

BROADCASTER

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Civic Government Changes Proposed For Saint John

To Conduct City Affairs On Business Lines Is Objective.

Changes in the form of civic government in Saint John are proposed by the Civic Improvement League in co-operation with other organizations. A bill for presentation to the Provincial Legislature for ratification is now being drawn up. The plan is to organize the city government along business lines with a council similar to a board of directors, who will be concerned solely with legislative matters while the actual conduct of the various departments will be in the hands of the permanent officials, who will be responsible to the whole council and not to individuals. The proposed council is to consist of seven members, all elected at large.

Elections are to be held every two years on the first Tuesday in November and the council will take office on the first Monday in December following.

The councillors will be required to devote what time is necessary for conducting the city business and their salaries will be fixed at \$750 a year. Councillors may be engaged in business but they must not be members of the Senate of Canada, House of Commons or the Legislative Assembly.

Under the present draft there are to be seven departments: Finance, assessment, purchasing, fire, police, public works, water and sewerage, harbor, ferries, public lands and buildings. The common council will have the authority to combine, alter or abolish the departments or any of them as from time to time may be deemed expedient.

The council must meet at least once a week and all meetings are to be open to the public. The council is to exercise a general supervision over all departments, officials and services of the city, for the purpose of ascertaining that the business of the city is efficiently conducted.

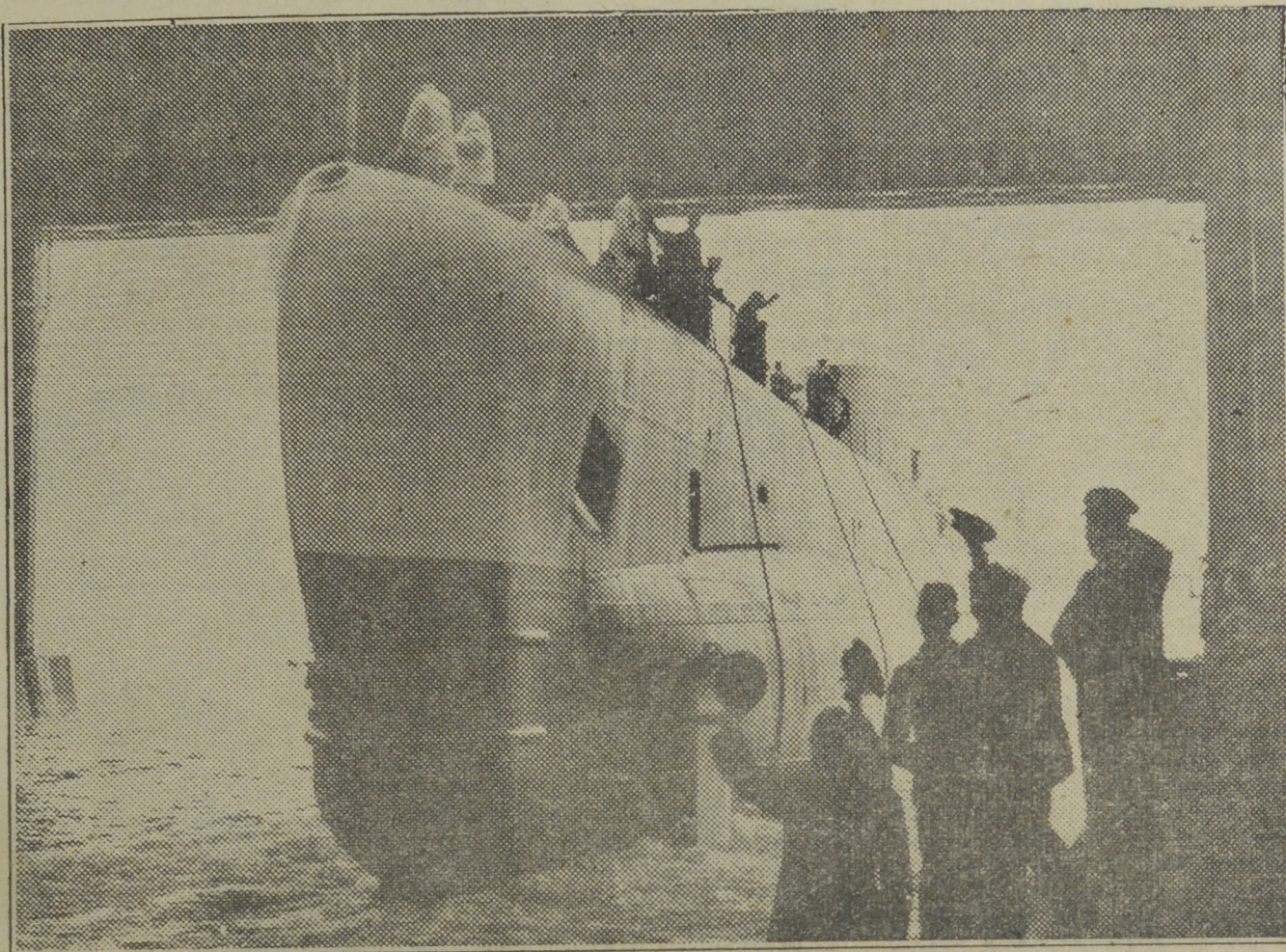
These are the chief changes, excepting in the matter of voting, which is to be conducted along the lines of federal elections.

It is the hope of those sponsoring the new form that it will bring out as candidates for civic offices the best class of citizens and that it will do away with the abuses which are now apparent. In making the draft for this change those engaged in the work got the views of as many people as possible and those reforms considered feasible are contained in the new form. It is the hope of those backing the move that the citizens will give their whole-hearted support to this effort to bring efficient government to the City of Saint John.

£3,000 ASKED—£373 GIVEN

It was reported at the annual meeting of the Dumfries Burns Club that subscriptions were coming in very slowly towards the cost of the new statuary at the Burns Mausoleum in St. Michael's churchyard, Dumfries. Of the £3,000 which has been asked, only £373 has been contributed to date. The £373 includes a donation of a hundred guineas from the Burns Federation.

BRITAIN COMMENCES TO STRENGTHEN HER NAVY



Great Britain has started a very ambitious campaign to strengthen her defense—army, navy and air force, and it is estimated that \$250,000,000 will be spent within the next three years on armaments. Here we see the "Grampus" leaving the slipway after being christened

by Lady Evans, wife of Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Evans, commander-in-chief of the "Nore." The submarine was laid down in August, 1934, and will be completed about the end of this year. Her length is 271 feet 6 inches, breadth 25 feet 6 inches, displacement of 1,520 tons.

Maritime Problems Presented Before The House of Commons

W. M. Ryan Sees Benefits in the Dominion—United States Reciprocal Trade Agreement.

Some of the problems of the Maritime Provinces were placed before the House of Commons by W. M. Ryan, of Saint John-Albert, last week, when he took part in the debate on the reciprocal trade agreement between the Dominion and the United States. While Mr. Ryan saw great benefits coming to the Maritimes because of this agreement he referred to the Duncan Commission report and the Maritime Freight Rates Act as already helping to eliminate some of the difficulties experienced in these Provinces. No doubt Mr. Ryan has another occasion when he has more time will bring to the attention of the members of the Commons the fact that had all the terms of the Confederation Agreement been carried out, the Maritime Provinces would have had fewer problems and there would have been little need of the Duncan Commission and the Maritime Railway Freights Act. However, Mr. Ryan in his remarks dealt with the Maritimes in part as follows:

"Two of the greatest handicaps we have had to combat since the days of Confederation have been discrimination in freight rates and inability to find a market for our natural products. I am happy to say here that, thanks to a Liberal Government presided over by the present Prime Minister, the question of freight rates was partly solved by the introduction into this house of the Maritime Freight Rates Act, and today we must again extend our thanks to the same government, presided

over by the same able leader, for assisting us in solving our other difficulties of finding markets."

Mr. Ryan was voicing his approval of the reciprocal trade agreement with the United States and he saw in that great benefit for the Maritime Provinces in opening up new markets for the natural products of these Provinces.

He also referred to the Duncan Commission and its report in which was emphasized the need of wider markets for Maritime products. He quoted from that report as follows: "On the question of markets, witnesses who appeared before us from New Brunswick expressed the unanimous opinion that a trade treaty with the United States in respect to forest products would greatly benefit industry in the Maritime Provinces and result in extensive development."

Referring to the reduction of the United States tariff on fish, Mr. Ryan said: "In checking the schedule I find that the rate on halibut is reduced from two cents to one cent per pound, the rate on salmon from two to one and one-half cents per pound, and the rate on smoked herring from one and one-quarter cents to five-eighths cent per pound. There is added assurance lobsters and shell fish shall be kept on the free list for at least three years. These are matters of tremendous importance to the people of the Maritimes. We in New Brunswick are deeply interested in the shipment of smoked herring, and the

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Unemployment In Great Britain Now Showing A Decline

There Are 260,442 Fewer Jobless Than in February Last Year.

London, England.—British unemployment dropped by 134,701 to 2,025,021 in February, according to returns released this week. This made up for almost half the January increase.

The decrease had been expected since the January count was made on a day when inclement weather halted most outdoor occupations. The day of the February count also was unfavorable in some parts of the country, but conditions generally were not bad enough to make building and other similar work impossible.

There were 260,442 fewer jobless than in February last year. Insured persons at work rose by 126,000 to 10,475,000, which was 378,000 over February last year.

Most of the increase in employment was in building, but tailoring also showed marked signs of the spring revival.

There was increased unemployment in coal mining in South Wales, the scene of recent labor trouble.

RECLUSE OF 95 BURNED

Horsham, Eng.—John Horatio Pitcher, aged ninety-five, was fatally burned when the primitive shack in which he had lived for many years at Cowfold, near here, was destroyed by fire. It was believed that Mr. Pitcher had been a professor of law and music and an authority on agriculture and finance. When his wife, a French woman who had been an actress, died some fifty years ago, he went into seclusion.

Gossip from Far and Near

ONE runaway horse took part in the proceedings preliminary to the opening of the New Brunswick Legislature last Thursday in Fredericton. The ten members of the New Brunswick Dragoons had just arrived in front of the Parliament buildings when the loose work horse arrived also. This horse was equipped with collar, traces and other harness necessary for a hard-working horse. First it took a place among the mounted Dragoons and seemed to think that was its place for a time. But it soon altered its opinion and proceeded on a canter of its own. It broke up the formation of the Dragoons and then proceeded to circle into the crowd, present for the opening of the Legislature. There was much scattering but after making two circles of the area in front of the building the horse loped down Waterloo Row and its interest in the proceedings ended. That was one incident which may not have been recorded in the daily papers in the account of the opening of the Legislature.

WHEN members assembled in the legislative chamber on Thursday morning to take the oath of allegiance, several members forgot their black neckties and there was some re-adjustment before all were properly dressed. It was noted that many, who were supposed to wear black neckties forgot to acquire that article before going to Fredericton, with the result that there was a scarcity and most of the shops sold all their stock.

ONE innovation that did not last long was the placing of the clerk's desk directly in front of the Throne. It remained there during Thursday but was moved back to its old place at the left of the Throne for the next day. The space allotted to newspaper representatives has been shifted between the two doors leading out to the corridor. It formerly was in the western corner of the chamber. Members now get their mail at a new booth located under the stairs in the main hall.

MEMBERS of the Legislature, apparently, are anxious to speed up the business of the session. An effort is being made to have all legislation of a private or municipal nature submitted early so that it can be cleaned up as early as possible, for there appears a determination to complete the business of the House within five weeks. Those who are late in presenting their bills are liable to disappointment. St. Stephen has shown the way by having bills presented last Friday.

SO FAR there has been paid a total of \$150,000 on this year's taxes in Saint John. These are prepayments and the citizens who have paid will be entitled to the regular discount as well as receiving interest on their prepayments. Besides being of benefit to those who pay, the scheme helps the city by reducing its overdraft and thus cutting down on bank interest that would have to be paid.