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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1938

Another Pensions Plea.

THE question of pensions for the widows of war veterans who have died from causes unrelated to their service has had another Parliamentary airing. This subject received considerable discussion, most of it favorable, in the correspondence columns of this and other newspapers several months ago. The arguments advanced at that time, and echoed in the House debate, were considerably stronger in their patriotic appeal than in their good business sense.

In his reply to these arguments the Minister of Pensions pointed out that the Canada Pensions Act grants allowances on the basis of disability rather than economic need. He did well to make it clear that to grant what is now asked would be to introduce a new principle to the Act; and if a widow is to be maintained irrespective of the cause of death, her own or her deceased husband's financial condition, or the time the marriage occurred, the Dominion would be "making wards of the State of the widow of every man who served overseas."

Canada has been anything but unfair to her veterans and their dependents. Granting that there have been cases where deserving applicants have been overlooked or ignored, by and large all that reasonably could be asked has been done. Several times the Act has been amended to broaden its scope and liberalize the terms. But a glance at the Budget of any year over the past decade should be enough to show that there are, of necessity, limitations to what the taxpayer can stand.

Mr. Power was not exaggerating the picture one bit when he asserted that if Parliament were to adopt this proposal it would be expected to supply a pension to every man who served overseas, whether he was disabled or not. As the Montreal Gazette points out, the principle goes even further than this. If the State were to pension the widow of an ex-soldier without any regard for the circumstances, "by what right," it asks, "could Parliament exclude all other widows?" If the results of war service are ruled out, then war service "has nothing to do with the proposal, the only real qualification is widowhood."

M. Blum Tries Again.

IF the French muddle was cleared somewhat over the week-end, it is by no means settled. Those who bargained on the Austrian raid quelling the party feuds and giving up a "national union" Government can be no more disappointed than M. Blum and other leaders by the failure. What advantages the new Popular Front grouping will have over its predecessors are not immediately discernible from the personnel. M. Paul-Boncour's reappearance as Foreign Minister, regarded by some as the sign of a forceful policy, on the record can produce quite the opposite. His previous efforts in the job, particularly during the disarmament discussions of 1933, are not remembered for their successes.

But Premier Blum himself has given the best reason for the uncertainty which unfortunately still clouds the situation. His Cabinet, he said, is not "the condensed Ministry made for rapid and decisive action" he would have liked, and which conditions most certainly demanded. There is an attempt at strength in the suggestion that he is to keep a centralizing grip on all key Departments. But, more significant, he has crowded the Communists into a corner, thus eliminating, for today at least, any suggestion of the radical pressure which contributed to the collapse of his first Cabinet.

Even with such precautions there are still opportunities aplenty for dissension, and consequently an absence of confidence. Difficult as it would have been to process policies that would maintain harmony in a national union, it will be several times more difficult for him to secure real unity in the Chamber from the present set-up. Two factors, neither of them reliable in French politics, favor him at the moment. One is that, with the Communists subordinated, there is greater likelihood that the rest of his support will remain constant. The other is the possibility that Hitler has put so much fear into all groups that the more moderate elements of the Right will accept policies—something different from being a partner to their manufacture—rather than risk another crisis.

Newsprint.

DURING most of 1937, American publishers were searching for warehouse space in which they could store Canadian newsprint. Buying paper at \$42.50 a ton and holding it until January of this year, when the announced price was to be \$50, was a logical move.

Figures vary, but about 450 thousand tons of paper accumulated in the hands of publishers and others. Data covering production and consumption indicate that supplies piled up to the very end of the year. Figures for aggregate stocks do not exactly reflect this tendency, as they are, of necessity, incomplete.

This forward buying of paper has its rather ironic financial side, but the chief consequence is in the effort of such huge supplies of newsprint on the Canadian industry. At the moment, surplus stocks of newsprint on hand in this continent are equal to above six weeks average production by Canadian mills.

According to official figures for aggregate stocks, no progress whatsoever was made last month in reducing that huge overhanging supply. Using figures for production and consumption, however, there was an apparent decrease of about 20 thousand tons. Nevertheless, further curtailment in operating schedules seems vital if the industry is to regain a sound position.

In January, the Canadian newsprint industry operated at about 65 per cent. of capacity and sold about three-quarters of its production. No radical change is indicated for February.

The falling-off in newsprint production will counteract the increased price which the mills are receiving for their paper. However, this is a very much better showing than most industries, which are directly dependent upon the American market, can make.

Last year, Canadian mills produced 3.6 million tons of newsprint. This represented an over-production of, say, 450 thousand tons. On this basis, output in 1938 should be reduced to 2.7 million tons if stocks on hand are to be cut to normal. A falling-off in American consumption of from 5 to 10 per cent. would reduce Canada's production to perhaps 2.5 million tons—a drop of 30 per cent. in the volume of Canada's major manufacturing industry. Fortunately, \$50 paper should hold the gross revenue of the industry to 1937 levels.

Snapshots

Here's to Irishmen the world over and to "The Dear Little Shamrock."

Judge O'Byron, the King's Printer, will celebrate St. Patrick's night at the Elks Club. So will Alderman Fred O'Mundle and Mayor Hedley O'Forbes.

What wage is to be paid to the painters on the new bridge? Is it in line with the required price?

A car is a menace if it has too much power for its size. This is also true of a man.

You save up your money for a rainy day in this country and what happens? . . . the government soaks you.

Nature balances things. Where there is one of that kind born every minute, sharp ones are provided to keep them trimmed.

A man is a person who thinks any food good enough for him is nothing to be ashamed of if company drops in.

It's a strange world. A man will look with deep gloom on the future . . . and then go out and buy a sedan on the time payment plan.

The most painful thing about marriage is that it gives two otherwise agreeable people the opportunity for telling each other the disagreeable truth!

FRANCE

(Continued from Page One)

Berlin army circles said Poland gave Lithuania an ultimatum expiring late today. This was denied by an official spokesman in Warsaw.

Lithuanians feared they might feel the might of a Polish-German steamroller since they lie in the way of an anti-Soviet Baltic bloc.

Britain and France made representations to Warsaw against hasty action.

They were reported inspired by fear of a possible Polish-German deal envisaging German support for Poland's absorption of Lithuania in return for Warsaw's adherence to the Rome-Berlin axis and the anti-Communist pact.

Government Warned

In Praha, a spokesman for Germans in Czechoslovakia warned the government must change her foreign policy before it was "to late."

In Spain, a desperate government army slowed up the insurgent drive toward the Mediterranean. A tense Barcelona assured the world it was calm while in Madrid new "urgent" tribunals began functioning to crush spies, traitors and defeatists.

In London, following a cabinet meeting in which the foreign situation was reviewed, an opposition angered by Prime Minister Chamberlain's refusal to outline the government's policy forced a foreign affairs debate.

Clement R. Attlee, Labor leader, asked:

"Does anyone doubt that the assistance of Hitler in the conquest of Spain is part of the price for Mussolini's betrayal of Austria?"

Mr. Chamberlain accused Mr. Attlee of using "hard provocative words"

Reiterates Belief

The prime minister reiterated his belief in non-intervention as the best policy for Britain in Spain. He indicated the government had laid aside any consideration of restoring Germany's war-lost colonies.

Lord Halifax meanwhile in the Upper House flayed Germany's "ruthless application of power politics."

He said the world had "been brought face to face with the extremely ugly truth that neither treaty texts nor international law have any influence in dealing with power politics" where "force and force alone decides."

The stock market meanwhile slid abruptly downward.

Air raid alarms were tested at the great Portsmouth navy yard.

The push of a button in a central office rang alarms in all offices, workshops and aboard all ships. Workers then rushed to pre-assigned shelters.

THE MUSIC OF IRELAND

(Continued from Page One)

minimum of other music, however meritorious it may be. And we are all sinners in this respect! If I may diverge at this stage—so very few of us know anything at all of the ancient language of our forefathers, it has become a dead thing through disuse—that we should take heed with regard to this other precious heritage, our Irish music, lest through disuse, it, too, become lost to us!

In a short sketch it is impossible to but touch the outskirts of the subject, but may I recommend to any student the works of Giraldus Cambrensis, Petrie, Bunting, Walker, (in his "Memoirs of the Irish Bards"), Hardiman's "Irish Minstrelsy", Curry's "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish" for much material dealing with Irish music.

And so wherever Irishmen are gathered together this night to do honour to our Patron Saint, even tho' the Harp that once thrummed Tara's Halls hang mute, let us resolve that it be not mute in Irish hearts. Let us sing of the glory that was and is of Ireland in order that generations to come may not forget—let us sing the songs of our people—no matter who make her laws!

FRENCH CHILDREN

(Continued from Page One)
the St. Basil Hotel Dieu, a large institution, the Hospital, orphanage and Home, where he has also been most appreciated by the members and the staff of our institutions.

Provincial Autonomy

The relation between Federal and Provincial Government have put to the fore the question of provincial autonomy. Many problems require team work between these authorities such as relief to unemployment, help to fishermen, the settlement of Old Age Pensions, grants to education, assistance to prevent venereal diseases and tuberculosis, etc. In the past we gladly have accepted money for the betterment of such problems even if they were practically Provincial. There is no doubt that if we want to follow the march of time in Canada, we will have to review the confederation agreement and give to Federal Government power to legislate certain uniform national laws to better the problems which are in fact individual, municipal, and provincial obligations.

Improvements Noted

Improvements of all sorts, have been practised in all departments and all of them deserve to be praised for this progress. The Hydro-Electric Commission should be congratulated for its steady expansion of services in this province. Our land unfortunately has not been favoured by nature in its distribution of water power, but the Commission has very wisely used every year more and more coal from our mines.

Agriculture in our Province is one of the foremost industries. We appreciate efforts made to increase its production and to find markets. In the county of Madawaska last fall we had a very successful exhibition. It was a revelation of what is being done in industry and agriculture, the co-operation given by the Department deserves appreciation and no doubt it will do much to promote industry and agricultural improvements. There has been a surprising and awakening among the farming communities to the value and interest of the courses given in agricultural work. Hundreds of farmers will benefit by them to such a degree that their situations will be bettered not only to their own profit but to that of the whole Province.

No French Question

Concerning Education in this province, there is no French question. It should not be forgotten however that about half the 90,000 children of school age is of French origin; they are to be found mostly in rural districts where they have never heard any other language but their own. In passing, let me remark that I have no intention of discussing this. I merely refer to a fact. These children are citizens of this Province; they have the same duties, hence the same rights as others. Should they not be given equal opportunities with all other children of becoming well educated, thus giving the Province the benefit of their mature years and work?

Therefore I would like to ask of all unprejudiced minds whether they would approve of children 7, 8 or 9 years of age being forced to learn history, geography, etc., in the English text only. We have been talking since three years of reforms in educational methods and although considerable progress has been made in adult and technical teaching, we are still waiting for something to be done in academic teaching. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that the time for discussions and platonic considerations of the question is over and that the time is now ripe for action.

There are two sides to be considered in our schools, firstly the curriculum which, I understand, is in the hands of expert educators, and secondly, the administration. Let me say that the latter is founded on very obsolete principles, an immediate reform is imperative.

Drastic changes in this domain are imperative—the people are waiting for progress; will it be denied to them? It seems to me that we should have, without much delay, the regulations or details upon which the County Unit will operate. We should have opportunity and time to study them. While we are anxious for immediate reforms, we must be assured that we are working towards a goal that will give satisfaction to all concerned.

Daily Foreign News Comment

(By H. M. Paint of the Daily Mail Staff)

Like Alexander the Great the Conservative party in Britain may well mourn their too complete success. They too have "no more worlds to conquer." They also have no more effective "Opposition!" Like an athlete, who has come into a fortune, prosperity has softened them.

A vigorous and able Opposition, in the House of Commons, is of benefit to the Government, and a boon to the British Empire. It forstalls the worst mistakes of the dominant party, and makes it properly sensitive to British public opinion and Empire interests.

Since the disintegration of the Labor party and the elevation of Snowden to the peerage, no leader of outstanding ability has risen in Labor's ranks. Clement Atlee, Pansbury, Sir Stafford Cripps—none of these are capable of wearing the mantle of Ramsey MacDonald, ill-cut and out of fashion as it had been from the start.

The once great Liberal party has broken into a few detached fragments. Its two leaders of proved ability Lloyd George and Winston Churchill have but a corporals guard of followers, and though still admired are more or less distrusted by the average Briton. They are men of genius—and no one can foretell what men of genius may do. The Briton has an invincible aversion to too brilliant men as Prime Minister in spite of the Earl of Chatham and Canning—exceptions which prove the rule.

Nevertheless the time is ripe for all elements which are discontented with Chamberlain policy to join forces. Labor, Liberals, and Conservatives, of the old Imperial tradition. There is only one man who could head such a coalition Opposition—Anthony Eden.

There are signs that the formation of such a party will not be long delayed. An opposition of this nature would tax the undoubted parliamentary talents of Chamberlain to the utmost. With such an opposition it is doubtful whether the present Government could retain power in the face of another Hitler coup in the near future—and this will not be long in coming.

Let us hope that appropriate reforms would be favored where all the elements of the population through knowing themselves more intimately, could better protect themselves and obtain from the others the respect due them and their endeavours to increase the prestige of their Country.

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Mat. 10-20; Evg. 15-25; Plus Tax

HERE MONDAY!

"THE INVISIBLE MENACE"

WITH BORIS KARLOFF

MR. PERRY

(Continued from Page One)

He recalled when the net debt of the province was \$5,000,000 and Hon. J. K. Flemming had held up his hands and cried out that the province was on the brink of bankruptcy.

"If those old fellows could come back now and see what is going on they'd be willing to return to the grave," he added.

He went on that the Liberals didn't seem to be very fond of by-elections. "York County ought to be a good gauge of public opinion," he said, referring to the vacancy in this constituency.

"If I were premier, I'd want to fill these vacancies from time to time and see how the people felt about my policies, and if they didn't like them I'd want to change the policies," he said.

Mr. Perry said he was in favor of a

GAIETY

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MYRNA LOY

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Rub on—inhalant vapors.

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policy of forest conservation and he agreed with Hon. F. W. Pirie, Minister of Lands and Mines that the cuts should be limited to the annual growth of the lumber.

DIED

McKENZIE—Passed away in this city March 16, 1938, Johnston McKenzie, aged 79 years. Funeral on Saturday afternoon. Private service at the home 659 Brunswick Street at 2:10 p.m. Funeral will proceed to Christchurch Cathedral where Very Rev. Dean Moorhead will conduct the funeral service.

WHEN BUYING TOP QUALITY BEEF



WHEN buying beef, remember your colours.

For Red Brand and Blue Brand designate top quality beef... beef graded according to standards set by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Here is how to identify this beef—to buy it by grade, with confidence.

Only top-quality beef is graded according to Government standards... and there are but two grades—Red and Blue. Red Brand beef, "Choice" quality, is marked with a red ribbon-like stamp so that part of this grade mark remains visible on every cut. Blue Brand, "Good" quality, is marked similarly, with a blue ribbon-like stamp. To be sure of top-quality beef, therefore—look for some portion of the red or blue ribbon-like stamp on the cut you buy.

Do not confuse this round purple stamp, with the grade marks mentioned above. This is the Government health stamp, which appears on all beef from government-inspected abattoirs. It does not refer to quality but merely indicates that the beef is fit for human consumption.



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