

THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

FREDERICTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1937.

Mr. Pirie's Aeroplane

The Lands and Mines departmental report was tabled in the Legislature on February 25, and on March 2 Hon. Mr. Squires gave notice of inquiry re the aeroplane owned by Hon. F. W. Pirie, Minister of Lands and Mines. If Mr. Squires and his friends had been sincere in their wish to secure information why did they not get this information from the official report of the Department?

The aeroplane owned and operated by Mr. Pirie was bought and paid for personally by the Minister of Lands and Mines, and has been used at his own personal expense in his official duties and in experimental work in the Provincial Forestry Service.

The total cost of this machine to the taxpayers of this Province has been nothing either for the machine itself or for its operation, and the Opposition has no more right to inquire into this item than it has to inquire into what Mr. Pirie had for breakfast.

In the Empire Spirit

That Canadian and Australian trade negotiations have been resumed is a matter for gratification in both countries; and the spirit in which they have reopened augurs well for their ultimate success.

Explaining the resignation of Sir Henry Gullett, Minister formerly in charge of trade treaties, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons of Australia pointed out that "Sir Henry's proposals were not acceptable to Canada because they involved the withdrawal of important trade privileges which Canada now receives," and said the Australian Government rejected them because they were extreme and uncompromising.

Further, it has been more than hinted that Sir Henry intended to "discipline" Canada, and that he threatened to divert Australian trade to foreign countries unless she fell in with his views.

Commenting on this, the influential Melbourne Argus declared that, while the Australian Parliament might impose any import duties it pleases, it "would be repugnant to the interests of the Empire if any endeavor were made to coerce Canada to any other Dominion."

In both the Prime Minister's statements and the Argus's comment there is evident a willingness on the part of Australia to give as well as take, and a fair-minded endeavor to see Canada's point of view as well as Australia's.

When a similar spirit becomes the basis for all international negotiations there will be little left to do to establish world understanding and a general return to security and peace.

Municipal Relief

Representatives of Canadian municipalities in Ottawa asserted at the Dominion Conference of Mayors and the Union of Canadian Municipalities, that the Dominion Government should assume complete responsibility for unemployment relief, on the ground that it is essentially a national rather than a municipal problem. Statements were made that municipalities are being driven steadily toward bankruptcy by present burdens. It was prophesied that if this drain continues Winnipeg will default in another year, and Montreal will be on the verge of staggering. They asserted that the Provinces cannot help because they are almost as badly off as the municipalities. There was even talk of a "sit-down" strike of municipalities, which would refuse to carry the unemployment burden further.

From time to time in various cities relief methods and expenditures have entered into politics. There have been accusations that many relief expenditures were unwarranted, and that under careful administration it would be possible to reduce this drain a great deal. If Ottawa could do a better job, then Ottawa should have the job to do. Certainly Premier Duplessis has started "something" by closing relief administration headquarters in Montreal and seizing all Relief Commission records. Officials deny the existence of the "ruinous and intolerable" abuses alleged by the Premier, but everyone will agree with him in his further remark that "it is sovereignly unjust that public funds destined to the unemployed should be given instead to people who have no right to them." If he can prove such misuse of funds, then it is essential that administration should be in hands that will see that public funds for relief are not used "to enrich unjustly those who have no right to such money, and who, furthermore, are not even in need of it." Again, if Ottawa or Quebec or Toronto can do a better job, that is where the job should go. (The public foots the bill in any case.)

The aggregate debts of the municipalities are one-fifth of the public debt of Canada, and are greater than those of the Provinces. The municipalities collect far more in taxes than do the Provinces, but far too many of them have had to go into default because their receipts are not enough to meet the calls upon them. Many of them pay average interest rates from 4 to 6½% on funded debts, the result of past borrowing and the piling up of debt beyond the present capacity to pay.

Real estate is carrying a very heavy burden, and naturally property owners are all for proposals that other sources of revenue shall be tapped to help carry the burden. Lower assessments and increased rates have not balanced each other in civic budgets. Declining revenues have made it necessary to borrow more. It does seem that, since unemployment relief is a national problem, the lifting of this expenditure from cities and towns would be one of the greatest present aids to municipalities which they could have. But cannot it be done in a way so that such a situation as has developed in Montreal may be avoided? Administration should be honest, capable and as economical as the necessities of the unemployed permit. That will help all business by keeping taxes lower, and it will permit quicker development of Federal agencies to lessen unemployment, and unquestionably municipal finance, and therefore municipal bonds, will improve in desirability.

Aristocracy, Ahoy!

By Legislative enactment it is proposed to establish records of Quebec's "first families," its old nobility, as it were. The bill provides for registration, qualification and confirmation of "the names, arms, genealogies, honors and privileges of the nobility in Quebec, or connected lineally or collaterally with New France."

This is a big undertaking, and one to be approved for the sentiment it reveals and the respect there ought to be among all people for their forebears. It was an English poet who wrote: "Let wealth and commerce, laws and learning die, But leave us still our old nobility."

It is the "old nobility" feature of it that may prove awkward. Quebec has just launched a campaign against communism; and communism has little regard for the nobility, old or new. Also note what happened the Taschereaus—the very essence of Quebec's traditional aristocracy—at the last Provincial election. If there is on the part of the people of Quebec a weakening of regard for the old nobility, what an opening the movement leaves for the "Reds."

One aim of the bill may be to establish firmly the claim of Quebec to the earliest men of distinction in this country, and it will be difficult to dispute that. But has Quebec no feeling for the simple folk of other Provinces who must content themselves with plebeian ancestry?

SNAPSHOTS

The daily service of mail between this city and Central Kingsclear on route No 6 should be changed so as to leave here in the afternoons at four o'clock instead of ten in the morning, its present bonehead arrangement.

Ottawa correspondent sends us bouquets regarding new bridge. Thanks. We have tried to do our bit and think that we have accomplished something.

The new "Mock Parliament" is going to adopt new liquor legislation at its next session.

The gas mask has been introduced at an English tea party. When it is determined to what extent it discourages light conversation plans can be perfected for its general adoption.

Dr. Franz Sarga's fourth duel was halted when his adversary grew tired. This is all part of the wave of brutality sweeping over Europe.

Another problem in traffic congestion: A Regina aviator parked his plane on the sidewalk in front of his house and was fined \$2 and costs. What will the streets be like if parked planes are added to the automobiles? Fortunately this first offense of the kind has been dealt with promptly.

Canadian Manufacture

(Continued from Page One) but are purely developing from Canadian demand. Rumors have arisen, it was stated, that all British aircraft factories are so tied up with military orders that the commercial orders are far behind schedule. The fact is, it was stated, that the de Havilland business, developed on production of commercial, civil and training planes, is continuing its production of such craft and has established special new factories for military production.

(Crowds at Quarters) A visit to the de Havilland plant, off North Dufferin Street, yesterday revealed that the factory is so busy and so crowded for space, pending completion of the new hangar, that departments have been forced to overlap into each other's quarters and use up every available inch of floor room. Men engaged in wing construction had set up their frames and were busy side by side with others who were assembling four planes, three twin-motor Dragonflies and one Rapide.

All these planes, it was stated, have been sold and their purchases are awaiting delivery. Further orders, it was stated, are on hand, or have been optioned, and assembly of the craft will get under way as soon as parts arrive from England. Recent months, it was stated, have seen an increase in the trend toward twin-motor planes.

During the past week reports have indicated similar increases in other Canadian factories, including Fairchild and Noorduyn in Montreal. The Fairchild plant, it was stated, is also going into production on several twin-motor planes of a wholly new design, adapted from the characteristic Fairchild lines of the past, but developed especially for Canadian purposes.

Supt. Says

(Continued from Page One) all gold mines but one, which is a chromium mine near Collins, Ont. Over \$8,000,000 was spent in wages, supplies and equipment in this area huge and all as they are," stated Mr. Seibert.

Operation of the Flin Flon mine in Manitoba overshadows all other development in magnitude, according to Mr. Seibert. "Nevertheless, a number of new mines have come into production in this area during the past year, while others give promise of coming into production this year."

"Saskatchewan, although considered primarily a grain producing Province, has not been without its mining development, the two most conspicuous being the Beaver Lake-Flin Flon area and the Gold Fields camp on Lake Athabasca," stated Mr. Seibert. "Radium development at Great Bear Lake is well known and plans are being made for further expansion. Perhaps the most notable feature of mining in the Northwest Territories has been the number of gold discoveries on Great Slave Lake," concluded Mr. Seibert.

DIED

CURRIE—Passed away at Victoria Public Hospital, early this morning, March 20, 1937, George A. Currie, aged 65 years, after an illness of six weeks.

Funeral tomorrow afternoon Sunday, March 21, 1937, with prayers at his late home, Oromocto, at 2 o'clock, followed by service at United Church, Oromocto, conducted by Rev. Mr. Sulston. Interment at Burton Courthouse cemetery.

Premier Dysart

(Continued from Page One)

in 1934; \$492.80 for 1933, and \$430.98 for 1932.

"To summarize my total expenses for travelling within the province, including postage, telegrams and telephones, total \$1,664.06 as against Mr. Stewart's \$3,106.69 for 1934; \$2,746.30 for 1933, and \$3,092.64 for 1932. In other words, my total expenses as minister of public works were substantially one-half those of my predecessor for the three years given.

"Now let me compare with my predecessor, Mr. Tilley, my expenses for the like services as premier for the services above mentioned, namely, travelling expenses within the province as well as without the province, including postage, telegrams and telephones.

"My total expense for 1936 was \$981.36. Honorable Mr. Tilley's for 1934 was \$2,741.29; Hon. Mr. Richards for the year 1932 was \$1,644.25, and for 1930 Premier Baxter's was \$828.41.

Perhaps it might be enlightening to show the expenses for these services for the joint offices of premier and minister of public works. The grand total for 1936 for these two offices was \$2,524.22 while in 1934, the joint expense of both the premier and minister of public works totals \$5,827.98 or over 100 per cent. more.

"It is just as silly to seek to include in a minister's expense account the use of a car placed at his disposal as it is to endeavor to include in expense account office staff. Both are unworthy of consideration. With meticulous care, however, he sought to build up a case, and states that the sum of \$800 was paid for a Pontiac. But he very adroitly avoided telling the House that my predecessor, as minister of public works, purchased one, not at a cost of \$800, but at a cost of above \$3,000.

Continuing his address Mr. Dysart dealt with the fiscal policies of the Government, the relief problems, the administration of the public works department of which he is the Minister and he answered the misstatements made in previous speeches by different opposition speakers in the Legislature. The whole speech was one of the best heard in the House this Session and was listened to with crowded galleries. The atmosphere at times was tense as charge after charge was hurled across the floor by the Premier at the Opposition speakers and these charges were subject to frequent interruption by members

Vice President

(Continued from Page One)

All the ballots were not in today, and this was given as the reason why only the vice-presidents met during the day. They held sessions in morning and afternoon, amid indications of greater activity than at yesterday's initial meeting of the full conference.

Snowstorms here and there in Canada were said to have caused the delay in receipt of absent ballot returns.

What the activity meant remained a mystery tonight. So much were the labor representatives that they refused even, to say if they were going to meet again tomorrow. Unofficial sources, however, indicated there would be a plenary session on Saturday.

Sympathy

(Continued from Page One)

75 unidentified bodies he saw at one time in an Overtown mortuary never would be fully identified, unless the parents are able to do so from remnants of clothing that still remained.

to the left of the speaker. Premier Dysart's speech appears in full on page two.

At the conclusion of the Premier's address the Opposition amendment proposed to the motion to go into supply was voted upon. This amendment sought to prevent the speaker from leaving the chair to go into supply until the Government had given assurance that no salary increases would be made until the balanced budget had been produced. The amendment was defeated by the following vote:

Yeas: McAllister, Smith (Saint John), Squires, Melville, Perry.

Nays: Hon. Mr. Paterson, Hon. Mr. Richard, Hon. Mr. Dysart, Hon. Mr. McNair, Hon. Mr. Taylor, Hon. Mr. Pirie, Hon. Mr. Roberts, Hon. Mr. Anderson, Hon. Messrs. Doucet, Porter, Henneberry, Borge, Richard (Kent), Savard, Downey, Gill, Stairs, Gunter, Calder, Doone, McDonald (Westmorland), Young, Losier, Blakeny, Copp, Melanson, Lawson, Smith (Sunbury), Jenkins, McGrand, Jeffries, LeBlanc, Keay, 34 to 5.

The motion to go into supply was then put and carried by 34 yeas and five nays the House dividing along the lines set out in the vote on the amendment.



MEET Todd Thompson

Because of the rapid pick-up in our Chrysler-Plymouth business we have found it necessary to increase our mechanical staff. Being desirous of securing the best there is, we have been making diligent enquiries for five or six months with the result that Mr. Thompson has entered our employ this week and takes charge of our Service Department.

Mr. Thompson has had fourteen years' experience in the leading garages of Saint John, ten of which were spent on Dodge work at the Victory Garage. His work has been entirely satisfactory and he comes to us with very high recommendations.

Mr. Thompson will be glad to talk over your automobile problems with you and give you the best that he has.

Phillips & Pringle, Ltd.

CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH Car Dealers FARGO TRUCK Dealers FREDERICTON, N. B.



"What did you say to the officer?"
"In any pinch, give me a Sweet Cap!"

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked."—Lancet

CAPITOL

NOW PLAYING

REPUBLIC PICTURES presents

BEWARE OF LADIES

— with —
Donald Cook
Judith Allen
George Meeker
Goodee Montgomery
Russell Hopton
William Newell
Extra Attraction —
GENE AUTRY

THE SINGING COWBOY

— with —
SMILEY BURNETTE and
"CHAMPION"

Double-barreled action... as your fighting favorite traps a murder mob with television!

HERE MON. - TUES. - WED.
NEXT WEEK!

James Dunn

— in —
"TWO FISTED GENTLEMAN"

— with —
June Clayworth

Gas Accumulated

(Continued from Page One)

plosion, Dr. Schoch said he found only one with a satisfactory vent.

"It's simple," he said. "The walls were filled with gas that had no other exit. Then there was a spark, and the walls burst.

"The condition of the bodies of those children bears that out. They were blown (he emphasized the word) to death—not burned to death."

School Superintendent W. C. Shaw—who lost a son in the tragedy—had said he believed seeping gas from the adjacent oil fields caused the blast.

Weary workmen who toiled through the night and day, burrowing in the wreckage for bodies, completed the task late today, after 425 victims had been removed, with the statement of Col. E. E. Parker, commander of National Guard forces which held the territory under martial law:

"The job is finished. We estimated 425 bodies were lifted from the ruins. Maybe more."

Gas flares from the forest of oil derricks surrounding the community cast an eerie relief tonight over a scene of quiet strangely at contrast with the frenzied activity last night when 1,000 men tore at the wreckage.

The shell of the school building lay silent, its steel, bricks and tile scattered over a vast area.

Occasional muffled sobs of anguished parents, most of them shut in their homes with their grief, broke the funeral quiet.

Around the scene of the blast itself, the only activity was an occasional visit by authorities or residents seeking to ascertain the cause of the appalling destruction.

Meanwhile bereaved parents laid plans for mass and individual funeral services for their children.

A group service for an undetermined number was planned at the New London Baptist Church tomorrow, and there was the possibility of a mass service at Henderson.

Funeral Homes Active

Tonight the only activity was in funeral homes where the dead were receiving last ministrations. Such lights burned far into the night at Tyler, Longview, Kilgore, Overtown, and Henderson—all through the oil belt.

Nearly all the work of embalming and identifying bodies was finished, but relatives moved in and out of mortuaries over a 50-mile area, selecting coffins and making arrangements for final rites.

Most parents had found their living children, some in the hospitals and others lost in the excitement of rescue work.

The rain which pelted down on searchers in their last hours of labor ceased tonight. A half moon shone down on the stunned community as though the elements that conspired against rescue work had relented at last.

The rescue workers, many of them laborers from the oil fields who rushed to the scene when word of the tragedy spread through the region, wearily turned away from the building this afternoon.

Dripping wet from a pouring rain and the perspiration of their exertions, an army of oilfield workers, many of them seeking their own children or already knowing them dead, filed out of the tangled debris.

GAIETY

NOW PLAYING

3-STAR RIOT!

Imagine the fun when Joan crashes the 400 to steal or marry a million... and Bob and Bill both crash into her heart!

M-G-M'S
STAR-STUDDIED
SENSATION!



Joan CRAWFORD
WILLIAM POWELL
ROBERT MONTGOMERY

IN
the
Last of Cheyenne
with FRANK MORGAN
Jessie RALPH - Nigger BRUCE
Directed by RICHARD ROSS
Produced by LAWRENCE WELSH

HERE MONDAY & TUESDAY
NEXT WEEK!

Edna Ferber's

— in —
"COME AND GET IT"

— with —
Francis Farmer
Edward Arnold

(Nearly All) Fractures

Fatalities in hospitals and in ambulances en route to emergency stations were expected to push the total number of dead past 450. Many of those who lived after the eruption that scattered human beings and buildings alike, are maimed, physicians said, and fractures are evident in almost every case.

Definite indication that seepage gas caused the explosion came when Major Gaston Howard said Dr. Schoch would testify. Seeping gas, an ever-present menace that lurks in the oil fields, collects in recesses of well-ventilated buildings and along highways, said Assistant Fire Chief J. J. Lynn at Oklahoma City. "The East Texas country of New London is hilly," he added. "You'll probably find more gas pockets along highways there."

At Austin, state capital, legislators passed resolutions in both houses calling for a legislative investigation even as Governor James V. Alfred's military court of national guardsmen assembled here. Governor Alfred announced this afternoon he probably would raise martial law in New London tomorrow.

