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# The Daily Mail

WEATHER  
Strong east to southeast  
winds, and gales with rain;  
Sunday, strong winds, cloudy  
with scattered showers and  
snow flurries.

VOL. XLI., NO. 87

FREDERICTON, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1935

Two Cents Per Copy

## MASS BUYING COMMISSION REPORT

### Takes Long Step Towards Control Of State Business

**Vast Is Its Scope and the  
Whole Body of Indus-  
trial Activity Placed  
Under Review.**

OTTAWA, Ont., April 13—Long steps in direction of state control of industry and commerce in Canada, motivated by the twin objectives of assuring workers and primary producers a larger return for their work and of protecting consumers against profiteering, whether by the sale of inferior products, or exorbitant prices of stock-jobbing, are recommended in the report of the royal commission on price spreads and mass buying tabled in the House of Commons yesterday.

The key point of the majority report of the commission made to Hon. R. B. Hanson, minister of trade and commerce is the setting up of a federal trade and industry commission compared of five members. With a status similar to that of the Board of Railway Commissioners the commission would be semi-autonomous and, besides being clothed with wide powers of supervision, regulation would serve as an advisory body to the government on all matters relating to trade and industry.

The former resulted in reorganization of Canadian National Railways and the scheme of co-operative operation between Canadian National and Canadian Pacific systems; the latter in revision of banking laws and creation of a central bank. Similarly the price spreads report is expected to received fulfillment in law at the present session of Parliament.

Including the minority report of E. J. Young, Liberal member for Weyburn, the reservations of other Liberal members who signed the majority report and the appendices, the document runs to 499 pages and approximately 350,000 words.

#### For Reorganization

More complete organization of Canadian industrial and business life is contemplated in the report. The proposed federal trade and industry commission would be charged with strict administration of the Combines Investigation Act and retention and promotion of competition wherever possible. Where competition is impossible, however, the commission would act to regulate a monopoly. It would be its duty to sanction self-governing agreements within an industry and to probe and prosecute unfair trade practices with wide discretion as to a definition of that term.

#### Affecting Labor

In the field of labor and wages, reduction of hours of work with a uniform 44-hour week for all Canada is recommended, either by federal or uniform provincial legislation. Improved and more strictly enforced minimum wage laws are proposed.

The extension of collective agreements between employers and employees is urged and another suggestion is the encouragement of the organization of trade unions, and greater recognition of unions by governments and employers. Encouragement of the formation of organization of employers of labor is also urged.

#### Livestock Marketing

Sweeping changes in methods of livestock marketing are among reforms proposed for the farmer. Direct shipment of all livestock to stockyards, lower commissions for agents, licensing of all commission agents, licensing of all trucks carrying livestock, discontinuance of the fixed differential methods of selling hogs,

### Co-Operation Needed

A statement went the rounds of the daily press some weeks ago that, according to the Dominion Government figures, New Brunswick was the most illiterate province in Canada in proportion to our population. This was a pretty hard dose to get after all our long years of boasted free schools. The Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick was unable to give any information of figures when asked about this matter. Now, from down in Nova Scotia comes the statement from a professor of one of the leading universities in the Maritimes that the illiterate retard the province of our sister province also. Prof. A. B. MacDonald of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N. S., estimates from "ten to forty per cent of the population is illiterate" in many of the rural and poorer urban circles of that province.

The university represented by Prof. MacDonald has been recognized all over Canada as one doing wonderful social work through its extension courses amongst the people outside of university life. Speaking of this social work, Prof. MacDonald says that the University is handicapped by the illiteracy in rural and poorer sections. He says that while vast sections of the adult population of the province based their understanding of its perplexing problems upon "the flimsy background of little more than supplementary schooling," he declared in a lecture, it was "futile" to expect much progress and impossible to arrive at a solution of present difficulties.

Knowing nothing of the complex society in which they live, and ignorant, even, of the tremendous social changes of the last half century, they fell an easy prey to false social and economic propaganda.

In his opinion, Nova Scotia was "suffering from the effects of an economic system that had ceased to function."

For years the Antigonish professor has been advocating the co-operative movement to Nova Scotian community dwellers. In eastern Nova Scotia where the movement is most popular, many communities and their inhabitants have become self-supporting by agreeing to pool capital and resources for the common good.

That, he claims, is the best solution of the present problem of Nova Scotia and the world in general. In England, seven million workers have banded together for carrying on business and own and control factories, wholesale and retail stores and transportation systems, bank, insurance, restaurants, farms, and other undertakings. Last year a profit of \$130,000,000 went back to the workers from the huge undertaking.

Mere financial gain was not the only benefit of such a movement, he contended. From it the individual would emerge dignified and refined, fit to enjoy all the cultural advantages of the modern world. Living as we do today, the average person has no time to go in search of the aesthetic. People should live, not exist.

grading of cattle, removal of a percentage of canner and cutter beef from the market and reduced freight rates on livestock for export are proposed.

Inspection of deliveries of fruits and vegetables for quality, grade and weight would be continued and tightened up. The fishing industry also calls for a quota of reforming measures.

#### Weights and Measures

For the protection of the consumer the tightening up of the weights and measures inspection act is suggested. Penalties for infraction would be increased and additional inspectors appointed. Retailers would be allowed to include the weight of a paper container in the net weight of goods sold but in the case of goods liable to shrinkage the net weight would have to be a "dry" weight. The National Research Council would be empowered to analyze or test any product at the request of consumers.

Sweeping changes in company laws are proposed. Issuance of no par value stock would be prohibited or the crediting of the full proceeds to capital accounts would be required.

Companies would be prohibited from distributing as dividends increases in asset values resulting from write-ups or appraisals. Such funds would have to go into capital stocks. Increased responsibilities would be placed on directors and promoters and more complete publicity for

company operations in prospectuses and annual reports would be required. Strict provisions to prevent stock-watering are suggested.

As a part of the general scheme of regulation of trade and industry and functioning either under the federal trade and industry commission or some branch of department of government the report proposes the creation of a number of boards to deal with particular phases of commercial and industrial life.

Under the commission would be a securities board to deal with corporate financing. "consumer commodity standards board" would also function as a division of the commission. Its duties would be to establish standards for consumers, enforce them and publish findings of non-conformity to standards, of harmful or injurious substances or of excessive price spreads. A livestock board would be set up "under appropriate jurisdiction" clothed with wide grading methods, disseminated information, assists producers to secure a fair return and study market requirements.

Endowed with similar but less extensive powers would be the fisheries control board which would have the general object of benefiting the fishermen and the fish-eater by eliminating unsound trade practices and cut-throat competition and improving

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### BI - WEEKLY SAILINGS IN EFFECT MAY 3

Steamer Saint John of Eastern S.S. Lines Will Leave India Wharf In Boston, Tuesdays and Fridays—Arrive Saint John Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The steamer Saint John of the Eastern Steamship Lines will begin bi-weekly service between Boston and the city for which she is named on Friday, May 3rd.

The steamer Saint John will leave India Wharf, Boston, on Tuesday and Fridays and will arrive in Saint John on Wednesdays and Saturdays, returning to Boston on the same days. This arrangement will continue in effect from May 3rd until June 9th. On the latter date the regular tri-weekly summer service will be inaugurated.

### Large Funeral Today For the Late Mrs. John Feeney

The funeral of the late Mrs. John Feeney who died on Thursday, was held this morning from the home of Mrs. Fred Rowan, 674 King Street at 8:45 o'clock to St. Dunstan's church where High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Rt. Monsignor Carney at nine o'clock. The service was impressive and a large number attended. The pall bearers were:—Vincent Jamieson, Louis Jamieson, Gregory Rowan, Walter Hurley, Jack Lawlor, and Thomas Kane, while the chief mourners were as follows:

John Feeney, Addison McGrath, Frederick Rowan, James Jamieson, John McDonough, Allen Rowan, Kenneth Jamieson, Rogers McGrath, Harry McGrath, Frank McGrath, Gerald McGrath, William McGrath, Charles McGrath, Harold Feeney, Alfred Feeney, Arnold Feeney, Joseph Cain, Gerald Cain, Arthur McCashion. Interment was made in the cemetery at Newmarket.

#### LEAVES FOR BUFFALO, N. Y.

John Stephens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Stephens, North Devon, left yesterday for Buffalo, N. Y., on an extended visit. Mr. Stephens who is a former employee of the mechanical staff of The Daily Mail, was tendered a farewell party at St. Anthony's church rectory this week at which about thirty of his friends were present. A general sing-song was engaged in by the young men and women present and during the evening Rev. Fr. Donahoe presented Mr. Stephens with a box of flowers and a nice travelling bag in token of the esteem in which the young man was held.

#### DEATH OF BABY

The death occurred this morning of Alden George Gammon, nine-days' old child of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Gordon Gammon, 416 Northumberland street. Surviving besides the parents, are two brothers, Frederick Glendon, and Randolph Glane; also a sister Betty Bernice. Burial will take place at Durham on Sunday afternoon and Rev. Mr. Shanklin will conduct the service. The sympathy of friends has been extended to the bereft parents.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 13—Frederick E. Peeler, 20, former Buffalo and Rochester broker dealing in Canadian securities, today was sentenced to serve from one to two years in prison on his plea of guilty to one of seven indictments charging him with misappropriating his client's stock.

### Mr. Stevens Explains His Resignation

#### Introduced Report



HON. R. B. HANSON, K. C.  
Who as Minister of Trade and Commerce introduced Mass Buying Commission Report into House of Commons.

### THIRD DEATH MURCHIE FAMILY IN THREE DAYS

ST. STEPHEN, April 12—The death occurred at Chipman Memorial Hospital here this afternoon of Mrs. Mary Ann Nesbitt, as the result of a stroke which she suffered while in St. Stephen shopping this morning.

Mrs. Nesbitt was born at Old Ridge 79 years ago, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Murchie, and had resided there all her life. Some years ago she married Freeman Nesbitt, who died ten years ago. Mrs. Nesbitt is survived by three daughters, Mrs. George Whirly, Bailey; Mrs. Thomas Bartlett, Hartford, Conn., and Miss Maria, Hartford; one son, Stanley, Connecticut and two brothers, William and John Murchie.

Mrs. Nesbitt's death is the third in the Murchie family within a few days. Mrs. E. G. Beer, of St. Stephen and Mrs. A. T. Murchie of this city, dying earlier this week Mrs. Murchie's funeral took place in St. Stephen yesterday.

### WEEK-END MARKET

Saturday Market at Phoenix Square  
Sees Many Farmers Present With Produce—Eggs Slightly Higher As Easter Season Approaches—The Prices.

Today's market at Phoenix Square was a large one, many farmers were present and prices were about as usual. The price of eggs was slightly higher since the Easter season is near at hand and sold as high as 25 and 27 cents per dozen. The prevailing prices were as follows:

Eggs, per dozen, 25 and 27 cents.  
Butter, per pound, 25 cents.  
Chicken, per pound, 30 cents.  
Veal, per pound, 6 to 10 cents.  
Pork, per pound, 10 to 15 cents.  
Potatoes, per barrel, 75 cents.  
Carrots, per barrel, \$2.  
Maple syrup, per bottle, 35 cents.  
Maple sugar, 10 cents per cake.

#### TO TOUR EUROPE

Mr. and Mrs. Dugald Tozer and family expect to leave during the early summer on an extended tour to England where Mr. Tozer will visit his old home. They will take their automobile and tour the various parts of the British Isles, and possibly other places on the continent.

**Creates a Scene in the  
House of Commons As  
He Admits Responsibility  
For Newspaper  
Reports Published In  
Certain Papers.**

In the House of Commons yesterday Hon. H. H. Stevens admitted responsibility for the mass buying report reaching the press and explained why he resigned from the Conservative Cabinet. Mr. Stevens gave the House a lively time of it and it was a very hectic afternoon.

He clashed with Secretary of State C. H. Cahan, explained why he resigned from the Bennett government last October, and declared he had no apologies to offer any man for his conduct in relation to the mass buying commission.

To top off the tense, dramatic scene, the former minister of trade and commerce jumped to his feet when the mass buying commission report was tabled and moved its adoption. It was believed to be unprecedented in modern parliamentary history for a private member of a commission to move the motion which usually comes from the chairman.

The feature of the incident was the enthusiastic desk-thumping by Conservative members which greeted the former minister. Early in the afternoon, Mr. Stevens accepted responsibility to premature publication of the recommendations of the price spreads commission. This led the Secretary of State to enter the debate with references to oaths of office. When Mr. Stevens rose to reply, referring to his resignation from the cabinet, his voice was drowned out by applause from Conservative back benches.

#### Admits Responsibility

The incident opened with Liberal Leader Mackenzie King referring to premature publication of the price spreads report.

This drew from Mr. Stevens, the admission, "I find that I must take the responsibility for this information having reached the hands of the press. No one regrets more than I do its premature publication."

The Liberal Leader opened another chapter by reading from the correspondence that passed between Mr. Stevens and Prime Minister R. B. Bennett in which the prime minister accused his cabinet colleagues of unethical practices as chairman of the price spreads committee.

"This is perfectly true, but on the morning of the 26th before noon—and the cabinet council was to re-assemble in the afternoon—to my annoyance I found that there appeared in the press a fairly complete resume of what had happened in council, in regard to which a very solemn oath had been taken."

Mr. Stevens said he was asked to apologize to those offended by his pamphlet or resign. "I declined. I resigned from the cabinet and as chairman of the committee because I felt it desirable that the chairman should be in harmony with the views of the government."

It was true, as the Liberal leader charged, he had made speeches on what was going on before the commission, Mr. Stevens. He did it deliberately so the commission would not be allowed to die.

Going back to January 1934, when the original price spreads committee was formed at his suggestion, Mr.

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