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B.N.A. Act Change Vitally Concerns Working People

Protection of the Weak is Only Possible Through Imperial Connection.

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To no class of people in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is the proposed amending of the British North America Act of more vital importance, than to the working people of these three provinces who number about 80 per cent. of our total Maritime population. Never in our history has such a question arisen that is fraught with such grave potentialities to our working classes, employed or unemployed organized or unorganized and, to the generations immediately following who will in due course take their place in factory, mine or mill, in the forest or on the land, in our mercantile establishments and offices and on our railways and water transportation systems.

That one may have a proper perspective of the far reaching possibilities of such a stupendous step into the economic future, it is essential that the working people of the three provinces have a clear conception of our economic position prior to Confederation, so that they may fully realize to what extent we have suffered by the utter disregard of the Confederation contract, and the deliberate and persistent concentration of commerce, industry and finance in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which has resulted in the heartless bleeding of our once prosperous Maritime people; the forced migration of tens of thousands of the best citizenry that ever blessed any land forcing them to seek a home and a livelihood in a foreign land, the United States, thus weakening still further our possible industrial development.

It will be readily conceded that the economic welfare of working people is entirely dependent on the basic or natural wealth of the country. Together with the development of its primary industries such as mining, fishing and lumbering and its necessary secondary industries, such as railways and water transportation services, is coupled the paramount necessity of the expansion of markets for our products, either raw or manufactured. It is growth of such factors that makes possible the employment of the natural increase of our population and the absorption of immigrant labor from less favored countries.

As wealth, commerce and industrial development advance in a country, so also must the living and social standards of working people advance if that country is to retain a reasonable equilibrium, one is dependent upon the other, neither can reach a balanced proportion independently. Generally speaking, such was the condition of our working classes previous to the year 1867 when each of the Maritime Provinces were importing labor both skilled and unskilled, when there was no such thing as unemployment, doles or bread lines. Social unrest, dis-

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Cutting of the Imperial Tie Means Doom to Maritimes

Centralization Is Working Hardship On The Maritimes

Wealth Has Been Shifted From the East to Ontario.

The federal taxes on incomes makes a picture that should interest everyone included in this partnership known as the Dominion of Canada but it is particularly interesting to citizens of the Maritime Provinces. The taxes levied and collected through Saint John amounted to \$759,033 and through Halifax \$1,094,775, while through the office at London, Ontario, there was collected \$6,749,346.

Back at the time of Confederation New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were far richer than the two provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which were then known as Canada. New Brunswick was paying its way. There was industrial activity in all parts of the province and there was no unemployment. What is now the Province of Ontario, on the other hand, was almost bankrupt and the people living there were in a very poor financial state.

The changes that have come since Confederation have reversed conditions and Ontario has been built into the strongest province of the Confederation while New Brunswick has gone back. This change has come about by the centralization scheme which has been put over to the detriment of all the provinces with the exception of Ontario and a portion of Quebec.

There will be voices raised in protest and it will be said that what has happened to New Brunswick is the fault of her own people. Be that as it may the fact remains that this province has been contributing heavily toward the prosperity of Ontario. We have helped to pay for the great public works in Ontario and portions of Quebec.

The three Maritime Provinces should be concerned over the present situation. In income tax alone these three provinces are paying into the federal treasury \$2,221,343, or more than we get from the federal treasury as grants. Besides that we pay our share in customs, excise, sales tax, and other tribute to the powerful Central Province.

These three provinces are paying approximately \$50,000,000 annually toward the upkeep of the Dominion. Some will say we are getting it back but that is a fallacy that has been spread by propagandists who favor the centralization of industry and the concentration of power. It will be pointed out that we have had some \$15,000,000 spent on the harbor of Saint John and another \$20,000,000 on the Halifax harbor, which makes \$35,000,000, which is a large sum, but when

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THE DESTINY of the Dominion of Canada is in the balance. The intention of the Confederation agreement is not in evidence any longer. Many of the Provinces are exhausted. They find they cannot go on contributing to the policy of centralization which has built Ontario into a unit that is trying its hardest to dominate all the other Provinces. There are interests at work trying to convert this confederation of Provinces into a democracy, where might would be right and the minorities would be reduced to a state of slavery.

For the last fifty years insidious propaganda has been spread throughout the Provinces and the rights of the people have been submerged by the manipulations of the big interests. Now those big interests find that the Imperial connection stands in the way of their selfish aims and they are willing, in fact quite determined, to sever those connections in order that they may work their own selfish purposes.

Through their propaganda they have made the people believe that what they do is right and that the weaker Provinces must take just what they are given. Those Provinces which were sincere in their endeavor to build up a strong and virile nation have been hoodwinked. They have practiced those virtues which should be in evidence in all people.

We in the Maritimes have shown a desire for peace and good will. The people of these Provinces have practiced being good neighbors and in that they have considered the rights and aims of others to their own detriment. The spirit of selfishness so far as the other Provinces was concerned was submerged. The desire for fair play was much in evidence.

In order to be good neighbors suspicions give place to friendships. Strife and bitterness, poverty and want are the parasites bred in the swamp of selfishness and greed and have no place in a good neighbor's garden. But neighborliness cannot be one-sided. There must be co-operation.

New Brunswick has endeavored to be a good neighbor to the other Provinces. There has been no fence around our preserves. As a result the people of this Province have seen the greed of the more powerful Provinces beat down a trail by means of which industry and trade have been taken away. New Brunswick wishes to still be neighborly but suppose this Province should say to Central Canada, we are tired of this one-sided friendship. We have decided to put up a fence at our borders, from now on you play in your yard and we will play in ours. You in Ontario and part of Quebec are not playing the game. We gave you access to our fields and all you have done is flood those fields with your goods, while you refuse to buy from us. Your monopolistic interests have wrecked many of our industries and threaten what is left with extinction. The Port of Saint John is not being utilized to handle your goods excepting in emergency and we propose to play the part of good neighbors to ourselves as well as to you. If New Brunswick said this, what do you think would happen?

There is a time when neighborliness must give place to self-preservation when the other fellow refuses to be a neighbor.

The Imperial connection has been the safeguard of the minorities in this Dominion and the severance of that connection would work further hardships upon the weak.

But why is all this propaganda for the severance of the Imperial connection launched at this time? Is it to give ammunition for those propagandists whose aim is to break up the British Empire? What better news could Mussolini receive than that the Dominion of Canada is going to break with Britain? What better news could Soviet Russia hear than that the British Empire is breaking up and that Canada is moving out? What better word could Hitler get than that the Dominion of Canada wants to set up housekeeping for herself without any Imperial strings? And what hope has New Brunswick or any of the other smaller Provinces of getting wrongs righted if Ottawa is to have full control of the constitution?

In some ways New Brunswick may be handicapped but geographically she seems to be ideally situated and in a rather commanding place should she desire to take advantage of that position. Should the Province see the need of deciding to withdraw from the Dominion and set up as a separate Dominion, there would be few people in the Province who would say no. The people have come to realize that they have for many years been just a meal ticket for selfish interests and pawns for party policies, while their own table has been shorn even of the necessities of life.

Mr. Dysart and Mr. McNair and the other representatives of the people have made a good start and it is the hope of right-thinking people that they will stick to their guns and see that the heritage left by our forefathers is preserved for this and the coming generations. Let us continue to be good neighbors and in being good neighbors we must see that others are also good neighbors. Let us see that the partnership agreement of Confederation is carried out and that we share in the prosperity of the Dominion. But if the other partners will not carry out the agreement of the partnership then it is time that the partnership be dissolved.

Gossip from Far and Near

THE PROVINCES of the Dominion of Canada pride themselves on the progress being made in agriculture; but a few days ago there was brought to Vancouver from New Zealand a large shipment of butter.

DOMINION Bureau of Statistics issues the statement that more than \$6,000,000 worth of automobiles were sold in the Dominion during the month of November.

HERE it is verging on to the middle of January. We have had the usual January thaw and it is expected that the January sales will be starting soon. So far as Saint John is concerned the weather so far this season has been extremely mild, and on Saturday the streets were in mid-summer condition.

THE LINDBERGHs are now in Wales, so the newspapers tell us. Some of the papers seem all hot and bothered because they cannot find out why they are there, how long they will remain and a lot of other things. If the Lindberghs want to mind their own business and live within the law why should they not be permitted to do so without being pestered by publicity. If fear for the safety of their child caused them to leave the United States, the papers are not helping them much by publishing accounts of their movements. It is a good thing the modern press was not in existence when Jesus was born or Mary and Joseph would have had a much more serious time evading the gangster, Herod.

OFTEN we read of bootleggers being sent to jail for a term for selling liquor illegally. It might be a good move to tax these offenders for their board while in jail serving a sentence. Evidently they are making a large profit on handling illegal liquor and there is little reason for the taxpayers paying for their board while they are serving sentences. Any move to relieve the taxpayers even just a little bit should be welcomed at this time.

THERE is a feeling at Ottawa that there will be some change in radio control. There is a possibility that Parliament will make changes in the working of the commission and adopt a new plan of financing. There is much dissatisfaction over the kind of programs supplied by the commission and there are complaints over the fee demanded for each receiving set. It is possible that a tax on tubes may be substituted for the present \$2 annual fee. There are some members of Parliament who favor returning radio to private ownership and this group may gain strength when the question is brought up at the session of Parliament which is about to open.

SOMETHING may be done about agriculture in New Brunswick. A conference of those connected with the Provincial Department is being held in Fredericton. From this it is expected that something will develop which will assist all branches of farming.