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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1938

Liberal Opinion

Among the things that Prime Minister King should be thankful for is the fact that the Rowell Commission is not sitting on the foreign policy of the King Government. A leading member of the Rowell Commission is Dr. J. W. Dafoe, editor-in-chief of the Winnipeg Free Press, (Liberal); and this is how the Free Press discusses Mr. King's recent exposition of his foreign policy:

"The speech consisted of further declarations of the impotence of the League of Nations and of the necessity of Canada standing aloof until such time as, in some moment of crisis, 'parliament will decide,' as if that magic formula successfully carried this country into some positive position towards her neighbors, with whom she must today live and trade. Mr. King's remarks on the League will not be taken kindly by a substantial body of opinion in this country which has by no means accepted the defeatest attitude of the Canadian Government. The League temporarily is in ecplise, but if we accept that, we are also better qualified to assess the responsibility for the failure. Canada's share of that responsibility is by no means slight, and it is a sorry fact that Mr. King himself, in one of the only positive sorties he has ever made into the realm of international affairs, delivered a body blow to the League and the League ideal. We refer, of course, to his sharp rebuke to the Canadian representative at Geneva when oil sanctions were being proposed against Italy. It ill befits Mr. King today to throw out his hands in helpless gestures and say that the League is impotent in its major purposes: and it must be hoped that many Canadians will appreciate the moral position of this country when its Prime Minister announces that, so far as Canada is concerned, 'the sanctions articles have ceased to have effect'."

The Winnipeg paper insists that if Canada over the next few years is to become a great arsenal of British war supplies, we must inevitably be drawn into any war in which Great Britain is involved. The Prime Minister of Canada should have faced this fact when he undertook to discuss our foreign policy. This he failed to do. Hence the Free Press concludes "that Mr. King's foreign policy is one which is not based on any principle of international law or obligation, nor is it soundly based on any real belief in isolation. It is instead a policy of drift . . . That may be what Mr. King means and what this country wants, but the process should be a conscious one, and it must be hoped that the various interpretations which can be placed on the Prime Minister's speech will receive full discussion in the House of Commons and elsewhere."

"Fiscal Need" And Australia

The current monthly review of the Bank of Nova Scotia is devoted to an interesting and timely analysis of the work of the Australian Grants Commission. The study, it is pointed out, is purely descriptive of Australian experience and is based entirely upon the annual reports of the Commission. No attempt is made to appraise the significance of that experience for Canada, the division of powers and functions as between the central government and the states being by no means similar in the two countries. Nevertheless, with the Rowell Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations now at work on the same formidable task in Canada, and with the expectation that its findings will throw light on the suitability or lack of suitability of Australian practice to the situation in this Dominion, a comparison inevitably suggests itself.

As a result of the establishment of an independent commission Australia has apparently succeeded in removing the question of grants to claimant states from the arena of political bargaining, and has evolved a technique for determing the amounts to be paid. Federal assistance in Australia has taken two forms. The first has involved the transfer of a portion of the Commonwealth revenues to the States on a uniform basis. The other has concerned special aid for particular States. In every year since its inception in 1933, the Grants Commission has been presented with claims from three of the six States—Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia—each of which is heavily dependent upon primary production and enjoys less industrial development than the more populous and richer States on the eastern part of the continent.

The claims of the States were based mainly on the grounds of disabilities arising from federal policies and from natural handicaps, while their financial needs were also cited as reason for assistance.

Great stress was placed on disabilities suffered as a result of the federal policy of protection. From the outset, however, the Commission took the view that these disabilities could not be accepted as grounds for special grants. A careful estimate was prepared which showed that the Commonwealth spent substantially more in all of the claimant States than it collected in them. The gains from the distribution of federal revenues were probably large enough to offset the losses arising from the policy of protection (even if the somewhat doubtful calculations made by the States of the burden of the tariff were to be accepted). In addition, all the States derived important benefits from common policies in defense, external relations, banking and credit and from the operations of such institutions as the Loan Council. The Commission was inclined to the view that when everything was considered, the net effects of federal policies on the claimant States were probably favourable. At any event, the position was taken that even if it could be shown that the reverse were true, the Commission was not the proper authority to adjust these matters. Since federal policies had been adopted by a duly elected Parliament representing all parts of the country, the problem was political and as such was outside the province of the Grants Commission.

(This, it may be noted, was substantially the attitude taken by the Duncan Commission in its inquiry into the claims of the Maritime Provinces in 1926. For refusing to stultify its recommendations by wandering into the political sphere of tariff policies the Duncan Commission has been criticised, and some of this criticism was even embodied in the brief presented by the Campbell Government to the Rowell Commission).

The Australian Commission found that apart from political objections it would be a dangerous policy to base grants on disabilities arising from particular federal policies. The number of arguments that might be advanced by every State would be almost without limit and difficulties of measuring such claims would be practically insuperable.

The Commission also refused to consider grants in compensation for poor or inadequate resources. To do so, it maintained, would be to support a population which in the long run could not be maintained and to encourage attempts at development which were not justified on economic grounds.

After careful examination of the various grounds for assistance advanced by the States, the Commission came to the conclusion that the only practical basis upon which special grants could be made was "a strick measure of fiscal needs." It was pointed out that the weaker position of some of the States had long been recognized in the financial scheme of the Australian federation and that "contributions have in effect been made, some regularly, some occasionally, to lessen the inequality, but without attempting a measure of how far such remedies are required to redress the balance." The Commission thus took into account the results of federal policies, not on the basis of mere calculations of losses, but on the basis of actual evidence of fiscal need.

"Fiscal need," it will be recalled, was the phrase employed by Chief Justice Mathieson in designating the basis of subsidy claims for the Maritime Provinces in his minority report as a member of the White Commission. The pledge to press our claims at Ottawa for further subsidy settlement on the basis of fiscal need was embodied in the election platform of the MacMillan Government in 1935. The Government met defeat, but its policy was appropriated to a large extent by Premier Campbell in his presentation to the Rowell Commission. It was also the basis of the substantial part of the claims presented by the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments. Whatever attitude the Rowell Commission may take towards the arguments advanced on this basis, it is significant the find the Australian Grants Commission indorsing it as the most substantial ground which claimant States can advance for federal assistance.

Editorial Notes

The first of the sixth month.

* * * *

John Masefield born this date, 1878.

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Bees were imported to the value of $43,126 in April compared with a comparatively negligible amount in the previous month and $31,233 in April last year. These were brought from the United States.

* * * *

We are still importing farm produce when we should be exporting it. April imports of butter amounted to 338,854 pounds valued at $94,086 compared with 3,794,050 at $1,011,194 in March and 9,212 at $2,068 in April, 1937. The amount from New Zealand was 184,800 pounds, Australia 84,000 and the United Kingdom 70,000.

* * * *

Cheese imports during April totalled 173,276 pounds valued at $36,083 compared with 85,049 at $19,624 the month before and 141,932 at $34,260 in April last year. New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, United States, Denmark and the Netherlands were the leading contributors, with smaller amounts from the United Kingdom and Norway.

* * * *

Ten years' residence in New Zealand for applicants at present living in the Dominion will qualify them for an old age pension under the terms of the Pensions Amendment Act, which was passed in the recent session of Parliament. The Act applies to persons who are not qualified to receive pensions only because they have not resided continuously in New Zealand for 20 years or more. In these cases, it is provided that, if applicants have resided in the Dominion continuously for not less than ten years prior to the passage of the new legislation, they will be entitled to old age pensions. Other prospective applicants who are already in the Dominion, but who have not had ten years' residence, will be entitled to apply for a pension at the expiry of that period.

* * * *

Italy, nothwithstanding its warlike attitude towards its neighbours in Europe and Africa, is facing the poorest wheat harvest in years, and is taking steps to increase the percentage of wheat substitutes in flour. In conformity with the program of the Ministry of Corporations, a number of regional wheat councils, including that of Milan, have increased from 10 to 20 per cent the amount of wheat substitutes to be used in milling. Corn flour is the commonest substitute, and a short corn crop presented added difficulties. The use of a certain proportion of rice and potato flour is permitted. A reliable authority says the government has taken steps to buy a large amount of wheat abroad to make up for this year's short crop. The situation is eased in part by the surplus remaining from last year's big crop.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It has been suggested that the middle-aged person might avoid nervous indigestion if he would "follow a system of living in which he finds tranquility of mind." This is excellent advice as far as it goes. All we used to make it complete is advice as to what to do about the wild parties in the apartment upstairs, the radio at the next window, the soft-ball game in the street, the motorist who uses his horn instead of his brakes, taxes, economic uncertainty and Europe.—New York Times.

I do not know if the following anecdote was born in Italy or Germany, it circulates in both countries, passed from mouth to mouth, but only between people who know each other well and in great secrecy. "Daddy," asked a small boy, "what is the difference between Socialism, Communism and Fascism?" "It's like this, son, we have four cows. Socialism will take two from us, for the community. Communism takes all four, and pays you a wage for the work you do. The cows go to make up a bigger herd. Fascism leaves you all four cows, but it does all the milking."—The Commonweal.

In future Army men will receive something more respectable than the miserable married allowance of the past. Though the new long-service enlistments are restricted to 5,500 men in a year, even that means that, by the time the first 21-year soldiers are retiring on pension, we shall have an Army of over 100,000 veteran professionals. The extension of the recruiting age for short-service categories to 18-35 is perhaps a more debatable policy. These soldiers of the older enlistment category will be 41 on completion of their six years with the colors, and 47 before their reserve service expires. The compaigning value of men in the forties, who are not old soldiers, is rather problematical.

In civil as in military activities the mechanical roboot is ousting the horse steadily and rapidly. For farming or transport use we may, it is estimated, see the last of the horse in another 20 years. There are, however, two classes of horses in this country which, thanks to the boom in riding and hunting, are not only not diminishing but actually showing a slight tendency to increase in number. These are the riding hack and the hunter, of which there are now about 55,000 added to which must be considered the racing thorough-breds of all ages, numbering about 18,000. How long the cabhorse will survive is a problem. Today only 20 are licensed in London—one a smart little mare in a hansom once run by Lord Harewood in his guardsman days.

There are on the roads of Great Britain today some thirteen thousand tramps, of whom about a third are pathological to one degree or another. In other words, there are wandering about in this country as many entirely destitute men as there are clergy of the Established Church and more mental cases than there are under-graduates at either of our older universities. Of course, vagrancy on this scale is neither the social plague it was under the Tudors nor a political threat like the American I. W. W., but when one sees the pitiful waste of human material on our roads one almost wishes it were, for then and perhaps only then, would the country realize not only that there is such a problem, but also that the remedial system, however interesting as a perfectly preserved relic of mid-Victorian liberalism is wasteful, inefficient, and above all, inadequate.—London Spectator.

To get a job—get to work doing something that leads in the direction of a job. Get a running start first. This is the counsel Walter B. Pitkin, author and psychologist, gives to 1938's June gradautes—an army equal in numbers to the population of Cleveland, Ohio—as it is turned loose to shift for itself for the first time. "The most important thing for any youngster out of high school and college to learn is not the particular skill of any single job, but rather what the real world is like" declares Dr. Pitkin in an article on "How to Get a Start in Life" in the current Rotarian magazine. "Once the job seeker has got the feel of reality, then he is in a position to move on to his own higher problem of a living and a career. "But the real world is a tough place to jump into cold," he concedes. "It's tackled best by the youth who has warmed to the task of finding a job — by getting his running start first. Bright youngsters are beginning to learn the importance of changing the old saying 'Well done is half done' to 'Early begun is half done.' "Time and again young people now in jobs tell me that summer and vacation work during their school years has been of inestimable value," Dr. Pitkin points out. "Thus a young engineer, who writes me that in his opinion one of the greatest problems confronting a beginner in his inability to understand what will be expected of him in his first position. For that reason I would suggest that one secure all the experience he can by working in various kinds of jobs while in school. 'They help him get 'the feel of the shop.'" Citing instances in which ambitious and energetic young men accepted jobs with little or no pay to get this running start, Dr. Pitkin insists that many of them may land permanent jobs as a result of their volunteer work. The young man who says "I'll work for you for nothing; it's better for me than loafing around home," is the one who will get the experience in the real world which will enable him to get a running start as he starts in life, he maintains.

Visitors to the London Zoo during the next few weeks should not miss an unusual scene which will not last long. This is a python engaged in incubating a clutch of eggs which she has deposited in her den in the Reptile House. "Cold-blooded" animals rely as a rule on the heat of the sun to hatch their eggs, and pythons are among the few snakes which contribute their mite of body-heat towards incubation. The mother is a 10-ft. Indian python which was presented by Lord Moyne in 1936. She laid her eggs last week among the litter of bracken on the cage floor, and since then she has remained coiled over them, refusing to leave her charges even for food and water. Previously fairly tame, she has become very pugnacious, striking at the keeper when he enters the den, so that he has not been able to count the eggs. These appear to be about the size of swans' eggs, covered with a parchment-like shell, and there may be as many as 40 of them. Pythons' eggs laid in the zoo have generally been removed to a special incubator, but all attempts to hatch them artificially failed.—London Times.

And there's another funny one, a "capital strike." The idea here is that the owners of capital in this country deliberately planned to stop recovery by refusing to invest in enterprise or to promote industry, with the idea that by stopping recovery they would discredit all the grand work of government. In a way, this is the greatest compliment ever paid to the capitalist class. The idea that this class in our society would deliberately refuse to invest in profitable industry in order to embarrass an administration gives them credit for an unselfishness and an indifference to profits which they simply do not have. This writer has met a few of this class and observed their reaction to a chance to make money. When they are charged with a deliberate capital strike, they should give the answer of the man who was asked to change a twenty dollar bill: "I can't do it, but I thank you for the compliment.—Saturday Night.

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.

AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTION

Sir,—I have noticed a discussion about the teaching of agriculture, and would like to express my personal views.

Admittedly, agriculture is much neglected in the rural schools. And why?

Well ,in the first place, most of our teachers know very little about the subjects, as they have not received sufficient instruction. And why is this?

In P. W. C. there is not enough interest taken in agriculture. I am not going to criticize Mr. Reddin's work but he holds only two periods per week and it is worth only 75 marks (excluding the botany studied before Christmas). How much knowledge of this subject do our future teachers receive under these circumstances? I suggest he hold four periods per week and give 175 or 200 marks for it. Then we might make more advancement.

And what about the text book used in rural schools? It is foreign, difficult to understand, and parts are unsuited to this province. I think we could enlarge on Mr. MacLaren's suggestion of having such leading farmers as Mr. Peppin, Mr. Reddin and Dr. Clark outline a course in agriculture by having them make a suitable agricultural text for this province. The value which the youth of today would receive from it would be worth far more than the time spent in making it.

I close with best regards to the friends of agriculture, and with best wishes or the future.

I am. Sir, etc.,
ONE INTERESTED

May 31.

RURAL MAILS

Sir,—As the session of parliament is drawing to a close our federal members will soon be returning to their various constituencies throughout this Dominion. No doubt they will be telling their voters how hard they have labored for our rural mail couriers when their case was before parliament. They will fail to mention that our rural mail courier has been the forgotten man again this session.

It seems strange it is so hard for the low salaried man to get any assistance from our federal government. The rural mail courier is the lowest paid official in our government today, considering the work he is asked to do, and his lot has gradually become worse under Liberal rule. They have taken away the holiday and have also raised the parcel post weight to 25 pounds with no extra pay.

Post Master General Elliott, speaking in the House of Commons on February 14th claimed holiday mail delivery cost the post office department $78,769. How much of this amount went to the rural mail courier? Not one cent. It all went to the employees working under civil service, such as the city mail couriers and they receiving about three times the salary our rural mail couriers get. Is there any justice in this kind of treatment, or how long do they expect the Canadian taxpayer to put up with this?

We have rural mail couriers in different parts of Canada driving long mail routes finding, all the equipment, horse or car, for less than $10 per week. The government claims it to be their own fault that they set their own price. Other government officials are not asked to set their own salary, why should our rural mail couriers? Why are they the only ones obliged to compete in the matter of pay?

Our Dominion government should be the last agency in the land to take advantage of competition among workers to force wages down to starvation levels.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A READER

A Political Issue

(St. John Telegraph-Journal)

In yesterday's issue of this newspaper editorial reference was made to a Canadian Press despatch of last week which said in part: "If Canada is to become a nation in fact as well as in name, national unity must be encouraged by the strengthening of the central government, the Canadian Legion asserted in a submission before the Rowell Commission." Our comment was as follows: "It seems unfortunate that the Legion, which has hitherto avoided political issues not directly affecting the interests of veterans as such, should have pledged itself to centralism in the name of national unity."

In this we unconsciously did an injustice to the New Brunswick provincial command of the Legion, which we hasten to correct. Since the publication of yesterday's editorial we have learned that the New Brunswick command of the Legion steadfastly refused to concur with the Dominion command in its attitude on this question. A copy of the submission was sent to all provincial commands for their approval, and this approval was withheld by the New Brunswick command on essentially the same grounds of objection as expressed by this newspaper, namely that the federal constitutional question was one upon which there was a difference of opinion as between provinces and had assumed the nature of a political controversy. Even after the New Brunswick executive had been informed that all other commands had approved and had been urged to reconsider their stand in order to make the submission unanimous, they held to their previous decision, and declined to support the brief in this respect.

Although these facts have not previously been made public we are glad to publish them now, and to congratulate the New Brunswick command on the wisdom and foresight it displayed in the attitude which it adopted.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

HIGH OR LOW BLOOD PRESSURE IS NOT A DISEASE

To have high blood pressure or low blood pressure does not mean that any disease is present. In fact, high blood pressure in one individual and low blood pressure in another may not only be natural for each of these individuals but may mean better health than if they had what might be called normal blood pressure.

The individual with high blood pressure may have this high blood pressure simply because he is excitable and emotional, or because he may have some recent infection. To overcome these two conditions which tense the blood vessels, the pressure of the blood must be increased. High blood pressure in these two conditions is therefore necessary. When, however, the blood vessels have lost their elasticity—hardening of the arteries—high blood pressure is also needed to pump blood through these non—elastic bloodvessels.

The individual with low blood pressure may have this low pressure because he was born that way, or is, perhaps, underweight, or takes no exercise. In fact, as Dr. A. Blaine Bower, Dayton, in Ohio State Medical Journal states, "Low blood pressure—hypotension —is not a disease and if no symptoms are present, no treatment is required. If there are no symptoms nor complications, low blood pressure after the age of fifty is a sign that the patient will live beyond the normal life expectancy because the lessened driving force (blood pressure will save or conserve the heart and bloodvessels". Low blood pressure is seldom accompanied by heart disease.

However, although low blood pressure is not a disease, and low blood pressure after the age of fifty usually points to long life, nevertheless low blood pressure may be a sign that 'something is wrong' in the body and this something should be sought. Thus shock of any kind, some low infection—teeth, tonsils, gall bladder, sinus—if present for a long time, some gland disturbance, or a beginning heart failure can all cause low blood pressure .

The thought then is that high blood pressure may be natural and helpful or may be a danger signal. Similarly while low pressure may also be natural and so save wear and tear on the heart and bloodvessels, it may also be a sign of some slow, low, or prolonged infection.

History Vs. Hitler

(Hendrick Van Loon, In Redbook Magazine.)

My conviction that Adolf Hitler will lose out in the end, and within a comparatively short space of time, is based on the consideration that he does not know his history.

All through the written works of Herr Hitler you will come across evidence of his almost pathetic ignorance of the past. If he did not know history, both he and his little playmate in Rome would realize that there are now and that there have been for several centuries in the past two entirely different sorts of England; and that to judge England by the group that happens to be in power at the present moment is about as dangerous as to judge America by the party that happens to have control of the machinery of the government in Washington.

There is no need for Adolf Hitler (nor for Benito Mussolini) to worry about Neville Chamberlain. But one of these days he will come up against the shade of Oliver Cromwell, and then let him look out, for the spirit of Oliver Cromwell will defeat him as it has defeated everyone these last 300 years who judged England merely by what appeared upon the surface and not by those invincible qualities which make this the most interesting because essentially the most decent of all nations.

If I felt inclined to render the Chancellor of the Third Reich a most useful service—which I don't—I would send him a copy of Thomas Carlyle's "Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell" or some other first rate biography of the Lord Protector, and on the flyleaf I would write: "My dear Chancellor Hitler, This is a story of the man who will defeat you before the end of another year. I know that he is only a ghost, but he is a living ghost, for part of his spiritual heritage is ingrained so deeply in the hearts of his fellow men that they will sink their Island rather than submit to that which they know to be wrong."

Soon Cromwell will once more hoist his old battle flag and will rally his old Ironsides and that will be the end of Adolf Hitler.

The Poet's Corner

THE IMMORTAL

Beauty is still immortal in our eyes,
When sways no more the spirit-haunted reed,
When the wild grape shall build
No more her canopies,
When blows no more the moon-grey thistle seed,
When the last bell has lulled the white flocks home,
When the last eve has stilled
The wandering wind and touched the dying foam,
When the last moon burns low, and spark by spark
The little worlds die out along the dark.

—Marjorie Pickthall.

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