

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GETTING PLENTY OF ADVICE THESE DAYS FROM POLITICAL OPPONENTS

Ottawa, April 29—While the Dominion awaits the presentation of the budget the government continues to receive a great deal of advice, particularly from its political opponents. The thought is of course, that it will not be accepted and may later become the background of the inevitable "we told you so."

Mr. Bennett is warned daily that we cannot sell unless we buy. That argument is trotted out almost daily as the genesis of sound economy. The fact is there is just enough truth in the doctrine to make it dangerous. Of course we have to buy, but if we were to buy everything the world had to sell, we could not sell a nickel's worth unless we had something the world wanted to buy. And if we never bought a nickel's worth and had something to sell that the world had to have, the world would buy it.

Trade With Us

For example, for many years we have been buying two dollars worth of goods from the United States for every dollar worth the United States have bought from us. And we have been buying from the United States hundreds of dollars worth of goods annually that could be economically made in Canada—while the United States have chiefly been buying raw material from us to keep their factories engaged.

The veriest child in economics knows such a practice is not to the advantage of Canada and the same child knows that, while there are things we must buy outside our own country, we have things to sell—the greatest store of them ever given to people of our number—that the rest of the world must have. Until our vast heritage of resources begin to wane there is every conceivable and logical right to believe that Canada should enjoy an overwhelmingly favorable balance of trade—even when other nations suffer depressions due to economic exhaustion.

The Coming Budget

It is upon this theory, this fact, that the 1931 budget will be built. For more than fifty years we have been toying never has it been given ungrudging application. Never has its efficacy been fully proved or disproved. The Bennett Government was returned be-

cause it gave assurances that a real test would be made and in such test the rights of the consumer has been protected but a sterner test will come with the general tariff revision. There is no weakening visible in the assurance of the Ministry that it can continue to guard against exploitation of the public under tariff benefits. The machinery will be broadened and the same summary penalties imposed upon those guilty of exploitation.

To Meet in August

Definite announcement has been made that the adjourned meeting of the Imperial conference will be held in Ottawa in August and the statement recalls another entirely erroneous statement which has very largely gone unchallenged. It is that Canada offered, in return for preference upon the entry of Canadian wheat, a further margin of ten per cent preference to British goods, and that such a margin means nothing to Britain.

The situation is this. We have been importing in the neighbor hood of \$600,000,000 a year worth of manufactured, or semi-manufactured goods from the United States. The non-existence of a preference in favor of British goods on these imports, or the insufficiency of existing preferences allowed, made it impossible for British manufacturers to overcome the geographical or mass production competition of the United States in the Canadian market. Mr. Bennett's plan has in mind the bridging of the gap. In many cases probably even five per cent additional advantage would transfer the market to Britain. In others ten per cent will do it. Elsewhere perhaps even greater preferences will be necessary. But the basis of the whole offer is that Mr. Bennett on behalf of Canada can hardly be dismissed as of no benefit to Britain. It is simply the transference of probably \$300,000,000 of our purchases from the United States to Britain each year.

There will no longer be any guessing as to whether or not this government will "peg" the price of wheat. It will not. The experience of the United States—where less than twenty per cent of the total crop is raised for export has been a disastrous warning. In a country such as Canada, where

NIPPON'S HOUSEWIFE DOES SPRING CLEANING BY ORDER OF THE POLICE

(New York Sun)

I have been wondering the last few days whether I will spring-clean this year or not. I know it is one of the oldest and most firmly rooted institutions of housewifery that the first breath of spring should be greeted by a copious libation poured forth in their honor of soap suds and furniture polish, but is there any rime or reason in conforming to a tradition that has been long due for a pension?

Spring cleaning is not what is used to be. There is nothing of the old time "lick and a promise" about the weekly turnout of rooms nowadays. Thanks to the modern electrical appliances, the weekly turnout is now done thoroughly. What need, then, for a grand turnout in springtime, when there is nothing to turn out? Let femininity en masse don its prettiest hats instead then, and set out to view the daffodils in the flower stores or the spring hats on fifth avenue.

Conscience, however, has to be reckoned with; and conscience, prompted by ancestral rows of spring cleaning women behind it, says that springtime is the time to clean. So, at least says the housewives of Japan, and indeed they have no choice in the matter. They have to clean willy-nilly by order of the government, and, too, when the government says they shall clean. Of course, Mme. Almond Blossom may, if she please, turn out her house in the second week of March, but that will not prevent her having to turn out again a week or two later when the "osoji," the annual spring cleaning order is broadcast.

The time chosen is always before the "nyubai," or rainy season sets in, a benevolent government having no desire that a housewife should have to transport her goods and chattels into the street when the rain is coming down in torrents.

When the day is settled on, the police give you a few days grace and then you have to be prepared for the fray with scrubbing brush and broom. The cleaning is done in streets or dis-

tricts, so that the upheaval will not upset the whole town at once. Three days later the adjoining or side street is tackled, another part of town being cleaned at the same time and so on until everything is spick and span.

There really is method in this seeming spring madness. Most of the Japanese houses, alike of the middle class and lower orders, are just one big room divided by paper partitions into other rooms. Few have any courtyard or garden attached, so there is nothing else to be done except turnout the family lares and penates into the street when the spring clean fret is on. And the police, a tiny body, have no desire that a passerby should have to play tick-tack with a chest of drawers, tea-kettles and floor mats, as he goes about his business.

Not content with setting a day for cleaning, the police politely but firmly indicate how it is to be done. The order insists that all the furniture be removed, the big straw mats taken out and beaten and the floor boards raised and the ground underneath disinfected against any possible danger of infection or plague.

And mind you, the police do not take your word for it that all this has been done, either. Oh, no. They inspect the houses themselves, and if they approve of its cleanliness a small red stamp is affixed to the doorpost, proclaiming to all and sundry that the persons are clean that live there and that the furniture can now be moved indoors. If the cleaning is not to their satisfaction another colored stamp is stuck up. This the housewives consider a disgrace to the whole street, and rather than incur it they will turn around and help a neighbor who is known not to place cleanliness next to godliness.

After the hurly-burly is over the heaps of rubbish left in the street are taken away in handcarts and burned in one big mound, far from the town. No ugly garbage cans are allowed to mar the trim beauty of the streets of Japan.

CONGRESS MAY LEGALIZE LIGHT WINE AND BEER

Philadelphia, April 27—Light wines and beer may be legalized in the next Congress in the opinion of organized Labor's anti-prohibition committee which opened its first annual conference here today.

Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, and I. M. Ornburn, president of the Cigar-maker's International Union, authors of a congressional survey, claimed a majority in both Houses of Congress for modification of the Volstead Act. They claim that only 17 members of the Senate and 45 representatives are prohibition die-hards.

During the two-day convention of Labor's national committee for modification of the Volstead Act, Ornburn, who is secretary of that committee, will read the report of the congressional survey to the delegates. Woll is president of the committee.

The report expressed the belief that the people of the nation favor modification of the dry laws and added:

"We would never have been bothered with such legislation as prohibition, had the America people ever imagined its passage would have resulted in the transfer of the corner saloon to the home, in the corruption of our youth, apparent corruption of our judiciary and enforcement officers and creation of bootleggers, gangsters and racketeers.

"There are few services which can be rendered in these days of depression which will be more helpful to so great a number, as prevailing upon the Congress to modify the Volstead Act. Our survey indicated that victory it is sight if those who have voluntarily enlisted in this cause will make their wishes known to the Senators and congressmen from their states."

Larkes—"I'm getting divorced. You wouldn't want to lease my apartment?"

Sparkes—"Yes, surely. I'm getting married. You wouldn't want to buy my club membership?"

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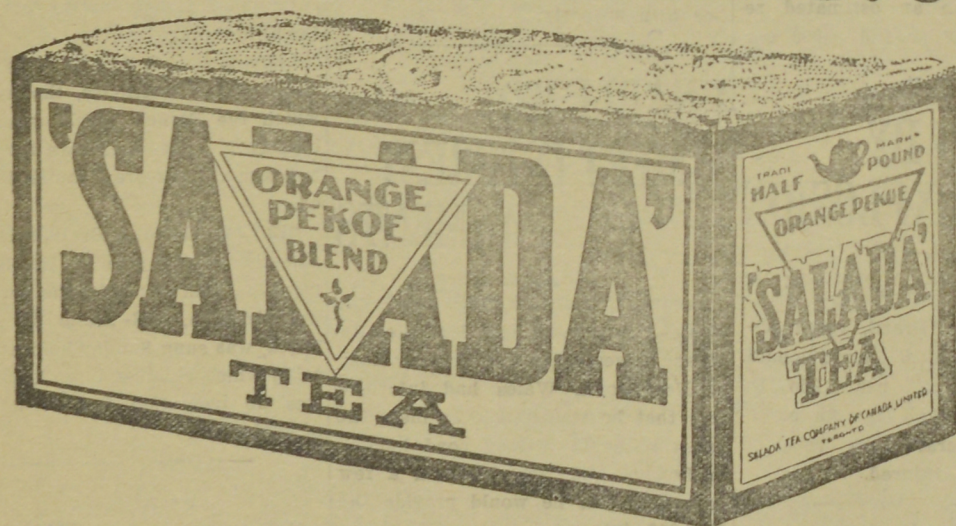
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