

3545

Sat. Sept. 26th.

Dear Robert,

The enclosed is prompted by the fact that the first Arctic, which you made out of my letter to you, which your editor entitled CANADA HAS THE MOST *did not cover the flag - so this can be a response to that*

I can write another page on the anecdotes and stories of How Canadas first Contingent to a foreign war, an all French Canadian group attached to the Royal Engineers, recruited ~~at~~ at high pay) because they were excellent River Boatmen - to maintain supplies on the Nile for the Army marching south on the Nile to the relief of Khartoum, or Kandahar for Lord Kitbener or Roberts (I would have to read back in Winston Churchill's book) or look up a history to get it back correct - and were given British blue Naval ensigns to put on their boats, but being contrary Canadians - they took a red ensign and put a sign in the fly, which they believed represented Canada - and created the 1st Red ensign to use as a Canadian flag.

In School days there were Redensigns on every School pole a couple of times a year (we are not regular flag wavers) In The South African War and the First World War - Canadians distinguished themselves by "being different" and having a flag that was different - In 1921 the present Red ensign with Shield in fly was approved as Merchant Marine identification as Canadian, and a blue one with the same shield for our naval identification

The Maple Leaf was the badge of our soldiers, on their lapels or collars or cap, in the first and second wars, was the sign on the white Union Jack ensign of the Hudson Bay Company for a couple of hundred years - and the song called the National Anthem "The Maple Leaf - Our Emblem dear - was written by an old warhorse of an Scottish school teacher - about the time of the Confederation 100 years ago and did create the permanent impression of a Maple leaf - as a fixture in Canadian Heraldry. But Oh and on with such patriotic bunkum would bore an American Reader to death as he is filled with enough of his own.

The tex and momopoly deal is what I want to get over and the only reason to mention the other gimmicks is to make people piqued or curious enough to read it.

The Queen coming it is topical - Edit it to respectability and forgive my bad typing -

Weather is beautiful and the bridge work is soon approaching a winter shut down about December and I will likely go South via your balleywick.

My telephone is CHATHAM 8X3, 5504 and I have a cabin on the job and an extension into it so you can call anytime after 6 pm your time - or night rate and we are in the Atlantic Time Zone an hour ahead of you. (Newfoundland is ahead of us - As I said CANADA id big Yrs

Archibald.

"CANADA HAS THE MOST"

THIS 24th of ~~Sept~~ is a very good day to answer the question about Canada and her problems - "the flag", "the separatists", asked me Mr. Robert Clancy the New York Schools' Director of Social Science studies. I know that all Americans have an awed respect and admiration for Canada and all are concerned when the newspapers report any incident which looks like trouble or disaster in Canada. Newspapers being violent they are - trouble has always more newsworthy if accompanied by violence or threatened revolution - and the newspapers have had a ball by overemphasizing the activities of a few youths inspired by a French-Algerian immigrant. The resulting jail sentences and search for accomplices is "big news". The flag issue, if it is, or ever was an issue, has been battled around for many years - and ballooned out of all proportion by political premises and to the surprise of most French speaking Canadians they are told that "it is to please Quebec that Canada must have a New Flag. All of this cannot be explained in a letter unless it is to reach the size of a large History of Canada - and I am not going to try to do that. Canada has problems, big ones, Economic ones - like trade problems - monopoly in land problems, and tax problems and in spite of the apparent wealth and prosperity it is the most badly taxed part of the English speaking civilized world with the communist got in? - but whether my comparisons are correct - or not - it adds up to the fact that Canada has economic problems and they are big. and Canada is big - bigger in land area than the continental United States and crowded and held together by a number of groups of people - who did not want to be part of the United States, who wanted to remain British, or at least did not want to join, the other thirteen British "colonies" in the revolution which created the United States, a war which was fought to get freedom from a sales tax - and was so advertised - (the freedom from British rule was not the issue - because those colonists were free - of any rule then, - than any other people on earth - and more prosperous) - to this group belonged the people of Quebec. They were not worried about a flag then. They wanted no part of a revolution. If any did not prefer being British, they did prefer the prosperity they were enjoying with little or no taxes. They were by far the largest group in Canada then. Had they then chose to throw in their lot with the thirteen colonies, or even wait till the United States was established and accepted the overture made to them then, - THERE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN A CANADA.

To examine history a little further back we may examine the conditions of the conquest of Quebec. Wolfe with a small force of Scots managed to effect a landing and gain a position on the "Plains of Abraham" above the city. General Montcalm with a larger force, which included Cavalry, decided to sweep the British off the hill with a Cavalry charge. They almost succeeded, but with disaster to both Generals. Both General Wolfe and General Montcalm were killed in the battle. So were the most of the men - so that neither was an effective fighting force. The remaining British marched to the walls and asked the civil authorities to surrender the city. If the citizens had then been behind the French General Montcalm - THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO CONQUEST OF QUEBEC.

What was the reason they ~~did~~ not. The answer was simply taxes. The history of French rule was one of overtaxation, taxes on the fur trades. The Great Seigneurial grants of land, (which unfortunately continue to this day in Quebec, and are one of today's problems) were the British "heroes" who took Quebec were disbanded on the spot. A fact not carried home to a heroic welcome. They married and stayed there. The British Government had only a desire for peace and left a small Garrison and nobody to collect taxes - so Quebec - which was CANADA then, prospered, and the British figured their mission accomplished, which was to protect "The New England Colonies" and prevent border wars with French Canada.

The federation of other groups, The three Maritime provinces, and Ontario. Upper Canada came later - 88 years after 1776, and Quebec willingly joined in a federation to be known as "THE DOMINION OF CANADA" with a Capital at OTTAWA, and English speaking Newfoundland stayed out of this to be "independent" but joined us about 10 years ago. This Great Union, with its great monopolies of land, of resources, of privileged transportation, this land or enormous wealth, with more on a per capita basis - (per person) than any other land - but with poverty that shows worse than any of the "new lands" the Canadian Govts assisting.

Will now celebrate THE CENTENNIAL of the date of the CONFERENCE in Charlottown. Prince Edward Island Province with a visit from OUR QUEEN ELISABETH who is QUEEN of CANADA whose sole power is to say - "This Parliament is dissolved - the people shall elect a new Government."

Our American friends need have not too much worry over the much overadvertized flag issue - , and the equally overadvertized hoodlums, who set off a few bombs and got themselves in jail. They were notorious seekers, but of the criminal class, and for reasons of self justification - called themselves separatists. Crime and excuse to steal - rob banks - and claim it was to finance revolt - to give a respectable youth and justification to the crime. Not one of these misguided youths ever have a political opinion, associate with any political movement, not join any school, nor were they communists - they were just hoodlums, who had seized on a gimmick that HAD GREAT NEWS VALUE. Newspapers and politicians shoot off there mouths about the Quebec Problem and the People of Quebec were just as surprised as the rest of us. They have the problems, Big problems, Land Problems - Tax Problems Monopoly Problems, which are the same problems as all the rest of us Canadians are smitten with. They may be different in Quebec - a little from say Alberta but that is a matter of Geography and not language. Canada is very Big - three time Zones bigger than the United States (exclude Alaska) As a Globe Girldling Canadian, who you meet at the Economists Club in New York, you seem to assume that I must know a great deal or even all about Canada. I do, - but I know it from reading and study, from a knowledge of our government system, but there are a great deal more of Canada that I have not seen, and maybe never will see. I have only been in Newfoundland twice in my life and that was to hand at Goose Bay Labrador once and on another trip a Cander. but yet I know a great deal about Newfoundland.

I am at present in the Miramichi Valley - an area famous for the brains it exports - Famous Premiers Like R.B Bennett of Canada, Henry Miggs who rebuilt Lima and built the highest Railway to Cerro de Pasco, Cyrus Eaton, Lord Beaver Brook, Bliss Carman, and the Cunards (for here were the first ships built by Cnards.) and here a population dwindled from 25,000 a hundred years ago to 3500 before the last war. Why did they leave. The answer is Taxes and Land Monopoly. Here they do not differentiate between land and improvements. A farm with a house on it is so highly taxed that it can never pay as a farm, so the land is grown back to brush and moose pasture and most country places in New Brunswick if they are kept up at all it is as " Summer Places " or "Hunting Lodges " or " Resorts " for the well - to - do from the "Boston States " as the locals call the New Englanders or even Americans.

All this I am newly learning, as a Canadian. I find these Canadians more obsessed with education and learning than any others and they are well educated and well informed on most everything buy economic. Or if they do understand - and some do that the poverty of this district, and the fleeing of brains and industry, was due to the granting of great tax free monopolies to the timber barons of the past (for 99 Years) - so they want an education to be smart enough to go some place else and succeed and they do. That part of Canada has no new immigrants. They go right by this part. They can see with the corner of their eye and no English that something is wrong. Taxes that is what is wrong. Here they have \$20 poll taxes for every body over 18, every little girl and boy, - even if they have no job and will not vote till they are 21. They have a 25 cent Gasoline tax, so 55 cents a gallon is usual for filling a car to go to work or a truck to haul pulp wood - On top of that a car licence is from \$35.00 to \$45.00 per passenger car, but that is not all the Municipality can and does put ~~xxxx~~ a local tax of another \$25 to \$35 on your car and much more on your truck - and a business tax besides. This is the worst in all Canada - and Canada is the most overtaxed country in the "democratic" world. No British country that I know of has a Poll Tax. No Place had I been where a municipality taxed a vehicle.

O Yes they have a gimmick - There is Free Hospitalization - with no charge or deductions from pay - for that they raise the price of whiskey a buck a bottle - and the Government sells all the whiskey in the Government Store - Well Hospital was always free anyway because no one had the money so the went in " on the County " as the saying was, unless they were visibly affluent.

My work being associated with construction - I know good men when I see them and here they are the most intelligent and capable men, the equal or better than any other in the world. All descendants of the old Irish and Scot settlers and the French Acadians and about half on the job speak French and all speak a little of both languages. They live and love History, the glory of the past, the tales of the great ships built on the Miramichi, The " Royal Bride " first to cross the Atlantic in thirteen days by wind alone - A lot of other Miramichi ships did it too. The Cunards did not build for speed they built them big, and were putting steam power in them early and the MIRAMICHI STEAM ENGINE AND MACHINE WORKS WAS A BIG BUSINESS.

"CANADA HAS THE MOST"

Well as I said, I came here because of my work to this oldest part of Canada, but being a student of political economy I cannot help studying these people and find what are the causes of the decline of these fine people, and it is easy taxes and land monopoly, special privileges and rights for a few dating back to before the federation of the colonies into Canada. The recent up lift to this province has been the Army an Military installations, The Airfield with its supersonic Atom Bomb carriers, The Norad installations brought a new life to New Brunswick.

Great Discoveries of minerals have been made and they are to date the greatest tonnage of Copper, Zinc, Lead and Tin to be yet found in North America. I looked at the mining map of the The Mining land is about all taken up- By the same Giants of the industry that already control the lead zinc and tin of the world and there is no tax to make these people work - yet - and as things are they may hold this out of production for years, but the winds of change have started. I met the assessor this evening and he mentioned a heavier acreage tax on mining land is necessary to force development, I had not heard such an intelligent remark from an assessor in years.

Some timber limits have been released and A large pulp mill has been built and two to three ships a week are carrying both the pulp and the wood to Italy. Two lumber mills, a wood products mill and a large paper mill are all started in Production this year - but with special tax free concessions to industry - which will not save the people from their burden. But I think they have a Government which is determined to get something done and is feeling its way out thru the darkness and the cobwebs of ages, for they have not yet been exposed to geologists, and they are traditionally Party Political people and fit in with that little rhyme I heard as a boy in Ontario

Every Canadian - No matter where he live -
Is born a little Liberal, or a Conservative.

So if the winds of change blow they blow against substantial barricades and the old monopolists are willing to leave the freedom of fishing, entertaining and hosting "Tourists" and "Summer Guests", and working with a truck, paying enormous taxes to haul products to the harbor or the mill, and more work at the harbor, being longshoreman on the ships, creates the semblance of a boom, but the new monopolists of the mining land and the Mill owners of "tax free privileged" will have able lieutenants capable of some fast and shifty foot work and they will easily control the government of such a small number of people. This Province of New Brunswick has less people than my county in Ontario only 550,000 people less than a third of the city of Toronto. Less than the population of Hidalgo County in Texas, where I lived a while, and yet this province has more in Mineral wealth than Texas has Oil. This province has more poverty of people living in ancient one and two room shacks, without plumbing, or heating or insulation, with out lawns or neatness, with piles of wood and chips around the door and yet out of these Northland slums come girls and boys who graduate from Teachers college, nursing college or accountant schools law or engineering and leave to serve the rest of the world with their talents, their parents will starve and all sacrifices to send these off to school and have brainwashed them and driven them that they must be educated to go away.

What a chance for an Economic school. If they could be hit with the kind of drive we used to put on in the City of Toronto I believe we could win enough to capture a Province, to set a good government example to the world, A fertile field for the H.G.S. to make a marvelous success, because they are not contaminated by Communist nor Socialist influences, and appear to be against that line and yet they have the capacity and desire to absorb education and are looking for a way out. They, French nor English, are worried about a flag issue? nor the separatists either, to them they are a lot of "Crackpots" in Montreal which is big enough to have everything - "Go American Friends", "do not worry about our flag issue" nor our "Separatists" - they are small things, which monopolists will make the most out of, - to keep the eyes off the real issue, the Red Herring to take the hounds off the trail - to obscure the problem which is Monopolies and Taxes. New Brunswick needs Economic Instructors.

Archibald McGill