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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1940.

Tomorrow Decides

After the briefest election campaign in our constitutional history, the electors go to the polls tomorrow to record their votes. The issue have not been thoroughly discussed, the opportunity not having been vouchsafed by the powers-that-are-at-present.

Here the National Government candidates are all local men, living among the people among whom they grew up, understanding their difficulties and handicaps, and willing and anxious to serve them and to give advice.

Back In 'Fourteen

In his speech in Charlottetown Hon. Mr. Ralston again cited criticisms with regard to the alleged hasty and superficial medical examination given the men recruited for the 1st Canadian Contingent in the last war.

Presiding at the meeting was Dr. I. J. Yeo, President of the Queen's County Liberal Association, who examined many of our recruits at the outbreak of war in 1914 and was himself Commanding Officer of the 9th Field Ambulance at that time.

Dr. Yeo must have had difficulty in restraining righteous indignation at Mr. Ralston's uncalled reflections.

He could have told the Finance Minister that the highest standard of physical fitness was required for overseas service in 1914. In Dr. Yeo's own unit, for example—not a fighting unit but a medical corps—out of some twenty eager volunteers only seven succeeded in passing the stiff examination to which he subjected them personally.

Then And Now

"Are their (the people's) representatives to be thus driven from their seats like soldiers by drill sergeants in a garrison town? These representatives came to see the public accounts. Where are they?"

Colonel Drew cited the above-quoted words the other day in Ontario; but they were not his own. Neither were they Dr. Manion's. They were the words used by Mr. Mackenzie King's grandfather, in denouncing the scuttling of Parliament back in 1854 which precipitated a revolution.

The same thing has happened in this year of grace, and Mr. King says he did it in the interests of "national unity".

What A Spectacle!

Among all the odd things said in this odd election campaign the oddest, surely, says the Ottawa Journal, is this: That the antics of Premier Hepburn may hurt Dr. Manion.

Why Manion? Here is an unseemly, vulgar squabble within the Liberal party; a revelation that the Liberal party is broken up into factions; that certain of its leaders have risen to positions for which nature did not intend them. By what process of alchemy is the conclusion reached that this would hurt Manion?

Let us suppose that the situation was reversed; that Col. Drew was warring upon Dr. Man-

ion; and that Col. Drew and his Ontario followers were putting on the holy show that has been put on by Mr. Hepburn and his "on again, off again" Mr. Finnegon-Nixon. Would that hurt Mr. King? Not, we imagine that Mr. King would notice.

This Ontario spectacle is a Liberal spectacle. If decent Liberals hang their heads over it; if it betrays that Mr. King can't maintain unity in his party, let alone unity in Canada—will any sane person tell us why it becomes the funeral of Dr. Manion or of his party?

And what a spectacle it is! A spectacle of downright inferiority for leadership, but of downright hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty!

What Government Economies?

Finance Minister Ralston addressed five public meetings in the Province last week and also spoke over the radio. In none of his speeches did he explain what efforts, if any, the Government is making to economize on ordinary peacetime expenditures. This is information the public has a right to look for in an election campaign, particularly from the Finance Minister.

The people will not complain about war costs if convinced their money is being spent carefully. They are willing to economize on private expenses to foot the bill, but they cannot be expected to do so unless against the Government sets the example. Instead of economy at Ottawa, the King Government since the war has been spending extravagantly in every direction, which is just another reason why a National Government is needed.

Cabinet Timber Aplenty

The Vancouver Province recalls that after all there are only 16 men in Mackenzie King's government and there are 11,000,000 other people in the country. Mr. King suggests that the people of Canada outside his cabinet are barren of ability and incapable of rising to a great occasion. Dr. Manion apparently thinks much more highly of them, for he is confident of finding somewhere in their ranks plenty of good cabinet timber.

Perhaps he might find some of it among those Liberals whose abilities Mr. King has not yet recognized.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter Holiday—for some.

It is all over, bar the voting.

Tomorrow vote early, but not often.

Easter was a little too early to suit Spring fashions.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow died this date, 1882: "Alike they were free from Fear, that reigns with the tyrant, and envy the vice of republics."

Britain's Minister of Labor, Mr. Ernest Brown, has appealed to British subjects able to speak, read or write the following languages to offer their services as linguists and send their names to the Ministry so that they can be called upon should the necessity arise: Albanian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Estonian, Finnish, Georgian, Japanese, Lettish, Lithuanian, Turkish, or the Yugoslav group of tongues.

There are thousands of ex-servicemen who have offered their services since the outbreak of the war. The response from the King Government in the majority of cases has been a polite acknowledgment. The Government has apparently nothing for them to do, yet surely there must be many posts that could be filled by these veterans with advantage to Canada's war effort. The unfortunate part of it is that due to government negligence enthusiasm which was at a white heat is beginning to cool.

In Great Britain, where 33 out of 50 Liberal members and a proportion of Laborites joined with the Conservatives for a National Government, the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations has appealed for the complete ending of party strife, because "the nation is faced with a tremendous task which can only be undertaken successfully with the unity and whole-hearted support of all sections of the community opposed to tyranny and oppression." If Canada does not need similar unity, it is because the war is not going to be prosecuted here with equal earnestness.

Stocks of raw cattle hides on hand at the end of January amounted to 760,770 hides compared with 714,374 at the end of December and 676,851 at the end of November, 1939. Calf and kip skins numbered 533,457 on January 31 compared with 505,072 for December and 680,948 for November. There were 60,114 dozen sheep and lamb skins on hand at the end of January compared with 77,726 and 74,349 dozen at the close of the two preceding months. Goat and kid skins on hand numbered 108,414 for January, 74,969 for December and 41,597 for November. Stocks of horse hides numbered 24,496 compared with 28,426 for December and 27,798 for November.

British chiropodists want to do their bit in the war as professionals and have petitioned for formal recognition by the government. Through their joint council, of which Lord Desborough is patron and among the vice president of which are the Earl of Strathmore and Admiral Sir Murray F. Sueter, they have proposed to the War Office the creation of a Royal Corps of Chiropodists, to work closely with the Royal Army Medical Corps. In a letter the council submits that the army's feet should be cared for by qualified experts, of whom there are thousands in the country, and not by "spare-time cutters" from the ranks. It also suggests establishing a national register of trained chiropodists who are willing to serve at home or overseas.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The measure of Russian tactical training may be judged by reports that new tanks now arriving on the Russian front are being used as mobile fortifications. For the tank is not a defensive weapon, although its armored sides provide a protection for that use. Occasionally it may be justified. We are told that a group of tanks were drawn up in a circle, after the manner of the covered wagon barricades used against Indian attacks. The principal purpose of those Indian war barricades was to preserve the livestock. In the case mentioned, the Russians were successful in driving off a Finnish attack—Chicago Daily News.

Germany has long ago abandoned the fond hope that the rest of the Empire would not back Great Britain to the fullest extent in the fight she is waging to destroy Nazism before it can destroy the British Commonwealth of Nations and democracy with it. It must know by now that Canada and all its fighting men, whether at home or abroad, are fully determined to hold up Hitlerism forever, a proposition which the regular aviators men at the air school near here are chafing to take a highly creditable part.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

After six years of commission government the newspapers of this island have now published and found wanting the system inaugurated in 1934 after the island's status as a Dominion was voted out by Parliament. "The system has failed," writes one observer, "because government without opposition is impossible and because of the exclusion of the press from all discussions." In November 1934 the Legislative Council and Lower House of Newfoundland passed a resolution petitioning the Government of the United Kingdom to implement recommendations of a Royal Commission which had investigated the island's financial and economic position. Lord Amulree of London was chairman and Sir William Staver of Montreal was the Magistrate of Victoria, B.C., were members. The Amulree report favored the suspension of parliamentary government in favor of government by commission appointed by the United Kingdom Government until the island again became self-supporting. The Mother Country would assist the solution of financial problems in Newfoundland. The effect of the change was to reduce the island from dominion to colonial status.

Extracts from what was described as the last letter written by Captain Langsdorff of the Graf Spee were read on the secret German Freedom Station. "This letter has been in my hands for some time, and we have taken great care to verify its authenticity," said the announcer. Captain Langsdorff was quoted as saying: "The fore we left for the Southern Atlantic I was summoned to see Hitler. Hitler began the conversation with the command to scuttle the Graf Spee should she encounter superior enemy forces. I replied, 'The Graf Spee will maintain the honor of the German Navy. I will not scuttle her.' Whereupon the Fuhrer said, 'My honor is the honor of the German Navy.' Strenuous efforts were made to jam the Freedom Station during the whole of the broadcast, and when the announcer reached the statement attributed to Hitler he became inaudible. A few moments later the Freedom Station was able again to overcome the interference and the announcer was heard continuing the reading of the letter thus: I have no choice but to yield to the command of the Fuhrer and then commit myself to God that I shall free my country from the Nazi plague.—Manchester Guardian.

The new four-and-a-half-year-old Dalai Lama has already gone through preliminary initiation as a monk, replacing his birth name with the names he will bear as Dalai Lama. He will reign as the 14th Dalai Lama. His name is Tenzin Gyatso, which means "Tender glory, mighty in speech, excellent intellect, absolute wisdom, holding to the great and true." The current newspaper of the late nineteenth century which announced that "Their Majesties the All Highest went to church to return thanks to the Highest." A former King of Persia wrote officially to his son as "Dawn of the Sun's Delight, the Key of the Gates of Victory, the Light of the Eyes of Kings, the Guardian of the Splendence of the Face of Sovereignty and Empire, Dear and Most Noble Son, Light of the Eyes." Often the pling up of titles was met with a neat insult to the person to whom a message was sent, for the more titles claimed by the sender the less were left for the recipient. So Ahmed I, writing to Henry IV of France, claimed to be "Emperor of Victorious Emperors, Distributor of Crowns to the Greatest Princes of the Earth, Lord of Europe, Asia and Africa. Eventually there was a reaction in the Western World, and in 1636 Philip III of Spain died and letters addressed to him should begin "Senior" and should be signed "His Most Gracious Catholic Person of your Majesty."

The Court of Appeal heard an appeal by Mr. Robert McQuaker from a judgment of Mr. Justice Branson given at Kingston Assizes in favor of the defendant, Mr. R. S. Goddard, proprietor of the Kingston Zoo, in an action brought by Mr. McQuaker claiming damages from Mr. Goddard for personal injuries received by him when he was bitten by a camel at the Kingston Zoo on his way to the office. On the other hand, in the case of domestic animals, the presumption was the other way. It was argued strongly that the camel stood in a different category from ordinary domestic animals because it was not domestic in England. That argument was fallacious. If the animal did not exist in a wild state in any part of the world it had ceased to be a wild animal. The plaintiff's only course was either to prove knowledge by the defendant of a general propen-

"The Issue As I See It"

By Hon. R. J. Manion, M. C.
Leader of the National Conservative Party in Maclean's Magazine

Canada is at war. We are engaged in a struggle with a dangerous enemy. We have assumed an obligation which will test the strength, intelligence and staying power of this nation as they have never before been tested.

We are in to the end. There is no way out short of victory or defeat. At the same time, we must solve internal problems which have been too long neglected and we must lay practical foundations now for rehabilitation when the war is over.

This job calls for a government strong, energetic and representative enough to enlist and co-ordinate the best human and material resources in Canada, not only for our own defence and reconstruction, but for the most effective co-operation with our allies in the struggle.

Canada as a nation can be really at war only when every citizen, regardless of his political or other personal beliefs, is encouraged by his government to shoulder a fair share of the nation's burden and if, having been so encouraged, he is enabled to make his voluntary contribution with a maximum of effectiveness and a minimum of delay and annoyance.

There is no room in the Dominion now for party politics. While I am leading a movement for National Government I will not use a smokescreen of war effort to promote political objectives; I will not give lip-service to national unity to conceal the consolidation and aggrandisement of a party machine. The problems and responsibility in our democracy are those of the whole nation, not those of a handful of party stalwarts. There must be absolute frankness and trust between all the people of Canada and every member of their government.

The issue in this campaign is clear:

Either the people of Canada want a government composed of the best of the manpower of Canada; or they want a straight Liberal party administration which will continue to obstruct the national effort with indecision, delay, incompetence, trickery, patronage and favoritism.

It is all very well to say the King government has called strong, experienced men into the national service as members of departments and boards. Unless the Cabinet itself, the Organism which has the last word in policy and administration, is made up exclusively of competent, energetic and trustworthy men, the work of the various services will be crippled from the start.

We cannot have a body of experts, however capable it may be, can carry on an adequate program of Canadian war effort under a weak government.

For five years the King government has been "drafting" the services of "experts" at great expense to the national treasury and then either side-tracking or ignoring their recommendations.

I will get the best brains and ability in Canada in the Cabinet of a National Government.

That government which, for partisan advantage, ran and hid from the findings of the Purvis Commission on Unemployment cannot be believed when it claims to be making full use now of the best brains in the Dominion.

By the way, where is the Rowell-Sirois Commission's report on Dominion Provincial Relations?

So strongly is Mr. King be-devilled with the shibboleth of party solidarity at the expense of the nation that after Ian Mackenzie had proved himself utterly incompetent to prepare the nation for war, the Prime Minister appointed him chairman of the Cabinet subcommittee charged with planning for rehabilitation after the war.

When the irresistible pressure of public opinion finally forced Mr. King to remove his discredited Minister of National Defence, he merely shifted him to another department where he carries a heavy obligation to returned men from the last war. He replaced him in the Department of National Defence by the equally discredited Minister of Labour, a theorist with no practical experience, who, in four year's time, had failed to scratch the surface of the unemployment problem which it was his duty to solve.

And now, after having himself betrayed Canada and our allies in 1937 or 1938 by refusing to permit the British to set up air training schools in Canada for British pilots, which schools would have put us ahead of Germany instead of behind her in air preparedness, he proposes to succeed himself as the head of the nation's affairs.

Not only do I believe that a Cabinet preoccupied with party considerations cannot give efficient attention to the serious problems created by war, but I believe also that the ministers who are wrapped up in war problems cannot give adequate care to matters of ordinary internal administration. I will set up a war council within the Cabinet charged with the responsibility of winning the war.

And, I propose also, in setting up a National Government, to establish a Department of Reconstruction, headed by an outstanding Canadian, whose sole duty will be to begin at once studying and preparing for the readjustments which will inevitably follow the war.

I repeat today an appeal I have made before, that in every constituency in Canada where nominations have not yet been made for the coming election, all Canadians who agree with me should endeavor to get together people of all groups at open conventions for the purpose of naming some loyal able citizen, of whatever party, as a National Government candidate.

It has been hinted darkly, if not said openly, that I have proposed a National Government as a screen behind which to promote conscription and railway amalgamation.

Both suggestions are utterly untrue.

I am against conscription on the ground, among others, that it is unnecessary. In the last war the chief result of attempts to apply it in Canada was national disunity and misunderstanding, and it raised very few men for our armies.

And I am against railway amalgamation, though I advocate full co-operation between the railways under a non-political board which would have the power to see that co-operation was actually made effective, with full protection for the men whose employment might be interfered with through co-operative measures.

I am campaigning for a National Government for one reason only; that a nation at war needs a National Government.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charter of the National Conservative Party does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

O'LEARY CONSERVATIVE MEETING

Sir,—As a fair minded citizen of this community I feel it my duty to reply to a letter published in the Pioneer of March 22nd and concerning the Conservative meeting at O'Leary on the 13th inst. The writer of this epistle who signs himself "Nobody" lives up to his name in English "Nobody," for of all the unfair, contemptible trash published by a paper supporting a Government of this country such rubbish surpasses them all.

The meeting in question in spite of a stormy night and almost impossible conditions was attended by approximately 125 people who listened with every mark of interest and enthusiasm to the candidate for this constituency, Dr. McPhee, and his supporter, Mr. Arnett. In a very capable and democratic manner these two speakers discussed the

sity in any camel to bite, or else to establish a case of negligence. There was no evidence that at the time the plaintiff was injured the defendant had any knowledge that this camel had a propensity to bite.—London Times.

"TIRED" ALL THE TIME

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Dodd's Kidney Pills

issues of the day and if King George VI was forgotten there was another King very much in evidence as his blundering inefficiency was brought to light time and time again in a who for a final climax followed the example of the commander of the Graf Spee and scuttled the ship rather than face the guns of Hon. Bob Manion and his Conservative followers.

I am, Sir etc. ALIQUIS

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