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A REAL IMPROVEMENT

The Financial Post places the total income from all forms of industry in this country for the past year at almost 10 1/2 per cent above that of 1935. Better than the total increase shown is the fact that all lines of industry report an improvement over the previous year.

There has, however, been considerable variation in the rate of increase by industries, fishing, for example, showing an advance of only 3 per cent against 19 per cent increase in the output of forest industries. Aside from fishing, all our great natural industries show a substantial advance — nearly 15 1/2 per cent in mining, 10.6 per cent in agriculture and 19 in forest industries.

Taken as a whole the facts given clearly show that Canada is once more on the upgrade industrially.

LIFE MORE THAN PROSPERITY

On conviction of having stolen a car a Toronto youth was last week sentenced to a year in prison. In view of the fact that, simply because they are driving stolen vehicles, car thieves, in addition to their crime of stealing, constitute a special menace to legitimate traffic on the highways, the penalty was none too severe.

Conviction in this case was, however, based wholly on the charge of theft. But more than three score people were killed in car "accidents" in Toronto last year and most of these fatalities were due to criminal negligence on the part of car drivers. Still, so far as memory serves, in but one case was anything more than a merely nominal prison term imposed on a killer.

We characterize as barbarous the action of our ancestors of one hundred years ago in hanging some men for stealing sheep as freely as they hanged others for committing murder. But after all did these ancestors show more utter disregard for the sanctity of human life than we do today when an auto thief is given a heavier penalty than is imposed on men whose reckless disregard of the safety of others results in the smashing of human bodies by cars going 35 miles an hour on streets crowded with traffic?

ROOSEVELT'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Never was there so great an opportunity for international statesmanship as there is today. For the past two or three years the nations of Europe have been spending well nigh countless millions in building up huge land armaments and creating sky fleets. Beginning January 1st we are to see the leading naval nations plunge into great naval building programs. Even Uncle Sam is joining in the mad race. There can only be one end to such warlike preparations, and that is WAR, unless somewhere some man will arise who can get the ear of the world and lead humanity from idiocy to sanity. We believe President Roosevelt could do a great service by going on a peace mission to Europe, which gladly acclaimed President Wilson's high ideals at the end of the great war, but failed to implement them in the washed out version which remained after Clemenceau and Lloyd George whittled them down. Perhaps the nations would be more willing to listen to Roosevelt than they were to Wilson. At any rate it is worth trying.

DON'T WORRY

Some one has said that the Creator must have intended mankind to worry as practically everybody does so; but such a statement requires to be explained. Worry causes unhappiness. Worry causes insomnia. Worry causes indigestion. Worry causes mental upsets. Worry may cause complete breakdown; and the Creator must not be held responsible.

It has been said that worry is a sin. Be that as it may, worry is one of the greatest scourges known to mankind. It does not claim as many lives as cancer, but it attacks many more people. It is the great unseen plague. Unlike the infectious diseases, we cannot ascribe it as due to any specific germ, but it is a disease and it can be cured.

A run down system, some chronic infection, overwork, eyestrain, maladjustment in occupation, or unsatisfactory home conditions, these and many other causes may bring about a state of anxiety, fear and worry. The thing to do is this: First find out by proper and thorough examination, if any physical organic condition is the cause. If so, every effort should be made to put that right. But if the cause is not to be found in the bodily functions, then an endeavour should be made to reason out the situation. Many persons will testify that worry which hung over them like great oppressive clouds has vanished into thin air by being looked at and laughed at. Make up your mind that you were born to be happy, that you have a right to enjoy life, that you will take your share of the bitter with the sweet. If adjustments are required in work, environment or home life, carry them out. Practically no price is too high to pay to rid oneself of worry. Worry can be cured. Don't worry.

THE FUTURE

Some of the miracles promised for the future are: Transmitting of electricity by radio. Men who are fully matured at ten years of age. The average person will live to be 100. Artificial teeth as good as natural ones, roofs that never leak, knives that will not dull and rugs that won't show wear.

The big ocean liners will have disappeared from the ocean.

Creation of substances that will make chickens as big as pigs.

A two-hour work day.

There will be no visiting. People will stay at home and call on their friends by television.

Dream pills. By taking a certain pill a man will be able to select the kind of dream he wants.

Pneumatic tubes will carry complete meals to homes. The streets will be sprayed daily with lilac water.

Replacing cotton by an incombustible fabric made from scrap bottle-glass.

Taxicabs will have wings.

Mail chutes will bring letters direct to your home. There will be no stenographers.

George Bernard Shaw says that in three thousand years, children will be able to talk as soon as they are born.

Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, January 12.—Parliament assembles as a new crisis develops in Dominion-Provincial relationships. Manitoba and Saskatchewan, still bearing the brunt of the depression, accentuated by the appalling drought last summer, are almost in despair. Drastic measures are threatened. Ottawa is once more being approached for help.

The prairie provinces cannot balance their budgets. They cannot borrow through the ordinary channels. Their taxation has reached the limit of what the public can, or will, stand. Naturally, they are seeking some relief. They have explored the channels of economy and self-denial, and think they have cut essential services to the bone, or beyond.

That leaves one big item of expenditure to work on, namely, the interest burden on their funded debt. There is a growing determination, judging from what Ottawa hears, to defer, if not reduce, that burden, falling some help from the Dominion Government.

When the provincial leaders were here in December, Premier John Bracken of Manitoba asked a 'Duncan commission' to study the present disabilities of the prairies, and it was suggested in this connection that the prairie provinces were entitled to higher subsidies, pending at least a royal commission report. This request has been considered by the Dominion Government. As a temporary means of helping out the prairie provinces, it has some attractive aspects. Not that the Dominion has any spare cash lying around, but, all things considered, it might be cheaper to lend still another hand, rather than let Manitoba and Saskatchewan default.

(Some Precedent For It)

Also, there is some precedent for increased subsidies for the prairies. The Maritimes secured that help as a result of the Duncan report. British Columbia was given an increase in subsidy during the depression as a temporary measure, and it is still being paid.

There is another way of helping the prairie provinces, but it will cost much more. That is, assumption of 100 per cent cost of the old age pensions. That also, has been proposed and discussed. But until there is a constitutional amendment so that the Dominion has unquestionable right to administer an old age pension scheme as a federal measure, such a step is highly improbable.

If Manitoba and Saskatchewan are to be helped, Alberta will have to be given exactly the same treatment. Alberta has also suffered gravely from the depression and from drought. Some of the authorities here will deplore handing over additional hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to Premier Aberhart, for fear of the use he may make of it. But there is no escape from that. To help two provinces and not the third would be a tactical error, aside from its injustice.

There is some division of opinion at Ottawa about the wisdom of going to the aid of the prairie provinces further. It is stated on good authority that about 260 millions have been distributed on the prairie from the federal treasury in recent years. Even this year, about 20 million dollars, quite apart from subsidies, loans and grants for relief, works, roads, etc. are being spent as a Dominion responsibility because of the drought.

(Alberta Broke Away)

Alberta was allowed to separate itself from the federal credit structure and default on its bonds. That was a deliberate decision, on the part of Ottawa, that the Dominion's credit could not be joined indefinitely and regardlessly to provincial credit. The Alberta default left Dominion credit sound—possibly helped it. Now it is being said that Manitoba and Saskatchewan must run their own show, also.

Will this mean default in Manitoba and Saskatchewan? The report here is that neither of them plan an arbitrary cut in interest rates. What they do ask is that for a year or two the bond-holders accept one-half the interest in new bonds. This would not smack of repudiation in any way, and might provide sufficient relief to tide them over.

Forecasting federal action is not easy, but the present prospect is that the cabinet will decide that it cannot grant increased subsidies to the prairie provinces unless all provinces agree to a new examination of the financial basis of Confederation.

Failing that—and the prospect for agreement is not bright—the provinces will be allowed to solve their own financial problems. This will probably involve paying off one-half, or some part at least, of their current interest bill in new bonds. The bond-holders won't like it; but the prairie premiers are in a tough spot.

NEWTONBROOK

The Woman's Association met last Thursday afternoon with an attendance of twenty-two members and two visitors. Mrs. W. T. Wells presided. The devotional worship service was conducted by Mrs. Wm. Pharaoh and Miss Edna Street. Plans were made for the annual congregational banquet on Thursday, January 28th. Delegates were appointed to attend the annual meeting of the Woman's Associations Conference of Toronto Centre Presbytery on Tuesday, January 19th which will be held in Westminster Central Church, Toronto, commencing at 10.30 a.m. Arrangements were made to hold a Social in the S. S. hall on Friday evening, January 22nd and a program committee was appointed. Mrs. Halbert closed the meeting with prayer.

A gloom was cast over this community last Thursday when the word was received that Mrs. James Dean had suddenly passed away at her home in Thornhill on Thursday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Dean were residents of this community for many years living on the farm now owned by Lieut. Governor Herbert A. Bruce. Mrs. Dean had been a member of Newtonbrook United Church for many years and was an active worker in the Woman's Association filling the office of president at one time. The funeral service was held at her home last Sunday at 2.30 and was conducted by Rev. A. H. Halbert and Rev. E. E. Pugsley. Interment took place in Thornhill cemetery.

A missionary programme was a special feature of the Y.P.U. meeting last Monday evening. Mr. Hiltz, a student of Victoria College, was the guest speaker. He gave an illustrated address on his work in God's Lake district, Northern Manitoba, where he spent four months as a school teacher and missionary to the Cree Indians. These still live in a very primitive way in tepees in the summer and shacks in the winter. The Indians make their living by wood cutting and fishing. The population has been greatly reduced in this district owing to the dread disease tuberculosis which often develops after a severe attack of influenza and colds. The nearest doctor is 200 miles away and comes in by aeroplane. This is becoming a very active centre at present as God's Lake Gold Mine is in this district and employs a large number of men. A move is now on to build a United Church in the near future. Miss Margaret Shaw moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the speaker of the evening and was seconded by Harold Duggan, to which all responded.

The meeting next Monday evening will be in charge of the Citizenship Convener, Jack Duggan. He has secured Mr. Chapman as special speaker. His address will be "Is Democracy a Failure?" which will include a discussion on the 'isms' of today. A hearty welcome to all.

The Girls' Mission Circle meets at the Parsonage this (Thursday) evening at 8 o'clock for their January meeting.

The United Church Sunday School held its annual meeting last Thurs-

day evening with eighteen teachers and officers present. Very gratifying reports were received from the various departments. Miss Edna Street reported 24 members in the Home Department. She has two assistants who help in the visitation and distribution of Lessor helps, literature, etc. Mrs. Leslie Grisdale reported 59 members on the Cradle Roll. She made 123 visits at the homes. Temperance was taken up regularly in the Sunday School and a donation of over \$12.00 had been sent in to the Temperance Federation. The first Sunday in every month is Missionary Sunday. Many interesting and instructive programs had been given during the year. The Sunday School had raised \$56.00 for Missions. The treasurer reported \$413.00 raised for all purposes. There is an enrolment of 260.

Rev. A. H. Halbert expressed his appreciation to all the officers and teachers for their hearty co-operation. Mr. A. W. Galbraith who has been actively engaged in Sunday School work for 22 years and who has been Supt. of Newtonbrook United Sunday School for some years, asked to be relieved of this office, that he felt he needed a rest. It was with regret that his resignation was accepted. The following officers were appointed for 1937: Supt., Mr. Leslie Grisdale; Ass't Supt., Mr. W. T. Wells; Secretary, Miss Margaret Shaw; Ass't Secretaries, Hicks Smith and Irwin Brown; Treasurer, Miss Irene Smith; Home Dept. Supt., Miss Edna Street; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs. L. Grisdale; Ass't Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs. A. H. Halbert; Missionary Supt., Mrs. F. Foreman; Temperance Supt., Mr. L. Grisdale; Flowers and Fruit Convener, Miss Mary Douglas; Lantern Operator, Mac Douglas; Pianist, Miss Cora Good; Ass't Pianist, Miss Ruth Douglas.

A meeting was held last Thursday evening at 7 o'clock in the Sunday School room of the United Church to organize a Canadian Girls in

Training Group. The following officers were elected: Leader, Miss Mary Douglas; President, Mabel Brett; Vice-President, Ruth Douglas; Secretary, Gladys Riddell; Assistant Secretary, Alice Wiltshire; Treasurer, Irene Riddell.

The W.M.S. held its January meeting at the Parsonage last Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. A. H. Halbert presiding. There was a large attendance and a good start made for the New Year. The devotional worship service was conducted by Mrs. A. W. Stephenson. Mrs. James Murray reviewed the fourth chapter of the Study Book and made it most interesting to all. Rev. E. E. Pugsley of Thornhill was the guest speaker and spoke on the "World Peace Congress" which was held in Brussels in September to which he was sent as a delegate. His address was very much appreciated and very much worth while. A duet was sung by Mrs. Harold Moore and Rev. A. H. Halbert. The departmental secretaries were appointed as delegates to attend the W.M.S. annual conference in Bloor St. United Church on January 26th. It was announced that the Day of Prayer would be held Feb. 12th in St. George's Anglican Church, Willowdale. The Supply Sec., Mrs. A. Brown, asked the members to start now and make preparations for the Missionary bale and handed out material to work on. Mrs. Murray presented a very fine appeal as secretary of the Christian Stewardship Department and asked for hearty co-operation among the members in the prayer life of the Auxiliary. Mrs. A. W. Stephenson kindly invited the Auxiliary to her home on February 16th for the regular meeting. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the hostess.

A meeting of the Finance Committee, also an Executive meeting were held previously when plans were made for the year's work and a program arranged.

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