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NORTH AMERICAN LIFE

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Bradette Good Will Tour Of the North Postponed

Too Many Members of Parliament and Senators Have Other Engagements for the Week-end. Mr. Jos. A. Bradette, M.P., Resumes his Valuable Letters on Matters of Vital Import to the North and the Nation.

Ottawa, May 18th, 1936

To the Editor of The Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir:—There is an old proverb which states that: Man proposes and God disposes. It is almost that in my case. Since the Easter recess, I worked as hard as I possibly could so as to organize a Good Will tour in Northern Ontario of federal members, senators, their wives and friends. It was my intention to have this party leave Ottawa on the evening of the 26th of this month, with our own train, had I been able to get one hundred persons, or more, for that trip; arriving at Kapuskasing the following afternoon, visiting Cochrane the following morning, going to Iroquois Falls during the day, and also Timmins and the Porcupine district in the afternoon and evening, with visits to the mines. The next day, Sunday the 29th, we were going to be in the Rouyn-Noranda district, and, if possible, travelling as far as Val d'Or, Quebec, being back in Ottawa on the morning of the 30th. I extended personal invitations to all members and senators, and also made all the necessary arrangements with the railway

from writing my weekly letter to your paper as I would have liked to do continuously and with these explanations you will realize that it was not due to neglect or laziness on my part.

Spent Much of Easter in Cochrane

During the ten days of the Easter recess that I spent in Northern Ontario, I did not travel as extensively as I expected, this being due mainly to the fact that I received a great number of visitors at my home, and I had to keep these personal engagements from day to day until the end of the holiday.

Some Areas in North in Difficulties

During that stay, I was agreeably surprised of the advance of the spring in the North, which compared almost as favourably as in Ottawa. I found the situation fairly good in the mining districts, but the winter had been a hard one in the industrial centres, such as Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls and Iroquois Falls. Particularly the two last named towns had been badly hit in the drastic curtailment of the production of their respective mills, and it is fervently hoped that the situation in these localities will become normal again. When these mills function at their full capacity, it is then a wonderful factor of prosperity in our section of the country. The farming sections I found had been fairly badly hit by the premature melting of the snow, which caught quite a number of contractors and farmers with quite a lot of logs and pulp wood still in the bush. Direct relief is still prevalent in the rural sections, so that is not a healthy sign as far as this activity is concerned. Every one must thrive with all their might so that agriculture should be rationalized in our section. With good regional markets, and enlightened management of farming activities, coupled with good soil as we possess, and climatic conditions that still leave something to be desired, but which are improving from year to year, our agrarian population should be more prosperous than it is at the present time. Governments should get together so as to allow our farmers better marketing and storage facilities for all their production. A healthy sign of improvement that I have noticed during the last few years has been accomplished in the dairy industry, in not only supplying the fresh milk and cream requirements of centres of population such as Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls, Iroquois Falls, the whole of the Porcupine and Kirkland mining districts, but also the erection and maintenance of butter and cheese factories in the rural sections of Kapuskasing, Moonbeam, Cochrane, Nahma, Matheson, Val Gagne and Ramore, which in operating have done a lot of good to those districts. The quality of the product that they produced was of the first choice, and the regional market almost unlimited. The town of Timmins alone last year brought the full production of three cheese factories around Cochrane. Whoever has tasted the fine flavoured butter of Moonbeam, Val Gagne, Matheson and Ramore does not want to use any other kind. As to the Cheddar cheese produced in our section, its quality can not be surpassed anywhere else in the country in flavour, body and texture and once you have tasted it also, you will not want any other kind.

Waste Time in Parliament

When Parliament met again after Easter, I was fervently hoping that it would then settle down to business with great earnestness but I was disappointed on that score. The torrent, was present as it ever was since the beginning of this session, and there is one opposition party alone that has taken over one third of the time of the House, since the beginning of this session, in propounding their theories. I am not stating this in a critical way, but just so as to have the records straight, and if the Government shows the least signs of impatience, then it is being accused of trying to be distasteful. Well, on this score, there must be a great big difference between the Premier of this country and Herr Hitler for instance. In dealing with the present session, there is the psychological effect, occasioned by the session of 1937 that must also be considered. I believe that I mentioned this factor earlier in this session, as I expected the present one to be rather lengthy, due greatly to the brevity of the last one. Last year on account of the Coronation the session was over before the end of April, and naturally quite a few M.P.'s thought that they had not been given any opportunity to voice their opinions on national and international questions, which they believe they are duty-bound to bring forward this session. Of course to my viewpoint, the best way to shorten and render the federal sessions more businesslike would be to abolish Hansard altogether, but after all, it is the national forum, and I feel that one would be ill advised if he tried to drastically curtail the speaking activities of the house of Commons. It may be one of the weaknesses of democracy, but it is certainly greatly preferable to any other system.

Special Lines for North Farmers

We should also specialize in the small fruit-growing industry such as strawberries, raspberries whose flavour cannot be excelled anywhere, and due to the fact that they ripen in our section about four weeks after they ripen in the south, gives

thern Ontario, and I will likely come back to that subject at much greater length. For the present, I would not be in favour of bringing any new settlers until such time as those who are presently on the land are as least comfortable, and in a position to make a good living out of their agricultural labour.

Death Takes Sad Toll at Ottawa

During the last few years the great Reaper has taken a very heavy toll of members of Parliament and Senators, through; sickness and a few days ago Parliament mourned the sad departure by crowning of Major F. C. Betts, young Conservative member for London, Ont., while on a lone fishing trip a short distance from Ottawa. He was only forty-two years old, had a fine personality and was beloved by everyone who knew him. He was very active as an M.P., being a good speaker and debater, and I have no doubt that he would have gone far in public life.

Parliament Hill had hardly gotten over the shock caused by this tragic death, when the news came of the passing of Mrs. W. D. Herridge, wife of the former Canadian Minister to Washington, and sister of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Conservative leader. As hostess for Mr. Bennett as Prime Minister, and as chateau of the Canadian legation at Washington for a term, Mrs. Herridge became, perhaps, Canada's most prominent and influential woman. She possessed great ability, real charm and friendliness, and her passing, at such a comparatively early age, leaving also a six-year-old son, will be widely and sincerely mourned. Mr. Bennett, in recent months, has suffered a most crushing load of sorrow; a brother died; he lost two intimate friends in Sir Robert Borden and Sir George Perley; the distressing death of a rising young follower, Major Betts; and now the death of his sister, to whom he was most devoted.

Transportation Discussed

How great is the conflict of interest throughout the Dominion as to transportation problems was plainly demonstrated by evidence given before the Commons railway committee examining the Transport Bill. Hon. Hugh Guthrie, chairman of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners, and former Bennett government minister of justice, declared the bill is workable without serious difficulty and he held fears of shippers and others concerning the bill are unfounded.

Last week lake shippers described the motor truck as the most serious competitor of the railways. This week the motor truck association described the agreed charges clause of the bill as "a reversion to the law of the jungle in transportation competition." That clause, it held, is a dangerous threat to the Canadian business of 200,000 trucks, representing an investment of 400 million dollars. It is not unfair competition carried on by motor trucks they held, because one medium of transportation with lower operating costs could give the public cheaper service. However, the association representative promised to take up with his organization a suggestion that motor trucks should abandon long distance truck hauling in competition with the railways and confine themselves to operate feeder truck lines to the railways.

graph companies might save \$750,000 annually after expenditure of a million on uniting the offices and services. The Montreal Telegraph Company, from which the C. N. R. leased its telegraph system, would have to be expropriated. Unification of the railway express services would be even more difficult because of competition from motor trucks he remarked.

The Political Horizon.

As usual there is a certain amount of uncertainties that beset Canada's political horizon, although it has cleared somewhat in Europe, although there the signs are still not all too good when you realize the feverish activities of all the European nations in their armament programs and the buying of foodstuffs by Great Britain during the last three months. The Rome-Berlin axis may have received quite a jolt over the Austrian Anschluss, but still Mussolini and Hitler are very defiant.

Here the situation is pregnant with different possibilities on many counts. On the Government side of the picture, it begins to look as if the revised Can-

dian-American trade agreement will not be ready for this session, and that consequently, the budget, soon to be brought down, will not be as colourful as expected, though it is likely to be fairly in balance on the side of the railway deficit. There will likely be from the Department of Finance a continuation of the policy of slight inflation, and there is the likelihood that the government will issue up to \$50,000,000 of new currency to assist in a more drastic effect in alleviating unemployment without further going into debt. The attitude of Premier Hepburn is causing some concern amongst Federal Liberal members.

Conservative Leadership

On the conservative side, there is uncertainty over the leadership in succession to Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett. At the moment, Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, M.C., seems to be comfortably in the lead. In some quarters there are misgivings about his Roman Catholic religion. Most Conservatives recognize that an alliance, or at least an understanding, with Premier Maurice Duplessis of the Union Nationale government in Quebec, is necessary if the Conservatives are to have any hope of success in the next election, but it is not a situation that they relish with much fervor. Many Conservatives consider the return of Hon. H. H. Stevens, Reconstruction leader, to the party is absolutely essential, while in other quarters old sores over his disaffection in the 1935 election are still unhealed. The

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Conservative party, led by Dr. Manion, with the support of Messrs Duplessis and Stevens, would put up a formidable fight, in the election, when it comes.

Apparently Denton Massey, M.P., Toronto, does not plan any definite campaign for the Conservative leadership. However, the national convention here on July 5 should place the Bennett mantle on his 38-year-old shoulders, he would assume the task with all the vigour at his command.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. BRADETTE, M.P.

Geraldton Miner Drowned Twenty Feet from Safety

Last week Jack Mitchell, hoistman at the Hard Rock Gold Mines, Limited, drowned when his boat capsized in Little Long Lac. Dragging operations succeeded in locating the body, and it was found that the unfortunate man had lost his life when nearing the shore. The water in the lake at the spot where his boat upset was very deep, but the body was recovered in about 12 feet of water and less than 50 feet from shore. Had he been able to swim another 20 feet he might have walked to shore, the water there being shallow enough to allow this. The late Jack Mitchell was a native of Woodstock, Ontario, and was only 29 years old at the time of death.

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