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OTTAWA STARTS ANOTHER DRIVE TO SUBORDINATE THE PROVINCES

Offers Financial Backing to the Provinces Providing Changes Are Made in the British North America Act.

FURTHER attempts to make the interests which control Ottawa supreme and the Provinces subordinate to those interests are seen in the proposals regarding finances which were adopted by representatives of the Provinces and the Dominion at a conference held in Ottawa a few days ago. The Dominion would be willing, providing the necessary changes are made in the British North America Act, to guarantee the loans of the Provinces. These guarantees are to be safeguarded by the Dominion being given security in collateral in the form of pledges of Provincial grants (sometimes called subsidies) payable from the Federal treasury and other specific Provincial revenues.

In the first place the Dominion has already assumed responsibility for the loans of the Provinces and during the last few weeks has provided large sums to Alberta in order that that Province may meet its bond obligations. So why should the Provinces give any further guarantees?

So far as New Brunswick is concerned such an agreement never should be accepted. If it were necessary some arrangement could be made among the Provinces and the Dominion for raising money but there is no need of changes in the British North America Act. New Brunswick, along with the other Provinces, receive annual grants from the Federal treasury in lieu of the customs, which were turned over to the Dominion at the time of Confederation. If Ottawa would turn back to New Brunswick the customs and excise revenue we would not need the annual grant nor would we require any guarantee for loans, because we would not need to borrow money. If these revenues were returned to this Province we could have a surplus each year as was the case before we went in with the other three Provinces to create the Dominion.

One item will illustrate what the customs and excise revenue would mean to this Province. According to figures published under Federal authority, the people of New Brunswick pay in customs and excise on wine, beer, spirits and tobacco something more than \$4,000,000 each year. Besides this there are duty and excise on other articles used by the people of New Brunswick.

When the Dominion authorities speak of backing the loans of the Province one wonders just how they figure in the picture. If the Provinces and the Dominion could work out some co-operative scheme of making loans so that the interest charges would be lower that would be possible without changes in the British North America Act.

Under present conditions, however, New Brunswick has great assets of lands, forests, minerals and other natural products, which should be sufficient backing for any loans that this Province may make. The Dominion has the revenue from the Provinces and has nothing at all excepting what it gets from the Provinces. Still this Dominion, which is only an agency, set up by the Provinces, comes along and offers to back Provincial loans. All the tangible assets of the Dominion come from the Provinces and if some of the Provinces are in poor financial shape and need assistance, whatever they receive from the Federal treasury is really their own money coming back to them.

The Dominion is telling the world how well it conducts its affairs and how poorly the Provinces are doing, when as a matter of fact it is chiefly the fault of the Dominion that some of the Provinces are experiencing financial distress. Had there been kept records of inter-Provincial trade and had there been separate accounts kept of Federal collections and expenditures in each Province there could have been necessary housecleaning before it was too late.

The Dominion has invaded the rights of the Provinces and has inflicted direct taxation contrary to the terms of the British North America Act and the Provinces have submitted without a word. It is time the Provinces, and particularly New Brunswick, made demands that the terms of the partnership agreement be carried out, and no doubt these demands will be made with the full back of the Legislature and the people of the Province.

Another Provincial Deficit

A DEFICIT of \$703,116.84 in operating the Province of New Brunswick during the year ending October 31, 1935, was shown in the financial statement issued this week. The total receipts for the year were \$6,342,491.12, which were nearly three-quarters of a million less than was spent. This is the third year in succession that the Province has shown a heavy deficit. While the deficit this year is \$703,116.84 the previous year showed a deficit of \$876,551.59.

During the last fiscal year the Provincial debt was increased by \$4,939,758. This brings the Provincial debt up to \$53,351,138.53.

For An United New Brunswick

THE LEGISLATURE of New Brunswick will be in session within the next few weeks and the session promises to be one of the most momentous ever held in this Province. The fate of New Brunswick is hanging in the balance and the legislators must work together for the good of the people of the whole Province. This session will be the one in which there will be need of practicing the spirit of patriotism, and patriotism is the love of one's country, and so far as these legislators are concerned New Brunswick is their country.

While the Government party has a large majority, with only five members in Opposition these five should not take it as their sole duty to oppose every measure that comes before the House. These five men are citizens and in their election campaign they pledged themselves to work in the best interests of the people. They should give careful consideration to all legislation and be prepared to offer practical suggestions. They can be good citizens and good party men too by lending their support to those measures which are designed to forward the interests of New Brunswick.

Probably all members of the Legislature will have in mind another election and strive to put themselves in the public eye by delivering fervent speeches. In this connection they should remember that even if their remarks are published in full in the newspapers only themselves, their immediate relatives and probably their most pronounced enemies are liable to read them. So they really gain nothing by long speeches but take up the valuable time of the House, which should be devoted to the serious problems that must be solved.

The people of New Brunswick will be watching the members of the Legislature and by their deeds, not their words, will they be judged. It is the hope of all right-thinking people that the members of the New Brunswick Legislature in 1936 will prove themselves statesmen of the highest order and not just mere politicians.

Provincial Oath Of Allegiance Is Of Long Standing

King Edward VIII. Is The Lawful Sovereign of New Brunswick.

The oath of allegiance as taken by the members of the New Brunswick Government is different from that taken by members of the Dominion Parliament. No mention is made of the Dominion in the Provincial oath, which is as follows:

"I (A.B.) do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Edward the Eighth as lawful Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of this Province, dependent on and belonging to the said Kingdom, and that I will defend him to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies or attempts whatsoever, which may be made against his person, crown and dignity, and that I will do my utmost endeavor to disclose and make known to His Majesty, His Heirs and Suc-

Leaves Commission



HON. GORDON S. HARRINGTON, former Premier of Nova Scotia and Chief Commissioner of Canada's Unemployment and Social Insurance Commission, has announced his retirement from the Commission.

cessors, all treasons or traitorous conspiracies and attempts which (Continued on Page 15, Col. 4)

Gossip from Far and Near

THE death of King George V. and the sorrow of the nation has taken the attention of all people during the last week. The sympathy of all the people will go to members of the Royal Family in their bereavement. Their sorrow is our sorrow.

KING Edward VIII. has taken over his duties as head of the British Empire, the greatest the world has ever seen. His task is a heavy one and as Right Honorable Stanley Baldwin said in his speech over the radio, there will be no release for him while life lasts. Hon. Mr. Baldwin said that statesmen and politicians could retire and end their lives in quietness and peace but the Monarch cannot look forward to anything like that.

THE tributes paid to the late King were as pronounced in foreign countries as within the British Empire. In the United States particularly news of his death was received with the deepest sorrow. Newspapers ran special editions and expressions of sympathy.

THE modern methods of communication played a great part in spreading news of the late King's death. Announcements came over the radio directly from London. Then by means of the radio audiences all over the world were able to hear the proclaiming of the new King direct from the capital of the Empire. By means of the radio even pictures were transmitted throughout the world. The day after the death of King George newspapers in America carried pictures of King Edward VIII taken at Sandringham on the previous day.

HIS Majesty, King Edward VIII., made use of the aeroplane on his first journey after becoming King. He flew from Sandringham to London. He is the first British king to have flown.

Consider The Future

WHILE the Maritime Provinces are three separate units their problems are very similar. While the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island saw fit to throw in their lot with Central Canada in regard to the handling of the British North America Act, it is hoped that after careful study, the representatives of those two Provinces whether they be to the Legislature or to Parliament will not be led blindly into any action which might be instrumental in placing their respective Provinces still further under the power of Ontario and Montreal. The consideration given to the present serious problems should not just be insofar as they concern the present generation but those who are in places of power must give thought to the generations that are to come, the boys and girls of today who will be the men and women of tomorrow.