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More Interest In Civic Affairs By Citizens Needed

Something Wrong With Saint John—People Must Make Reforms.

What is wrong with Saint John? The views of several citizens were expressed in "The Maritime Broadcaster" last week. More opinions are offered each day and there is some evidence of the citizens taking more interest than usual in civic affairs. If the people would learn for themselves what is going on at City Hall and in the various departments of civic government they would be in better position to make some suggestions for reform.

There is something wrong with Saint John, as there is with every other community but some of the wrongs can be corrected so that this city will become a better place in which to live, but the citizens cannot leave all the reforms to their elected representatives at City Hall. There must be co-operation and helpful suggestions made. The views of the citizens must be sent to City Hall so that the mayor and the commissioners will have some idea of what they are expected to do. In the past, on occasion, there have been delegations make demands on the Common Council and because there were no voices raised in protest it was taken that the people were making the demands. In reality some of the demands were for the benefit of some particular group or individual and not for the benefit of the city as a whole.

The citizens, who have been in communication with this paper, are desirous of making Saint John a better city and their ideas are voiced with that aim in view. They have no personal axes to grind in this connection but they are seriously concerned over the mounting burden of taxation and inability of the people to continue to carry this burden.

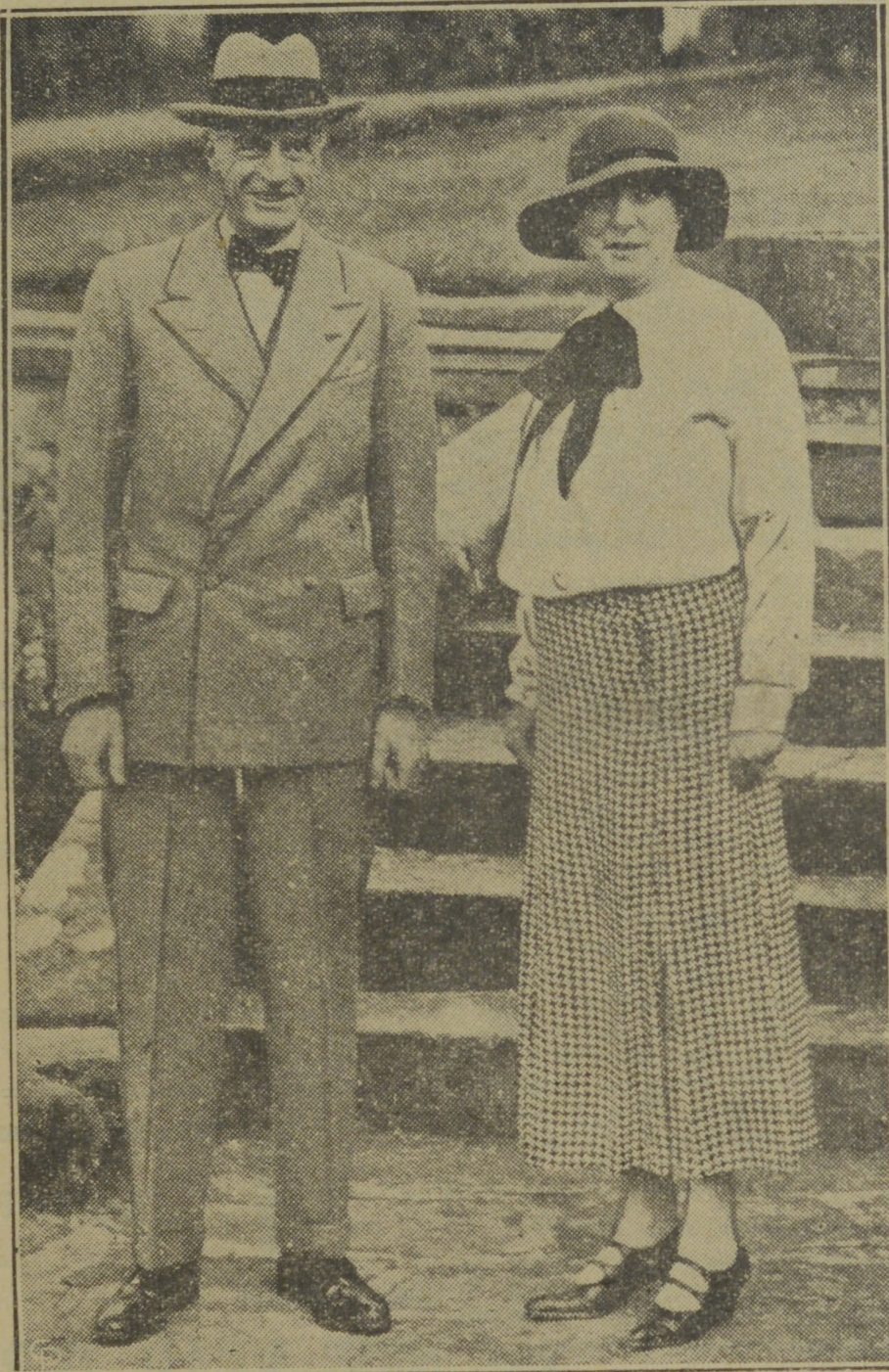
There is a letter this week objecting to a correspondent's suggestion that there be a town manager for Saint John. The main flaw in such a plan of government as this writer sees it is that another expert would be necessary and that would mean going outside Saint John for a qualified man. The writer of the letter says that the people of Saint John are capable of running their own government and there are plenty of citizens who would undertake to run the civic business if they were permitted to look after their private affairs as well. "We have seen enough experts and it is time we got down to business among ourselves. There are plenty of men who have made a success of their own businesses who would give part of their time to civic affairs if given an opportunity. Let us make Saint John a home-governed city and then we will be getting somewhere. At present we are trying too many things that do not satisfy."

Another writer says: "There is only one person in the city of Saint John responsible for the debacle into which the city has fallen and that one person is the taxpayer. Taxpayers in Saint John have been apathetic toward

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Unemployment Relief Schemes Are Putting Extra Burden On Maritimes

BRITISH HEAD IN ETHIOPIA



Still carrying out British negotiations in Addis Ababa with Emperor Haile Sellassie is SIR SIDNEY BARTON, who is seen here in a recent picture with LADY BARTON, in front of the beautiful (though now fortified) grounds of the British legation in Addis Ababa.

People Of The Maritimes Must Mobilize To Progress

Provinces in an Economic War that Requires Every Ounce of Energy To Be Successfully Concluded.

We remember back during the Great War reading of how the people of England turned in to the Government ornaments of gold to assist the country's finances to help battle against the foe. Today the people of Italy are digging up articles of gold to go into the melting pot to help finance another war.

We decry the war of aggression that Italy is waging as unjust and unfair, in which by armed force they wish to become possessed of the rights and goods of others. If we in the Maritimes were threatened with invasion by an armed force which would destroy our property and lay waste our lands, and there was need of gold to help defend us against such a foe, how quickly the spirit of patriotism would show itself and we would rise as one to give not only our gold, but our very lives

in defence of our home and native land.

Wars, however, are not waged only by machine guns, bombs and bayonets. Economic warfare while perhaps not taking the same toll of life, can lay waste property, wreck homes, and make for much unhappiness, distress and want, but does it not seem strange that to be moved to a real spirit of patriotism we apparently must be faced with the enemy, armed with the modern engines of destruction used in armed warfare.

For many years the peoples of the Maritime Provinces have been subjected to an economic war, a scientifically operated force which has destroyed and laid waste these provinces, bringing untold misery and want to thousands of our people, and yet we have done little or nothing to

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Three Provinces Are Paying to Help Richer and Stronger Provinces.

The people of the Maritime Provinces are being taxed to pay for unemployment relief not only in the Maritimes but in other provinces as well. Even under the new proposal these provinces will be providing more in taxation than they will receive. As a matter of fact the Maritime Provinces would be better off if they were providing for their own relief. The monthly grants to all the provinces for unemployment relief will be \$3,064,687.50 under the proposed new arrangement. This sum must be collected from the people and on a per capita rate the Maritime Provinces will be paying one-tenth of this, or \$306,468.75.

But under the new arrangement the three Maritime Provinces will get back only \$115,937.50 for relief purposes and the other \$180,531.25 will be used to help other and wealthier provinces to provide for their unemployment relief. In other words the unemployment relief scheme is just another racket by which the people of the Maritimes are called upon to pay extra taxes.

Under the new proposal Prince Edward Island will receive a monthly allowance for relief of \$2,187.50; Nova Scotia, \$70,000 and New Brunswick, \$43,750.

The Province of British Columbia, whose population is slightly larger than Nova Scotia is to get \$262,500, or more than three times what Nova Scotia will be paid. But conditions in Nova Scotia, particularly in the fishing industry, are just as bad as in British Columbia. The story for the other provinces is similar to that. Still we are told that we are getting a fair deal and some of our own people seem imbued with this idea, in spite of the fact that we are helping other provinces to carry their load as well as supporting our own unemployed. The federal authority is taking from the weaker provinces to build up the more powerful and wealthy units of the Dominion.

The monthly grants from the federal treasury for unemployment relief as recommended by the new plan will be as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$2,187.50; Nova Scotia, \$70,000; New Brunswick, \$43,750; Quebec, \$875,000; Ontario, \$1,050,000; Manitoba, \$236,250; Saskatchewan, \$350,000; Alberta, \$175,000; British Columbia, \$262,500.

So another of the theories that the Maritimes are receiving more than they give is exploded. The people are the source of all taxes and throughout the Dominion of Canada the people must pay for the carrying on of the government and all its affairs. So in getting money for unemployment relief New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are not profiting. They are paying more than their share and they would be much better off if they were handling their own unemployment problems. Just now we are helping other provinces, which might be considered a friendly gesture but the provinces that are getting our money are better off than we.

Gossip from Far and Near

A GENUINE Rembrandt painting worth \$35,000 went a begging for a buyer in Halifax recently. The picture was in an auction room but no one knew its value and it went to Quebec where it passed unnoticed, but in Ottawa it was sold for \$35. Now it is recognized as genuine Rembrandt and is valued at \$35,000. The picture came from England to Halifax and was not considered valuable, either in England or Halifax. All of us cannot be experts and know the real value of things we see, so Halifax people should not be down-hearted over a little thing like \$35,000.

HALIFAX papers chronicle the fact that there was a lot of thieving going on in that city on Christmas Eve. Purses were snatched and even Christmas parcels were taken from people, who had made purchases. Maybe Halifax people have a wrong conception of the Christmas spirit. It is usually believed that Christmas is the season of giving, not taking, but judging by the port business in Halifax, the people over there are real go-getters. Maybe that is the spirit that was somewhat in evidence on Christmas Eve.

SAINT JOHN is having a nice winter. Usually there are nice winters but this one is somewhat milder than usual. Here it is after Christmas and people are still using their bicycles. Throughout the province there is a fair amount of snow but it is on soft ground and is said to be of the variety that will not last long when the sun gets a little hotter. The lakes and rivers have been in good shape for skating and that pastime has been popular for the last few weeks.

NOW THAT the New Year is really here and everyone has made the necessary resolutions, which will be carried out at least for a day or two, we can settle down to the real business of the year which is to make the Maritime Provinces better places in which to live. In order to do this there must be some personal effort on the part of the people because everything cannot be left to the governments. After all, the governments are made up of men who have troubles of their own besides those they must bear for the state. They are only human and can do no more than other human beings. So it will be necessary for each individual to do something for himself. It is no use waiting for a government job. They are scarce and then if you do get one you are liable to lose it whenever the government changes again. The personal effort and initiative must not be allowed to die, but everyone must get to work on his own problems and solve them for himself. There are many things that a person can do to better his position and each person is responsible for himself if he is in physical condition necessary for his undertaking. Leaving too much to Government will mean that eventually persons become mere machines and the individual initiative will be a thing of the past.