

NATIONAL ECONOMY AND CUT IN TAXATION NOT BEING MADE AN ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION

(Financial Post.)

How will the leading issues in the election campaign fare between now and election day? Mr. Meighen is talking competent administration and higher tariff. Mr. King is striving to make the constitutional issue the chief one in the campaign. As an anchor to windward, he mentions casually the record of the Liberal government in connection with income tax reductions, motor car price reductions and penny postage. Each leader is building his campaign exactly on the lines forecast in this column before either of them had delivered his key-note speech.

Will these be the big issues before the campaign has neared its end? The Conservative discussion on the revelations of the customs inquiry seems likely to carry through, especially if the judicial commission gets busy and uncovers any more striking evidence before election day. The King platform discussion of the dissolution question seems less likely to last,

because too large a group in the Liberal party is opposed to its leader on his attitude. The Toronto Globe, for instance, representing the old Laurier school of Liberals, continues to differ with King and declares, in comment on King's key-note address:

"The voters would understand better, and would be more appreciative of an appeal for their franchise on such achievements as marked the Robb budget; the reduction in income tax, removal of receipt tax, reduction of sales and excise taxes, return to penny postage, and the tariff reduction which resulted in lower automobile costs."

In the ordinary sense of the word, Mr. King offer no platform as did Mr. Meighen. He promises a continuance of the policies of the past few years, which have, he claims, brought prosperity to Canada. Mr. King himself summarized the Liberal manifesto, when he recounted the budget changes and added:

"Add to all this a reduction in the national public debt and a balancing of the national budget over a series of years, together with an expansion of trade and a favorable balance of exports over imports unparalleled in the peace-time history of the Dominion and you have a record which has not been equalled by any government in Canada."

"This is a part of the record on which we make our appeal for the support of electors of Canada. We need not promise reductions in taxation, we have already given reductions; we need not promise prosperity—everyone knows that prosperity has returned and that, with a continuation of Liberal policies, prosperity has come to stay."

Neither of the political leaders is making national economy or reduced taxation a plank in his election platform. Meighen promises competent administration, which might be interpreted to mean economical taxation and which, in turn, would bring about reduced taxation. King talks about the tax reductions he put into effect and leaves the inference that if he were returned there would be more. But as straightforward, vigorously campaigned policies, economy and tax reduction are quite neglected. Such are the ways of politics. The man on the street thinks that politics are dominated by big business, and yet the chief demand of big business is given scant attention.

Confiscation of capital by homeopathic doses is the process under way in Canada, and capital in Canada means the mass savings of the people, though in Europe it means the inherited accumulations of generations. This country is appealing for capital from abroad, although we would have plenty of capital offering in Canada if it were not that a quarter of it is absorbed in high taxation, and the remainder of it frightened by high taxation. It is roughly estimated that Canadians work three months in the year to pay taxes.

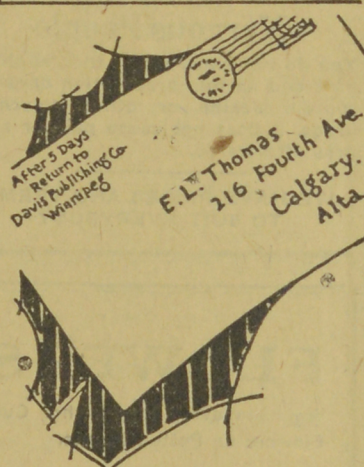
Beatrice—And are you happy in your married life?
Millicent—Oh, very happy my dear.

Beatrice—And your husband?
Millicent—Why—er—is a husband supposed to be happy, my dear?

"They say he's a kind hearted fellow."

"Yes. He even goes to a cheap restaurant so that he can give the waiter a good tip."

BLUNDERS



WHY IS THIS WRONG?
Thousands of letters are delayed in delivery from two to ten hours in big cities because business men do not place their return street address on letterheads and envelopes. Even though a company may be an important one, all postal employees do not have its address committed to memory. Consequently its mail will surely be delayed if persons who must reply to its letters are given no street address.

CORRESPONDENT DEALS WITH UNREST IN THE MARITIMES; THE DOCTOR AND PROHIBITION

(Correspondence of Willison's Monthly.)

Halifax, N. S., July 23—Not long ago a favorite jest among Eastern "intellectuals" was about that Maritime Rights agitation which they believed to be a mere storm in a teacup. That the storm was on a scale greater than they dreamed has been made abundantly clear. At present, in the same quarter, the current joke is about "secessionism." This lends itself, indeed, to a still easier ridicule. But in some of its aspects, though the project can be shown to be absurd, the spirit which has inspired it cannot be joked away. Secessionists have made indisputable progress on the Atlantic seaboard.

It is true, of course, that most of those who talk about "the great mistake of 1868" would be hard pressed to say how Nova Scotia would have fared better if she had remained out of Confederation, and they would find it still harder to indicate any practicable plan for cutting loose from the federal pact now. We have, still, here and there, a survivor from those days—one who opposed Confederation at the time but now refuses to have any part in a maniacal scheme to "unscramble eggs." From time to time, too, the men among us with real historic sense and real knowledge of the economic conditions of half a century back lose patience with what they call the "myth" about pre-Confederation prosperity in Nova Scotia. But the talk of the street and the rural countryside is not to be so easily dismissed as meaningless, or even as without menace for the future. It is not enough to prove that a project is absurd. We must likewise take note of the causes which make it persistent.

Economic Independence.

At a recent gathering in Kentville, an organization was formed to translate words into deeds. With a flourish of trumpets, there was announced a "League for the Economic Independence of Nova Scotia." One does not require to be told that that means. The air has been thick with rumors about a new organ of opinion, to be launched in Halifax, with enormous financial support and devoted to the purpose of breaking a tie which should never have been accepted. Among the promoters were named men belonging to both the old political parties, some of whom have counted for a great deal in local politics during the past few years. But with curious indiscretion, the prophets fixed a definite date for the new paper's first appearance. It was to be called "The Nova Scotian," and on July 1 it was to appear, with Joseph Howe's portrait on the front page. So on Dominion Day many people were on the watch, but nothing happened. The sooth-sayers, like those others of their class who have not only predicted an early end of the world but have assigned a date for the great cataclysm, look rather foolish when events have not happened "on schedule." What is really significant in the business is that there was such a state of the public mind as to win a measure of credence for so extraordinary a forecast.

Secession Appeal.

"Your lucky place is somewhere other than the place where you stand"—so runs a German proverb. Down East, it is part of the prevailing creed just now, and secessionism—or anything else that is different from the "status quo"—makes a telling appeal. Last summer Nova Scotians voted not so much for any particular party as against the party so long in office, with an enthusiasm and a unanimity almost unparalleled. But the Government they installed in place has not brought prosperity, like the manna in the wilderness, in an immediate shower upon this province. Not only was emigration to be stopped, but the emigrants already gone were to stream homeward. Seldom indeed has a better election slogan been contrived than the one which greeted the eye on every hoarding, "Bring the Boys Back." The "boys," with a Missourian desire to be shown what was awaiting them before they bought their tickets in Boston for a trip back to the Annapolis Valley, have stayed where they were. And down in the coal-fields of Cape Breton the miners, who had temporarily suppressed their own fiercer spirits, are now reopening their ears to the appeal for a "strike on the job." As usual, those who were led to cherish unreasonable hopes are now in a mood of unreasonable disappointment.

All Canada knows by this time, and the preferred stockholders know with special poignancy, about the plight of the British Empire Steel Corporation. The wand of the enchanter has not been waved with that prompt success which had been hoped; nor has business been rejuvenated in the cities. In

MUSCLE PUT IN MUSIC STUDIED BY SCIENTISTS

To measure art in terms of some other less ornamental occupation may not result in teaching us how to be artists, but it will at least furnish information to those who think life's burdens are unfairly distributed. A German and a Swiss scientist have been investigating the energy a musician uses up in the pursuit of his career. Their findings have been taken up by the New York Sun, which, without the use of foot-pounds, or horsepower, or whatever the scientists employ, but with simple observation, estimates that the musician earns a deeper night's sleep as his reward:

"Professor Lowy, of Davos, and Dr. Schrotter, of Vienna, who occupied themselves with this important problem, found that a pianist used up ten times as much energy as a tailor. There seems to be no extravagance in this calculation. If there be any exaggeration in the comparison it would seem to lie in the limit of the pianist's energy."

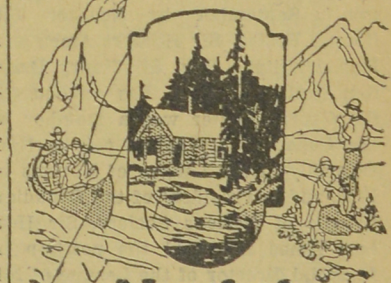
"There have been pianists playing with orchestras and trying to make their instruments heard above the sound produced by the other musicians who have seemed to be working with more than ten times the energy of a tailor. In their expenditure of physical force they have resembled a whole factory of tailors working as hard as they could. Yet the scientists must be right, even if there have been pianists who, thundering out a recital programme, would put to shame the ordinary tailor or ten tailors, for that matter."

"It is in the case of the singer that there seems greater injustice to the artist in comparison with the artisan. The respected scientists have discovered by experiments that the singer and the scrub woman expend almost equal energy on their tasks. While hesitating to dispute the conclusions of science, one is tempted to ask the two investigators if they ever saw a German dramatic soprano as Isolde and checked the energy she put into the task, or say the same type of singer struggling with the problems of Brunnhilde in the immolation scene of "Götterdämmerung." The average scrub woman looks asleep, the picture of repose, the embodiment of static sloth, the apotheosis of rest, in comparison to the soprano, especially if the artist be in the exhausting forties and stout and scant of breath."

"So you are going into your father's business now you've graduated? I suppose you'll have a pretty safe time there."

"No indeed. I'm going to start right in at the bottom as one of the vice-presidents."

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