

The Russell Leader

RUSSELL, ONTARIO.
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GIVE THEM ORGANIZED PLAY AND CUT COSTS OF GOVERNMENT.

"Plenty of room for dives and dens—
glitter and glare and sin!
Plenty of room for prison pens—
gather the criminals in!
Plenty of room for schools and shows—
willing for these to pay;
But never a place for the lads to race,
no, never a place to play.

So goes an old bit of verse which is particularly worth recalling at this season of the year when spring is on the wing and summer holidays are only a matter of time and municipal governments are struggling to bring mounting expenditures into line with lowering receipts and strike tax rates.

For the spring introduces a season when men's minds turn to the tilling of soil and preparation of land for a new crop of flowers and grains, and no finer gardening can be done than a little work for the human flowers of the land to prepare them for life's battles later on; and the summer suggests an added amount of leisure time and daylight hours when the young lads are free of school supervision and need much greater attention to direct them along right paths; while finally the problem of increasing governmental expenditures is one closely allied with the problems of youth as shown by costs of social services, juvenile delinquency, malnutrition and hospitalization.

How well the larger centres have handled this task with organized sports and supervised playgrounds is too well known to most newspaper readers to need emphasis here but the same opportunities exist in smaller communities despite the plea of necessary retrenchment. The work done in some smaller towns in recent years in providing open air rinks for young hockey enthusiasts is a step in the right direction, but that is only half the battle. In addition to providing recreational centres for the young of small towns, a definite program of supervision is necessary to guide them in the use of such facilities.

All municipal governing bodies might well give this matter deep consideration this year. Such an idea could be initiated for a sum of perhaps \$200. A qualified supervisor could be secured for the two summer months at the nominal retainer of possibly \$100, and healthy, games, sports, swimming, physical culture and such citizen-building principles taught that would be to the ultimate benefit of the community as a whole and of immediate benefit to our young.

The high cost of keeping juvenile delinquents in detention, of caring for the sick and maimed in hospitals and sanatoriums and of direct relief is in large part due to a lack of proper training in the adolescent stage. If we won't spend money to keep young lads off the streets and in healthful, educative surroundings, such as a community park and playground, then we may well be prepared to pay a larger bill for the darker ills "tomorrow."

NEED FOR GREATER UNITY IN EASTERN ONTARIO.

The need for unity among Eastern Ontario counties and municipalities was never greater than today when the fate of the St. Lawrence Waterways development hangs in the balance—and if lost, may not come into such a favorable set of circumstances for its success again for many years.

The development of Eastern Ontario as an industrial empire equal to that of the Western and Central portions of the province and as a commercial centre of greater importance than it now boasts is warranted by its unequalled location in proximity to New York State, the great sea-way to the Old Country and the wealth-creating mining camps of the North. This development has solely been retarded by a lack of co-operation and union on the part of Eastern municipalities in making their common wants known in legislative circles.

Possibly the only obstacle in the way of this dream of an Industrial East being realized is the want of the development of the St. Lawrence Waterway for power purposes, which would provide an unlimited supply of electrical energy sufficient to turn the wheels of every industry now located in this banner province of Canada.

The St. Lawrence project would not only benefit Eastern Ontario but the dominion as a whole. The grain growers of the West would benefit through a saving of five cents on every bushel of grain shipped. Their prosperity reflects back on Ontario

which supplies them with the bulk of manufactured articles and food supplies, besides a great economy on all exports and imports by the big ship route.

Nova Scotia's bituminous coal, which is counted a better grade than U.S. soft coal, could be brought to the doors of Ontario at a greater saving. We have almost 20 per cent of the world's fuel supply but our transportation of it is the great problem standing in the way of its use by most manufacturers.

The St. Lawrence project would fulfill both of these conditions and would convert into money the 1,500,000 horsepower of potential energy now running wastefully to the sea. While the development would cost an estimated \$250,000,000—probably more—this would be liquidated in a period of 30 years at the most if only \$10 per horsepower was realized, a bargain figure for electrical energy in any country.

Cheap electrical energy creates its own market and Eastern Ontario is being held back by a grip of inertia and a group of Montreal power barons for want of cheaper power. The cheapness of power developed from the Niagara River is the principal reason for the greatness of Western Ontario in the field of industry and commerce. How utterly ridiculous this thing called poverty is when we consider the potential wealth that might be generated in Eastern Ontario alone by this one move on the part of Canadian and American legislators.

In the Golden Age of Greece, more than two thousand years ago, every Athenian citizen had on the average five slaves, to provide for his physical wants. At the time when the human intellect blazed more brilliantly perhaps than ever before or since, the muscular energy of five helots sufficed, not only to maintain themselves and their families, but also to supply the material needs of one free citizen. Let us reckon one man-power as equivalent to one-eighth of a horsepower. Then there may be harnessed in the St. Lawrence the physical energy of twelve slaves, for every man, woman and child in Eastern Ontario. But the electric slave will work 24 hours a day, uncomplainingly; so the figure must be multiplied accordingly.

Poverty in Ontario is the most idiotic, irrational and insane spectacle that the world has ever beheld. What is the explanation? Ignorance, dread of change, lack of imagination and lack of the collective will-to-wealth. "The feebleness of the individual man," says Prof. C. A. Beard, "and the omnipotence of mankind collectively, are the outstanding features of a scientific civilization." (Whither Mankind).

ANOTHER "SUNSHINE BUDGET" ANOTHER FINE ONTARIO SURPLUS

Premier Hepburn's budget speech reveals another surplus for the fiscal year now ending: \$3,000,000 this time, compared to \$9,000,000 a year ago.

The reduction in this still-adequate surplus is due largely to the following circumstances:

While the government collected more in succession duties, gasoline taxes, timber fees and income tax (none of it now rebated to municipalities)—while it thus increased certain revenues and also paid out less for relief, its finances were also affected by a number of adverse factors.

Its revenues suffered from loss of amusement taxes, and reduction in motor license fees and agricultural loan interest; at the same time its costs were increased by payment of a one-mill municipal subsidy, assumption of the municipalities' share of old age pensions, mothers' allowances and highway costs, and in other ways.

Briefly, a substantial part of the surplus reduction of \$6,000,000 is due to the relief which this government has afforded municipalities by granting a subsidy and assuming certain social service and highway costs, and to the relief it has granted individuals by abolishing amusement taxes, lowering motor licenses, and so on.

The relief has been a welcome one, and the surplus is still ample, although the budget may disappoint a few municipalities that were counting upon the largesse of the Provincial Government in raising the one mill subsidy in order to further assist them with their own budget problems.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The zip seems missing out of the news of dictators' checker-playing with Anthony Eden off the international board.

Spring seems to have bought a through ticket to somewhere — with stop-over privileges.

We notice that the annual Daylight Saving wrangles have again started in different sections of the province. In many centres the new time will commence next month.

With Europe in a state of transition; civil war in Spain; war in China, and Nazism, Fascism, Bolshevism, Communism and democracy all fighting to keep afloat, we are glad we will not be at school and faced with learning modern history during the next few years.

Following our traditional policy of always bringing a word of cheer to readers, we merely remind you that several licenses are due on April 1st—and it will cost you \$2.50 for the privilege of listening in 1938-39, instead of two dollars as before, to whatever the C.B.C. purveys to you over Canadian air lanes.

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The Ottawa Spotlight

By Spectator

Ottawa, March 22nd.—There are times when the most important of public affairs, those which stir parliamentarians as well as the public most deeply, have little part in the discussions of parliament. The present is such a time. The house of commons continues with its debates about domestic issues, but over the house quite naturally hangs the cloud of anxiety over the acute situation in Europe. Little is being said about it. Occasionally a question is asked, but the government's replies are discreetly reticent. There is nothing it is explained to prevent the individual members of the house discussing the disturbing affairs of Central Europe and Spain, but the government's policy is to say nothing that might in the slightest degree aggravate conditions or hamper the work of those nations who are striving to maintain the peace of the world.

It is of course safe to predict that the increased tension abroad will reduce to a minimum the criticism which might be directed against the government's defence program. During the fiscal year just closing, it will be recalled, the national defence estimates amounted to 36 million dollars. For the coming year the amount is 34 million. It seems likely that with the world's horizon darkening, members may urge a speeding up and expansion of Canada's air defences.

The government legislative program has been retarded by the large number of private member's resolutions, questions, motions, etc. Hereafter more time will be taken up in government business. That most important of all parliamentary events, the budget, will not put in an appearance before the Easter recess, the finance Minister has stated. Exactly when it will appear is not certain, but its arrival will coincide with the new peace pact between Canada and the United States, about which there has been so much speculation. About the same time also will likely be made public the terms of what other trade pact in which Canadian producers are vitally interested, the one between the United Kingdom and the United States. Canadian's interest centres not so much in the general reductions in tariffs between the two countries except in so far as they help to destroy the barriers of international trade, as they are in the extent in which Canada's preferential treatment in the British market may be affected by concessions granted to American exporters. In spite of assurances received from authoritative quarters and the convictions that Canada will receive compensating concessions in our pact with the United States, the natural anxiety will continue to some extent until the terms of the pact are made public.

A good deal of discussion has been raised in the commons by the power bill which will give control of electric energy licenses directly into the hands of parliament. In principle however there is little actual disagreement with this bill. Where the rows will crop up will be when the private bills are introduced requesting export licenses. The first of these will probably be one from the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission for about 100,000 horse power to be exported to the United States from power generated at Beauharnois.

A good deal has been already done this season to help the transport situation in this country but it does seem a shame that through constitutional difficulties highway traffic cannot be brought into the control of the proposed transport commission. There is nothing to be done about it because clearly highway traffic within a province is under the jurisdiction of the legislature of that province. And then there is still the great transport problem, that of the railways. The senate has had its inning at it, over a resolution favoring unified control of the two railway systems, and the commons will talk a great deal about the C.N.R. deficit when that deficit are before the house. But whether there is a solution which could be found by a government beyond simply increased traffic; whether if such a solution were found any government would have the temerity to introduce it, and whether the public could be persuaded to accept it, remain a mystery. Certainly this is one of the most baffling of Canada's problems.

A bill enlarging the grounds for divorce in Canada has passed second reading in the senate and is before a select committee of that chamber. The bill adds to the "statutory" cause, incurable insanity, cruelty

and exceptional moral depravity. There were some sharp passages in the debate on this bill, mainly on religious grounds.

The best orchestral music of Canada is going to be heard over the C.B.C. under regular schedules starting early in May, according to word from the headquarters of the radio corporation. The Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary symphonic orchestras will give concerts in the months to come. There will also be heard La Societe des concerts symphonique and other leading organizations. Thus the best music of Canada will be brought to Cana-

dian homes. The concerts will also be exchanged features with American stations.

"Not-a-Five-Cent-Piece"

(Brampton Conservator)

Twice in recent weeks Premier Hepburn has stated that Hon. MacKenzie King has returned to his old policy of "not-a-five-cent-piece for Ontario." Bad enough to have the wicked Tories reminding the hon. gentleman of this unquerrous decision, but coming from his own familiar friend in whom he trusted it must be doubly disconcerting.

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