

REMEMBER OUR HOME OWNED STORES

LLOYD GEORGE IS EXPONENT IN ENGLAND OF "NEW DEAL"

The Movement Which Started in United States
Reaches Great Britain

The New Deal marches on. It passes the confines of the United States. It finds an exponent in England in the person of Lloyd George and is the model of new industrial legislation in France. It now comes to Canada. Its broad outlines there have been formulated in a series of radio broadcasts. It is built on the following premises: "Capitalism must change to meet the changed conditions of the new world, if it is longer adequately to serve you".

"The profit motive has served the people these many years and it will continue. But could you leave it unrestrained, uncontrolled, free to do as it pleases? That is license".

"We must now have a social ideal as distinguished from what we conceived to be individual right".

"I am for reform, and reform means government intervention. It means government control and regulation. It means the end of laissez-faire. There can be no permanent recovery without reform".

The speaker is not the leader of Canada's small Socialist group, now is it a "brain trust" delivering an academic lecture. It is R. B. Bennett, Conservative Prime Minister of Canada, nailing the New Deal plank into the election platform of his party. It is Mr. Bennett throwing a bombshell into Dominion politics.

This is an election year in Canada. The term of office of the Bennett government is now expiring. It must seek a renewal of the mandate which it received at the polls in 1930, when it defeated the Liberal Administration of Mackenzie King. It attained power on the crest of the wave which in depression upsets governments indiscriminately. Its platform contained nothing unusual, nothing radical.

It was elected on the traditional Conservative policy of higher tariffs. It summoned a special session of Parliament immediately after the election in order to put this policy into effect. It raised Canada's tariff to the highest point in its history, and then negotiated an Empire Trade Agreement. Beyond this it relied on "natural" process of recovery. But as the depression became more serious, the "natural" forces did not seem to assert themselves. High tariffs did not banish unemployment. In fact, the situation grew constantly worse.

Mr. Bennett was compelled to modify some of his principles; he began to administer direct relief to the unemployed; he came to the rescue of the credit of the near-bankrupt Western Provinces. The small Socialist group in Parliament urged drastic reform measures, but they were received with contempt. State intervention and regulation were heretical to the Conservative Party.

Then came Mr. Roosevelt and the "New Deal". The facts of geography had created close economic relationships between Canada and the United States; it was inevitable that the new program would affect the Dominion. At the outset Mr. Bennett declared that there was no room for an N. R. A. in Canada; that Canada was recovering without state intervention. His theme was seized upon in anti-Roosevelt circles in the United States; financial journals pointed to "recovery" in Canada as an example of the operation of natural forces, unhindered by state interference. But a change was soon to come: the facts of economics and politics are all-powerful.

The distress of the producers of primary products in Canada, deprived of their foreign markets, and the defeat of the Conservative Governments in two of the Provinces led to a partial conversion of Mr. Bennett in 1934.

The legislation enacted by Parliament last year manifested the first influences of Mr. Roosevelt's policies in Canada. The provisions of the Dominion Companies' Act were made

more stringent. Monetary legislation was modified by reducing the required gold reserve against notes, with a consequent expansion of the currency. A moderate public works program was initiated. The farmers' debt burden was reduced by the enactment of farmer-creditor debt adjustment acts. The Natural Products Marketing Act was passed with extensive powers of government control and regulation; it

was the most radical and the most bitterly debated measure of the session.

Such was Canada's first installment of the New Deal. It was not ushered in with the enthusiasm displayed by Mr. Roosevelt's supporters; it was not even called a "New Deal" or a reform program. It was followed by crushing defeats of government candidates in by-elections, and by the defeat of two more provincial Conservative governments. In Saskatchewan, as previously in British Columbia, the Conservative party did not return a single member. In Ontario Mitchell Hepburn became the first Liberal Prime Minister since 1905. The prospect was dark for Mr. Bennett; it was apparent that he was destined for an inglorious defeat. He decided to call the New Deal to the rescue.

A Royal Commission has been investigating Canadian business practices for many months, following the lines of Congressional investigations at Washington. It has disclosed highly unsatisfactory conditions — low wages, long hours, child labor, sweat shops and exploitation of the primary producer. Its chairman was H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce in Mr. Bennett's Cabinet. When Mr. Stevens in a number of speeches commented in rather forceful language on the disclosures of his investigation, he brought down upon himself the wrath of certain corporations. Mr. Bennett virtually dismissed him from the Cabinet. This move threatened to split the Conservative Party which already was apparently doomed. Then something happened.

On the night of January 2, Mr. Bennett delivered the first of a series of five radio addresses; it came as a thunderbolt. He took up the torch of Mr. Stevens — and more. He poured out his wrath upon the evils and abuses of the capitalist system; he saw it doomed to extinction unless subjected to governmental control and regulation. In succeeding broadcasts he outlined a legislative program to carry his reforms into effect. The legislation is now being drafted and it is understood, will be presented to the present session of Parliament. It will embrace the following measures:

- (a) Unemployment insurance;
- (b) Health insurance;
- (c) A revised system of old age pensions;
- (d) Federal enforcement of uniform minimum wages and a uniform maximum working week.
- (e) Termination of child labor and of sweat-shop conditions;
- (f) Amendment of the income-tax law to correct inequalities as between earned and unearned income;
- (g) Company legislation to prevent stock-watering and to prohibit non-value stock;
- (h) Regulation of "concentrations in production and distribution" and the prevention of unfair trade practices;
- (i) Appointment of an Economic Advisory Council.

This reform program is extensive, but it is not revolutionary. It embodies provisions of Mr. Roosevelt's N. R. A. and his projected social security measures; it proposes nothing which has not been tried in Great Britain. In so far as it introduces social legislation it will merely raise Canada to the level of a normal modern industrial nation. It is a typical liberal program in the present economic state of society. It is out of the ordinary

only in that it is proposed by the traditional party of conservatism in Canada, presented in forceful language denouncing the evils of capitalism by Mr. Bennett, wealthy bachelor, brilliant corporation lawyer and former bank director.

In enunciating his New Deal platform, the Prime Minister has amazed his own party no less than his opponents. Orthodox Conservatives have always believed in making haste slowly. They have witnessed with suspicion and fear the growing tendency toward state interference. They have attempted to stem the tide, but now find their leader abandoning them. They don't understand it; they don't like it.

Some may have hoped that the torch of laissez-faire and "freedom" would be carried on by MacKenzie King and the Liberal Party. Mr. Bennett hoped so too; he devoted his fifth radio address to a slashing attack on Mr. King as the apostle of reaction. He hoped to provoke him into violent opposition.

Mackenzie King was Prime Minister of Canada for almost nine years. He is a student of the social sciences. He initiated important social measures, such as old age pensions. He is a past master in the art of political strategy.

And so, when Parliament met, Mr. King took the offensive. He did not oppose. He challenged Mr. Bennett to introduce the projected measures immediately. He offered to co-operate in the enactment of all legislation conforming to Liberal principles. He suggested that the proposed reforms were in large part copied from the Liberal platform. He is not going to lead the forces opposed to the New Deal; he is a "New Dealer" himself.

Many years ago, in England, it was said of Disraeli, when he introduced electoral reforms, that he had caught the Whigs bathing and proceeded to steal their clothes. Liberals level the same charges at Mr. Bennett today. They are not alone. The Socialist group — the Co-Operative-Commonwealth-Federation — likewise claims credit for some of the measures. Their chief, J. S. Woodsworth, tireless worker in Parliament, former clergyman, longshoreman and strike leader, has



there is nothing to obstruct the reform of company legislation, in so far as Dominion companies are concerned. The constitutional difficulties, as in the United States, arise in the matter of social and industrial legislation. But the cases are not entirely parallel. The Canadian Constitution contains no guarantees of personal liberties or rights of property; no legislation can be nullified on the alleged infringement of such rights. Therein it differs from that of the United States. The problem in Canada arises from the distribution of powers between the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial legislatures. This distribution was made in 1867: it has not since been changed.

The Constitution assigns "the regulation of trade and commerce" to the Dominion Parliament; it assigns "property and civil rights in the province" to the Provincial Legislatures. It is the conflict between these two powers which is principally responsible for the present constitutional problem.

The term "property and civil rights" is wide enough to include nearly all legislation outside of pure criminal law; and it has been so interpreted by the Courts. The control of Labor in industrial undertakings has been declared to be primarily within the competence of the Provincial legislatures. This has been understood to apply to the whole field of social legislation, such as unemployment insurance, old age pensions, minimum wage laws, and acts regulating hours of work. The courts have declared unconstitutional a Federal Act for the settlement of strikes and lockouts, as well as Federal Acts regulating combines and prices, on the ground that they infringed upon "property and civil rights". The Dominion power to regulate trade and commerce was relegated to a subsidiary and auxiliary function. If therefore would appear that Mr. Bennett's attempts to introduce uniformity of social legislation and to regulate industry may be shattered on the rocks of constitutionalism.

In order to avert constitutional difficulties, the government may proceed in one of three ways: (a) by amendment of the Constitution; (b) by requiring concurrent provincial legislation; (c) by the exercise of a combination of Dominion legislative powers. The first method is difficult because the power of amendment is not vested in the Dominion. It requires an Act of the British Parliament. The method of concurrent legislation is inconvenient and unsatisfactory, particularly where uniformity is necessary. The third involves the exercise of the following Dominion powers:

- (a) The regulation of trade and commerce;
- (b) The raising of money by any mode or system of taxation;
- (c) The control of the postal service;
- (d) The criminal law;
- (e) The power to perform the obligations arising under treaties;
- (f) The power "to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Canada".

It may be taken for granted that the Dominion Parliament may enact legislation regulating inter-provincial and international trade. In the exercise of this power the Bennett Government may attempt to impose minimum wages and maximum hours of work on industries engaged in such trade and commerce. It may invoke in aid of this legislation the exercise of the Federal powers of taxation, the control of the postal service, the enactment of criminal law, and the enactment of laws for "peace, order and good government". Such legislation may, of course, be nullified by the courts on the ground that it is "colorable"—that is, that it seeks to do indirectly what it cannot do directly.

Recent judicial decisions have drawn attention to the power of the Dominion Parliament to legislate in the performance of obligations assumed by Canada or by any Province under treaties. Canada is a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles and is a member of the League of Nations.—By H. G. Goldenberg, Lecturer at McGill.

Josef Koestner, the Sentinel's Director, is already planning his move to the country for the summer. Seems there's plenty of work to be done on his flower garden and he wants to get at it.

WINTER'S "HANG-OVER"

ASTUFFYHEAD robs you of sleep...spoils your day. To clear your head quickly, use the convenient...



SENATOR LONG CALLS RELIEF IN ELECTION FUND

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23—Senator Huey P. Long, jumped into Senate work relief with a vigorous plea against giving the President "five billion dollars to spend in getting re-elected".

During an exchange between Senator Edward P. Costigan, (Democrat, Colorado), and Senator George W. Norris (Republican Nebraska), on "pork barrel" legislation, Long interrupted: "Somebody's going to have to do the pork barrel work and the question is whether Congress is going to do it or these bureaus and departments under the executive.

"Does any one think that with a Presidential election coming on it is

Modern Work at a Moderate Cost
SIGN LETTERING
Work by Hour—Day—or Job
CLEAN AND CAREFUL WORKMANSHIP
Have an Artist do your brushwork and not a handy man.

Call
RALPH C. GIBBS
Former Student N. Y. Federal School of Art.

Phone 67. 327 Queen St.

WHEN THE OCCASION REQUIRES THE PURCHASE OF A FUNERAL Those who investigate will find our prices lowest. Prompt and efficient service. Complete stock and equipment. Complete funeral including motor hearse and services \$50, \$75, \$100 and upward. No extra charge for delivering to rural districts.

H. R. ADAMS
459-461 KING STREET
(Next Wilmut Church)

the fair thing to give that man \$5,000, 000,000 to spend where it will do the most good?"

It's all very well for Germany to make dress materials out of wood, but what is it going to do about the knot-holes?

PROFESSIONAL

DR. J. C. McMULLEN
Dentist
X - RAY
Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-5.30 p.m.
Phone 504 Loyalist Building

G. I. NUGENT, M. D.
333 BRUNSWICK STREET
Phone 808.
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Hanson, Dougherty and West
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, Etc.
Carleton Chambers,
61 Carleton St. : Fredericton

DR. G. R. LISTER
: Dentist :
QUEEN STREET : Below Regent
Phone 531-11
Burchill-Wilkinson Building

While still in possession of the vigor imparted by our glorious crisp winter, we should at once get busy and have our house cleaning done before catching the last run of late spring flu or that down-and-out feeling that gets you at the bud period. A very good start is to lay some NEW . . .

Hardwood Floors
These we can supply in three thicknesses and three grades to suit your pocket as well.
J. C. Risteen Co., Ltd.

INSURANCE

HOWARD H. BLAIR

RELIABLE BRITISH AND CANADIAN COMPANIES

PHONES — Office 291-21 68 YORK STREET
Residence 345-11

—You Can Rest Assured—

ORANGES

Another shipment of Nice Spanish Oranges, only . . . 25c per doz.
Jaffa Oranges 39c doz. Extra Large Navel Oranges
Grapefruit, Lemons, Bananas, Apples

FRESH MEATS AND FISH

A. E. EARDLEY Phone 618 and Be Satisfied.
Home-owned Store
Corner Brunswick and St. John Streets

NEW CABBAGE

CELERY, LETTUCE, RIPE TOMATOES, NEW BERMUDA
CARROTS, ORANGES, APPLES, BANANAS

HAROLD YERXA

GROCERIES, MEATS AND FISH

PHONE 305 89 YORK STREET

THE CAPITAL GARAGE

— W. E. Vaughan, Proprietor —
QUEEN ST. FREDERICTON, N. B. CAMPBELL ST.
PHONE 206-21 OFFICE 206-41

Northern Electric Radios

Lacquer System of Painting Tires and Accessories of All Kinds

Johnson Outboard Motors and Boats
ver Automatic Brake Testing Service

DISTRIBUTORS FOR U.S.L. BATTERIES
Special Attention to Tourist Travel OPEN ALL NIGHT