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OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

There was considerable political interest here in the provincial elections in Manitoba, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. The results were more decisive than anticipated. In Manitoba the C.C.F. opposition failed to make gains, and the same party lost ground in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. On the other hand the complete elimination of Conservative party representation in Nova Scotia makes the C.C.F., with two members, the official opposition.

Secretary of State, Martin, has now received over 400 suggested designs for Canada's new National Flag. We favour the adoption of a National Flag, but hope too much controversy will not develop in choosing the design. We feel that what the flag symbolizes is more important than the symbol, and that our time and effort should be most directed in building a nation which will be honoured and respected throughout the world, and which will give to its people opportunity, health, happiness, security and the best possible way of life.

Measured in figures preceded by the dollar sign, the evidence of efficient administration is to be seen in an anticipated clear surplus of \$25,000,000 earned in this year's operations. More important to the public than the substantial increase in C.N.R. earnings, however, should be the promise of an improved service in the years ahead as soon as labor, materials and new equipment can be obtained. The railways of Canada, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific alike, have made a magnificent contribution to Canadian effectiveness in the years of war. They have responded to the multiplied demands of the nation under war conditions with an astonishing capacity to carry increasing loads.

In later years, when it is probable that the volume of traffic will recede, the public would do well to keep in mind that railways are as essential as highways in Canada.

This week members and Senators heard an interesting talk by Jacques Graber, who will direct the beautification of Canada's Capital city. The master planner drew an inspiring picture of the possibilities of making Ottawa one of the most beautiful of the world's Capitals. The grandeur of the natural setting here lends itself to beautification and it is hoped when the plan reaches completion Canadians will have a national Capital worthy of this great country. There is almost unanimous support for the government proposal to go ahead with this work, but we agree with many who feel there should be planning for the beautification not only of our Capital City, but also for the beautification of every centre in Canada and the countryside as well.

Reaction to the budget continues favorable throughout the country. Taxes remain high, but they have come down some; expenditures remain high, but they have also come down.

It certainly was not the easiest of all budgets to prepare, and there is general appreciation of this fact. Nevertheless, Mr. Ilsley presented a document more cheerful than most had been led to expect. On the whole, the taxation tide has turned, and this is not unwelcome.

The Government has set up its new fiscal machinery to encourage the return of industry to its peacetime footing easily and to promote its capacity to increase production. This will have the effect of expanding the job lists throughout the country.

The Budget has also indicated a reduction in the former huge Government expenditures, and the retention of safeguards against sudden and unmanageable inflationary trends.

Some long time ago the Government indicated it would look with favour upon the creation and modest expansion of small businesses, since it had a conviction that a vast number of healthy small businesses are more conducive to a steady and effective political economy than a few huge industrial empires. To this end, the Budget names very specific relief measures to encourage the founding and operation of small businesses.

Discussion of the Budget will take place early in the Commons, and while some minor modifications can be expected, on the whole there is no reason to doubt that the Government policy will be acceptable.

In keeping with this Government policy of promoting small businesses and restraining the huge ones, look for an increase in the efficiency quotient of the Canadian Combines Investigation Commission. For a long time this machinery has been in the Department of Labour, but it has now been transferred to the Department of Justice.

A special study of cartels and monopoly operations has been going on for the past year, and this study will now be examined by Justice Minister St. Laurent.

Another development in the CIC is the extension of its activities by the appointment of additional investigation officers. Some of these men — indeed, perhaps all of them — will be World War II veterans of high calibre.

In due course it is expected that this whole matter will come before Parliament, since some amendments to the Combines Investigation Act are expected.

The day when big business consistently drove the locomotives and the little fellow rode the rods is past in Canada.

Many correspondents writing me here at Ottawa continue to affix stamps to the envelopes. No stamp is required on a letter addressed to me here at the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

Best of good wishes to the people of North York in over-subscribing the Victory Loan quota.

OBITUARY

LATE JAMES JONES

Services were held on Thursday, October 25 for the late James Jones who passed away in his 82nd year at the home of his son, Jos. Jones, Buttonville on Monday, October 22.

Officiating at the ceremony, held at the residence, was the Rev. Geo. Johnson of Richmond Hill, assisted by the Rev. F. Huson of Gormley. Surviving are three sons, Joseph at Buttonville, Victor and Harry of Aurora, two daughters, Mrs. E. Leigh and Mrs. E. Coupland of Toronto, 21 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were six grandsons, Jim Jones, Morley Jones, Harry Jones, Kenneth Jones, Paul Jones and Donald Coupland.

Interment took place at St. John's Cemetery, Oak Ridges.

J. A. Greene Sounds Note

(Continued from Page 1)
doubtedly are willing to pay it. But I would ask: Does this proposed war memorial and recreation centre serve any of the purposes we have in mind? Will it contribute anything to mending the broken heart of the mother or wife of one departed Richmond Hill soldier? Will it fittingly and truly honor our dead?

We live in a world of reality and so we must recognize that, although we cannot hope to mend the broken heart, we can commemorate the heroic dead and honor our youths who were able to return to us. But will a recreation centre answer that purpose? Will the opportunity with which it will provide us to dance, skate, play ball, curl, bowl and engage in any other activity in our leisure, help us to discharge our obligation of reverent commemoration and solicitude for the kin of our heroes. When for two minutes in the morning of Remembrance Day we devote ourselves silently to thoughts of our dead, would we permit the interruption of jazz music from a rag time band? Is a parallel not apparent?

Isn't there something just a bit selfish in the conclusion that we can provide ourselves with opportunities for pleasure, enjoyment and good times and thus honor the dead? What would a grieving family about to visit the grave of a loved one say if it was invited to abandon the idea and to honor the dead by going on a picnic?

And one other thing: I have seen no provision for youth of the village in the plans for a war memorial and recreation centre, nothing for the little brothers and sisters of the soldiers as the former grow up. Of course, they, too, may enjoy the sports at our big memorial playground, and they may learn rapidly there, more rapidly than their parents and teachers wish, that life is just a bowl of cherries. Nothing is offered them in the way of night school classes so that they may improve their position in life, although such classes would be a blessing for young people who have left school and in fact for folks in all walks of life who would like to better their general education or acquire the technical skills of a trade. I am confident our public and high school teaching staffs would co-operate fully in such an enterprise.

And finally what of the cost of our proposed playground? About \$100,000 on which interest charges at 5 per cent would come to \$100 per week, each and every week, and on which there would be depreciation charges, and the cost of maintaining a caretaker, besides the establishment of an amortization fund for the eventual retirement of the investment. How much of all this necessary revenue could be expected from the memorial hall and recreation centre? I leave the answer to the people of Richmond Hill.

Within Our Means

On November 11, Remembrance Day, we spend two minutes of reverent silence in honor of our beloved dead. It is unfortunate that in no public place in the community are their names yet inscribed so that we might recall them this coming November 11, although hostilities with Germany were concluded months ago, and that is the theatre of war in which most of our youths were engaged. It would have been a simple but inspiring tribute if, instead of the grandiloquent plans about which we have been hearing so much, the cannon in front of the tablet at the public school had been removed and a marble stone put in its place with the names of our boys who gave their lives in the recent conflict inscribed thereon, and if the arch itself had been extended to the north with the names of all the Richmond Hill boys who served set forth.

That would have been something within our means, something of which the soldiers themselves and their families would have been justly proud, something in front of which our people could have stopped for a moment in loving remembrance. But it was not to be. Instead, we have talk of a big memorial playground for playboys, utterly lacking in a background of sympathy for the families of our soldiers and the solemnity and reverence so essential in a memorial setting.

J. A. GREENE.

COMRADES, OLD AND YOUNG

John.....died a few years ago, leaving a wife and five children.

He was a veteran of the last war — the children were sent to school neat, and as tidy in appearance as circumstances would allow. Then sickness struck the home — one of the children rushed to the hospital — while this child was confined there — one of the boys broke his leg, the strain was too much for the mother — she collapsed. Officers of the York County Veterans Association had the case brought to their attention, they stepped in and provided assistance, whilst arrangements were being made with the proper authorities to make provision for the family until they were able to take care of themselves.

This case is one of many from the files of the York County Veterans Association. The Poppy Fund was organized to take care of such cases as these. No one in the York County Veterans Association or any of its branches is paid for services. We work gladly and freely to take care of the need of others.

Vaughan and Richmond Hill Branch are making their annual Poppy Fund Appeal. Will you help? Organizations and churches are urged to purchase their wreaths from the local veterans. Send to J. Varley, Richmond Hill, on phone 9117.

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The Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, passed by Parliament in 1942, sets forth conditions under which employers MUST REINSTATE their former employes in their employment after discharge.

This Act and its Regulations are administered by the Dominion Minister of Labour, through the National Employment Service. Reinstatement Officers are available in the National Employment Offices to answer inquiries, and assist in adjusting cases.

Employees — either men or women — are to be reinstated if:

- (a) they worked for their employer 3 months immediately prior to enlistment, and were not replacing another employee who has since been reinstated;
- (b) they left their employment to join the Armed Services, the Merchant Marine, or the Fire Fighters Corps;
- (c) they apply to their employer for reinstatement, verbally or in writing, within 3 months following discharge in Canada or 4 months if discharged Overseas.

Provision may be made for extension of time if the employee's health prevents him or her from returning within the specified three months. In this event, the employer must be advised within the 3 or 4 months, as the case may be.

The following points in the legislation are also important:

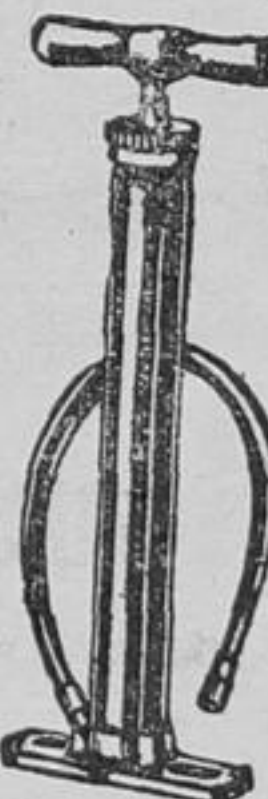
- 1. Discharged men and women upon reinstatement are to be given conditions not less favourable than would have been enjoyed had they continued in employment instead of joining the Forces.
- 2. The period of time spent with the Armed Services is to count for seniority rights, pension rights, vacations with pay, and certain other benefits.
- 3. Discharged personnel who cannot perform their former duties are to be reinstated in the most suitable employment available, at which they are capable of working.
- 4. If an employer dismisses a reinstated employee within 6 months, he must be able to prove in court that he had reasonable cause for so doing.

ALL EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN ARE URGED TO USE THE FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHEN LOOKING FOR WORK.

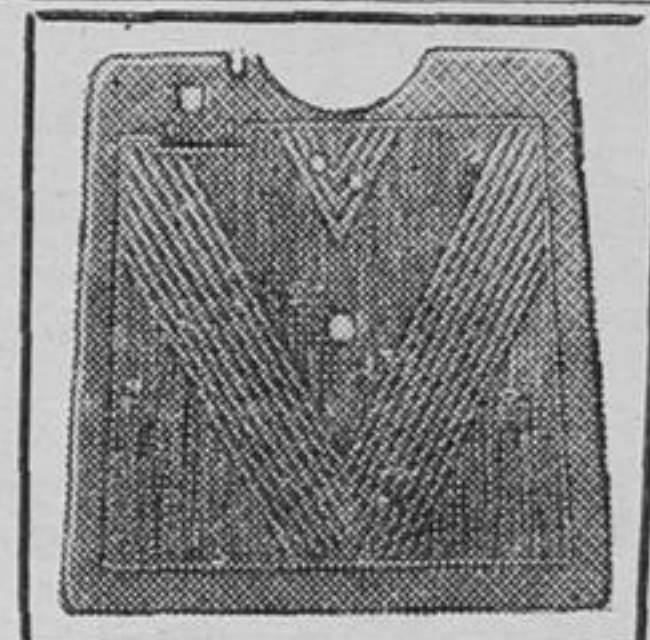
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