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FREDERICTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1937

More Money for Essentials

The estimated ordinary expenditure of \$405,046,000 for the fiscal year 1937-38 which Finance Minister C. A. Dunning gave the House of Commons on Monday reflects a generally satisfactory picture of Departmental business. While providing for an increase of \$17,102,000 over the current year, the aggregate is not excessive in consideration of the special character of the services and improvements provided for. Nor is it anything like what might have been expected were it not for the substantial reductions made in many Departments.

The greatest increase, \$14,114,000, was in the Department of National Defense, due to an expansion and modernization programme forecast long ago. Placed beside the rumored "estimates" going the rounds since national defense became a public debate, the total of \$38,991,000 for all branches—military, naval and air force—shows the "experts" in a humiliating light. Studied in the itemized form given in the memorandum, it would appear that the Department has been fortunate in getting "firesale" prices on its equipment. Whether or not the expansion provided for will meet present requirements must await clarification of the entire programme by the Minister.

Other increases are not less necessary. There is a matter of almost \$10,000,000 to take care of the additional pensions arising from Quebec's participation in the old-age plan. Another 676,000 is required by the Department of Pensions and National Health for normal increases. Slight rises are shown in expenditures of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the administration of justice, legislation, civil government, Department of Labor, and \$1,310,000 has been added to Postoffice appropriations.

Most noteworthy, perhaps, is a reduction of \$2,169,000 in the debt-carrying charges. In this is indicated the success of Finance Minister Dunning's refunding and debt-retirement programme. With a total of \$419,593,000 in bonds, debenture debts and Treasury bills maturing during the new year, his programme can confidently be expected to net further reductions. How necessary they are is obvious from the fact that debt charges account for \$138,165,152, or more than 34 per cent. of the new estimates.

The economy programme, emphasized by a \$3,754,000 reduction in public works appropriations, has been projected into half a dozen other Departments, less noticeable in the general summary because original expenditures do not bulk nearly so large. It is on the evidence of such economy, the forecast reductions in emergency account and from the assurances of rising revenues that the picture presented by these estimates fits comfortably inside the frame of the Government's programme.

"Is Life Worth Living?"

Some years ago the London press carried on a long discussion of the question: "Is life worth living?" It ended with the apt rejoinder by Punch: "It depends on the liver."

In his message to a legion of friends and admirers on his ninety-third birthday, Sir William Mulock confirms this double-edged opinion, and emphasizes particularly that most depends on the individual living the life.

He values as his greatest reward for long public service the affectionate friendship of those who know him best, the respect and honor of the community, and the knowledge that no effort of his long years has been wasted.

His has been a life crowded with diverse interests. He has kept abreast of the times always. His activities have been for the benefit of others rather than for that of himself, and in the twilight of his days he is as alert and keen as ever regarding every branch of human welfare.

It is safe to say that none who has kept himself as fully occupied as Sir William has done ever has found life other than worth living. Others may not find themselves occupying so prominent a place in public affairs, for it is given to few to have or to develop Sir William's genius for administration and organization; but no matter how humble a position one may fill one may still find interests sufficient to prevent any doubt that life is worth while.

State Control Aberhart Model

Dilatation of the Aberhart "import-export" organization plan—one of the eleven new methods for getting Social Credit to Alberta—is rather disappointing. It is not something new, Aberhartianly profound or revolutionary. It is just State control by a new name. To the radically minded it is not even good socialism. Rather it leans toward the Fascist principle of centralization through State management of private ownership.

By this dual-purpose plan the Government will buy farm products through an export branch, presumably at fixed "code" prices. These it will sell outside the Province. With the credit established, or cash secured, the import department will purchase what manufactured goods not processed in the Province are required for domestic consumption. It will also serve as wholesaler for the retail merchants.

On first appearances it would seem that the Government is running a pretty tall gamble. What would happen if external commodity prices should fall below the purchasing level? The answer is "scrip," "prosperity certificates" or "Alberta credit," whichever you prefer. The Government will pay the farmers in this currency; it will sell for cash. And, being the Government, it can regulate internal prices through its code provisions to meet any discrepancies.

The purpose of the plan is less clear. What benefit it will be to anyone farmer, consumer or Government—remains obscure. But on the evidence it appears as a high-handed effort at forcing "credit" money on the people of Alberta on the premise that once such a medium of internal exchange is established the Government can manipulate private earning power in solution of its own financial problems.

SNAPSHOTS

The man who drove around the block and stopped his car near the curb and opened the door had better remember that all don't wear a coat of the same color.

After all, racketeering might be found trying to thrive not so far away from the capital.

You can tell when a man is coming back. He quits blaming others for the fix he is in.

To know successful people is an inspiration. If they can get by, it makes you think anybody can.

Most of us feel poor. You never saw a man get elected by saying: "I am the rich man's friend."

Motion-picture cameras have solved one problem. The family needn't wear itself out trying to get the baby still.

No matter how innocent a man may be, the consciousness that his wife has her eye on him makes him as nervous as the sound of a traffic cop's whistle.

No doubt, as a London journalist says, the present European crisis is a manufactured one. But when such experts as Hitler and Mussolini combine to manufacture a crisis it is very difficult to distinguish it from the real thing.

It was easy for Mr. Bennett to find a few lines in Shakespeare to describe what must have been in the mind of Edward when he abdicated. In fact few things touch the human heart which could not find an interpretation in those immortal plays.

Mr. Bennett says that if he had been Prime Minister in the recent constitutional crisis he would have acted precisely as Mr. King acted. In fact, Mr. King seemed to understand Canadian public opinion as instinctively as Mr. Baldwin understood public opinion of Great Britain.

Canadian Gov't

(Continued from Page One) currency and credit in the public interest," said Mr. Dunning. "Obviously information regarding the day-to-day discharge of this function cannot be given but results show clearly the broad line of policy which has been followed by the bank.

Rates Are Low

"I think it can be said with safety that today lower interest rates for credit-worthy borrowers, individual, corporate, municipal, provincial and Dominion, prevail in Canada than ever before in Canada's history.

"And I submit that an easy money policy is the best policy for Canada at the present time, however unpopular it may be to those who have money to lend."

The first Social Credit resolution, proposed by John Blackmore, leader of the group, provoked a two-day debate, and picked up the support of the whole Co-operative Commonwealth Federation group and two Liberals, W. A. Tucker of Rosthern and T. J. O'Neill of Kamloops.

It was: "That the Canadian government should consider the advisability of beginning this year to issue purchasing power and to use that purchasing power for the improvement of the economic condition of the Canadian people."

Second Resolution

The other one, sponsored by Victor Quelch (S. C. Acadia) drew no speakers apart from the mover. It declared: "That time has arrived in Canada for the adoption of a definite, scientific, nation-wide scheme for financing consumption."

Conservative Leader Bennett joined with Mr. Dunning and Labor Minister Rogers in opposing the first resolution, but said it was not surprising that some Liberal members supported it. Before the last election leaders in the Liberal party such as Hon. Ian Mackenzie, minister of national defence, were urging the very doctrine set forth by Mr. Blackmore in his resolution, he declared.

Spokesman for the C.C.F. was M. J. Coldwell of Rosetown-Biggar, who predicted many changes not contemplated by the Social Crediters were coming in the economic sphere. Control of production and distribution, nationalization of all banks and monopolistic industries were among them.

PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS IN JAPAN VITAL INTEREST

The League of Nations though perhaps not conceived in an altogether altruistic spirit by the majority of English statesmen made instant appeal to the great bulk of the British people. Where diplomats saw in it a means of protecting new territorial gains and old conquests against the new land-hungry nations, the ordinary citizen visioned an apparently sincere and reasonably efficient instrument against future wars.

It was Japan which first woke the average citizen from his dream of facile security. The conquest of Manchuria and the occupation of other Chinese territory in China proper, the fortification of the Pacific islands mandated to her and various other minor incidents showed that the courteous, little brown men had not lost touch with reality. Undisturbed by the eloquent flood of oratory of League advocates they moved calmly ahead with their plans for territorial expansion. Upon being censured by the Lord Lytton commission for aggression they concentrated their attention on North China to avoid immediate friction with the British.

It began to dawn with pain on the average British citizen that the cunning little brown men did not attach any importance to the League of Nations except as an amusing by-product of Western civilization which could not be copied and undersold at a profit. This was an entirely new idea to the average British citizen and very painful to him. For as Napoleon said, "Of all the pains which afflict humanity there is no pain equal to that of a new idea."

It was also extremely painful to the British manufacturer who saw a yearly Chinese market of nearly \$300,000,000 gravely threatened.

Something would have to be done about it no doubt had not Italy decided to occupy Ethiopia. The average British citizen once more saw the League flouted, and British possessions and trade endangered.

Something would have been done about this too, no doubt had not Germany decided to re-arm, build a new navy, and reoccupy the Rhineland. Something would have been done about this too without question had it not been that disarmament had proceeded to such a length that the British lion could do no more than growl. Owing to a diet of ill-digested propaganda he was not feeling quite up to the mark. The rumor began to spread among his many enemies that he was growing old and that his teeth were not what they used to be. The Jackals began to consider whether it would be such a great task after all to pull him down, and are still thinking it over.

Hector C. Bywater, a British authority on naval affairs proves conclusively in one of his articles that the odds are heavily against Italy and Germany in a war in the Mediterranean from a standpoint of naval power, i.e., against the combined French and British fleets. His arguments are unanswerable as far as they go.

He does not take into account however the effect of combined action against Britain by Japan acting in concert with Germany and Italy.

From a purely military standpoint considered as a theoretical problem it is quite clear that Japan can never attain the mastery of the Pacific at which her leading writers have said quite openly that she aims without the elimination of the great British bases at Hong-Kong and Singapore, which hinder her expansion of overlordship over South China and her control of Pacific maritime trade routes. Again from a purely military standpoint, the possession by England of Australia and New Zealand, large centres of white population almost at her door, capable of furnishing bases not easily conquered in war time and able to support large hostile armies would be a desirable thing to eliminate at the earliest convenient moment, as they act as a constant check on Japanese ambition.

Knowing that without allies such objections are impossible to attain, and that such a favorable opportunity of alliance with two major western nations may never occur again it is within the bounds of possibility that Japan may decide to cast her lot with Germany and Italy for good or ill, should the military and naval party gain supreme power in the present Japanese parliamentary crisis. The news of their seizing supreme power may well be regarded with the greatest misgivings by the British Empire.

—H. M. PAINT

Bereaved, Lonely, Rings Fire Alarm For Solace

MONTREAL, Jan. 22—A mild little Outremont tailor, Abie Solomon, 48, pleaded guilty to ringing in four false fire alarms. He is blamed by police with a week-long barrage of alarms in busy sections of the city. Solomon said he was lonely after the deaths of his parents.

Profit Motive

(Continued from Page One) be a relic of barbarism and its acceptance, a surrender to a philosophy of greed and selfishness all that the "profit motive" meant was that the human race would seek what it desired were it wealth, power, success in achievement or even nothing more than leisure.

"How skillful," asked Sir Edward, "has been our leadership in this country in interpreting the profit motive into action? Many of the disasters attending the depression can be blamed on things in Canada which we did or did not do. We have discovered that common humanity will not permit this nation to leave men and women to starvation and that unemployment, distress and maladjustment among workers are burdens on capital that cannot be got rid of by merely reducing staffs or cutting output.

"The true basis of profit is in service rendered," said Sir Edward. "Money gained by the impoverishment of people, industrial profit won by treating labor as a mere reservoir to be tapped when times are good and left unused when times are bad, or safety sought in investments which will bear no risk are forms of profit that can never be real. There can be no true or lasting profit except in the use of wealth, of skill and energy to make available employment and profit to the community at large. The one function which any man can perform for our society is to add to its wealth. No man can do that except by seeking profit at all times. He may find his profit in the pleasures of creative effort, in producing a picture or a book, in service for relief of suffering or in contributing to good government. Thus, the first leadership our country needs from business men is intelligent understanding of where true profit can be gained.

"The second field of leadership is in public affairs. Unless this country can build some basic philosophy on what are the proper functions of the state we shall never know economic peace or safety. We have followed the simpler but more dangerous road of avoiding all definition of principles and of dealing with public policy as though it could be built up as a series of individual expedients.

Rackets

(Continued from Page One)

nancy duped reputable doctors and made a fortune. Insurance companies settled quickly. Finally the experts got so bold they even faked the accident as well as the time and place.

Horse racing rackets took millions until the bureau bore down. Touts sent an average of 6,000 telegrams a day, guaranteeing a winner. Someone had to win, for they named every horse in a race. These winners were soft touches for at least a week.

"It's incredible," mused Bennett, "how many otherwise sane business men will assign and mail their market holdings to a man who merely calls them a couple of times on the telephone. Apparently they believe in Santa Claus all the year round."

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"GENTLE JULIA"

Relief Lists

(Continued from Page One)

Knowing that the age of miracles is past, the former Prime Minister did not expect the Liberal Government to find work for every one in Canada by waving a magic wand, but he expected that with the undoubted improvement in economic conditions there would be a great falling off in the number of people on the dole.

It is unfortunately true, as Mr. Bennett observes, that although there are more people employed in Canada today than there were a year ago, there are also more on relief. A tabulation of the Department of Labor shows that the total number of men, women and children on the dole in November was 1,100,025, as compared with 1,036,459 in November, 1935, while the total cost of providing them with the bare necessities of life is between seventy and seventy-five million dollars per annum, that amount being shared by Dominion Provincial and municipal Governments.

Mr. Houston makes the following points:

1. Those now obtaining employment are not necessarily from the relief rolls. Young people leaving schools and colleges, former employees not on relief and members of farmers' families returning to industry, are securing much of the new employment. Among the relief recipients classed as employable must be thousands whose employability is diminishing, and whose chance of ever being employed again is problematical.
2. Canada is peculiarly susceptible to seasonal employment. Seasonal workers who, before state aid was afforded, provided themselves for periods of unemployment, do not make this provision now, but return to the relief rolls when their employment ceases.

Prevalent low-wage scales are affecting relief.

4. Payment of relief grants in hundreds of municipalities carefully calculated to provide minimum needs of life, but which prove to be in excess of prevailing earnings or average income for full-time workers in their usual occupations presents a new aspect which bids fair to become one of the most perplexing features of the Canadian relief picture, according to Miss Charlotte Whitton, O.B.E., Director of the Canadian Welfare Council.

Labor Department observers are convinced that a large proportion of the new employment is going to the unemployed who are not on relief. It must also be remembered that employers have a large reservoir from which to draw in the boys and girls coming to working age who have not previously worked, and the young people from farms, who as employment improves again, become competitors for jobs in the cities and towns.

KEARNY, N. J., Jan. 21—A day-old strike at St. Cecilia's High school became a lock-out today after fourteen students had been turned away from the school by the principal, Sister Margaret Theresa. The strike was called after Coach Douglas Prior was fired because he allowed the basketball team to play a game last Sunday against Sister Theresa's orders. Rather than be perturbed over the strike Sister Theresa merely looked the door on the strikers yesterday.

GAIETY

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Moving to

(Continued from Page One)

be accommodated in other buildings.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester also probably will move shortly. The Duke has decided to give up the suite he and his wife have occupied at Buckingham Palace, going to York House, the residence of the abdicated Edward VIII when he was Prince of Wales.

One of Queen Elizabeth's first tasks when she moves into Buckingham Palace will be the selection of a nursery for Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose, her daughters. Then she will face staff problems.

At 145 Piccadilly there were only ten servants, including two nurses and a gardener. Buckingham Palace has 150 servants, besides court officials, ladies-in-waiting and secretaries.

The actual suite to be occupied by the King and Queen contains moderate-sized rooms, which formerly were occupied by the King's late father and Queen Mary. The new Monarch did not wish to live in the ground-floor Belgian suite which Edward used in his brief stay in the palace.

The Queen is fond of cooking. Friends say she may occasionally continue her practice of donning an apron and slipping into the Royal kitchen to bake cakes.