

# THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

THE MAIL PUBLISHING COMPANY — J. L. NEVILLE, Managing Editor.  
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FREDERICTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1937

## Fredericton's Police Commission

During the course of the discussions at the City Council meeting recently it turned out that none of the Aldermen were able to give an intelligent answer as to just what powers in regard to traffic and other matters were within the power of the Police Commission. Some of the Aldermen elected by the people were afraid to move because they might be breaking the rules of the mighty Police Commission. That's just about what it amounts to. The Mayor who is an ex-officio member of the Police Commission was asked the duty of the Police Commission. He floundered around and then suggested that we "ask the Police Magistrate." Imagine citizens having the affairs of the city in the hands of a Police Magistrate who is not even appointed by the city but that the city has to pay. If there is any one official in Fredericton that is more arbitrary than another it is the Police Magistrate. The conditions under which he is appointed makes him so. He is thrust upon the citizens by the Provincial Government and the citizens have to put up and shut up as far as paying his salary and other expenses go.

The Police Magistrate, the Mayor and one other citizen constitute the Police Commission. No person seems to know what the duties of the Police Commission include. Very few know the names of the Commission, and even the Mayor and the Aldermen do not know what power the Commission has. They may have power to arrest a citizen and drag him up to the tower at City Hall for all the Aldermen are aware. When a citizen asked Mayor Kitchen he said, "Ask Magistrate Limerick and look up the by-laws."

The Commission should have no power at all. There should be no Commission. It appears that this high-hat Commission was established away back in prohibition days, probably because it was thought that the Aldermen of those days needed watching or something. If the Commission was ever of any use, which we doubt, it seems to be absolutely useless at the present time. It should be abolished as soon as the Aldermen can get the necessary legislation through to have it abolished.

The citizens elect a Mayor and ten Aldermen to conduct the business of the city. Why should it be necessary to pass a part of the duties over to a Commission which is not responsible to any person and which is composed of one official who, whilst he is paid by the city, is not even selected by them. That is, to say the least, not a very democratic form of government.

Speaking of Commissions, there are altogether too many of them. The Federal Government appoints railway commissions, radio commissions, wheat commissions, and dear knows what not. The Provincial Governments appoint a Workmen's Board, a liquor commission, a hydro commission, a motor carrier board, and others, while in the city we have a school board spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of our money and doing its business secretly. We have this Police Commission which seems to be a fearful and wonderful mystery to every person from the Mayor down, and which every person seems to be afraid to tackle. The individuals on these Commissions are mostly nice fellows and good citizens. Some of them work free, others get good handouts. But the whole principle of Government by and through Commissions is wrong. If men are selected by the people to do a certain work they should tackle the job, not pass it along to Commissions about whom the people have no say at all. The people are getting fed up on this kind of stuff.

The City Council should proceed at the earliest possible date to abolish the Police Commission. If the necessary legislation cannot be obtained this year, well then arrange to have it done next year. The Administration of Justice Committee of the City Council should have control of the police and to a certain extent of the Police Magistrate. Now the city pays the bills and has no say whatever.

Keep away from Commissions. There is no need for them in a little town like this. There should be no need of them anywhere. They are not democratic and are against all principles of responsible government.

## World Wheat Situation

During the past month, Argentine weekly shipments of wheat and flour have attained record seasonal levels. The heavy movement has taken place without unduly depressing world prices, and behind the continued heavy weekly volumes lies the fact that by the end of this week Argentina will have exported a third of its crop year's surplus. Obviously, the volume of Argentine shipments must necessarily decline shortly from the current rate of rapid exporting, and the slackening demand for vessel charters from Argentine ports is an indication of this decline. Meanwhile, the total volume of world shipments has been maintained for several weeks at the highest level in the past four years, and the fact that European importers are absorbing these shipments at current price levels presents an encouraging outlook for the disposition of the remainder of Canada's surplus during the spring and early summer months.

Contributing to the market support have been the purchases by Spain and Germany within the past two weeks. Following the Valencia government's sanction of the purchase of 11 million bushels of wheat a fortnight ago, it was reported that Spain had purchased several parcels of Argentine wheat, two Australian cargoes and one Danubian cargo. Since then the Spanish demand has subsided, probably due to the recent developments in the civil conflict. The German buying although intermittent has been more substantial, with purchases amounting to 7 million bushels within the past two weeks.

In addition to the intermittent impact of these purchases upon wheat prices, moderately reduced prospects for the United States winter crop have been made apparently by dust storms over the past week or two that have occurred in the western and southern portions of the winter wheat belt. The influence of these dust storms was registered in the Chicago market principally, but in other markets, they helped to allay the effect of the

## SNAPSHOTS

The "five roses" in the front line to the left of the speaker have added another word to their title. On Friday their name will be "inquiring."

Yesterday there was an unanimous avalanche of notices of inquiries for Friday all from the lonely five.

The members of the Legislature should do well to study the fact that Fredericton citizens and Fredericton City Council are 95 per cent. in favor of abolishing the present Police Commission.

Aldermen would do well to watch the progress of this police bill through the Legislature.

The Administration of Justice Committee of the City Council is elected by the City of Fredericton. The Police Commission, as at present constituted, is not elected by or responsible to anybody.

The Police Commission is an arbitrary body which does as it likes in regard to the police, and high hats the Aldermen. The Commission gives out contracts for police equipment and the Aldermen have only to "put up the money and keep quiet."

## CENTRAL TRUST CO. OF CANADA SHOWS INCREASE

### Evidence of Steady Growth and Development

Evidence of steady growth and development is seen in the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Central Trust Company of Canada at the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders held at the Company's Office February 23rd.

In the President's report it was pointed out that as a result of sound aggressive management the Company has shown a moderate increase in net profits and a large increase in the number and value of Estates under Administration. Guaranteed Investments were higher by over \$220,720.39, the total assets under Administration reading at \$4,476,308.39.

Gross Earnings of the Company were \$35,611.17 and after writing off full depreciation on Building and Vaults, Safety Deposit Boxes, Furniture and Fixtures, as well as provision for Income Tax, Adjustments on Investments or Bad Debts, the balance at the credit of the Surplus Account stood at \$32,294.80.

The annual inspection of the Company was made by the Dominion Government Officials as required by the "Trust Companies' Act, and there was a quarterly audit of the Accounts by the Company's Auditors. New business placed with the Company was very encouraging and greater than usual. Benefits from many of these Accounts will show improvement in the future and it is gratifying to know that the substantial increase in assets was in addition to the many Estates settled and proceeds paid out during the year.

The usual dividend of 6 per cent. on the paid up Capital of the Company was declared.

The General Manager's Report advised Investments in good condition with no interest in arrears. New business added during the year will reflect an increasing earning power in 1937.

The following Directors were appointed for 1937: Dr. R. C. Tait, Sheldiac, N.B.; Hon. Fred Magee, Port Elgin, N.B.; J. F. H. Teed, K.C., Saint John, N.B.; H. M. Wood, Sackville, N. B.; Hon. Dr. E. A. Reilly, K.C., Moncton, N.B.; F. R. Sumner, Moncton, N. B.; W. F. Fergusson, Moncton, N.B.; Reid McManus, C.E., Moncton, N.B.; A. C. Chapman, Moncton, N.B.; C. W. Fawcett, Sackville, N.B.; W. S. Richards, Campbellton, N.B.; J. Le Roy Holman, Summerside, P.E.I.; Sen. Creelman McArthur, Summerside, P.E.I.; W. F. Napier, Campbellton, N.B.; Robert Macnaughton, Moncton, N.B.; E. H. Ritchey, Moncton, N. B.; C. C. Arard, Sackville, N.B.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors Dr. R. C. Tait was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors; President, Hon. Fred Magee; 1st Vice-President, A. C. Chapman; 2nd Vice-President, J. F. H. Teed, K.C.; 3rd Vice-President, H. M. Wood; Secretary, Hon. Dr. E. A. Reilly, K.C.; General Manager and Assistant Secretary, E. H. Ritchey.

## Why the Police Commission?

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COMMISSION, AND ANY REFERENCE TO THEIR INABILITY TO HANDLE SEVEN POLICEMEN IS A MIGHTY POOR COMPLIMENT.

This high hat Police Commission will be abolished and a body of aldermen elected by the people and responsible to the people will take its place. The people are sick of Hitlerism in the

## Citizens

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wholesale violation of its provisions. Liquor was sold in open bars in nearly all hotels and in other places, including drug stores. In other years a "temperance" council was elected, which attempted to put the lid on tight against liquor being sold. In those years it was felt that both the police force and the police magistrate were in sympathy with the "rummies"—as the temperance people called them—and that they put obstruction in the way of the Scott Act enforcement. Therefore the council and other interested citizens promoted the Act for the establishment of the Police Commission. The Act passed the Legislature and became law May 30, 1908. Whilst there was no plebiscite taken and the citizens seemed to have no say on whether they wanted the Act or not, the promoters of the original Act were fair and placed safeguards in the Act so that the number and the remuneration of the Police Officers were determined by the Commission "subject to the approval of the Fredericton City Council."

Section 15 of the Act gave the City Council power at any monthly meeting by a two-thirds vote of the whole council to "dissolve and put to an end the Police Commissioners so created and therefore the City Council or a committee thereof of not less than three members shall exercise all the powers and duties possessed by the said Board of Police Commissioners."

The original Scott Act, section 1, provided that the Commission be composed of three commissioners, the board to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and to be composed of three ratepayers of the city of Fredericton. Other sections provided that the members serve without salary, that they have the power to appoint and to regulate the duties of the police officers. Section 14 of the Act provides that the council furnish all necessary equipment required by the officers in the discharge of their duties. These to be furnished upon the recommendation of the board.

Then someone began to get busy and pull the teeth of the Aldermen. On April 13, 1911, certain amendments to the original Act were passed. By these amendments section 1 was repealed and it was provided in the new section that the board consist of the mayor, for the time being, of the city of Fredericton, and his successors in office, the police magistrate of the city of Fredericton, and his successors in office, and of one other resident ratepayer of the same city, all of whom were to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Section 13 of this amended Act gave the board power to appoint the police officers and to fix their salaries, the city to pay the same.

Again in 1913 other amendments were made in the Act. An important feature of these amendments provided that instead of the police magistrate that the judge of the York County Court for the time being, and his successors in office, be appointed making the personnel of the Commission include the mayor of Fredericton, the County Court Judge and one other, a ratepayer resident of the city. This new Act came into force in May 1913 and Judge Wilson acted on the Commission instead of the police magistrate. After Judge Wilson had passed away Judge Slipp replaced him on the Commission, until the latter resigned. Then in April 1922 those interested in having a Police Commission continued, without taking any vote of the ratepayers went again to the Legislature and had the Act amended again. This time the amendment which was passed provided for the appointment of the mayor, the police magistrate and one other ratepayer resident of the city as the Board of Commissioners. Each time the Act had been amended it seems to have been arranged to take more power away from the City Council. Section 13 of the original Act provided that the board should determine the number of men to be appointed on the police force and fix the amount of remuneration to be paid each man by the city subject, however, to the approval of the City Council. Section 14 provided that the city should furnish all necessary contingencies required, salaries, etc., "as should be deemed necessary," upon the recommendation of the board, and section 15 provided powers for the city council to dismiss the Commission "at any monthly meeting by a two-thirds vote of the full Council" as already stated.

When in 1911 the Act was amended those who had charge of putting the legislation through evidently took care to clip off any authority which the City Council might possess over the Commission. In section 13 the clause "Subject, however, to the

## Industrial Machine

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industrial leadership, following the recent execution of Gregori Platiokoff, vicar-commissioner of heavy industries, and other department heads convicted of treason and sabotage.

Two men were prominently but unofficially mentioned today for the task of bringing order into the scheme as Ordzhonikidze's successor. They were Valery I. Mezlausk, a vice-president of the Union Council of People's Commissioners; and Lazarus Kaganovitch, Commissar of Railways.

Sandwiched in today's newspapers between comment on the death of the heavy industry Commissar was the production table for Feb. 16. It showed pig iron production at that date 88 per cent. of the plan; steel, 95 per cent.; raw metal, 92 per cent.; coal, 90 per cent.; carloadings, 97 per cent and car unloadings 93 per cent.

A month ago all of these industries were overfilling their quotas by 5 to 20 per cent.

approval of the City Council of the City of Fredericton" was struck out of the Act, and an amendment substituted thereof which read as follows: "The board shall from time to time determine the number of men to be appointed on the said police force for the said city and shall fix the salary to be paid by the city of Fredericton to each police constable appointed by the board." Any authority or approval by the City Council was wiped out.

This authority of the City Council which safeguarded to some extent the interests of the citizens was not restored again either by the Act of 1913 or by the later Act of 1922. These Tatter Acts, if anything, only made the powers of the board more arbitrary. Whilst the City Council had some hold on the board under Section 15 of the original Act, these were taken away. The situation today is that three men, sitting as a Commission, may appoint as many policemen as they may deem proper, and shall fix the salary of each and may order whatever in the way of clothes, cars, etc., that they may deem necessary with or without tender, and the citizens through the Aldermen have to pay the bills. Fifteen thousand dollars was voted for administration of justice this year. The Commission have the power to use any part or all of this amount if they decide that it is needed for police requirements.

The Administration of Justice Committee of the City Council has no power to say a word. Not one of the Aldermen can tell you today whether cars, clothing or other supplies are purchased by tender or otherwise. They have no power whatever over the amounts to be paid to the police or the police magistrate or any one else—and yet the Aldermen are supposed to represent the citizens.

No person has anything to say against the members of the Commission personally, either present or past Commissioners, but the principle whereby this money and this authority is used without the members being responsible to any person is wrong. One would imagine the Mayor and the other Commissioners would recognize this fact and wish to withdraw themselves, feeling that they should not sit on the board. So far as the police magistrate of the city of Fredericton goes it would be much better for an official holding such a position to be free and apart from the police force altogether. The magistrate's position should be more of a judicial one in character than to be included in the administrative duties of the police force. When there is no salary attached to the job and no remuneration to the Commissioners why are they so anxious to serve?

Another farce is that with an Administration of Justice Committee of the City Council, Fredericton needs a Police Commission in addition about as much as a dog needs two tails. Saint John with over sixty policemen has no police commission. Fredericton with five policemen has three Police Commissioners and Administration of Justice Committee of the Council (without any power) to administer the police. And yet it has a chief of police who could be taught a whole lot of things in regard to how a police force should be run. We have no systematic organization whatever of the police force. It is time for a shakeup in the whole system.

## City of Fredericton

### Assessment Notice

Notice is hereby given that persons failing to file assessment returns on or before March the first, 1937 will become liable to the terms set forth in Section 50 of the City of Fredericton Assessment Act, 1926.

PETER FARRELL,  
Chairman, Board of Assessors.  
City Hall,  
February 24th, 1937.

## CAPITOL

NOW PLAYING

Deep in the trackless jungle a white hunter finds an exotically gorgeous creature . . . a white woman no other man has ever seen . . . and dares to love her!

Dorothy Lamour

— in —  
**"THE JUNGLE PRINCESS"**

— with —  
Ray Milland  
Akim Tamiroff  
Lynne Overman  
Molly Lamont  
Mala

NEWS - COMEDY - SPORTS  
Shows at 3, 7.15 and 9.10  
Mat. 10c, 20c — Evg. 15c, 25c  
Plus Tax

HERE THURS. - FRI. - SAT.  
Hopalong Cassidy  
in Clarence E.  
Mulford's

**"TRAIL DUST"**  
with Wm. Boyd

Added Attraction —  
THE JONES FAMILY  
— in —  
**"BACK TO NATURE"**

Hon. F. C. Squires

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\$220,000. This increase was largely attributable to subventions granted by the Dominion Government with respect to freight rates into territory not otherwise economically accessible. The net profit was \$755,000 for 1934. For 1935, \$503,000. It will be seen by this that the Nova Scotia companies are making their profits solely out of assistance from the Dominion Government. According to the Dominion fuel board chart the operating loss for New Brunswick companies for 1935 was \$36,679 to which if we add 6 per cent. interest on capital investments will show a loss for that year of \$148,063.00. This is certainly a serious state of affairs. If New Brunswick was paid freight rate assistance in proportion to out-purchase the same as Nova Scotia, our operators would receive in government assistance \$100,000 per year.

In addition to being discriminated against in the way of government assistance, freight rates are very much against us as compared with Nova Scotia. They having been fortunate in being given low rates in old I. C. R. days which they have been able to hold to a large extent. Our rates have been set with the idea of traffic paying its way. Altogether here is a large field for investigation. The other coal producing provinces have had investigations. We have seen the result of Nova Scotia. The Alberta Commission reported about a year ago with recommendations calling for increased subventions, fixed freight rates for a period of five years, and improved marketing and working conditions. As a result their government assistance seems to have been greatly increased during the past year.

I would strongly urge upon the government that a thorough and unbiased investigation by a well qualified commission, capable of getting all the facts about working conditions, accidents and accident prevention, prices and markets, competition from Nova Scotia, and all other relative matters. The members of this commission, in my opinion, to be properly qualified and entirely independent should come from outside this province. There is no doubt in my mind but that the result of this investigation would be that not only would the operators receive a fair return on the capital invested but that many of the employees would receive better wages. Here is a chance not only for the stimulating of industry but also for giving labor its chance.

The old administration granted labor in this era an eight hour day boon, and I understand that they were preparing to further investigate and improve conditions before the election. This administration has been in power over a year and a half and although they have been repeatedly urged, have done nothing. The Hydro Commission under the old administration was under a contract as regards Minto coal but as I understand this commission has not even yet entered into such an agreement. The situation is critical. Nova Scotia as a result of superior Dominion aid is able even to compete successfully with our industry in our own province and an immediate investigation followed by immediate action on the part of the government is

## GAIETY

NOW PLAYING

**YOUR SHIRLEY**  
is a little street minstrel now!



**Shirley TEMPLE**  
in  
**Dimples**

with  
**FRANK MORGAN**

HELEN WESTLEY  
ROBERT KENT  
ASTRID ALLWYN  
DELMA BYRON  
THE HALL  
JOHNSON CHOIR  
STEPIN FETCHIT  
Directed by William A. Seiter  
Dances staged by Bill Robinson  
SIX SONGS...DANCES, TOO

Also — 2 Act Comedy  
**"PARKED IN PAREE"**

HERE FRIDAY!  
**Joan Crawford**  
**Robert Taylor**  
— in —  
**"THE GORGEOUS HUSSY"**

## Death of

(Continued from Page One)

prairie. He began by selling meat to the contractors on the railway and from that small beginning gradually branches out until he was one of the largest meat packers in Canada. In addition to his large abattoir at Calgary, he had wholesale and retail meat plants stretched across the west from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

The late Hon. Mr. Burns was a man of unassuming character and one who was beloved in Calgary and through Alberta. He was a devout member of St. Mary's Cathedral and was a generous contributor to its funds. All denominations and good causes of whatever character was aided from the purse of "Pat" Burns. Calgary and the western country in general has lost a warm hearted generous pioneer citizen.

## All the King's

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have volunteered to assist in caring for the valuable animals during the Atlantic crossing.

The horses will be landed at the Surrey Commercial Docks in South London, thus obviating any train travel in England.

No details as to the consist of the R.C.M.P. contingent have been announced as yet, but the number of horses, sufficient for a 16-mile ride might indicate that if opportunity is provided a demonstration of the "musical ride" that annually captivates New York may be part of the programme in England.

Return to Canada will be made aboard the Beaverboard sailing from London May 20.

## N.Marks

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est. He has been town solicitor for several years, a member of Trinity Church and one of its founders. Besides his wife, formerly Miss Winnifred Todd, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Governor W. H. Todd and Mrs. Todd, he leaves to mourn two daughters, Mrs. (Winnifred) Douglas Calder of Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. (Marjorie) Jack McAvity of Halifax, also a little grandson, the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. McAvity. Two brothers, Lewis of Valleyville, Mass., and William of Calais, Me. The notice of