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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1936

Funding Provincial Debts

Western Canada will be particularly interested in the refunding of Provincial debts at lower rates of interest when the National Finance Council meets at Ottawa on Dec. 9. This matter was introduced a year ago by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn of Ontario, who expressed the view that a refunding scheme embracing all the Provinces ought to be undertaken at once by the Dominion authorities.

At that time there were practical difficulties in the way. Hon. Charles Dunning, the Federal Minister of Finance, had been in office but a short time and had not been able even by intensive study to decide what would be the policy best suited to Canadian needs. Different conditions existed in different Provinces.

At a later conference last January the Federal and Provincial Government spokesmen agreed to ask for certain amendments to the Constitution which would validate various taxes imposed by the Provinces and enable the Dominion to guarantee the bonds of the Provinces subject to supervision by a loan council of Provincial borrowing. The Premiers and Treasurers of the Provinces had sanctioned the request of the Parliament of the United Kingdom to amend the British North America Act, but the Senate of Canada held there was no evidence the Provincial Legislatures approved.

Moreover, Premier Aberhart of Alberta seriously objected to the proposed loan council to supervise provincial borrowing and spending, and the Province of New Brunswick later objected to seeking constitutional amendments, and the Dominion Government eventually dropped the whole business. Some of the provinces in the West have been reconsidering the matter and it is now believed there is a better prospect of a practical scheme being evolved at the forthcoming conference.

Mr. Dunning probably would be favorable to any voluntary refunding scheme, but would be resolutely opposed to any arbitrary measure by which the borrower attempted to dictate to the lender. He would strongly resist anything in the nature of repudiation, as it is vitally important that Canada maintain her reputation for paying one hundred cents on the dollar. Up to the present time the Dominion has met all obligations according to the terms of the contracts, but the nation's credit has suffered several shocks by reason of the arbitrary actions of certain of the Provinces.

The savings which would accrue to the Provinces by refunding of Governmental debts all across the country would run into many millions of dollars. An official report showing the total net funded debt of the Provinces for 1934—the latest figures available—gives the following:

Prince Edward Island, \$3,621,371; Nova Scotia, \$68,356,815; New Brunswick, \$56,109,500; Quebec, \$11,488,337; Ontario, \$614,973,788 (this liability is partially offset by capital assets like Hydro, and the T. & N.O. Railway); Manitoba \$11,022,038; Saskatchewan, \$141,103,024; Alberta, \$132,143,064; British Columbia, \$113,754,484.

What is History?

As the year ends, seven hundred historians will meet at Providence, R.I., for the annual convention of the American Historical Association to discuss the march of events from the neolithic age to the New Deal.

"History," once said a noted industrialist, "is the bunk!" Educators hooted at him, yet he was largely right. Much of the history is bunk. First, considerable history-writing is done by persons who have few facts upon which to go, or by persons who have not made the effort to do a fair job of finding facts.

What are accurate sources? What is the truth of history? And how often is the historian affected by his wishbone instead of his backbone?

Who, for example, could write an unbiased story of the past ten years? And we lived through that period. If it is difficult to get at the truth of events through which we lived and in which we have taken part, how can we expect flawless-reporting by men who will have to dig among long-dead bones for their "facts"?

Yet historians have done a fair job as a whole, an excellent job for individual instances. The chief lack is that expert historians are too often poor teachers. They know their topic but they do not know how to write it clearly.

Historians are not entirely unlike some men in business who are expert at bringing in money but failures at spending it wisely.

Emancipation

By removing the restrictions which barred the "untouchables" among his subjects from the Hindu temples, the Maharajah of Travancore has struck at the foundation of the caste system, which has been one of the greatest barriers to progress in India. His action is expected to be followed by the neighboring states of Cochin and Mysore, which contain a large part of the 40,000,000 "untouchables" or low-caste natives of India.

Breaking down caste restrictions which have existed since the beginning of Indian history, the edict of the 24-year-old maharajah has been hailed as the greatest reform in that country in 800 years. It may be compared with the Emancipation proclamation, which freed the slaves in the United States. For regardless of their station in life, Hindus throughout the centuries have been bound by the rigid rules of caste, which prohibited them from eating or drinking, and in some cases even from conversing with persons from another caste.

The system presented almost insurmountable difficulties to unification in India. Nationalists found it possible to effect a degree of solidarity among members of the same caste in various states, but any unification was necessarily horizontal rather than vertical.

If the action of the Maharajah of Travancore is followed by other Indian leaders, it will be the first great step toward a united India. With its teeming millions of people, an India free from the caste system might well become one of the great powers of the world.

SNAPSHOTS

Old newspaper friends will be pleased to learn that Jim Conlon is to be director of Federal and Municipal Affairs. The appointment is a popular one. It also goes to a man who besides being well qualified for the job is a hard-working and faithful official. He has had a wide experience in Federal affairs at Ottawa and is a New Brunswicker who knows New Brunswick conditions.

The Capital bus people have become popular in this city. They should not do anything to break the charm.

If the Federal Government can give the Western provinces such a good hand-out, what about giving us the bridge?

The crossings across Queen Street business section today were simply terrible.

Are there to be wedding bells in the near future, Burdo? They say that the Christmas bells and the wedding bells are going to ring together.

A hick town is one where the city engineer is allowed to have the Main Street in the condition that our Queen Street is in today.

Crown

(Continued from Page One)

from the readiness or otherwise of the King to accept the advice of his ministers. It is an accepted principle of the British constitution that the King acts on the advice of his ministers. They are then responsible. If he acts otherwise, then the King himself is responsible.

Edward VIII, it is rumored—lacking the experience of his father—has shown tendencies to depart from strictly constitutional practice. Hence Downing Street is worried and hurriedly summoned a week-end cabinet meeting.

The King's promise of action during a recent tour of the depressed areas of South Wales was reported to have caused much fluttering in Westminster, although the ovations His Majesty received left no doubt of his personal popularity.

It was reported from private sources that the King himself is watching the developments with unruffled composure, that above everything he will consider the best interests of the realm and take no step likely to discredit the Crown.

Mr. Baldwin's audience with the King the second of the week, followed a discussion in Fleet Street with Lord Beaverbrook, Canadian-born newspaper publisher, who recently visited New York for 24 hours, returning to England almost immediately after finding the ocean voyage beneficial for his asthma.

It is understood that His Majesty has given the British Premier and Cabinet to understand that there will be no marriage between himself and Mrs. Simpson. This was, it is said, given at the request of the Cabinet that the King drop any idea of marriage with the now world famous divorcee.

The King continues to enjoy the popularity which he has always had amongst the masses of the British people. In fact, His Majesty has, if anything, been more popular than ever.

Meantime, from the Bishop of Bradford last night came an assertion that his references to the King in a diocesan speech were not intended as a rebuke and had no connection with the King's possible marriage. The speech evoked wide comment.

After reading newspaper editorials on his speech, the Bishop said, "These people make a good deal more of the thing than they have any right to do. There is only one phrase in the whole of what I said that could be considered criticism of the King. That was when I said 'some of us wish he gave more positive signs of his awareness' (of his need of God's grace)."

"What I had reference to was the fact that to all outward appearance the King seems to live entirely indifferently to the public practice of religion. He may have a private religion of his own. That I know nothing about, but he doesn't show the world he has one and I think that is a pity."

"A good many people would like him to show more sign of belief in the value of religion than he does. . . . I studiously took care to say nothing with regard to the King's private life because I know nothing about it."

While the foreign papers all over the world have been publishing page after page regarding His Majesty's friendly relations with Mrs. Simpson, British papers have had comparatively little to say, and in some cases have preserved a strict silence. But the time has apparently arrived when to keep the romance off the papers altogether would be foolish.

Will His Majesty marry Mrs. Simpson and turn the Throne over to the

Duke of York? Will he drop the "merry widow" as it is reported he will? Or will he fight it out with the Baldwin Cabinet and let them resign?

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—The New York Times, in a London despatch tonight, asserts that conflict between King Edward and his ministers has resulted in a crisis "involving the possible abdication of the King tomorrow."

"Upon the utterly astounded country there has burst a constitutional crisis," The Times said, "involving the possible abdication of the King tomorrow and succession of the Duke of York to the Throne. The crisis is no longer hidden; the conflict between the King and his ministers has blazed into open flame."

"The cabinet is determined that marriage of the Sovereign is not a private matter but a public and Imperial concern. The King, on the other hand, is said to feel the cabinet has no constitutional right to dictate his private life, no matter how closely he must follow his minister's advice in public affairs."

"Between the two there is no yielding."

The Times despatch said "there is little doubt" in informed political circles that Prime Minister Baldwin in conference with the King today presented "an ultimatum and that the King received it in truculent fashion."

"With the press and Parliament, the Church and the cabinet against him, he refused to budge. If he persists, the impression tonight is that the cabinet will not hesitate to force a decree of abdication upon him."

"Best founded" of rumors tonight, The Times continued, was a statement that the King would leave the country tomorrow, and incredible as it may sound, nobody outside the Palace and 10 Downing Street knows whether he will go as King or as royal exile."

All the leading London papers today carry editorials regarding the King, many referring openly to his possible marriage. They said,

LONDON, Dec. 3.—The Times appealed editorially today to King Edward for some "authoritative statement" to "end once and for all" rumors surrounding the throne.

The newspaper made no direct mention of anyone; but asserted reports in America were "doing infinite harm in the United States and the British dominions."

Conceding that the King was "entitled to his relaxation and companionship with chosen friends," The Times added:

"What we cannot and will not afford—what the nation and the Empire

OUR MAIL BAG

THIS MAN MAXWELL

Editor of The Daily Mail, City.

Dear Sir: It must be a comfort to Mr. Citizen to know that the cop whose salary he pays can, when the spirit moves him, beat him up to the cop's complete satisfaction without anything being done about it. The brilliant Maxwell seems to have grown eloquent on the subject and wants the system continued.

Who is this chap anyway and how did he ever make the Council Board? They tell me he wants to be Mayor some day. Good. Then perhaps we'll have this righteous principle extended so that the teacher can trim your boy—or girl—and also get away with it. Great man this Maxwell. I move we make him Mayor. I'll vote for him on his nerve alone. I do hope he will talk some more about the police commission for he has surely sealed his doom and that's enough to make anybody a Mayor or something.

(Sgd.) ANOTHER DUMBELL.
P. S.—I forgot to congratulate you on your live paper.

cannot afford—is that influence of the great office which he holds should be weakened if ever private inclination were to come into open conflict with public duty and allowed to prevail."

The News Chronicle was the first London daily to mention openly possible marriage of the King.

The News Chronicle said the King could marry without endangering the Throne or embroiling Parliament on a constitutional issue.

"... If the King, who is of age and knows his own mind, is sufficiently in love to persist in his intention, the public would, we think, wish that he should marry the woman of his choice—but that he should do so in his capacity of the Duke of Cornwall."

"His wife's position would then be that of King's Consort, not that of Queen of England. For such an arrangement, there is the precedent of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort (Albert); and if necessary, Parliament should pass the requisite legislation to make this arrangement possible."

The paper said the issue raised was a matter whether "this lady is a suit-

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able person to be Queen of England and whether this is a matter to be decided by the King himself, or by the government as the mouthpiece of public opinion."

The answer to this question, the editorial continued, should not be difficult:

"It is for the King to say, like every other man, who shall be his partner for life. It is for Parliament to say who will be Queen of this country and to regulate the succession to the Throne."

"The paper said the King, if he felt so inclined, could grant to Parliament the privilege of passing an act of exclusion barring from the Throne any possible 'issue of his marriage.'"

Such a procedure, it was contended, would overcome many scruples now exhibited.

Delegations

(Continued from Page One) possible winter relief jobs. No announcement as to what the government will do in this connection has been made yet.

U. N. B. Delegation

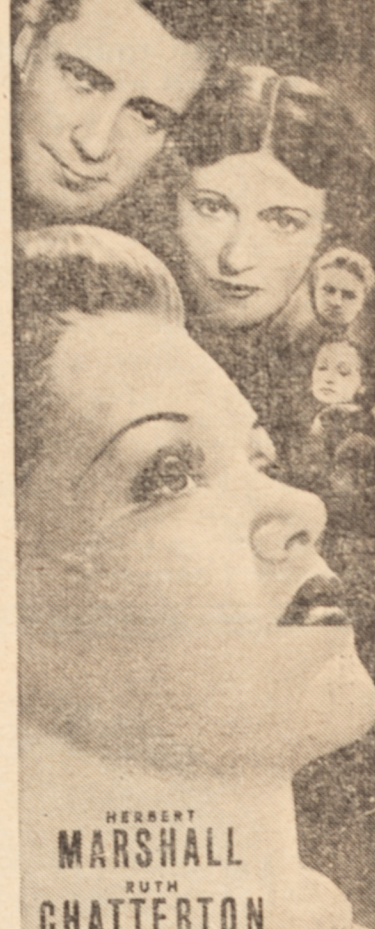
A delegation from the University of New Brunswick Senate, headed by Dr. C. C. Jones, president of U. N. B., is expected to appear before the government today. University matters will be discussed with accent on the financial status of that institution, it is learned.

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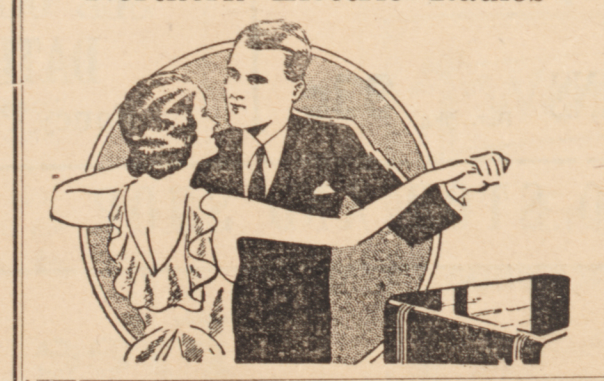
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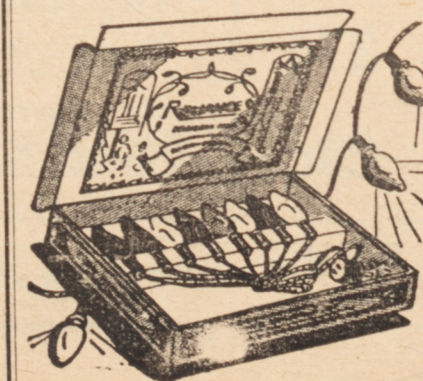
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