

THE DAILY MAIL

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MESSAGE TO YOUNG MEN.

"After a long life I shall remind you that already many problems rise before you; problems of race division, problems of creed differences, problems of economic conflict, problems of national duty and national aspiration. Let me tell you that for the solution of these problems you have a safe guide, an unfailing light, if you remember that faith is better than doubt, and love is better than hate.

"Banish doubt and hate from your life. Let your souls be ever open to the strong promptings of faith and the gentle influence of brotherly love. Be adamant against the haughty; be gentle and kind to the weak. Let your aim and your purpose, in good report or in ill, in victory or in defeat, be so to live, so to strive, so to serve as to do your part to raise the standard of life to higher and better spheres."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at London, Ont.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND ASSESSMENT.

The subject of the assessment in the City of Fredericton and the Municipality of the County of York for patriotic purposes for the current year, is susceptible of a much broader treatment than we were able to give it in the local columns of our issue of the 5th instant.

Under the legislation of last winter, the Provincial Executive of the Canadian Patriotic Fund for New Brunswick is authorized and required to make an estimate of the amount annually required for the purposes of the fund, and apportion the amount to be levied, assessed and collected from each city, town and municipality, according to the valuation of the real and personal property and income of the rate payers, as the same appears by the latest returns of said valuation on file in the office of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer at Fredericton, and shall lay such apportionment and assessment before the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council for approval (6 Geo. V., cap. 8, sec. 3.)

And the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may approve of such estimate and apportionment, or may vary either or both, as may seem just and fair, and shall make an order-in-council accordingly. (Sec. 4.)

It appears that the Provincial Executive of the Patriotic Fund for New Brunswick proposed to raise \$554,241.66, the amount estimated as being necessary to be raised by the whole province, by apportioning the amount upon all the assessable property in the different municipalities, cities and towns in the province, which, according to the figures furnished them, amounted in the aggregate to \$110,348,317, by a uniform and equitable assessment of one-half of one per cent.

But it would seem that the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council acquiesced in neither the amount proposed by the Patriotic Executive to be raised, nor in the method of raising it, but on the contrary fixed the amount to be raised at \$524,790.13, and upon principles which no one has been able to discover, proceeded to apportion the amount amongst the different municipalities, cities and towns.

By the order-in-council, the terms of which have been made public, the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council on Wednesday last, apportioned the amount to be assessed and collected during the current year by each of these municipalities, cities and towns. Because the citizens of Fredericton and the ratepayers of the province are more or less directly affected by the apportionment which has been made by the Executive Government under the plenary powers conferred upon it by the Legislature, and without stopping to consider whether the Legislature has the power under the British North America Act to impose direct taxation for a non-provincial object—in regard to which there would seem to be grave doubts—it may be useful to refer to the apportionment which has been made, so far as that apportionment affects the county of Westmorland, the city of Moncton, the county of York and the city of Fredericton.

According to the statements on file in the office of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, the assessed value of the property of the undermentioned municipalities, cities and towns for the year 1915, which is the latest we have been able to get, is as follows:

County of Westmorland (including the towns of Sackville, Shediac and Sunny Brae) \$3,274,905
City of Moncton \$308,191
County of York (including

Marysville) 7,411,739
City of Fredericton 5,962,883
County of Sunbury (exclusive of income) 1,071,495
By the order-in-council the people of York and Westmorland are obliged to assess as follows:
County of Westmorland (including Sackville, Shediac and Sunny Brae) \$40,457.53
City of Moncton 16,265.58
The County of York (including Marysville) 38,402.00
City of Fredericton 25,000.00
County of Sunbury 5,357.48

If the two municipalities of Westmorland and York are required to assess for amounts aggregating \$78,859.53, then on the basis of valuation, Westmorland should assess for \$41,558.98, and York for \$37,300.55, if a fair division of responsibility is to be maintained. Or, putting it in another way, York's assessment should be reduced by \$1,000 and Westmorland's increased by a like sum.

In the case of the two cities, Moncton and Fredericton, the figures show the discrimination to be more glaring. Together they have to pay \$41,265.58. ON THE BASIS OF THE VALUATION GIVEN ABOVE, OF THIS AMOUNT MONCTON SHOULD PAY .582 PER CENT, OR \$24,016.58, AND FREDERICTON SHOULD PAY BUT .418 PER CENT, OR \$17,249.01.

If one were permitted to look around in order to discover reasons why, in contrast to unfortunate Fredericton, Moncton has fared so well in the apportionment which the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council has made in the general scheme of assessment, some light may be afforded by the fact that, at the meeting of the Provincial Executive of the Patriotic Fund held in St. John, Moncton was allowed to place its valuation at \$3,253,115, or something like \$5,000,000 less than it really is, and the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council has, apparently, allowed the smaller valuation to pass unchallenged, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT MR. J. S. MAGEE, THE TREASURER OF THE CITY OF MONCTON, HAS FILED WITH THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER A STATEMENT OF THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE CITY FOR THE YEAR 1916 (on the face of the return, income does not seem to be included) IN WHICH THE ASSESSED VALUATION IS GIVEN AT \$8,308,191. These figures are to be found on page 20 of the leaflet issued by the government showing the assessed valuations of all the municipalities, cities and towns in the province. It would seem, therefore, that the order-in-council sadly needs revision. Ratepayers of the city of Fredericton have just reason for objecting to THIS MOST UNJUST AND UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE CITY.

It is to be borne in mind that by the law on the statute book the assessment for patriotic purposes is required to be based "according to the valuation of the real and personal property and income of the ratepayers, as the same appears by the latest returns of valuations on file in the office of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer at Fredericton," and that the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council is clothed with plenary power to vary the same "as may seem just and fair." What, it may be asked, is there just or fair about an apportionment which requires a city claiming 14,000 inhabitants, with a valuation of eight million dollars and upwards, to pay but \$16,265.58, whilst a city of a little more than 7,000 people, with a valuation of slightly less than six millions, is required to pay \$25,000? The thing is so absurd as to be almost ridiculous, and we greatly mistake public sentiment in this city of the taxpayers permit themselves to be made the victims of such flagrant discrimination.

THE LONG DELAYED

DAVIDSON REPORT

Commends Sir Richard McBride's Action in Buying Tin Pot Submarines From Chili.

Ottawa, Jan. 6.—A portion of Sir Charles Davidson's report on his investigation into criticism of war purchases has been made public. The section given out deals only with two matters—the purchase of submarines by Sir Richard McBride and the purchase of condemned ammunition from the Quebec arsenal by Wesley Allison with the approval of Sir Sam Hughes. Sir Charles, as has been predicted, approves of the actions of Sir Richard and can find no fault with ex-Honorary Col. Allison's cartridge transaction.

Sir Charles says that Sir Richard performed a patriotic service at a reasonable price by purchasing two submarines at the beginning of the war. As to the ammunition condemned in Canada and sold to the admiralty,—that there is no evidence that Col. Allison benefited, and General Hughes, the report states, stands free from anything that would affect his personal honor. It is noted that the government has

OUTLINED BAPTISTS
FIVE YEAR PROGRAM

To Increase the Church Membership By Twenty Thousand—Cleaner Politics Wanted.

Rev. Dr. DeWolfe, principal of Acadia Seminary, Wolfville, N. S., occupied the pulpit of the George street Baptist church on Sunday morning and that of the Brunswick street Baptist church in the evening. In the afternoon he preached at the Marysville Baptist church.

The Rev. Mr. DeWolfe explained the Five Year Programme adopted by the Maritime Baptist Convention, held in St. John last autumn. He dealt with the programme under four headings, viz., Evangelization, Finance, Education and Social Service, and declared that if individual members of the church did their duty it could be carried out in its entirety. It was hoped to add 20,000 members by baptism to the church during the next five years. He stated that there were now thirty-eight churches in York county, with a membership of 2,100, which meant that there were between 8,000 and 9,000 Baptists in the county. There were 160 baptisms last year, which number would have to be slightly increased if York county was to do its share in the forward movement.

The chief endeavor along educational lines, the preacher explained, was to increase by 1,000 during the period the attendance at Acadia College, and to have an average of forty students per year studying for the ministry.

Social Service.

In regard to social service it was hoped to unite the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces in loyalty and service to the highest social and political ideals. In this convention he said that rumors were wafted across the bay from New Brunswick to his home in Wolfville which indicated that politics from New Brunswick to his home in right. He mentioned the case of a "Baptist deacon" in an up-river county who seems to have acquired some fame in connection with elections. He believed his case was probably similar to that of a man in Nova Scotia who argued that he was promoting the public interests by persuading a man with the aid of a \$5 bill to change his politics. He did not think that Baptists should countenance wrong-doing in public life.

Rev. Mr. DeWolfe also discussed church finances and made a strong plea for greater effort along this line.

A feature of the musical part of the service was a trio by Mrs. F. A. Good, Miss Eva Brewer and Mr. Cecil D. Holder.

Through Our Sieve

Among the back numbers place 1916.

A fancy price is none the easier for being marked in plain figures.

Hello! Central—Powers! What's that you said about peace?

We are down on people who think it is up to them to be upish.

The fellows who made those water-wagon resolutions were "double-crossing the bar."

A man need never have any trouble gettin' in at night if he takes his wife with him.

There's many a woman who should never shoulder the responsibility of a low-necked gown.

The fellow who sells pork sausages for 12 cents a pound when pork is selling at 15 cents is a real philanthropist.

Those dull thuds in the office are the sound those poor fellows make when they fall off the water wagon.

It rather looks as if the provincial government in apportioning the patriotic fund assessment had passed the buck to Fredericton.

The expression "a woman in the case" started in the time of the Egyptian mummies.

Circumstances occasionally force a man to admit that other people's troubles are almost as great as his own.

No doubt the provincial government is asking Fredericton for more than her share for the patriotic fund because we have such a pleasant disposition.

The high cost of Zeppelining England threatens to rob the Teutons entirely of one of the few remaining relaxations left to them by opponents who are unsportsmanlike enough to believe that he who plays should pay.

dealt less kindly with these two gentlemen than has Sir Charles, for they have taken away the portfolio from General Hughes and the title from J. Wesley Allison.

Other portions of the report are now awaited with interest.

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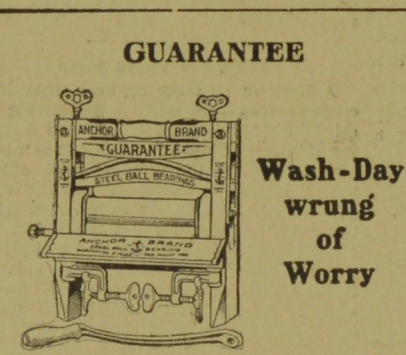
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