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# The Daily Mail

WEATHER  
Moderate to fresh westerly  
winds, cloudy and mild with  
some snow or rain today and  
part of Sunday.

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## BENNETT MOVES FOR EIGHT-HOUR DAY

### Premier Asks For Authority To Reform Our Labor Laws

**Peace Treaty Gives Ottawa Powers Over the Provinces — Liberals Not Opposing—Strategy is to Accuse Government of Insincerity in Measures.**

OTTAWA, Feb. 9—Formal notice is given by the Prime Minister of a motion to adopt for Canada the 8-hour day and the weekly rest, provided in the Geneva conventions, thus completing the whole lists of subjects of social security.

Heretofore, all these conventions lay in the basket. Once they are adhered to and ratified by acts of Parliament then, it is the view of law officers of the Government, they have every valid and binding effect on the country regardless of the property and civil rights clause of the Constitution and any powers thus assigned to the provinces.

#### No Liberal Opposition

Proceeding in the way that it is proposed to do, the Dominion Government entertains no doubt whatever of the competence of Parliament to enact the different lines of social legislation now on its program, the list practically complete.

Considerable discussion is going on and doubts are being raised and created. While the Liberals will not oppose the legislation, and will praise it with faint damns, they will place the responsibility on the Government. Their particular strategy seems likely to be that of representing the Government as realizing that the acts are constitutionally defective but knowing that once passed they will stand till they are challenged. Meanwhile, the elections will be over.

Those whose function it is to advise the Government in these matters entertain no doubt of the constitutionality of the bills. They claim that while the latent powers now invoked have never been exercised before, once they are adequate to the situation. Back in the time when Hon. C. J. Doherty was Minister of Justice he prepared a long memorandum which was the basis of a reference to the Supreme Court relating to the Treaty of Versailles and the obligations imposed upon Canada by the various conventions arising therefrom. The then Minister of Justice took the position that when these conventions were sent here it was not the "obligation" of Parliament to legislate on them but rather that its duty under the treaty would be fulfilled if they were passed to the different bodies—the provinces—having power to legislate. The court's pronouncement was in keeping with that view.

#### Gives New Authority

The difference between the policies of then and now is that Mr. Doherty's view was to pass on these proposals, while the Prime Minister's view is to exercise the powers the Dominion itself possesses by tapping a reservoir of authority heretofore untouched.

In place simply of receiving these conventions and sending them on, the present intention is formally to adhere to and ratify them, placing them in the Statutes of Canada. Such being the case, it is claimed that they become binding on the Dominion and the provinces as well. The power thus to ratify the conventions and make them effective is held to come clearly within the provisions of section 132 of the British North American Act, authorizing legislation to fulfil the obligations or implications of foreign treaties.

### The Valley Route

WHY CONTINUE THE NEEDLESS WASTE OF MILLIONS OF THE COUNTRY'S MONEY?

It was an announcement of great interest to Fredericton and the lower Saint John Valley which a recent prominent visitor made when he stated that there was more than a probability of Fredericton being on the main line of the Canadian National Railway between the West and the port of Saint John, if our citizens would unitedly rally to secure that consummation. Here is worthy work for our Board of Trade and our citizens generally. As is well known, the Valley Railway from here to Westfield was built to "Transcontinental" standard and, with minor improvements, is ready for the heaviest traffic. What is needed is the renovation of the present railway bridge and the conditioning of the Canada Eastern section to McGivney Junction, or possibly a cut-off up the Nashwaak Valley, from Stanley to a point at or near Napadogan.

Every taxpayer in New Brunswick, as in other provinces, is interested in the railway situation in Canada. To avoid national bankruptcy, which would mean practically the paralyzing of industry, the depreciation of individual property values to the vanishing point and nation-wide unemployment and distress, some move must be made to economize in the operation of the great railway industry and end the huge annual deficits of the Canadian National Railway System.

One good move has been made in trying to secure the transportation of every possible ton of export products over Canadian railways to Canadian ports and we are already seeing some benefit, but there still exists tremendous waste of money in routing traffic by circuitous routes and from purely sectional pressure spending money that could and must be saved.

From Quebec (Diamond Junction) to Halifax via the Transcontinental route the distance is 646 miles, with the Cobequid Mountains altitude to overcome. From Quebec to Saint John via Moncton as at the present the distance is 546 miles, with some heavy grades; while from Quebec to Saint John via McGivney and Fredericton the distance is only 482 miles, with scarcely a 50-foot rise, and a continuous drop in altitude to tidewater. For passenger, express and some package freight traffic, Halifax has the advantages of saving some time in the sea voyage and for that reason will have a busy harbor, and does not need the costly diversion of the grain and other heavy traffic for its development, which should surely go to the port where the most profit for the carrier can be secured when the freight rates are fixed by statute. IN OTHER WORDS, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS MIGHT BE SAVED BY THE C. N. R. IF ITS EXPORT MOVEMENT FOLLOWED THE VALLEYS OF THE NASHWAAK AND ST. JOHN RIVERS TO THE PORT OF SAINT JOHN.

So, for national reasons alone, as good citizens, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO GET THE MAIN LINE THROUGH FREDERICTON to which we have the added incentive of developing the business of our city and district. No one can foresee the benefits which might develop from placing our city on the direct route between Canada and Europe. Cheap fuel and cheap electricity here with frequent quick dispatch east and west will open opportunities for business not thought of at present. It was no idle dream which the president of the Board voiced the other day when he said: "LET US HAVE AN OBJECTIVE OF 25,000 POPULATION FOR FREDERICTON WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS."

### DIES JUST PRIOR TO BOAT'S SAILING

**Sanitary Engineer of the  
C.P.S. Montclare Dies  
On Board His Ship**

St. John, Feb. 9—An hour before the C.P.S. Montclare sailed yesterday afternoon, D. H. Robertson, 47, sanitary engineer for the ship, was fatally stricken and died within a few minutes. He has a wife and two children in Glasgow, Scotland.

While busy on deck just before sailing time, Robertson suddenly became ill, complaining of a pain in his chest. The ship's surgeon was summoned but before he arrived Robertson had died.

Dr. C. G. Main, coroner, examined the body and stated that death was due to natural causes. He said that no quest was necessary and gave permission for burial.

The body was left at Saint John for the examination and it will be forwarded to Halifax to be placed on the Montclare when the ship arrives there today enroute to the Old Country.

### QUESTION COURT'S JURISDICTION

**Liquor Conspiracy Hearing  
Adjourned Pending  
Judge's Decision.**

Montreal, Feb. 9—Jurisdiction of a Montreal magistrate to try parties from the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia when no evidence was being produced to prove actual conspiracy in Quebec by the parties was questioned today by defence counsel for member of an alleged \$5,000,000 liquor conspiracy.

Immediately on presentation of argument by defence lawyers, Judge Jules Desmarais postponed the preliminary hearing of nine of the alleged members until Monday when he will announce his decision on the jurisdiction objection.

The nine appearing today were the four Bronfman brothers, Abraham, Samuel, Harry and Allan; Barney Aaron, David Costley and F. S. Blair, all of Montreal; William Yule, Halifax, and Mrs. Evelyn Carline, Halifax.

### HUNDREDS HONOR JUBILARIANS ON ANNIVERSARY

**Public Presentation To  
Hon. P. J. Veniot and  
Wife One Feature**

Bathurst N. B., Feb. 9—Hon. Dr. P. J. Veniot, M.P. and Mrs. Veniot today received a tribute of warm friendship and admiration from not only hundreds of friends who called at their home to congratulate them on their golden wedding day but, as well, in 100 or more telegrams and as many letters of congratulation and good will that came from all parts of Canada and sections of the United States. So many called at their residence this afternoon that the hall and the reception rooms were thronged and the reception period, which had been set for 3 to 5 o'clock, had to be extended. It was a happy demonstration of the esteem in which Dr. Veniot and his wife are held. A pleasing feature was that all six of their sons were able to be with their parents on the notable occasion and their 18 grand-children as well were there to give added joy to the happy family party. Also many gifts came to mark the day. Among those from the family were 50 carnations from the grandchildren.

#### Wire Good Wishes

The jubilarians were repeatedly interrupted by the arrival of sheafs of telegrams conveying good wishes of friends from distant points. Among these came messages from Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, prime minister of Canada; Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, leader of the federal opposition; Hon. L. P. D. Tilley, K.C., premier of New Brunswick; Hon. A. A. Dyrart, K.C., and from hosts of others from all walks of life.

#### Public Presentation

This evening the Bathurst Citizen's Band, under the direction of Professor R. L. Doucet, serenaded the jubilarians and a committee of prominent citizens attended at the family residence when H. C. Ramsey, town solicitor, on their behalf made presentation of two beautiful chairs and a gold filled reading lamp with gold silk shade.

#### Touched by Tributes

Hon. Dr. Veniot in replying was deeply moved. He said that he was pleased with the non-political complexion of the gathering and heartily thanked his friends for the gifts on behalf of himself and Mrs. Veniot. He said he had come to Bathurst "almost a boy" with his wife 48 years ago. All his family with the exception of Dr. C. J. Veniot were born in Bathurst. Their 18 grandchildren all had called on their grandparents today. Dr. Veniot added that he was completely restored to health and has never felt better than at this time. He will leave Sunday evening to return to Ottawa.

### ROOF GIVES WAY UNDER SNOW

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Feb. 9—The Dunbar foundry and machine shop Lower Main Street, was damaged yesterday when a portion of the roof collapsed under weight of snow. A large section of the northern end of the plant, containing the erecting shop, was affected. This part had not been used much in recent months as it had only recently been rebuilt after a fire. One section of the building was unroofed, the snow snapping the rafters and allowing the roof to drop to the floor. Harry Dunbar, proprietor and manager, said work would be carried on without interruption, and that the damaged section would be rebuilt in the spring.

"There is nothing the New Deal has so far done that could not have been done better by an earthquake."—Benjamin Stolberg.

### Dionne Papa And Mamma to be Sued

### BOY LOSES LIFE IN CRASH WITH AUTOMOBILE

**Edwin Haskins' Skull Is  
Fractured in Calais  
Accident**

St. Stephen, N. B., Feb. 9—Edwin Haskins, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haskins of Calais was fatally injured shortly before dark last night while coasting near his home. He slid into a taxi driven by Norman Stanhope of Milltown, Me., who was driving along another street and did not see the boy on account of high snow drifts.

The lad's head struck the running board of the car and his skull was fractured.

Mr. Stanhope took the boy to the Calais hospital where he passed away during the night. The sled was broken to pieces in impact with the car. The medical examiner, Dr. W. H. Bunker, and State Policeman Boynton investigated and decided the accident was unavoidable and was no fault of the driver of the car. There are two other children in the family besides the parents.

### ANNUAL "CON" AT UNIVERSITY LAST EVENING

Color and gaiety and the novelty of having the affair broadcast by short-wave featured the 63rd annual conversation or "con" of the University of New Brunswick held in the Memorial Hall last evening and which was largely attended.

The conversation was broadcast over the experimental short wave transmitter, VE9AS, owned and operated by the electrical engineering department of the university.

The "con" was conducted under management of J. Edward Hughes, Fredericton, and the chaperones were Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones, Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Wright, and Professor and Mrs. B. W. Fleiger. The reception committee consisted of the chaperones and Miss Frances Crocker, president of the ladies' society; J. Edward Hughes, president of the social committee, and George D. Johnston, president of the students' representative council.

At midnight refreshments were enjoyed in the downstairs hall, converted into a fairyland effect. In the main hall, faculty crests glowed from side walls, and a grandfather clock, "grandfather con-1872", surmounted the stage with the orchestra playing beneath the pendulum. George Olts and his orchestra provided excellent music for 16 dances and three extras.

Preliminary to the dancing, a concert included selections by a double male quartet, consisting of Robin Bayley, Roland Webb, Donald Pringle, Ernest VanDine, Herbert Belding, George Johnston, Charles Johnston, and Vernon Box; and vocal selections by Anne Sypher, soprano, Charles Johnson, with Robin Bayley accompanist. Rosemary Durick played several selections at the piano, and Herbert Webber pleasing violin numbers. This program was broadcast over station CPNB, Fredericton and concluded with a short address by Dr. C. C. Jones, president of the University of New Brunswick.

### Parents of the Famous Quintuplets Are Sued For a Million Dollars For Breach of Contract.

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 9—Mama and Papa Dionne made their stage debut yesterday but a \$1,000,000 breach of contract suit cast a shadow across the footlights.

Shortly after they had taken their first bows in a Loop theatre, attorneys for Ivan I. Spear, head of the Century of Progress Tour Bureau, brought suit for a cool million in federal court. The plaintiff alleged the Dionnes had broken an agreement giving him exclusive rights to exhibit the Quintuplets and members of the family. Fifteen other persons and institutions were named parties to the litigation.

Both the Canadian visitors and their managerial staff declined to comment on the action until the papers had been served. A similar suit against them was thrown out of court here last summer.

The Dionnes were already enmeshed in trouper trouble when news of the legal difficulty reached them. They acknowledged they lacked the Barrymore technique, but they had not anticipated the rigors of Thespian life.

Smiles wreathing their faces and attitudes ringing in their ears, they repaired to their dressing room following their first appearance. Someone suggested a platter of fish with lemon sauce. Coats and hats were donned in a nonce. But they were halted by an irascible stage director.

"Back to your rooms", he ordered. "We've got to rehearse the act again". He was reminded of the dinners—at the expense of the impresarios. "I'll send for sandwiches", he snapped. Faces fell. The Dionnes had spent the whole morning learning their simple lines.

But they manifested little nervousness as they waited in the wings for their initial step across the boards. Mama concealed her buck fever by holding Papa's hand. Olivia placed his arm about Elzire's waist. They laughed aloud when a trained mule kicked a black-faced comedian into the orchestra pit.

Then—the curtain fell. A sound picture of the Quints squealing under their daily ministrations was flashed on the screen. An announcer took front and centre to build up the feature piece. The band played "Baby Your Mother Like She Babied You".

The story of the "dramatic visit the stork paid to the humble home in the Canadian hinterland was re-told. One by one, the principals slipped through the parted curtains into the glare—Mrs. Joseph Rochon, friend of the family; Leon Dionne, brother of Olivia; Elzire in her brown dress; Olivia—the George Washington of his family"—in his blue suit.

Papa approached the microphone like a veteran. He said:

"Mrs. Dionne and myself are glad to have the opportunity to thank the people of the United States for their interest in our babies".

"Merci beaucoup", Mama told the audience.

They acknowledged the applause and moved toward the exit. But through a mixup in cues they were caught in a swirl of dancing chorus girls. They made their way to safety with a bit of dignified difficulty.

"It wasn't so hard", Olivia stated. "Not so hard as posing for pictures", Elzire said.

That was all. The appearance is repeated five times a day.