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INDIAN ATTITUDE—A PARADOX

The controversy over the Indian constitutional reforms presents features of paradox. Pressure for pushing through these reforms has been transferred from India to Britain. The British Government is thus proceeding with the India Bill, though Indian politicians as a whole say they are not anxious to have the federation scheme as now proposed.

Indians, nevertheless, were responsible for the whole federation plan. Indian princes, at the first Round Table Conference in London, offered to associate themselves with their fellow countrymen of British India in working a constitutional scheme to cover the entire country.

British Indian representatives concurred. Yet today these same spokesmen are disposed to think that co-operation with the princes might hamper their own advance upon democratic lines. It is because of this apprehension that federation is no longer popular among them.

One of the major considerations concerns the question of India's prestige. The Indian of British territory is set upon full equality of status for his country with that of Canada, Australia and South Africa. He is convinced that to share governmental responsibility with the princes would be likely to postpone progress toward the attainment of such status. This is because the princes are closely linked with the British Crown by treaties on which they depend for the maintenance of their own prerogatives.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that a number of the princes, and especially those whose territories are not individually large enough to insure direct representation in the new central legislature, have also become doubtful about the desirability of co-operating in the federal scheme as now proposed.

This appeared in the recent conference of princes in Bombay where a resolution was passed demanding material changes in the scheme. It does not mean that the proposed constitution will not be worked by Indians after it has been brought into operation. Responsible Indian politicians wisely recognize that the scheme is a big advance in the matter of self-government upon what has previously been in operation. The more far-seeing of them realize also the undoubted fact that federation of some kind is the best, perhaps the only, way to the ultimate realization of their very justifiable ambition to make India into a nation.

HEPBURN'S REPUDIATION OF CONTRACTS

The Premier's bill declaring the contracts for power which the Ontario Government entered into some years ago with four Quebec companies "illegal, void and unenforceable", is perhaps the most amazing piece of legislation that has ever been introduced in a British Legislature, the Toronto Mail and Empire states. It flies in the face of all British and Canadian traditions of honor and fair-play in business. It is tantamount to German's action in 1914, in declaring her pledge to protect the rights of Belgium, a scrap of paper.

The Ontario Premier's action is all the more astonishing in view of the fact that he has not even charged, any of the companies with wrong-doing or with improper methods in obtaining the contracts. If the legislation should be adopted and become operative it will destroy the credit of the province and make it almost impossible to borrow money hereafter in the world's markets. Mr. Hepburn and the majority of his colleagues in the Cabinet seem to have no realization of this inevitable outcome of their present course—though we are aware that a minority of the Cabinet are opposed to the step that has been taken.

Nor has the Government any apparent consideration for the thousands of small investors in the power companies, the value of whose bonds and shares will be largely destroyed by the precipitate and, we think, immoral action now being taken in Queen's Park. Mr. Hepburn and those of his colleagues who stand with him are evidently obsessed with the idea that they are merely striking at big business and the millionaire class. The simple truth is that the securities involved were largely distributed amongst a multitude of small holders, and that the insurance companies and other corporations who hold the rest of the securities are the trustees of tens of thousands of other small investors and policy holders. It is mainly against people of small means and hard-earned savings that the crime is being committed.

It must be added that the people and the industries of Ontario will, in the long run, be heavy sufferers if the Hepburn Government is able to turn back the supply of power which will be greatly needed in this province once the depression, now gradually lifting, is a thing of the past. We have it on the authority of Sir Adam Beck and Mr. C. A. Magrath, and of the great engineers who erected the cast structure of Hydro, that the Commission must always look ten years ahead in providing against the ever-increasing demands for electric energy. It may be that in the boom period during which the contracts were made the old Commission overbought, as everybody overbought in those days. If this is so it is a difficulty which should be overcome by negotiation and mutual concessions.

The policy of repudiation should never have been adopted for, it is a boomerang which will cost this province dearly.

There is still a possibility that the Dominion authorities may step in and protect the people and industries of Ontario against a loss of power which they will require before the world is very much older, a myriad of innocent investors against being ruthlessly robbed of their money, and Canada's credit from being irretrievably damaged throughout the world.

MOTHERS AND WIDOWS

(Smith Falls Record News)

It is well that the Vimy Ridge pilgrimage is being made possible for Canadian and Imperial veterans. The railways and steamship lines are co-operating by giving greatly reduced fares. Everything that can be done is being done to turn hope into reality in the hearts of Canada's Great War heroes.

However, there is just one thing that might be overlooked—and what a great pity it will be if it should be.

What about the mothers and widows? For over twenty long years the constant thoughts of many a Canadian mother and widow have been in Flanders Fields. And, we feel sure, more than once fond hopes of some day visiting the battlefields of France have made their suffering more endurable. Would it not be a wonderful gesture on the part of the Dominion Government to invite war mothers and widows, who otherwise would be obliged to stay at home, to make the pilgrimage to Vimy as honored guests of Canada? Surely they have a right to be present when the magnificent memorial to Canada's dead is unveiled at Vimy Ridge. From a monetary view it is small recompense for the sacrifice they made. Canada can never repay them for all it owes to these great heroes. Our sincere wish is that the Dominion Government may see its way clear to give them a free trip.

WE'VE PAID FOR WAR

(Edmonton Bulletin)

While Europeans are thinking about the possibility of another war, here are some figures which suggest Canadians do some plain and purposeful thinking about the last one.

Questions asked the other day in the House of Commons brought the information that Canada's war borrowing, down to November 11, 1918, reached a total of \$1,447,138,558.44. Of this sum \$1,339,526,528.91, was borrowed by issuing bonds which are exempt from taxation.

We are still paying interest on the entire amount of these war borrowings—every dollar of it. Issues which

have fallen due have been met by fresh borrowings, and the war debt stand as it stood when the bugles sounded the armistice.

At 5 per cent — some of the bonds carried 5 1-2 per cent — the interest bill on this sum approximating \$1,500,000,000.00, is \$75,000,000.00 every year.

More than fifteen years have elapsed since November of 1918. But some of the bonds were issued and drawing interest years before that date. Taking this into account, we shall by this time next year have paid in interest the entire amount of the war debt—and will still owe the whole \$1,447,138,558.44.

SNAPSHOTS

This is be kind to dumb animals week, and Dora thinks that husbands should be included, as most of them are awfully dumb.

When Mr. Bennett became chief executive of the nation he amazed many members of the civil service by reaching for a 'phone when he wanted information, and going right to the source for it. This was so contrary to all tradition of the office that misunderstandings frequently resulted.

On one of the occasions, the Prime Minister called up one of the lady clerks in the Post Office Department and began:

"This is R. B. Bennett talking . . ."

"Oh, yeah?" came back the swift response "Pleased to meet yuh!"

Greta Garbo at this end!"

Big executives get together socially; and they chaff each other, but nobody passes any compliments. That's considered superfluous.

They say the brain is dulled right after a heavy meal; but people don't eat heavy meals any more, so they're bright all the time.

A scientist has discovered a way to stop the bleeding of everybody except taxpayers.

They say when one has done the impossible, a thousand can do it. But we see that Mamma Dionne still stands alone.

We are losing faith in the "Fifty Years Ago Today" department of the newspapers, none of them describes the beginning of the depression.

All singers may sing "Swanee River," and sometimes a rare voice undertakes it so that the hearers are in tears. That isn't art; that's a gift.

Religious observance is evidently coming back to Russia. The inhabitants, we read, are being supplied with soap. And if there is a Saturday night, there must be a Sunday.

Free speech doesn't satisfy a sore-head. He wants a law requiring others to listen.

A Radical leader is one who can get a living by making people feel sorry for themselves.

VACHON FATALITY SUIT IS DISMISSED

THREE RIVERS, Que., April 8—The first of a series of four actions for damages taken against the City of Three Rivers Corporation as a result of the automobile accident in which Chief of Police Jules Vachon was killed last summer, was dismissed in Superior Court by Judge Hugues Fortier.

Judge Fortier dismissed the action for \$5,000 taken by Joseph St. Pierre, who was in the car with the chief. Constables Desaulniers and Martin also were seriously injured and have actions pending against the city. Mrs. Vachon has inscribed an action for \$40,000 as compensation for the death of her husband.

WINGHAM, Ont., April 7—R. J. Deachman, of Ottawa, tariff expert and writer on economics yesterday was chosen Liberal standard bearer in North Huron for the coming federal election. His selection, on the first ballot by a majority of 43 votes over three prominent Liberal residents of the county came as a surprise for few of the rank and file of the party knew of his prospective candidacy.

**CANDY PILLS**

Chocolate-coated or pink candy laxative pills generally contain strychnine. The amount in each pill is not very great—1,120 grain—not enough to hurt an adult. One of them might not hurt a child either, but the danger is that the child who gets at them unobserved does not stop with one. The sugar coating tastes good and it goes on eating until discovered or until there are no more. Children have been known to eat as many as 80 or 90 of these pills.

Largely as a result of such happenings, some 600 children under five years of age died in the United States during a three-year period, while in Canada, official statistics show 52 such deaths.

Entire removal of strychnine from the formulas of these laxative tablets is therefore recommended by two Toronto physicians, Drs. John R. Ross and Alan Brown, who report to the Canadian Medical Association the extent of this menace to small children, as outlined above. The same suggestion has been made by physicians in the United States. Laws requiring a "Poison" label on all medicines containing strychnine have been recommended likewise, both the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

Physicians themselves are taken to task for their share in the situation by the Editor the Canadian Medical Journal. Doctors have been too ready to consider such tablets harmless, the Editor says. Furthermore, patients have drifted into the habit of taking them because doctors have not taken the trouble to prescribe suitable treatment leading to permanent relief.

SURPRISE!

CHICAGO, April 8—Judge David in the superior court was surprised.

"Don't," he asked of Mrs. Ebba Leaf, "you want any alimony?"

"Oo," she said.

"What," asked the court, "are things coming to?"

"Well, judge, now that I'm rid of him, I won't have to support him any more."

The "him" was husband, Eric Leaf. She alleged he gave her a headache by clouting her. Divorce granted.

U. N. B. Won Swim Meet in Splash With Moncton Y.M.C.A.

Breaking three records, the University of New Brunswick Swimming Squad took the Moncton Y. M. C. A. team into camp Saturday afternoon at the Residence pool, total score \$3-28. The College team led from the start, the visitors capturing only the diving in which they took both first and second places. Moncton also came second in the 100-yard breaststroke, 120 yard medley relay, and 160-yard relay, the remainder of their score being made up of thirds.

Norman MacLeod of Fredericton won 40 yard backstroke with the record time of 27 4-5 seconds. The old time was 28 3-5 seconds. Vince Sadovsky, U. N. B. iron man, clipped one second off the 40 yard breaststroke record by taking the event in 27 4-5 seconds. The U. N. B. 160 yard relay squad, composed of MacLeod, Sadovsky, Wright and McInnis covered the distance in the fast time of 1 minute, 27 1-5 seconds, as compared with the old record of 1 minute, 32 2-5 seconds.

Most of the events were very one-sided, generally in favor of the Red and Black team. The 100-yard breaststroke was the closest race, Scotcher of U. N. B. barely nosing out Dawson of Moncton.

The diving was judged out of a possible ten, the result then being multiplied by a factor representing the difficulty of the dive. Moncton easily took this event, executing much more difficult dives than the College men. The best dive of the afternoon was Geary's beautifully done one and one-half twist.

Pud McElman, barrel-chested Red and Black plunger, easily won this event with a plunge of 58 feet 7 1-2 inches. He did not, however, equal his own record of 60 feet, the length of the tank. In his winning plunge, McElman was under water for 54 seconds.

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**Hauptmann Alibi**  
Exposed by Cleric

(Continued from Page One)

Mrs. Hauptmann's lectures in Milwaukee last week in behalf of the defence fund spurred the pastor to reveal his story, he said.

Father Kallok explained he met Schumann, who died after being slugged and robbed in Newark, in the summer of 1930 when the architect prepared tentative plans for a church and school building. Schumann, he said, introduced him to Thompson, who tried to sell him insurance.

From then on the priest often went to the Thompson academy to ride. He said it was his understanding then that Hauptmann was dealing in horses for Thompson and "handling his affairs in Wall Street."

conds. Dawson who captured third place for Moncton, would have done much better had he been able to hold his breath longer than 28 seconds.

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