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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

FRIDAY, AUGUST, 26, 1938

The Fishery Industry

Speaking before the Rowell Commission last February, Hon. B. W. LePage, President of the Executive Council, declared that the value of the fisheries in the Province had dropped from $1,700,000 in 1920 to $940,000 in the last year, and this despite the fact that there are many more fishermen employed than in 1920. The average earnings of our fishermen for the past year were only $273. A large percentage were unemployed for ten months of the year. They had no boats themselves, and could not find work where they were hired by others, and they were generally in the lobster season.

With regard to the federal loans to fishermen he explained that the Province had to put up dollar for dollar or one-half the money, and this was difficult in view of our "fiscal needs."

Chairman Rowell: "This is a matter which it appears to me you should take up with the agricultural department."

Mr. LePage: "But when the Dominion makes a grant they make it in this way."

The Chairman: "Can't you convince them they are wrong?"

Mr. LePage said it would be "difficult to do that."

He neglected to tell the Commission what he told the Legislature in 1935, that grants in aid, on whatever basis given, were not what the fishermen wanted. *"What the fishermen want in this country is not dole, but markets for their fish. They are quite able to fish, but are not in the position to look up markets."* (Patriot, April 15, 1935.) Mr. LePage believed that if the Federal Government was alive to its responsibilities it would find "a splendid opportunity of increasing all branches of fisheries which would employ a great number of people."

Wherein has the situation changed today, so far as federal responsibility is concerned?

The staff writer of the Globe and Mail (Independent Liberal) who has been investigating the distressed condition of Nova Scotia fishermen, asks in a recent article, what the Federal Government has done to remedy conditions of the industry in the Maritimes. We quote his answer to this pertinent query:

"Its record is almost a complete blank, although a separate department of Government administers the fishing industry. Last year the House of Commons voted $500,000 to aid the fishermen. Only $60,000 of that sum was spent, apparently because the Department of Fisheries could find nothing to do with the money. This year the money was revoted, just carried along on the books to help the fishermen who haven't enough to eat. It's nearly three months since the money was passed, but nothing has been spent.

("I am not to be swayed by sentiment," said Fisheries Minister Michaud once when an urgent plea was made for help.

("We must not take the sentimental viewpoint," said Hon. J. L. Ilsley.)

Both members of the Cabinet represent the Maritimes.

Hopefully the Moncton Transcript (Liberal) commenting on the evidence of distress among New Brunswick fishermen as revealed at a fisheries conference at St. Andrew's, suggests: "It is possible that ways may be found of effecting economies in the handling of the fish in the markets that are available, of reducing costs of operations by the fishermen, of opening additional markets and in various ways promoting the profitable sale of the product."

The tragedy is that three long years have passed since these "possible" means of remedying the lot of our Maritime fishermen in the indefinite future were accepted by the people of Canada as the policies which the governments now in power in the Maritimes and at Ottawa proposed to put immediately into effect.

Just Between Liberals

Recently we had a visit from Mr. Gerry McGeer, Liberal M. P. for Vancouver-Burrard, who in the course of an interview spoke freely in criticism of the failure of the Government he supports at Ottawa to establish monetary reform. Mr. McGeer's monetary policy is diametrically opposed to the policy outlined in the last Dunning budget, but that, according to our local contemporary, doesn't prevent him from being a "loyal Liberal." The Liberal party is broad, (we are told,) and is solicitous (at election time) of obtaining the support of men of all shades of political opinion.

But now Mr. R. J. Deachman Liberal M. P. for Huron North, comes forward, in a statement published in the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal), the sole purpose of the article is to refute Mr. McGeer's heretical notions on monetary reform.

Mr. McGeer, according to Mr. Deachman, is guilty of making several misstatements with regard to monetary reform in Great Britain. Indeed, it is "almost impossible to sit still as he (Mr. McGeer) swings his oratory around in brilliant but exciting dangerous driving." That is Mr. Deachman's opinion. Mr. Deachman, too, is a "loyal Liberal."

As an example of "flamboyant language, void of thought, free from relevancy and largely without meaning" Mr. Deachman quotes a statement made by Mr. McGeer in Parliament, to the effect that the King Government should put the consumers' buying power into circulation, "not merely in the form of aid to those in need but as a means of sustaining the economic blood stream of industry and commerce of the capitalistic system that the government is charged to sustain"; and that "if we fail to fill that sovereign obligation of government, we shall have failed our country at a time when England, after years of experience, has shown the way."

"What," asks Mr. Deachman disgustedly, "could be worse that statements of that kind?"

Washington Not Yet Ottawa

"The Premier of Ontario asserts that he is as much against the Seaway-Power project as ever and that Ontario will not need energy from the St. Lawrence," says the Montreal Gazette editorialy. "He makes public a letter sent to Premier King asking for a statement of federal policy on the St. Lawrence project and, for good measure, reminding Mr. King that Ontario is now obliged to pay for surplus power because the right to export was refused by the Dominion. Mr. Hepburn also tells the federal Prime Minister that the railway problem remains unsolved and that a large outlay upon another competing means of transportation would not be warranted as an economic proposition. Mr. King, without enjoying a perusal of this communication, goes to Woodbridge, only a little way out of Toronto, thanks Mr. Roosevelt warmly for his assurance of protection, and intimates that Canada will continue to be governed from the city of Ottawa and the provincial capitals. He is grateful, but wary. He says this: President Roosevelt has unreservedly stated, as we, too, would wish it to be stated, that it is axiomatic in Canadian-American relations that both of us scrupulously respect the right of each to determine its own affairs, and that no solution of the problems of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence will be acceptable to either country which does not leave its government entirely master in its own house. Which is a diplomatic way of saying that when President Roosevelt departed from Canadian soil he did not take the seat of government with him. It is still in this country and Mr. King is not consenting to its removal to the District of Columbia."

Editorial Notes

Anglo-Egyptian Alliance signed this date, 1936.

* * * *

Now its Hitler who is proclaiming the policy of the Good Neighbor—with an obvious axe to grind.

* * * *

What a long time the Maritime fishermen would have to wait to make their grievances known, were it not for the Press —the printed word.

* * * *

Premier "Mitch" says he was resting—that's why he did not accompany Prime Minister King and President Roosevelt at the opening of the Thousand Islands bridge. But he was not asleep at the switch, as the sequel proves.

* * * *

Perhaps when Prime Minister King makes his "social" visit to Hyde Park, N. Y. the President will turn out his Million Men Army and equipment—a la Hitler when a Mussolini or a Horthy pays him a social call.

* * * *

Prime Minister Mackenzie King has postponed his western trip until October and one of the reasons he gives is that the Washington negotiations are still unfinished. The assumption is that he expects them to be concluded before he leaves for the West.

* * * *

How Governments like to fool the public with regard to their finance. Take Quebec, for instance, Treasurer Fisher proclaims a surplus of $3,0008,287 on ordinary expenditure, and then casually remarks that extraordinary expenditures, including unemployment relief etc., added to ordinary expenditure results in expenditure exceeding revenue by $13,147,809. Instead of balancing his budget, therefore, Mr. Duplessis has gone some Thirteen Million Dollars in the Hole.

* * * *

Federal election in November? Hardware and Metal, Toronto, Ont., trade newspaper in its current issue states: There are many signs indicating likelihood of a Dominion election in Canada this fall. It may be in October but the most likely month is November. The Government has taken action which is a reasonably certain forerunner of an election. Prime Minister Mackenzie King is preparing a western Canada speaking tour and the trade agreement is expected in October. Western conditions following the harvest are expected to put the West in a better frame of mind, and the trade agreement may be capable of some optimistic interpretation. So the stage appears to be ready and within another two or three months Canada is likely to be in the throes of a general election.

* * * *

Evidently the Germans are suspicious of the bone tides of President Roosevelt regarding Canada. The Danziger Vorposten, Nazi organ regarded as reflecting the views of the German Foreign Ministry, asserted Saturday that President Roosevelt's promise to aid Canada if it is attacked is nothing more than an attempt by the United States to gain a firm hold in the Dominion. "Even though the President has expressed himself in very friendly terms," the Vorposten said, "certain circles in London are not forgetting that the United States has for years successfully carried out political economic and financial penetration into Canada. London is preoccupied by these efforts, for it realizes that Roosevelt's declaration is nothing more than proclamation of the same pretensions of Pan-American domination which the United States has made along other fronts." The newspaper said that the Roosevelt speech meant abandoning of American isolation, and regretted that the Monroe Doctrine "dear to the hearts of Americans" is not accompanied by its corollary "Europe for the Europeans."

NOTES BY THE WAY

An eastern newspaper asks why it is that with a 300,000,000 bushel wheat crop in the west there is no call for eastern farm help. The answer lies in the tractor and combine.—Calgary Herald.

While we are not certain of many things in this life, of this we are sure: When a nation expends the results of its labour in non-wealth producing enterprises through political agencies rather than in the development of new industries through the imagination and courage of its individual citizens, there can be no progress. Political spending makes for temporary employment of men; the other for continuous and increased employment of men.—Nation's Business.

News from Berlin that zones all along the frontiers have been closed by decree while a steel network of fortification is being rushed to completion is bound to give rise to disturbing speculations. For years the sorest grievance of the Germans was that Germany was enclosed in an "iron ring" forged by the allied Powers to strangle the Reich and keep her enfeebled. Yet the first thing the Germans do to show their strength when they recover their military freedom is to build an iron ring of their own. The strait-jacket thev smashed through was partly imaginary; it is now replaced by a real one, self-constructed. At first glance it looks as if Germany were tracing visibily along her borders that insulating zone which the present regime has created by its political economic and racist policies.—New York Times.

Is the comeback of the bicycle a sport revival or an economic manifestation? It is sport in New York, where Robert Moses has in mind nearly sixty miles of bicycle paths in the public parks. But it must be something more than sport in the whole country where 1,300,000 bicycles were sold last year. This is truly extraordinary. It is a quarter of a million bicycles more than at the turn of the century. It is a sevenfold increase from less than 200,000 wheels sold in 1932. That low of six years ago may supply the clue. The bicycle has come back primarily as a cheap form of transportation in hard times. For messenger and delivery service in suburbs and rural districts a boy on a bicycle is cheaper than a second-hand low-priced automobile. In considerable measure too, it would be the boy on the bicycle going to school. The new central schools replacing the little red schoolhouse are usually reached by bus, but there must be enough rugged individualists among the young generation who prefer to pedal their own wheel.—New York Times "Topics".

The partnership of Great Britain and France is the friendship of unlikes. "That they will ever understand each other except through their hearts, is perhaps too much to hope," said that great ambassador, M. Paul Cambon. But in recent years the security of the two countries has again become interlinked and identity of interests has never been so powerful a bond of union as it is today. "Invasion remains an imminent alarm," wrote the English historian of France some forty years ago, and the memorial at Villers-Bretonneux which King George is to unveil to the memory of the gallant Australians testifies that the fear was not unfounded. It was this fear, or menace, which transformed the Anglo-French Treaty of 1904 into something resembling an alliance; and history has recently repeated itself in the conversion of a treaty, which was originally impartial and as it were impersonal, into a firm military alliance of two of the original five parties to it; for since the denunciation of Locarno by Germany two years ago. British and French armed assistance have been mutually re-pledged for the event of an unprovoked aggression upon either.—The Times London.

In these days of the high cost of living and general failure to distinguish the difference between meum and teum even a king cannot afford to overlook any property which belongs to him. Consequently King George's fleet of swift rowboats swarmed up the Thames in charge of the royal swankeeper to mark the royal swans. The annual ceremony is a little confusing because the King's swans are never marked. They are designated as royal property by being left unmarked. But the other swans that belong to two of London's liveried companies, the Vintners and the Dyers, have their beaks nicked. Needless to say, the swans don't like this. The Cygnets, or baby swans, which receive the nicking, can't help themselves, but the elder swans resent the indignity. A full-grown swan is an ugly customer with an ingrowing disposition, and there has been many a historic tussle in the centuries since the custom originated. —New York Times.

That the majority of Americans believe the law of this country should forbid payment of ransom to a kidnapper— a suggestion frequently made—is indicated by the results of a recent poll of the American Institute of Public Opinion. Nevertheless, such a statute would be quite unenforceable and it is not wisdom to put unenforceable statutes on the books. If the payment of ransom could be prevented, kidnapping as a business would, of course, disappear. That is the logical conclusion which has led 66 per cent of the voters polled to indorse the proposal. But would the payment of ransom be prevented? What American jury would convict a parent for paying money in the hope of obtaining the return of a kidnapped child? What American prosecutor would waste his time bringing such a case to trial? —Los Angeles Times.

Even in Europe it is hardly likely that war will come like a bolt from the blue. Hitler gave clear indications of what he was going to do about Australia, and if the other nations had been prepared to fight for Austria, they had ample opportunity to mobilize. The fact is that there have been more "warnings" in the last few years than history has ever recorded before. Aggressive nations have to show some care for appearances, and the State that tried to gain an advantage by launching its air fleets suddenly and without notice would damn itself before the world. The efforts spent by aggressors on propaganda shows the value they set on world opinion.—Toronto Telegram.

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.

NO PLACE FOR POLITICS

Sir,—If this country is to proceed in an orderly fashion, and business given its right to carry on, our postal service wants cleaning up. For years now it has been the seething nest for politicians and their flunkies to irritate His Majesty's subjects. Officials and employees should remember that section 98 of the criminal code no longer protects them. An excellent remedy for the elimination of this menace would be to refuse the franchise to those employed in His Majesty's Service, this would settle the patronage curse, and bring efficiency and satisfaction to all concerned.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A. CAROLYN BAYFIELD
Charlottetown, P. E. Island,
Aug. 25, 1938.

FLY-INVITING WINDOWS

Sir,—In spite of all the continued warnings of the medical fraternity that the common house-fly is a dangerous, deadly and comfort destroying pest, little heed is given them by some who design and build public buildings and churches without making provision for the safety and comfort of those who frequent them. Why put in tilting sashes that cannot be screened? How can people read or listen when in danger and discomfort?

I am, Sir, etc.,
CITIZEN

(Does not the remedy lie in prevention? There should be no fly breeding grounds in the vicinity of churches and other public buildings.—Ed. G.)

LIP-READING FOR THE DEAFENED

Sir,—"Experience" asks where lip reading is taught, to which the answer is "in all the cities of the continent, in which there are a sufficient number of hard of hearing people to make it worth while for an experienced teacher to take up her residence." I say "her," because with the exception of a few in New York I have never known a male teacher. There are two distinct classes of deaf or hard of hearing people that require instruction, viz, children and adults.

For children, particularly those born deaf, the best method is to send them to one of the lip reading institutions (boarding schools) either in Canada—such as the Ontario Government School in Belleville—or in the United States, where there are many, some under state management and others privately owned. The care of the children in these schools is usually very satisfactory, and the interest added to their lives naturally renders their existence much more happy than when living in silence and separation at home. In this regard I shall be glad on request to give a list of the leading schools.

For adults there is a diversity of ways in which instruction can be obtained. Some are as follows:

1. Form a lip reading club or a league for the hard of hearing, the difference being that in the latter not only is lip reading taught, but social intercourse of a surprisingly wide variety is obtained. In either case an instructor is employed, and naturally the cost is much lower to the individual where the salary is divided among a number than when paid for private lessons and, while excellent results are obtainable from the latter, it lacks the rivalry and the merriment that accompanies the former under a capable teacher ministering to a class.

2. If the number of deafened persons in a community is insufficient to warrant the formation of a club or league, then the next best plan is take up one's residence in a larger city, such as Montreal or Toronto in Canada or in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and many other cities in the United States. In Canada this instruction is usually given only at night, but in many American cities there are classes, morning and afternoon and evening.

Although practically all the managing secretaries of the leagues are hard of hearing, many of the teachers are free from the handicap. Most of them take a very thorough institutional course, in which the best methods of teaching speechreading are learned. I have, however, known some excellent teachers who have studied the art from text books.

Self-instruction is only partially satisfactory. One sits in front of the morror with a text book in hand, and studies the movements of the mouth and facial expressions, but, having a knowledge in advance of the word or words to be studied limits one's powers of observation so necessary in conversation, for it must be remembered that there are many series of words in the pronouncement of which the lip movements are identical or nearly so, bad, bag, ban, bass, bat, in which cases the reader has to depend partly upon facial expression and largely upon context. Just, therefore, as in learning stenography dictation is necessary, so with lip reading one has to observe the lips and face of a person saying unexpected words. Many devoted mothers of deaf-born children have met with splendid success in making their little ones read their thoughts.

I don't know whether a club or league could be formed in Charlottetown, but if those who are interested will send me their own names and addresses also those of others who they know to be suffering from hearing impairment, I shall be willing to treat the information as confidential and report only the total figures either by circular letters or by a letter to The Guardian.

H. K. S. HEMMING

THE MILK-CREAM EMBARGO

Sir,—My interest in this question has not been confined to your Forum but in official directions and I have confident assurances that effective official action is aroused. That those concerned may be better prepared I continue laying facts before the people.

Let me add to the laws already quoted, Sec. 164 of Criminal Code as follows:—

"Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to one year's imprisonment who, without lawful excuse, disobeys any act of the Parliament of Canada."

From the British North America Act, amongst the classes of subjects "assigned (notwithstanding anything in this act) to the exclusive Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada, that is to say:—

2 The Regulation of Trade and Commerce."

The Campbell government having deigned to repeal this Imperial Act, and assumed power to "regulate trade and commerce" in milk and cream, it will not tax the wisdom of a Solon or Socrates to determine the fate of that "half-baked" measure when the Federal forces are in action.

I have good grounds for believing that our City Council are not wholly sleeping in the light of recent exposures, and in the maximum they must of necessity become important factors in the working out and framing of a sweeping civic policy. May I not be considered too presumptive in outlining what I think should be done.

The Marketing Act places almost absolute powers in the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa. Of his own volition, or "at the request of the Board," (and there being no Board here) there is not the slightest doubt that a memorial from the City Council, would bring about effective and drastic action) or upon his own initiative authorize an investigation into the cost of production prices, spreads, trade practices, methods of management, financing, policies, grading, transportation and other matters in relation to the marketing, adaptation for sale, processing or conversion of any natural product." (2) He may also require persons engaged in production or marketing, adaptation for sale, processing or conversion of a natural product to submit at regular intervals, information demanded by the Minister in connection with the matters referred to in sub-section one hereof." (17—1) "Whenever as result of such investigation the Minister shall have reason to believe that such a situation exists as requires further enquiry he may appoint a committee to enquire into price spread", etc. This power is further extended (in Sections too lengthy to quote here) to investigate books, accounts, registers and every thing necessary to bring to light everything of fact upon which to pronounce judgment, and if decided upon to enforce drastic penalties.

A request from the Mayor and Council, to the Minister of Agriculture would surely bring about this much needed enquiry, without expense to the City, and the outcome when it is completed will surely open the eyes of our people as to the manner in which they are being exploited.

While we proudly boast of our "disease free area", we are in somnolent blindness to the fact that with the best dairy products in Canada as our foundation, we have the most profligate milk system of distribution in Charlottetown to be found in any city on the continent. To what extent this exists only such a searching as above enquiry will bring enlightenment to our people.

There never has been, nor never will be, a better opportunity for the City Council to institute a thorough housecleaning and clean up of this antiquated system. The innovations of law and the outrage on consumers gives solid grounds to demand investigation; the Marketing Act provides the machinery, and the indignation of those exploited ensures a unanimous moral support.

Modern service requires more perfect inspection, milk and cream to be delivered from refrigerated dairy delivery motor cars. There should be twice a day delivery so that the previous day's half soured milk may not finish its process of mortification on children's stomachs, or in an undertakers mortuary.

Dividing the City up into say four districts, giving the supplying by public tender. Instead of the present licence, make the revenue on a percentage of the 100 gallons sold, so that an equitable levy would apply to all, according to quantity, and this rate should be sufficient to provide revenue for employing a sufficient number of inspectors to insure purity, cleanliness and safety to public health.

Such a system, per public tender, would give us milk at its actual value (on present costs about 6c to 7c) a product we could use with safety, and freedom from the periodical jack up of prices as at present under a government fostered combine. And by making penalties for default automatic, based upon the results of inspection, (as the "lights reported out" are credited in our lighting contracts), the routine or prosecutions in court could be dispensed with, and a better revenue realized.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LEWIS P. TANTON

GOLD BALLS

To repaint gold balls, stick blackheaded pins in them, attach strings and dip the balls in a can of gold paint. Hang up to dry. They should be scrubbed clean before this is done, however.

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MEN'S WEAR

The Manion Plan

(Ottawa Journal)

Two criticisms are being made of the proposal that the full cost of unemployment relief should be assumed by the Dominion Government, the municipalities thereby relieved of a burden many of them find it almost impossible to bear.

It is being argued in some quarters that as there is but one body of taxpayers, maintaining Dominion, provincial and municipal governments, the change would have little point, because the same taxpayers would be paying the bills whether through the national or the civic treasury. This argument disregards the fact that municipal revenues come almost entirely from real property—that municipal taxes therefore have a much narrower base than federal taxes. It is quite clear that this is true. The unmarried man or woman who owns no real estate, whose income is in the form of salary, pays not one cent of taxes to the municipality except in the few places where a small poll tax is imposed. The tenant theoretically pays the taxes in his rent, but owners point out that there are holes in the theory—that in the years when relief costs were forcing local rates to new high figures the same economic forces were lowering rents.

The Dominion Government, on the other hand, collects taxes directly or indirectly from every man, woman and child in the whole country. It can distribute an item of cost, the cost of meeting a national responsibility, as can no other taxing body. It can save the anomaly of one man paying less than his share because another pays more.

The other contention is that the step long advocated by many newspapers and now approved by Dr. Manion, the new Conservative leader, would be unfair to those comparatively few municipalities that have no residents on relief, no relief problem. This is, we think, a superficial viewpoint that ignores considerations of the broader national interest. The conviction is strongly held by men well qualified to form intelligent opinions on the subject—by Sir Thomas White among others—that nothing is so certain to rejuvenate the construction industry in this country as a general reduction in the taxes on real estate. The benefits of such a revival, spreading down through the ranks of a score of associated industries, would be felt in every corner of Canada.

And there are other points worth noting. The relief problem of the larger cities has been intensified by an influx of the indigent from small communities and rural parts. If all these people were distributed among the communities upon which they have most claim few municipalities, we imagine, would be able to boast that they had no unemployed. The cities have spent tens of thousands of dollars—money raised principally from the tax on real estate—in maintaining persons with no moral claim upon them, in meeting a responsibility that is distinctly national. They have paid far more than their fair share of relief costs, as the smaller communities have paid less than their share, and even a belated adjustment of the system should be welcomed by all clear-thinking citizens.

The Poets' Corner

LOVE SONG

As the ant brought to Solomon the King
The thigh of a grasshopper as an offering,
So do I bring to thee, beloved, my soul.

I have placed my head and my heart
On the sill of the door of thy love:
Step gently, child!

—Tcherkess Khan.

HAY FEVER Do you dread its misery? Sneezing? Sore, inflamed, watering, itchy eyes? Running nose? Don't even let it start. Take Templeton's RAZ-MAH Capsules before your attack is due. If it has already begun, take RAZ-MAH for quick relief from all your miserable symptoms. Relief from $1 worth—or money back. Get a 50c or $1 box from your druggist. 53d

Conservative Meeting

Hunter River Poll. A general meeting of the Poll will be held in the Hall on Monday, August 29th, at 8 P. M. for the purpose of appointing a Committee, etc.

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