

## THE DAILY MAIL

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### MASS BUYING REPORT

The recommendations of the Mass Buying Commission tabled in Parliament yesterday by Hon. Mr. Hanson, Minister of Trade and Commerce, contains some good features. They contain others that will probably be decidedly unpopular throughout the country. Some of the recommendations were called for evidence before a parliamentary committee showed some very bad conditions in regard to business, and some very dishonest transactions carried out by several large business concerns throughout the country. Legislation tending to remedy these conditions in chain stores and in other institutions should be introduced and passed. We can trust the general run of business men as being an honest chap. If this is so do not hang any more weights on him at the present time. He has restrictions like the unpopular and unreasonable sales tax and other things to contend against as well as the depression. If the House of Commons adds any more weights in the way of expense and restrictions the business man will cease to be. Those who impose the expense and restrictions will also cease to be.

### FAN MAIL

A popular radio performer divulges the fact that he cares to see only those letters in the day's grist that give him a "panning." Praiseful missives—far more numerous we are led to believe—are read by his secretary and quietly find their way into the office waste basket. Alas for all the lavish paeans to our hero, whether borne on rough foolscap or on stationery rose-tinted and crested! Remarkable artist, craving only rebuke!

Such an attitude is understandable, and doubtless partly wise. Something may be said for the general claim that "every knock is a boost." We learn from our failures. For many years, various business concerns have admonished their patrons, "If you like our work, tell others; if not, tell us." Give us the criticism, is the idea, commendation will take care of itself.

But there is a discipline of praise that, for the vast majority, is more effective. Nothing stimulates effort like a little honest appreciation. As Dr. Samuel Johnson used to say, "The applause of a single human being is of great consequence."

Popular entertainers may find surfeit in the honeyed words, of cheer that assail them. It is not so with the rank and file of humanity. One trouble with fan mail is in its inequitable distribution. Its recipients are too few.

### THE EARL OF DUNDONALD

The death of the Earl of Dundonald at eighty-two recalls not only a brilliant military career, but certain incidents in connection with the Canadian militia that many Canadians will still have vividly in mind. The gallant soldier who dashed through the enemy lines on horseback during the Sudan campaign of 1885 to carry important despatches; who later repeated this feat to convey the sad news of the death of Gordon at Khartoum; who led the final advance into Ladysmith in the Boer War; invented the famous smoke screen employed by the British Navy in the Great War, and did other valuable service, was also noted for his administrative ability and was called to Canada in 1902 to reorganize the Canadian Militia.

He soon found himself embroiled with the politicians, and he had a lively and stormy time fighting them. But the people cheered him when he left in 1904, and he was ultimately vindicated, though feeling at the time was very heated. Dundonald did not fear to speak his mind. He charged that in Canada political interference struck at the root of all efficiency in

the militia, and he set himself the task of fighting it lock, stock and barrel. He undoubtedly effected marked improvements, and his resolute stand awoke public interest and stirred indifference into keen awareness of the need for reform.

### SNAPSHOTS

The mass buying commission report is bound to be unpopular. Business has enough shackles tied on to it at the present time. There are some good features and some others which should not be touched with a ten foot pole by any government.

There is a persistent rumor that cattle are being slaughtered on King Street in this city, and that the matter is being hidden from the health authorities who have been unsuccessful in locating the slaughter house.

The House of Mystery had one blind up to the top yesterday, according to the neighbours.

Automobile drivers who turn the corner quickly without blowing their horns will be in for a big accident some of these days. One such fatal accident was narrowly averted yesterday at the corner of Westmorland and King streets.

If you are paying your radio license be sure you are getting service. It has been poor stuff recently.

### Hon. Mr. Stevens Explains His Resignation

(Continued from Page One)

Stevens said he told the prime minister he would raise his voice at every possible opportunity against conditions which he believed existed. He said he asked originally for a judicial inquiry with a judge presiding but was granted a House committee.

The Liberal Leader had charged he served as judge, jury and prosecutor, Mr. Stevens said. "I ask him or any other member insofar as I ever acted as a prosecutor, to show the one instance where I have been unjust to those who have been brought before the commission."

"I have been accused of unfair practices," said the former minister. I ask one question. To whom have I been unfair? I have been accused of being unfair to Stanley McLean of Canada Packers, to Sir Joseph Flavelle and The Robert Simpson Company, to The T. Eaton Company, to the Canadian Cannery, the tobacco industry and the National Fish Company.

"But has any one charged me with being unfair to the workers who appeared before that committee, to the farmers who came there, to the fruit and vegetable growers or to the small merchants or cattlemen?"

### "My Chief Accuser"

"These are not my accusers. My chief accuser is Mr. Burton of The Robert Simpson Company. That is the man, the leader of the opposition cited yesterday when he read that letter. He was the only one who made a complaint."

"My fate in this thing amounts to nothing," he said. But he refused to be a mere rubber stamp and if he had any views he would express them.

There had been criticism, opposition and obstacles placed in his path ever since the committee was formed, Mr. Stevens said, "I happen to know thousands of dollars have been spent to try and find something that will discredit me."

Mr. Stevens said he could look any man in the eye and state he had played the game. "I have no apologies to the leader of the opposition, this House or any one else for my conduct on the committee or commission. I might have made mistakes, but I tried to do my duty as fearlessly as I could."

### Cahan Reads Oath

Secretary of State, C. H. Cahan rose at this point. He read the oath of office taken by each member of the commission which he said bound them "to report their findings to the minister of trade and commerce and not to a representative of the Toronto press."

Mr. Cahan read from the prime (Continued on Page Five)

### Takes Step Towards Control of Business

(Continued from Page One)

the methods of handling, marketing and processing fish.

In the labor department the creation of a new research division is proposed. It would study industrial relations, disseminate information, draft model labor statutes and plan Dominion-provincial conferences on labor laws. The minister of labor, under another proposal, would be aided by an "unpaid, permanent, representative, rotating and non-partisan advisory council".

Monumental in its proportions and incorporating recommendations which if implemented by legislation would establish Canada's "new deal for business," the report of the royal commission on mass buying was tabled yesterday afternoon in the House of Commons by Hon. R. B. Hanson, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Regulation of industry as a whole by a government board, with more stringent control over various branches of industry chiefly so far as it relates to primary products within the compass of the Marketing Act is the keynote of the report.

The whole body of Canadian industrial activity is placed under the microscope, agencies operating towards its present ailment are detected and the commission makes strong recommendations designed to eliminate them. Principally the commissioners analyze and comment on operations of those corporations, investigations of which was their main business. But in the progress of their inquiry they accumulated such a vast amount of evidence covering practically all aspects of industry in general that they embrace the whole economic fabric of Canada in their suggested solutions.

### "Monopolistic Control"

The report is replete with references to "monopolistic control" exercised by various corporations. Such control, it is recalled from the evidence, has in the past prevented free competition, and until the monopolies are regulated for the public weal the consequences of their activities will continue harmful to the body politic. This, in general, sums up the commission's attitude towards this development.

The industrial section of the report, extending to approximately 40,000 words, paints a cheerless picture of conditions in Canada. It presents tobacco manufacturers as enriching themselves at the expense of their workmen and the primary producers. Enormous salaries and bonuses received by executives of tobacco companies are contrasted with pittance paid employees and distress prevailing among the growers.

Packing-houses are severely criticized for control they are declared to exercise over livestock marketing, for what is declared to be studied efforts to prevent free competition in purchasing from farmers, and for "cut-throat competition" they wage with each other to obtain sales outlets.

The financial gyrations of at least one large canning company are subject to terse comment and censure in general are scored for low prices paid to fruit and vegetable growers. One company paid holders of its preferred shares a bonus in a year when it paid the lowest price recorded for tomatoes. The report cites those enjoying this melon were officials or directors of the company itself.

The commission find a serious situation in the flour milling industry and warns those who control it to set their financial house in order, particularly as regards getting rid of its surplus capacity, or bankruptcy will inevitably follow.

The furniture industry is, according to the report, completely dislocated. Surplus capacity is again to blame. The commissioners, while asserting that activities of mass buying forced down factory prices with a consequent depressing of factory wages, nevertheless qualify their comment on mass buying.

They declare themselves open to conviction that mass purchases did enable some furniture factories to keep going. The paradox is noted that those furniture manufacturers who survive the depression will have the mass buyers to thank, while those who go under will have to

### CHURCH SERVICES

Wilmot United Church

John W. Bartlett, Minister.

11 A.M., "The Renewal of Loyalty" Junior Choir will sing.

2.30 P. M., Sunday School, Brotherhood. (Only three more Sundays for Brotherhood, so please stand by).

7 P. M., Evening Service. Illustrated Sermon "The Passion Play at Oberammergau."

Special Lantern Services Holy Week at 8 P. M.

St. Paul's United Church

Sabbath services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Morning theme, "The Renewal of the Church's Loyalty." Evening theme, "Was Jesus Mistaken?" Junior choir at the morning service. Music from Maunders' "Olivet to Calvary," in the evening. Sunday School and Bible classes at 2.30 p.m. Rev. George Telford, M.A., B.D., minister.

Devon Baptist Church

Morning prayer at 10.30 a.m., in vestry. Worship at 11 a.m. "Renewal of Church Loyalty." Church school and Brotherhood at 12.15 p.m. Evening worship at 7 p.m. Special sermon in which Junior B.Y.P.U. will take part. David L. Kennedy, B. Th., minister.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Rev. George E. Ross, D.D., minister. Subject, "Renewal of the Church's Loyalty."

2.30, Sunlay school and Bible class. 7.00, Public Worship. Subject, Practical Christianity. IX, World Relationship.

Communion, First Sunday in May.

Parish Church

6th Sunday in Lent, April 14th. Holy Communion, 8 a.m. Morning Prayer, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 2.30 p.m. Confirmation Class, 3.45 p.m. Evening Prayer, 7 p.m. The morning service will be broadcast by Station CFNB.

Brunswick Street Baptist Church

Preparatory Prayer meeting 10 a.m.; public worship 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; theme for the day: "The Suffering and Triumphant Christ"; continuing special renewal services; Sunday School and Brotherhood, 2.30 p.m. Gerald W. Guion, pastor.

thank the same system for their demise.

Department and chain stores come in for considerable comment. The commissioners believe the former will have a hard time weathering the depression due to their unjustified over-expansion in the prosperous years. This left with them a burden of overhead which becomes increasingly heavy. At the same time the department stores are not condemned, although some practices engaged in are found due for criticism.

Chain Stores

Much is said for and against the chain stores; but the chief complaint is that centralization of control coupled with wide dispersion of operating units is bad, and that this harm is reflected in disturbing practices inimical to the public interest.

The whole report is not unanimous. Three commissioners out of the 11 signed it with lengthy reservations, chiefly on the livestock, tobacco and fisheries industry. One disagreed with the whole thing and wrote a dissentient report of his own.

The majority report was signed by Chairman W. W. Kennedy (Cons., Winnipeg South Centre), Hon. H. H. Stevens (Cons., Kootenay East), Mark C. Senn (Cons., Haldimand), Alex. M. Edwards (Cons., Waterloo South), Thomas Bell (Cons., Saint John-Albert), J. L. Baribeau (Cons., Champlain), and D. M. Kennedy (U. F.A., Peace River)

The three who signed with reservations were J. L. Ilsley (Lib., Hants-Kings), Oscar Boulanger (Lib., Bellechasse) and Samuel Factor (Lib., Toronto West Centre).

The minority report was that of recommendations by the commission on price spreads and mass buying tabled in the House of Commons is very lengthy and deals with various ways of administering the Act.

The high lights of the report which covers the ground, are as follows:

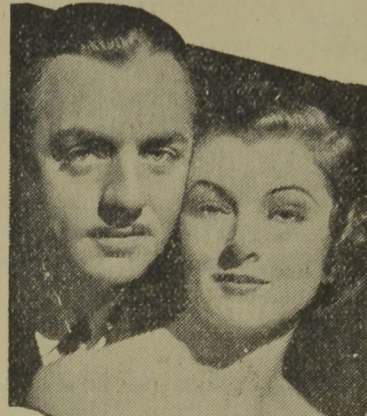
Recommendation for creation of a five-man federal trade and industry (Continued on Page Five)

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