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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1946

A McGill Professor Did It

On a recent Sunday the BBC paid homage to one of the greatest of Britain's modern men, the late Lord Rutherford, Order of Merit, Nobel Laureate, sometime President of the Royal Society. The tribute was paid by Sir Henry Tizard, K.C.B., A.F.C. F.R.S., himself a leading British scientist. Rutherford's pioneer researches in nuclear physics, including his discovery of the way in which radio-active substances break up, led him on to the knowledge of the structure of the atom, and to his later great work at Manchester and Cambridge. From the team which worked with him at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, have emerged many of the men who today are the acknowledged masters in this field. They are among those prominent in the development of atomic energy. Sir Henry Tizard won distinction in the Air Force in the last war, being one of the first night fighter pilots. Later he became Assistant Controller of Experment and Research for the R. A. F. For the past few years he has been President of Magdalen College, Oxford, and he is still closely associated with the latest developments in the field which Rutherford's great discoveries opened up. Sir Henry said "There were three great events in Rutherford's life. The first was when, as a young professor at the McGill University Montreal, he proved that the phenomena of radio activity were due to atoms breaking up of their own accord and turning into atoms of a different kind. This was a staggering blow to all preconceived notions about atoms, and it took a long time and much hard work, before some older distinguished scientists accepted the new theory. The second was when, as Professor of Physics at Manchester, he proved that an atom must consist of a minute and very dense central core or nucleus of matter round which rotated electrons at a relatively larger distance. This theory again upset all previous ideas, but has long since been well established and accepted. The third was when as Cavendish Professor of Physics at Cambridge, he showed that atoms that did not break up of their own accord could be made to break up and be transformed into other kinds of atoms by artificial means."

Our Biggest Problem

Prince Edward Island has probably suffered more than any other Province in loss of population since Confederation. Of special interest, therefore, is a recent booklet by Prof. John Bartlet Brebner of Columbia University, on the problem of keeping Canadians at home. It was written on invitation of the Canadian Social Science Research Council, and the particular point emphasized is the need of keeping Canadian brains at home.

According to Prof. Brebner, one quarter of the Canadian stock which has remained in North America lives in the United States. Moreover, consulting statistics, he finds that Canada has lost by emigration almost as much as she has gained by immigration and that "the true measure of her growth is to treat it as that lesser share of natural growth of the peoples of North America which her attractions have been able to hold." Mr. Brebner takes a moment off here to puncture the balloon of Canadian superiority complex which meditates upon the success of her boys and girls abroad: "The truth is not that these notables were superfluous from abundance in Canada, but that they felt they had to go elsewhere to realize their potentialities."

He acknowledges Canada's contribution during the 1914 and 1939 wars "the novel and extraordinary performance of the nation since 1939." But notwithstanding this, if Canada is to hold her own in time of peace she must some way "make her ablest men and women want to live in Canada." His plea is that Canadian atmosphere be made more hospitable to distinction. "The societies which have succeeded best in winning and maintaining the most nearly tolerable existences for their members have been those which have given very free scope to their poets, artists, philosophers, scholars, inventors, adventurers and other rebels, critics, and inventors."

Prof. Brebner has admiration for Great Britain's policy of cultivating its eccentrics. "Consider the rebellious career of Winston Churchill and try to find a Canadian parallel."

Mr. Brebner finds that respect for learning has been declining here for the past 50 years. "The intensification of materialism and the dilution of religion have encouraged general apathy or contempt toward matters which cannot be precisely weighed and priced. . . . Our climate of opinion has steadily become less favorable for the scholar's spirit of free enquiry."

Mr. Brebner has much to say to universities and their constituents, and to the public, on the subject of cherishing native genius and talent. "Canada needs to detect, train, encourage, and retain every scholar she can find, for they will constitute the principal group who will keep Canada up with a rapidly changing world, who will bring Canadian brains and experience to bear on Canadian problems, and who will pass on to youth and to the nation at large the vital tradition from the past."

Some persons, Mr. Brebner has found, think it would be cheaper to import scholarly transfusions from the United States and Great Britain, cheaper that is in the short view. A Canada however which cultivated her own scholars would be capable of providing some of these transfusions for the rest of the world, and "would be a Canada exciting to live in." Prince Edward Island, he might have added, has already led the way in this respect.

Redistribution

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal *Gazette* says "either Quebec will gain seats or Ontario will lose seats in the House of Commons in the next redistribution if the arguments presented to the House last session by Quebec members are acted upon in the session to open next month.

"That redistribution will be a live subject in the next session is certain. It will be again raised by Quebec members and it will have the support of the government, from present indications. Even when the debate on this subject warmed the House last October Justice Minister L. S. St. Laurent admitted he was impressed by points made by his Quebec colleagues.

"But the central issue this time is, not simply the changing of constituency boundary lines to make the principle of representation by population fully operative, but the insistent demand of Quebec members for a removal of the discrimination against their province and in favor of Ontario, and this cannot be accomplished without a change in the constitution of the B. N. A. Act.

"For a long time Quebec has been tied to 65 seats and this has been a pivotal number. Representation in other provinces has gone up or down through operation of a ratio rule. But today Ontario has 82 seats. At the 1941 census Ontario's population was 3,778,000 while Quebec's had grown to 3,329,000. This difference in population, Quebce members contend, does not warrant such a wide difference in representation, Quebec having to be content with 17 seats less than Ontario. It is probable that after the next decennial census, in 1951 the gap will be nearly closed.

"Five years have passed since the last decennial census, and to get away from the condition contained in the B. N. A. Act a resolution was sent from this Parliament to the British Parliament in 1943 to have the Canadian Parliament freed from that requirement until the end of hostilities. This coming session will be the first since the end of the war, and when the redistribution debate was on in the House last October Justice Minister St Laurent said he hoped that this troublous redistribution question would be dealt with, enacted, during the session commencing early in 1946

"Most members agreed at the time that every effort should be made to keep this important question out of the realm of political controversy. But whether or not it is allowed to become controversial, and it usually has become so in previous bouts, there will be the solid insistence of Quebec to be freed from the B. N. A. A. requirement that ties their total House of Commons representation down to 65 seats."

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

Dairy farmers throughout the Dominion are making demands for increased prices, and threaten to make it a political issue, to be voiced at the resumption of Parliament.

* * * *

Paardeberg, and the surrender of Cronje, the anniversary of which falls on Wednesday 27, is to be celebrated by the few remaining veterans in Montreal on Saturday 23, with church parade the day following.

* * * *

After a week's fierce fighting, Singapore was forced to surrender to the Japanese this date 1942; considerable portion of the British and Australian garrison got away, though transports were constantly bombed by the enemy; the Japs claimed to have taken 60,000 Imperial troops prisoners, many of whom subsequently perished miserably in concentration camps, deprived even of Red Cross intervention or inspection.

* * * *

Truth will out, as our Ottawa correspondent indicates in delving into the Auditor-General's report. It appears that $75,000 was spent here in an endeavour to restore T.B.'s to health and strength, and practically $79,000 on our experimental farms. Evidently the health of vegetables and animals count for more than that of humans with the powers-that-be at Ottawa.

* * * *

"The Dominion-Provincial Conference has taken an almost comic turn (remarks *The Letter Review*). The Dominion proposals were, roughly, for Dominion control of Income, Corporation and Succession Taxes, in return for $12 a year Dominion grant per caput. Provincial representatives soon got the $12 jacked up to $15, while obtaining agreement that the Provinces might retain Succession duties. Public opinion is likely to be tooled about all this; may be led to believe that the Dominion was trying to give us an intelligent system of taxation while the wicked Provinces bucked it, but the truth is far otherwise. It is that the totalitarian theorists at Ottawa feel that they must have absolute control of everyone's income and savings. Rather than take a chance of this becoming the subject of general controversy, they are prepared to raise the amount of taxation which they must impose, to bribe the Provinces, to any limit."

Notes By The Way

Half a million pairs of children's plimsolls are to reach Britain from Canada to relieve the acute shortage. Education authorities, schools, and youth clubs will have first chance of buying them. Any not ordered by February 15 will be sold to the public. —From London Daily Mail.

As regards our own city, there will never be any stopping the headline writers, especially in sport, from naming the place St. Kitts. That has got a vogue now which is unstoppable. But they can go too far with it. There will be a mighty roar of protest from a St. Catharines man or woman abroad, who is referred to as a "St. Kittsian." — St. Catharines Standard.

One gathers, from current hints in trade journals, that some enterprising moving picture theatre concerns may be toying with the idea of installing devices of the making of popcorn and installing them, moreover, in the lobbies or foyers of their theatres—of all places! To an individual lacking any sense of the aesthetic, or to one given to attending the movies for the main purpose of munching foodstuff, any protest will probably be meaningless. But to the great majority of theatre patrons, who have long suffered from the nitwit impoliteness of those who mistake a theatre for an eating-house, it is appalling. —Brantford Expositor.

All too many people believe that the ability to teach is the sole requisite of a teacher. It is true that this ability is an absolute necessity. Equally important, however, is a keen sense of justice. If a student does not learn to understand and appreciate the principle of justice at school, he will probably never learn it. Nothing he learns can be of such great importance. He may not find that the keen sense of justice and fairplay which characterizes a good teacher always prevails in the world outside the school, but if he never learns to appreciate justice and fair-play at school, he will never strive to spread these principles throughout the community, the nation and the world in his post-student days. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Nothing can be more disconcerting than a pen which won't write when it is needed. What good is a neatly stamped and sealed letter if the post office pen won't function to address it? And what good is a cheque with its value neatly impressed by a machine if the bank pen can't be used to endorse it? There are all sorts of difficulties with pens in public places. There are pens that are bent into a claw shape, probably by some day-dreaming user who chewed the point. There are the spread-point pens, the ruin left by the heavy handed scrawler. There are rusty pens, too sharp pens that scratch, pens with their points filled with fibre from a blotter, pens that won't hold ink and pens that hold too much ink. And every one of them succeeds in depositing more ink on the fingers of the user than on the paper. The fellow who said the pen is mightier than the sword certainly didn't have in mind the pens found in public places.—Minneapolis Sunday Tribune.

Throughout the long Nazi imprisonment of Europe, the British Broadcasting Corporation's broadcasts of authentic news to the martyred peoples in their own tongues kept hope alive. In vain the German overlords tried to dam this inflow of truth which mocked Nazi "news" and propaganda. Daring souls who listened to the BBC in spite of death threats spread the word, and by this modern grapevine Europe was in touch with the world that was to bring deliverance. Because of Denmark's proximity to Britain, the Danes particularly found the BBC their link with the outside. Now that freedom has come Danish listeners are going to make a gift of appreciation. For months now Danish artists and craftsmen have been designing and fashioning a vase carrying pictures symbolic of the link between Britain and Denmark. When a perfect vase has been molded, the molds will be destroyed. A delegation headed by the speaker of the Danish parliament will carry the one perfect vessel to Britain for presentation to the BBC.—Amherst News.

The appointment of Sir Maurice Drummond Peterson, as British Ambassador to Moscow, shows how British governments, no matter what party may be in power, adhere to tradition and hew to the line where seniority and experience count heavily. Moscow, next to Washington, right now is the most important Ambassadorial post in the British service. Formerly Berlin and Paris had high ratings. Sir Maurice is 57; the retirement age is 60. The wealth of experience he has had is shown by the wide range of countries in which he has served: Washington, Prague, Tokyo, Cairo, Madrid, Minister of Bulgaria, Ambassador of Iraq and Commissioner to Egypt. Having thus travelled a man secures a great knowledge of affairs and nations. Recently, Sir Maurice served in Ankara, Turkey. It is doubtful if any British government will make any radical departures in the diplomatic service, which is known for its continuance in policy from one decade to another. That simply means stability, the building up of trust among representatives of other nations, backed by integrity and character. Such men are neither politicians nor opportunists and the rules of their service are closely defined. — St. Catharines Standard.

With Easter coming the young man is likely to solve the "gift problem" in an orthodox way by visiting the florist or candy shop. Exhibits in the Royal Ontario Museum, however, show that in the 18th century his lady love likely would have received a far more varied selection of presents. For instance, she might have been given a stay busk, which was a long flat piece of wood that women wore at that time tucked down inside the front of their bodices to add to the rigidity of the prison-like corsets. There is a stay busk in the costume gallery of the Museum that is carved with two sets of initials and the date 1793. An even more significant gift was a wooden spoon. There are some of these love spoons in the Museum that are beautifully carved and seem to suggest that in days gone by you had to be quite handy with a pocket knife before you could be a successful lover. The expression "spooning" comes from the way spoons fit closely together and this curious custom of giving a spoon grew out of that use of the word. —Royal Ontario Museum.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

A SAUCY CITIZENESS

Sir,— Among the angrily buzzing letters written in reply to Premier Jones' very timely and commonsense remarks to young farmers on the question of choosing a suitable wife, I noticed one written by what appeared to me to be a rather saucy "citizeness". I will not deny the presence of real wit in this letter, and a sense of wit and humor is an excellent thing in a woman, especially in a farmer's wife. But I do not think this writer's native wit was improved, but rather blemished by her appeal for support to Robert Burns, for she quoted from a poem which in my opinion deserved the following censure recently passed upon Burns' poem "Holy Willie" by the editor of the Guardian in a brief but excellent discriminating criticism on the relative value of the poet's poems: "For Burns still in his early twenties to scarify various revered clergymen in his neighborhood may have been the impudence of genius; but it was impudence just the same."

I am, Sir, etc.
ONLOOKER

SEEKING P.E.I. CORRESPONDENTS

Sir,— I am twenty-three years of age, and am very anxious to get in touch with someone in Prince Edward Island who would like to receive letters, and who would in return write to me. I have lately become very interested in your Island Province.

In my mind, I pictured some lonely person, maybe living on a farm where the mailman calls but rarely, and to whom a letter now and again would mean a great deal

I love to write letters, and would do my best to make them interesting. I live in the country, in what is said to be one of the prettiest towns in England.

Perhaps you know of a crippled person, someone who is not able to take an active part in life, who would appreciate a few kind letters, or books, etc.

I will answer any, and every letter that is written to me.

I am, Sir, etc.
RITA PURNELL

Beechcroft,
School Road,
Charlton Kings, Cheltenham
Gloucestershire, England.

THE ARGENTINE MENACE

Sir,—The very recent expose of Argentina by the United States "Blue Book," loudly proclaimed today in all papers, might serve to do what prominent political figures in various Allied countries have been unable to do for the past two or three years, namely, open the eyes of the world to the threat to world security by one of the members of the great American family of nations.

An effort was made at the San Francisco conference to bring into focus the danger to world peace that was in the process of being built up in Argentina but it was disregarded. Our own Canadian representatives extended open arms to Argentina as a sister democracy in the fight for peace. Russia, the country with whom we "are going to have to fight another war," voted against admitting Argentina to the United Nations Organization but rather than admit that Russian delegates possessed keener foresight than ourselves, we accused them of capitalizing on Russia's power and position to force other representatives to accede to their demands, of bullying, and of numerous other sins. We refused to admit the reasons for their actions as legitimate because we did not want to believe that what they charged could be true.

Now, thanks to the United States' State Department which brought about the Inter-American Consultation on Argentina, the truth has been brought to light, the truth of what underlies all actions of the Argentine Government, the truth which should have been realized long before this. Sumner Wells in his book "The Time for Decision" gave an accurate outline of what was taking shape under the obviously Fascist regime in Buenos Aires. His report on the Inter-Americas conference held early in 1942 in an effort to strengthen the unity of the American family of nations showed how Argentine representatives attempted to black or buffer every move made to this end. Her foreign minister, who was appointed to that post for a purpose, refused to see any danger to the economic, political, or commercial life of the Americas through their non-participation in the war against the Axis. "Argentina absolutely refused," says Mr. Wells, "to lift a finger in the common defence of the Americas."

This decision on her part was arrived at, no doubt, through the guidance of the many Nazi officers of high rank who were known to be residing in that country at that time. While the other nations readily agreed to halt all diplomatic, commercial and financial relations with the Axis nations, and also agreed on steps that would have to be taken for the protection of the American republics, Argentina flatly refused to agree to such proposals, but finally agreed on substitute proposals, by which agreement she flagrantly refused to abide as was seen by her subsequent actions.

It was universally known, but never proven because no investigation could be carried out, that enemy agents operated from Argentina. Numerous danger signals issued from that country in the news reports of the "goings-on" in official circles, but these passed unheeded, especially by those whose duty it is to be on the look-out for the development of such conditions as we now know are prevalent in the Argentine. Today her vote has as much weight in U.N.O. decisions as any country that fought to defeat Hitlerism, the same Hitlerism she is nursing back to health.

The statement that in Argentina is to be found a danger to world peace and security may be regarded by many as ridiculous. After all, if it is to be the world against little Argentina, it is going to be a short fight. This line of reasoning is the same as that of a T.B. patient who, having killed off the disease with the exception of a small spot in one lung, decides he is healthy enough to return to circulation. He is soon back in bed. If Naziism is to be wiped out, it must be destroyed completely. Not only must the application of it be destroyed, but the philosophy and thought behind it must go as well. Let us treat Argentina as the spot in the lung.

Had we listened to Russia at San Francisco our task might have been made easier. Have we ever stopped to think that we might be making a contribution to world security if, instead of viewing all Russian moves as being made with the intent of spreading Communism, we saw, rather, an effort to obtain security for herself. The "we have to fight Russia" feeling being fostered in this country can only breed distrust and suspicion and will certainly lead to another war. Why should we fight Russia? Have we not enough? I am strongly convinced that Russia is as sick of war as is Canada. She wants a respite from war so as to build herself into a greater nation. When this happens we may have to fight her. But why look for something that is, as yet, fifty years away? We may be fighting England and France then. Should we kick at them now?

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. E. G.

Perfumes & Cosmetics

(BBC overseas short wave service)

The mysterious jars of beautifully worked alabaster discovered in the tomb of King Tutankhamen of Egypt—he lived in about 1350 B. C.—turned out to be cosmetic containers. On opening them, it was found that the perfume had retained its fragrance through all these years, through the some 3,000 years, that had passed since the jars had been sealed by the careful hands of an Egyptian perfumer. The Egyptians, as a matter of fact, were the first to raise perfumery and cosmetics to the status of an art. In Egypt perfumes and cosmetics were used on all occasions, both private and public. At great feasts, for instance, the guests fixed on their heads blocks of perfumed lard in the shape of a small sugar-loaf. The idea was that as the rooms in which the festivities were being held got warmer and warmer, the lard would melt and flow over the head, shoulder and robes, and give off a sweet scent.

But of the ancient civilisations the Egyptians were by no means the only ones who had this partiality for perfumes and cosmetics, though, perhaps, none of the others used them in such a lavish manner. The Jews, the Greeks, the Arabs and the Romans, all made use of them at some time or other, but it was the Italians in the 16th century who became the greatest exponents of this art.

* * *

Here in England, almost the same interest was shown in all these things ever since the Crusaders had brought back for their ladies the cosmetics' secrets of the harem, and the use of salves, unguents and paints of one sort and another grew tremendously, though, it must be remembered, in those days perfume was used as much to mask the disagreeable odours due to the unpopularity of washing and general absence of sanitation as to the pandering to sheer vanity. Anyway, perfumes and cosmetics became so popular in the 18th century what with rouges, perfumed gloves, perfumed cloaks, scented chests, (just to mention a few), that men felt themselves simply compelled to do something to protect themselves. And so they did then—they passed an Act in Parliament, in 1770, whereby it was made law "that all women, of whatever age, rank, profession or degree whether virgins maids, or widows, that shall, from and after such an Act impose upon, seduce, and betray into matrimony, any of His Majesty's subjects, by the scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool (a sort of rouge), iron stays, hoops, high heeled shoes, bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanours, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void." Well, that didn't leave many loop-holes; but far from stopping the use of cosmetics and perfumes, it seems to have had the opposite effect, though, so far as I know, this Act has not been repealed to this day!

Now in those days many of the ingredients of cosmetics were most injurious, but the use of these ("white lead" for instance) are today prohibited by law. The days when earthworms—yes, earthworms—figured in the recipes for cosmetics, as they did in the time of the Romans and even later, have given place to a highly scientific process of manufacture in which the purity of all the ingredients is strictly controlled. Most cosmetics today are not only harmless, but when used wisely, of actual benefit. Cold cream helps to clean the skin, softens it, and makes it smooth and supple, and of course, cosmetics have a strong psychological value due to the sense of well-being—a sense that comes from knowing that you are looking well and feeling well-groomed.

* * *

It's a little difficult to say what cosmetics consist of precisely because the variation both in the nature and proportion of the ingredients is so very great. As you know, there are dozens of proprietary makes, and providing it's made by a reputable firm, each is as good as the other. Take cold cream, for instance. Generally speaking, a cold cream is an emulsion of oil or fat in water, to which a little perfume is added. A typical mixture of this type would be —almond oil, white wax, borax, water and perfume. The cooling effect of cold creams (that's why they're known as "cold" of course), is due to the slow evaporation of the water they contain, and evaporation of a liquid is always accompanied by cooling.

Vanishing creams—and the best ones really do disappear completely—are even simpler to make. Normally they are made by heating stearic acid, a wax-like substance solid at ordinary temperatures, and adding to it an alkali dissolved in warm water (and a little glycerine too, sometimes), and letting the mixture cool. A little perfume is then added. So vanishing creams are basically just stearic acid, an alkali, water, and perfume. The so-called "blush-creams" — creams that develop a delicate pink hue a short time after having been applied to a pallid cheek —owe this property (very useful on occasions) to the inclusion of a chemical called "alloxan."

Lipsticks are a wax and a dye, or a mixture of waxes and a dye, carefully chosen so that they don't melt in contact with the human body. The wax and the dye are heated together and allowed to cool slightly; perfume is added and the mixture is then poured into moulds and allowed to set. Rouge is generally a mixture of face powder, that's to say, rice-starch, zinc oxide, French chalk, magnesium stearate perfume—to quote but one of the many recipes—and carmine or some of the other oxides of iron. In practice, of course it itsn't quite as simple as all that, as a great deal of attention has to be paid to technique and the smallest detail to produce a final product which, at the same time, is effective and attractive.

* * *

But you will have noticed that in all these cosmetics, whether

(Continued on Page 9

The Poets' Corner

A GRAVE

A grave seems only six feet deep
And three feet wide,
Viewed with the calculating eye
Of one outside.

But when fast bound in the chill loam
For that strange sleep,
Who knows how wide its realm may be?
Its depths, how deep?

—John Richard Moreland.

When your BACK ACHES...

Backache is often caused by lazy kidney action. When kidneys get out of order excess acids and poisons remain in the system. Then backache, headache, rheumatic pain, disturbed rest or that 'tired out' feeling may soon follow. To help keep your kidneys working properly—use Dodd's Kidney Pills. Time-tested, popular, safe, non-habit-forming. Demand Dodd's Kidney Pills, in the blue box with the red band. Sold everywhere. 135

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