

## MR. J. A. BRADETTE DEALS

(Continued from Page Five of this Section)

determined to expose such scandals whenever they come to my notice. There is no such thing in this country as Liberal or Conservative or Progressive or Labour money; it is good Canadian money, raised by taxation. Men should not be penalized because of their political faith, but I have seen poor settlers refused work simply because they were Liberals. When such a state of affairs is reached then we begin to

fear that true democracy has failed. During the last federal election we had the disgraceful spectacle of ministers of the government of Ontario actually distributing political patronage to influence the voters.

Mr. Gott: That is all imaginary. Mr. Bradette: It is not imaginary; I can give you proofs.

Mr. Gott: Let us have them. Mr. Bradette: As member of North Temiskaming, in dealing with my constituents I have never regarded them in a partisan way, but unfortunately I cannot say the same of the provincial ministers. I could give details of the political patronage to which I have

referred. Mr. Gott: Give us one instance. Mr. Bradette: Well, you are responsible for this. Here it is: July 23, 1930.

Dear Alex: Go ahead and fix the road to McIntosh Spring up to \$200 to \$300. I have talked it over with Mr. Ebbitt. Ch. McCrea.

Mr. Gott: That is good. Mr. Bradette: Here is another: Dear Zephyr:

Was here to see you with Mr. Ebbitt about road; he has the money and wants to give it to you, you to build road. Could you see me to-morrow sure. See me first. Case of beer under bridge at foot of Tremblay hill for you. A. E. Brower.

I have been the member for North Temiskaming for four years, and I repeat, I never regard the electors as Conservatives or Liberals; I always regard them simply as my constituents and citizens of this great country. We should respect the political convictions of every man. We are not entitled to force men to vote against their convictions, and we must never forget that the men in our northern country are engaged in building up agriculture and maintaining the standards of civilization there. One's vote, the same as his soul, is a person's absolute property, and no one has the right to interfere with it through bribery or threats. I know a case where hundreds of dollars are being wasted purely and simply because some of my relatives had the audacity and criminality to vote for me during the late election.

An hon. Member: Name them please. Mr. Bradette: My own brother has a gravel pit on his farm, and the provincial authorities stopped getting gravel from him immediately after the election. To get gravel elsewhere will cost the provincial government an extra four or five hundred dollars of the people's money every day that they are using gravel in that vicinity. I take his word for it that not a cent of the money will be politically earmarked—

for that is the sense of what he said. And that is only right, because after all the poor man who is working in the ditches for the sum of three dollars a day should not be asked to sell his soul politically; he should not be required to sacrifice his political affiliations, for any amount.

Just a word in regard to railway construction. My constituency is expecting some benefit from the extension of the railway line to James Bay through development by the provincial government, and if the government sees fit to subsidize railway construction I hope it will be possible to give some assistance toward the construction of a branch line from Timmins to the new mining district of Kamiskotia, where extensive gold finds have been made. That would help to alleviate the unemployment situation in the Porcupine district. I do not wish to introduce politics into the administration of the Canadian National Railways; far from it. But I would point out that we are situated on the route of the old Transcontinental railway running from Quebec to Winnipeg. The road originally was built to bridge the gap between east and west and it was thought at first that that section of the country could not be self-supporting. As a matter of fact we find today that there is almost enough local traffic to make it one of the best sections of the system. But there are one or two things that need to be pointed out, and in what I am about to say I am not for a moment reflecting either upon Sir Henry Thornton or upon the divisional superintendents, who are energetic and effective. There are, however, some improvements that might very well be made. In the last two or three years, for example, practically no painting has been done; no work has been done in the graveling of the roadbed, and so forth, and a sum of at least \$500,000 should, in my opinion, be devoted to that section of the railways, not as a subsidy or as a donation but as a necessary part of the maintenance of adequate equipment and efficiency. I also maintain that all shop repairs should be done regionally.

I should like to say a word now with respect to agriculture. As has been pointed out, the unemployment situation is more serious than it appears on the surface. In this connection I might quote the words of a prominent labour man: "I do not regard capital expenditure on public works as a solution of unemployment," boldly confessed J. T. Foster, vice-president of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. Mr. Foster has just returned from conferences of world and empire labour delegates at Geneva, Stockholm and London, and was a bit fed up with superficial remedies. Relief by creating work, rather by direct distribution of cash, the equitable division of whatever work exists—all essential in the present crisis. But Mr. Foster evidently hoped that a national discussion of the disease would have something to say about the fundamental economic laws which make relief necessary at times like these. He hoped that the delegates would not permit the detail of providing relief in the present emergency to fill up the whole horizon and blind them to the crying need of something more than spasmodic efforts at seasons when the situation was more than ordinarily grave.

I am sure all hon. members must have read in the Canadian press despatches reports of the meeting of the trades and labour congress in Regina. In this regard there is one item of special interest which I studied thoroughly:—The limitation of the hours of labour to not more than eight hours per day and five days per week on all government works and contracts and all works towards which the federal government may grant aid as a measure of relief carried on by provincial governments or municipalities.

I do not think it would be practicable to apply the eight-hour principle in every case, but I do think that it should be put into effect in connection with all work performed under any money granted by the federal government for the construction of highways and so on. In Northern Ontario the poor settlers work for 30 cents an hour without board, and a man with a team of horses cannot receive more than from \$5.50 to \$6 per day. Furthermore, it must be remembered that almost 50 per cent. of his time is lost owing to weather conditions. Under these conditions, therefore, it is absolutely impossible for these people to make both ends meet.

In my opinion the least they should get is \$4 a day with \$7.50 for a team of horses and driver. I hope to be able to discuss this question at greater length on another occasion, because the solution of the unemployment problem lies in part in this matter. The same situation which we have to deal with in the older rural districts we also find in the newer sections of Northern Ontario. In North Temiskaming the young people are not inclined to stay on the land, on account of lack of inducement. In the last ten years there has been a movement on foot under the provincial authorities to provide a subsidy for people deciding to settle on the land, and I venture to say that if such subsidies had been granted ten years ago there would not to-day be a man out of work in Northern Ontario. I believe that this principle should be applied generally throughout Canada. Without attempting to prophesy, I am positive that under such a scheme it would be easier to keep the younger population on the farms. To-day, however, the young people are finding their way into the cities, and by no means have all who have left the country districts found their way to the United States. They find it more attractive to settle in the large industrial centres such as Quebec, Montreal and Toronto. As a matter of fact, fifty per cent. of the urban population to-day comprises people who were formerly on the land. It is obvious, therefore, that one im-

portant feature in any attempt to remedy the present situation will be to find some way to help our rural population and to make it possible for them to remain on the farms.

Some newspaperman who visited Northern Ontario last year to attend a banquet given there—I have forgotten what part of the country he came from—made the statement that the pioneers in the newer sections of Canada showed signs of deterioration; he said that they were not of the same calibre as their forefathers. That is absolutely false. There is no such evidence of deterioration. The fact is, however, that the younger people are naturally finding life easier in the urban centres; their hours are not so long. The other day a farmer in the vicinity of Cochrane asked this question: How can I hope to keep my sons on the farm when they can drive into the town of Cochrane where they can work shorter hours?

I trust that the Prime Minister will find it possible to include, in the legislation under which this money is to be voted, some means of improving conditions so far as the farmers are concerned. It is of the greatest importance that something should be done for that class of the population. After all, Canada is, and will remain for a considerable time to come, primarily an agricultural country. I heard an hon. member ask a very significant question: he wanted to know whether the government would consider the advisability of spending some money for advertising purposes in relation to agriculture. We know what wonderful progress has been made in the citrus and fruit industries generally in the United States in the last decade, purely from the effects of their admirable system of advertising. In fact it is so perfect that to-day many Canadian people do not dare eat bread any more because of the possibility of its being poisonous. I am sure if we could obtain figures as to the consumption of bread in Canada we would find that it has dropped at least fifty per cent. within the last few years, thus creating a situation which is very harmful to our farmers. Many Liberal and Conservative papers, including even such a good Conservative paper as the Ottawa Journal, carry advertisements and dietician articles which tell us that bread is poisonous, and that unless we eat grapefruit and things of that kind the bread will kill us, that we will not be able to survive. I believe the government could well put on a big advertising campaign and tell the people that wheat is the staple food of all civilization on this planet.

I have heard it suggested that a measure should be introduced restricting very largely the importation of fruit from the United States. Only two years ago the fruit growers of the Okanagan valley were complaining that they were unable to meet the competition of American apple growers. A

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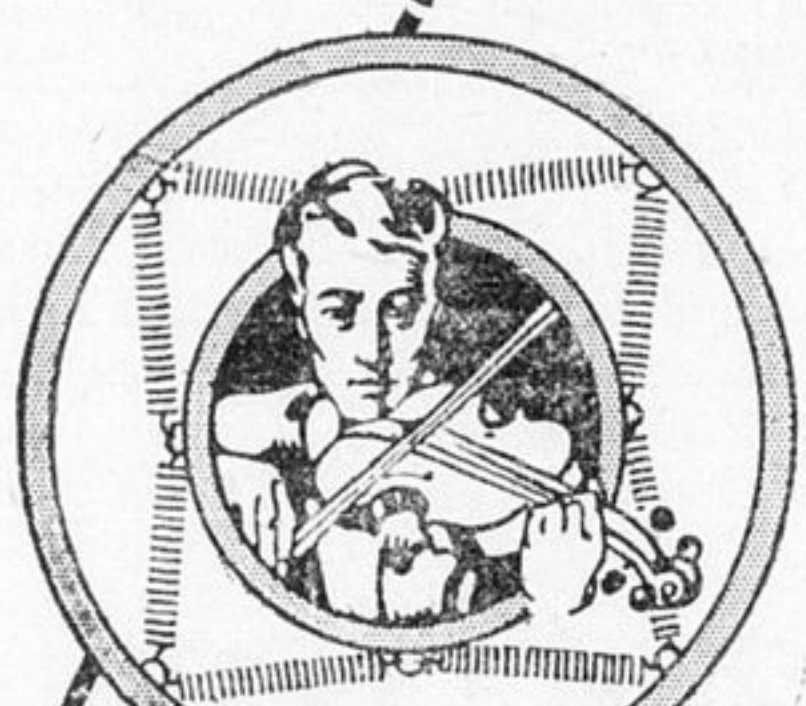
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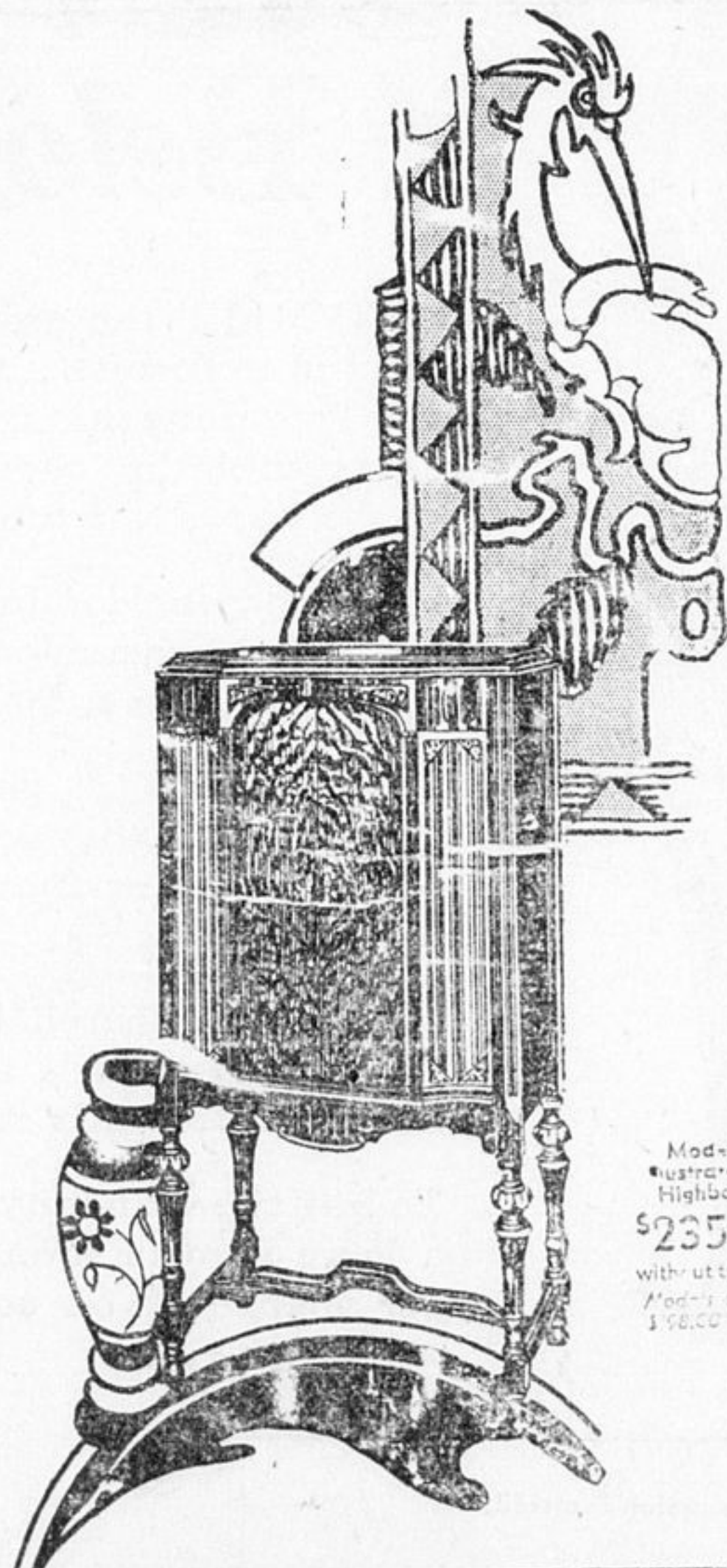
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