

2,000,000 Idle Cause Britain Grave Concern

Politically and Socially, However, the Empire Appears Sound as It Faces 1929

London.—The closing days of 1928, which likewise marked the end of the first post-war decade, leave Britain as a nation in a position which, if it were not for the known reserves of capability and determination in the British character, might accurately be described as unsatisfactory.

Politically and socially, the British structure undoubtedly is sound. The Parliamentary system, discredited in so many European countries since the war, has in this country proved itself able to withstand the strains of reconstruction, and, by a statesmanlike acceptance of necessities, of allowing Labor a permanent and important place in the governmental machine, an act widening the franchise to provide universal adult male suffrage. Britain's Parliamentarians probably have safeguarded their system for some time to come.

Industrial Outlook Gloomy

Financially, too, Britain alone of the warring European nations has been able to re-establish her currency at post-war parity and maintain it there. But the industrial outlook at the end of the tenth year of peace certainly cannot be described as encouraging. There are nearly 1,500,000 registered unemployed. There are certainly about 2,000,000 actually out of work. And if this number is only doubled to include the families and dependents of these people it means one person in every ten in these islands is being maintained by the charity of the other nine—whether this is eventually distributed through governmental or private channels.

Up to the present the efforts of every post-war government have been proceeding on the theory of "back to pre-war conditions." In other words, that it is possible eventually to reabsorb these people in productive occupations. Indeed, one government official five years ago was accused of unnecessary pessimism when he forecasted legislation based on the assumption that by 1928 there would still be nearly 1,000,000 unemployed. Today any British government would make it a proud boast if there were only 1,000,000 out of work.

Economic Position Uncertain

Bearing in mind that during the last ten years Britain's competitors have not been idle; that nations once almost wholly consumers are now manufacturing for themselves; that world tariffs show a tendency to increase rather than decrease, some people here are beginning to ask themselves whether the question is not, "When can industry reabsorb the idle?" but "How soon can these people for whom there is little hope of employment be transferred to other parts of the empire?"

This, of course, is only a superficial manifestation of another and more important question, "In another ten years will Britain—as apart from the empire—have succeeded in regaining sufficient commercial prosperity to hold her place as one of the world's great manufacturing and exporting countries? Or will she definitely have set herself on the path of Switzerland, Holland and the Scandinavian countries—excelling in certain aspects of industry, but finding her more important function in performing for the world certain specialized services such as banking, shipping and communications?"

Problem Calls for Solution

Of course, history sometimes has a way of being undramatic and indecisive. At the end of the next decade the country may be found with a problem confronting it more or less the same as today. However, it will have to vary in degree—simply because of the human element involved. The men who have been unemployed for five years may be got back into industry. Those idle for fifteen years cannot be.

Thus one feels fairly confident in predicting, specifically, at least this much: In another decade Britain's national path will be seen to be clearly along one or the other of the directions indicated above—there will be imminent a social and political upheaval which will try to the utmost the ability of the Englishman to overcome unpleasant facts by ignoring them.—By Harold E. Scarborough in New York Herald-Tribune.

Canada's New Navy

Toronto Telegram: Canada's navy is about to be more than doubled. This does not mean that Premier King is doubtful about the Peace Pact he signed at Paris. Nor does it mean that Mr. King is not in favor of disarmament. In fact, the two new destroyers may be a distinct aid to the Premier's disarmament arguments. For what's the use of the Premier talking disarmament if Canada has nothing to disarm? However, if war should come again, which Heaven forbid, Canada will not trust to the new destroyers, to the League of Nations, nor to anything that peace pacts or disarmament conferences may produce. It will still live in hopes that the good old British Navy will be spring business as usual.

Two Families Killed In Crossing Crash



TWO FAMILIES WIPED OUT BY NEGLECTING TO OBSERVE CAUTION AT A RAILWAY CROSSING

While Alexandre Dupuis, former resident of Cornwall, was driving with his wife, four children and Edgar Rivet, a fellow-employee, and the latter's wife, to Peterboro Dec. 31, his car was struck at the Cataragui level crossing by C.N.R. train No. 14 en route from Toronto to Montreal. Every occupant of the car died almost instantaneously, and wreckage was thrown 1,000 feet by the mile-a-minute flier. Dupuis, 46, had been employed by a Vermont marble company and was removing his own and Rivet's family to their new homes in Peterboro, where they were to work in a new plant recently opened there. The layout shows: (1) Dupuis and his 28-year-old wife; (2) Celeste Dupuis, aged 4; (3) Modeste, 6, the eldest child; (4) shows a view of Cataragui crossing taken opposite the warning cross-arm, showing the Black house on west side of the highway, telephone and Hydro poles and the trees; (5) Edgar Rivet and his young child, Jeanette, aged 2. In (10) is shown the spot where the body of the car was thrown by the locomotive.

Canada Seeks Way to Offset Hoover Tariff

Retaliation Act Proposed as Dominion Fears Loss of Market for Farmers

Empire League Favored

Toronto—Canada awaits with interest the result of Herbert Hoover's election. The Dominion is directly concerned in the ratification of the President-elect's pre-election pledges. His promise to farmers of a tariff that would shut out Canadian competition may cause retaliatory measures. His ardent support of the St. Lawrence seaway scheme may force the Canadian government to long delayed action.

Canada has long suffered from United States tariff changes. The Fordney tariff, which practically excluded Canadian cattle and placed a partial bar on Canadian wheat, meant hardship to the prairies. It came at a time when there was depression in the Dominion, when British markets were closed to live cattle on account of the foot-and-mouth embargo.

Farmers Prosperous

But depression has vanished. Western farmers are more prosperous than at any time since the war. Exclusion from the markets of the United States of farm produce no longer threatens agrarian disaster. Hardships imposed by the Fordney tariff were surmounted and new restrictions will, it is expected, also be overcome.

Nevertheless, the Dominion awaits announcement of tariff changes in a militant mood. Already retaliation has been suggested, and this time by low tariff Liberal papers, such as "The Toronto Globe." Canada, as the best customer of the United States, possessing natural resources essential to American industry, feels itself in a position to bargain before submitting to a United States tariff aimed directly at the basic Canadian industry.

Tariff League Advocated

Retaliation has been urged before, but never, it is asserted, has the Dominion been in a position where it could afford to take retaliatory measures. Now an Empire tariff league is being advocated. The first step in Canada would be an increase in the preference given British products in return for preferential treatment in Britain of Canadian produce. Not since the corn laws vanished has a British government dared to impose a tariff on foodstuffs.

The proposed new would mean a change his money.

tariff that would handicap United States farmers on export sales but would admit all Empire farm stuffs on a free basis. It is said that this would not affect the price to British consumers but would more than offset Canadian loss through restrictive farm tariffs in the United States.

London Discussion Hinted

It is believed here that the Baldwin government is anxious to introduce a policy of increased Empire tariff preference in its next election platform. It is also believed that an arrangement of this kind was discussed when Premier King was in London, and will be again discussed by Sir Austen Chamberlain in Ottawa recently. It is considered significant that an Empire tariff league should be warmly advocated by low tariff papers at the time the British Foreign Secretary was visiting Canada, especially as a similar scheme was the aim of Sir Austen's father.

Despite his promises to farmers that are considered in the Dominion as particularly affecting Canada, the election of Mr. Hoover was welcomed here. Ever since the war years he has been admired in the Dominion, and his stand on the St. Lawrence waterways has been popular, particularly in Ontario.—New York Herald Tribune.

Empire Penny Postage

Ottawa Journal: (In a special message to the King, Mr. Mackenzie King boasted of Canada's action in restoring the penny postage.) Somehow or other we are falling into the habit of juvenile exaggeration in our propensity to interpret everything we do as just one more move to keep the Empire hanging together; and we fear that a lot of good people in England must be either amused or puzzled by it. The truth is that all this bustle of hardly letting a day go by without either making Canada a nation or striking a blow to keep the Empire together, is getting to be a nuisance. It is almost as bad as those thousand miles of border without a foot or gun. It's about time we started to grow up.

James Russell Lowell was once speaking to Lincoln of a common friend, a silly hypochondriac, who at the time was confined to his bed. Lincoln remarked that a second doctor had been called in. Whereupon Lowell quoted to him: "A single doctor like a sculler plies the patient fingers and then slowly dies. But two physicians like a pair of oars shall wash him swiftly to the Stygian shores." Which lines so delighted Lincoln that he wrote them down lest they should be forgotten.

Shows Drinking on Increase in U. S.

Moderation League Figures Say Arrests Jump 50 Per Cent.

RECORDS OF POLICE Report Claims Volstead Act Failed Utterly in its Object

New York—A survey by the Moderation League, recently made public, says that police records in 388 cities show that arrests for intoxication rose from 235,612 in 1926 to 557,369 in 1927. The fourth annual report of the league, which has for its announced aim the "restoration of temperance," declares that the figures have brought the organization to the conclusion that "the Volstead Act has failed utterly to do what it was intended to do, namely, promote temperance and sobriety."

Totals of arrests by years in the 388 cities are compiled in the report indicated in a decline in arrests for drunkenness beginning 1914 when the figures stood at 530,367, to 325,612 in 1920 the year prohibition went into effect. An exception in the decline is noted in 1916 with 553,364 arrests for drunkenness. Beginning with 1921 the table shows rapid annual increases in the number of arrests from 319,528 to 557,369. The report declares that marked increase in drinking by minors has been noted throughout the period.

The increase in arrests for intoxication in New York, the report says, has been at a slower rate than in other centres from which figures were drawn. Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga., both show increases of 500 per cent. for the period. The figures, the report goes on, indicate a greater jump in States which were dry before national prohibition than in the so-called wet States. Police reports from 268 cities where liquor was sold legally prior to 1920 gave 424,295 arrests in 1914 as against 423,042 in 1927.

In 1928 cities in States that had the dry laws before the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment the league figures indicate that those arrested showed an increase from 106,972 in 1914 to 124,327 in 1927.

Fleeting Sailor: "Please, angel, wait a minute." Girl Friend: "Yes, if you can tell me one thing: How is Emma?" "Well, I think you are beautiful."

Whalen Orders Gangs Driven From New York

Lot of Law in a Nightstick, Commissioner Tells Police Heads

New York—The law of the nightstick and the pistol has been invoked by the city's new Police Commissioner, Grover W. Whalen, in his first conference with officers of the department.

"There is a lot of law in a nightstick," Mr. Whalen told the assembled officers, "and the police need have no hesitation in using whatever means they find necessary in dealing with gangsters and thugs, or when their lives are in danger. I want every underworld character to have it impressed upon him that New York is an unhealthy place in which to remain."

"Speakeasies, gambling resorts and other disorderly places must be closed," Mr. Whalen began his first full day as the head of the Police Department by removing the heads of the two chief branches of the department, the uniformed and plain clothes forces. Chief Inspector William J. Lahdy, in charge of the uniformed division, was retired by Mr. Whalen, and his place filled by the appointment of Deputy Chief Inspector John O'Brien. Inspector John D. Coughlin for eight years head of the detective bureau, was removed and succeeded by Inspector Edward P. Mulrooney.

Full Sovereign Rights Granted

Jerusalem—Word reached here through official circles that a great Wahabite conference at Riyadh, capital of the Nejd, had confirmed the full sovereign rights of Ibn Saud to control the foreign policy of the Arabian desert tribes.

As a consequence, it was announced, peace would be maintained with the British protectorates of Iraq and Transjordan on the northeast and the northwest frontiers respectively of the tribesmen.

Must Have Company

Auntie—"Do you ever play with bad little boys, Willie?" Willie—"Yes, Auntie!" Auntie—"The surprised. Why don't you play with good little boys?" Willie—"Their mothers won't let 'em."

Germany to Redeem Belgian-Held Marks

Great Sum was Spent for Supplies by Soldiers During the Occupation

Brussels.—A Berlin telegram says that Germany is ready "in principle" to discuss the taking over of the 7,000,000,000 marks left in Belgium at the Armistice, and an official communique printed this morning confirms the news.

An investigation among natives who spent the occupation years here as to how the marks came into circulation produces the following facts: Germans, pouring into Belgium, either requisitioned goods or bought them, according to whether they were war material or not. For war material, "bons de requisition" were given.

Wine was not classed as war material; it was purchased at high prices, and German marks paid for it. In the same way, German soldiers passing through Belgium bought food and clothing, always paying in marks. In shops, prices were marked in both German and Belgian currency, and soon the two currencies ran on concurrently. During the last year of occupation, Belgian francs disappeared completely. This was due to the fact that the franc maintained its par value, while the German mark was falling fast. The Germans exchanged their marks for francs, when going to neutral lands, and purchases made abroad were paid for in francs and not in marks.

In Belgium it is believed that Germany has always been willing to refund a proportion of the marks, but that France and England have prevented this on the ground that the marks held by Belgians were given in payment for goods that should have been destroyed sooner than they given to the enemy. It is also pointed out that the "bons de requisition" have never been paid.

Germany is understood to be anxious to pay in order to "relieve the bitterness that the loss of money has produced among the population in Belgium, convinced that its rate of exchange is due to the fact that Germany did not refund the paper marks."

"What made you think defendant was intoxicated?" asked the magistrate. "The color of his nose, sir," replied the constable. "Well," said the magistrate, "that's hardly sufficient evidence for some noses are like some gas-meters—they register more than is consumed."