

THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, OCTOBER 29, 1937

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS POORLY PAID

IT IS DIFFICULT to understand the reluctance—or at least the delay—of Government through the Postoffice Department, to do anything to improve the conditions of rural mail carriers. Year after year they have presented their case to the Department. The rural mail carriers work under a contract system, and this seems to be the source of the trouble. According to their spokesman, during the depression contract remuneration was reduced, in some cases by half, and it is claimed that now certain carriers are making daily trips over twenty to twenty-five mile routes for as little as \$350 a year, "not enough to pay for motive power and upkeep of vehicle necessary." And the carrier is bonded to keep this service up for four-year periods, despite rising costs of living.

What the rural mail carriers want is a system of payment on a mileage basis and permanency of employment, dependent, of course, on good conduct. Whether or not this plan be adopted, something should be done to ensure the carriers a living wage—which \$350 a year definitely is not. They are giving a public service of the first importance, and should be adequately paid.

Their organization, comprising more than 2,000 members, has been reasonable in the presentation of its case. There have been no demands; rather, a pointing out of what is claimed as the injustice of the contract system, and making suggestions to the Department for improvement of the service—which, it should be borne in mind, must be provided daily without fail, no matter what the conditions of weather or roads.

THE WORK SHOULD GO ON

AMONG THE FIRST of what may be regarded as authoritative reviews of the success of the Home Improvement Plan was that given to a Montreal service club by Dr. W. W. Goforth, former Professor of Economics at McGill University. As General Manager of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, the professor has been a constant and critical observer of the scheme in all its phases. Directly interested in a revival of the building trades, it is not reasonable that he should endorse something which was not achieving that purpose.

But Dr. Goforth does endorse the Home Improvement Plan and on the evidence of a year's operations urges that it be continued for another year. His evidence is solid, statistical facts. In the first year, he said, \$50,000,000 of new business was fed into the undernourished building trades, which meant that some 35,000 jobless men and women were re-employed, "while 75,000 others who had been under-employed had materially benefited." Secondary, but hardly less important among the benefits cited, were the improvements and alterations made on 100,000 Canadian homes, many of which were in such a state of disrepair that they would soon have become uninhabitable.

The professor was candid in admitting the nature and extent of some of the problems obstructing the full success of the plan. Criticisms such as those made of the banks in the first weeks of operation could not be made today, he declared, and pointed out that the whole weight of their influence had been thrown behind Mr. Arthur B. Purvis and his local committees in making the plan a success. Dr. Goforth also asserted, in connection with the problem of rising costs, that a substantial percentage of the increase had been absorbed by industry. Raw materials rose on the average of 25 per cent. in the twelve months ending September 1, yet the price of the finished product to the consumer had not increased more than 10 per cent. on an average.

Incalculable in terms of dollars spent are the co-operative efforts that went into making the scheme a success. The result of the first year's operations as summarized by Dr. Goforth are due to the manner in which the plan was organized and financed. Beyond a small, highly efficient, full-time staff maintained by the Federal Government, the whole machinery under Mr. Purvis was constructed out of and powered by volunteer service. The \$50,000,000 estimated as new business for the building trades came entirely from private capital.

If this were not evidence enough of the worth of the plan and the need for continuing it for another year, consider only what it has meant in savings to the taxpayers. Not only did the scheme relieve them of the charges on an equivalent public works programme, but it has saved them thousands of dollars which otherwise would have been spent in direct relief. More than that, and perhaps the most important feature, it has made 100,000 men and women self-sustaining, while enabling an industry upon which they rely to take up considerable of the slack on a solid footing. Such, then, is the success story of the Home Improvement Plan, a story which most certainly should be continued.

PRESS IS NOT BOUGHT

ONCE EVERY SO OFTEN, maybe a couple of times a year, somebody wants to get a police court item left out of the paper and offers a payment for the accommodation. The city editor gets red in the face, takes a grip on himself and as civilly as possible informs the visitor that sort of thing isn't done; the news columns are not for sale. Perhaps he tells it later to the staff, as a sort of embarrassing joke that people should imagine a newspaper could be muzzled for a dollar or two.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Snapshots

When are the railway authorities going to put a wigwag signal at the Devon crossing on the Marysville road? Several car accidents have taken place at this point recently.

When is the town of Devon going to move the old tin cans and old boots from the river bank near the bridge and in front of one of the residential streets of the city? This dump makes the otherwise up-to-date town of Devon look like a hick burg.

Any town like Devon that sports a good looking Mayor, a fairly good looking town marshal, and a quite good looking town clerk should put on more airs and clean up its front door. "That thar" river bank looks like blazes and smells worse. It chased one would-be resident who was looking for a house, back into Fredericton. He took a sniff of the dump and decided to remain in Fredericton.

How would it do for Devon to join up with this city in a Greater Fredericton? Through the efforts of The Daily Mail our dump was removed from Queen Street riverbank and placed outside the city limits. Why does Devon decorate up its whole front door yard with a lot of old tin cans and junk in front of several nice private houses?

GARDINER HITS

(Continued from Page One)

an organization set up by the Provincial Government and financed by the Federal Government to handle relief in Saskatchewan.

"The Liberal Opposition during the election took the position the distribution of relief should not be under the control of an organization set up by either Government, but that distribution should be handled by the Municipal Councils irrespective of their party alignment.

"After the election was over, the Relief Commission was abolished and the organization set up to distribute relief was disbanded. Since that time distribution has been in the hands of the Municipal Councils. The Federal Government has supplied funds to the Province and the Province has paid the accounts incurred by the municipalities.

"The only organization the Federal Government has is the necessary set-up to check and audit the expenditure of Federal funds. My connection with the whole matter is that I am expected to see that no unnecessary expenditure of Federal money is made.

"It is very difficult to see how one could possibly set up a political organization in relation to what the Federal Government is doing.

Association of Ideas

"In view of the fact Mr. Bennett apparently went West to take part in a celebration at Winnipeg of the expenditure of the last of \$4,000,000 which his Government allotted from relief funds in the election year to the City of Winnipeg, I think it must have been an association of ideas which put the thought in his mind. He thought some one else was doing the same thing.

"If the distribution of food which has recently been sent into the drought area," Mr. Gardiner continued, "we have set up a committee composed of Dr. E. W. Stapleford, until recently Principal of Regina College, as Chairman; J. J. McGurran, Secretary of the Association of Rural Municipalities; and F. H. Headly, Chairman of the Voluntary Relief Committee.

CHALLENGE

(Continued from Page One)

disallow would be tested. He said decision on the three acts would be announced following Tuesday's cabinet council.

The supreme court of Canada will be asked to answer these questions:

1. Is the power of disallowance of provincial legislation, voted in by the governor general in council by section 90 of the British North America Act, 1867, still a subsisting power?

2. If the answer to question 1 be in the affirmative, is the exercise of the said power of disallowance by the governor general in council subject to any limitations or restrictions and, if so, what are the nature and effect of such limitations or restrictions?

This reference to the supreme court follows upon representations of Premier William Abernethy of Alberta, challenging the right of the government to disallow certain banking and judicature acts which were passed at a special session of the provincial Legislature in August, and promptly nullified by the federal government.

In the meantime the Alberta Legislature, in a second special session which prorogued Oct. 5, passed three acts, one increasing the tax on chartered banks, one providing for licensing of credit institutions and establishment of local directorates to direct policy of the business of dealing in credit, and a third providing a measure of control over newspapers.

These three measures were not assented to by Lieutenant Governor Bowen, who reserved action pending advice from the governor general. What that advice will be the prime minister said would be made known after Tuesday's council meeting.

In the order in council made public today the record of August disallowance is set forth in formal language.

GREAT PROGRESS

(Continued from Page Eight)

the earth, and other conditions, are compiled from daily observations taken during the fire hazard season. These charts, when completed, will be of great value to the province and will be greatly instrumental in preventing serious forest fires, because continued observations, when compared with the charts, will warn when the hazard is most acute, and vigilance over the forests at that time may be doubled.

During the past season, Mr. Veness, accompanied by Mr. Beal, visited many of the large timber holdings in the province and arranged for co-operation between the operators and the Forest Service in taking observations in their timber lands. The operators now realize the value of this research, Mr. Veness stated, and their assistance in the future will be most valuable in lessening forest fires. Many of the operators will establish private research stations next year to work in conjunction with the research station here, he revealed.

The Station, which has been working jointly with the University of New Brunswick and the Department of Lands and Mines of this Province, will be re-opened in April next year, again under the supervision of Mr. Beal. There is no necessity of opening earlier, it was stated, since weather conditions in this province would not allow making of useful observations at an earlier date.

LADY TWEEDSMUIR

Who, with Lord Tweedsmuir will attend St. Andrew's Ball in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, this evening

BINGHAM'S TALK

(Continued from Page One)

Tory newspapers which have previously refused to subscribe to the theory of an anti-Roosevelt plot by big business.

"What would you think," the Times quotes the Ambassador as saying, "if a number of prominent bankers and brokers went about saying that the Government was going to break? The effect would be the same as in the United States. The people on Wall Street opposed the President at the last election. They have opposed him ever since. Now they are stupefied as to why the market has slumped. The answer is that it was their own fault. The banks are all right; industry is all right, but they got people frightened by their talk of the Government falling."

The British themselves are represented by career ambassadors who refrain from political controversy and avoid public criticisms of their political enemies while on Government service abroad. During recent years they have become accustomed to the outright propaganda of Fascist ambassadors, but they are still somewhat astonished every time an American Ambassador goes political.

Persons in the city admit that Mr. Bingham may be right when he indicates that there is an organized bear movement on Wall Street, but they feel that this is primarily the result rather than the cause of the bear market. Experience has taught them that no bear movement can be successful unless fundamentally bearish factors are present. This, they consider, holds good on Wall Street just as it does in London, Amsterdam or any other trading centre.

GERMANY

(Continued from Page One)

and Togoland, British and French mandate.

Other former German colonies, which with those in Africa have an area almost six times that of the present Reich; are: the Caroline and Marshall islands in the Pacific, under Japanese mandate; Kiaochow, China, returned to China in 1922; the Marshall islands in the Pacific, Japanese mandate; Nauru Island in the Pacific, British mandate; New Guinea in the Pacific, Australian mandate; and German Samoa in the Pacific, New Zealand mandate.

The German press yesterday hailed the support of Premier Mussolini of Nazi claims to colonies as marking a gain in the Reich's drive for return of the possessions she lost at the end of the Great War.

Simultaneously the Deutsche Diplomatisch Politische Korrespondenz, semi-official mouthpiece of the Foreign Office, and newspapers generally took favorable notice of what they described as the changing attitude of the British press toward "respect" for German colonial arguments.

NATIONAL CHEESE

(Continued from Page One)

North America use little cheese in their menus. As matter of fact, Canada and the United States eat less than any of the great nations, the United States with its consumption of 4 3-4 pounds of cheese per head of population being just a pound ahead of the 3 3-4 pound-quota eaten by Canadians.

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