

Canada's Only Hope Rests in Its Mines

So Declares Noted Economist who Points Depressing Picture of Situation.

In a series of articles in The London (England) Morning Post, Prof. Stephen Leacock has painted a rather startling picture of the financial situation that faces Canada. Had he left the matter with no more than the marshalling of gloomy facts as to debts and responsibilities, the picture would be a sad one. Prof. Leacock, however, sees a hopeful scene in the otherwise dreary picture. He believes that the mines of Canada may be made the means of rescuing the Dominion from its undesirable financial situation. A lengthy editorial in The Mail and Empire on Monday dealt with the articles by Prof. Leacock. The editorial is as follows:—

Canada's Salvation Is Found in Her Mines

"Some newspapers have been discussing the series of articles which Prof. Leacock, formerly of McGill University, recently wrote on the financial condition of Canada for the London Morning Post. The first three articles of the series are plain spoken and arresting, though in the fourth and final article strong hopes are held out that the Dominion may be saved by its uniquely rich mineral resources now under rapid development.

\$4,167,000,000, the writer denies that a greater part of the debt, or of the swollen current expenditures originate from the cost of the war, or from the expanded functions of government. "It represents nothing but waste, extravagance, and worse, together with the terrible burden imposed by the dead weight of the Canadian National Railways. Almost every city in Canada over-expanded itself; over-built itself; over-burdened itself; and, at the keystone of the arch, the Dominion Government led the way in sowing broadcast the wild oats of over-expenditure and over-borrowing. . . . Greatest of all has been the vast and increasing drain of national resources represented by the Canadian National Railways System, a flow still moving beneath and behind the concealing growth of pretence and make-believe that obscures its origin and nature. If the Canadian camel does indeed break down it will be on the flood of railway debt that its carcass will be carried away."

"This is a pretty stiff indictment of a nation, but it is well that somebody should talk plainly about a grave situation in the hope of arousing our people to the need for prompt and far-reaching action. The Mackenzie King Government has not helped matters by turning the public-owned road back once more to the control of a political board of directors, for that was the system under which nearly one billion dollars was added to our railway obligations under the former Mackenzie King administration. Prof. Leacock's final paragraphs constitute an amazing advertisement for Canada's vast and growing mining industry. He sees

in this industry the means by which the Dominion may be delivered from its present financial difficulties—that is if in the meantime the Government takes adequate steps to stop the terrible leakage through the railways.

"We have, says the former head of the Department of Political Economy at McGill, one huge national asset which as yet we have not spoiled, not compromised, not stolen—the new, vast, incalculable mineral wealth of the land of gold, the 'Eldorado' that was once a wilderness, trackless, frozen, worthless, stretching from the Great Lakes to the shores of the James and Hudson Bay. There, where all was silent, lies the new hope. There floats the airplane hovering in the sky to look for gold; the frozen lake welcomes its landing feet—a new bird of fortune, carrying the destiny of the human race. It seems strange that this 'God-s awful' country should carry in it the hope of Canada, the salvation and rescue of the fertile fields and farms that once shuddered at its existence. But there is no doubt of the fact. We are living, and are to live, in an age of metals, and here in this wilderness is a wealth of them—gold, silver, platinum, copper, nickel, cobalt, and others—cadmium, calladium, rhodium—with names as novel as their existence.

"The mineral production of Canada (we are still quoting) has reached an annual value of over \$300,000,000, five times what it was when the century began. Canada has been second only to South Africa in the output of gold, which runs to about 3,000,000 fine ounces in a world production of 24,000,000. As the price rises and paper money



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depreciates the dollar value of an ounce of gold goes up, and as this process proceeds well ahead of the rise in wages and costs, the mining industry enjoys a continuous stimulation. In the last year the value of Canadian gold was put at \$116,000,000; for 1936 it is estimated at about \$130,000,000. Over 90 per cent. of this comes from the Eldorado Wilderness, that is the hinterland of Ontario and Quebec. Thence comes also the annual \$35,000,000 of nickel, the world's greatest source of supply; thence the whole of the cobalt and the larger half of the copper, two other vast potential assets.

"The Kootenay district of British Columbia we are told is second only to New Ontario and Northern Quebec in its promise of mineral wealth. Statistics of present production can be had in any guide book or almanac. But what is not generally understood is that this new mineral field, in extent, in potential wealth, in economic sig-

nificance, entirely eclipses the fading glories of California, the Rand and Ballarat. In it lies, if properly fostered, the salvation of Canada. There is a danger that it may not be properly fostered. The Dominion and the Provincial Governments, stretching out their eager hands for revenue from taxation, each determined not to let the other get ahead of it, may kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. It is possible to use a more fitting metaphor—that this young Hercules may be strangled in his cradle; not strangled to death—that he could never be—but strangled back into that age-long oblivion from which this silent wilderness has emerged." This statement, coming from such a conservative source should be broadcast all across Canada and throughout the world."

Gang of Hoodlums Sought After Sudbury Assaults

Sudbury police are seeking to round up a gang of hoodlums or worse who are blamed with three separate attempts at robbery with violence. Two men, one from Chapeau and the other from Toronto, have been arrested, and are charged with being in the gang. They put up a battle when the police sought to arrest them. The gang of men accused of the three robbery attempts are said to have used their fists and feet in the trials they made. In one case they tackled a bank clerk, but he managed to elude them and they could not overtake him. In another case they assaulted two Sudbury miners, who put up such a battle that the thugs fled, but not before one of the miners had been

CZECH PRESIDENT RAISES BUNNIES



When President Edward Benes of Czechoslovakia is not busy with official duties at Prague, he relaxes at his hobby—raising prize rabbits. Here he is inspecting a fine black specimen, held by Mrs. Benes, at their country home, Sazimor Usti, near Tabor.

knocked unconscious. The miners said there were seven or eight in the gang. The third attempt was the trial to rob a Sudbury butcher. None of the intended victims lost anything in the attempted robberies.

Ottawa Journal.—Sickness is sometimes a mask worn by laziness.

Brantford Examiner.—The Boy Scouts of India are to hold a jamboree at Delhi early next year, and it is estimated that twenty-five thousand will participate. No matter to what race they belong all lads secure great and lasting benefit from the tenets of this wonderful movement.



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