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## PEOPLE THEMSELVES HAVE THE MEANS AT HAND TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS

**How and Why Living on the Farm Has Become  
More Difficult and Profits Smaller—The Men-  
ace of Tenant—Ownership Seems to Be Spread-  
ing—The Price Spread Evils—Adult Education  
Shows Way Out of the Difficulties.**

The advantages of adult education which is a live subject in New Brunswick just now, and which has produced such wonderful results in Nova Scotia.

Adult Education and the co-operative movement have benefited the farmers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as it has benefited other states and nations.

The following was the paper delivered by Dr. J. T. Croteau, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Economics at St. Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales University, at the Rural Parish Rally of the Diocese of Charlottetown on July 22.

"Dr. Murphy's paper has, I believe, shown that the theory of adult education is logical, that the need for it is imperative, that the response of the people to it has been remarkable, and that its future looks hopeful.

"There is no need of my spending any more time on this. But if there are some in this audience (and I am sure there are) who are not yet convinced of the desirability of study clubs, or who are antagonistic to the aims and purposes of the whole movement, I hope, this afternoon, to set forth our case for adult education. For, as we conceive adult education, it is not a vague 'pastime', designated to occupy the leisure of winter months; but it is a concrete programme of social action focused towards the economic and social betterment of the common man.

"But adult education differs from other programmes of social reform in that we do not attempt to tell anyone what to do, or what we will do

if we are elected to office. We do not advocate leaving things in the hands of 'experts' as do our C. C. F. friends for example. We have faith that the people themselves have the intellectual ability and the economic strength to solve their own problems once they decide to grapple with them in an honest and wholehearted way. This is the simple faith in democracy—the faith that as equals we can choose and determine our best destinies.

"But enough of this theory! Adult education is a practical thing. It is concerned, above all, with the practical problems of practical men and women. And to show the practical necessity of this programme, let me review a trend that is all too clear to students of rural economic life.

"We can see this trend more clearly in the United States, so first let me refer to conditions there. In the early days of that country every man owned his own farm. He made almost everything that he used on the farm and he bought very little from outside. He worked very hard, no doubt; and he lacked many of the refinements of the present day. But he had at least this: He was free and independent; and, provided that he and his family worked hard, he was assured of full and plenty—sufficient food, clothing and shelter. It was a life consonant with the dignity of human beings. Farming was a profession, and a dignified one—as it still is.

"A Dangerous Rural Trend  
"But as the years went on, there was a great expansion in the invention and use of machinery. And with this a dangerous—a suicidal—trend became manifest in rural life. Little by little, the farmer began to lose his wealth. The combination of selling at wholesale and buying at retail—and that, in a nutshell, is the situation in which the farmer finds himself—was continually draining the rural areas of the surplus that the farmer had won from the earth with his unremitting toil. And what has been the result?

"In 1880, when the trend had already set in, 25 per cent of the farms of the United States were operated by tenants. By 1930 tenancy had increased until 42 per cent of the farms of the United States were worked by others than their owners. And today in that country you have the situation where in a rich, fertile, farming state like Iowa, over 50 per cent of the farms are run by tenants. Probably the most extreme case is Mississippi, where over 70 per cent of the farms are operated by men who do not own the land they work.

"But, you may say, 'That is the situation in the United States. How does that concern us in Prince Edward Island? Well, the same trend has been at work here; only you have been losing people, not lands. You know the story better than I—how the population of the Island dropped from 109,000 in 1891 to 88,000 in 1931. Then, too, farms have been lost or abandoned; and the towns have been cluttered up with farmers who could not make farming pay. I do not need to remind you that last winter about one-fifth of the population of Charlottetown was on relief.

"These people are 'no good' you may say. But that is not true. When you see honest, hard-working farmers losing their property—seeing it vanish before their eyes—through no fault of their own, then it is time for us to act. And the situation is almost as serious in Prince Edward Island as in Iowa or Mississippi. In Prince Edward Island, according to the Canada Year Book, in 1931, one-third of all the farms carried a mortgage indebtedness. This amounted to \$4,800,000. When you consider that farm property—lands and buildings—was valued at \$13,700,000, it can be seen that the mortgage debt was equal to over 33 per cent of the value of the property. But the official statistics are only a part of the story. They do not tell of the large number of mortgages in default. We cannot get reliable statistics of the amount that is owed to storekeepers and others. In many cases these sums are as great as the mortgage.

**Farmers Losing Their Property**  
"So you see, the farmers of Prince Edward Island, just like the farmers elsewhere, are losing their prosperity, slowly perhaps, but surely. Of course, the farms are not being sold on a large scale just now, for the simple reason that they cannot be sold—there is no market. But if the agricultural situation should improve, a not improbable result would be the sale of a great many more farms. And the worst part of it is that after a farm is lost, the Prince Edward Island farmer is much worse off than

his United States neighbor. In the United States the farmer who has lost his farm frequently has, at least, the doubtful privilege of running the farm for the insurance company or the bank who has sold him out. At least he has some food and a roof over his head. But in Prince Edward Island the farmer is sold out "lock, stock and barrel" and is simply destitute and must either drift to the town or work as a farm laborer; in either case work is not plentiful.

"A few years ago there was another choice—he could emigrate to the States, where he could enjoy the pleasures of running an elevator or of carrying ice. I have seen the homes of Prince Edward Islanders around Boston. Some, of course, are comfortable; but others, living in hot, noisy, stuffy tenements, must look with longing to life on these fertile lands. We all know the true story now: We no longer envy those who went to Boston. The lucky ones were those who stayed on the farm in Prince Edward Island. But whether you agree with me here or not, the fact is that there are no more opportunities around Boston. We simply must dig in and make the best of things right here in Prince Edward Island. This applies particularly to the young people.

**An Attitude of Distress**  
"I said before that farming was a professional—dignified calling. But in traveling through the country one cannot help but observe things that might be described by the word 'un-Christian.' One sees, for instance, an attitude of distrust and suspicion, not of the stranger, but of neighbors and associates. Sharp practices, and even dishonest practices, are not unknown—grading potatoes wrongly, 'salting the sheep' or similar tricks.

"And we hear talk of building up herds. Well, why do we not see more enterprising farmers buying purebred bulls and making them available for use in the whole community—at a price, of course? Simply because farmers have learned from experience that it is next to impossible to collect any money from their neighbors for services of this kind. And so you have a condition where farmers, owing money to the merchants and to each other, are coming to mistrust one another. And the condition of harmony and security which should naturally exist in a land as beautiful as Prince Edward Island is giving way to a condition of suspicion and discord.

**The Price Spread Evil**  
"But I do not want to give the impression that I am trying to place the blame for this situation entirely upon the people. Let me try to explain how this came about. Whenever a farmer buys anything, he has to pay a profit or a salary to as many people as handle it. If it passes through many middlemen, the farmers' costs are accordingly increased. With certain articles as much as fifty cents of the farmer's dollar is paid to transportation and commission men, wholesalers and retailers. In such a case, an article that may have cost fifty cents to produce would cost the farmer one dollar. Of course the spread may not be that great, but there certainly is a spread. And remember, when the farmer pays for these articles the largest share of that profit is drained from the country to the large cities—Montreal, New York, or similar places. Look at the commodities you buy and see if what I say is not true—fertilizers, certain feeds, automobiles, oil and gasoline, etc. Or when you use your bank, or make a purchase in the five and ten cent store in Charlottetown, or send away to Eaton's—is there not a drainage of cash away from the rural districts?

"Now, you have to pay cash for most of these things. And even in normal times it is difficult to get enough cash together to make both ends meet. But when farm prices drop, as they have in recent years, and the prices of the things you have to purchase drop very little, if at all—and an excellent illustration of this is found in the agricultural implement field, where the price of farm machinery has continually increased—it is no wonder that farmers have to mortgage their property, that they cannot pay the storekeeper, and that many are almost ready to give up hope."

**CRUDE PETROLEUM**  
The production of crude petroleum in Canada during May totalled 114,297 barrels as compared with 107,748 in April and 123,801 in May, 1935. Production in Alberta during May included 96,133 barrels from the Turner Valley field, 1,402 barrels from the Red Coulee field, and 1,254 from the Wainwright field.

Exports of petroleum and its products in May were valued at \$63,898 as against the preceding month's valuation of \$153,132. Imports of petroleum, asphalt and their products into Canada were valued at \$4,282,937, or 71.1 per cent above the April total. In May, Canada imported 103,517,363 gallons of crude petroleum made up of 71,188,062 gallons from the United States, 11,764,155 from Colombia, 10,556,035 galls from Venezuela and 10,009,111 from Peru.

## MOUNT ALLISON PRESIDENT BACK FROM ABROAD

**Dr. G. J. Trueman, With  
Mrs. Trueman and Par-  
ty, Visited British Isles  
France, Germany and  
Belgium—Attended  
University of London  
Centenary.**

SACKVILLE, Aug. 18—President G. J. Trueman of Mount Allison, and Mrs. Trueman returned recently from a two months' trip to the British



DR. G. J. TRUEMAN,  
President of Mount Allison  
University.

Isles and Europe. On the trip they were accompanied by Miss Doris Runciman of the Department of Home Economics at Mount Allison and Miss Pauline Norrie, of Amos, Que., a graduate of Mount Allison this year. Miss Runciman and Dr. Trueman were the official representatives of Mount Allison University at the celebration of the Centenary of London University, held at the end of June.

The party spent the first week visiting English towns along the Welsh border. At Monmouth they visited Mr. Lloyd Dixon, a graduate of Mt. Allison and a former Rhodes scholar. Later they visited Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Indoe, both graduates of Mount Allison and now living in Cheddar, Somerset.

The following week was spent in London attending the Centenary celebration of London University. Along with the other guests the party was entertained at luncheons, garden parties, dinners and receptions by the City; the Nation and by the various colleges making up the London University.

On July 4th the party crossed to France and spent three days in Paris. From there they went to Strasbourg and later to Heidelberg, Germany, which Dr. Trueman had not visited since he was a student in 1903. Later Mainz on the Rhine was visited. Here the party took the steamer down the Rhine to Cologne. From there they went to Brussels in Belgium, and from there back via Ostend and Dover to England.

On July 13 the Congress of British Universities opened in Cambridge. For the following five days the party were guests of Cambridge University. The homes of the professors were thrown open to visitors from all over the Empire and the various colleges vied with each other in providing entertainment.

After Cambridge the party motored across country to Warwick and to Stratford-on-Avon and spent two days in the Shakespeare country. Manchester was the next place visited and then the famous English Lake District, which includes the counties of Westmorland and Cumberland. This district is only excelled by the Scottish Highlands in its wildness and beauty. By bus from Keswick to Dumfries, Scotland, was the next portion of the trip. Dumfries is the home town of Dr. Trueman's mother's people. Three days were spent there visiting relatives and motoring over a wide area of country. The following week was spent in Edinburgh and in the Highlands of Scotland.

**British People Optimistic**  
Dr. Trueman found the general feeling of the British people to be

## CHANGE, PLEASE!

PARIS, Aug. 18—The "200 Families," aristocratic clan that largely controlled a nation's financial affairs from the time of Napoleon, tonight yielded its power over the Bank of France to a Social Government's Council.

The Board of Regents, wealthy men from widely diversified branches of industry, who directed the bank for the "200 Families" or major stockholders, stepped out by Government decree.

They will not be deprived of their investment, but henceforth will have little voice in administration. Tomorrow a new Council, with representation from labor, the French Cabinet, agriculture and business co-operatives, will take over.

Leon Jouhaux, President of the Confederation of Labor, was the first man named to the new Council, which hopes to liberalize credit policies, but maintain the franc on the gold standard.

It was expected the new Council would continue the anti-devaluation policy of the retiring Regents, and oppose inflation.

Since 1800 the ruling Regents held control of the bank, which houses the nation's gold and issues the national currency. The Liberal Government of Leon Blum, seeking reform, charged that the Regents comprised a ruling oligarchy; that they passed on their power in family dynasties.

one of optimism. It was evident everywhere that the financial situation was greatly improving. Everyone seemed busy and the number of tourists was very large. While the people in authority were doubtless disturbed by international affairs, the people generally did not believe that England would be involved in war.

In France the threatened strike and the high cost of living had had a serious effect on the tourist trade. The people seemed generally disturbed and uncertain as to the future. The cost of living was much higher in France than in any other country visited.

In Germany things outwardly seemed to be going very satisfactorily. The people are optimistic and the tourist trade has been good. The cost of living is low and special attention is given to the tourist. In Belgium also everyone seemed busy and the low cost of living had induced many tourists to come to the country.

On account of the meetings in Cambridge it was not possible for the party to be at the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial.—Moncton Times.

## PRIMARY MOVEMENT OF WHEAT

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending July 31, amounted to 901,019 bushels, compared with 483,167 in the previous week and 2,616,541 in the corresponding week a year ago. By provinces, receipts for the week were as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: Manitoba 98,064 (294,538); Saskatchewan 403,644 (1,157,787); Alberta 399,311 (1,164,216) bushels. Marketings for the crop year from August 1 to July 31: Manitoba 17,395,298 (31,616,281); Saskatchewan 117,656,810 (103,164,399); Alberta 81,223,266 (94,968,630); Total 216,273,873 (229,749,310) bushels.

**RUMANIA**—Rumania ordered 130 army tanks recently from the Skoda Ammunition Works at a cost of 150,000,000 Czechoslovakian crowns (about \$6,195,000).

**GREECE**—The Bank of Greece sought to bolster its financial position by forbidding Greek citizens to travel abroad.

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