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FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1926.

HON. MR. VENIOT AND TAXES.

The budget proposals of Hon. Mr. Leger the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, involving a measure of direct taxation, called forth a four hours speech from Hon. Mr. Veniot, the Opposition leader, in the House yesterday. Hon. Mr. Veniot is conceded to be a man of great energy, but there are some who are inclined to the opinion that his energy is some times misdirected. For instance he argued at great length yesterday in an attempt to show that direct taxation at the present time is unnecessary, but admitted that there was need of additional revenue and he proceeded to point out wherein the increased levy might be made without imposing a direct tax. He would compel street railway, telephone and telegraph companies to pay more; he would endeavor to increase the stumpage rates for the present year; he would tax electrical energy developed in the province; he would raise the tax on inter-provincial corporations, he would increase the succession duties, and he would reduce the expenditures in main and secondary trunk roads. His suggestions are very good and will no doubt have due consideration from the administration. At the same time it must be remembered that the opposition leader was an influential member of the government which held office for nearly nine years. He and his colleagues were well aware of the fact that the revenue was not keeping pace with the expenditure and that a day of reckoning must surely come. The question, therefore naturally arises why did they not when in power take steps to wipe out the annual deficit and balance the budget by imposing the taxes which Hon. Mr. Veniot now suggests. Had this been done and rigid economy practised as is now suggested possibly the present government would not have been faced with the unpleasant task of raising additional revenue by a direct tax.

A perusal of the Ex-Premier's speech shows that he shares the government's view that increased taxation is absolutely necessary, but they differ as to the method which should be pursued. The Ex-Premier does not want to take the bull by the horns and have a direct levy made upon the income and property of the people, but the government, after having given the whole matter very careful consideration, has decided to adopt that policy and is prepared to accept full responsibility for it. Additional taxes are necessary and even should they be imposed under a camouflage as suggested by the opposition leader, in the end they will come out of the pockets of the people.

NICK CARTER THRILLERS.

Dr. William Brady says a good word for the Nick Carter dime novels of the long ago—a good word to the extent, at least, that they were not so bad as their 1926 substitute, because they were without suggestive vulgarity.

In that opinion there is hope, perhaps, that this generation will not seem so very bad to the generations to follow.

Boys didn't do many other things in the middle '90's which so distressed their parents and school teachers and Sunday school teachers as did their reading of Nick Carter thrillers. Such incorrigibles were headed straight and surely for mental, moral and physical disaster, if one believed the then censors of boys' morals. And yet in every Nick Carter novel virtue ground a relentless heel into the face of miserable vice so triumphantly that a boy couldn't possibly be induced by read-

ing them to turn to crime as the easiest way.

Of course the parents of that day were as sincere as those of today in guiding their children's lives.

And so perhaps in the years to come these young people of our today will smile indulgently at memories of us as we were shocked and amazed at what they call their fun and we call their fun and we call their mad rush to perdition.

WHY RURAL LIBRARIES?

It is very desirable that people living in rural communities should have the privilege of taxing themselves for a rural library. Very few people are well enough to do, to purchase a library, and those who cannot have to enjoy ignorance unless they proceed in the co-operative plan and by joint expense obtain one. Why should not a law be passed making it optional with any municipality to have a free public library? No reason whatever can be assigned for not giving them that privilege.

The government at present supports school libraries. Very few teachers are interested in them, because they are outside of the duties for which they are paid. Any teacher interested is likely to be of a class that would get promotion. The experience of the past is that such libraries are of very little value. Therefore the government could add a clause enabling it to substitute the appropriation for a school library to a rural one and add to it—as is done in other provinces—something to encourage this establishment. No measure is more likely to produce a community sentiment, by creating an educational and social centre.

CAREERS FOR WOMEN.

Chicago club women, in a study class, decide that women can have careers. They need not give all their attention to the profession of motherhood. They say it is up to the woman to adjust her life so that her professional interests and her family will not clash for her attention.

The theory is perfect. Mostly we face facts in life—not theories. Now and then women can be all that mothers might be and be successful in business at the same time. Not often.

All of us—men and women alike—fail largely to live successfully, because we dislike to pick our route and stick to it. We are too keen to do too many things. We spread ourselves out too thin. We touch many things, but we touch them ineffectively.

The Sackville Post in discussing the tax proposals of the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, thinks that the people will approve of the government's determination to balance the budget, but at the same time it thinks that an effort should be made to reduce expenses. It suggests that the sessional indemnity might be reduced somewhat without doing the members any great injury. Our contemporary has discussed a matter in which there is ample room for a difference of opinion. Taking into consideration the diminished purchasing power of a dollar the sessional indemnity is no more valuable today than was the case before the war when it was half what it is now. Public men perform a lot of service for which they are not even thanked. A member of the Legislature who draws only his indemnity and travelling expenses is in no danger of making any money out of politics.

There are not a great many farmers in the present Legislature, but they seem to made up in quality what they lack in quantity. One of the number is Mr. Melville, a new member for the County of Carleton. His maiden effort in the House yesterday shows him to be a practical farmer and one not afraid to call a spade a spade. He is a firm believer in economy and thinks it should be practiced as well as preached. Mr. Melville's observations were timely and the report of his remarks will be read with interest more particularly in his own county. Even those who may disagree with him will have to give him credit for possessing the courage of his convictions.

The Federal Government has named a commission to enquire into the

grievances of the Maritime Provinces, Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, Hon. W. B. Wallace and Prof. Cyrus McMillan. Sir Andrew Rae Duncan is a resident of the Old Country who acted as chairman of the commission appointed last year by the Nova Scotia Government to investigate the mining situation in that province. Hon. Mr. Wallace is County Court Judge of Halifax, and Prof. McMillan who is now on the staff of McGill University is a native of Prince Edward Island. No explanation has been given as to why a New Brunswick man was not appointed to the commission.

When Harold Vance was elected vice president of the Studebaker corporation the other day, a new chapter was written in a modern business romance. Fifteen years ago Vance was an apprentice in the machine shops of the Studebaker plant in Detroit. He kept climbing from one job to another. He climbed so fast that he hasn't even been elected a director yet. He will be at the next annual meeting. Some apprentices do. Some don't.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Hi Slocum says that the City Council seem unable to find a painless system of taxation.

There is never anything new in the way of weather.

If he owes you, add acquaintance is ne'er forgot.

What the man Browning really needs is a wife like Maggie Jiggs.

Fewer brilliant men are being picked out of the gutter than in the old days.

You'll see! April soon will be smiling like an advertisement of dental cream.

Nothing's the matter with this nation except the people, and they are far from being hopeless.

What's the use of finding the North Pole again? Nothing is ever done about it.

"We have so many laws," remarked the Man on the Car, "that on person can't break all of them in a lifetime."

If you finally have sense enough to quit arguing and go to work they think you're licked.—Ohio State Journal.

But you win in the long run.

Goed To Hamilton.

Telegraph-Journal: Herbert P. Creed who has been some years connected with J. Clark & Son, Limited, Sisseton, has severed his connection with that firm and has accepted a position with the Stanley Works of Canada, Hamilton, Ont., a Canadian branch of a United States hardware manufacturing concern. Mr. Creed after spending three months at the head office in the United States, will take up his duties at Hamilton, Ont., where he will take up his residence with his family. Mr. and Mrs. Creed's removal from Sussex will be regretted by their many friends.

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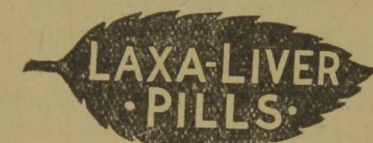
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