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WHEN MAN IS BUT A WORM

Did you ever receive a letter from the private secretary to the King? Or from the secretary to the third vice-president in charge of transportation on the Canadian National Railways. Or from the secretary to one of the subordinates in one of the red tape departments of one of the Governments,—a fellow who signs himself "your obedient servant," and writes as if he were your lord and master? If you have received any letters like these you know what it is to be humbled, crushed, made to feel that man is but a worm and life is hopeless. You will never be the same man again. This week The Advance has received a letter from the Editorial Secretary of The Ottawa Journal. It is an experience to daunt the stoutest heart. Had the editor of The Journal, or the assistant editor, or one of the sub-assistants to the assistant editor, written The Advance it might have been bad, but as it is, it is just too bad. When His Holiness, the Editor, hides behind an Editorial Secretary, what chance has the ordinary man, or even another editor? The world has beaten a path to the front door of The Advance, but the Editorial Secretary of The Advance at the moment is out shovelling the snow at the rear door, so if that letter is to be answered it must be done here and now directly. It is to be hoped that the Editorial Secretary of The Journal will pass it on to the editor, so that it may rest with the other state documents in the archives.

The Editorial Secretary of The Journal writes in part as follows:—"The Editor of The Journal would be pleased if you would let him know the editorial in The Journal that was the basis of the enclosed article. He thinks 'it's the worm' to say that 'The Journal even wants a license for free speech' because The Journal has on numerous occasions spoken very strongly in favour of free speech of all kinds and by all sorts of people. The Journal has always deprecated attacks upon people who express their opinions in speech and do not resort to physical violence."

The article from The Advance enclosed by the Editorial Secretary of The Journal is headed "Nothing but Bunk" and so it may be said that the basis on which it was founded was not so much one particular article as the general trend of several recent editorials in The Journal. These articles, if they are to have any influence at all, can have no other effect than to force curbs on the freedom of speech. That is the inevitable result. It is the abuse of privileges that leads to restrictive laws. The old license in liquor led to prohibition. There are a score of other illustrations of the same truth. The majority eventually are found to protect themselves by enforcing curbs on the vicious and malicious minority. The Journal has been lending its editorial columns to supporting the communist demand for free speech—a free speech that is absolutely denied by communist countries within their own borders—a free speech, so called, that has been proven in the courts of law in Canada to be based on force and violence. Indeed, the only sort of free speech that is forbidden is that which urges its views by force. The Journal has condemned Section 98 of the Criminal Code. The editor of The Journal should have the editorial secretary read that clause and tell him about it. That section does not interfere in any way with advocacy of anything, except "by use of force, violence or physical injury to persons or property or by threats of such injury, or which teaches, advocates, advises or defends the use of force, violence, terrorism or physical injury to persons or property." If condemning Section 98 is not advocating a license for speech then The Advance has two editorial secretaries, with a couple of under-secretaries.

"The letter from the Editorial Secretary says that 'The Journal has always deprecated attacks upon people who express their opinions in speech and do not resort to physical violence.' Yet the other day The Journal had a vitriolic attack on all the members of parliament for talking too much. Does that mean that alien agitators may talk all they like, but that the duly elected representatives of the people of Canada must not speak except when it pleases the editor of The Ottawa Journal? Or does it mean anything? Who to ask? The editor or the editorial secretary?" Judging from the concluding qualifying phrase in the letter from the Editorial Secretary of The Journal, the Ottawa newspaper does not favour people who "resort to physical violence." Is it to be inferred that while physical violence is frowned upon it is all right to urge others to force and brutality as the communists have been proven in court to do?

The Advance repeats that there is no interference to-day with freedom of speech, and the only forces working to any restriction are those of the type of The Journal who by advocating license would force repression. The editorial secretary should write the editor about it.

ABOUT THE BUDGET

There were very general fears that the 1932 budget for Canada would be a burdensome one! Once more the reality is not as frightsome as the phantoms conjured up. People are always crossing bridges before they come to them. They see afar the holes in the plank and the spikes sticking up, and when they actually come to cross the creek they find some kindly soul has knocked down the protruding nails and put patches on the dangerous holes. There is a general tendency now to admit that the budget was not as bad as it might have been. In justice to the brilliant new Minister of Finance it should also be admitted that it is much better than most people hoped for. It promises a balanced budget without ruination to anyone. The ordinary man can scarcely realize the immense task entailed in the making of a budget for this Dominion. Figures that pass into the millions have only hazy meaning for the man on the street. It must take genuine financial genius to prepare a budget of such proportions. Only the man who actually keeps a family in comfort on \$2.40 a day, with only four days' work a week, should be considered as competent to adversely criticize the new budget. That man is the rare financial genius. And usually only a woman reaches such efficiency.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a summary of the important features of the new budget as explained in the address by Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance. The necessity for increased revenue has been apparent to all. There appeared to be no possible escape from expanded taxation. The budget has to be considered good or ill by the virtue of the methods used to secure the essential revenue. If the budget plan ruined industry or crushed the

ordinary man it would be a failure. If it found ways and means to carry on with the general public interests preserved, then it must be acclaimed as a good budget. On this test the budget appears to be worthy of commendation. For a balancing of the budget revenues are to be increased by some fifty-five million dollars, while expenditures are to be decreased by another forty-three million dollars. In dealing with this situation the budget does well in using the income tax more fully than in the past as a means of securing revenue. Exemptions are reduced to \$2,400.00 in the case of men with dependents and to \$1,200.00 for those without. Up to \$3,000.00 per year, however, this tax does not bear very heavily on the married person. Incomes of \$2,500.00 in this class pay only \$2.00, if there are no dependents. In all the higher incomes, however, there has been a very notable increase in the tax. A married person without dependents will pay \$60.90 on an income of \$5,000.00 per year, which is nearly double the present tax. The same person with an income of \$10,000.00 will have to pay \$354.90, an increase of \$122.90 over the present tax. The figures for an income of \$25,000.00 are \$2,788.80 in taxes. The married man without dependents must now pay over a quarter of his income as income tax. From \$100,000.00 up the tax increases, until the married person without dependents must pay an income tax of \$476,658.00 on an income of \$1,000,000.00. This plan seems to be along the right lines. It bears upon those making money and so able to pay. An extension of the idea is desirable and may be hoped for in another year. At least a start has been made along the logical line for the general benefit. Even with the greatly increased taxes on incomes the Canadian rate of income tax is still lower than the scale in use in Great Britain.

It is perhaps a matter for regret that what have been termed the "nuisance taxes" have had to be continued and enlarged. These taxes are the least desirable because in nearly every case they are simply passed on to the general public. While taxes of this nature are continued their increase is not so serious as at first appears. It is as easy to collect six per cent. in sales tax as four per cent., and the public must pay in one form or another. The increase of the tax on cheques to three cents is more or less a convenience to the public while postage stamps are allowable for use in paying this tax as the ordinary postage stamp may now be used. The taxes on pullman berths, chair tickets, telegrams and long distance telephone calls will be an added nuisance, but their general effect is not likely to be serious for the public.

The fear that gold mines would be asked to bear an unfair share of taxation has proven unfounded and the North Land will be glad of that. The crippling of the gold mines would have been a serious matter for the country, without compensating advantage.

Those who have studied the new budget are likely to give it approval, and there will be a general hope that in succeeding years it will be possible to centre more on the fair and logical plan of revenue from income tax and avoid the nuisance taxes and the other forms of irritation to business, with the public in the final analysis paying the tax.

THE NORTH OBJECTS

Last year Mr. Pouliot, member of the House of Commons for the riding of Temiscouata, Quebec, gloried in the idea that his whole purpose in life was to have a station built at Riviere de Loup. He got the station, but apparently he has not given up life. He is still flying around the House of Commons this session. It is said that a horse can only hold one idea at the one time, but this tendency extends, it seems, to other classes of the equine species. The one idea impelling the vocabulary of Mr. Pouliot recently seems to be the thought of slam-banging the Minister from the North, Hon. W. A. Gordon. Perhaps, Mr. Pouliot should not be taken seriously, but the North objects to some of the things he said about Hon. Mr. Gordon. For instance, he called Mr. Gordon "the dumb Minister of Labour." The term seems a rank misnomer for there are few more eloquent or able speakers than Mr. Gordon, though he does know enough not to talk when he has nothing to say, which is a virtue that some other members would do well to copy. To suggest as Mr. Pouliot does that Mr. Gordon has sneered at the troubles and miseries of the unemployed is to fly far from the path of fact. The North knows Hon. W. A. Gordon, knows his helpful sympathy, his generosity and his kindness to all. It will be recalled that when Labour desired a helper and defender they turned in this North to Hon. W. A. Gordon. One instance of this was in the case of the Hollinger disaster some years ago, when Labour retained the services of Hon. Mr. Gordon to care for its interests. Needless to say, the interests of Labour were well presented on that occasion as on the many other occasions when Wesley Gordon was the able champion of the workingmen.

To the diatribe of Mr. Pouliot, Hon. Mr. Gordon did not take the trouble to reply. He is a big enough man and high enough in the esteem of the people of Canada to treat the outburst of a Pouliot with silent contempt. But whether the public should allow it to pass unnoticed is another matter. Hon. Mr. Gordon has given generous and able service to the country. Should the country listen in silence to a torrent of abuse showered towards him? Mr. Pouliot's suggestion that the miners of the North may bear with bad manners and discourtesy is a mistake without foundation. The people of the North have found Hon. Mr. Gordon always courteous, kindly and public-spirited. Until he became a Minister of the Crown the people of this North were sure that he could even handle a team of wild mules without losing his temper. Apparently, he can at that!

The concluding words of Mr. Pouliot give the type and measure of the member for Temiscouata. He said:—"We will teach him (Mr. Gordon) manners, so that when he goes into the far north the miners will say, 'Oh, well, he is a gentleman! What did you do to him? Did you give him a shave, a haircut, a massage?'"

The people of the North will say no such thing! They will say, as they have said so often before: "Oh, hello, Wes., how's everything?" and "Glad to see you!" As for a shave haircut, message, Mr. Pouliot would be out of his class in thinking of that sort of service for Hon. W. A. Gordon. The people of the North would think it was only Hon. W. A. Gordon's generosity that would allow him to let Mr. Pouliot attend to his boots.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

In the news reel at the motion picture theatre the other night John D. Rockefeller was shown playing golf at the age of 92 years, and singing his favourite hymn, "While the Days are Passing by." He sang "Passing by" with rare fervour, but knowledge of the old gentleman suggests that the days are about all he's ever let pass by.

The Ottawa Journal has been abusing members of parliament for calling each other buggy Tories and lousy Tories. The Journal would faint if it heard a communist orator describing the capitalists and the police. Even Mr. Hepburn only talked of sprinkling Mr. Gott with insect powder. He did not actually produce the powder. The communists in Sudbury literally threw salt in the eyes of the police last year.



Soon the boys will be turning their attention to summer sports in place of hockey. Hockey is over now but summer is not here yet. This is the intention.

Wet Five Mile Race.—In front of each player set a glass chuck full of water, and a spoon. Runner who finishes glass of water first, a spoon at a time, wins. Price, a folding grinning cup.

Putting the Lemon.—Tin pail at one end of room. String between two points for starting line. Toss the 12 lemons into pail. Prize, box of lemon drops.

Two-yard Dash.—Everyone on hands and knees behind starting line. Winner is first to push a peanut over finish line with his nose. Prize, bag of peanuts.

Hurdle Race.—Each player given piece of thread and 6 needles. Winner is first to put all 6 needles on thread.

Tug-of-war.—A piece of string, yard long, in centre of which is tied a raisin.

Start a Red at one end, and a Blue at the other. At pistol shot begin to gobble the string. First to get to the raisin wins. Each winner brings 2 points to his team.

High Jump.—A plate of doughnuts, a short string tied to each, with which it is suspended from a cord horizontally tied across the room. Doughnuts about 6 inches over heads. Winner is first to jump up and take bite out of his doughnut.

Relay Race.—2 barrels filled with 30 different articles in each—in pails, clocks, spoons, shoes, etc. First man in each line grabs article, passes it on chair beside him. Anything dropped goes back to first man again. Winner is side which places all articles on chair first.

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Models and Prices table listing various Studebaker models like Dictator Eight, Commander Eight, etc. with their prices and specifications.

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Teams Divide Points in the Inter-town Bowling. In the inter-town bowling Timmins and Schumacher divided the points, two each, on the McIntyre alleys last week. There are still home and home games to play, a total of eight points.

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