

THE DAILY MAIL

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SEPTEMBER 27, 1937

ROYAL COMMISSION PREPARES

THE ROYAL COMMISSION on Dominion-Provincial relations has three main subjects before it as it makes a preliminary tour of the West to arrange its business itinerary. These are debts, taxation and relief, each big enough to demand the attention of the ablest experts.

It will be some time, probably months, before hearings are held in this Province, but it is not too early for organizations intending to make representations to begin marshalling information and establishing a sound basis for their conclusions. It can be said the Commission desires all the constructive aid possible, and certainly is entitled to it.

No one, it may be assumed, will regard this investigation as political or tinged in any way with partisanship. The central idea of the terms of reference is to ensure national unity with Provincial integrity, to restore Dominion and Provinces to their respective places in the national economy, enabling each to function independently in its own sphere.

The Commission will engage the services of men of recognized standing in the subjects under study and call as witnesses others competent to contribute enlightenment. Representatives of each Provincial Government and the Dominion are expected to speak from knowledge and experience of their problems and the remedies desired, the Provinces having in mind their responsibility for the municipalities.

Organized bodies such as Boards of Trade, Manufacturers' Associations, the Trades and Labor Congress are asked to take part in the summation of fact and opinion. Fundamentally the Commission is a fact-finding body, but its recommendations will be subject to political scrutiny. We believe it essential that a wide intelligent interest be developed during the preparation of briefs by organizations able to reach the "average man."

Nothing would contribute more effectively to the success of the investigation than the Commission's realization that the magnitude and importance of its task are appreciated by the general public. Nor has there ever been so excellent an opportunity to make the public at large aware of its responsibility for the problems besetting its various Governments. Out of the inquiry should come a clearer understanding of the limitations and obligations of those administering a public trust.

It is to be hoped the Commission's work will not be viewed as an academic undertaking of little practical concern to the rank and file of the population. In the analysis the solutions offered may be the products of experts, but debts, taxation and relief are very close to the common fireside.

IF MR. ABERHART IS RECALLED

ONE OF PREMIER ABERHART'S first gifts to Alberta in the interest of good and thoroughly popular government was the Recall Act. By securing two-thirds of the signatures of its eligible electors any constituency can remove the sitting member and elect a more worthy substitute. Premier Aberhart's concern over the petition to be circulated for his recall throws up a doubt or two as to the gentleman's sincerity.

The unwritten law of the scientist and the inventor is that they be their own guinea pigs. Mr. Aberhart has misgivings as to the practicability of the law. Of course he has "welcomed the test" of the popular will at this time, but nevertheless he has indicated that he is taking precautions to immunize his seat against its success. He makes the point, without covering any of his own doubts as to his current popularity, that he is the Premier, which makes his presence or absence an issue of some concern to the other constituencies and the electorate as a whole.

There is no mention of special privilege for Cabinet rank in the Recall Act, but the Premier's point is well taken. It would be unwise, however, to create exceptions in the way Mr. Aberhart suggests. If a recall petition is successful the member concerned, be he Premier or back-bencher, should go. Mr. Aberhart will recognize the democracy in this. At the same time some recognition should be made of the difference between member-ordinary and an important policy-making personage such as the Premier. That much is owing to the electors at large.

The better plan would be to treat the Premier's recall as a disapproval of policy rather than of representation. Accordingly, it could be made the signal for a wider test of the popular will in which the whole Province would be given an opportunity of voting, not on the Leader's popularity, but on the entire record of the Government. This might be a little risky for Premier Aberhart at this time. But should his Government emerge victorious, and he professes no doubts about that, he could always have a seat found for himself, which is the way he got the one in question.

THE PUBLIC ALSO BENEFITS

THE ENORMOUS ESTATE, estimated at anywhere between \$100,000,000 and \$200,000,000, left by the late Andrew W. Mellon, United States financier, and Secretary of the Treasury in the Harding, Coolidge and Hoover Administrations, will, with a few exceptions, be distributed among charitable and educational institutions. Mr. Mellon's art collection, valued by experts at \$20,000,000, was given previously to the nation, to be housed in a special gallery at Washington.

Carnegie, Rockefeller and Eastman may be cited as rich men who made good final use of their wealth. Their benefactions have been international in character. Carnegie, for example, made possible in Canada many splendid libraries. Eastman established dental clinics for the poor in London, Rome, Paris and Stockholm. Rockefeller gave of his millions to promote public health, the humanities, and the medical, natural and social sciences.

The main point to any controversy on this subject is: Without such benefactions by men of great wealth, would these research bodies have been established; would educational and charitable institutions be so richly endowed? It is more than doubtful that Governments could have been induced to do the job.

Snapshots

The city and the province should each be complimented on the successful floating of their bonds at such a good figure. It speaks well for the opinion in which we are held in the money markets.

The Ministerial Association and the Lord's Day Alliance at St. Stephen apparently take an active interest in working for the betterment of social and moral affairs. They do not seem to be afraid to speak up in meeting.

If it takes three months to build the subway how long will it take to finish the bridge?

Now that the subway is nearing completion some of the city roads and streets authorities agree with what The Daily Mail contended at the first, namely that the portion at the intersection of the corner of Brunswick Street and University Avenue is too far out on the street and is a dangerous menace. One wonders what the different representative engineers were thinking about.

Skunks are getting numerous again in the uptown district. On Westmorland Street a gentleman was confronted by a skunk on his verandah. The skunk seemed to want possession and the owner did not seem inclined to dispute its right of way. It is suggested that the man who plays the bagpipes on an uptown street be invited down to give a concert. This should drive the skunks away if anything would.

FRENCH GOV'T.

(Continued from Page One) after mission to verify the plan in Germany. Strategic roads, railway platforms, everything reported by the missions confirmed the plan. But doubts still subsisted. . . . Suffering from acute suspicion, the secret service and general staff still doubted until the Germans actually put the plan into action in 1914.

The suspicion is such in the Deuxieme bureau that agents are set on the trial of trusted agents. Marthe Richard once told Allard:

"I received the Legion of Honor decoration. I could have just as easily ended my career before a firing squad at Vincennes" where Mata Hari was shot.

The Deuxieme bureau gave away Pierre Lenoir its agent in Switzerland; Count Armand, who was dispatched by Aristide Briand to discuss a separate peace with Emperor Charles; it almost "got" its own chief, famous Maj. Ladoux, in a fever of suspicion.

The Deuxieme bureau frequently has been taken in by "plants" and false documents—the Switz affair, the false documents passed on by Karl Schuchardt to Gen. Nollet. Col. Laurent, chief of the Deuxieme bureau, was duped in the aero postale affair by Lubersac and Colon, alias Lucco. French gents in Germany were responsible for the recent Moroccan "crisis" in which Germany was accused of landing troops in Spanish Morocco. According to Allard, if the newspaper campaign had not been stopped in time war might have resulted.

CITY WILL

(Continued from Page Eight)

several weeks ago to the city authorities, when it could easily have been done, by The Daily Mail, but no action was taken at that time to remedy the matter. It is now too late to correct the error and the only thing that can be done is to place at this spot some safety contrivance. This is a serious matter and one in which fatal accidents may be involved, even now if some prevention measures are taken.

Speaking of the matter today Alderman David McCaughey stated that painted strips of warning will probably be placed at this dangerous spot. He agrees that it will be necessary to do something to avoid accidents. Speaking of similar dangerous areas at the recent Good Roads Convention at Saint Andrews, a prominent road engineer suggested that the right side of the road approaching such intersections be made about six inches higher than the left side and that this would keep to avoid accidents. It is probable that this will be recommended to the roads and streets committee.

It is unfortunate that this work which is necessarily of a permanent nature was not properly handled when the plans were passed by the city. It is a result of those who are responsible being to complacent and allowing things to drift.

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CANADA

(Continued from Page One)

when any action results, it may be presumed to be the absolute opinion of every section of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is in this manner that a common decision was reached on the historical abdication crisis, and when the delegates gathered for the big Imperial Conference in London several months ago, informed circles in the Canadian Capital believe that a "gentleman agreement" was made that every future action would be preceded by the same sort of consultation through the Dominions Secretary of the Home Government.

Consequently, in recent days frequent meetings of the Canadian Cabinet have taken place, and these gatherings have often lasted for long periods. But when the Ministers emerge from these discussions, they refuse flatly to make any announcements individually or collectively. The Press Gallery Correspondents whose tasks are to inform the Canadian public on the real doings in the Capital, usually find that the various secretaries of the officials will only report that there is "no news," but a day or two later this procedure is generally followed by some momentous pronouncement or action on the part of the Chamberlain Government.

One of the busiest Departments in Ottawa now is that of the Minister of Labor, the Hon. Norman Rogers, who has been entrusted with the task of providing adequate relief measures for needy Canadians during the cold winter months, and according to reliable information, it appears that the Federal Cabinet has decided to give all the assistance necessary under the circumstances. This means that where some dispute exists between municipality and a provincial Government, or between a provincial Government and the Federal authorities, the latter will provide the help which the financial positions warrant in each case and then settle the point afterwards. In the past, these disputes have caused unnecessary suffering and it is hoped that the new policy will prevent these hardships on many citizens, particularly in the West.

The Federal Government has worked out a scheme which it is stated is going to save the Dominion Treasury at least \$7,000,000 during the next few months. This saving will be obtained through the enactment of a farm placement scheme which will cost in the neighbourhood of no more than a \$3,000,000 to put about 50,000 unemployed single transients on farms, while in previous years this same aid to these unemployed citizens entailed an expenditure of at least \$10,000,000 for the winter months. Furthermore, it is pointed out that this scheme found almost half of these transients still on the farms when the winter passed, and the operation of the idea was a notable success from every point of view.

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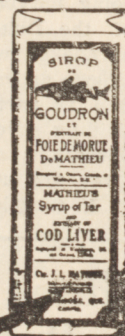
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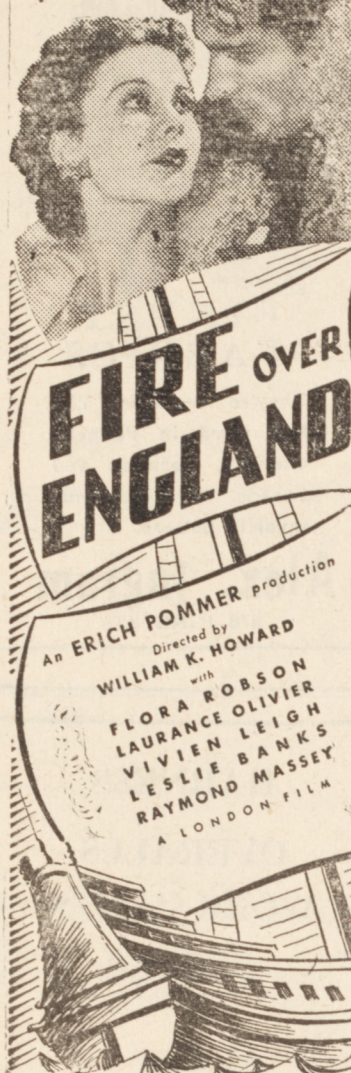


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