

# BROADCASTER

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## WHY BLAME THE COMMISSIONERS?

### Busy Session Is Predicted For The N. B. Legislature

#### Move to Help Farmer is Expected—Road Program Coming.

The Legislature of New Brunswick will be in session again by the time this paper gets to the readers. The usual ceremonies are being carried on at the opening on Thursday afternoon, and His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor is reading his Speech from the Throne. This speech is in line with other speeches, which touch upon some of the legislation that is likely to be considered by the legislature.

This session of the Legislature should be of greater interest than usual, for it is predicted in some quarters that there will be a provincial election before the next meeting of the legislature. If such a plan is being considered, the people can look for legislation that will give more work and put more money in circulation.

The farmers of New Brunswick are in bad shape, and it is expected that something will be done for them. It is probable that the government will establish some sort of a marketing arrangement. Probably a marketing body will be set up to sell products of the farm, which come up to certain standards. It is probable that the details of this plan will be placed before the legislature for discussion. Anything that will benefit the farmers will be given support by both parties, or at least that is the hope of the government.

The government has committed itself to a plan for providing permanent or hard surfaced highways. It had been hoped that the section of road from the St. Stephen border to Saint John would be given consideration this year, but there is a feeling that with an election in the offing, the hard-surface experiment will be (Continued on Page 16, Col. 5)

### THE NEWS On Review

The Irish Free State Senate has passed a motion urging the Government to approach the United Kingdom with a view to setting up a joint commission to put an end to economic warfare.

An effort by the newsprint producing industry of Canada and the United States to fix prices at \$41 a ton, encountered determined opposition from American publishers who left with National Recovery officials a virtual threat to go to court should it be approved.

Five hundred million dollars' worth of United States "panic" (Continued on Page 16, Col. 4)

## What Is the Matter with New Brunswick?

### To Our Readers

"The Maritime Broadcaster" has not changed ownership, neither has its management been altered. This paper, which this year has achieved the enviable position of being the Maritimes' most widely read weekly, will continue with its policy of constructive criticism and expression of independent opinion. It is not connected with any big interests and is not influenced by any political party. Its columns are open for the expression of its readers' opinions, which will be welcomed when dealing with matters of general interest.

A. W. THORNE,  
Managing Editor.

(The opinions expressed in these articles may or may not coincide with those of the management of "The Maritime Broadcaster." They are produced here with the idea of stimulating thought on the part of readers.—Editor.)

### Banking and Other Things

By JOHN MAYBEE FARMER

"But the drum answered, 'Come!'"

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"You must do the sum to prove it,"  
Said the Yankee-answering drum."

—Bret Harte, "The Reveille."

To resume: The question still before our part of "The Broadcaster's" audience is:

What, in general, is the state of the province? How badly are we off? What is ahead financially? What can be done for betterment?

Readers whose patience we have not yet exhausted, or whose noble stock of curiosity still has reserves untapped, will recall that, at the conclusion of last week's chronicle, this writer had been suggesting certain movements and projects of seeming importance to the general welfare, and asserting the power of our people to carry these to fruition.

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### YOUR VIEWS

#### WAKE UP, NEW BRUNSWICK!

Editor,  
The Maritime Broadcaster.

Sir:—If one word could be whispered so as to reach the inner consciousness of every man, woman, boy and girl of understanding age in the province, that one word should be AWAKE! For we as a people have long been asleep.

We have a wonderful heritage of farm lands and forest, of lakes and rivers, of mines and fisheries, with old ocean at our doors. Once we were known and honored abroad and had a proper pride in ourselves. Our vessels sailed the seven seas, and our products found ready markets. The names of our merchants were household words. In the professions were many notable men. At the Bar particularly "there were giants in those days." Some men yet living may remember their names, or they may perhaps be found in the dusty records of some historical society; men who could look higher than fees and perquisites and personal honors; men who could forget to be partisan when there was need to be patriotic.

That conditions have changed to our disadvantage is largely our own fault. We relied on promises that were not intended to be kept; we permitted our resources to be drained from us, both our young blood and our money, to enrich the west; we gave up control of our banks to Montreal and Toronto; and we put our merchants out of business, or turned them into petty shopkeepers, so that the profits of our domestic trade might go to Montreal or Toronto department or chain stores.

As one of the partners in the Federation, we willingly paid our share of the cost of canals, railways, public works, etc.; and also for the purchase and development of the vast north-west; but when settlement time came we found that we only held common stock which paid no dividends, while the dividend-paying preferred stock (Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

### Gossip From Far and Near

**UNCOLLECTED taxes!** There is the problem facing the mayor and commissioners of the City of Saint John. Why cannot people pay their taxes as well as other bills? One thing is that since time began there has been a certain bad odor surrounding taxes. They never were popular. People on salaries and wages find it hard to pay the lump sum of taxes required of them each year. Their incomes are pretty well taken up with current expenses and any unforeseen payment may wipe out the money saved for taxes and then the citizen must begin to save all over again.

**SOME** people say: "If they don't pay, put them in jail." That is a good theory, but the thousands of people, who have unpaid taxes due, would soon fill the jail and then the jail would be more popular than home and everyone would want to go there.

**IT** should be easier for salaried men and those on wages to pay in smaller amounts. The yearly tax might be collected over a period of months. The monthly payment of taxes might work out to the advantage of all concerned. The people at City Hall would like to learn a painless method of extracting taxes from the citizens. Why not offer a prize for the best workable plan submitted?

**FORGETTING** our taxes for a while until the constable makes his next call and turn to the season. Do you realize that next Wednesday is Valentine's Day and have you bought a valentine for your sweetheart? Or maybe you haven't sent a valentine to your wife for years. Well now is the time to try it.

**HOUSE-HUNTING?** There's a vicious pastime. Too many Saint John people live in rented houses. There should be more people own their own homes here. Other communities pride themselves on the number of homes owned by the people living in them. Sure the present owners of rentable property will say there are too many houses now. Sure, that is true, but there are houses and houses.

**THERE** are a lot of people in Saint John who want reform. That is, they want reform of the other fellow, but if any contemplated reform hits their own pockets, they try to shift the burden on some one else.

### Assessment Act Is The Cause Of Much Of City's Troubles

#### Citizens Fear Increased Taxation—People Themselves Are Responsible.

Citizens of Saint John are somewhat perturbed over the city estimates for the present year. The mayor and commissioners are coming in for a lot of criticism, when, as a matter of fact, the citizens themselves are responsible for the assessments and all the other civic administration.

First of all the citizens elect a mayor and commissioners and give them certain implements in the way of by-laws and acts with which to do their work. Even implements are in the hands of the citizens, whereby the mayor and commissioners may be pried from their positions if they are not satisfactory to the people. The citizens demand certain services and the city fathers are in duty bound to provide them, if in their judgment they are possible and the money can be raised to finance them.

While the City Council must collect money to carry schools, hospitals, etc., and only has about a third of the money collected to spend, the people must remember that it was on their authority that the school board and the hospital commission were given the power they have.

The people's representatives in the Legislature passed the laws, at some time, that gave the authority to these independent bodies. In the case of the school board, it should be possible if the people made the demand, to have the members elected. That system is in vogue in the country districts. But if the people want these powers back they must demand them.

However, as things stand, the city of Saint John requires more money than last year to carry on (Continued on Page 14, Col. 4)

### Around the Maritimes

The city of Sydney is endeavoring to have a vocational school established and the matter has been taken up with the provincial government.

Direct steamship service linking Halifax and Boston during the next tourist season is sought by the Nova Scotia Hotel Association.

Notice of incorporation of Marquette Securities, Ltd., \$150,000, Charlottetown, is given in a recent issue of the Canada Gazette.

Increases in freight handling in the Maritimes has led to several extra C.N.R. locomotives being (Continued on Page 7, Col. 3)