

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, March 3rd—The decision to close all the relief camps for single men by July first, beginning as soon as the weather permits, stands out as one of the leading announcements of the week. It was made by Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Labor, who stated that an arrangement had been made with the two railway companies to employ 10,000 additional men on deferred maintenance (track-age) work, to be paid the same wage as those now employed in that manner. This will take care of more than half of the present population of the camps. Farm placement schemes, reforestation and fire prevention work, roadwork in some of the new mining areas and other schemes will be developed, and in addition it is hoped that some of the men will be absorbed into private industry when spring comes along. There are about 130 of these camps, from coast to coast. Beginning the first of this week, the men who remain in the camps will receive, instead of the present cash allowance of 20 cents a day, payment of \$15 per month. Half of this will be paid in cash each month, half when the men leave the project, the latter balance being payable at any post office in Canada at the rate of \$4 per week. This is to assist the man while he is getting employment in private industry. No new projects are being opened, and no new admissions made to the camps.

(The United States Agreement)
The debate on the United States trade agreement, begun last Tuesday and resumed on Friday, dealt with one of the most important subjects of the session, but in its early stages at least nothing very new was brought out. The provisions of the agreement were fully uncovered at the time when the agreement was signed; and public interest in the historical background is not very evident. In the political bickering over the agreement there is still less interest. It seems to be impossible for the House to debate even so vital a matter as trade between the two greatest customers in the world without fighting ancient political battles ad nauseum.

Premier Mackenzie King in the course of a rather dull discourse, heavily documented, did succeed in bringing out into sharp focus the importance of the agreement. "Depression," he said, "rightly understood, means nothing more or less than absence of trade; and may I state the reverse as being equally true, that trade—plenty of trade—means the end of depression."

The Liberal party's expectations from the treaty were summarized as follows:

(Benefits of The Treaty)
"Basic primary industries, dependent upon accessible export markets for the profitable sale of a large part of their production, are once more enabled to enter the United States and guaranteed against a tariff increase on their products."

"Their production costs are appreciably lowered by the elimination or reduction of the duties on their implements of production."

"Similarly the ordinary inarticulate consumer, whose interests have been shamefully neglected, has already found out in lower prices and a wider range of choice what the agreement with the United States will mean to him."

"Increased purchasing power of primary producers, stimulated business for distributors and transport trades, lower costs of production generally, and an increase in real wages through a reduction in many items of the household budget—these are some of the ways in which the agreement is already making itself felt."

The private members had a busy week. They urged, among other things, the nationalization of all private industry which was not properly serving the state, the nationalization of all chartered banks, more equitable freight rates on domestic movement of grain, greater employment of white Canadian sailors on ships owned and registered in Canada, the exclusion of orientals until such time as they are given the rights of Canadian citizenship.

In addition a considerable sum of money—six or eight million dollars—was voted for various branches of government.

A highly popular announcement was made regarding hospital allowances made to ex-service men and officers. The scale in the past has been such as to extend far more generous treatment to officers than men, but the government now takes the view that the war is over, and the difference has been greatly reduced.

(Taking Over Industry)
J. S. Woodsworth's resolution call-

ing upon the government to take over industry which was not serving the public interest resulted in a debate which lasted the larger part of two sittings.

The attitude of the government toward nationalization was expressed by 2Hon. W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce. His chief criticism was that the resolution went too far. "I can conceive," he said, "of a situation where to take over the operation of an essential industry, employing perhaps hundreds of thousands of men, which industry was using its powers to crush its working men or to take undue profits out of the consumers, might be worthy of consideration by a government. If in the exercise of its powers such an industry decided to close its shop or have a lock-out on the premises I can imagine it might be in the public interest and in the interest of the employees of that concern that the government should temporarily take over and operate such a business, but only until such time as an investigation could be held and the matter satisfactorily adjusted."

Discussing state intervention, Mr. Euler added a little later: "My honorable friend and his party suggest that it should take the form of the establishment of a socialist state. Others believe that public ownership should be confined pretty well to the operation of public utilities, and that so far as other business is concerned, business which can best be carried on by personal attention and personal initiative and the element of profit if you like, we ought to confine ourselves to the correction of abuses which arise under private ownership rather than seek a complete change in our social order."

(The Farmers' Viewpoint)
The viewpoint of the farmer was vividly expressed in the same debate by G. E. Wood, the member for Brant, Ontario.

"The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made the statement that the average income is five hundred dollars," Mr. Wood said. "The reason the farmer is receiving only five hundred dollars is that when he sells his products on the open markets of the world, those markets name the price, and there is also deducted from the price that the farmer received all the overhead charges of extravagant government, high taxes, and all the rest of it that goes into our economic life. The farmer takes that reduced purchasing power and goes out into the restricted markets of this country to buy necessities for his family and reflected in the price of everything he buys are those high taxes, high duties and the high costs of extravagant government."

A debate later on in the week which excited considerable interest was the C.C.F. proposal to nationalize the chartered banks. With so many financial high priests of one congregation or another in the House this session this apparently dry subject of monetary theory gets a good deal of attention from one quarter or another. Hon. Charles Dunning, minister of finance, was not enthusiastic about the idea. He thought the government was carrying a pretty heavy load now, without undertaking to operate the banking business. He knew of course that the proposal would be made that a board or commission should operate the banks for the government; but he was somewhat fearful at the encroachment of bureaucracy if these boards and commissions continued to grow.

(Will Study Prisons)
A royal commission consisting of Mr. Justice Joseph Archangeault of the Superior Court, Montreal, R. W. Craig K.C. Winnipeg, and Harry W. Anderson, former editor of The Globe, Toronto, was named during the week to conduct an inquiry into the administration of the penitentiaries of Canada. During recent years, as the result of riots in several prisons, of published criticism, and of the campaign conducted by Miss Agnes Macphail in the House of Commons as well as elsewhere, the public has become convinced that all is not as well as it might be in the prison system of Canada. The purpose of the commission is to make a thorough inquiry into discipline and administration, in the light of modern theory on criminal reform.

One feature of this parliament already especially noticeable is the tendency of first one group or class and then another group or class, to ask state aid of one sort or another, usually advancing the argument that some other interests are being similarly helped. The government is having to stand firm in the face of a flood of demands for 'hand-outs' of one nature or another.

WARNING TO THOSE WHO USE GAS

The tragedy which took place near London one day last week in which four children were burned to death, and the father seriously burned, should be a warning regarding the use of gasoline. A neighbor had just returned a quantity of gasoline, which he had borrowed and was contained in a glass jar. When the jar was placed in the kitchen, the heat caused the jar to crack and the gasoline ran over the floor. In a few moments there was a terrific explosion, and the brick house was immediately a mass of flames and the rescue of the children was impossible. It cannot be said that it was a case of carelessness, as no person would think of the glass jar breaking under the circumstances. As gasoline is used so extensively for household purposes, the greatest care should be exercised, especially if a fire is in the room. Fumes arise so rapidly from gasoline, and if these fumes come in contact with the fire and explosion immediately takes place it may be with tragic results.

Here and There

Vancouver is holding this year the Golden Jubilee celebration of its founding in 1836. Some of the features planned include sports events of all kinds, music, pageants, a special performance of Shakespeare's 'Mid-summer Night's Dream' in Stanley Park, a performance of Hiawatha, an Indian village, a Hawaiian village, special decorations and illuminations all over Vancouver. Celebrations will reach their peak in the first ten days of July.

At the annual Burns dinner held at the Empress Hotel, Victoria in February at which over 300 Burns lovers took part, the royal Scotch haggis was brought over from Vancouver and was carried in steaming hot on a silver platter by Miss Gwen Dewar and piped around the Empress dining room by Pipe-major Donald Cameron. Greetings were received from South Africa, Australia, the United States and London, England.

SLATS' DIARY

(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: In S. S. this a. m. the teacher ast the class did they believe



enny boddie would ever get to Heaven by flyen way up in a areplane. Jake had a anser reddey as per usuel & replide & sed No but they will by coming down too suddently. I seen the point sum time later on.

Monday: I win onct price on a pome are room had to rite to day. I writ, Are naber had a big black cat that yelled jist like

Corooso. I hit him with a chunk of cole & now he dont no more do so. Jake & Blisters sed it was good but Jane sneared at it.

Tuesday: A nother hirde girl resined at are house this p. m. Ma ast her dident we all ways treet her as 1 of the famby & she sed yes & she diddent prepose to stand it no longer. The girls we have had seam to be hard to please. Or sum thing.

Wednesday: Pa neerly had a riot at the noosepaper offis. He writ up a joory trile in kort & it sed the joory verdicted "We're all of the same mind—insane." The joorymen called at the office & sed they never verdicted no such of a thing. The defendant was insane. So they told the editur. Who made a korrekshen.

Thursday: The teacher ast Tommy Tompkins the littl boy whose house is out in the country & he cums to skool in a horse & buggie. did he have a 1 doz. sheep in a lot & 6 got out how many would be there yet & Tommy sed they woodent be none. The teacher sed he diddent no his rithmetick & Tommy sed she diddent no her sheep also.

Friday: In histry class 1 enquiry was when was Rome bilded & Jane

sed she knew & spoke rite up & sed of a nite. Who sed so the teacher enquired & Jane sed you did you told me it wassent bilded in a day. The teacher sed she quest that was rite. I dunno.

Saturday: Jane sort of put the high hat stuff to me when we met on the st. this a. m. But I reckon I got even with her. I called her Miss Tonsil she wondered about it till she told Jake to ast me why I called her that. & I sent her the info. that it is becoss she gives me a pain in the neck.

Weakness is useful, too. Thousands are made happy when their favorite team finds a weaker one to play.

And if a crazy stranger should give us \$10 a day for six months, and then quit, we'd fight him to get our "natural rights."

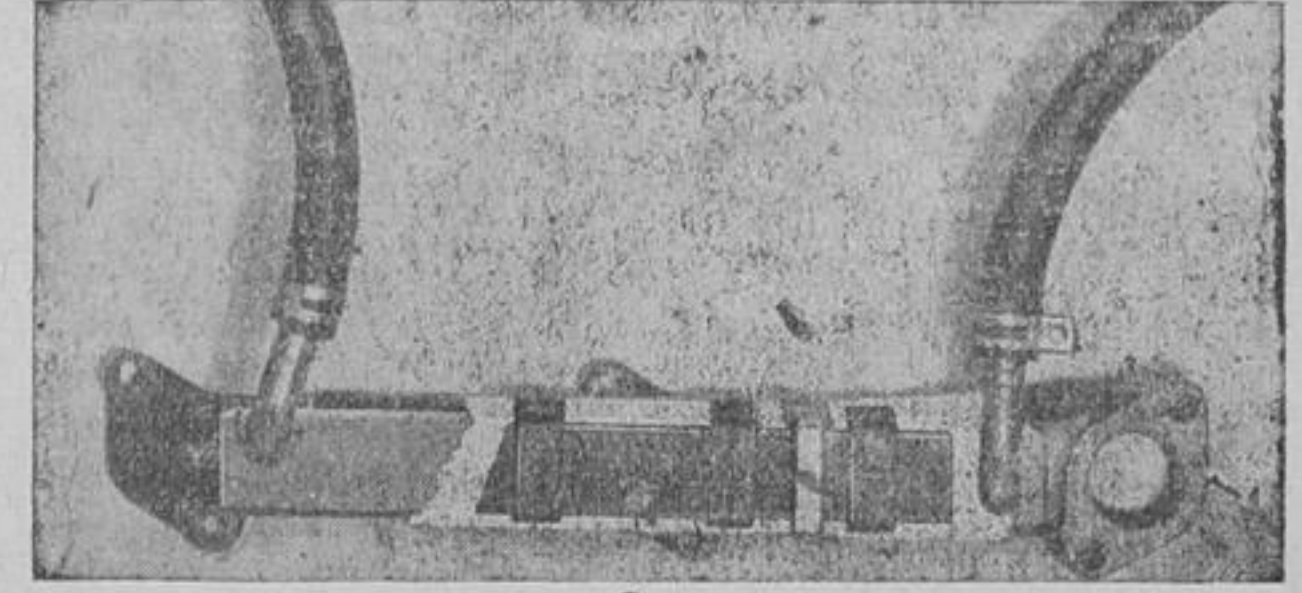
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ADS DRAW ATTENTION

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A Whale of a Story of a Whale

An advertising expert talking about the psychology of propoganda said: "A boy boarded an excursion steamer where every seat was occupied. "Seen the whale tied to the pier on the other side?" he asked his fellow-passengers. His whale story was laughed at, but he kept repeating it. Gradually, one by one, the passengers got up and crossed over. The boy got a seat. Soon he could have had one hundred seats, for everybody had hurried over so as not to miss the whale. He sat alone for some time. Finally he hopped up and rushed to the other side of the boat, muttering, 'Maybe there is a whale there after all'".

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