

THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

THE MAIL PUBLISHING COMPANY — J. L. NEVILLE, Managing Editor.

Published Every Afternoon (except Sunday) at 327-329 Queen Street, Fredericton, N. B.

PHONES: Editorial, Social and Accounting, 67;
News Dept. and Advertising, 612.
Subscription Price: \$5 Per Year by Carrier; \$4 Per Year by Mail
Three and Six Months' Subscriptions Taken at Proportionate Rates.

FREDERICTON, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1936

"S'il Vous Plait"

The depression deepens in France; the franc wobbles, tourists do not come in any considerable numbers, hotelkeepers are wringing their hands, stock are going down, and there is alarm over the presence of German troops on the Rhine, alarm, too, over the trend of politics at home.

But with respect to one recent development the French may take comfort. Their telephone service has been improved. From being one of the most inefficient in the world, their system has become one of the best.

The man responsible for this revolutionary change is Georges Mandel, the late Georges Clemenceau's right-hand man. After a long period of political obscurity, Mandel was given the job of minister of posts and telegraphs. He at once set about cleaning house. Red tape was reduced to a minimum; efficiency became the order of the day. Wrong numbers instead of being the rule are now the exception.

M. Mandel's most recent innovation was the S. V. P. service in Paris. By calling the S. V. P. (s'il vous plait) a subscriber can get whatever information he wants regarding train schedules, the weather, the time, the state of the stock market or any other information. Or S. V. P. will do his shopping for him or provide him with a doctor, a lawyer, a guide or a travelling companion. For this service a very moderate fee is charged, which is added to the monthly bill. One practical joker desiring to test out the efficacy of the service asked S. V. P. some very detailed questions regarding the vertebrae of the swordfish. He got the desired information. But his bill was larger by 20 francs as a result of his prank.

Washington "Cuts" Australia

One of the immediate effects of Australia's new trade policy was the loss of most-favored-nations treatment by the United States, a position in which Germany had been enjoying solitary distinction. The "good neighbor" idea no longer applies to either of these nations, and the result may be of some consequence. Not much is expected of a country like Germany, which plays a lone hand in most affairs, but a few years ago Australia lowered its tariffs as a gesture toward better business, and it must be rather disappointing to other countries to find its policy reversed. There is considerable to be said, however, for the principle which seeks to extend greater patronage to good customers.

The United States has not been a good customer in the sense used by Australia. The balance has been too favorable to the latter country. Canada is in the same position, having sold to the Commonwealth in 1935 three times as much in value as was purchased. Hence, the United States is losing by the new deal, and so is Canada.

The Dominion's Acting Trade Commissioner at Melbourne explains that both a licensing system and higher tariffs will be utilized to divert imports. All goods of Empire origin are excepted from the licensing system except motor chassis, and chassis from the United Kingdom are not affected. Neither the United States nor Canada will be permitted to ship to Australia hereafter a greater number of chassis than were sent during the year ending April 30 last.

The purpose is to develop secondary industries, an ambition which cannot well be criticized by Canada. Altogether, it is expected that imports valued at £2,290,000 will be diverted from past channels. Australian manufacturers are expected to benefit to the extent of £845,000, and the United Kingdom manufacturers to the extent of £1,310,000. The United States will be affected adversely, and that Dominion will be asked to see that it does not become a leak for United States shipments. Hence Australia is off the most-favored-nations list at Washington.

Appeal the Right Course

The Federal Government is taking the proper course in appealing to the judgment of the Privy Council for determination of its right to enforce labor legislation passed by the Bennett Administration. There is no difference in party policy over the desirability of employment and social insurance, provisions for one day's rest in seven, a 48-hour week and payment of minimum wages, and until recently there has been no question of jurisdiction. The late Government raised the issue by assuming authority—formerly accepted by the Provinces—under pledges of the International Labor Office. Lack of finality in the Supreme Court of Canada makes appeal necessary, and it is fortunate for the Dominion that it has recourse to a tribunal whose decision will settle the matter. In the course of time—too much time, possibly—it will be known whether or not the Dominion can make this legislation effective, and, if not, what procedure is necessary to carry out the purposes of the legislation.

At the same time, apparently, according to the announcement of Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, the Provinces are challenging the Supreme Court decision upholding the validity of Section 498A of the Criminal Code, intended to eliminate unfair trade practices, and the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, by which adjustments are made of farmers' debts, in numerous cases at the expense of Provincial loans.

No intimation is given as to what is to be done about the Natural Products Marketing Act, found ultra vires of the Dominion Government, and the Dominion Trade and Industries Commission Act, part of which only was regarded by the Supreme Court as valid.

All these measures, obviously, are sound constitutionally in respect to either Province or Dominion, and it is important to know which has jurisdiction under the British North America Act, and whether the Act has to be amended to ensure adequate administration.

The four bills covered by the appeal of the Dominion Government are essentially of nation-wide importance because of the effect of competition in business. While one day's rest in seven is observed pretty generally, the 48-hour week is not uniformly observed, nor is the payment of minimum wages. If the Employment Insurance Act is to be enforced, requiring contributions from employers, there would be little equity in having such arrangement in one Province and not in another.

What the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decides will be final, and it is well that little time has been lost in arranging the appeal.

SNAPSHOTS

The married man who likes to butt into other people's business should cease meeting the housemaid near the burdock pile on Union Street.

Were the street operations suspended on account of the golf tournament?

That girl is still taking the married man out in her fellow's car. Every one seems to know about it except the fellow interested. They don't stay in Devon but drive on this side of the river also.

Every one breathed easy when they learned that the members of the Police Commission were not in the car which went into the ditch. If anything had happened the Police Commission we would have had to close up the city's business.

There is absolutely no truth in the rumor that the police were out inspecting farms. There was a time when the police were taken off the beat and sent out into the country to inspect farms. Of course that could not happen under the present Chief or the present Police Commission. Eh, what!

There might be war in China if Chinese soldiers could decide just who it was they wanted to fight.

Father, who shouldn't be thinking about such things, recalls pre-depression days when girls' lips were not in the red.

Saving the country is like getting married. The way to enjoy it is to forget all about the arithmetic.

A man doesn't sing because he is bathing. He does it then because the bathroom is the only place where people can't get at him.

Campaign conscious, the Winnipeg Tribune observes "an entire absence of planks promising planned weather, shorter winters, longer springs and finer falls." Everything else, no doubt is taken care of.

Former Attempts

(Continued from Page One)
sanity and spent 40 years in Bedlam, the hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem which was used as a lunatic asylum. Afterwards he was sent to Austria, where he became a house painter.

Two years later there were two attempts, by a man called Francis and by a hunchback named Bean, who were found to be insane. In 1850 a half-pay officer called Pate attacked Queen Victoria with a stick. In 1869 an Irish boy named O'Connor pointed a pistol at Her Majesty in St. James' Park. Flogging was ordered in both these cases but the punishment was remitted at the request of Queen Victoria. She sent O'Connor to Australia at her own expense.

The last attempt on Queen Victoria's life was made at Windsor in 1882 by a madman called MacLean, who fired at the Queen as she left the station. But an Eton boy with an umbrella beat down MacLean's hand and diverted the shot.

Recent Incidents

Attempts a violence against members of the Royal Family are rare in Great Britain.

One of the last occurred on May 11, 1935, during the celebration of King George V's jubilee in Belfast when a resident threw a bottle at the Duke of Gloucester's automobile.

A similar incident occurred July 14, 1934, in Edinburgh, when a bottle was thrown at the car in which King George and Queen Mary were returning from the Hamilton races.

Convocation

(Continued from Page One)
minister of health and labor; Mr. Justice Crockett, Ottawa; Mr. Justice Harrison and Mr. Justice Fairweather Saint John; Dr. A. S. MacFarlane, chief superintendent of education, and Dr. H. H. Hagerman, principal of the Provincial Normal School.

Sir Edward was introduced by Dr. W. H. Britain, dean of Macdonald College, and president of the C.S.T.A.

Dr. L. H. Newman, Ottawa, Dominion cerealist, upon whom the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred by the university, delivered an address upon the subject "The Science of Plant Breeding and its Significance to Canada," in which he paid an especial tribute to the labors of those who have been engaged in plant breeding particularly at the experimental stations and similar establishments supported by the Dominion. Appreciation of their labors frequently is delayed and often comes through some extraneous incident. The speaker cited the development and introduction of Marquis wheat twenty-five years ago and the more recent introduction of rust-resistant varieties. Severe frosts in 1928 brought to the front the "early ripening" wheats which had gradually been evolved.

Our Mail Bag

EXISTING CONDITIONS IN FREDERICTON

I, as a citizen of Fredericton, would like to express my opinion along the line of some of these conditions since Alderman Forbes has aired his opinion of some party so clearly.

Mr. Forbes speaks of the condition on Dundonald street, between York and Smythe streets, as a slum area where only shacks are being built, which have a derogatory effect on building in that area.

I wonder if Mr. Forbes ever visited this street personally, or is his knowledge like a lot of others second hand, and he doesn't trouble himself, since he is Alderman Forbes, to find out for himself.

True, the houses on this street are small but in no way resemble shacks any more than some of the houses in other parts of the town for which our ex-aldermen are charging rent. And I think everyone is agreed it is better to have a small house and own it than a big house and some one else own it. As to the conditions on these premises I think they compare favorably to those on some of the streets farther in town. True we have no sewerage on this street, and only recently that we were favored by a water supply from the city, although they were asked several times for it.

Mr. Forbes used the word "deplorable" in his description. I know of no word that describes it better. It truly is deplorable. Any complaints that Mr. Forbes has heard probably came from some one who had to hire the wrecking truck to haul their car out of the mud on Dundonald street this spring, and the conditions then were even better than they were the previous year, when one of the men who lived in those shacks bought a barrel of potatoes at the market and had them delivered to Dundonald Street. The man having a horse naturally supposed he could get along any street in this beautiful city of Fredericton, but was sadly mistaken when part way in this street to the shack, horse, wagon and all went so deep in the mud, as to force him to unharness his horse, and get the help of some of the obliging men on that street to extricate his wagon. The man from the shack had to carry the potatoes in on his back. The previous winter grocery men refused to bring orders to those shacks on account of the condition of that street. That's what we have been paying taxes for, Mr. Forbes. Remember our names are all on the royal list.

However, we are real glad that Mr. Forbes (and we know he will tell the rest), has found out there is such a street in the city, even though he did stumble on it as a "slum area." Perhaps now the City Council may do their part in making it a street fit to live on, and thereby give work to many idle men about the city looking for work, and the city has nothing for them to do.

And who can tell, but from some of those shacks in future years may come an alderman, as there are some there endowed with that rare commodity, brains. And since that seems to be a luxury not required in our council today, the prospect for the "slums" looks even brighter.

So cheer up, Dundonald street, good times are just around the corner. Thanking you Mr. Editor for the space in your valuable paper, and also for the items from time to time in the interest of the laboring citizen.

I remain, "One of Many."
M. AMOS and N. LIBBY.

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Women Ministers

(Continued from Page One)

the communal school at Ajat in Southwestern France.

She has been a Socialist since 1906. Long before the war she battled for better educational and social development of French children in books and pamphlets.

"I am a spinster," said Mlle. Lacore, "but in 33 years I have been 'mother' to nearly a thousand poor school children."

Mme. Brunschvicg traveled around France making suffrage speeches to amused men and serious women for years, while her husband, Leon Brunschvicg, taught philosophy at the Sorbonne.

Official "voice" of Madame Brunschvicg's suffragettes is her own newspaper, "La Francaise." The task of bringing up a son and two daughters has not prevented her from becoming the feminist leader of the radical-socialist party. She is 59.

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