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DR. W. C. MILNER DEALS WITH THE TROUBLES OF THE MARITIMES; PLAIN TALK FROM A VETERAN

(Dr. W. C. Milner, in the Toronto
Globe.)

Some of the grievances of the Mar-
time Provinces can be met by the
Ottawa authorities, and others are
beyond their jurisdiction. The gravita-
tion of population, capital and indus-
tries toward large centres is a law of
nature, not within legislative or arti-
ficial restraint.

Before the Intercolonial opened up
the Maritime Provinces to the enter-
prise of the central cities, they were
self-contained communities, produc-
ing largely what they needed, and
growing in population and wealth.

Every village and most crossroad
settlements were semi-independent.
They had one or more stores, with
post office, church, school, a black-
smithy, shoemaker or two, tailoring
shop, carriage factory more or less
large, tannery, and, if near a stream,
a grist mill with carding and fulling
adjuncts. A large percentage of farm-
ers had the big, old-fashioned weav-
ing machine, by which they made
domestic woollens and homespuns.
Thus the farmer had a home market
for his hides, wool, pork, mutton,
cheese and butter, while the corner
storekeeper could ship his surplus pro-
duce to St. John or Halifax. Few
communities were not in convenient
access to a harbor; a hundred of them
in the Bay of Fundy or along the At-
lantic were the resort of coastal pack-
ets—that performed the transporta-
tion of the country, giving business
to many shipyards and employing a
large sea-faring population. Most
communities possessed one or more
retired farmer or business men with
a competence, who were able to give
financial accommodation to their
needy neighbors on such time as the
banks that succeeded them could not
legally afford.

Structure Demolished.

The interjection of the Intercolonial
demolished this whole economic struc-
ture. It went to pieces like a house
of cards. Scarcely a feature of it re-
mains today except the farms. The
grist, card and fulling mills, tan-
neries, shoemakers shops, and traffic
schooners have, with their army of
workers, employees and sailors, all
disappeared, forever beyond any re-
vival by any Ottawa legislation.

It may be said that progress and
advance means the substitution of
new method and new order to replace
old forms and old organizations, but
unfortunately the losses from the
changes were with the Maritime Prov-
inces, and the gains with the Central
Provinces. A sudden depreciation
of agricultural lands took place, and
with it the total abandonment of
farms by the thousand—probably 7,000
farms became vacant. This was a
serious loss of capital, but perhaps
not so great as the loss of farm help
and the employees in the various
domestic industries who abandoned
the country to seek employment in
New England.

Loss of Capital.

Another loss of capital was the ab-
sorption of the wholesale trade of St.
John and Halifax by Montreal and
Toronto. The cessation of growth of
the former in population, arising from
loss of business, involving a depreci-
ation in real estate values—whole
blocks becoming vacant and unpro-
fitable—is a matter of constant lam-
ent to these people. The statistics
of 1921 do not show the complete

story of recession, but present the fol-
lowing story of progress (?) as res-
pects population, during fifty years of
Confederation:

	1871	1921
Montreal	101,961	618,506
Toronto	56,080	521,983
St. John	52,120	47,160
Halifax	37,008	58,372

Thus, while Montreal has increased
sixfold and Toronto over ninefold,
St. John has lost in population and
Halifax has made a gain of less than
16 per cent. A census taken today
would show Halifax had more than
lost the apparent gain. This is the
direct result of the transfer of busi-
ness from our country towns and vil-
lages to Montreal and Toronto. It is
to be admitted that the appointment
of the Duncan Commission and the
prompt adoption of its report by Pre-
mier Mackenzie King is a statesman-
like act exhibiting an earnest desire
to harmonize the East with the West
and produce a unity of interests, but
it is manifest that the plaster only
partially covers the sore.

Coal is a basic article for manufac-
turing purposes as well as in domes-
tic life. Its cheapness is of great
importance, not only as affecting the
cost of living, but the cost of manu-
facturing, especially in competitive
markets. The Cape Breton coal areas,
some 25 years ago got into the hands
of St. James Street speculators, who
at once proceeded to "rig" the prices,
which they succeeded in raising step
by step from \$3.50 to \$12 per ton to
the local consumer, by which many
millions of dollars have been extorted
from the people of the Maritime prov-
inces, thus increasing the cost of liv-
ing and hampering and crushing all
attempts at manufacturing. The peo-
ple of Nova Scotia are thus punished
for owning this great natural re-
sources of wealth, and if the fight be-
tween the jackals over their prey does
not bring some relief those of our
people who are not contented to be
employed in farming, fishing or for-
estry will have to join the caravan al-
ways in motion to the land of Uncle
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Of Interest to the Women

HIGH LIGHTS OF PARIS MID- SEASON FASHION OPEN- INGS.

In the large midseason collection
presented by the house of Douillet
the concentrated fullness in the
front of rocks which has been fea-
tured by many houses in the recent
style openings—was stressed along
with diagonal treatments in the way
of diamond shaped bands of crepe
satin on a background of dull satin.

In the sports group shown by
Douillet were many two piece
dresses of georgette combined with
panne in colors of golden beige or
strawberry. White crepe satin un-
trimmed led the evening materials
which also included light colored
georgettes embroidered with bril-
liants and crystals.

In the formal opening of J. Suz-
anne Talbot the two piece theme was
developed in all types. Soft light
frocks of chiffon and lace with pleat-
ed skirts on tight hipbands with the
bodice finished by a belt at the nor-
mal waistline giving a supple effect
over the fitted skirt yoke were in-
troduced in numbers. Many fabric
knots were employed some at the
back neckline having floating ends
which formed a scarf.

Incrusted diagonal bands were
shown on many of Talbot's models,
giving further support to the diagonal
line style. The coats featured pleat-
ed sections and were mounted on
wide yokes, sometimes fashioned to
form part of the sleeve. In the
sports dresses light crepe of white
or biscuit were striped by horizontal
velvet ribbons on the jumper and on
the skirt they were used vertically.

STEAMED BREAD PUDDING.

1-2 cup honey
1 cup breadcrumbs
1-2 cup cold water
1-2 cup flour
1 egg
1-2 cup raisins
1 level teaspoon baking soda
1 level teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch of cloves or 1-4 teaspoon
ginger
Pinch salt
Mix all the ingredients together
put into mold or kettle which has
been brushed with a little butter
and steam 3 hours. Serve with lemon
or hard sauce.

Croutons With Canned Fruit.

1 1-2 cups croutons
2 cups canned fruit of choice
Put the croutons into glass bowl
or ice cream glasses and cover with
the canned fruit of choice; add
sugar to taste. This may be garnish-
ed with whipped cream or marsh-
mallow whip.

Breadcrumb Fritters With Crushed Pineapple.

1-2 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 cup breadcrumbs
1 egg
1 level teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon molasses
1 cup crushed pineapple

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1-2 cup sugar

Cover the breadcrumbs with milk,
add the well beaten egg, salt and
molasses; mix well; then sift the
flour and baking powder into the
mixture. Brush griddle with drip-
pings and bake with fritters slowly
until a rich brown. Mix the pine-
apple and sugar together and put
over the fritters.

CRUMB TARTS.

1 cup coarse breadcrumbs
1 cup molasses
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3-4 teaspoon salt
1-4 teaspoon cinnamon

Line six individual tart tins, or a
five inch pieplate with good pie crust
and fill with the mixture as follows:

Mix the breadcrumbs, molasses,
lemon rind and juice and salt thor-
oughly; fill into crust and sprinkle
with the cinnamon. Bake in moder-
ate oven 20 to 25 minutes. Serve
warm. A half teaspoon of ginger
may be used in place of lemon rind.
In that case use 2 tablespoons hot
water instead of lemon juice.

VACATIONS.

Eeny, meeny, miney, mo,
Vacation time draws near and so
My same old problem dawns anew:
Where shall I go? What shall I do?
To some nice lake where there is
swimming?
Some gay resort with pleasure brim-
ming?
But, heck! This takes thought too in-
tensive,
I'll go where it is least expensive.

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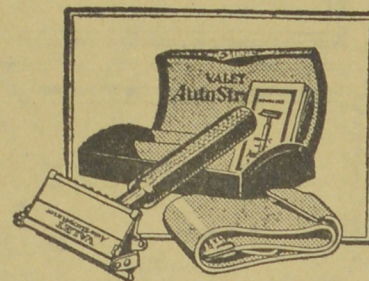
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