

INDIFFERENCE OF OUR PEOPLE MAKES OUR CONDITION SERIOUS

Writer Deals With Maritime Problems and Urges Action --- Maritime Trade is Wrecked --- Too Much Partyism --- Too Much Catering to Cen- tral and Western Canada.

In a letter to the Kentville, N. S., Advertiser, Wm. Rand refers to a speech recently delivered in the N. B. Legislature here by Hon. A. P. Paterson. Mr. Rand's letter says that the "B. N. A. Act is dropping to pieces by its own inherent rottenness." He says that there is a rapidly increasing number of citizens of the Maritime Provinces who will agree with the sentiments expressed by Hon. Mr. Paterson of New Brunswick. Mr. Rand's letter is as follows: Editor, The Advertiser, Dear Sir:—

"It is the duty of this House to protect his Majesty's subjects in this province of New Brunswick from injustice at the hands of the Federal government machine, or from any other source."—Hon. A. P. Paterson, House of Assembly, Fredericton, N. B.

Through all the babel of sounds and sentiments which come from the platform and the press, there is a suppressed note, sinister in its import, as it refers to the civic and economic disabilities of our province of Nova Scotia.

So far has this process progressed, that the masses of the people of our province have been reduced to a state of economic and political illiteracy—let us say ignorance, and have done with it. A man prominent in the affairs of New Brunswick, voices the same lament. "It is the abyssal indifference of the mass of our people that makes our Maritime condition almost hopeless."

For this state of things, our governments, our representatives, our press, and our teachers are directly responsible. I wish to show, before it is too late, a situation fraught with vital consequences to our province, and especially the primary industries of agriculture and fishing.

The British North America Act—commonly known as the Confederation Act, is dropping to pieces of its own inherent rottenness. Under it the Canadian government has usurped

and meddled in the domestic affairs of Nova Scotia—has levied upon us taxes which even the wretched pact did not allow. An appeal to the Privy Council in England ruled that Canada was usurping the prerogatives of our citizens, that they had no jurisdiction.

Immediately comes the storm in the Canadian press and in Parliament. The British North America Act is to be revamped, made over—TO SUIT CANADA, and here LIES THE DANGER TO NOVA SCOTIA. Knowing the devastation and the blight which has dogged our province under Canadian domination, knowing the type with which we have to deal, the type which wrecked one Imperial Conference and came within an ace of jostling our fruit market in Britain, which sent its delegates to that conference to play all the arts of trickery, bombast and clap-trap, till Mr. Thomas was constrained to index it all under the title of "Humbug," which makes a member of the British Commons rise in Parliament and tell the world that "We can't trust the Canadian." What then is Nova Scotia to expect if we lie supinely while these same sinister forces forge the shackles which will subordinate Nova Scotia and the Maritimes to the insatiable greed of Canada.

There is "The sound of a going in the tors of the mulberry trees," if agriculture has ears to hear, some of the voices.

The Financial Post says: "The B. N. A. Act is obsolete and does not meet present day conditions. Yet we seem to be willing to modernize everything except our constitution, the very basis of our financial and political structure." The Montreal Star calls for "repair of the ravages of time and changed conditions."

British Columbia threatens secession. Mr. Church, M.P. for Toronto, says: "The provinces are nothing but a lot of Balkan states fighting among themselves, and the taxpayer pays." Mr.

Finn, M.P. for Halifax, says, "Nova Scotia stands alone, and unless legislation of a remedial character is brought down, we cannot hope to take our proper place." Mr. Kinley, M.P., voices the same sentiments.

Various members at Ottawa call for a conference of all shades of opinion and political parties. Our Nova Scotia government is silent. It is quite in order to ask them: "What is your attitude toward the sentiments of Hon. Mr. Paterson as stated at the head of this letter?" There is a rapidly growing number of citizens who will demand a reply to that question.

What kind of a constitution is it which allows the breeds of the Yukon, the plainmen of the west, the bushmen of Ontario, the habitant of Quebec, the bucket shops and gambling dives of Toronto and Montreal, to come down with their ballots to an island province in the Atlantic, and vote their population from their homes, their shipping from the seas, their commerce from the land, and embargoes on every port and harbour of our province? That is the thing under which Nova Scotia has been living for half a century.

What a spectacle it is: Parliament enacting laws to legalize and protect organized juntas of exploiters and extortioners and next day these same "representatives" sitting in solemn mockery enacting penal laws against "Illicit Restraints of Trade."

Our province was the richest per head of any British state on the continent, till we were dragged into a repugnant confederacy to bolster up a quarrelling, poverty-stricken Canada, Ontario and Quebec. Outvoted by weight of numbers and brow beaten into silence, the stream of legislation had but one objective, the pillaging of Nova Scotia and the Maritimes, till our province is today, the poorest, per head, in the Dominion. These are the conditions under which Nova Scotia exists. Propaganda is now afoot to centralize at Ottawa, authority over provincial affairs and take from us the shreds and remnants of freedom left to us. Just now comes word that the states of the Commonwealth of Australia have had to fight this same attempt upon their liberties. They have appealed to the people, and federal domination has been snowed under, at the ballot.

I propose to lift the lid on one of the long lists of iniquities practiced upon our province, the wrecking of our potato industry. The islands of Cuba and Porto Rico contain half as many people as the Dominion of Can-

ada. Some years back they took the entire output of potatoes from this Province, as well as heavy quantities from N. B. and P. E. I. That crop gave us more clear money than the fruit crop does today. They bought from Canada six and a half millions yearly. Canada bought the same amount of produce from them—about balanced. Sugar is the staple product there, just as fruit and potatoes are in Nova Scotia. And we were buying their sugar, and other products.

But the Canadian sugar refineries did not want that sugar, they wanted "PROTECTION," and an exotic beet sugar refinery was started in the back of the continent. This, too, wanted "PROTECTION."

Let us cut the story. At the demand of the sugar interests the bars were put up, and the Cuban market shot to pieces.

The Cuban said: "Very good, keep your potatoes, your fish, your lumber, and other things at home." In 1934, only one-sixth of the trade remained, and today we are buying less than a quarter from these islands, than they are buying from us.

But nearly the whole of this trade was with the Maritimes. Canada shipped no potatoes, fish, lumber there. They did not care if the Maritimes were kicked out. And Nova Scotia has had to stand and see the Canadian antagonise every market and people who were friendly to us, with a close call for our fruit in Britain. A major agricultural industry is wiped out.

What is the government, with its swarm of marketing boards, and agricultural officials doing about it? Nothing. They have worn the grass off the turf between Halifax and Ottawa in fruitless pilgrimages. Would they send a man to Cuba to say to them "Take our potatoes, fish, lumber, and what we have, and we will take your sugar, and anything else that we want?" We will barter "with you." Our fruit companies can distribute these things as well as the Halifax wharves. We have salt water at our doors.

"But," comes the reply, "Canada hamstrings us with a tariff if we bring it in." We have arrived now at the issue. It is definite and clear-cut. Is the farming industry going to submit abjectly to this thing? There would be no difficulty in bartering with these islands. Within two months Britain has made a trade treaty with Cuba. Britain is bartering, the United States is bartering, Germany is bartering, Italy is bar-

tering, goods for goods, produce for produce. Where is our Nova Scotia government? Nowhere, and the whole province under the heel of racketeers. The sugar racket, the automobile racket, the textile racket, the implement racket, the cement racket, the pulp-wood racket. Instead of the government leading the way and saying to the people: "Come on, we will smash these iniquities," we have the spectacle of the citizen, or a small number of them, driven together, by the primitive instinct of self-defence, left to fight the battle alone, and drag a reluctant government after them—if they can. An appeal to them to do something to defend the people meets with the same response that Belzoni got in his appeal to the mummy. Instead we are regaled with fantastic tales of tourist wealth scattered along the highways, tales which would fit well in the Arabian Nights. They are disowning their own minds. They know these rascalities are rampant and bleeding the people white, yet they sit dumb. How much longer are the people going to submit? It is for them to demand of our government at Halifax that they see to it that in the patching of the B.N.A. Act, which is imminent, that the federal government shall have no power to embargo our province against friendly peoples and markets. Government speakers inveigh against third parties. There will be third and fourth and fifth. The stupid and criminal partyism smells to heaven. The people can be double-crossed once too often.

Wm. RAND,
Canning.

March 11, 1937

CONVICT SQUEALS

Following the arrest of a man in France suspected of selling government secrets, the French public learned for the first time that important state documents are being printed by convict labor. The man disclosed that he had obtained his information while working in the print shop of the prison at Melun.

It was believed, hitherto that all official documents of a confidential nature were printed at the government print shop in Paris where every employee is a civil servant sworn to secrecy. All proofs of such documents are strictly controlled so that the disappearance of a single one is detected at once.

However, in the present espionage case, it was found that such important documents as the official sum-

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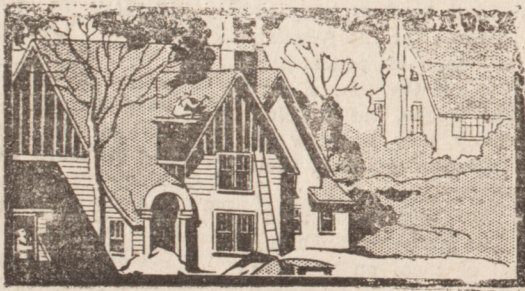
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