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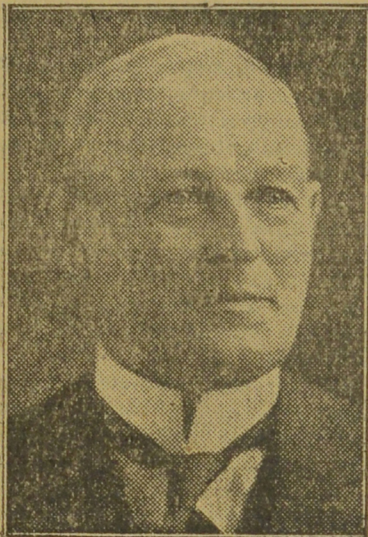
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## PREMIER AND POSTMASTER GENERAL SPEAKERS AT SAINT JOHN BANQUET SOUND AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE

Saint John, Dec. 30.—In two very important addresses, one by Hon. Dr. J. B. M. Baxter, Premier of New Brunswick, and the other by Hon. P. J. Veniot, Postmaster-General of Canada, delivered at the fifth annual banquet of the Saint John Commercial Travelers' Association in the Admiral Beatty Hotel, last evening, both struck upon common ground when they strongly advocated the sinking of party politics for the common good and advancement of the Maritime Provinces.

In order to have a great country all parts must be prosperous. He stated that the matter had been discussed by the great railroads of Canada and he felt sure that the support of New Brunswick members and the present minister, Hon. Mr. Veniot, in this respect would be forthcoming. The population of the Maritimes needs replenishing after the great drain on it by the country to the south and he felt that sympathy was felt for the Maritimes from coast to coast.



PREMIER BAXTER

"Commercialize the idea of greater unity throughout the Maritimes," was one of the ringing utterances of the Postmaster-General in a forcible speech.

"If the recommendations of the Duncan report are adopted they will do much to keep the Maritime Provinces on an even keel," was the claim of Hon. Dr. Baxter in a telling address.

### PREMIER BAXTER.

In his opening remarks, Premier Baxter thanked the executive of the Travelers' Association of Saint John for the invitation to be present at the annual banquet. He stated that he was somewhat of a traveler himself and often times rode on the early morning train with them. Travelers, he pointed out, were in a good position to sound out the view of the public and he pointed to the growth of the Travelers' Association in the Maritime Provinces in the past few years until today there are 1,612 members with resources of \$286,000. This had been accomplished by a spirit of comradeship and he stated that the success of the Travelers' Association should be applied to the Maritime question today. It was needed in a broader sense as distinguished from a party or partisan sense. He pointed out that while the struggle for party gain by one party or another was common, yet on the completion of the campaign and the fate of the country determined, the real business was to join hands for the common good.

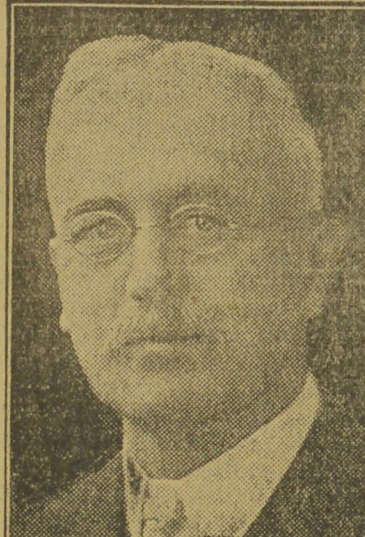
### Tribute to Veniot.

Premier Baxter paid a great tribute to Hon. Dr. Veniot, postmaster-general, and urged all present to assist him as much as possible and give him their undivided support. He stated that there should be no provincial politics in the way of putting stumbling blocks before the present representative in his attempt to help the Maritimes.

He asked them to consider the internal aspect of New Brunswick for a few moments. He told them as salesmen they could do much to assist the Maritimes in their travels and asked them to sell the Maritimes wherever they went. The press of certain sections of Canada was criticizing the Maritimes by asking what the Maritimes were doing for themselves. He stated that the Maritimes have done a lot for themselves, but there was a large field that they have not realized existed. During the war years, he pointed out, the keynote was high production and that same keynote held good today. He asked the men to take stock of the situation and see if they were taking advantage of the opportunities that existed. Denmark, a small country, in an agricultural way overshadowed New Brunswick. He quoted figures to prove his assertions and stated that while they could not accomplish all of that, they could do something better than they were doing and use the port of Saint John to export their products to any part of the world.

### Canada Waking Up.

The speaker said he felt that Canada was waking up to the needs of the Maritimes in the way of immigration



HON. DR. VENIOT

Premier Baxter stated that he hoped the Federal Government would be able to do something along the lines of the last Settlement Board and that reasonable opportunity would be given the young people to remain on the farms of New Brunswick. The great problem was to hold the present population and increase it with more.

### The Duncan Report.

The speaker stated that he wanted to refer for a moment to the Duncan report, but not from a political standpoint. He pointed out that Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, a man with an open mind, equipped exceptionally well mentally, had found favor with the maritime viewpoint in company with the other two members of the commission. He stated that some other parts of Canada might not see this problem in the right light and perhaps cause difficulty in the matter of legislation. The best solution, he pointed out, was for the Maritimes to forget politics and back up their demands with a solid front. He stated that the ex-premier of New Brunswick, Hon. Mr. Veniot, knew full well that this province never had money to develop the natural resources of the province unless it was taken from some of the other public services and this could not be done. The recommendations in the Duncan report, if carried out, would enable the Maritimes to get on an even keel. Every member of the Maritimes in the Federal Government should make of himself a salesman to sell the report to the government and present a solid front. Only in the business in the province and the business coming through the province can a great port be built up and business, the speaker pointed out was the first, last and middle object of governments.

### HON. DR. VENIOT.

Hon. Dr. Veniot stated that he was glad to see several large vessels not able to get loading berths in Saint John harbor at the present moment. He added that he did not know whose fault it was, in fact he would not discuss or criticize those to blame, but it came at a moment for great good. "The papers here will notice it and publish it," he added, "that vessels are on demurrage here because transportation facilities are not here. It is just one more argument in favor of the Duncan report, and one more argument for the nationalization of the port of Saint John. I am here to consult with the Mayor and leading citizens." Hon. Dr. Veniot added, "and speaking for the people of the North Shore I voice their sentiments when I say whatever efforts will be put forth will be backed with a united front by New Brunswick people."

### Nationalization Bill.

"I have a suggestion," Dr. Veniot stated, "and that is that you get together and that hurriedly. You have done a lot, the city has undertaken heavy financial burdens, get the best business men together, the captains of industry, call into consultation men from all over the province for big things will happen. A bill will be introduced at the next sitting of parliament for the nationalization of the

port of Saint John and Halifax, and it will be a joint bill. It will be wise for the men of New Brunswick to meet a similar body of men from Nova Scotia and agree upon the question, because conditions are not the same in both cities, so that when they take the floor of the House of Commons there will be no difference of opinion, and not at odds with one another as to the best solution. If a solid front is put forth from both provinces, it is not too much to hope that they will get what they desire.

"I have hope," Hon. Dr. Veniot stated, "and I am not giving any secrets away, that the Duncan report will bear fruit, and I also hope that when the report is laid before the Commons it will be carried. The Duncan report will be considered ere another session has passed.

### Report Delayed.

He stated that it had been impossible for the Government of Canada to give the attention the Duncan report merited as the absence of the Premier at the Imperial Conference had delayed its presentation earlier. Up to the present time, the speaker stated, it had been impossible to say just what action the government might take, but now every effort would be made to bring into effect the recommendations in that report.

He told the members of the Travelers' Association that they had a duty to perform, every citizen of New Brunswick had a duty to perform, and that was to forget politics, lay aside parochial jealousies and stand shoulder to shoulder to help the members of the Maritime Provinces in the federal government to try and create that feeling which should prevail throughout Canada. "Commercialize the idea of greater unity throughout the Maritimes," the speaker urged.

### Obstacles Possible.

It is possible that obstacles might have to be overcome—in fact, they were already appearing on the horizon. In Quebec, the speaker said, they are getting thousands and thousands of dollars together to keep the St. Lawrence River open in January. "We find," the speaker continued, "such papers at the Toronto Saturday Night saying the Duncan report is not sufficiently concise and blaming the Maritimes for conditions and advocating Maritime Union as a solution of the trouble." "Why?" the speaker added. "It is for us to surmise, we have nothing to prove it is a means of concerting action, but we do know that a movement is on foot to delay the legislation."

"Forget party politics," the speaker said, "and bind ourselves to get what we believe to be right and just."

The speaker drew attention to a movement that has started in opposition to the West Indies trade agreement. The movement, he pointed out, was started for no other reason than to break the backbone of the Duncan report and to take the attention of the people from it.

He stated that he was not in a position to give all the details at the present moment, but the opposition started with individuals who have selfish motives. "New Brunswick," the speaker said, "be on your guard in discussing the West Indies treaty." The interests in opposition to the treaty, the speaker stated, were moving quietly, and he cautioned the business men to be not taken unawares.

The speaker then touched upon the agricultural situation in this province, and stated that New Brunswick should not have to go to the markets of Quebec and Ontario for butter, eggs, cheese, etc. The Provincial as well as the Federal Government should stimulate greater production of these things in the province, and then there will be no chance for such papers as the Toronto Saturday Night to say we are not doing anything for ourselves. Before looking for foreign markets we should produce more than the demand at home and then export the surplus. During the year 1917, the speaker pointed out, New Brunswick in proportion to the population produced more than any other part of the British Empire. The great incentive now, the speaker added, was loyalty to the Maritimes.

In the matter of immigration Hon. Dr. Veniot stated he was glad the provincial government was prepared to assist the federal government in this matter. American concerns were beginning to demand that Canadian and other alien workers in their industries become American citizens. The movement, the speaker stated, started last week and he would direct the Minister of Immigration's attention to this matter and urge the young men not to forego their Canadian citizenship but to return to this country. The encouragement of the Maritimes was needed in this matter and the speaker added that he could rely on the government of Premier Baxter to assist in bringing back the large number of young men in that country.

## PARIS BULLISH ON FUTURE OF THE FRANC

(From our Paris Correspondent)

Paris.—The continued improvement of the franc has been the principal development of the past month or so. The unit has undergone a marvellous advance and there is a strong belief in both Government and financial circles that further gains will be recorded within the near future. The general opinion is that the franc will be quoted at 20 to the dollar before long. The position of the Treasury has been immensely bettered.

The Government has built up a reserve equivalent to about 200 million dollars, enough to meet all state obligations for this and next year. This reserve has been acquired solely through the sale of francs obtained through increased taxes and subscriptions to national defence bonds.

The month has also witnessed the return of a fairly large part of French capital exported during the period of political disturbance. The confidence engendered by the present Government and the possibility of a much higher rate of exchange has induced many to bring their balances abroad back to France. This movement has assisted considerably in the rise of the franc.

The public revenue continues to make a favorably high showing. The statement for October reported receipts from indirect taxes during the month, excluding tobacco at 3 billion 120 million francs as against 2 billion 262 million francs in the corresponding month of last year. The receipts from direct taxes during the month reached 2 billion 620 million francs; this is the highest monthly figure ever reached.

For the ten complete months of the year the total revenue from direct taxes amounted to 9 billion 130 million francs; this exceeds the revenue for the same period of 1925 by 600 million francs.

The fact that the Treasury or the Bank of France can arrest the rise of the franc if they choose, but have not done so, is regarded in financial circles as a strong indication that the Government is endeavoring to effect a gradual marking up of the rate.

The level talked of is 20 to the dollar. A temporary "pegging" at this quotation is anticipated.

In trade circles the improvement of the franc is proving somewhat depressing but this is due to the belief that a further drop in prices coincident with additional advances in the franc is inevitable. Consequently domestic purchases of numerous manufactured articles are being held up.

It is realized that a certain amount of economic disruption is bound to follow in the wake of the deflation now under way in the national finances.

The work of consolidating the floating debt is meeting with success. The tobacco loan resulted in the consolidation of 2½ billion francs in national defence bonds. Economies in the Civil Service are resulting in a considerable saving to the Treasury.

There is a report that M. Tardieu is on his way to the United States as a special emissary to arrange for the settlement of France's debts to the United States. The belief is growing that this will be definitely settled within the comparatively near future.

### DIED

ANDERSON—At her home in North Devon, December 30th, Miss Rebecca Louise Anderson, aged 42 years, Funeral Friday afternoon. Service at 2.30. Interment at Pickard Burying Ground.

HARRIS—At the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Rideout, Barker's Point, December 30th, Mrs. Abigail Harris, widow of James Harris, in her 92nd year. Funeral announcement later.

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