

Other Papers' Opinions

Mr. Fielding's Budget.
(St. Thomas Times-Journal.)

As a natural consequence of the advent to power of a new government its first budget proposals were awaited with unusual interest, more especially on account of the uncertainty that existed regarding possible tariff changes. On that all-important question Liberal spokesmen during the campaign that preceded the general election had expressed varying and widely separated views, differing in that respect from the Progressives, whose attitude had been sufficiently disclosed, so far, at least, as their western adherents were concerned. Because the present administration is more or less dependent on Progressive goodwill for the necessary parliamentary support, curiosity centred on the extent to which the Minister of Finance would go in meeting the western demand for large tariff reductions, although at the same time, confidence was latent that he did not contemplate a revision of the schedules in a way that would seriously endanger the Canadian industrial fabric. Taken in a general way, that confidence has been justified by the budget proposals presented by Hon. W. S. Fielding on Tuesday to the House of Commons. As was only to be expected, the principal concessions made to Progressive sentiment are in agricultural implements, where reductions of 2 1/2 per cent. on the hitherto prevailing duties have been made.

No reasonable critic would be inclined to minimize the difficulty of the task that confronted the Finance Minister. Faced with a serious gap between the estimated revenue and expenditure of the current fiscal year, based on the hitherto prevailing system of taxation, he was compelled to find additional sources of revenue and at the same time ensure that the old sources were not so impaired as to reduce materially the returns from them. Thus, if he expects that the reduction in the duties on agricultural implements will not be reflected in the yield from them, he would anticipate an increase in the volume of imported implements and to that extent check the demand for the Canadian product. On the other hand, the increase of the sales tax by fifty per cent. will go far to neutralize the tariff abatement and practically wipes out the possible advantage that the western farmers demanded. They benefit, however, in that relatively they will occupy a better position than they would have done had the old duties remained in force. Various other articles, enamelled ware, wrought iron tubing, tools, sawmill machinery, farm wagons, harness, window shades, clothes wringers, will be permitted to enter at slightly lower rates. British manufacturers are given an increased preference of 2 1/2 per cent. ad valorem on woven and knitted fabrics. Higher or new taxation on passenger automobiles valued at over \$1,200, on ale, beer, cigars and cigarettes, cheques, post office and express orders, telegrams and cablegrams, stock transfers, insurance premiums and bank note circulation, is also expected to bring more grist to the Dominion treasury.

Apparently the general idea that guided the Finance Minister in preparing his budget was to place the burden of taxation on the shoulders best able to sustain it and to relieve citizens of moderate means as far as possible. Whether or how far his proposals will succeed in achieving that aim, experience will show; but it is unlikely that any very appreciable relief will be secured. Placed in a situation where more revenue must be raised, it would pass the wit of any Finance Minister to devise a scheme that would satisfy every interest concerned. Until the war intervened with the vastly increased expenditure it entailed, the Dominion had raised its revenue mainly through indirect taxation, of which those who actually contributed were mostly unconscious, and by the proceeds of public services and property that did not mean taxation. The necessity of making ends meet compelled resort to direct or less indirect taxation, hence the income and business profits taxes and the sales tax. Mr. Fielding, apparently, was not prepared to impose higher direct taxation, the simplest way out of his dilemma, and therefore had a difficult and delicate course to steer among the conflicting interests of consumers, manufacturers and farmers. We believe he has striven to the best of his ability to frame a budget that will cause as slight a dislocation as possible to the existing order and to limit the burden on those of moderate and small means in a way that will enable them to adjust themselves to it. What is demanded more than anything else at this time is rigid administrative

economy and the practice of greater thrift by the people themselves, to which may be added acquirement of the habit of buying, preferably, necessary goods, the products of our own home industries.

A Combine for Coercion?
(Hamilton Herald.)

That agreement between Michael Collins and De Valera, by which a coalition of the Free State and Republican factions has been effected, is recognized by the London press as a surrender of the Free State representatives to the die-hard Republicans. And it is believed that the coalition has been brought about for the express purpose of utilizing the combined forces of the two factions in the harrying and coercion of the six northern counties.

It is earnestly to be hoped that this view of the situation is wrong. Possibly Collins and Griffith sincerely believed that the only way to ensure the peaceful holding of the elections next month was by coming to terms with their enemies.

However, the London press may prove to be not far wrong. If so, it will not be long before the real motive of the coalition is manifested. And it should not be forgotten that Collins is still an avowed Republican and has openly declared that he favoured the Anglo-Irish Treaty only because it cleared the way for the "complete realization of Irish national aspirations" later on. He and De Valera have the same goal in view; they differ only in their methods of reaching it. It is not difficult for two minds which agree in essentials to agree upon a working plan.

Whole World Invited.
(Christian Science Monitor.)

A notable decision was reached the other day when the council of the league of nations threw open the court of international justice to the whole world, ruling that Russia, Germany, Turkey, Hungary and Mexico, the only countries which heretofore had been excluded from its benefits, could bring cases before the court. The only condition imposed was that the nations in question agree to accept the decisions of the court and not to declare war over the disputes in question. Little by little the world is coming to recognize something beyond the limits of personal aggrandizement, and the nations, one by one, are learning to accept some of the privileges associated with being "my brother's keeper."

A New Mentor.
(London Express.)

Commander Kenworthy has been replaced in the House as the champion "butter-in" by Mr. Austin Hopkinson, the youngish Lancashire M. P., who gave up his castle to live in a cottage. Mr. Hopkinson has taken on himself the task of lecturing the House on any and all subjects. He stands up with his thumbs in his waistcoat armholes, his head on one side like a wise cock-sparrow, and delivers curtain lectures.

The House is very old and has been lectured for generations, so if it pleases Mr. Hopkinson to give advice no one else cares.

Everything Has Its Day.
(Emporia Gazette.)

The radio is a great thing, says an Emporia clothing dealer. When the detachable stiff cuffs went out of style the dealer was left with a stock of the old style links used to fasten the cuff and clip the cuffs to the shirt. During the past week radio bugs have bought all of the links. They use them to clip radio wires to batteries and wire coils. Where are the wire bustles that grandma used to wear? What a radio set grandma used to wear and didn't know it!

An Astonishing Utterance.
(Ottawa Journal.)

"The Japanese," Lord Northcliffe is reported by cable as having declared to an audience in London, "are the Germans of the East, perpetually burrowing, working, propagandizing, emigrating and spying all over the world. They are busy penetrating North America, and they are casting covetous eyes on the British Dominions."

It is an astonishing utterance by a man occupying the important position of Lord Northcliffe,—owner of the greatest British newspaper, and supposed to be personally one of the representative voices of England. One wonders—almost if the cable has not got things mixed up, and that instead of Lord Northcliffe speaking in London of Japan, it was really W. R. Hearst speaking in New York about Great Britain. It has really a rather villainous sound, this indictment by a very prominent Englishman of a friendly nation which has not only been long an ally of the British Empire, but has been behaving itself more decently in all world affairs of recent years than the great majority of other countries. Even if the indictment were true,

what good could be gained by its publication broadcast to the world by a man in Northcliffe's position? Would it alter the alleged Japanese mind, or lessen the number of alleged Japanese spies? Or at the worst is Japan going to be able to hurt the world's well-being when she has just deliberately agreed to reduce her navy to a strength far below that of either Britain or the United States? On the other hand, if the indictment is not true, it is a horrible libel on a great people.

The Mennonites.
(Victoria Times.)

It would be ridiculous to suggest that every member of the Mennonites possesses an over-developed faculty of taking all the advantages which the country has to offer in return for nothing more than his inclination dictates. There are undoubtedly many good farmers and good citizens among the Mennonites, who are still in the country and among those who thought they could do better for themselves in Mexico. But before they are allowed to enter British Columbia there should be a definite understanding that they are prepared to become good Canadians. Citizenship imposes obligations that must be accepted by all.

PRESENTATION IS MADE TO MISS MAY URQUHART

The Toronto Mail and Empire of May 23 refers to Miss May Urquhart, granddaughter of Mrs. T. R. Whelan of this place, as follows:

The men's and women's committees of the Port Credit and District Liberal-Conservative Association met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Urquhart in Port Credit to make a presentation to Miss May Urquhart, their only daughter, whose marriage to Dr. Archibald Kilgoure is to take place at their summer home, Lake Simcoe. The presentation of a mahogany tea wagon was made by Mr. Samuel Charters, M.P. for Peel. Dr. Kilgoure responded for Miss Urquhart. Mrs. Urquhart was then presented with a bouquet of Killarney roses by Major T. L. Kennedy, M.P.P. for Peel, as a token of appreciation of her services as president of the women's committee. Mrs. Urquhart responded suitably.

Miss Urquhart, as one of Port Credit's most popular daughters, has been the centre of many showers and teas. Last week's miscellaneous shower given for her by Mrs. J. J. Foy was especially interesting, when little Miss Betty Thomson brought in the gifts in a white rose-garlanded chariot laden to the top, she herself being dressed as a dainty little bride. The tea table was appropriately decked in bride roses and ferns centred by another little miniature bride, whose gown concealed the electric lamp and whose tufted veil with scattered flowers around a mirror formed a most picturesque decoration. A euclyre-tea was given in Miss Urquhart's honor last week by Mrs. Dixie Cotton and Miss Agnes Grey; also a kitchen shower by her girl associates in church work and handkerchief shower by the J.M.F. Club. Miss Nairn Lee also entertained in her honor.

Miss Urquhart came to Port Credit ten years ago, when her father became manager of the Sterling Bank.

Some men may be descended from monkeys, but others remind us that back in Bible days there was an ass that could speak.—Baltimore Sun.

ALMOST A CAT-ASTROPHE
(Wingham Times.)

A cat, chased by a dog, climbed to the top of a telephone pole and did a Blondin crossing Niagara act on the wires before she was finally rescued from her perilous position. Once pussy had scrambled to the top she turned and laughed in the face of her pursuer. Then tenderly, gingerly and circumspectly she reached out an inquiring paw toward the wire, drew back and, after a long pause, tried again. Then, as if satisfied, she struck boldly out. The crowd below shivered. All was well—just for a minute. Then her lithe body turned, swayed and in a jiffy a blurred, huddled ball was seen revolving on the wire like a squirrel in a cage. By this time Maurice Mitchell, Gibson Rintoul and Jim Scott had got hold of a blanket, and standing below in true firemen fashion prepared to catch pussy when she fell. Soon in spite of frantic clutches with long steeled claws, she was forced to let go her hold, and with one faint, despairing meow, dropped into the life-net below—safe! A moment later, without even stopping to say "thank you," Miss Pussy sat unconcernedly on the sidewalk, back to her rescuers, washing her face, serene in the knowledge that a life matters little anyway when you have eight left.

JUNE 3RD IN CHESLEY

The Bruce County Soldiers' Reunion 4th annual celebration will be held in Chesley June 3rd. A big day of sports, commencing with a most ludicrous All Fools' Parade at 40 a.m. Horse Racing, Baseball Tournament and Highland Dancing in the afternoon. In the evening a Marathon Race open to the High School students of the county in competition for the Bank of Hamilton Cup, Grand Fireworks Display and Band Concert. Bruce Regiment Band and Highland Pipers will furnish music. The day is planned to give the boys from overseas and their friends a day of real fun. Remember, every returned man wearing a service button, entitled to free admission to all events. See big bills.

THE OLD LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN REGARD TO TEA

The supply of tea in the world today is very much less than the constantly increasing demand. The recent reduction of four pence per pound of the duty on tea entering England, which is by far the largest tea consuming country in the world, has had a decidedly stimulating effect on consumption. It is expected that this further demand will force the price of tea still higher.

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LOCAL HYDRO COMMISSION MET AT EUGENIA ON MONDAY

Messrs. John Legate, John Parker, A. F. Armstrong and J. R. McLinden, were at Eugenia Falls Monday, and attended a meeting of the executive of the newly-formed Hydro-Electric Association, according to the Owen Sound Sun-Times. The executive will confer with the engineers at the Eugenia plant and will probably make some recommendations.

It is said that the Ontario Government will be asked to make some amendments to the Hydro Act whereby associations formed, such as by the Eugenia power municipalities, will be given certain authority to supervise expenditure on power plants, extensions, etc. This would prevent extensive alterations being made until business would warrant the expenditure. The Eugenia plant had its capital expenditure doubled since 1918 and the municipalities, who have to bear that cost, were not consulted or even advised of this before the work was authorized. The new executive, of which Mr. John Legate is chairman, is taking an aggressive interest in the problems that confront users of power from Eugenia. The organization formed at Durham two weeks ago promises to be the forerunner of other such associations in the province, which, combined, would exert a powerful influence.

TIP FROM MARKDALE RESULTED IN ARRESTS

Late Wednesday night of last week, T. J. Robinson of Orangeville got a tip from Markdale that a car containing liquor and a stolen grip was heading in the direction of Orangeville. He at once got in touch with High Constable Marshall and Nightwatchman J. J. Still. When the

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ear arrived in town the officers stopped it and found two men, Roy Campbell and Roy Pearce of Toronto, in it. There were also thirty bottles of liquor and a grip presumed to have been stolen at Markdale. The two men were brought before Police Magistrate Falconer, who remanded them for a week.

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