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FREDERICTON, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1936

The Crossing Toll

At the risk of enraging its already law-harassed readers, the Bowmansville Statesman has taken hold of its well-known courage and declared: "There ought to be a law"! It quite agrees that there already is a plethora of laws. But that does not necessarily mean there is not need for this other law — "an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act providing that all traffic must come to a dead stop before crossing any railway tracks anywhere."

The suggestion is not new. The Statesman does not pretend that it is. But it does believe, as many others will following the epidemic of crossing tragedies listed in the press since the first of the year, that steps must be taken to put an end to this deplorable form of suicide which the urge to beat a train to the crossing amounts to.

Such an amendment, making crossings a compulsory traffic stop, is the simplest and unquestionably the cheapest means to the desired end. It is no assurance, however, that crossing tragedies will be eliminated. There are any number of traffic laws, and there are any number of lawbreakers.

The one positive method is to eliminate the level crossing either by bridges or subways. The tremendous cost of such a remedy can be easily imagined; and in a way it seems unfair that the public purse should be plundered in an effort to protect motorists who are too careless, too foolish, or too contemptuous of human life to protect themselves and those riding with them. Nevertheless it is obvious that something must be done, and the Statesman's suggestion, in view of the cost of the alternative, seems like the wise first step.

Excusing Ourselves

However many of us boast in secret (just to ourselves) of the good little things that we do and the bad things that we keep from doing—and thereby excuse ourselves for some more vital things that we know we ought to do? It is a common failing. The preacher at the funeral always finds something good to say about the dead man however bad he was. And it should be said. It is a pleasant custom. But our moral health demands that we be more severe in our self-judgment than the preacher at the bier. Let's not forgive ourselves for leaving undone an obvious duty because everybody knows we "mean well" and we "have a good heart." Shall we be satisfied to cast our pinch of incense on the altar of duty and then pass on?

Magnifying the Threat

Premier William Aberhart has taken another step in his broad, if somewhat unethical, refinancing plans for Alberta, and it may be a step designed to compromise the present attitude of the Federal authorities and the Dominion banks. In a bill introduced in the Legislature on Monday he has extended the privilege of compulsory conversion, now planned for the Province, to the cities, whose total indebtedness is an estimated \$70,000,000.

The bill authorizes the cities to call up their issues at any date that pleases them, and requires the bondholders to accept in full satisfaction for the principal sum a "bond or debenture issued by the city, guaranteed by the Province for the principal sum of like amount, or to accept in full satisfaction of all rights and claims under such security the principal sum payable in respect thereof of lawful money of Canada, together with interest up to the date calling up payable in respect thereof."

No mention is made of a reduction in the interest rates, and the bill, like that for the Province itself, is to come into effect only on proclamation.

Should the cities take advantage of the authority of the bill to compel conversion of their bonds, they will not be helping the financial future of the Province, nor will they be contributing anything to the still vague prospects of Social Credit. That they will use the authority is another matter.

On the whole the cities, while temporarily embarrassed in the money markets, hold what is generally considered to be a sounder permanent position than does the Province, and they are not likely to risk the obvious advantages.

Will Britain Give In?

There are obvious signs of unrest in the British House of Commons over the Government's policy with regard to the return of colonies and mandated territories to the vanquished nations. Behind the whole stir is Germany's growing agitation for the return of her lost possessions and the spread of the theory that the "haves" must compensate the "have nots."

Some time ago Colonial Secretary J. H. Thomas emphatically answered the House on this point, and gave assurances that the Government was not prepared to make, nor was it considering as a matter of future policy, any such restitution. More recently, however, there was new evidence that provided reasons to doubt the value of the Thomas assurances. Lord Stanhope, under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, when speaking to the Central Association of the Conservative Party, was quoted in the Beaverbrook Evening Standard as having said: "The time will doubtless come when we shall have to give back Tanganyika to the Germans."

The official origin of the statement naturally aroused anxiety. In his speech in the House, Chancellor of the Exchequer Neville Chamberlain failed to satisfy House curiosity, and "carefully avoided any definite statement." Home Secretary Sir John Simon was cornered on the question, but refused to elaborate on Mr. Chamberlain's speech.

The point that is not clear, and has not been made clear by any reports from the House debate, was whether Lord Stanhope was giving his personal views or whether he was quoting the opinion of his Government. His reason for the opinion—whosoever it was—was that Tanganyika had never really been British territory, nor had Britain the control of it very long.

There can be no doubt that Germany's agitation has only begun and that she will make full use of the unsettled condition of Europe to press her demands. For that reason it is easy to understand the apprehension of the House of Commons. Any evidence of uncertainty or any indication of a willingness to compromise the German demand is bound to be detrimental. Lord Stanhope's reason can hardly be held adequate for a return of Tanganyika, which Britain received as part payment of a war debt. Contrary to the policy of the pre-war German Government, she has attempted to build up the colonies she received. She has spent a great deal of money on them, and assisted them in every way possible to improve their own well-being and further their self-reliance.

But quite apart from any discussion of the use or misuse of the colonies, there is another factor Britain must consider. That is the question of precedent. To compromise with Germany, who so far has refused to consider compromise sufficient in any of her demands, would be to create a dangerous precedent almost certain to involve Britain and the whole Empire in unending difficulties.

SNAPSHOTS

The railways are trying to give Fredericton people the status of a country village. Can they put it over?

Mr. Doucet is going to appoint a secretary to handle his telegrams from Ottawa.

So the C.N.R. has decided to take the shops away from Devon. This is the time for a showdown and a good one on the whole railway situation. The C.N.R. are showing their teeth.

All sympathy is turned today to the mine shaft at Moose River, N.S.

It is spat-husking time, hereabouts.

Whatever became of painless tooth drilling?

This gloomy weather, coupled with the business of making out income tax returns, is enough to develop at least mental depression.

When feeling terribly bored there are two things you can always do, play bridge or get into the Ethiopian war.

Free Ferries Discussed in Committee

(Continued from Page Eight)

W. W. V. Foster, M.P.P. Kings, said that he was in sympathy with the extension of free ferries consistent with the finances of the province.

People in those districts where there are ferries are entitled to some consideration, he said. In Kings county, the ferries are free only to inhabitants, he pointed out. He explained that the ferries were established when a Kings county bridge was washed out.

Conditions Not the Same

J. A. Doucet said that free ferries are a real advantage. He was not agreed that Carleton county had the same claim as in Gloucester county. He pointed out that Shippegan and Miscou Islands had been isolated for years. He said the Islands' residents had been asking for free ferries for years. Those living on the mainland will not have free passage on the ferries to the island, he explained. He said he thought it might be in order for the committee to discriminate.

Lack of Quorum

E. W. Melville thought the committee should have a vote on the resolution.

J. A. Doucet pointed out that the committee did not have a quorum and that the resolution would have to wait for a future meeting when a quorum would be present.

Road Machinery Expenditure

F. T. B. Young, M.P.P. Gloucester, said that \$120,000 in excess of appropriation had been spent on road machinery before the election. Some expression of opinion by the committee should be made on this matter, he said.

Toll Calls Too Much

In the discussion on Contingencies in the Public Works Department, E. W. Melville said that \$1,571.99 for toll calls was too much.

The committee expressed the opinion that the Department of Public Works should be asked for information on charges for toll calls.

Bridge Engineers

H. A. Porter, K.C., Saint John, wanted to know if it was necessary to have so many road engineers.

E. W. Melville explained that there was a great deal of work to be done in the bridge department.

The committee adjourned till later in the day.

MRS. SOPHIA J. HIRE DEAD

The death occurred today at noon of Mrs. Sophia J. Hire, widow of Captain John R. Hire, at the home of her daughter Mrs. C. G. Grant, 673 Brunswick street. Deceased who was well known had formerly resided in Halifax but had lived here with her daughter for the past fifteen years. Surviving are three daughters and three sons. Funeral announcement will be made later.

BACK TO OTTAWA

W. G. Clark, M.P. for York-Sunbury and Mrs. Clark left on Saturday for Ottawa where Mr. Clark will resume his parliamentary duties, following the Easter holidays.

Magill Dies in Mine After Talking With His Wife

(Continued from Page One)

days," said R. J. Ivey of London, Ont., brother-in-law of Dr. Robertson.

"They're working as hard as they know how."

The new drill bore, larger and directed towards an easier approach or the entombed men, was expected to be completed within 24 hours. Clothing and other materials for their comfort were ready to be dropped down it.

Spurred by the news that the men

were alive, Nova Scotia and Ontario miners risked their lives all day in an old abandoned shaft believed to lead into the pit.

They were driven out by falling rock after they had penetrated for 85 feet but despite the warnings of Mines Inspector J. F. Meservey, chief of the job, they prepared to return after a dynamite blast in a vertical shaft being sunk from the surface.

The new shaft would not be completed for two or three days, and the rescue workers were willing to dare anything in their attempt to get through to the mine.

First Contact

Definite contact with the imprisoned men was established shortly after midnight by tapping signals on the pipe driven through the diamond drill hole to the level where they were caught.

"Hello," the rescue miners shouted down the communication pipe.

"Hello," came back the faint voice of Alfred Scadding. He told the miners at the surface all three men were alive and well.

Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Magill almost too overcome with joy to speak talked briefly with the men in the underground cavern.

"Hello, Herm, Hello," Mrs. Magill said, tears in her eyes.

Mrs. Robertson had her turn, calling down the line: "Eddie, Eddie, you there?" Receiving an answer, in the form of a question as to how she was, she said: "Alright. Keep up your courage."

Turning to the dirt-covered miners, she caused them to shuffle their feet and look embarrassed as she said: "Oh, men, you are wonderful."

Smiling through her tears, Mrs. Magill added: "Doesn't it seem too wonderful to be true?" Mrs. Robertson said she had given up all hope just the night before.

Leaning eagerly over the pipe-line for the first indication the three men were alive, Mine Manager Henderson sent up a shout of joy and turning to his weary volunteer workers, said: "I'm depending on you to get them out."

Food and messages were lowered to the men and Dr. Robertson sent up an urgent plea for medicine used to counteract acidosis, an acid condition of the body following prolonged hunger.

Dr. Robertson's request was immediately attended to and food, candles in waterproof cases, a vial of saccharine, also requested by Dr. Robertson, brandy, fountain pen, flashlights, extra batteries and bulbs and oilskins were lowered to the 141-foot level.

Are Reassured

"We can keep them alive for six months if necessary," W. H. Hannigan, a member of the crew who arrived here from the McIntyre mine in Porcupine, Ont., assured the two women.

As Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Magill broke down and wept with joy, advice of a physician was sought immediately as to what supplies should be lowered to the three men.

Word was sent down the line by Mine Manager F. D. Henderson, assisting Inspector J. P. Meservey in directing the rescue.

"All here, Dr. Robertson. Thank God you are safe. Write on the reverse side of the sheet. I understand you are in the east Meagher slope. How far east? Where is the water? Make a mark now and note how fast it is rushing? Work your way as far east as you can if the walls are good and try to get me back how I can get you out. How far have you to go down in the east and how far east is the shaft? We are only 20 feet above you in vertical line shaft. We are sinking a shaft down over the 141-foot level. We are also trying to get into east end of Meagher slope with another shaft. Will have you up in two days. Keep up courage. Over 100 men working to get you up and government giving every aid. Tell the doctor and Magill love and kisses from Mrs. Magill and Mrs. Robertson."

No Danger from Water

Fears held by the men at the surface that the three mining officials were in imminent danger of drowning were dispelled by Alfred Scadding, who shouted up the pipe-line that there was no danger from this quarter.

Dr. Robertson, as careful of his two 'patients' in the underground cavern as any of the cases he attended in his capacity of chief surgeon at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital, has been keeping them back from their end of the communication line as much as possible as each visit to the line necessitates a wetting from frigid waters seeping through the earth and rock and dripping on them.

Waterproof material sent down to the men shortly after the main supplies had been received was not taken from the container and Mine Manager Henderson fearing something had gone wrong, shouted, "Hello, why didn't you unload?"

Placing his ear to the line, he said he caught the sound of rushing water and exclaimed, horror-stricken, "Jesus, there's water pouring in."

To Avoid Water

Scadding shouted an explanation up the line shortly after they were having difficulty in reaching the tube because of water about the pipe and seeping down it made it difficult for

Our Mail Bag

COUNTRY'S FINANCES

Temple Station,
April 17, 1936.

Editor, Daily Mail.

Dear Sir:

We have noticed in the columns of your paper quite a number of pieces written about the projected highway from Plaster Rock across the north of the province. Some very good reasons were given both for and against it, but as we are not personally acquainted with the country we are not taking issue with either side.

We are far more interested in the appalling financial conditions of our country, due largely to deficit of the C.N.R.

The Family Herald is giving a correct, truthful account of our staggering national debt, some reference of same has been published in The Daily Mail.

The editor of the Family Herald does not hesitate to say that Premier King can largely help the situation if he will grapple with the matter. While he may make himself unpopular at first, help and support will come from all quarters when the people of the Dominion find he is really in earnest.

Just a little over a year ago Great Britain came through with a balanced budget, salaries were slashed in two, needless office holders were done away with, expenses were pared to the bone, and Australia came through with a slight surplus. This shows what might be done when those high up in authority go determinedly to work.

We quote the following paragraph from a speech of Hon. J. B. McNair in issue of Daily Mail of April 3rd:

"I would like to take the opportunity to say that notwithstanding the criticisms of the Opposition the pledges made by the Liberal party will in proper time be fully implemented; and in doing that job we shall fulfill a lot of promises made by the old administration."

We are glad to refer to this, as it gives us ground work for what we wish to say. One of the planks of the present government was that salaries would be reduced.

We understand that the wages of woodsmen are set at \$27.00 per month by the present government, same man having to work early and late for same.

It is within memory of living man that the salary of private members of local government was \$300.00 per year whereas it now is \$1,000.00 for about five weeks, way paid on trains as well. Those salaries can easily be cut in two. While we do not suggest so sweeping a cut at once we would like to see the matter dealt with before the House closes, not wait till the closing year of their tenure of office, have some reductions made at once and the people will have some confidence in their promise.

Personally speaking a promise given by the writer has always been a binding obligation and should be by anyone that values their given word. We would like to hear from others through The Daily Mail about the matter.

Thanking you for space in your paper.

ABRAHAM CRONKHITE,
Temple Station, York Co., N. B.

them to get at the container without getting wet. He added they stood well back from the pipe-line and shouted to the miners at the surface, avoiding the water while carrying on communications.

Scadding said the three had not heard any blasting operations being carried on by the men on the surface. It was agreed the three men could start communications at any time by tapping on the pipe line and a signal from the steam whistle at the surface would mean they were wanted by officials directing the rescue work.

Work on the vertical shaft was progressing favorably Chief Engineer Bill Bell of New Glasgow, N.S., said. The men were waiting for a dynamite charge to be set off before entering it again.

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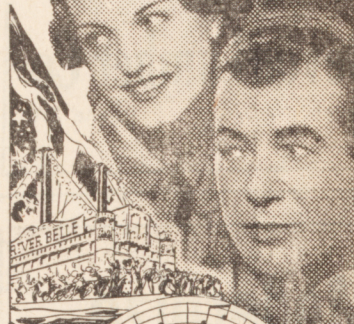
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