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Trustworthy Servants

In returning its verdict in the British Budget-leak case a special tribunal declared that no blame attached to civil servants or to printers who had had access to the details of the forthcoming Budget.

This special statement is of interest here as well as in Britain, for the public seldom realizes how many important secrets are entrusted to obscure and not highly paid individuals.

Telephone and telegraph operators, printers and messengers constantly have access to information which, presumably, they might make a source of financial profit, but it is almost unheard of for any of them to take advantage of the fact.

Business men and citizens generally have no hesitation in entrusting the most important documents to the mail sorter and carrier; nor do any of us think it at all risky to speak of private and important matters over the telephone, or entrust their details to the telegraph operator for transmission, though to do so we must make him as fully informed as ourselves.

These facts are an eloquent testimonial to the high standard of integrity obtaining among a large class of public servants, and when one considers how widespread a human failing it is to wish to be the first to reveal a secret—quite in confidence, of course—one is moved to admiration by the self-control these workers maintain.

Taxation in France

Taxation in France differs considerably from the system prevailing in Canada. A considerable portion of the revenue derived comes from direct taxes, about half from commercial and half from the income tax. A peculiar feature of the income tax is that it is assessed according to appearances; if an individual has an apartment that costs more than 20 per cent. of his declared income, the valuation for income tax purposes is increased by that percentage. Real estate and "registration" taxes are fixed on the value of the property at the time of registration of its purchase. Customs revenues account for about 17 per cent. of the total income, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways. Then there are indirect taxes (alcohol, excise, gasoline, automobiles, travel, etc.) In France the national government is responsible for the whole country and a great proportion of the money needed by departments and communities (provinces and municipalities) is obtained by the national government and apportioned out to them.

Britain Leads in Trade

Statistics published recently by the League of Nations reveal the interesting fact that by the end of 1935 Britain had taken the place previously held by the United States as the leader of world trade.

In 1935 Britain claimed 14.2 per cent. of the world total exports and imports, the United States ranking second with 11 per cent.

In 1929 the figures were, United States, 14.2 per cent., and Great Britain, 13.4 per cent. It will be seen, then, not only that, by a curious coincidence, the leading figure remains at 14.2 per cent., but that the United States has dropped below the British total when Britain was in second place.

Many readers will learn with surprise that third position is held by Germany, with a total of imports and exports amounting to 8.7 per cent. In relation to the two leaders, Germany remains as she was, but the total of her trade has diminished slightly from that of 1929, when her percentage was 9.6.

France, the next in order, also declined slightly during the period given, her trade totalling 6.2 per cent. in 1935, as against 6.4 per cent. in 1929.

Canada is shown tying with Japan with a total of 3.6 per cent., whereas in 1929 the Canadian figure was 3.8 per cent. and that of Japan only 2.9 per cent.

Other countries for which returns are available are: Belgium, with 3.1 per cent.; the Netherlands and India, with 2.8 per cent. each; South Africa, with 2.2 per cent.; and Australia and Argentina, with 2.1 per cent. each.

The 1929 figures for these countries were: Belgium, 2.8 per cent.; Netherlands, 2.9 per cent.; India, 3.1 per cent.; and Australia, 1.9 per cent. The South Africa total for that year does not appear.

The twelve most important countries of the world during 1935 (excluding Italy, for which no estimates are available) accounted for 62.3 per cent. of the world total in 1935, as compared with 65 per cent. of the total in 1929, so that in recent years the smaller nations have gained.

From these estimates one may draw the inference that, while pacific nations gain over those engaged in disputes and militaristic schemes, isolation and aloofness are disastrous to a nation's trade.

It is to be noticed that Italy has not divulged the state of her international trade, but a faint indication of the cost to her of the Ethiopian campaign is given in her official admission that at the end of December, 1935, her gold reserves were a little more than they were in May of the same year.

How It Works Out

It is a fact that one thing leans against another. This way: The Government of Alberta announced that it would pay only 2½ per cent. interest rates on its bonds.

Word from Edmonton tells that the meeting of the Alberta Conference of the United Church reported that the pension fund of the Church has invested \$300,000 in Alberta Government bonds, and the interest rates vary from 5 to 6 per cent.

It will mean that retired ministers depending on that part of the investment for their income will now receive \$2.50 where previously they had been receiving \$5 or \$6.

Or, in another way, it will mean that these retired ministers, who have passed the age where they can add to their earnings by more effort, will be forced to make a contribution to the Alberta Treasury. The Government may see no other way out, but the path it has selected will mean rough going for a number of folk who find the journey sufficiently difficult right now.

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SNAPSHOTS

The Daily Mail is pleased that another reform strongly advocated by this paper is about to be made. The County Council will eliminate the overcrowding at the jail by constructing several new cells. There will not be any more need to place prisoners in the underground dungeons, which, as we pointed out some months ago, were a disgrace.

It is so that a youth who passed through eighth grade work at Mount Allison Academy, with high marks, is not qualified according to our regulations, to enter Fredericton High School without further examinations? Mt. A. is supposed to be one of the best institutions of its kind in the Maritime Provinces.

When R. B. Bennett got after the judges he might have told us something about the venerable Senators. The Senate has for years been considered something in the nature of an old ladies' home.

Proof of the pudding is in the eating, this is also true of a system of government.

If he remembers when he used to wind his watch with a key, he looks younger with his hat on.

Woman scares hold-up man away by screaming. The disadvantage a male hold-up suffers from is that he can't scream.

Brokers are a great help. You might lose faith in your stock, if they didn't keep offering to trade you something good for it.

A United States doctor says men eight feet tall are merely optical illusions. But their tailors charge them just as though they were real.

Gandhi says his life-work is ruined. But of late years his work seems to have been confined mostly to sitting silently under a shady tree.

Inquest Tonight

(Continued from Page One)

years. He was born at Millville, son of the late Charles Hoyt, and had resided in Devon for the past thirty-five years. He was well known and highly respected, and was one of the most popular employees in the service. Surviving are his wife formerly Miss Edith Bell of Taymouth; one son, James C.; one daughter, Miss Jean Bell Hoyt, both at home; also one brother, Everett Hoyt of Centreville; three sisters, Mrs. Randolph Mabey of Burt's Corner; Mrs. Clara Cumming of Marysville; and Mrs. Silas Estabrooks, Beverly, Mass.

The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon with service at the late home, Gill street, South Devon, at two o'clock. Rev. George Telford will conduct the service and interment will be made at the cemetery in Taymouth.

Investigate at Once

A. O. I. Crookshank, of this city, assistant superintendent of the Edmundston sub-division of the C.N.R. stated to The Daily Mail today that a complete investigation will be made of the scene of the accident, and that it would be cleared up by the end of the present week. Various reports have been current, one that the rail had been broken, another that the roadbed had been softened by the recent rainfall. Neither is officially confirmed. A summary estimate of the damage by Mr. Crookshank placed at somewhere about \$5,000. About 180 feet of roadbed was torn up and about 45 feet of ties cut through.

The train was in charge of Peter Keenan, conductor, with Ernest A. Logan of South Devon, as baggage man, and William Markey, South Devon, as brakeman. Conductor Keenan thinks it one of the most serious accidents ever to occur on the line. He remembers when a man by the name of Crookshanks was killed at McNamee Siding. Conductor Keenan has been on the line since 1897, and conductor since 1904.

Hundreds of Fredericton people and from all parts of York county drove to the scene of the accident yesterday to witness the wreck. Last evening it was impossible to get within two hundred yards of the scene at eight o'clock, so dense was the crowd. The curious ones crowded around the scene of the wreck, and many remained to a late hour examining the train and the rails.

Quebec Opposition

(Continued from Page One)

Opposition Leader Duplessis called Attorney-General Perras's attention to this last remark. "I ask the attorney general to take action to put an end to such offences, which would lead an ordinary person to the penitentiary", declared Mr. Duplessis.

During the hearing the opposition leader questioned the government accountant about the amount of money deposited and the interest he received. When the opposition leader asked if the amount Mr. Taschereau said he had deposited annually was not near \$125,000 or \$150,000 than \$75,000 the witness said he thought that was possible.

He believed he received about \$800 or \$900 interest each year, he said, but it could possibly have been \$10,000. "The bank manager could tell you that", said Mr. Taschereau.

The government received no interest because the money was deposited in a current account, rather than a savings account, Mr. Taschereau continued. That had been changed this year, he said, and the Legislative Assembly's funds were now drawing interest as a savings account.

"How was it that from 1923 to 1935 the money was deposited in a current account and that this year it was transferred to a savings account?" asked Mr. Duplessis.

Mr. Taschereau replied the bank did not like to have the money deposited in a savings account as it was frequently overdrawn. However, the bank had never refused to pay the government interest on the savings deposits, he said, although, this had never been done before.

The witness said he had no knowledge of a complaint which Mr. Duplessis claimed bank inspectors made concerning the practice of the St. Pacom bank paying interest to the accountant of the Assembly.

Copies of the various accounts held in the St. Pacom bank by Mr. Taschereau since 1922 will be studied by the committee today.

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Police Commission

(Continued from Page One)

hand and making separate copies that this would be necessary. Today when the magistrate can hire a stenographer for so much a week and she can make three or four copies of the same kind of a document on the typewriter in half an hour or so the fees should necessarily be much lower. It is stated however that for several years even with the new conditions that the fees have not been reduced.

If this information, which comes from the chairman of the administration of justice committee, is true, then in the public interest it is time for a change. Another statement made by the chairman of the administration of justice committee is that the city pays fees of \$10 to the Police Magistrate for each time an adjournment is made at the city police court. In other words if a case is adjourned over from one day to another the magistrate, according to law "in such cases made and provided" is entitled to this \$10 fee. Perhaps this is the case but in the opinion of most people he earns his \$10 mighty easily.

It is stated by one of the aldermen that an attempt was made at a meeting of the Administration of Justice committee yesterday afternoon to have the chief of police present at the meeting. The chief of police was not there. It appears according to the aldermen that the chief of police does not have to obey the administration of justice committee nor take any dictation whatever from that body. His boss is the Police Commission, a body which is not elected by anybody, and one which even the aldermen have nothing to say about—only pay the bills.

At yesterday's meeting of the administration of justice committee that body requested His Worship the Mayor, who is a member of the Police Commission to kindly intercede with the Commission and see if it were possible for some of our aldermen to get some information which they were after.

Quebec Opposition

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