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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1938

Liberal United Chivalry, Alas!

"Like knights of old at Table Round, so
may we speak and move;
More chivalrous in high emprise, well may
our Sessions prove:
United for the Common Weal, our backs to
every wall,
Full face to face, so shall we stand in
Legislative Hall."
—Liberal "Victory Ode", 1935.

It is a far cry from the harmony prevailing at the celebrated Liberal post-election picnic at Victoria, in 1935, which inspired the above poetical outburst, to the scenes in the Legislature during the past few days. Government members have sat and heard pointed reminders from their supporters as to the lamentable failure to implement election pledges. Even those who professed to be commending the Government interpersed their remarks with destructive criticism worthy of an official opposition. When our solid 30 took office, the then Liberal Globe seriously warned the Government to "mind their step" or they would bring democracy into disrepute and breed anarchy. The Campbell Government has succeeded in doing both, for surely in no constitutionally conducted legislature here or elsewhere have we had the lamentable disorder witnessed this week.

The Purvis Report

One of the big surprises of the parliamentary session is contained in the report of the National Employment Commission, says the Windsor Star.

This organization, now dissolved, was headed by Mr. Arthur B. Purvis, president of Canadian Industries, Limited, and an active director of many other corporations. Mr. Purvis, at the invitation of Prime Minister King, accepted leadership of the employment commission on a non-salary basis and over a lengthy period gave a great deal of valuable time to the effort to find work for idle Canadians.

The outstanding feature of the commission's report is the suggestion that both provinces and the municipalities be relieved of the main burden of unemployment relief. The commission would have the Dominion Government assume this responsibility.

This recommendation applies to employable persons. The commission would leave with the municipalities and provinces the care of aged and unemployables. It would be the task of the federal authority to look after those who are able to work, but unable to secure it.

We have referred to this phase of the Purvis report as a surprise. It will be to most of the population, at least, for the national commission Mr. Purvis headed was appointed by the King Government and the attitude of the Administration toward the subject of relief has been quite different from that laid down in the recommendations of the commission. The tendency of the Government, and one for which it has been widely criticized, has been to suggest that relief was primarily a problem for the municipalities and the provinces, with the federal authority coming into the picture only as a sort of last resort. One wonders, then, as to the reaction of Mr. King and his Labor Minister, Mr. Rogers, when they received Mr. Purvis' recommendations.

Pedestrian's Liability

When a motorist recovers damages from a pedestrian, it is news. Such an incident is reported from England where an Ipswich motorist has been required to pay for the damage done when he swerved to avoid a pedestrain, but has been held to be entitled to compensation from the pedestrian.

The judgment apparently recognizes the primary responsibility of the motorist for any damage which his car may do. It is reasonable that any one who undertakes to drive on a public highway should assume liability for any damage which may result from the operation of his car.

But the unusual feature of the judgment, is that it recognizes that a motorist, who is driving carefully and is suddenly confronted by an emergency created by the carelessness of a pedestrian, is entitled to compensation if in swerving to avoid that danger he runs into other danger.

Seed Potatoes In Argentina

Seed supplied from the Maritime Provinces was used for 68,000 acres, or approximately 50 per cent. of the 135,000 acres planted with imported certified seed potatoes in Argentina last fall, writes Mr. J. A. Strong, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Buenos Aires. Danish certified seed was planted to 43,760 acres. The remainder was planted with certified seed from Estonia, Poland, Germany, the United States, the Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, Ireland, Czechoslovakia, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Sweden.

Potatoes are grown commercially in three different localities in Argentina. Small quantities are grown in other areas but mainly for consumption in the immediate vicinity. Potatoes are not grown throughout the country as in Canada, and only small quantities are consumed by the farmers or in the country towns outside the potato-producting districts. The average Argentine eats plenty of beef and few vegetables, so that the per capita consumption of potatoes is much lower than in Canada.

Potatoes were formerly planted in the Balcarce-Mar del Plata district—the most important producing zone — in October, which corresponds fairly closely to late April and early May in Canada. This made it difficult for Northern countries, such as Canada, to ship certified seed from the current season's crop in time for planting. However, when the 1935-36 drought combined with virus diseases to destroy almost the entire Argentine potato crop, the farmers were obliged to take new seed from abroad and had no choice but to delay planting until it was available. The farmers are now doubtful as to whether potatoes should be planted in October.

Arrivals of certified seed up to November 30 last amounted to 34,975 metric tons (2,205 pounds). It is not, however, expected that sales this year will equal or approximate this figure, barring a major crop disaster between now and harvest time. The Argentine crop will not be as large as was estimated two months ago due to lack of sufficient rain, but the situation is not in any way comparable with the poor prospects at this time last year following the destruction of the previous year's crop by disease and drought.

Editorial Notes

The Government paid $3,309.20 in skunk and owl bounties last year.

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Princess Beatrice, (H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg) born this date, 1857.

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Evidently Mr. Hessian is getting very sensitive when he cannot stand a Mustard plaster.

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The Government has decided to close down the legislature tomorrow, lest the Legislature close down on them later.

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What an ungracious act on the part of the Premier to characterize a loyal supporter like Mr. H. H. Cox as being too prejudiced!

* * * *

Imagine a Premier turning on a member of his Government as Mr. Campbell did on Mr. Allan, and going to the support of the opposition, Mr. Hessian.

* * * *

Canada's population is now estimated at 11,196,441 persons, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report. Number of births since the first of the year was estimated at 278,992 and deaths at 140,177.

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Canadians consume approximately 78 per cent of the field products of their farms, 91 per cent of their meat production, 94 per cent of the dairy production and 98 per cent of poultry, according to a recent government survey.

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"One of the victims" of the Campbell Government's National Park policy writes: "There is not the slightest doubt that many of the settlements, about which Premier Campbell has been boasting, were achieved by the unfair methods which I have just outlined" in his letter in the Public Forum.

* * * *

Why has one contractor all the pull with the Campbell Family Compact Government? For instance, this from the report of the Public Works report: A. T. McKinnon, Government House, $417.53; Provincial Building, $267.80; Prince of Wales College, $63.50; Falconwood, $224.20; Court House $21,459.71; besides $20,000 carried forward to this year's estimates). And all the Federal work as well.

* * * *

What does this mean? Under "The Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937, Project No. 1—Sub-grading Summerside to Richmond" appear the following two items: E. T. Higgs, $27.20; R. B. McKinley, $10. These are two of the commissioners appointed to adjust the National Park property claims and what are they doing in that Prince County galley?

* * * *

In connection with the forthcoming departure of the Governor General on leave it is announced by the University of Edinburgh that arrangements have been made whereby the installation of Lord Tweedsmuir as Chancellor will take place at the graduation ceremonial on July 20. After his installation Lord Tweedsmuir will confer degrees on the graduands and will deliver an address.

* * * *

The Quebec Liberal Government Scandal disclosures have created such a sensation, that the King Government has attempted to intervene to protect their supporters from the threat of arrest. Mr. Alexandre Tache (U.N. Hull), chairman of the Quebec Legislature's public accounts committee, sent telegrams to Justice Minister Lapointe and Mr. Edouard Lacroix, member of Parliament for Beauce, notifying them the committee would meet Monday and they would have an "opportunity to be heard if you wish." Despatch of the telegrams to Ottawa followed Premier Duplessis' announcement in the Legislative Assembly of the special committee sitting to permit Mr. Lacroix to defend himself "under oath" against charges made before the committee that he had illegally exported lumber from Quebec Crown lands to the United States and cut trees under the size limit provided by Quebec law. The Quebec premier added a challenge to the justice minister to come with the Beauce member of Parliament before Monday's committee meeting or resign from his House of Commons seat for Quebec East and meet him in a provincial by-election. "To run against the minister of justice in his own county," Premier Duplessis was ready to resign as member of the provincial Legislature for Three Rivers, he told the Quebec House. "Or let the minister of justice come here with Mr. Lacroix before the public accounts committee and defend his friends Antoine Taschereau, Charles Lanctot and Tim Buck," invited the premier. But Mr. Tache preferred to go on the air and Mr. Lapointe ignored the invitation

NOTES BY THE WAY

These are vital days for the future of the nation's children. In the new Education Act it is provided that 15 shall be the school-leaving age only where children are not offered "beneficial employment" at 14 And local education authorities are now deciding what they will regard as "beneficial employment." Enlightened local authorities ought to feel that there is no such thing as employment for a 14-year-old child which will give greater benefit than another year at school. Unfortunately, it is not a matter of their feelings, but of the best they can do under the Act. If there is no agreement between them, there will be a real danger that the more progressive will be dragged down to the level of the most reactionary. It is to be hoped that the first authorities to issue definitions will work to a high standard which will keep a large proportion of children at school.—London Daily Herald.

A Western group has been sedulously suggesting the issue of millions of "new money." Out of this finished products of the lithographers, it would have the Government finance many new undertakings. The fantastic idea of spending $100,000,000 on public works, roads or rehabilitation in the West is in part due to adherents of this school of thought. The argument is that the "new" money would not mean new debt. This theory is favored by C.C.F. members while, without being Social Credit, it is not wholly foreign to its neighborhood. Quite a substantial group of the radical school is also in favor of the idea. The theory is based on the fact that, to satisfy an International standard, a gold coverage of 25 per cent of the currency is all that is necessary. The present reserves are nearer 50 per cent than 25 per cent, hence the idea of expansion 'without inflation.—Toronto Star

For Europe in general, and for this country not least of all, the question at issue is one not merely of abstract principle, but of stern reality, demanding practical and immediate decisions. It is easy to understand the impatience with which those decisions are awaited; but it should be not less easy, in view of all that is at hazard, to understand the disinclination of the Government to be rushed A wise precept of the late Lord Salisbury, quoted in the House of Lords on Wednesday, has an application very apt to the present international situation. It is that foreign policy should be directly related to national strength, and that commitments should not be undertaken unless the means to fulfil them are at command. That reflection should moderate some of the more impetuous counsels now being pressed upon the Government, and well justifies their cautious reserve—not likely to be unduly prolonged. Seldom has there been a time when public opinion in this country was more united on the main issue than it is today. — Daily Telegraph and Morning Post

The editor of the Peterborough Examiner boasts that when he was in Vienna he put up at the Imperial Hotel, which he considers to be top-notch in the hostelries of that new German city. As he missed the Bristol Hotel, up the Ringstrass on the corner, we can understand his vainglory. But one big reason for his opinion is harder to understand. It is that the Imperial provides each diner with a gold-mounted toothpick. At the Bristol he would seek in vain for such an implement. The Peterborough editor is on safer ground when he marks the Adlon, at No. 1 Unter-den Linden, Berlin, as another fine hotel It is more than that. It was considered the finest hotel in Europe before Hitler's time, and probably is yet. At the Adlon a guest may obtain a full-course meal at any hour of the day or night.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

There is an excellent story going about of Lord Swinton piloting one of the new Empire flying boats. It is said that after some manoeuvres he flew so low over Reading aerodrome that his companion, a young pilot, shouted a reminder that they were not in an airplane but must come down on the sea. A little later Lord Swinton made an excellent landing in the Channel. The young pilot, fearing that he had made a fool of himself in warning the great Minister of Air, apologized profusely. Lord Swinton said it did not matter, though he wondered how his companion could have thought him so foolish as to forget whether he was to land on the land or on the sea. "However," he said, "don't worry about that. All's well that ends well," and with that he opened the door and stepped out into the Channel —New Statesman and Patron.

In accusing fat men of laziness Dr. Leonard Williams runs counter to the opinion of another eminent medical authority, Dr. Berthold, who has declared that "embonpoint is one of the greatest benefits that Providence can confer on man, and with obesity comes perseverance, virtue and contentment." Berthold cited some notable examples: Napoleon, who developed a "corporation" at thirty; Mirabeau, "as fat as a fat monk;" Balzac and Dumas, prodigies of energy who were also mountains of flesh; and Gambetta, who, in spite of his obesity, retained mental and physical vigor until his death.—From the Manchester Guardian.

A minor High Court case in England recently showed that individual liberty is highly prized and also the balance which has been struck between the forces of law and order and the individual. Mr. John Ludlow, an actor, was waiting for a bus. He was wearing a thick coat and over his arm he had a thinner coat which he was taking to his tailor to be pressed. Mr. Ludlow was arrested by two plain-clothes policemen and marched to the local police station, on suspicion of having stolen the second coat. Mr. Ludlow brought action against the police claiming damages for false imprisonment. His version of the facts was accepted by the jury who awarded his $1500 damages with costs. Policemen like other mortals often make errors, but it is an indispensable part of the British system of justice to see that such errors are rectified. — Exchange.

Less suffering and a quicker recovery following operations have been observed by Royal Victoria Hospital surgeons in cases where they have employed fine silk thread instead of the old-fashioned catgut. "In our personal experience the use of fine silk as a suture material lessens the duration of hospitalization," Dr. Gavin Miller and Dr. J.C. Luke of Montreal point out in an article entitled "Silk Technique: Its Role in Sound Healing" in the current issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal. All reports studied have shown that a careful silk technique results in only half as many infections as occur when catgut is used. The use of fine silk threads leads to a more careful, gentle surgical technique, helping the surgeon to obey the laws which favor kindly wound healing."—Daily Star.

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.

THE LEGISLATURE CONDEMNED

Sir,—The action of the local Legislature in abridging the appeals to the courts in the cases of the Road Act and the Park Act are surely deserving of censure, and the action of the Guardian in condemning the Government in those cases is worthy of commendation.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CITY PROPERTY OWNER

UNDEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION

Sir,—I have read with much interest the letters in the Guardian about this beautiful National Park. So far as I can understand it there is no democracy connected with the legislation governing it.

I do not believe there is one man in the thirty stalwarts in our Legislature that would run their own business in the haphazard way that they are running the business of this Island. I would like to see printed an itemized account of those men that are travelling with their autos over the country roads on boards and commissions.

Another thing I would like to mention.

After the last election I know of a man past 70 who received the old age pension papers. I helped to fill them in, and where the question was asked, are you willing to give your property to the Pension Board, he positively in plain English said "No not by any means." He sent them away. After a short time he got word that his application was turned down, but what do you think? After another short spell he got word that he was going to get it, and got $7.10 for a few months. When he found out that what he was getting was charged up against his property he cancelled it right away.

Has a man at the present time got anything to say what he is going to do with his property, or is it left to our Legislatures and governments? If that was the conditions that they were giving the pension on why did they give it to him without his consent?

There is neither democracy, golden rule nor last, but not least, the Lord's Prayer in that kind of law and government.

The rule at the present time is don't do as I do, but do as I tell you. We put them in office as our servants but it has come to the pass that we are their servants.

I am, Sir, etc.,
BRITISH SUBJECT

WILL THE PREMIER DENY?

Sir,— Some time ago, in an editorial in the Patriot, I read the following statement: "Although the Executive Council was given power to compel the landowners to accept settlements, the Government has not yet made use of that power, and it is anticipated that in almost every case a satisfactory settlement will be reached by voluntary agreement."

In view of the fact that several references were made in this editorial to the Premier I suppose the above statement came from him.

This statement is a half truth. The very fact that the Executive Council obtained the power to compel a settlement in every case is a club that has been held over all dispossessed landowners. Will the Premier deny that the statement was made to dispossessed land owners in the park area, on more than one occasion by himself or the President of the Executive Council, that if the landowner did not settle at once, at the price suggested by the Government, he might be compelled to accept a lower price at a later date?

Will the Premier deny that again and again landowners were told: "You know we have the power to take your land, if we wish to, and give you whatever we think it is worth?"

There is not the slightest doubt that many of the settlements, about which Premier Campbell has been boasting, were achieved by the unfair methods which I have just outlined. It is a very dangerous policy for any government to be given unlimited powers in any such matters as expropriation of lands. No one knows who the next victims will be. I realize quite well the difficulty in which Premier Campbell finds himself. If any right of appeal is granted in the case of the settlements not yet achieved, then those persons who accepted the Government's terms because they feared worse treatment later, will also make an appeal to have the injustice which they suffered rectified.

By what right have the members of the local Legislature committed scores of landowners on the north shore to the tender (?) mercy of two members of the Executive? Why should Prince Edward Islanders be denied the rights of British justice that have been given to citizens in every other province of the Dominion?

Surely there must be some honorable man among the members of the local Legislature who will demand that the methods used in settling with landowners in the National Park in Prince Edward Island be investigated by an impartial commission.

I conclude by pointing out again that the Executive Council has made use of the power that has been given to it. Ever since the passing of the Act it has made use of this power to compel settlements by veiled threats to dispossessed landowners.

I am Sir, etc.,
ONE OF THE VICTIMS

WHERE TEACHERS, PARENTS AND PUPILS SHOULD AGREE

Sir,—Now that the recent controversy on our system of education must be nearly ended, or at least for a time suspended, I think you will agree with me that it is now the duty of all those who are interested in the welfare of the youth of Prince Edward Island to point out to them the advantages rather than the disadvantages of our present system; for however much we may disagree on the question as to what constitutes the ideal curriculum for the future, we surely must agree that, pending measures of reform, it is altogether desirable that the present generation should take the fullest advantage of the system as it now stands.

Now granting that our present system has serious disadvantages, the fact still remains that the common public schools of Prince Edward Island afford the most advanced and comprehensive education of any similar schools in Canada, perhaps indeed of any similar schools in North America, for they provide the equivalent of nearly two years' training in an ordinary Canadian or American high school, and that at a minimum cost to parents; and the great tragedy of our system is the fact that so many of our boys and girls fail to take full advantage of it, leaving school while in Grade 8, or even in a lower grade.

It is, I submit, no great use for the advocates of reform in our system to insist that the present defects in this system are entirely to be blamed for the neglect of higher-grade work on the part of the great majority of our pupils. The most perfect system in the world is of no avail to a people who will not take advantage of it. Our present system during the past half-century has proved a splendid one for those who took advantage of it, and a poor system indeed for those who failed to do so; and one might as well condemn the Bible because many people get little benefit from it, being woefully ignorant of its contents, as blame a system of education for lack of value to those who refused to take advantage of it.

It is therefore, I repeat, the duty of all those interested in the education of the present generation of boys and girls on Prince Edward Island to assure them that the present course of studies in the common public schools is a good one. It is time-worn it is true, but it is also time-honored and time-approved, and no boy or girl makes a mistake in pursuing his or her studies to the end of Grade 10, even if they do omit one or two subjects, which they can of course do if they do not intend to matriculate to Prince of Wales College, or some other college. It is my own opinion, as I have stated in former letters, that every farm-boy, and every farm-girl too, should take the course in Grades 9 and 10—at least in English, history, science and mathematics. What common public schools in Canada. I ask, afford a better elementary education for a farm-boy or farm-girl than this ought to be? I believe with our more ardent "progressives" that our system can be improved, especially in our ungraded schools where the average teacher, educator notwithstanding, undoubtedly finds the work too heavy to seriously contemplate it as a life-time occupation. I have in other letters even suggested a half-way measure of reform. And yet, speaking chiefly in behalf of the farmers of our province, what an intelligent class of farmers our Island province would soon have, if every farm-boy and farm-girl took full advantage of our present system, just as it is!

I am, Sir, etc.
AN OLD TEACHER.

Britain's Bomber Mystery

(Edmonton Journal)

The brief dispatch from London stating that a portion of wreckage of the secret bomber lost on Februayr 24 on a test flight around Great Britain does not solve the mystery. The wreckage was found on the little island of Karmo, off the west coast of Norway.

There are many unexplained features in the story of the lost bomber, and the more they are studied the greater the mystery becomes.

The last radio call, "all's well," came from the crew at 7.30 o'clock on the morning of February 24. Yet the aeroplane was seen in flight, apparently in perfect control, nearly seven hours later. It was heading north east from Cape Wrath, the northwest tip of Scotland on its course to the Orkney Islands. Then it made a sharp turn eastward and disappeared over the North Sea, right off its course. It is felt engine trouble and structural defects may be ruled out of the range of explanations for the failure of the bomber to return.

One possibility, a theory advanced by a British aviator, quoted but unnamed in a London Sunday Express interview, is that the crew did not know they were not in radio communication with their home station; that a nearer and powerful radio transmitter blotted out the distant signals, enabling some interloper to carry on conversation with the crew. Following an order to fly east a certain distance—out of sight of land—the aeroplane might have been brought down by persons anxious to learn the secret of its construction. A comparatively small piece of wreckage would be enough for that purpose.

For this bomber was built on the geodetic principle. No other country possesses the secret of this type of construction. It is so complicated that it took four Cambridge mathematical experts four years to work out the formula. By it, for a small amount of weight, machines are given great strength and room. The lost bomber was one of the most cherished secrets of the British air ministry.

There may be a simple explanation of the bomber's strange disappearance, but strange things have happened than that the machine might have aroused the covetous interest of some nation determined to learn the secrets of its construction at any cost.

The Poets' Corner

GONE

About the little chambers of my heart
Friends have been coming — going —many a year.
The doors stand open there.
Some, lightly stepping, enter; some depart.

Freely they come and freely go, at will.
The walls give back their laughter; all day long
They fill the house with song.
One door alone is shut one chamber still.

—Mary E. Coleridge.

"Suet - Pudding English"

(Manchester Guardian)

Mr. W. P. Crozier, editor of the Manchester Guardian, speaking "in defence of journalism" to the Manchester group of Manchester University Convocation, resisted the idea that is implied in the commonly used contrast between journalism and literature. He said: "In my opinion, if you want to find lucid, direct English, well expressed, without any of the heavy, awkward, cumbrous words that infest so much of book-writing, especially of the learned kind, you will find it in the popular newspapers of the present time, for the reason that they set out to express themselves simply and precisely, for the benefit of the common people."

Acknowledging that no doubt some charges could be brought against certain kinds of journalism and not against other kinds, Mr. Crozier said: "That is not what I am discussing this evening, though if I were at a meeting of journalists we might discuss it very frankly. I take journalism broadly as a whole, and put its case against literature in certain respects. I notice that when people talk about literature or art or sculpture they talk about them at their best. When they talk about journalism they tend to take the worst. It is unjust that journalism should be judged by its slums and tenements and literature by its fine mansions and noble monuments."

Dealing with the impression that journalism was hurried and consequently often careless, Mr. Crozier illustrated his case by speaking of the great amount of care and organization with which every newspaper must prepare obituaries of public men. In other matters, writing in haste was often unavoidable, but it was "entirely untrue to say that any ordinary book is written with more care—if I were to say 'with as much care' you might suspect me of prejudice—than journalistic writing."

Mr. Crozier reminded the meeting of the newspaper writer's far greater liability to criticism. He quoted here an argument of Addison's that an "author" was expected to be dull sometimes, whereas the journalist must be interesting all the time, and that "were all books reduced to their quintessence, many a bulky author would make his appearance in a penny paper, there would scarce be such a thing in nature as a folio; the works of the age would be contained on a few shelves, not to mention millions that would be utterly annihilated."

The journalist tried to keep the English language pure and free from foreign words and phrases, slang, colloquialisms, and those rich and vigorous American words. He had personally no objection to these when they had established their position, but he was told by a friend in the United States that the only word that had really rooted itself in the American language in recent years was "racket"—perhaps an interesting light on the social conditions of the country.

In journalism it was felt that no reader should be expected to read a sentence twice in order to understand it, and the journalist tried to avoid the worn proverbial phrase, the cliche, the ponderous stuff that makes things dull. Mr. Crozier gave instances of the overworking of words ending with "-tion", and especially "-ation", and pointed out that the words occurred in writing that could not be described as technical.

He had counted 43 such words in the last King's Speech — consolidation, consideration, unnification, recommendation, and so forth—and if the King's Speech was not "literature" it was at any rate the King's English. It was a scandal that the King should be forced to read this sort of suet-pudding English. He would like to see him add a few more such words of his own, such as "dissolution, election, transformation of the complexion of the Administration."

Mr. Crozier quoted Swift, who, more than 200 years ago, put the blame for the corruption of our style on "those who handle particular sciences, divinity, law, physics, and the like", on "the traders in history, politics, and belles lettres," and finally on translators.

Canada's Foreign Policy

(Exchange)

The Prime Minister's undertaking to give Parliament a full statement of the official Canadian attitude toward world affairs, and more particularly in regard to Empire relationship, will be very welcome when it comes after the Easter recess. It will be welcome not only because existing conditions render such a statement appropriate if not necessary, but because there is only one stand that Mr. King can possibly take, or, we believe, desires to take, namely, that this is still a British country, intends to remain in the Empire, and is not endeavoring to escape its responsibilities as a British nation. There may be, and in fact there are, differences of opinion as to the scope of such responsibilities, but there is none as to their character.

There is no phase of British foreign policy as outlined by Mr. Chamberlain in his recent address to the Imperial Parliament that is not acceptable to the Canadian people. As to what Mr. King said at the Paris Exhibition last summer, it is apparent now that in some quarters he was misquoted and that in others his words were misinterpreted, perhaps deliberately.

Repeated assertions of Dominion autonomy, coupled with an assumption of some of the airs, if not the graces of an independent country, undoubtedly have facilitated such misinterpretations, perhaps have invited it, but the important thing is what Mr. King actually said and what was in his mind when he said it. He has explained both, and his explanation ought to set at rest whatever doubts may have arisen in Europe or elsewhere as to this country's position.

It would suit the book of some European governments if Canada could be represented as deliberately edging out of the British Empire and declining British responsibilities. In 1914 the German people were told that Canada would not fight, that if Britain entered the war the Empire would break up. The answer to that was given on the fields of France and Flanders and is a part of history.

Lenten Homilies

IMPORTANCE OF VISITING

By Rev. Dr. Frank Cairns

"Write your sermons with your congregation gathered round your study table. You can never do that unless you know your people, and I don't think you can ever know them by the exercise of your imagination, however brilliant.

"You must have recourse to the prosaic method of visiting. I have heard a distinguished minister say, and others, not distinguished, echo his words, 'Some men keep their congregations by their feet while other keep theirs by their head'.

THE HEAD AND THE FEET

"In the case of outstanding preachers, preachers whose gifts and their assiduity in the cultivation of them, place them head and shoulders above all common men, this has often proved to be true. But unless you feel yourself to belong to that shining company, or (lest the fact may not accord with the fancy) unless you know that all men recognise you as belonging to that hierarchy of preachers, you had better not risk dividing the body in that way, or ask the head to do the business of the feet.

"In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the head needs the feet to supply it with guidance for your sermons. You will also receive spiritual stimulus by observing how splendidly most of your people stand up to life, and fulfil their domestic and business and civic obligations; your heart will be touched to observe how many of them are bearing with unmurmuring patience burdens which might well take the heart out of the bravest; you will note also with some concern how some are wilting under the strain or temptation of life, and you will use all the gifts which God has given you to get beyond the vestibule of their lives into some room nearer their heart—so that you can say with your Master, 'I know my sheep and am known of mine.'

"Life may be a battlefield, but the warfare is like that of the Great War (as it is called), when through long stretches of it nothing of any significance seems to be happening. Weeks may pass in which there is no critical engagement, and the day's duties assume the character of routine.

"CLOSE TOUCH WITH THIS WORKADAY WEEK"

"If it were not so, I do not suppose any of us would long be able to support the strain, and the preacher who is under the impression that he must always direct his discourse to meet such a situation will not remain long on such a plane (if he is to preach to the same congregation Sunday after Sunday) without his preaching becoming hysterical and fantastic and quite out of touch with actual life. Here we may have no continuing city, but even if we must one day remove from the house in which we dwell for a little, it is not necessary to rush about it as though it were on fire.

"Our ministry must keep in close touch with this workaday world, and we must think of how we can make it helpful to people who are jogging along its beaten highway and have to pass most of their days in the bosom of the commonplace. But here, too, as in the great crises of life, it is the man behind the preacher that counts, and if we are to be of any use at all, we must produce that help from our own soul."

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