

OTTAWA STANDS READY TO AID WEST'S CREDIT

Dominion View is That Recent Conference Left Way Open for the Province to Secure Financial Assistance

OTTAWA, Dec. 28—The key to such a gathering as the recent financial conference here, which was written off in some quarters as a failure and heralded elsewhere as a moderate success, lies in two basic and somewhat conflicting intentions on the part of the federal authorities who summoned the committee.

There is, on the one hand, a keen appreciation of wastage and inefficiency in finance and taxation throughout Canada due to lack of reasonable co-ordination between the governing bodies.

The second is a stubborn intention on Ottawa's part to balance the federal budget at an early date, and begin the laboring process of reducing the interest burden and subsequently the tax burden.

The province came to Ottawa obsessed by their financial and social problems, in two or three cases quite overwhelmed with them. They were only mildly interested in Finance Minister Dunning's proposals for co-ordination and simplification. The meeting started out to be treasurers' conference regarding haphazard and duplicative methods in taxation and finance, and blossom out into a "Gimme" gathering somewhat along the lines of earlier meetings of this sort.

The provincial leader who elected to accompany their treasurers to Ottawa were of course entitled to come and they were welcomed. Their suggestions for Royal Commissions to consider the whole basis of confederation, for Royal Commissions to examine the claims of provinces or economic areas for better treatment, for further assistance in meeting unemployment or other social burdens, for additional tax fields, made a considerable impact on the federal cabinet. Some of their proposals, Ottawa believes, are likely to be implemented, in whole or in part.

For example, the suggestion that in the long run it would pay the Federal government to be a little more generous with provinces now falling behind every year, and consequently finding it impossible to maintain their credit, appealed to the business judgment of members of the federal cabinet. Though Ottawa can ill afford it, such a step, if forestalled further repudiation and weakening of Canada's credit reputation, might be the cheapest way out in the long run. If, with help of a million or two a year in the shape of increased unemployment grants, or something similar, a province could rapidly reach the position where it could balance its budget, restore its credit, begin looking after its own financing at present low interest rates, the proposition sounds attractive.

Way Still Open

The Financial Post understands that so far as the western provinces are concerned, where the need is gravest, this way out of the immediate difficulty is not barred.

At the same time the viewpoint of the Dominion Government was placed squarely before the provinces. If all the current deficits of the nine provinces were added together they would only be a fraction of the 162 million deficit which Mr. Dunning had to report last May Day. Any solution that solves the problems of the provinces by plunging the Dominion still further into debt is not held here to be very brilliant.

Mr. Dunning reminded the provincial delegates that the people who pay federal taxes are identical with those who pay provincial taxes. Very little is gained by relieving a little of the burden of provincial taxation by a method which makes it imperative to

increase federal taxation. Some shifting of the load from the weaker provinces to the stronger ones may conceivably be effected. But, as the finance minister has pointed out to the House of Commons and repeated to the gathering here, it has to be very seriously considered to what extent a Government is entitled to collect from all the people in order to pay to some of them.

Basis of Taxation

The provinces found the Federal Government quite receptive when it was suggested that the whole basis of taxation for social purposes such as unemployment relief ought to be reconsidered. The B.N.A. Act allocated certain taxing powers and also allocated certain social and financial obligations. What may have been quite equitable in 1867 may be quite unfair now.

The practice of provinces of setting up municipalities and conveying to them powers of taxation and also social obligations was also considered. The depression, it was stated, had shown the weakness of expecting the property owner in the city to bear a lion's share of the burden of unemployment relief. It was agreed that the whole problem of scientific taxation, and the reconsideration of social obligations, might well be re-examined thoroughly.

The request that the Federal Government pay the entire cost of old-age pensions raised another important issue. It is true that this was pledged by a recent government, but the present government feels no obligation to carry out that pledge. Indeed it regards it as fundamentally bad practice for one body to tax and collect money and pass it along for another body to spend.

Unemployment Insurance

In this connection the Government is acutely aware that when a ruling comes down on the unemployment insurance bill from the Privy Council, this issue will have to be faced. Advisers on the practical application of unemployment insurance have told the Dominion that a workable scheme cannot be introduced unless the Dominion has full competence. If the Privy Council rules that the present act is ultra vires, no further progress with the measure will be possible until the B.N.A. Act is amended so as to clarify and assure the position and competence of the Dominion Government in that field. Such an amendment would pave the way for a federal old-age pension scheme, and in that case the whole cost would presumably be borne by the Dominion Government.

Because of an exhaustive study conducted by the Department of Finance over a long period into corporation taxation, the minister was able to present an almost incredible picture of duplications, disparities, inefficiencies and exasperations in that field. Some companies pay taxes to nine Provincial Governments and the Federal Government on basis which vary considerably, and with rates which differ from province to province. Ten different returns are made on different scales and methods. Under the present scheme some companies spend thousands of needless dollars a year providing the accounting and clerical services to comply with income tax law, capital tax law, and so forth. Though corporations would be greatly assisted by clarification and simplification of these taxes, the primary concern is not to reduce the present tax structure so much as to lower the cost of meeting Government demands.

Aiming at Uniformity

What the minister of finance would like to see is reasonable uniformity across Canada of corporation tax rates, starting out from the assumption that no province would collect less as a result of the adjustments.

Each Provincial Government was supplied with data collected by the Dominion, and gave the assurance that the matter would be given consideration before the next meeting of the National Finance Committee.

Although tangible results from the committee were unimpressive, it was kept in mind that for nearly 70 years the provinces and the Dominion had conducted unsynchronized and un-integrated policies in regard to taxation and financing, and that it was hardly to be expected that machinery for co-ordination and co-operation could be set up overnight. Whether a few more efforts will result in a permanent organization, or whether the idea will be dropped as being more trouble than it is worth, will come out in the next year or two, it is expected.

ELY, Eng., Dec. 29—The Bishop of Ely doubts that St. Paul was talking about present day hats when he wrote that all women should be "veiled" when they enter church.

The bishop feels that the "women must wear hats" rule is being carried too far. On at least one occasion, he said, "a girl, to avoid rebuff, borrowed her boy friend's cap before entering the church."

DIFFICULT TO LIMIT NUMBER OF DOCTORS

TORONTO, Dec. 29—The excessive number of medical students graduating from Canada's universities is a problem for which there is no definite solution in sight, said Dr. H. C. Wales, president of the Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Wales was commenting upon the statement of Dr. J. G. Fitzgerald, retiring Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, who, in his report for the session, declared that a way must be found to limit the number of students coming to clinical years.

Besides interfering with the quality of clinical teaching the number of students was creating a nuisance in the hospitals, said Dr. Fitzgerald.

It was difficult for university authorities to say who should and who should not enter classes in medicine, Dr. Wales pointed out. And yet between 140 and 150 students were emerging from their fourth year at the end of every term.

Only two solutions had been offered which were remotely practical, Dr. Wales said. One was that the standard of entry should be made higher, the other that examinations for the first three years in medicine should be made more difficult. Even the adoption of these two suggestions would not ensure limitation of the number of graduating students.

The problem had during the past five years become more pressing than ever before, said Dr. Wales. Various ways out of the problem had been suggested but not one was considered practical.

MAUGERVILLE

Gerald McGrath, teacher in School District No. 1, prepared an excellent programme for school closing. Songs, recitations and dialogues were given by the thirteen pupils. Rev. John Wood presented the prizes for highest general standing to Edna Scribner and Elizabeth Wood, both having an average of 91.3. The Christmas tree was nicely decorated and Santa Claus appeared to distribute the gifts and bags of candy to the teacher and pupils. There were 18 visitors present.

Mrs. Isabel Sansom, Nashwaaksis, accompanied by her sons, Kenneth, Freeman and Theodore were calling on relatives in this place on Christmas Day.

Sheriff and Mrs. N. Budd Day had as their guests on Christmas Day Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dutcher and son, Arthur, Fredericton.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Day were guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. McMonagle, Burton, on Christmas Day.

A number of the young people attended midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at Oromocto.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moxon and daughter Barbara were guests of relatives in Oromocto on Sunday. They were accompanied by little Miss Olive Moxon.

Miss Mary McMurray and M. P. Harrison, of the Department of Agriculture, Fredericton, spent Christmas at the home of the latter, the guests of Miss Elizabeth Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Elliott had as their guests for the Christmas holidays Miss Berth Morton, Sheffield and Miss Frances Sleeves, F'ton.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bridges had as their guests for Christmas dinner Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bridges and Donald Morton.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Wilson are rejoicing at the arrival of a baby girl recently, Elaine Hilda.

Mr. and Mrs. Roath True entertained Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Dykeman, Maugerville and Mr. and Mrs. Clark True, Lincoln, at their home on Christmas Day.

GREATEST DRAWING POWER IN FILMDOM, SHIRLEY TEMPLE

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 29—Shirley Temple, the million-dollar baby they found in a five-cent picture, has started her fourth year as contract actress. Three years ago, Dec. 1933, she was an unknown little girl, working on a week-to-week basis in a series of one reel baby pictures. On that day, she came with some 149 other children—most of whom also had dimples and curls—to try out for a brief song and dance hit in a musical film.

Today, she is the No. 1 box-office attraction of the motion picture world. Her box office stature is twice that of Garbo. Executives of her studios estimate 240,000,000 people—a number twice the size of the population of the United States—have paid to see her on the screen. Theatre men voted her the leading box-office attraction for 1936. She is the only player of either sex or an ynation, to get it twice in a row.

In England, she out-ranked even the reigning native favorite, Gracie Fields in the opinion of British theatre men. She is the only American ever to receive this rating.

SPLIT IS EVIDENT IN ENGLISH CHURCH ON ISSUE OF ABDICATION

LONDON, Dec. 29—A split in the ranks of the Church of England over the issue of Edward's abdication is evident in diocesan letters of three prelates who take occasion to discuss the issue which seems to upset the ordinary serene course pursued by Britain's established spiritual advisers.

Like the Archbishop of Canterbury and more recently the Archbishop of York, who did not see fit to leave well enough alone—as did most newspapers and all spokesmen for British political parties—three other bishops have now added their personal views to the public's headache. But unlike views of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York there is no unanimity of opinion in the latest broadside, and two of the three express open sympathy toward Edward.

"Both as Prince of Wales and as King he used his many gifts in the service of the Empire and he helped us much," writes Dr. Guy Warman, Bishop of Manchester. "We cannot let him go without sorrow, sympathy and gratitude. We shall remain before God, our Prime Minister and all upon whom, throughout the Empire, responsibility of government rests. Then we shall remain calm and courageous."

AERIAL MINE LATEST ENGINE OF HAVOC

PARIS, Dec. 29—An aerial mine to scatter destruction in the skies—the deadliest weapon invented since the Great War—is being tested by the British and French governments.

In a recent book, "War Over England," the British Air Commodore, Leon Charlton, pictured the kind of air battle which may be fought during the next war.

Charlton foresaw the use of 'air mines.' When his book appeared in French, air experts here were surprised because they had been conducting research work along similar lines. Details of the inventions have been protected with greatest secrecy.

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 29—Mrs. Camille Jordan noticed the front door ajar in the cottage of a neighbor who was away. Investigating, she found a stranger in bed, staring at her.

She called police. Intrepid officers warily closed in on the bedroom, brusquely barked at the stranger. No answer. They shook the bed. Onto the floor rolled a wax model head—of Jesse James.

Police decided the dummy had been planted to frighten thieves.

How mother helps to PREVENT MANY COLDS

At That First Sniffle — or sneeze — signs that a cold may be coming on . . .

Quick! A Few Drops of Vicks Va-tro-nol up each nostril

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Quickly relieves "Stuffy Head"

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