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PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Cost Of Living

An official inquiry into the cost of living in the coal mining districts of Alberta and British Columbia finds that for a man and wife and family of three children the cost of food per week as at last August was $12.54 or 54 cents more than was the case two years ago. This estimate covers food, clothing and furnishings but does not include rent, fuel, light or water.

The official estimate for food was $9.19 a week, for clothing $3.02 and for furnishings and other odds and ends 33 cents. The foods provided for in the budget included milk, two quarts a day, butter, cheese, eggs, sirloin steak, round steak, rolled rib roast, blade roast, stewing beef, veal, lamb, fresh loin of pork, fresh shoulder of pork, ham, bacon, fresh halibut, finnan haddie, canned salmon, lard, and shortening, bread, flour, rice, macaroni, rolled oats, cornflakes, sugar, tea, coffee, and salt, potatoes, onions, beans, canned tomatoes, canned corn, canned peas, and canned beans, raisins, currents, prunes, bananas, oranges, jam, marmalade, corn syrup, canned peaches.

It is evident that many good housekeepers can keep a family well on much less than the sum specified, but, if it is proposed to purchase fruits out of season and other luxuries, the cost is likely to be considerably more. The budget does not provide for waste and does not pay for beer or other strong drinks, amusements and the sundry expenses to which the ordinary family is put.

City Zoning

Prince Rupert has a zoning bylaw to which many people object. It is said to work a hardship on a few people and tends to prevent building. We are not defending the bylaw but simply pointing out that the zoning idea is a splendid one and the present bylaw might possibly be amended in order to improve it and prevent its being a hardship on any one. It is pointed out by its backers that provision is made for a certain amount of latitude by an appeal to the commissioners who have charge of its enforcement.

The Rotarian Magazine this month has an article on zoning which says that the system is in force in 1400 municipalities of various sizes in the United States and that many of them have proved most useful. Most of the cities provide for an area in which any kind of building may be erected. Another district is restricted to business such as retail stores, financial and office areas and the third is entirely residential from which business houses are excluded. This is a protection to residents and property owners.

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DIPLOMACY CHIEF HAS BIG TASK

Canada's Under-Secretary for External Affairs Plays Important Part in Nation's War Effort

By R. K. CARNEGIE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, Oct. 19: (CP)—Lights burn late these nights in the East Block offices of the External Affairs Department where Canada's diplomatic activity, heightened by the war, goes forward under the direction of Dr. Oscar Skelton, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Day and night, week in and week out, correspondence from the world's four corners flows in to the department's offices in the East Block of the parliament buildings. Much of it requires the personal attention of the quiet-spoken under-secretary of state.

He is the chief adviser of Prime Minister Mackenzie King on international problems, an important cog in Canada's war effort.

The under-secretary keeps a close grasp on the entire international situation. While his heaviest task was in the relationship between the United Kingdom government and the Canadian government during the past two years, he also keeps himself constantly informed of developments in Washington. He has at his fingertips the details of Japanese-Canadian relations.

It is common knowledge that Mr. King, as minister of external affairs, reposes unlimited confidence in his under-secretary. While Dr. Skelton was appointed to his present post by Mr. King, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, when prime minister, relied with equal assurance on the decisions of this author-diplomat, a former professor. There is scarcely a day that Dr. Skelton doesn't recommend decisions that effect the international relations of the Dominion.

An Endless Round

The duties of an under-secretary for external affairs seem endless and this has been particularly the case since war broke out. However, during the troubled times for two years before the war the occupant of this post was under almost as constant a strain.

A question arose late one night which only Dr. Skelton could answer. It was after 10 o'clock and a call was put in to his home at Rockcliffe, a suburb of Ottawa. The inquirer was preparing to launch into apologies at having to disturb him at his house but the reply was: "No Dr. Skelton is not home. Did you try his office?" He was still in the East Block and quickly gave the information required.

On another occasion a neighbor with only a slight acquaintance with Dr. Skelton was given a lift downtown from a street car stop in suburban Rockcliffe, frosty with winter's chill. The neighbor rode in the back seat of the Skelton car because the front was piled so high there was no room with the driver. Said the neighbor afterwards: "Dr. Skelton is never too occupied with affairs of state to be a courteous friendly gentleman."

The wonder of it is how he goes on year after year with his heavy responsibilities and the answer appears to lie in his keen sense of humor. Dr. Skelton loves a joke. His face breaks into a foxy smile as he joins in sparkling repartee.

But he is a man of the common people and few shun publicity to the extent he does. He takes his lunch at his club when he entertains some visiting diplomat but when alone he usually goes to some little eating place to grab a meal in a hurry and hustle back to his office.

Wrote on Socialism

Before joining the External Affairs Department, Dr. Skelton was the author of several books. The one which gained the greatest circulation was "Socialism, A Critical Analysis," written in 1910 when he was a lecturer at the University of Chicago.

It was translated into 40 different languages. Lenin, when head of the Soviet, wrote a personal letter to Dr. Skelton in which he said he regarded the book as the most reasoned, impartial and serious criticism of socialism he had ever read. On Lenin's orders a copy of the book was placed in his tomb.

Other books by Dr. Skelton were two on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "The Day of Sir Wilfrid Laurier" and "Life and Letters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier," both of which obtained wide circulation. "Life and Times of Sir A. T. Galt," written in 1920, was another widely read book.

Born in Orangeville, Ont., 1878, the son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Skelton, he was educated in Orangeville and Cornwall High Schools, Queen's and Chicago Universities.

He became lecturer on Political Science at Queen's and after his return from Chicago University became Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1919. He joined the External Affairs Department in 1924 as counsellor and was promoted to his present position in 1925.

Dr. Skelton is fond of gardening. When he can he loves to care for his own flowers at his Rockcliffe place.

In 1904 he married Isabel Murphy and has two sons and a daughter.

Canada's War Chiefs

HON. CHARLES GAVAN POWER
Minister of National Defence for Air

By C. R. BLACKBURN, Canadian Press Staff Writer
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In his official capacity Hon. Charles Gavan Power, Minister for Air (who visited Prince Rupert recently), is a grim-visaged, dead-in-earnest administrator of a tremendous war undertaking. But in his moments of relaxation "Chubby" Power is a jovial companion, a mirth-provoking after-dinner speaker and a master of repartee in political debate. He was made Minister of National Defence for Air when the new department was created by act of Parliament last May. Two months later he was sworn in as Associate Minister of National Defence, an additional portfolio created to lighten the burden upon Defence Minister Ralston who has general jurisdiction over all arms of the service. Thus his full title is "Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister of National Defence for Air." But nearly everybody calls him "Chubby" and he does not seem to mind, even when it comes from an absent-minded correspondent at a formal press conference.

The name "Chubby" was applied to Mr. Power when he was a small, well-rounded boy at Sillery, a Quebec suburb, where he was born January 18, 1888.

It stayed with him through his college days when he was a star hockey and football player, through his service overseas, which brought him the military cross and crippling wounds, and throughout his long political career.

Now, nearing his 52nd birthday, Major Power is of medium height, well-built and jaunty in his bearing, active in his movements. His thick, dark hair is graying, as is his crisp moustache. He is somewhat swarthy and wears horned-rimmed glasses. He swings these in his hand when in conversation or debate.

Of Quebec Family

The Powers have been prominent lumber dealers in Quebec for three generations. His greatgrandparents on both sides of his family came out from Ireland near the end of the 18th century. Charles Gavan trained for legal practice and has devoted to that profession what time he has had to spare in 23 years' constant membership in the House of Commons.

When he became Air Minister, Major Power declared at once that he would have to learn from the ground up. He put in long hours at it and soon produced results. He is head of the $650,000,000 commonwealth air training scheme launched last fall and designed to turn out great numbers of air personnel for the forces of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Germany's crushing defeat of the Low Countries and France forced a halt in British plane deliveries for the scheme and it looked for a time as though it would be wrecked before it got well under way.

"We're going to get those machines somewhere and we are going to get this plan working in half the time (three years) originally planned," Major Power declared. Recently he was able to announce virtual attainment of these objectives.

Major Power always felt a dislike for the so-called "brass hats" and frequently said so publicly. When he went into the defence department he felt a little apprehension on that score. But he found no "brass hats," as he had pictured them, in the air force and he has been happy in his associations with the great number of officers he has to work with.

Career in Other War

On September 26, 1916, after a brilliant career of service in France, Major Power was severely wounded. He was being helped by a comrade to reach a dressing station near Regina Trench on the Somme when a German stretcher bearer, lost on rapidly changing field of battle, encountered the two Canadians and tried to give first aid. A bursting shell killed the German and the other Canadian and Major Power received further wounds.

After a year in hospital he returned to Canada unfit for further service in September, 1917.

Three months later he was elected to the House of Commons as Liberal member for Quebec South and he has represented the same riding ever since. His father, William Power, had represented the district from 1901 to 1917, thus setting up a father-and-son combination of continuous representation probably unequalled in any other riding.

Major Power is fluently bilingual. He is a hard-hitting political debater and an authority on election legislation.

A newspaper writer said of Major Power in 1933 that he was "the owner of as pleasant and friendly a voice as ever cast aspersions upon the honesty, wisdom and good manners of a Tory minister."

He has been a minister himself since October, 1935, when he was sworn in as Minister of Pensions and National Health. He liked this portfolio because it gave him a chance to deal with war veterans. For years he had been active in connection with pension legislation.

As minister he won the respect of his former comrades in arms by his fearless advocacy of their rights and his candid advice to themselves when he believed they were asking too much.

He was Postmaster-General several months last winter when creation of an air ministry was already rumored and observers in Ottawa rightly guessed that he would be its head.

Major Power is a little drawn and haggard these days because his job calls for long and arduous toil. But his eyes still twinkle merrily when he has time to tell a new story or hear one in exchange.

MOISTURE WELCOME

SMITHERS, Oct. 19: — Much needed rain has started falling in the Bulkley Valley and it is being welcomed by the farmers who were afraid that the freeze-up would come before there had been any rain to put moisture into the ground for next year's operations. It is now pretty late in the season and unless there is a good rainfall in a very shot time there will still be a lack of moisture stored up.

Threshing operations are completed and fall plowing has been going on for some time but the ground has been exceedingly dry.

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