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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

SATURDAY JANUARY, 28, 1939.

Who Got The Money?

Speaking about unemployment relief in the House of Commons the other day, Labour Minister Rogers said that one of the first actions taken by the King Goverment on coming into office was to increase the grants in aid by seventy-five per cent, in order to relieve the burden on the municipalities.

One may well ask, where did this money go? Did the Campbell Government receive a seventy-five per cent increase, to be distributed to the municipalities? If so, then it failed to pass the benefit along.

But according to Hon. J. P. McIntyre in the Legislature last session, the whole Province has been discriminated against in the matter of grants in aid since the King Government took office. He cited the figures for the past three years, showing that we got less than 90 cents per capita, while New Brunswick got $3.10, Nova Scotia $2.50, Ontario and Quebec $7.00, and the Western Provinces much more for direct relief.

If there had been a 75 per cent increase in federal relief grants over the Conservative contribution, our Liberal legislators would surely have taken pride in pointing it out. But according to Mr. McIntyre—and his statement was indorsed by other Liberal members—this Province had been "shamefully" treated, and it was high high time our people "woke up and demanded that they get their just rights."

The same point was made in the brief presented by the Charlottetown Board of Trade to the Rowell Commission last winter, in which it was pointed out with regard to relief payments from the Federal Government to the end of the fiscal year 1936-37, that Prince Edward Island received only 75 cents per capita as against $7.45 for Ontario and $24.75 for Saskatchewan. The City had to assume 61 per cent of direct relief payments in that year, as against 33 1-3 per cent under the Bennett Government; and for even the unjustly small amount received in 1936-37 the Mayor, (says the brief) "has been practically forced to beg on his knees."

In view of these facts and others which could be cited, Hon. Mr. Rogers' statement would seem to require some explanation. If grants in aid were increased by 75 per cent at any time under the King Government, there was gross discrimination in the distribution. It is up to our representatives in Parliament to find out where Prince Edward Island's share went.

National Unity Emphasized

The need for national unity in grappling with Canada's most pressing problems was strongly emphasized by Mr. J. A. McLeod, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, in his address at the annual meeting of the bank's shareholders in Halifax this week. The task of strengthening and improving Canada's economic structure is not an easy one, he said, and will require "patience, a broad understanding and appreciation of our diverse problems and a sincere desire to reach a solution of these problems on the basis of the common good of the whole Dominion."

The extent to which the nature and conditions of the business of banking have changed during the past ten years, owing to a decline in commercial lending and a downward trend in interest rates, was reviewed at the meeting by Mr. H. F. Patterson, the general manager. Mr. Patterson was able to show that despite difficulties of the past year, resulting in a lower national income of about 6 per cent over 1937, the Bank's earnings were well maintained. He made the interesting point that profits would have been higher but for an increase in income tax, due largely to the maturity in 1937 of the last tax-free issue of Dominion Government bonds.

British Oyster Market

The market for oysters in the United Kingdom is the subject of an informative article by the Canadian Trade Commissioner in the current issue of *Commercial Intelligence Journal*. Importations of oysters into the United Kingdom during the last four years have shown a steady increase. The market is highly competitive. In general, it is probable that Canadian suppliers would have to compete mainly with United States sources—chiefly the Blue Points from Long Island, which are carried by practically every liner from New York entering the Mersey between October and March, during the reduced-duty period of the year, and are preferred for rebedding purposes. The standard price of this oyster is very low, about $10 per barrel for the small size, averaging 1300 to 1400 per barrel. But it is suggested that somewhat higher prices might be obtained for Canadian oysters if consideration were given to the possibility of developing the use of Canadian names such as Malpeque, Bras d'Or, Shediac, etc.

"It is doubtful," says the report, "whether any but the most educated and experienced palates can distinguish accurately among the various types of oysters. In fact, the high prices established by tradition for selected oysters precludes all but the wealthier gourmets from developing the fineness of taste essential to distinction between the noted classes. For the great majority of those who enjoy this food it is sufficient that the oyster be tender, plump, and a reasonable size for the cost. In short, consumers who pay the equivalent of $3 or $4 a dozen for oysters on the half-shell do so because they desire one of the few classes of oysters noted for quality and fineness of flavour; while those who pay the equivalent of 40 to 60 cents a dozen are happy to have a good quality shellfish and feel so much the greater zest if it can reasonably be described as similar to a native type."

The "native type", particularly Colchester and Whitstable are quite different in flavour from United States importations, and enjoy practically a monopoly of the high class trade. They constitute only about 5 per cent of consumption in the United Kingdom. Next in point of preference are Brittany oysters, nearly all of which are rebedded in England and sold frequently as natives.

Firms which have handled Canadian oysters in past years report that the shipments were badly graded for size, loosely packed, and dirty. The chief objections to them were the size, which averaged well over 3 inches in length, and softness of shell. As regards taste, the oysters in good condition in the first place and that surived the effects of loose packing en route to England, were good; but the percentage of these was small.

If these defects could be remedied, and an oyster of the superior quality of our Prince Edward Island "Malpeques" placed in prime condition on the high-class British market, it seems reasonable to expect that it would find favour, even among the gourmets. It might be worth canvassing this opportunity to a greater extent than has heretofore been attempted.

Editorial Notes

Sir Francis Drake died at sea this date, 1596.

* * * *

Farmers are asking why the West River is not fully bushed. It has been attended to down as far as Crosby's Point, but not from there to the city. In the dark or in stormy weather, the track is dangerous.

* * * *

Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett rubbed it into "deserving Democrats" at his Saint John farewell banquet. No one in public life had a better right to do so, for he practically wrecked the Tory organization when Premier through his absolute refusal to "play politics" while the future of Canada and the Empire was at stake.

* * * *

Exports of Canadian cheese in December amounted to 75,745 cwt., going largely to the United Kingdom. In the previous month the total export was 125,357 cwt., and in December, 1937, 27,783 cwt. During the twelve months ended December, exports totalled 809,981 cwt. compared with 889,553 in the calendar year 1937.

* * * *

Far from the madding crowd of Canadian politicians has Mr. Bennett selected the first home of his own, but he had better beware of his neighbour, Lord Beaverbrook, lest he be lured into the turmoil of English politics of the virulent type of which Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George is an outstanding exponent.

* * * *

The president of the Travel Bureau, Mr. Justice Arsenault, points out that the figures quoted yesterday from the Montreal Gazette, showing only 11,320 cars ferried to the Province last year as compared with 14,792 in 1937, are incorrect so far as tourist traffic is concerned, the official figures showing a substantial increase both ways in auto traffic last year. The Gazette writer evidently confused the freight traffic with the auto traffic.

* * * *

Says young Mr. McCullagh:

"One of the principal forms of public service that I told Mr. Wright could be rendered if he purchased these two newspapers was by revealing to the public the truths of taxation. Believing that if we could bring forcibly home to you, the people, that you are paying on an average of 25 per cent of every week's earnings into public treasuries for governments to spend, you would be less influenced by the bunk politicians indulge in when they preach a policy of 'soak the rich'."

So that was why the multi-millionaire mining man went into the newspaper publishing business, about which he knew nothing and his protege not much more, says the Ottawa Journal.

* * * *

Japan is beginning to whoop her war song beyond the limits of China and Russia. Baron Hiranuma, Prime Minister of Japan, who formed a more militaristic Cabinet on January 5 to guide the country towards "a new order in Asia," has been enlightening Parliament on the Government's intentions and at the same time letting the world know that the set imperialistic policy will be pursued at all costs. In his speech in the Diet he declared that those who fail to understand Japan and who persist in opposing her will be summarily dealt with. "We have no other alternative than to exterminate them," he cried in a most defiant tone. His belligerent warning was re-echoed by Foreign Minister Arita, who, while inviting Great Britain, the United States and the other great powers to participate in an impending era of prosperity in East Asia, on condition that they recognize Japan's dominant position there, warned France and Soviet Russia that they must cease aiding China and baiting Japan or risk Japanese retaliation. These are in the nature of unveiled threats, and doubtless will be accepted as such by France and Russia.

* * * *

Lower prices have been announced since the beginning of the year in a number of hardware and allied products. Some are the result of lower duties under the Canada-United States Trade Agreement, and others are caused by lower costs in primary markets. As wholesalers receive shipments of goods imported from the United States, and know what their new costs are, revisions are being made in prices. Some lower prices are issued on imported auger bits and oven glassware, on this account, states Hardware and Metal, Toronto, Ont. Reduced costs in the basic fibre market have resulted in lower prices on manila and sisal rope and specialties. A downward revision has also been made in trade prices of certain mechanical rubber products, including steam and hot water hose, and rubber packing. While the outlook for spring trade is very encouraging, and booking orders for spring merchandise are reaching good totals, immediate business during January has been rather disappointing, according to retail hardwaremen. There seems to be a hesitation about public buying, caused possibly by the uncertainty of world affairs, which is felt in retail circles.

NOTES BY THE WAY

To avoid seasickness, advises Mrs. Neville Chamberlain, "fix your mind on something that isn't there." On stability, for instance. —Jones in Toronto Star.

After a man has slept on a cheap mattress in a cheap country hotel, he can realize how straw could break a camel's back. —Australia Life Digest.

A photograph of Joseph Stalin as a pall-bearer shows him with well-booted feet turned out like a ballerina of the late Imperial court. Stain should walk more warily, else he will be suspected of imperialistic tendencies. —Montreal Gazette.

Engineers figure that at the present rate of production the nation's copper deposits will be exhausted in forty years. That must by why Uncle Sam is saving up all his gold. —Philadelphia Bulletin.

After all, of course, Adolf must be bewildered by the declaration of Lima—which gives nobody anything belonging to somebody else. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Mr. Chamberlain has made a painful discovery: If you resist the Nazis, they get angry; if you surrender, they get perfectly furious. —New Yorker.

Never be hurried, do everything tranquilly and with a restful spirit; do not lose your inward peace for anything whatsoever, not even when all seems going wrong. —Frances de Sales.

Even German's staunchest friend in other countries must now see the hopelessness of expecting fruitful co-operation from the Nazis. For a real world settlement there must be honest collaboration and concessions. Terror at home is but a portent of what to expect abroad. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Be that as it may, Chamberlain stands today fully understood, and fully vindicated. He has shown — as those who know and believe in him were certain he would show—that when the time comes, England can speak with all the might and majesty of old, and that while British statesmen work continuously for peace, and are not ashamed to even humiliate themselves for the moment for the nation's welfare, there never will be an evasion of an issue when the moment comes to face it. — San Francisco Argonaut.

The Ontario Government is anxious to get rid of the Canada Temperance Act so far as that ancient statute still operates in the province. It appears that the Scott Act and the Liquor Control Act, the latter being the provincial statute, are coming into occasional conflict and the courts do not agree as to which is the more restrictive. In these circumstances it is possible for an offender prosecuted under the L.C.A. to get off Scott free.—Montreal Gazette.

It is easy to borrow and spend, It is hard to economize and amortize. A debt, as everyone knows, is something that sooner or later has to be paid off. When Mr. Roosevelt took office, in 1933, the national debt stood at about $21,000,000,000. In 1941, when he leaves office, it will stand—by his own estimate, and not even including $6,047,000,000 of contingent liabilities—at more than $44,458,000,000. He may feel able to talk that off with words about capital outlays and self-liquidating projects. But what about the rest of us, who have to earn the money not only to support ourselves and our families and to pay our own debts but also to support federal and local government and to pay the public debt? What are we going to use for money, on the reckoning day? —Chicago Daily News.

And now "The Lambeth Walk" has come under the condemning hand of the Nazis. The official weekly of Herr Hitler's Brown Shirt organization demands that this harmless and amusing dance be banned on the ground that it is "degenerate" and indulged in by "degenerate people." And for extra measure the publication stamps it as a "Jewish nuisance." It is interesting to recall that the music of this dance was played frequently at Prime Minister Chamberlain's hotel during his stay in Munich last September. The idea, presumably, was to do him honor and to make him feel at home. The chances are, however, that Mr. Chamberlain did not notice the tune at all. In any event both the dance and the music are singularly harmless and it shows to what great lengths the Nazis are put in their continual endeavor to find something wrong with almost anything and everything not originated by themselves. —Windsor Star.

Gypsies have fallen under the displeasure of the German authorities. Those who are foreigners will be expelled; those who are Jews will be rounded up into camps, and the Aryans educated to become normal members of the community. There is a case to be argued on the side of these stern measures. Gypsies, as we know well enough in England, can often be an unmitigated nuisance; they are incorrigible poachers and thieves, they spread disease, and they drive, if not a coach and horses, then a fleet of caravans through any statutory attempt to enforce a higher standard of education. Borrow's romantic picture of Romany life in Lavengro may have them founded on fact; but in his choice of facts on which to found it he exercised to the full his right of poetic licence. All the same, there are few of us who do not cherish a sneaking admiration for the gypsy, and would not deeply regret his disappearance. Perhaps the feeling is partly nostalgia. Man has only recently become an urban animal, and it is hard at times not to envy those who still lead the life for which at heart we feel we are most suited. It is the nomad in us which makes us romanticize the gypsy; yet the romance is not entirely false. We have had to pay a price for the advantages of civilization, and the gypsy who has not paid it is in that respect better off than we are. Life in Austrian towns and villages will lose much of its joie de vivre for lack of the Ozigane with his fiddle. —Truth London.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Sir,—I am an unemployed in search of work, in order to live and clothe myself.

I have applied for work months ago, and now it has become so serious that if I were to obtain work, I would have to refuse because I have no clothes to wear.

The only help I have received since I had a days work, was last evening.

That generous gift was a ticket for a dinner at the Baptist Church Some kind member considered a poor man.

God is good to us even though we are poor, he helps one and all alike. As the old proverb says: Blessed are the poor for they shall be comforted.

God sees everbody, rich and poor alike.

It goes to prove if we cannot get work or help, there is only One who will always watch over us, Infinite God in whom I will trust.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HENRY MILLER
28 Weymouth Street.

"ONE OF THE GOATS"

Sir,—In the "Public Forum" of Friday's Guardian I was interested to read a letter signed "One of the Goats", the author of which I presume is a small property owner or business man, who is fearful of being driven into the ranks of the proletariat.

But after reading Mr. H. Miller's letter of the 26th, inst., I think that any fair minded observer will agree that if any one is entitled to consider himself "the Goat" it is one of the unemployed; who truly are the "goats" of the present era.

Apparently "One of the Goats" objects to paying his share or any share by way of taxes, to Mackenzie King's or any Government for the purpose of making up a fund to carry the cost of Unemployment Insurance.

The alternative to this plan "if we are to keep capitalism," is to conscript labor, as is being done in Germany, and Italy today.

Of course if democracy is a myth or if liberty is not worth the making of any concession to retain, that may be the solution.

But if the latter plan is adopted does "One of the Goats" think that the fate of the small property owner, or business man in the country will be any different than that of his prototype in Germany?

And I would like to remind him that the small business man in Germany helped to put Hitler where he is today, and Hitler in turn has helped to put the small business man of Germany where he is today; where he would have gone anyway because of economic pressure in the ranks of the proletariat.

So what?

I am, Sir, etc.
NIX GAMBLE.

DIRECT RELIEF

Sir,—I was wondering if the Relief Commission at Ottawa really knew the true conditions of the relief system in Charlottetown. I don't think the Commission would expect any city to hand out such a small issue as that city is giving. Any fair minded citizen should read carefully the following weekly issue to a family of five adults.

16 lbs. flour value 48 cents.
5 lbs. Meat value 50 cents.
30 lbs. potatoes value 30 cents.
5 1-3 ounces tea value 15 cents.
Quart molasses value 12 cents.
Grocery order value 45 cents.
Carrots value 6 cents.

The total cost for a family of five adults for one week is $2.06 or about 41 cents a week for each person. This would be 6 cents a day or 2 cents for each meal, allowing they ate three times a day. There is no milk issued excepting it be prescribed by a medical doctor for sickness. I am advised that they allow milk to a family having children. The adults must be content with black tea.

The above statements are facts as the orders now on file will prove. Just think it over, 5 lbs of meat to do a family of five adults for one week! Sixteen lbs of flour to feed them for 3 meals. Less than one ounce of tea to do them each day and every other necessity in proportion. Only last week a committee of working men from a Labor organization waited on the Mayor and the City relief committee and they were successful in having more coal given out. The question naturally arises. How much does it cost for the administration of direct relief? How many employees are being paid from the direct relief fund? There are very many more questions that could be asked. I would suggest a mass meeting of all the unemployed now on the relief roll and have the Mayor and relief committee at that meeting to answer some of these questions. By having a good orderly meeting some better system might be installed whereby those on relief would receive better treatment for the amount of money that direct relief is costing. If the present amount of food is not increased an attorney should be engaged and everyone on the relief roll should sign a petition and forward one to the Local Government and another to the Relief Commission at Ottawa to have a thorough investigation of the relief system in Charlottetown.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LABORER

The Poets' Corner

SONG FROM "PROMETHEUS"

On a poet's lips I slept
Dreaming like a love-adept
In the sound his breathing kept;
Nor seeks nor finds he mortal blisses,
But feeds on the aerial kisses
Of shapes that haunt thought's wildernesses.
He will watch from dawn till gloom
The lake-reflected sun illume
The yellow bees in the ivy-bloom,
Nor heed nor see what things they be;
But from these create he can
Forms more rea' than living man,
Nurslings of immortality.

—P. S. Shelly.

Mirror Of The Nation
By "Commoner"

In his first performance in Parliament as Leader of the Opposition, a performance which naturally drew the limelight at the opening of the Session, Hon. R. J. Manion gave a new version of political leadership.

He renounced the time-honored practice of starting the session off with a display of political fireworks. In his powerful speech on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne he made it clear that his concern was not for playing party politics in the old-fashioned way but for dealing directly with the pressing problems of the nation in a manner looking to their solution.

Government members and parliamentary observers were frankly astonished at the restraint which governed his handling of the Administration's record, having expected a wholesale attack along traditional lines. It was quickly evident, however, that this restraint was not attributable to any leniency towards the Administration but was due to the seriousness of his consideration for the condition of the country.

* * *

Dr. Manion's indictment of the Government was based wholly on the actual conditions besetting the country today, on his demand that these conditions be dealt with.

His indictment was that, with unemployment showing virtually no improvement, with an estimated 400,000 youth of the country without work and hopeless, with the people deprsed by economic insecurity, with national disunity at a new high level, the Government, through impotence and lack of vision, did nothing. Naturally the Government's periodic promises to deal with these conditions were associated with the indictment because of the Government's claim that it had implemented its promises by the appointment of Royal Commissions to investigate conditions that were matters of common knowledge. This method of postponing action on the problems until another day Dr. Manion likened to the settling of a debt with a promissory note.

* * *

The dispassionate attitude of Dr. Manion and his party towards the Government in relation to its responsibilities in connection with prevailing conditions is illustrated by the restrained and sober wording of the amendment to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Its terms, but for the requirements of Party discipline, were such as might have found support even among followers of the Administration itself. The amendment read;

"We desire respectfully to express regret that the government has failed, since its accession to power in 1935, to show a proper realization of the serious economic conditions existing in all sections of Canada, as evidenced by unemployment and insecurity for hundreds of thousands of Canadian people, lack of opportunity for youth, and widespread distress in agriculture; and has failed to take appropriate measures to relieve such conditions."

Dr. Manion's principal complaint against the Government was that it had failed and was still failing to deal with realities. He put it this way; "This Government has been in power nearly four years. We find that at the expiration of that period the Government says 'We are going to call another National Conference to tell the Government and the members of this House what we must do about unemployment' . . . Well, I think almost any conference could tell it to do something much better than it has done."

* * *

The objectiveness of the new Leader's opening discussion of public questions in the first week of the session apparently is to be followed by the Opposition in dealing with the several important issues that will be before Parliament during the next few months. The Opposition has already organized itself into committees for the thorough and detailed examination of these issues in advance of their coming up in the House of Commons and for determining the manner in which the party is to deal with them when they do come up.

In this way, for example, the Opposition has made preparations for dealing with the Washington trade bargains. With the trade treaty before the House for approval, it will be discussed in all its aspects by members of the Opposition who have made a special study of it and acquainted themselves with its merits and demerits, its probable effect on Canadian interests.

The Opposition will maintain that the Washington trade bargain had no connection whatever, except in the mind of the Prime Minister, with international relations or world peace. It will seek to demonstrate that as far as Great Britain and the United States were concerned it was purely and simply a trade deal in which each of those countries was careful to safeguard its own interests, and that, even if it were, in some nebulous way, a "peace treaty," there was no reason why Canada should accept sacrificial terms when neither Great Britain nor the United States felt it necessary to do so. The Prime Minister's claim that the promotion of good relations between Great Britain and the United States is an achievement of the treaty will be examined in the light of the fact that the concessions made by Canada in the trade bargains will extend automatically to Germany, Italy and Japan among various other nations and not alone to the United States.

In view of the position it takes in this respect, the Opposition will insist that the treaty be examined as a trade bargain rather than as a costly contribution by Canada to betterment of world conditions when obviously it has no relation to these condditions. It will deal with the treaty on its merits.

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