in the House, it is an old familiar statement. We had it from William Irvine, Henry Spencer and others in the former parliaments. The Social Credit cure for present conditions is an issue of purchasing power adequate to make up the difference between the value of the goods produced and the purchasing power of the people. No doubt in due course there will be a full-dress debate on the subject in the House; but in the early stages the Social Credit members are satisfied to take advantage of such opportunities as the Debate on the Speech From the Throne to voice their views.

We are to have, at an early date, an announcement regarding the inquiry into the penitentiaries of Canada. The Minister of Justice made the announcement in reply to a question by Miss Agnes Macphail, who has been in the forefront of those demanding reforms in our penal system.

(Section 98 Again)

Legislation to repeal Section 98 of the Criminal Code which deals with freedom of speech and assembly is to be introduced in the present session also, the Minister of Justice said in reply to a question put by A. A. Heaps, Labor member for Winnipeg. It will be recalled that when the Liberals were in power, they repealed the Section five consecutive times, after the incentive had been provided by Mr. Woodsworth; but on each occasion the Senate refused to give its endorsement to the change; and the measure remained on the statute books.

The Liberals held a large and lively caucus last week. Though these gatherings are regarded as confidential, the prime minister gave the press a brief summary of what was done; and hints and fragments got out elsewhere. Apparently the boys were told that one of the first objectives of the government was a balancing of the budget, a doctrine not overly in favor with those who want to go out and spend large sums on schemes calculated to give immediate employment.

(Militant Liberals)

There is a nucleus of young militant Liberals, deeply impressed with the gravity of conditions, the suffering

of humans, and the need for immediate and active changes. These promise to provide from within a similar spur to the Liberal party as will be provided from without by the small but able opposition. These incipient insurgents are inclined to watch and wait for a while, but if things do not move as fast as they would like, they can be counted upon, later on, to protest, unless they have become, by that time, imbued with the curious lethargy which sometimes settles down upon our political leaders when they have been in office for a while.

At the annual vestry meeting of St. John's Church, Castlemore, George Hunter and W. H. Taylor were elected wardens; William Bland, lay delegate; Joseph Parr and John Ezard, auditors; John Phillips, Sunday School Sup't.; and Howard Carberry, sec.-treas.

E. W. Kellam was recently elected vice-president of the Peel Holstein Breeders Association.

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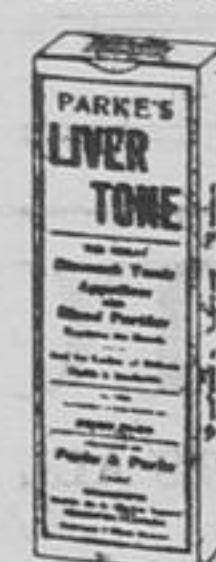
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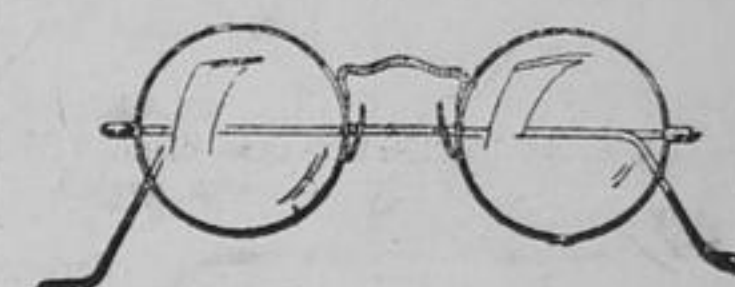
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