

THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

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Mussolini Openly For War

Abandoning any remaining shreds of pretense of a desire for world peace, Premier Mussolini has declared that Italy shall become undisguisedly a nation devoted primarily to war.

Apart from provisions for huge increases in air, sea and land forces as well as in munitions, every able-bodied Italian male will become a soldier from the age of 18 to that of 55 years. In the intervals of his military service he may become a civilian worker, but he will be forced to undertake regular periods of training each year, and will at all times be liable to be called to the colors.

To ensure that man-power shall not fail, the Fascist State proposes to penalize parents having fewer than four children, and may even confiscate the estates and property of those who have none.

And, so far as Italy is concerned, science will be directed toward the discovery of even more dreadful war implements than those at present in use, and toward making Italy independent of all other countries in the matter of war material.

Where the money for this bellicose programme is to come from, neither Mussolini nor any other Government spokesman reveals; but it is obvious that it must, by some means or other, be wrung from the people themselves if it is to be obtained at all.

Meanwhile, Italian industry must suffer disruption through this preoccupation with military matters, and Italian trade and commerce must look forward to a corresponding decline.

Add to these facts that Mussolini declares his intention to co-operate as closely as possible with Nazi Germany, under the pretense that he believes Britain's defensive rearmament foreshadows eventual aggression against Italy, and one can conclude only that he is determined to prevent attainment of the ideal of collective security in Europe.

And surely not even the most infatuated admirer of fascism can pretend to believe, with this example before him, that its principles make for the welfare and contentment of the subjects it governs, or that they are likely to bring about a revival of world peace and prosperity.

A Literacy Campaign

No matter what the provincial, federal or municipal problem to be solved there is always some satisfaction when the public mind is aroused to realize that a problem really exists. That is true of the matter of illiteracy in the Province of New Brunswick. It may be believed that the publicity which has recently been given to the low standard which this Province reaches in the matter of literacy, has awakened people generally to realize how serious the situation is.

When the facts are spread out one must be amazed how far many homes are from any close contact with provincial and world affairs. They are without any class of current reading matter; they have no radios; their standard of education is very low. What a fertile field a family circle such as this becomes for all kinds of propaganda; economic, social and religious!

When ignorance obtains, then any appeal, no matter how unreasonable and insane, may be responded to. Where educational standards are low the peril of a mob mind and extreme and revolutionary movements are always in evidence.

Therefore it will be a healthy result of publicity if the Province is aroused to the actual situation.

The State of South Carolina became aroused over this question recently and it has set to work to raise the literacy percentage before the 1940 census.

South Carolina has a broad programme which recognizes seven types of illiteracy. They are social, physical, political, cultural, industrial, moral and spiritual, and to meet the situation a programme has been outlined as follows: Facing of illiteracy facts and their implications; arousing a sense of personal and civic responsibility; laying plans for the reduction of illiteracy before the next census; raising the standard of citizenship.

There is need that some broad campaign programme be entered upon by our own Province.—Saint John Citizen.

Britain Aids Stricken Areas

It is gratifying to learn that Great Britain, in the midst of its concern regarding Empire defense, is still able to spare study and funds for the betterment of conditions in the depressed areas of South Wales and elsewhere.

Indeed, to some extent, the Government proposes to "kill two birds with one stone," and to locate some of the new armament and munitions plants which may be needed in the areas referred to.

In addition, special inducements will be offered private capital to establish factories and works in the affected areas. These include Government contributions toward rent and income tax, and toward local taxes.

In Lancashire and Durham, both hard hit by the depression, the Government will help to provide sites and factories by subscribing one-fourth of the capital of public utility companies, and will aid in financing, by means of loans, new plants opening in the counties.

Incidentally, a new airport originally designed for the English south coast will be transferred to Wales; large areas of agricultural lands will be divided into small holdings; and Welsh youths who have had no training in industrial occupations will be encouraged to study housework with a view to entering domestic service.

This last feature may sound curious to Canadian ears, but for many years there has been a shortage of female domestics in the Old Country, and apparently the Government believes that trained houseboys would make satisfactory substitutes.

There is nothing haphazard about the Government plans. The trouble in South Wales started with the decline of exports of coal, and obviously industries will be advantageously placed in a district holding a plentiful and easily accessible supply of fuel.

Lancashire's industries have fallen off largely because manufacturers, during recent years, have moved south in order to be closer to the London markets. The Government simply offers them advantages on their former sites which will more than compensate for their returning.

Finally, these determined efforts to revive the depressed areas are sufficient answer to pacifist assertions that the welfare of the poor is being sacrificed to ambitious military schemes.

SNAPSHOTS

Yesterday the "five roses" were christened by the honorable member from Queens. After delving into biological terms, he finally decided to call the brave five of the front row in the opposition the "quintuplets."

Tuxis parliament is right up to the minute, mace and all. Good training for the future leaders of the country.

It is two weeks since more than one thousand dollars' worth of goods were stolen from stores in this city. No capture yet. This is running true to form. We never do hear of any captures when our merchants are robbed.

In the discussion about who shall own the former German colonies nobody has come forward with the bright suggestion that they ought to belong to the inhabitants.

Great Britain will aid her black areas by starting manufacturing plants in them, thus changing the black of gloom into the more cheerful black of smoking chimneys.

Hon. Dr. Roberts

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without covering the nose and mouth or those who spit promiscuously.

4. Observe a greater degree of personal cleanliness—especially of your own hands.

5. Keep fit by: Regularity in daily living; Exercise in the open air; Proper ventilation of living quarters; Adequate sleep; Avoidance of undue exposure to cold and wet; Avoidance of worry.

When attacked:

1. Go to bed when symptoms first appear.
2. Dispose of nose and throat secretions properly.
3. Obtain medical advice early.
4. Do not be in too big a hurry to get back to work, a few days more spent in convalescing is better than a relapse or complications.

With the Legislature

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day; Saint John, Friday. The Committee will sit on those days beginning at 10 a.m.

Mr. Melville, on behalf of Mr. Squires, gave several Notices of Enquiry for Tuesday next.

Mr. Perry gave several Notices of Enquiry for Tuesday next.

Mr. Perry, on behalf of Mr. Smith (St. John C.) gave several Notices of Enquiry for Tuesday next.

Hon. Mr. Patterson laid on the table the Annual Report of the Department of Education for the year ending June 30th., 1936.

Hon. Mr. McNair introduced a bill to amend Chapter 125, R. S. 1927 The Summary Convictions Act. The bill was read the first time.

Mr. Porter presented a petition for a bill to confirm and ratify the action of the Board of Assessors of taxes, City of Saint John, in accepting returns sworn to before a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Henneberry presented a petition for a bill to amend 1 Edward VIII, 1936, Chapter 95, respecting levying and assessing rates and taxes in the City of Saint John.

Mr. Melville moved adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Richard moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. McNair that the House at 3 p.m., Tuesday next, resume the debate.

Hon. Mr. McNair moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Richard, with unanimous consent of the House, that the order for reference to Committee of the Whole House of Bill No. 40, respecting Insurance, be rescinded and discharged and the bill referred to the Committee on New practice and Procedure.

House adjourned at 5 p.m.

Conference

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except that it would be over the week-end and he parried all questions as to where he might spend the rest of a vacation in the United States except that it would not be much farther South than Washington and would be on the Atlantic Coast.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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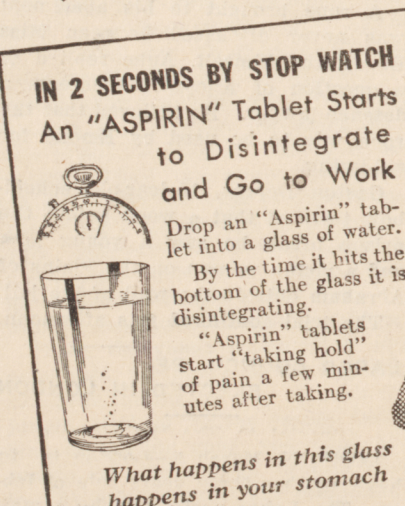
"Grade XI. 518 students, 81 failed; 49 repeating, and 40 dropped out.

Summarizing the total registration we find that 24 per cent. of the total enrollment in the three grades failed to make a pass mark. 18 per cent. are repeating and 7 per cent. were lost to the school influence.

"Applying these percentages to the total high school population of 5,683 as given in the Chief Superintendent's last report we find that 1,364 pupils failed to grade at the close of the last school year. 1,023 are repeating the grade and 398 left school before realizing their ambition of securing a high school education.

The average cost of keeping a pupil a year in high school is about \$70, in some schools much higher. There is being spent in this Province this year \$71,610 in order to furnish instruction for a second year in a grade in our high schools. I am confident that at least 50 per cent. of that amount could be saved if these pupils had been directed into courses suited to their natural abilities.

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Discrimination

(Continued from Page One)
New Brunswick produces five per cent. of the coal that produced by Nova Scotia. If New Brunswick had five per cent. of the Dominion Government assistance the industry would thrive. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would point out to this Government the importance of a coking plant, and would respectfully ask that they look into its possibility. Creosote, a by-product of coking, is now being brought from Nova Scotia at the rate of one million gallons per year, at a cost of twenty-five cents per gallon.

The condition of the industry in New Brunswick and its trend for the years 1931 to 1934 inclusive is very clearly shown by the Dominion Fuel Board's chart of operating costs and revenues for 1931, 32, 33. The operating profit, exclusive of interest charges on capital invested, was approximately 21c. per ton. In 1934 this profit was reduced to approximately 3c. per ton, and although Dominion Fuel Board figures for 1935 have not as yet been published, it is certain from what we know of the industry that this small profit will be translated into a loss for last year. Dominion statistical figures show that capital invested in our industry in 1934 was \$1,856,392, interest on which at 6 per cent would be \$111,384, against which an operating profit of 3c. per ton, or approximately \$9,000 was made, leaving an interest default of \$101,942. During the same period Nova Scotia operations have steadily improved from a loss of 40c. per ton in 1931 to a profit of approximately 7c. per ton in 1934, showing that the trend in their case is exactly opposite to the trend in New Brunswick.

We submit that the reason for this substantial improvement from the very depressed condition in Nova Scotia in 1931 has been the result of Dominion Government assistance which our industry has not only not enjoyed, but has suffered from the fact that such assistance to Nova Scotia has placed that industry in a better competitive position as regards our own coal. This statement is substantiated by the following figures showing the movements of coal from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under subventions granted by the Government.

1931 N. B., 293 tons; N. S., 401,587 tons.

1932, N. B., 1,195 tons; N. S., 703,961 tons.

1933, N. B., 1,163 tons; N. S., 1,480,475 tons.

1934, N. B., 10,196 tons; N. S., 1,814,460 tons.

The small extent to which New Brunswick has benefitted by Dominion Government assistance is perhaps more graphically shown by the following figures for 1934:

Subventions on coal shipments to Quebec and Ontario: N. B., \$8,609; N. S., \$1,700,000.

Bonus on coal use in the manufacture of Coke: N. S., \$22,000.

Bonus on coal use in the manufacture of steel: N. S., \$166,740.

Total—N. B., \$8,609; N. S., \$1,888,740.

The New Brunswick industry produces about 5 per cent. of the coal produced by Nova Scotia, and it is submitted that in the present distressed condition of the industry in our Province we should be given assistance at least equal to 5 per cent. of that received by Nova Scotia, or approximately \$94,500. With such assistance we would be able to continue operations on a fair competitive basis with the Nova Scotia industry, whereas at present, where the Dominion Government subsidies are accruing entirely to the benefit of our neighbor province, New Brunswick is in the position of being discriminated against by the Dominion Government.

The above disadvantage is all the more serious when it is combined with a freight rate structure which gives to Nova Scotia the benefit of materially reduced rates per ton mile to points in New Brunswick and Quebec as compared with rates in effect from New Brunswick points. The rates from our own field are from 25 to 50 per cent. higher.

Dr. Jenkins gave statistics to show that the discrimination in freight rates by the Federal Government favored Nova Scotia both as to long and short hauls of coal.

An attempt may be made to justify the above rates per ton mile on a basis of the longer haul. It would be well, therefore, to compare the rates from Nova Scotia points with rates from Minto and Chipman, where the mileage is approximately the same. The Minto-Fredericton rate is \$1.10 for 34 miles, while there is an 80 cent rate in effect from Moncton to Maccan, a distance of 56 miles. From Minto to Saint John the rate is \$1.10 for 191 miles; from Thornburn to Halifax the rate is 90 cents for 112 miles; and from Maccan to St. John the rate is only \$1.00 for 145 miles. The same kind of comparisons may be made with any Minto rate, and the evidence is conclusive that Minto has a less favorable adjustment than mines in Nova Scotia.

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Old Age Pensions

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labor but because Japan put the brains of her nation at the services of her industry.

"Our future lies in the industry and contentment of those who till our soil, and if we give them the facilities to make the most of what they have to work with and in this respect our educational system can give a strong lead.

"I am pleased to say that this Government has done much to help the farmer with his problems. Under the extension work carried on by the Department of Agriculture some sixty farms have been selected in different rural communities and fifteen of these are in my county where proper advice will be given the farmer without any additional cost to the Province.

"If we can build up a system of farm planning which will include the whole community much will be done to eliminate waste of effort that has been disastrous and discouraging to farm life. If we can get the community programme idea across to our rural people and eliminate from the farm animals and cropping methods that don't pay their way and get the community to act as a unit using the school that teaches the children by day for the purpose of adult education in the evenings we would go a long way in solving our greatest problem.

Taxes and Economy

It was suggested during this debate by the Member for Kings, that now is the time to prepare ourselves for the next depression. This is excellent advice. We are not free from the depression as yet as we still have with us both the effects and the causes of depression. Taxation is the greatest single factor in retarding recovery. I wonder if we realize what we pay out in taxes. It takes 30 per cent. of every man's wages to pay his taxes—almost two days work of each week goes to taxes, Federal, Provincial and Municipal.

It amounts to \$67.00 for every man, woman and child in Canada or \$120 per year for those who work between the ages of eighteen and sixty. No country can be permanently prosperous under such a burden of taxation. Let us take the case of our highways. The nine provinces of Canada spend yearly on highway construction and maintenance \$149,000,000 and the revenue derived from motor traffic in licenses, gas tax and other revenue only \$46,000,000. This leaves a balance of over \$100,000,000

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as a subsidy paid by tax payers to those who use our highways. I feel that our highways should be self-supporting and those who use the highways should pay for them.

"This is not the fault of any one Government or Party but the result of a public that is too highway-conscious.

"Government should attempt to teach the people not to expect too much in the way of Government expenditures. While I believe in democracy and all that goes with it I believe that Governments should help to form public opinion rather than reflect public opinion in excessive expenditures of public money.

"Large expenditures of money, higher taxation, and depression in business are a vicious circle, each helping to make the other worse and cause a feeling of unrest among the people which has shown itself in the rapid changes in Governments and the rise of new parties.

"I am a firm believer in a two-party system—the good in one balances the bad in the other. New parties are always made up of the same old men recruited from the two old parties, who in turn attempt to please the public with the same old methods of spending their taxes.

"The public does not need a new party, but it does need a new psychology on the function of Government."

Dominion

(Continued from Page One)

ernments, \$52,500; contribution to farm employment and supplementary plans, \$3,283,500.

Outstanding claims for direct relief under Unemployment Relief Acts of previous years, \$169,000; outstanding claims for drought area relief, \$215,200; contribution toward the Greater Winnipeg sewage disposal scheme, \$362,200; development and training projects for unemployed young people, \$1,000,000; direct relief for dried-out areas, \$2,000,000; administration expenses generally, \$475,000, and unforeseen contingencies, \$1,000,000.