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BALDWIN MAKES EFFORT PLACATE LABOR

FIRST MEETING TO DISCUSS CIVIC AFFAIRS WAS HELD HERE LAST NIGHT

Stirring Speech by Sir Henry Thornton before Eastern Board of Trade

BROCKVILLE, Ont., Jan. 15.—A solemn, straightforward forewarning to trade people of Canada that the Canadian National Railways cannot reduce freight rates without materilly reducing the gross earning and net receipts of the system to such an extent as to impose further burdens upon the taxpayers of the Dominion, was delivered by Sir Henry Thornton, president of the national system, in an address before the Brockville Board of Trade here last night.

In addition, Sir Henry, in a manner which has added significance in view of the approach of the coming session of the Federal parliament, again reiterated his determination that the Canadian National Railways will not be permitted to be the sport of politicians or the football of politics, as long as he is the executive head of the system.

These two important pronouncements marked the high notes of a speech that was a masterful summary of some of the problems which confront the National Railways and of their solutions. It was a speech which was listened to with rapt attention by more than 200 of the most prominent merchants and business men of Brockville, as well as by leading citizens from other cities and towns of Eastern Ontario.

Too Many Railways

In opening his address Sir Henry dwelt for a few moments on the history of the Canadian National Railways. He admitted quite frankly that Canada was over built with railways, but he pointed out that, that was a fault which could not be corrected, but which having transpired must be dealt with courageously and intelligently and turned into an asset if possible, he felt that with the proper understanding and the proper handling this agreeable situation could be brought about.

He pointed out that during the past year satisfactory progress had been made and that the nett earnings of 1923 would more than triple those of 1922, which were $3,000,000. It was at this point that Sir Henry counselled his audience against anything that would retard this progress

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OLIVER WILL GIVE ADDRESS ALTA. FARMERS

Will Urge Upon Farmers at Edmonton Convention Unification of Demands

FREIGHT RATE FIGHT

VICTORIA, Jan. 15.—Unification of western Canada in a concerted demand for lower freight rates is the object of Premier Oliver's trip to Edmonton, where he will address the Alberta Farmers' convention, he declared.

The premier believes that Alberta and British Columbia will stand together in a fight to the finish on rates. "The west's fight for lower rates," he asserted, "must be carried before the federal government itself and not to the railway board any longer."

SOME BANK OFFICIALS TRIAL IS DELAYED BY APPLICATION OF CROWN

TORONTO, Jan. 15. — In the criminal assizes the trial of ten directors and officials of the Home Bank of Canada, charged with conspiracy, upon application of special crown prosecutor J. L. McCarthy, was adjourned for a month. The accused were admitted to bail in the same amount as granted at the last assizes.

Parliament to Meet February 28 and Session Likely to Prove a Very Interesting One Prophesied

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—Parliament will open Thursday, February 28, was the announcement of Premier King at the close of the cabinet meeting last evening. The date set is almost a month later than last year when parliament assembled on January 31.

The session this year will be momentous. Not only will important questions such as the redistribution of seats and revision of the banking system be before the House but the proceedings will be of special interest because of their bearing on the political question.

Since government took office two years ago, having at no time any effective majority over all parties combined, it always received sufficient progressive and independent support to enable it to carry its measures through the House. In the coming session, unless there are unforseen developments, the dependence of the government on a measure of support from the left of the speaker will be intensified.

HOCKEY SCORES

Victoria 4, Vancouver 3.
Regina 0, Calgary 2.

SUPPORTERS OF ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
— and of —
M. M. STEPHENS FOR MAYOR,
kindly gather at the Committee Rooms in the office of M. M. Stephens and Co. Ltd., Federal Block, each evening until election day.
M. P. McCaffery,
Chairman.

FORESTRY CAR ARRANGEMENTS

Will be Here Thursday Afternoon and Will be Interesting to See

The Canadian Forestry Association's Forest Exhibits Car will reach Prince Rupert on Thursday afternoon and will be officially opened at eleven o'clock Friday morning, January 18, by Fred Stork, M.P. A public meeting on forest fire prevention will be held in the Booth Memorial School at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, January 17, presided over by Fred Stork, M.P., and a short address will be delivered by P. S. Bonney, district forester.

Motion pictures of a unique character, to be shown for the first time in B.C., will provide plenty of thrills and entertainment, as well as instruction. "Red Enemy," a two reel story of the Forest Fire Fiend, and its work, is a masterpiece never to be forgotten, and it is a typical British Columbia picture. "Forest Flashes" is also an unusually good reel with plenty of life in it. Other equally fine reels will be shown. The civic election results will be announced at the meeting.

The Exhibit Car will be spotted close to the station and will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday and all day Monday.

Object of Tour

The Canadian Forestry Association, which is a union of over 15,000 Canadian Citizens, sends this car to B.C., in co-operation with the B.C. Forest Service. The Association is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization, supported entirely by public subscriptions and small government grants and has for its object the conservation and preservation of the Nation's timber wealth, and the prevention of forest fires through educational propoganda. A lengthy tour of B.C. commences on the arrival of the car here, and every citizen should make an effort to see the wonderful exhibits which the car contains, and attend the Thursday evening meeting, which is free to all. Over a quarter of a million people visit the Exhibit Car annually during its ten to twelve thousand mile journey in the forested regions of Canada.

Interior Engagements

After completing its engagement in Prince Rupert, the car will undertake a tour of the Northern Interior and will be at the following places on the dates mentioned:—

Terrace,	January 22
Hanall	January 23
Kitsegukla Indian Reserve—	January 24
Hazelton	January 25
Smithers	Jan. 26, 27 and 28
Telkwa	January 29
Burns Lake	January 30
Endako	January 31

It is anticipated that Interior people will be greatly interested in the exhibits, motion pictures and lectures, which have been designed to bring before the public mind the important question of prevention of further destruction of the limited forest resources by fire.

A. J. McCullough, A. McCullough and A. D. Sykes, who have been operating a logging camp on Massett Inlet for the Massett Timber Co., arrived on the Prince John last night from the Islands. They are on their way to Vancouver, their camp now being closed down.

Jose Rivers, one of the most celebrated and picturesque boxing championship contenders of a few years back, has dropped pugilism to become a violinist. He now soothes them to sleep where he used to put them to sleep in another way.

Another Serious Earthquake in Stricken Japan Causes Much Damage; Few Deaths

TOKIO, Jan. 15.—Fifty persons are believed to have been killed at Tokio and Yokohama and outside districts in an earthquake yesterday. Many people were injured and houses demolished.

In Yokohama the water mains were ripped up and smashed and as a result water flooded the streets and homes. The stock market was suspended because of the failure of communications.

All railway lines between Hirathuka and Chigasaki have been broken and communication between Tokio and Kobe cut off.

The shock of the quake approached in intensity those of September but it endured briefly. The Imperial Hotel here was quickly emptied and a near panic ensued. Thousands of residents of Tokio are breakfasting this morning in the streets, not daring to return to their homes.

British Parliament Opened with Regal Splendor; Baldwin Policy is Outlined in Speech

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The much mooted question of how the Baldwin government would handle the protective issue in the King's speech at the opening of parliament was setted today when the speech candidly referred to the country's rejection of the tariff proposals and indicated their abandonment by the government.

Analysis of Baldwin's swan song, in the opinion of experts, proved it to be a clever effort to spike, as far as possible, labor's guns. A large part of the speech was devoted to a discussion of bills which the Baldwin government would submit for the benefit of the working classes were it permitted to remain in power.

The speech furnished one of the most extensive lists of proposed measures favorable to labor ever placed in the King's message. The Labor Party itself could hardly have issued a more striking pronouncement. The list included the following:

Betterment of industrial conditions.

Provisions for workers' houses.

Amelioration of unemployment.

Readjustment of old age pensions.

According to the opinion of experts, Baldwin was undoubtedly looking ahead to another election when he framed the speech.

The parliamentary Labor Party has decided to bring up the question of confidence in the Baldwin government for decision during the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne.

The ancient splendor and pageantry, which for centuries has been associated with the opening of parliament, was in no way dulled today, the gorgeous royal coach carrying the King and Queen, robed in ermine along the troop lined route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster. Their Majesties continually bowed to the cheers of thousands who watched the procession.

PUBLIC MEETING
A Public Meeting will be held in the Empress Theatre on TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, AT 8.15 P.M., re Civic Affairs.
All Candidates will be given a hearing.
Seats Reserved for Ladies.
S. M. NEWTON
CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.

Stephens Outlines His Policy at Meeting of Electors Last Evening

Defending the policies of economy practised by the city council of 1923 and promising a continuation of such policies with a consequent reduction in taxation if he were returned mayor with a favorable aldermanic board, Ald. M. M. Stephens put forward his claims as a candidate for the mayoralty at a largely attended meeting in the Empress Theatre last evening. M. P. McCaffery presided and all candidates for civic office were invited to the platform and offered the opportunity of speaking. But for the expostulations of Tom Guthrie, who claimed to be a taxpayer, at the iniquity of the $5 poll tax and the remarks of a few wags interjected here and there throughout the proceedings, all the speakers were given attentive hearings indicative of a general quiet interest that is being taken in the campaign.

In opening his address, Ald. Stephens stated his gratification at having had the opportunity of doing something for the city durthe past twelve months. He had made the best of his opportunity. That was demonstrated by the tribute Ald. Macdonald had paid to him for his services as chairman of the finance committee.

Answers Casey

Replying to G. B. Casey's remarks in regard to road questions, Ald. Stephens said it was true that the 1923 council had not seen a report prepared some years ago by Ex-City Engineer F. S. Clements on the situation. He did not know whether or not the report was in the City Hall. The fact of the matter was that some records that should be in the City Hall were not there. This applied particularly to the city engineer's department. Ald. Stephens expressed his satisfaction with the new scheme of road building that had been instituted by the city council last year. The payment for roads on the local improvement district plan, as suggested by Mr. Casey, was, however, not practicable under the Act as read by City Solicitor Jones and the inspector of municipalities.

Complimented Alderman

Replying to remarks by Ald Macdonald, Ald. Stephens said he had not always seen eye to eye with Ald. Macdonald but he (Ald. Macdonald) had proven himself to be as good a sport as there was on the council and he had not been a bad alderman either, even though he might be inclined at times to take a little too much credit upon himself.

Ald. Stephens then went on to explain why he had objected more than anyone else to a proposed reduction in light and power rates. If the power rates were reduced, eventually the taxpayers would have to pay for the reduction. What he wanted to see was the outside taxes coming in. Great danger lay in the reversion of tax sale lots to the city. For every lot that was thus no longer revenue bearing, the remaining property owners had to pay. There had been a reduction of $1,100,000 in the assessment last year meaning reduced revenue. Still further reductions were being made this year and it was necessary for the council to cut its cloth accordingly. After the reorganization of the City Hall, the council did not know how the year would end up financially. If it had had then the experience that it had had since, a lower tax rate might have been given. The surplus of $58,000 left on 1923 operations was only a part of the saving that had been made through the economy ob-

(continued on page two)

FIRE THOUGHT WORK OF THIEF

Burning of Branch Store of Topley Merchants Looks Suspicious

BURNS LAKE, Jan. 15. —The fire which occurred last week at the Babine branch store of Sideris & Marsh, the Topley merchants, is thought to be the work of a thief who took this method of covering his tracks.

$2,500 of stock and furs were burned up when the building was reduced to ashes three days after any member of the firm or employee had been on the premises. Circumstantial evidence points to this fire having been deliberately set by some person or persons. At present Constable Fairbairn or the provincial police force stationed at Telkwa, is out at the Babine investigating the matter. No insurance was carried on the building or stock.

FRANCE MEETS MONEY CRISIS

Increases Taxes and Decreases Expenses View of Fall of Franc

PARIS, Jan. 15. — The French cabinet, acting in the financial crisis caused by the phenomenal fall of the franc, decided to increase all taxes, direct and indirect, by 20 per cent and reduce the recoverable budget in 1924 to 5,000,000,000 francs, which will be met by this taxation.

The ministers agreed also to adjourn discussion on all bills before parliament involving expenditure. The government will introduce a bill balancing the budget.

Announcement is made in the B.C. Gazette that a registry of the supreme court of British Columbia be established at Prince George and the court at Fort George is cancelled. George Milburn is the registrar. Similar action has been taken in connection with the county court.

A PUBLIC MEETING
will be held in the
EMPRESS THEATRE,
Wednesday, January 16,
at 8 P.M.
at which
M. M. STEPHENS
Mayoralty Candidate,
will deal with Civic Issues and reply to his critics.
Aldermanic, School Board, Police Board Candidates invited.
Everybody welcome.