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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1940.

The Sirois Report

In preparation for the Dominion-Provincial Conference in January to discuss the Sirois Report, the staff of experts that advised the Sirois Commission has been re-assembled at Ottawa to bring the report up to date, particularly the recommendations in Plan I which concerns the financial arrangements proposed to be made with each province.

If the report can be reopened to bring it up-to-date in the matter of financial arrangements, the same should apply to the recommendations made with regard to specific provincial claims. For example, the transportation claim of this Province against the Dominion Government, as guaranteed by the British North America Act.

On the whole, the financial arrangements proposed for this Province would seem to hold out a real prospect of improvement in the way of public services without recurrent deficits. But the view taken by the Commission of our transportation grievances cannot be accepted; and no doubt Premier Campbell had this in mind while agreeing provisionally to the Prime Minister's conference proposal.

British Columbia is ready to discuss the report in principle though considerable haggling is expected. Recent difficulties in refunding a provincial issue may however have increased the readiness of the Pattullo Government to think about an overhaul.

Alberta's Mr. Aberhart opposes on principle and he is likely to demand big backsheesh in return for any co-operation he may eventually give.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are ardently in favor.

Ontario is on the fence but thought to be leaning the right way.

Quebec is ready to discuss it in principle. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are all in favor.

Ontario's stand is crucial. Mr. Hepburn's feud with Ottawa has fostered the widespread but perhaps mistaken belief that his province will oppose. Another and more basic reason for that impression is that Ontario is the only province rich enough to be able to quibble about trading some of its taxing powers for a larger and more adequate income.

Letter From Mr. Chamberlain

One of the last letters written by Mr. Neville Chamberlain must have been that to Mr. J. E. Baxter, of Bloomfield, Ontario, just twelve days before his death. Mr. Baxter wrote Mr. Chamberlain on October 9 enclosing an appreciative editorial from the Toronto Globe and Mail, offering his own good wishes and signing himself as "one of your ardent admirers and just a plain Canadian manufacturer who stands 100 per cent behind the old Union Jack."

Mr. Chamberlain's reply, dated October 28, was signed in his own hand. He spoke of the great pleasure Mr. Baxter's letter had given him, and continued: "It was, indeed, a source of profound satisfaction to me that since war had to come I found the British Empire united, for if we had gone to war without the approval of the Dominions that would have meant the end of the Empire."

As almost the last word of the former Prime Minister the letter has a definite historical value. Beyond that it is an interesting sidelight on a man who, in his mortal illness, was inspired to answer so courteously and with so much fervor good wishes from an unknown correspondent in a far country.

Still Planting Roses

In spite of the vicious air attack upon Great Britain, the ordinary life of the people has not been entirely disrupted. A recent issue of the London Daily Telegraph contained a sizable two-

column advertisement of roses for those who wish to have beautiful gardens next summer. Of the new varieties, one was appropriately called Glory of England and another, Wedding Morn. There were various other advertisements of plants, bulbs and nursery stock, with the injunction that now is the time to put them in. One of the largest book publishers had an advertisement featuring English Wits, Their Lives and Jest.

Unfortunately, the war was responsible for some other advertisements. "Please remember St. Dunstan's in your will." There will be more blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen to be cared for at St. Dunstan's Hospital. And Dr. Barnardo's Homes have had eight branches damaged by the air raiders, and they advertise the fact in soliciting support. It is stated that 2,704 Barnardo old boys and girls are in His Majesty's forces. A single advertisement on the front page had to do with an antiseptic solution to prevent infection in crowded air-raid shelters.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One month from Christmas.

Those who have not yet remembered their boys overseas should do so this week—the last opportunity to reach Britain by Christmas.

According to preliminary figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, October sales of Canadian Department stores gained 24 per cent over September and 7 per cent above October, 1939.

Harley Granville Barker, actor, playwright and theatrical manager, born this date, 1877; belongs to the Shaw and Galsworthy school of dramatists; remarkable for faithfulness to actuality, and combination of literary criticism and realism in dialogue. He wrote "The Madras House," "The Voysey Inheritance", etc.

The question has been asked why apples should cost more per hamper than per barrel. The answer is simply this, hamper apples are of better quality than barrel apples, being more carefully picked and packed. For No. 1's the law allows 10% imperfections, and it is not easy for the buyer to check a full barrel to see if it complies with the law. With a hamper, one-third of a barrel, the contents are easily inspected, and the purchaser is not at all likely to accept even 10% defectives. The orchardist acts accordingly.

Tulips and daffodils, the first flowers that grow in the spring, whose stems come peeping out of the ground almost before the snow has gone, are going to be missed by many. Only a small fraction of the usual number of bulbs have gone into the ground, during this fall compared with previous years. Tulip and daffodil have to be planted during the fall, generally in October and November, before the freeze-up and they come up heralding the parade of flowers generally, after the long winter months. About 90 per cent of the bulbs used for tulips and daffodils came from Holland. This year none has been imported from that Nazi-ruled country. To fill in the breach, importers have gone to England, to the United States and to British Columbia for supplies. Only a small quantity has been obtained from each of these three sources, but transportation difficulties have reduced the deliveries far below what had been anticipated. Tulips and daffodils, in normal times, are produced in the hot-houses as early as Christmas. This year, what few are grown in this way will be late. The English bulbs obtained are of the later variety. They will be missed mostly in the cut flower trade, at Easter, when they have always been popular.

Madame Madeline Carroll, the screen artist, who was born in France, told a Montreal interviewer that in words spoken confidentially to her in France after the catastrophe of last June, and throughout the heavy correspondence which continually reached her from that country, there recurred the admission: "We were lulled to sleep by a false sense of security. We did not prepare ourselves as we should have done." Mothers of France blamed themselves for having raised their children too softly, but Miss Carroll said she did not blame them. However, "after the harsh lesson of recent months, it is necessary to prepare children for their coming task. In a world fraught with peril which Hitler and Mussolini created, only children reared heroically will know how to defend their parents and their motherhood. We need many brave and generous children to continue to carry aloft the torch of human freedom." Thank God! we have got them here, though there are still a few selfish parents and indolent youngsters who believe in the slogan "Let George do it"—allow others to shoulder the burden while they eat the bread of others' sacrifice.

A substantial number of British citizens are still opposed to retaliation against the Nazis by bombing the civilian population of Germany, despite the nightly raids over London and other cities, a survey conducted by the British Institute of Public Opinion, has shown. The survey asked the voters this question: "In view of the indiscriminate bombing of this country, would you approve or disapprove if the R.A.F. adopted a similar policy of bombing the civilian population of Germany?" The vote was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Response, Percentage. Approve 46%, Disapprove 46%, Undecided 8%

In the same survey the British Institute conducted one of its periodic check-ups on the popularity of the British Prime Minister. It found that support of Winston Churchill is overwhelmingly the highest ever recorded in any poll on the popularity of a man in public office. The survey on Churchill put this question to the voters: "In general do you approve or disapprove of Mr. Churchill as Prime Minister?" The results today, as compared to a similar poll in August, follow:

Table with 2 columns: Response, Today, August. Approve 80%, 88%; Disapprove 6%, 7%; Undecided 5%, 5%

NOTES BY THE WAY

Rage among the militarists of Japan at the United States refusal to furnish them with more scrap iron, oil and aviation petrol was to be expected. But they have not themselves to blame for the difficulties in which they are now involved. The country except our own has been so long suffering as the United States to the damage which ambitions of Japanese militarism have inflicted on national rights and interests in China and on the general welfare of the world. The statesmen of Japan must realize that they could not expect to prolong the horrors of the Chinese conflict upon American resources. The plain facts are that the sub-tropical climate of China is no nearer to a depleted one than the Dutch Indies cannot mend the situation. The prosperity of East-Japan, which is the real interest of Japan, is to be attained by choosing the way of peace. The London Daily Telegraph and Morning Post.

Then there is the sprightly bit about the German pilot who was attacked in mid-air by his own rubber boat and writing down. Soldiers who came to take him captive thought, at first, that he was talking bad quality English. But it was a deception, for he was telling the truth. Rubber boats are fitted with a tube of highly compressed air—enough to inflate the whole balloon in three or four seconds. Heinie's valves were in for a thin 5,000 feet and the boat began to crowd him out of the cockpit. He finally gave up the struggle and gave up his life. The Chicago Daily News.

Peace-time conscription is such a new thing that it is difficult to figure out what effect it will have on the national life. Offhand, a layman would have said that hard-pressed businessmen were in for a thin time. With their beaus in the army it was a fair assumption that the belles would sit around the house, waiting for their letters. A new hard-do would be made up from their minds. This is all wrong, according to the New York State Association. They have a lock for a boom in business. They are 800,000 of the nation's youth, serving the colours, the competition for the girls is going to be something fierce. The hunt is on for a wife. You can say he wasn't warned. No matter what your age is, or how your name stands on the list, it is your number that will be up. Philadelphia Bulletin.

Dr. J. H. Hutten, professor of social medicine at Cambridge, and a great authority on the biology and folk-lore, is concerned about a recent order legalizing their capture. The order has been made on account of the 1.5s these birds inflict on the R.A.F.'s homing pigeons, who are performing their duty as messengers. Professor Hutten realizes of course the paramount necessity of protecting the pigeon messengers, but he regrets to find that an already ready-made bird is being taken to extinction. He makes a remarkable suggestion, which is that, by a simple device, the Chinese should be protected from hawk-hunters. A small light should be fixed near the rect of the hawk's head. It seems that the hawk of all kinds has a keen eye for light. If this light is fixed near the rect of the hawk, it is accompanied by a small whistle. Statements of the Chinese hawk-hunters may be seen in the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford and probably also in the British Museum. The Chinese use these whistles in their communitative games, but light whistles would be even more effective. So even Hitler's flaming bomb is not original!

Treasures stolen out of Roman Catholic churches in Poland have, with the most complete brazenness, been handed over by Hitler to Roman Catholic churches in Spain. The very compensatory and reassuring factor in this sort of transaction, which has been heralded as the announcement of propitiation, is the announcement that it will be held in trusteeship for the Poles. They are not believing in Madrid that the Nazis can extinguish the Polish people. — St. Catharines Standard.

There is something about the ancient seaport of Gravesend comparable to the abbey villages, the fields and the hedgerows of this island; it is so essentially English. Here the artist finds stimulus in the stories of ancient wharves sucked smother by the tides, in rambling old taverns and buff-bowed bawley boats so near the seawall with sophisticated war-torned Metropolis. But engrossed with the picturesque the artist frequently misses the old town's history. The history of London, both ancient and modern, records the sturdy independence, the wit and the tradition which have made Gravesend a town of character. It is a town which will find more character, keener wit and harder-dying tradition than anywhere else on London river. In the forecastles of the seven seas Gravesend automatically suggests pilots, for here is the Clapham Junction of the Port of London. Many Gravesend pilots' claims to fame have been water in their veins, for not only does a stranger learn the moods of temperamental Father Thames, but the wayward wisdom has in many cases been handed down through generations. — By L. M. Bate in the Port of London Monthly.

The appearance of diphtheria in Halifax has prompted the city health commissioner to issue a warning. He urges immunization of children, particularly those between six months and 12 years of age. The type of diphtheria now reported in the city, the health commissioner says, is more virulent than usual, more than 15 cases are under treatment and the need for some precautionary action is apparent. — Halifax Chronicle.

Hitler is not the only person who bores from within. There are enemies of the Nazis at work within the Reich. It is significant that the secret radio station has begun operating in Germany again after a silence of months. It is telling the people some of the facts which the Nazis have tried to silence. The resumption of operation by the secret station must be due to a feeling that the time is now

Woodlot Management

Cutting Pit-props By H. D. Long

In spite of the generous efforts of the Provincial Government by means of sound and practical demonstrations, to assist the farmers in locating the greatest value from their forest lands, the great majority are still cutting their woodlots bare for pit-props.

This article is written for the purpose of showing the fallacy of this practice. The Government has no desire to restrict the cutting of pit-props. The sale of pit-props brings money to this province, and increases the income of the farmer. Under the present cutting system, however, the farmer will get none to sell next year, or for the next twenty years. This is an extremely foolish practice.

Suppose the farmer has a woodlot with trees averaging six inches in diameter, containing about 24 cords of pit-props per acre. If he cuts the woodlot bare he will get 24 cords per acre. The woodlot is then finished. There will not be a pit-prop on the area again for at least twenty years.

The following figures show what is possible from a stand of this nature under proper management. A stand of one inch in diameter in four years is assumed in these figures. Many woodlot owners will find that their stand will grow faster than this when thinned.

Starting with the stand previously mentioned, i.e. 6 inches in diameter and 24 cords per acre, nine cords per acre could be cut in thinning, leaving 15 cords per acre standing.

Table with 3 columns: Diameter, Volume per acre, Amount to be cut. 6 inches - 24 cords - 9 cords; 4 years later - 24 cords - 9 cords; 7 inches - 24 cords - 9 cords; 4 years later - 24 cords - 9 cords; 8 inches - 24 cords - 9 cords

There is nothing difficult about thinning. It is only necessary to leave a tree every six or eight feet instead of cutting them all. The Provincial Government is not in any way trying to restrict the cutting of pit-props by urging the farmer to leave a certain number of trees for the future. It is to the farmer's advantage to handle his woodlot in this way; it means more money in his pocket.

Any farmer who does not understand the proper method of thinning is urged to consult the Department of Agriculture.

Argentina's Friendly Act

(Hamilton Spectator) It is almost ten years ago since the Duke of Windsor (who was then the Prince of Wales) visited the Argentine for the purpose of opening the British Empire Exhibition at Buenos Aires. Some six years earlier he had visited the same country, enjoying a most enthusiastic reception from all sections of the population. Important commercial results followed the visits, which laid the foundations of those cordial relationships between the two countries which have been intensifying with the passage of time.

The gratifying news now comes that, as a gesture of sympathy and good will, the cattle-growers of Argentina have agreed to revivify all British warships calling at Argentine ports with fresh meat free of charge. Naturally, this action is much appreciated by the British government, and it will be especially welcomed by British sailors.

Commenting on this pleasing development, the People's Grains Company makes the following suggestion: "Perhaps Canada, or even Canadian millers and bakers, might copy this action and supply British warships calling at Canadian ports, with free of charge, with quantities of palatable Canadian bread, flour, rolls and flour made with high quality Canadian wheat. This, too, would be a welcome change to the sailors from the much lower quality bread made from the relatively poorer quality 'war flour' now manufactured and distributed in Great Britain."

That would be a patriotic way of making use of our wheat surplus, which, without making any heavy inroads on available supplies, would prove a blessing to him that eives and him that takes. Helpful actions of this kind are of even more importance, from the psychological point of view, than the material benefits actually conferred.

The Nazi Virus

(Montreal Star) The attitude of the American press, generally speaking, has been one of steadily increasing sympathy for the British cause. The great majority of America's leading newspapers have openly expressed their cause with a vigour and enthusiasm that have been most heartening, not only to us here in Canada, but to all who are fighting on the side of world liberty against world slavery. Some of the greatest American journals, indeed, have urged action far beyond any yet envisaged by the American Government.

By comparison, these facts make all the more peculiar the stand taken by the Chicago Tribune, which, like the old New York World during the 1st war, has been publishing cartoons damning Hitler on the one side and disabuse and editorials supporting the Nazis on

the other. Perhaps the true explanation of this amazing inconsistency is to be found in the personal prejudices of Col. R. McCormick, editor and publisher of that paper as revealed in an address delivered a few days ago over the radio dealing with the Battle of Flander's in which the eminent Colonel made the following astounding statements: "No effort was even made, to take the pressure off the encircled armies by attacks elsewhere. The battle was yielded almost without resistance, and every effort was bent upon escape."

No decision was reached to fight in any direction. The Belgians surrendered on May 28; the British escaped to England, and the beaten French army was left to fight the battle of France alone at a 2 to 1 disadvantage in man power, 4 to 1 disadvantage in tanks, and 6 to 1 disadvantage in airplanes. This unique series of misrepresentations, made by a man who was NOT there, may be a credit to the Colonel's imagination, but is no credit to his integrity as a publisher. On unimpeachable evidence the facts have been established beyond any possibility of doubt—the Colonel is quite aware of this—that the British made the most heroic attempts to break through the encircling Nazis, that they offered the most desperate resistance, and that it was due to that resistance that scores of thousands of French troops were enabled to evade the Nazi pincers, though, as events proved, only for the time being. The implication of Colonel McCormick's remarks, that the British deserted, the French and yielded almost without resistance, is one of the most disgraceful slanders of this war has yet brought into public print, even if we include the appalling mendacity of the German press. It is also, so far as we are aware, unique in this continent.

Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest to the public. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

The Sirois Report

Sir—Mr. Mutch's letter in Saturday's Guardian will, I am sure, meet with general approval. viz: That some person will make a study of the Sirois report and present his conclusions to the public. May I make a further suggestion? viz: That a small Study Club be formed, each member taking one plus of the report and preparing a paper upon same, which would be discussed by the whole group, who could pass resolutions in so far as the interests of this island are concerned. I shall be glad to receive the names of those who would care to become members of the Study Club, and if no better meeting place can be found, my office will be available. I am, Sir, etc.

H.K.S. HEMMING

The Poet's Corner

AT A WINDOW Give me hunger, O you gods that sit and eive The world its order, and its peace; Give me hunger, pain and want; Shut me out with shame and failure From your deeds of gold and fame, Give me your shabbiest, weariest hunger.

But leave me a little love, A voice to speak to me in the day end, A hand to touch me in the dark room. Breaking the long loneliness. In the dusk of day-shapes The world its order, and its peace. One little wandering, western star Thrust out from the changing shores of shadow. Let me go to the window, Watch there the day-shapes of dusk And wait and know the coming Of a little love.

— Carl Sandburg.

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