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NOT ENCOURAGING

The lack of interest which is being shown in town affairs by our citizens is far from encouraging. A total of nine attended the annual town meeting on Monday evening, and five out of the nine did not arrive until almost an hour after the time advertised for the meeting. This is not at all as it should be. There are lots of citizens who criticize the work of the council and the individual councillors. This does not necessarily mean that the councillors are not doing the right thing. The Angel Gabriel would be criticized quite as severely if he tried to administer the affairs of Woodstock, or of any other town.

Healthy, constructive criticism is a good thing. It brings to the attention of the parties concerned valuable ideas which might not have occurred to them, and has the effect of keeping them on the job all the time. Criticism of an abusive or destructive nature is an altogether different thing, and is one of the

main reasons why so many of our leading men refuse to offer for the council.

The town meeting is the place where citizens, whether satisfied or not with the way affairs are conducted, can learn just what is going on. It is the one time and place where the councillors, whether they want to or not, must answer the questions of the citizens, and explain how, when why, and wherefore this thing or that was done or was not done.

Apparently few of the citizens were sufficiently interested this year to spend an hour in listening to town affairs being discussed. With this in view it hardly seems to us that there is much licence for street corner criticism during the next few months. The citizens had an opportunity on Monday to ask the council just what they were doing, and they didn't take it.

PARLIAMENT MEETS

With all the customary pomp and circumstance Canada's Parliament

will open at Ottawa today. The House will meet under happier auspices than for several years past. Financial problems are still pressing, but the depression is receding into history. National revenues are mounting and the gap between receipts and expenditures steadily growing less. Canadian exports have shown a huge expansion during the past year, internal business is better, and indications are not lacking that the days of balanced budgets are again approaching.

The result of wise and sane administration and enlightened trade policies is already becoming apparent. Under the King government Canada is steadily progressing toward genuine prosperity, and every prospect points to a great era of development of our great natural resources, sadly neglected during depression days when there was little point in exploiting raw materials when there was no market for the finished product.

No doubt in some quarters it will be claimed that Canada's better national showing this year is due altogether to improving times. To which it may be replied that the general rule is that times are good under Liberal governments and poor under Conservative ones, and a scrutiny of the last forty years will bear this contention out.

At any rate the year just closed has been the best one Canada has had since the beginning of the depression, and a still better showing is expected for the present year.

Of particular interest will be the government's defence policy. Hon.

Ian MacKenzie, Minister of Defence, during the past year put through the long expected re-organization of the Canadian militia. The re-organization did not appear to be especially popular among militiamen, but doubtless it was necessary and certainly it was not planned and carried out until after careful consideration. There are whispers that the government has come to recognize the necessity of more military preparedness on the part of Canada, and that this year's defence requirements will be vastly greater than those of the recent past.

A HORRIBLE CRIME

Once again the entire continent has been shocked by a horrible crime, the brutal murder of the little Mattson boy near Tacoma, Wash. The child was slain while his father carried on negotiations with his brutal kidnapper. In some respects the crime was not unlike the notorious Lindbergh baby case. However, in this case the authorities have considerably more in the way of clues to work on, and with a tremendous man hunt now in progress there is no reason to doubt that the murderer will be brought to justice.

The United States has suffered during recent years to an alarming extent from kidnapping for ransom some times followed by murder. The Mattson case was the only serious one of this kind during the last year, however. Fortunately the forces of law and order have been very much on the alert for this type of crime, and in practically every case a solution has been reached and the guilty par-

ties caught and severely punished. Few if any of the previous crimes of this nature were as brutal and callous as the present one. The police can confidently rely on the co-operation of every decent citizen in running the murderer to the earth. When he is caught, and we have no doubt that he will be caught, it is safe to assume that he will pay the extreme penalty for his crime.

It must be apparent to the most humanitarian that while this type of criminal continues to exist there can be no abolition of the death penalty for murder.

HEALTH IN A DROUGHT AREA

When crops wither and fruit shrivels, where there is no hay and not even thistles under the parching sun over the drought-stricken Dakotas and Montana—how can health be preserved? Such was the problem faced by the United States Children's Bureau in July 1936 when the crops had failed. One-third to one-half of the population of these states expected to be on relief, during the winter. Without milk, fruit and vegetables children would suffer the effects of malnutrition until the 1937 harvest had been gathered. Medical care would be beyond the purse of many and expectant mothers were planning to be delivered by neighbors.

What was done is told in the September 1936 issue of "The Child," publication of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor. Federal money (social securities fund), the United States Chil-

dren's Bureau, the Works Progress Administration and the National Youth Administration came to the assistance. The number of public health nurses has been increased in the areas. Special attention and assistance to the dietary needs of children has been provided. Even cod liver oil is being supplied and widely distributed.

Such flexible health and welfare services that can meet emergencies vigorously and effectively are as necessary to the life of modern nations as are good roads and schools. In those countries where distances are great prosperity may be regional and local health services can suffer with local economic distress. Then it is that Federal services can maintain stability by taking up the slack.

A citizen in the West today may be a citizen dwelling in the East tomorrow; his health can become an interprovincial and a national commodity; it cannot be solely the concern of local or state or provincial authority for the health of all the people within a nation must be ensured of stable continuous protection. In large federated countries such as Canada and the United States strong leadership from the National Government and its services are essential in the maintenance of the nation's health.

NEW LEGISLATION FOR MOTHERS IN ENGLAND

Parliament in England has recently taken one more forward step in the attempt to ensure that every expect-

ant mother in England may have skilled nursing care. The Midwives Act of July 1936 makes it the duty of local authorities to ensure that there are enough trained midwives in the area to satisfy the local needs.

The word "midwife" has a very different meaning in England than in Canada. The English midwives are specially trained in hospitals for maternity nursing and require a certificate of such training. In practice they do much of the education and supervision of the mother both before and after childbirth and they co-operate closely with the physician during childbirth.

The details of the new English scheme probably could not be used in Canada where our social resources and customs are different. But the principle that adequate maternity care should exist for all mothers of a community is as sound in America as it is in Europe.

Such services require the closest co-operation of the mother with the adequate medical and nursing and hospital services. And we know that Canada's record in saving and caring for her mothers is still not as good as some countries such as New Zealand. In 1935 we had 1,093 women die in this country as a result of child-bearing and some of these deaths were needless. The example of the action of the English Parliament should encourage us then to find out our own solution to this problem. By some form of governmental or voluntary plan proper maternity care must be brought within the reach of all Canadians.

JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

Commencing Saturday, January 16th. Continuing to January 31st.

January being a clearance month, it is to be expected that Woodstock's leading store would dispose of all seasonable goods at greatly reduced prices. We will not disappoint our many customers, but will offer prices so low as to be ridiculous in the face of a steadily advancing market. We will offer discounts in all departments together with special offers as low as HALF PRICE. Buy Reliable Goods from a Reliable Stock.

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