

NO WHEAT BONUS TO BE PAID THIS YEAR, SAYS PREMIER BENNETT

Ottawa, Oct. 28.—Back benchers in Council prohibiting the importation spoke to empty benches all day in the into this country of the commodities House of Commons Tuesday, except I have named. As I have said already, a subsequent Order-in-Council defined furs as being furs in a partly fabricated condition.

Mr. Mackenzie King: I thank the Prime Minister for giving this explanation because it should be clearly understood that the 1928 negotiations, or whatever they may be termed, related only to certain diplomatic privileges which had previously been granted exclusively to Russia, and which were withdrawn at the time mentioned.

Mr. Mackenzie King then wanted to know whether the oil paid any duty upon entering Canada.

No Bonus To Be Paid
The matter of wheat bonuses for western farmers was introduced by A. L. Beaubien, (Liberal, Provencher) who asked Mr. Bennett, that in view of the recent slump in the wheat market, if he was in a position to make a statement regarding the payment of a bonus on wheat.

"The present condition of the country," answered Mr. Bennett, "will not permit the payment of a wheat bonus for the year 1932."

And there the matter was dropped.

Oil Statement

When it came to the orders of the day, Mr. Bennett made the following statement on Russian oil shipments:

"Mr. Speaker, I shall take this opportunity to reply to a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Vancouver Central (Mr. Mackenzie), in connection with the importation of oil from Russia.

"The House will remember that in 1927 there was a termination of relations between Russia and the Dominion Government. A short discussion took place in the House with respect to this matter as reported in Hansard of May 28, 1928, and reference was made thereto on other dates in that year. The custom of the Department has been not to make known the names of consignors and consignees of merchandise and at that time there was no prohibition against the importation into this country of oil from Russia. The prohibition applied to coal, wood pulp, pulpwood, lumber and timber of all kinds, asbestos and furs. The prohibition on furs was defined subsequently as applying only to furs partly in a fabricated state. So far as the present importations of oil are concerned, some complaints have been made and are still being made to determine whether or not the oil in the form and quality in which it was imported constituted a possible violation of the provisions contained in the agreement to the extent of frustrating the preferences upon oil from the British Dominion of Trinidad.

Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Leader of the Opposition): To what date did my right hon. friend refer at the beginning of his remarks?

Mr. Bennett: I referred to the debate on May 28, 1928, in which the right hon. gentleman, referring to certain observations made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) dealt with the action of the Dominion Government in severing relations with Russia. He referred then to the fact that the necessity for this action had arisen as a consequence of certain action taken by the British Government to terminate the relationship then existing between Great Britain and the Soviet republics. As the right hon. gentleman pointed out, the action taken here was taken at about the same time. As he pointed out then, and as I assume has been known to every hon. member of the House, such action did not stop trading between Russia and Canada or Canada and Russia. The prohibition contained in the Order-in-Council of February, 1931, referred to the importation into this country of the articles and commodities which I have named.

There seems to have been an idea abroad that the action taken by this country which terminated diplomatic relations between Canada and Russia, terminated all trade between the two countries. The right hon. gentleman pointed out in 1928 that such was not the case and there has been no change from that date to this except those incident to the passing of the Order-

tariff, there being in the tariff a provision for free entry into this country of crude petroleum. Then petroleum, not crude, but of a certain specific gravity was subject to a rate of duty, not being free. The question was whether or not that would be a proper quality of oil or whether it should be designated a type of gasoline because of its high quality content and the fact that it was alleged—and this is still under investigation—that it did not require to be refined to produce gasoline, but had only to be rectified which was not refining within the meaning of the section, there being, as will be remembered by the House, a provision in the agreement providing for entry into this country on specified terms of oil from the British Empire. That meant oil from Trinidad which is coming into Canada which is not crude in its natural form or state, but is a mixture of crude and other petroleum products.

Oil Pays No Duty
An astronomer says that as stars grow older they decrease in weight. Quite obviously this astronomer knows little of Hollywood.

SCARCITY OF CASH MEANS A RETURN TO BARTERING

(Buffalo News)
Barter, that exchange of goods for goods which primitive people employ, is staking its return. Nations, towns, large corporations, are invoking its aid. Even individuals short of funds seek to trade what they do not want for what they need.

Among civilized nations the primitive custom of barter is regarded as long out of date. Give barter the least chance, however, such as is occasioned by shortage of money or credit and it is likely to come back into the economic picture.

One of the most striking of many examples of barter return which have appeared in the news is the American exchange of wheat for coffee with Brazil. One hundred and fifty million pounds of coffee were acquired last winter for 25,000,000 bushels of North American wheat.

Soviet Russia has for several years, been carrying on barter with Persia, and Turkey. She sends certain manu-

factured products such as cotton cloths to those countries. Persia and Turkey are not going much in industrial development. Hence the products of those Asiatic countries are going into Russia in large quantities. A proposal to exchange Russian petroleum for Canadian aluminum has attracted much attention in the last few days. Owing to the provisions agreed upon in the Ottawa conference it is unlikely that the transactions suggested will ever be completed.

Certain markers of machinery have traded some of their wares in for Russian manganese, which in turn they sell to steel makers from whom they have been buying. The absence of convenient baking arrangements is one cause of a desire to barter in this case.

From its earliest history the United States has known and practiced barter. The purchase of great tracts of territory from the Indians was effected by bargaining in goods. Manha-

ta Island is an example of such transactions. The Dutch got their quit claim deed from the aboriginal owners for rum, kettles, knives, beads and such wares of which the value was about \$24 in money of today. William Penn made similar deals with the natives who ceded to him the present state of Pennsylvania. The vast fur trading interests of the Hudson Bay company and of the first John Jacob Astor were built on barter.

As in some communities in this country as in Texas pure barter is being conducted now at swapping posts for framers. In Central New York State, as reported by Prof. Raymond J. Hall, of the College of Forestry at Syracuse, cordwood and other woodlot products, are being traded for merchandise.

Lately a general storekeeper in an eastern state, called together the able bodied men, mostly mechanics, who owed him money and induced them to work out their debts in building an addition to his place of business.

When economic conditions are strained whole communities in this country have instituted barter.



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