

## THE DAILY MAIL

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## Supreme Court Decisions

The eyes of the business and legal world were turned yesterday on the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada. Out of the eight reform laws passed by the Bennett Administration, two were declared invalid, the judges differed on two more, one was termed partly valid, and two were upheld.

It is more than likely that there will be appeals in the Privy Council in England by the Provinces. The decision of the Supreme Court is not binding, but governments in recasting the laws will be in a measure influenced by the decision of the six white-haired judges who took five months to write their decisions in this, the longest and most important constitutional reference in the 61-year history of the Supreme Court.

Although supreme court judgments descended heavily on the reform programme of the former Bennett government, they will have no immediate effect upon the economic existence of the people of Canada.

In a general way, the Dominion argued before the court that each of the eight laws was constitutional, that Parliament was within its legal rights in passing it. The provinces attacked the laws, insisting that the Dominion invaded their legislative fields as defined by the British North America Act, the constitution of the country.

When the King Government came into office last October, it referred the laws to the court for a constitutional opinion. At the time it was announced changes would be made in most of them, but before Parliament was asked to pass amendment the constitutional issue would be settled.

## Regulating That "Free" \$100

The reported movement of pianos, refrigerators, used cars, and such personal goods across the Canadian border in response to the \$100 tariff exemption privilege has brought action from Ottawa. In fact, Hon. J. L. Hsley, Minister of National Revenue, has been extremely prompt in his action and particularly comprehensive in the regulations which are to govern the duty-free concession. If one had not so much faith in human ingenuity, Mr. Hsley's regulations would seem complete. But it is too much to expect that there will be no more complaints.

Personal valuations, for example, will not satisfy Customs officials, who are also appraisers, and will fix their own values. Overattention to alterations and repairs of personal property—the family car—while visiting the United States can result in duty charges. There has been a definite list of "prohibited" products prepared, and there has been definite limitation of quantity, irrespective of price, placed on others. For example, 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes are the maximum. Otherwise Canadians may bring back for personal use virtually anything not prohibited entry into Canada.

When all these things—and the above are but part of the regulations—are considered in terms of one trip every three months, it is questionable if the public has any real incentive for a buying excursion to the States. Merchants, therefore, can dispel the bog of bankruptcy, always remembering, of course, that ingenuity is a subtle thing, and tariff laws were made to be beaten.

## Still Another Election

Provincial politics move rapidly these days. Even while Canadians have been digesting the startling turn of affairs in Quebec, the Manitoba Government announces a general election for July 27. The Western election is even more of a surprise than that in the East. In Quebec, as indicated at the polls last fall, there was growing dissatisfaction with the Taschereau Administration. Within the last week evidence of irregularities by an official of the Government, and hints at others, made an appeal to the people inevitable.

In Manitoba things appeared to be quiet. The Government could have waited till next spring, when conditions might be better than at present. But Premier Bracken decided—apparently suddenly—to take the plunge at once. This may be a good strategic move. Only a day or so ago the Manitoba Conservatives selected a new Leader, and naturally some time will be required to prepare the party for a general election. So that the Conservative and other group leaders have been, as it were, caught napping.

Premier Bracken, who has been in office since 1922, first as head of the Progressive Party, and since last election as Leader of merged Progressives and Liberals—may be relying on the evident fact that, under his Administration, Manitoba has been doing very well, much better than other Western Provinces. In a House made up of 55 members he has a following of 34, the standing of other groups being: Conservatives, 9; Liberals, 3; Labor, 5; Farmer-Labor, 1; with three seats vacant. Judging from this composition of the Legislature, the outlook for the Administration may be regarded as encouraging, though these have been bad years for Governments.

But there enters the forthcoming political battle a new element. Social Credit candidates are to contest every seat. Observers will be of the opinion that Premier Bracken would have been well advised to await expiration of his allotted time in office, so that the Social Credit Government in Alberta might be in still greater difficulties, which appears likely, and supporters of its policy in Manitoba handicapped that much more. However, the Premier, an astute politician, may have concluded that public opinion in his Province is convinced now that Social Credit is not what it has been cracked up to be, and that now is the time to strike. For this reason, especially, the outcome of the balloting will be awaited throughout Canada and beyond with a great deal of interest. At any rate, with general elections at hand both in Manitoba and Quebec, the Canadian public should be supplied with lively political news.

## SNAPSHOTS

A hick town is one where they take a policeman off the beat and send him into the country to inspect farms for one of the officials.

The three clerks in one of the chain stores, who insulted the lady customer three times, got what was coming to them. The store manager however, proved himself a gentleman.

These same clerks are giving The Daily Mail some free advertising to the chain store customers. Thanks, but we don't need it.

We never heard of an instance in any Home Owned store where a lady customer was deliberately insulted by the clerks when she went to make a purchase.

Did you ever hear of an office girl who was misled two days on Saint John Street while her mother thought she was at work and her boss thought she was sick.

Who is the clergyman who is trying to double cross the widow with a family and get her out of her job?

There is no mystery about reducing. The horses are always thinnest when they are doing the most plowing.

Funny man! He can't take a rest because his family needs his support, so he works himself to death and leaves his family broke.

Good resolutions never outlive their cause. If caused by a headache, they die when the headache stops.

Don't worry about our present problems. They will either solve themselves or seem trivial compared with new ones.

The pretty man must have a generous heart. He never lets one woman monopolize him.

The world grows better in one particular. Dressing up no longer requires making your feet hurt.

## Woman Gagged

(Continued from Page One)  
scious, her hands tied behind her back and a black cloth which detectives said looked as if it had been torn from a Black Legion robe, stuffed in her mouth.

Her husband, Wm. H. Guthrie was detained shortly afterwards. He said he knew nothing of the attack.

## N. B. DISPUTED ALL

(Continued from Page One)  
The Insurance Act was attacked by Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick, with the Prairie Provinces taking no sides. It was the same lineup on the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act.

On the Marketing Act, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick were in opposition, while British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces took no sides.

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were not represented at the hearing.

Only six judges sat on the case, because the seventh, Judge Lamont, was sick at the time. He died subsequently.

Schemes for co-operative marketing now in operation include the Nova Scotia apple marketing scheme and Grand Manan smoked herring products scheme.

## APPOINTED CURATE

Rev. Father Joseph Daley has been appointed curate at St. Andrews, and will take up his new duties at that place next Sunday.

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## Two Most Advanced

(Continued from Page One)  
months. Meanwhile they remain in operation.

The hearing took two weeks with the evidence running to 500,000 words. The judges took five months to write their decisions. Here is a short description of each law:

## Natural Products Marketing Act

A device to permit groups of producers of natural products to set prices and regulate marketing of their products both as to quantity and quality. There are 15 marketing schemes in operation from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, but they will not be affected directly by the judgment which went against the law.

## Employment and Social Insurance Act

This act never came into operation although preliminary appointments of commissioners were made. It established a system of unemployment insurance with a central fund to which the Dominion and workers contributed. When out of work, men and women could draw doles for stipulated periods. It was declared unconstitutional.

## Dominion Trade and Industry Commission Act

This resulted from the price spread reports, the commission to act as a sort of referee over industry. It was declared unconstitutional in its most important aspect, the right of the commission to approve price and production agreements among industrialists.

## Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act

This act, approved by the court, enables farm debts to be scaled down and has been used by thousands of debt-embarrassed farmers to stay on the land.

## Section 498A of the Criminal Code

This also resulted from the price spreads report and inserted in the code fines and imprisonment for unfair, unethical business practices. It was upheld.

## Minimum Wage Act

This was the first of the three laws on which the court split 3-3. It never came into operation but provided for Dominion-wide minimum wages to take the place of provincial laws which vary both as to standards and proficiency.

## Forty-Eight-Hour Week

This was another act that never came into operation but provided for a maximum working week of 48 hours in a long list of industries.

## Weekly Day of Rest

This also never came into operation but stipulated that workers in most industries must have one day's rest in seven.

## Retirement of Judges

(Continued from Page One)  
"I have given this matter a great deal of attention," Mr. Lapointe continued, "and I am inclined to agree with the members of the Canadian Bar Association who have been charged especially with study of this matter and who recommend we should revert to the condition that existed before the 1920 amendment (to the Judges Act), and permit Judges who have reached the age of 75 and who have been on the Bench twenty years to retire on the salary they received on the Bench."

The Minister said he had discussed this question with his colleagues, who considered this was no time to increase pensions for Judges. From private discussions with the Conservative Leader he learned Mr. Bennett also agreed it would be difficult to get a bill through Parliament at this time.

Incompetent Judges could be retired by Order-in-Council, Mr. Lapointe continued, but it was a drastic method. If any Provincial Bar Association sought retirement of a Judge, he would be ready to investigate, but he could not act on rumors and idle reports. For one reason, there was a danger of running against the charge of political interference by retiring compulsorily some Judge who had been appointed by another party while in office.

The House passed a bill adding two Judges to the Trial Division of the Ontario Supreme Court. It was sought by the Provincial Legislature. The Conservative Leader said if the Judges already on the Bench could carry their full share of the work there would be no need of appointing more.

Mr. Lapointe could not agree with him claiming this condition did not apply to the Trial Division in Ontario.

It was almost an intolerable position, Mr. Bennett said, where Judges, some of them admitting their unfitness, continued on the Bench. The present bill would cost \$18,000 a year because incapable Judges refused to retire.

## Commons Battle

(Continued from Page One)  
French, the latter not localizes in circulation. The Liberals stood together in voting down the Conservative amendments, but four of the latter party voted against their colleagues while the C.C.F. and the Social Credit parties were both split.

Trotter Team To  
Learn of General  
Conditions in Canada

Rene Picard and Pat O'Brien, Canada's Greatest Trotter Team, were in the city today enroute to Halifax, to complete a trip across Canada. The trotters made a record trip from Montreal to Vancouver last year in four and one half months. They were invited to 67 hotels and were interviewed by 37 newspapers. The trip was declared official by radio stations and newspapers. They have 3,983 autographs gathered during their trip last year. The trip this year started from St. Jean, P. Q., the trotters home town, and their goal is Halifax. They will have gold seals and letters from every city in Canada. The trip is sponsored by the St. Jean Board of Trade with L. O. Regnier, president. The purpose of the trip is to gather material to publish a story about general conditions and adventure in Canada. The trotter team complimented Fredericton on its friendly spirit. They stated that they had a very warm reception here. They were guests of the Waverley Hotel while here and expect to start out on the road again tomorrow. Trotters accept lifts whenever offered, but do not solicit rides.

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