

THE DAILY MAIL

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FREDERICTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1936

Disappearing Money

A great deal of discussion goes on periodically about the intangible wealth of a people. "Intangible" in interpreted as "incapable of being touched." And who will lay a finger on the \$30,000 of old Dominion of Canada \$4 notes that cannot be accounted for; or the large sum outstanding in the once-popular "shinplasters" and their kindred in fractional currency?

Bank of Canada bills, now in general circulation, do not include the four-dollar variety, and any of the former larger bills rarely are seen. Most of these superceded bank notes have been "turned in," but more than 7,000 four-dollar bills remain in hiding. Where are they? And what has become of the 40,000 "shinplasters"?

Admittedly the \$4 bill never was popular. It was altogether too neighborly to the "fiver" and was responsible for confusion in making change. Long since the "shinplaster" became something of a curiosity, but it seems unlikely that so many thousands of them are held as curios. It may be so, with so small a sum sacrificed; but what about the fivers? Are there, in these hard times, enough people in Canada to lay aside as a keepsake so many four-dollars of negotiable money? Even with its unpopularity, there was nothing to be ashamed of in the possession of this curious note, and just now it would purchase a great many things that people need.

However, collectors of odd things are, as a rule, not mercenary, and it may be that 7,500 four-dollar bills and 40,000 "shinplasters" are reposing quietly and securely in highly prized collections, weighted down perhaps by the ponderous silver dollars of recent issue, which also have disappeared.

Thrift and Stinginess

We get thrift and stinginess mixed up. They have nothing in common. Stinginess means refusing to spend what you can afford to spend and what you owe it to yourself, family and friends to spend. Thrift means not spending more than you can afford to, not spending more than your income. So many people spend more than their income. They live in a fools' paradise. There comes a day of reckoning. The higher you fly the harder you hit.

Experts Also Have Trouble

The imminence of income-tax bills in this country lends additional interest to a news despatch from London, England. When Winston Churchill was Chancellor of the Exchequer, eight years ago, he appointed a committee to study the intricacies of income-tax laws and codify them so that they might be more easily understood by the people. Splendid idea, agree those who have struggled over the form prepared by officials to whom the whole business may—or may not—be clear. But wait.

The committee has just presented its report, a volume of 326 pages. One page with the words "No progress" would have done as well. The committee, as it were, throws up its collective hands and says: "The actual language in which many provisions are framed is so intricate and obscure as to be frankly unintelligible. Probably no chapter in our legislation has incurred more condemnation for drafting imperfections." The committee added that the word "assessment" is used in eight different senses in the income-tax legislation.

For the harried income-tax payer who knows what it means to struggle for hours over blank forms—which promise, however, to be clearer this year—there will be in the committee's report a queer kind of consolation. Experts also have had trouble. But the mystery is that Mr. Churchill's committee required eight years to discover what the income-tax payer generally finds out in an evening. The 326 pages may be regarded as providing further evidence of the venial Parliamentary committees have at their command.

Personal Touch in Wheat

It was a sensible action on the part of the Dominion Government to send a personal representative of the wheat trade to England to stimulate the sales of Canadian wheat. For many months, even years, Canadian wheat had been so far out of line in price, compared with Argentine wheat, that the British miller had ceased to buy it in anything like the former quantities. This situation has recently changed, since our wheat sells at better than competitive prices. At the same time, the personal touch in wheat-selling has much to recommend it.

The Calgary Herald, which is not a Government organ, does not hesitate to ascribe part of the recent success in selling our wheat to the efforts of Mr. Cecil Lamont, the Board's representative. It points out that the Canadian wheat exports for the months of December, January and February totalled 51,000,000 bushels, as compared with 27,000,000 bushels for the same period last year.

Other considerations enter into this increase, but the whole attitude of willingness to sell accounts for it, and the sending of an emissary was an impressive demonstration of this to the British buyer. There is much to be said for the cultivation of other markets, such as those in the Orient, by personal contact.

March export figures showed a falling off from February's high total, but were still comfortably above last year's amount. Indeed, for the first three months of this year Canadian wheat exports are at the best level since 1931. Slowly, but fairly steadily, we are moving in the direction of a normal carry-over.

SNAPSHOTS

Charley McCarthy, the popular C. P. R. Station agent came in for some bouquets from President Miller of the Board of Trade and from other members of the Transportation Committee this morning. The C. P. R. probably have not a better all-round man on their system than Mr. McCarthy. He would get up in the middle of the night and go out in his bare feet to serve the patrons.

Some of the transportation committee were satisfied with the presentation of affairs by those C. P. R. officials. Others were not so satisfied.

A British geologist says the Himalayas are growing higher every year. Really, now? On the level?

"A Singapore hotel has a silent meditation room," filled with easy chairs". In effect a barber shop without the conversation and hot towel.

We might reasonably begin to expect some really nice spring weather now, if it weren't spring.

Bresnahan, says a base ball historian, invented the shinguard. We had thought it was a bridge club map who led back the wife's weak suit.

Divers, says a popular science item, are working at depths once undreamed of. Now would be the time to soldier a new bottom of the stock market.

“CHISELLING”
SEEN AMONG
OPTOMETRISTS

TORONTO, April 15—Organized fleecing of the public by many members of the optometrists' profession in Ontario, was charged in the Legislature by Prime Minister Mitchell Hepburn, when he secured second reading for his bill to repeal the Optometrists Act.

"Take the patient for all he can stand," was the slogan of a large section of the profession, Mr. Hepburn declared, adding that United States "experts" were being imported to teach Canadian optometrists the art of "chiselling" and operating what amounted to a racket.

Would Repeal Act

The bill would repeal the act under which the Optometrists' Board controls the standards, procedure and practices of the members of the profession, and so break up what the Prime Minister regards as a "closed corporation".

Other legislation, the House was assured, would be framed to take the place of these sections of the existing act which were of value, including that section which was aimed at eliminating the travelling "spectacle salesman", once a familiar figure on the Canadian rural scene.

"Many people in Ontario are in a position to assist," began Mr. Hepburn, "in taking measures to curb any organization or profession that might be operating in restraint of trade". He then launched into a discussion of the profession of optometry.

Most of the members, he said, secured their final qualifications by a two weeks' course, and then set about "to fleece the public" and to operate as a "closed corporation", he quoted newspaper comment that the profession had taken on "many of the characteristics of a racket". All must take a membership in the controlling organization, he said, and must take an oath to subscribe to the rules.

"Some of them", he alleged, "are charging six and seven times the value of the spectacles".

He read from the Canadian Optometrist instructions on how to lead up to the price question, how to judge a patient's capacity to pay, and a discussion on the necessity of charging \$10 for examination alone. He mentioned one case where \$35 was charged. Members, he said, were sworn never to give free examinations. Recently a Texan, he said, was brought in to advise the members of the profession in Canada along these lines. A personal friend, said Mr. Hepburn had been unable to read for a year because he couldn't get glasses for less than \$30—which he couldn't afford—when the actual cost of the glasses was known to be \$3.50. "They have eliminated competition entirely", he said. "One optometrist told me he could sell glasses at \$7.50 and make 100 per cent. profit, but he didn't dare or he'd lose his certificate."

Legislation Forecast

"And", concluded the Premier, "this isn't the only profession we're going to deal with. Others will be under our scrutiny during the next year, because they are fleecing the public. They'd better take care or they'll get the same medicine".

Attorney General Arthur Roebuck revealed that he had already told the Optometry Board that they would certainly not be reappointed when they had appeared before him.

FRANK E. DUNN
MAGISTRATE
AT CHATHAM

A considerable number of provincial appointments and dismissals are announced in today's issue of the Royal Gazette. Also His Honor the Lieutenant has been pleased to accept the resignation of L. Bert Somers as police and stipendiary magistrate for the Parish of St. Quentin, in the County of Restigouche.

Among the appointments is that of Frank E. Dunn of Chatham to be police magistrate of the town of Chatham. The list of dismissals and appointments is as follows:

Dismissals

Joseph Richard of Kedgwick as a Provincial Constable.

Frederick Crossman of Coverdale, Albert County, as a Provincial Constable.

Alexander W. Garland, of R. R. No. 3, Moncton, as a Provincial Constable.

Alexander W. Garland, of R. R. No. 3, Moncton, as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Albert.

Alexander W. Garland, of R. R. No. 3, Moncton, as an Auctioneer.

Appointments

For the County of Albert

Russell Mills of Cummingsville, to be a Provincial Constable.

Alonzo R. Stiles of Roverside to be a Justice of the Peace.

Sterling Downey of Curryville to be a Justice of the Peace.

Charles Bishop of Harvey to be a Justice of the Peace.

David MacQuarrie of Hopewell Cape to be a Provincial Constable.

For the County of Carleton

Fred M. Boyd of Hartland to be a Commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in the Supreme Court.

John Donnelly, of R. R. No. 2 Upper Kent, to be a Justice of the Peace.

Harry Webb of Woodstock to be a member of the Board of School Trustees of the Town of Woodstock, in the place of Arthur L. Slipp, deceased, term of office to expire in June, 1938.

For the County of Gloucester

Alban Blanchard of Caraquet to be a Justice of the Peace.

For the County of Kings

Lemuel E. Reicker of Hatfield's Point to be a Justice of the Peace.

Orlie McDonald of Hammond to be a Provincial Constable.

For the County of Madawaska

M. Paul-Roger Belanger of Edmundston to be a Justice of the Peace.

For the County of Northumberland

Frank E. Dunn of Chatham to be Police Magistrate of the Town of Chatham.

Daniel Desmond of Chatham as a member of the Board of School Trustees of the Town of Chatham, in the place of C. P. Hickey, resigned; term of office to expire June 30th, 1937.

For the County of Queens

James Milligan of Newcastle Bridge to be a Justice of the Peace.

For the City and County of St. John

Edward Cave of Little River, to be a Justice of the Peace.

Christie M. Belyea of 123 City Line, Lancaster, to be a Provincial Constable.

Harold G. Ring of 267 Duke Street, West Saint John, to be a Provincial Constable.

Abner M. Belyea of 1 Dunn Street, West Saint John, to be a Provincial Constable.

For the County of Westmorland

Gordon Ritchie of Cherryfield to be a Justice of the Peace.

Ability to Withstand Exposure is Only Hope

(Continued from Page One)

night is able to get in here through the mud of an ill-kept country road, the men be reached by Saturday.

The shovel, capable of handling two tons of earth at a time, will be used to clear a way through the caved-in area to the operating shaft which was filled in by the disturbance, cutting off the men's escape. Success of this operation depends entirely on the depth of the area affected by the cave-in.

Digging of a new shaft nearly directly from the surface to the joint of the 141-foot level and the operating shaft will take a week, it is believed, because progress will have to be blasted through solid rock.

Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Magill, wives of two of the trapped men, arrived in Halifax last night, where they will await reports from here. They were accompanied by R. J. Ivey, K. C., London, Ontario. Mrs. Scadding was unable to leave Toronto because of illness.

It will be there or four days at least before a rescue crew of miners and volunteers, working day and night with the air of modern machinery, can dig out a new shaft to the level that holds the imprisoned men, experts said last night.

Highly trained men from Montague and Goldenville mines declared late last night the old Meagher shaft, through which the men might have been rescued, unsafe and in danger of falling in after a partial second cave-in.

Walls Weakened

They had gone down and investigated its walls, finding huge fissures threatening further landslides. Another investigation is planned for sometime after daybreak when the area has settled further, but it is not thought any men will be asked to risk their lives trying to dig further toward the 141-foot level by that shaft.

Amazement was expressed at underground conditions here. Apparently there are a maze of uncharted tunnels and chambers, improperly supported, underneath the whole area.

Known To One Man

Only one man is known to have a thorough knowledge of all the subterranean passages and he is believed to be hundreds of miles away.

That man is Harvey Higgins, 1 Crescent Street, West Concord, Mass. Thirty years ago, when the mine was last in operation, he worked there. He is known to have a thorough knowledge of the underground system.

Matthew Higgins, Moose River general storekeeper and a mine-owner on the side, wrote a letter to his namesake several days before the accident asking him to come down here for the summer. Whether Harvey Higgins intended to come or not is not known.

F. D. Henderson, present mine foreman, has only been here since the mine re-opened in January.

Rev. D. LeBlanc
Mentioned as Head
of Archdiocese

(Continued from page One)

ties of Westmorland, including Moncton city, Kent and up to the Miramichi river. The Archbishop would be at Moncton. The other diocese would be north of the Miramichi river, including part of Northumberland, Gloucester, Restigouche and Madawaska counties. This is all French-Canadian with the exception of a section around Chatham and Newcastle, which is Irish. In Madawaska county there is a number of French Canadians who have drifted in from Quebec. They are not numerous, however, as a unit. The Acadians and the English-speaking elements are the chief consideration, the English-speaking sections being chiefly of Irish descent. It is said that the purpose of the long delay in appointing a Bishop in New Brunswick was in trying to adjust these matters satisfactorily to all elements concerned.

SURRENDER CHARTER

Application for the surrender of the charter of "Chaleur Lands, Limited" has been accepted and cancellation of the charter was effective yesterday, according to an announcement in the Royal Gazette today.

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— NEWS —
Flood Conditions in New Brunswick

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