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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1938

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

"The Fundamental Question"

The brief now being presented to the Rowell Commission on behalf of the Provincial Government emphasizes "the fundamental question of fiscal need," as outlined by Chief Justice Mathieson in his minority report as a member of the White Commission in 1935. The budgetary requirements of the Province are given in detail, and it is submitted that in order to establish public services on the basis of a minimum reasonable standard, the present provincial resources would require to be supplemented by not less than $606,513 annually. This apart from special grants needed for fishery services, permanent highway construction, etc. The practical limits of provincial taxation having "already been reached, or even passed," it is submitted that the only solution would appear to be further assistance from the Dominion Government.

In proof of this claim it is shown in detail that "the number and variety of provincial taxes in this Province is unusually great, and that in almost every branch of taxation our rates are considerably higher, and our scale of exemption considerably lower, than those prevailing throughout other Provinces"; also that while Maritime governments have been consistently frugal in expenditures, as stated by the Duncan Commission in 1926, "the expenditures of Prince Edward Island have been even more frugal than those of her sister Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick."

How these and other statements in the brief compare with the statements of Premier Campbell and his colleagues in the last provincial election campaign, it is not our purpose here to inquire. We shall deal with that later. The point is that the brief substantiates the claim made by the late MacMillan Government as to the utter impossibility of balancing our provincial budget without substantial additional assistance from Ottawa. This was the case in 1935, when the present Government took office; and since that time, says the brief now being presented, *"the inequalities of the situation seem to be growing, rather than lessening."*

In the matter of grants-in-aid for direct relief, figures covering the period August 1934 to March 31, 1937, are given to show that "in this, as in a great many other respects, this Province appears to be penalized by the Dominion for drastic economies which the Island exercises in its provincial expenditures."

Also in accord with the MacMillan program of 1935 is the emphasis now placed by the Government on "the most urgent necessity of expanding the public health service."

Indeed, it is stated that the Government is being "forced to consider, in addition to the taxes already in force, the raising of a special revenue by direct taxation for this purpose."

The Government brief advocates, among other things, that the Dominion Government assume full responsibility for unemployment relief, old age pensions, and pensions to the blind, as well as a defined portion of the public health services. It urges our special claims as a landless Province. It gives special attention to the educational problem, advocating substantial Dominion subsidies definitely earmarked for education on the basis of need, but not for any specific educational service.

Also it indorses the proposal to capitalize existing subsidies at 3 per cent and to abolish entirely the system of unconditional subsidies for the future, the capital amounts so arrived at to be applied to the reduction of provincial debts. In the case of Prince Edward Island the proposed capitalization would yield a sum exceeding our provincial debt by approximately fifteen million dollars. This, of course, is an alternative to the claim for increased subsidy on the basis of the Province's declared inability to come within six hundred thousand dollars of balancing its budget.

A Serious Indictment

In the Board of Trade brief presented yesterday to the Commission, the outstanding facts brought out are those concerned with the City's failure to obtain fair treatment from the Federal Government in the matter of direct unemployment relief. Instead of the average 33.3 per cent civic contribution, Charlottetown last year had to pay 61 per cent of direct relief costs, and the Mayor, it is revealed, "had practically to beg on his knees for the unjustly small amount of assistance that has been provided."

This is a astonishing state of affairs, and one which our civic authorities should have made public long ago. It should not have been necessary for the Mayor to "beg", on his knees or otherwise. A more effective way of dealing with the situation might have been a frank exposure and discussion of the matter in the City Council.

The Federal Government's failure to implement the terms of our entry into Confederation, and to provide adequate transportation, harbour and other improvements are also dealt with. It is fortunate indeed that in the absence of any direct representation from the City to the Commission—a fact which in the circumstances is to be deplored—the Board of Trade undertook the arduous work. It has done the job well and it is to be hoped its labours will not go unrewarded so far as their effect on the Commission and Federal Government is concerned.

What is Expected of a Judge?

In this country judges are made to play many parts, but here is Chief Justice Lord Ewart's picture of what the perfect judge is expected to do:

"The business of a judge is to hold his tongue until the last possible moment, and to try to be as wise as he is paid to look.

"The only impartiality possible to the human mind is that which arises from understanding neither side of the case.

"A judge is essentially a parasite, because in a perfect world judges will not be necessary, and for something like 799,000,000 years the world got on very well without them.

"The life of a judge no doubt appears easy to those who have escaped it. Yet a little reflection seems to show that a good many things are expected of him.

"He is required to exhibit profound and permanent impartiality. He must see with perfect clearness both sides of the case, and unless somebody is to be disappointed he must somehow contrive to decide finally in favor of each side.

"Moreover, he must be at one and the same time a cold and remote figure—a stranger to the joys and sorrows of human life—but somehow also a man of the world, intimately understanding the emotions and the preoccupations of mankind."

Editorial Notes

Edison born this date, 1847.

* * * *

The Rowell Commission came, saw, and — commiserated!

* * * *

The City Council, with a Mayor of long experience in Civic affairs, and a membership only one of whom is new to his duties, should speedily settle down to their job, principal part of which is to make ends meet financially.

* * * *

The two Alberta Social Creditors who attempted to further their cause by criminally libelling their fellow citizens, are now protesting their punishment does not fit their crime. Its a way most convicted criminals have.

* * * *

Breaches of trust are rather common over the border, and convictions not always easily obtainable. Two prominent bankers in New Jersey have been sent to the State prison at Trenton for two to three years, with a fine of $1,000 each in addition, on embezzlement charges, two years old.

* * * *

It will be recalled the Duke of Windsor, while Prince of Wales, composed a bagpipe march or pibroch. Music must run in the Royal family for we are now told his brother, the Duke of Kent is an expert pianist and has blossomed into a composer of dance tunes. His latest composition is a tango. It will not be heard by the public, as only a few copies have been published for private circulation.

* * * *

It is the old story of too many cooks spoiling the broth—too many Privy Council judgments, or interpretations, says Hon. C. H. Cahan, have changed the whole purpose of the B.N.A. This being the case—back to the letter of the law would be the obvious solution of all our constitutional troubles, but would it? Would we, for instance be satisfied with one representative in the House of Commons, instead of our present four?

* * * *

The Attorney-General of this Province through the Patriot complains that the Attorney-General of New Brunswick through the Telegraph-Journal does not properly set forth the facts with reference to the B.N.A. amendment controversy. As the initial and subsequent conferences of Provincial representatives were private the Press has no direct means of discovering what transpired, but it does seem peculiar that Premier Campbell should delay his protest until it is discovered five of the nine provinces now support the attitude originally and singularly adopted by Attorney-General McNair on behalf of New Brunswick.

* * * *

Expenditure proportions of farm families are different from those of the early Nineteen Twenties. Then, clothing expenses were second to food. Now, clothing has been superseded by automobiles in more than half of the most usual income groups, according to a study by the Bureau of Home Economics, of typical farm families in different parts of the country. In the more prosperous farm communities between 80 and 90 per cent of the families studied in the most usual income groups have cars. For example, families having yearly incomes from $750 to $1,000 spent 28 to 33 per cent of the income for food, depending on the size of the family. From 15 to 18 per cent was spent on the automobile. As income increased to between $1,500 and $1,750, families consisting of husband and wife spent only 22 per cent for food and 20 per cent for the automobile.

* * * *

Professor A. Lloyd James, linquistic adviser to B.B.C. has been scoring British broadcasters for failure to sound their "r's" and other weaknesses in enunciation. The professor likes to remember that Lord Snowden and Ramsay Macdonald used to roll their r's when they wanted to appear genuinely concerned with their subjects. The professor may not have heard Canadian school children singing the maple leaf forevverrr, or he might have mentioned that example. But he did say that if he had to set up a standard of spoken English for the whole world he'd take Lord Macmillan or President Roosevelt, as their speech was nearer to the visual standard than any he knew. Professor James's speech found good publicity in the London press. Spoken English is frequently a popular topic of conversation in England, although the speaker is generally pretty much in favor of his own tongue, whether it be down from Oxford or from the wrong side of the tracks. As The London Evening News put it, there are all kinds of ways of looking at it—even that of the New Yorker who think's his goil's a poil.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A framed picture of Hitler is commencing to be included among gifts to newly-wedded couples in Germany. On what reasonable basis can the portrait of such a confirmed bachelor find a place of distinction in any newly established household.—Brantford Expositor.

For several days much has been heard and read about the groundhog, his shadow and future weather conditions. Just what a groundhog could do about the weather, has never been revealed, but it was his shadow which came to the fore and if he saw it then the winter would endure to the cold end. But the scientists have taken up the question of the groundhog and his relation to the weather. They say it stands to reason if the day is clear at this season, it is also likely to be cold and frosty; and if it is cold and frosty the snow is likely to endure. On the other hand, if the groundhog was not able to see his shadow, the intervening clouds seem to suggest the fact that rain is due shortly and that snow will be washed away, the ground will be bared and an early spring is on the way. So we have the groundhog theory as the scientist sees it. From that point on anyone can write his own weather forecast and it makes no difference if the groundhog saw his shadow or not.

Broadcasters should ever bear in mind that they are not talking to sophisticated adult audiences, as in the theatre, but that what they say goes into homes where there are young boys and girls. What gets by in a theatre, where there has been undue laxity of recent years, is utterly out of place in the midst of a family. Radio has been slipping in this respect for some time, one of the most frequent offenders being a high-priced comedian whose tiresome personal allusions are sometimes in very questionable taste. Radio is family entertainment, and should be kept as clean as family life itself.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Since when has a radio announcer at Ottawa had the authority to tell the people of Australia that while it is midsummer in the southern Commonwealth, Canada is covered with a mantle of snow, in many cases several feet deep? This was the information conveyed to our Australian cousins last night just before Prime Minister Mackenzie King tendered the felicitations of the government and the people of this Dominion to Australia on the attainment of her 150th birthday. We respectfully suggest to the radio announcer in question that he be careful in future to mention that his remarks about snow may be quite applicable to many parts of Canada, but not to Vancouver Island, or for many miles of territory eastward from Vancouver. In the third largest city of Canada and in the capital city of British Columbia, pleasant golf was being played yesterday in temperatures between 44 and 46 above zero—and no snow! — Victoria Times.

When the British and French governments asked the then Belgian premier, Dr. Paul Van Zeeland, to propose a practical plan for a general reduction of international trade barriers, it gave him a task that a large majority of the world's statesmen doubtless regard as impossible of fulfilment at the present time. It is easy enough for the United States government to pursue a program of reciprocal reduction of trade barriers and the general application of the most-favored-nation clause. Our international economic and financial position is so strong that we are not perceptibly injured, as a nation, even where the policy works to our distinct disadvantage, as in Brasil and Colombia. But Van Zeeland's proposal had to appeal to such sorely pressed nations as Germany and Italy, as well as to the rich countries of the West, if it were to have more than theoretical importance.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Relief may cost this city six to eight mills on the dollar, but there is one gratifying thing. The city stopped in due time all borrowing to pay for current relief, a method which could only lead straight down the road to insolvency.—St. Catherines Standard.

The schoolgirls of Turkey are in for a dull time if the Association of Head Masters and Head Mistresses has its way. According to its recommendations no girl may go to the cinema except with an adult relative; she may talk to no young man in the street except her brother, and if any swain attempts to talk to her the affront should be reported to parents or the head master forthwith. One might be tempted to think that Pasha Grundy or his wife had composed the Statutes of Oxford University for their use. —Cape Argus.

There is nothing impossible of belief in the story that a party of musicians on their way to a wedding in a village of Asia Minor, being threatened by a pack of wolves, played on their instruments "with such force that they gradually stunned the wolves and eventually shot them." There is the impeccable authority of Dean Ramsay for the story which he tells as an illustration "of the quiet, pawky humor for which our (Scottish) countrymen have been distinguished. A Scottish piper was passing through a deep forest. In the evening he sat down to take his supper. He had hardly begun when a number of hungry wolves, prowling about for food, collected around him. In self-defence the poor man began to throw pieces of his victuals to them, which they greedily devoured. When he had disposed of all the food, with a fit of despair he took his pipes and began to play. The unusual sound terrified the wolves, which took to their heels and scampered off in every direction, on observing which the Scot remarked, "If I'd kenned ye liket the pipes sae weel I'd a gien ye a spring (tune) afore supper."—Manchester Guardian.

The fortieth anniversary of the issuing of the first automobile liability insurance policy occurred February 1. The historic contract was granted by the Travelers to Dr. Truman J. Martin, a physician of Buffalo, New York, and was written in longhand by Walter G. Cowles, who is now a vice-president of the company. The policy covered an electric automobile which, when it was bought by Dr. Martin in 1897, was one of less than one hundred motor vehicles registered in the United States. Dr. Martin paid a premium of $11.25 to provide liability of from $5,000 to $10,000.—U. S. Weekly Underwriter.

The goose-step is an archaic discipline which has survived in Germany out of sentimental regard for its inventor, Frederick II of Prussia. Its abolishment has been advocated only recently by high-raking German military authorities. Mussolini himself may have realized his decreeing of the step for Italian troops smacks uncomfortably of a small boy's idea of playing soldier. It probably is true of him, as of other people, that a defiant attitude often betrays an inner sense of forfeited dignity, which of course would be a really serious loss for a man in Mussolini's position.—Detroit News.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST MUST WORK TOGETHER WHEN THE REMOVAL OF TEETH IS BEING CONSIDERED

A champion amateur and later professional boxer consulted his physician regarding a pain in his lower back. He stated that the pain got easier or even passed away when he was exercising but was so bad at night that he couldn't get much sleep. He felt "tired" all the time.

As the physician could find no other trouble present—tonsils, gall bladder, sinuses—and Xray showed some infection at root of two teeth, he referred him to his dentist. The dentist admitted that there was a little trouble present but not enough to justify the removal of such otherwise good teeth in a young man of 21.

The young man then consulted another dentist, equipped with his own Xray apparatus, who after examining these new films, declared that the two teeth should be removed at once. Both teeth were removed and found to be infected the odor from one being particularly disagreeable. The pain in the lower back disappeared withing two or three days, and the young man resumed training in less than a week and a few weeks afterwards won the boxing championship.

It is in such cases as the above that the physician and the dentist are placed in an awkward position. The dentist could readily extract the tooth or teeth and insert some bridge work but he knows that nothing can do the work as well as the patient's own teeth and he tries to save them. Perhaps he feels that there may be some other source of infection that is causing the symptoms and if teeth are not removed, this source may be found.

On the other hand, the physician feels that as he has checked all other possible sources, the teeth must be to blame, and that the infection present may be due to very dangerous organisms which sooner or later cause serious complications and possibly death.

The point of course is that physician and dentist usually get together and discuss the case thoroughly, as, after all, the patient—his health and perhaps his life—is the one that must be considered.

The Poets' Corner

TRUTH

The wayfarer,
Perceiving the pathway to truth,
Was struck with astonishment.
It was thickly grown with weeds.
"Ha," he said,
"I see that no one has passed here
In a long time."
Later he saw that each weed
Was a singular knife.
"Well," he mumbled at last,
"Doubtless there are other roads."

—Stephen Crane (1871-1900.)

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THE TWO MACS

CALGARIAN HUNTS CANDY

CALGARY — A middle aged Calgary resident is looking for a piece of candy he threw away recently. He did not notice at the time that in the candy was his upper set of false teeth.

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.

OPEN SEASON ON DUCKS AND GEESE

Sir,—At the quarterly meeting of the Fish and Game Association held in December a resolution was passed and presented to the Department of Agriculture that the open season on geese in this province be changed to read October 1st. to November 30th., the duck season being left as formerly, Sept. 15th. to November 14th. Why the discrimination? Very few gunners have bothered with hunting geese these past few years, and then it is only in a few localities favoured by the birds. Earnscliffe, Blooming Point and Savage Harbour are about the only places in Queens and Kings counties where gunners had even a remote chance of bagging a goose.

On the other hand thousands of ducks thronged our shores and marshes at all their regular feeding grounds during the latter part of November, and were also at their very best at this time. It is the opinion of gunners that one black duck bagged in the latter part of November is worth two or three shot in September. During this month 90 per cent of the ducks shot are blue and pin feathery and away below their general standard as a table bird.

We are allowed only 2 months open season on geese and ducks and it is up to the Department to select the period that is most suited to the majority of gunners. Young men on the farms claim that the season closes on ducks just about the time the fall work is finished, and they are thus deprived of legitimate sport during their short leisure period before the general freezeup, and the majority of the birds move further south.

Unquestionably the large majority of gunners in this province favour October and November for both geese and ducks, and it is very doubtful if the resolution as passed at the December meeting expressed the feeling of the majority of even the Association members, as I understand that a bare 20 per cent of the membership was represented at the meeting, and then the resolution was passed only after considerable discussion.

I wish to point out at this time that any changes in the regulations of the Migratory Birds Convention Act are made only with the sanction of our provincial Department of Agriculture. Naturally they feel that the Fish and Game Association represent the feeling of the general public and are inclined on this principle to accede to the Association's requests. Personally the writer feels that, if the Department does not see its way clear to recommend October and November for ducks, it is a grave mistake to have a seperate season for geese and ducks.

I am, Sir, etc.,
SPORTSMAN.

SEARLETOWN HIGHWAY

Sir,—Yes "Albany Voter" you are right, and your views are identical with Tryon, North Tryon and Searletown. Our representatives who plan to build the road in question, are not considering city or political opinions. Their whole aim in building this proposed road is to carry it through the district that will reach the most traffic and thus be the most good to the greatest number of people possible. We need not worry, as Messrs. Wright and Baker are not the men to listen to political or city arguments, but will use their own good sound judgment that they are so well noted for in the past. We need not worry about those two gentlemen using their influence to build a highway with no higher purpose than to head every tourist to the city, as your esteemed correspondent Mr. Wright suggests, I have met several tourists in the past, and really they do seem to be a very desirable and interesting class of people, usually with a very definite destination in view, and it is just possible they would resent being headed toward Charlottetown if they had a strong desire to go elsewhere.

I am, Sir, etc.,
VON PLATTER.

BISHOP ADMIRES NORTH SILENCES

WINNIPEG, Feb. 10—Life in the Arctic is chiefly memorable for its peace and solitude, its daily hardships and constant happiness, said Most Rev. Armand Ciabaut, O. M. I., first Bishop Co-Adjutor of the Vicariate of Hudson Bay, largest and most northerly Catholic mission in the world.

During a visit to Winnipeg, the bishop admitted, "I do not like it down here in civilization. Too much noise, too many cars, too many people. All day long you rush around and when the day is done —nothing is done. I would like to see some space again and some natives.

"If you could live in the north for two or three years then you would understand why we love it —why you are not happy away from it. That is the only life."

For 10 years prior to his consecration last August, he was a simple missionary priest living his daily life with natives at Eskimo Point and Repulse Bay, on the west coast of Hudson Bay.

APPLES REPLACED ON MOUNTIE DIET

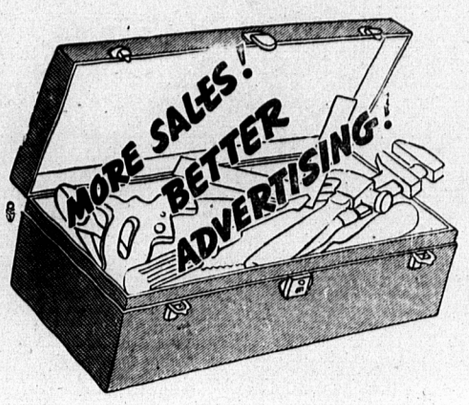
REGINA, Feb. 10 — Grapefruit juice has replaced apples as an item on the diet list of the Royal Canadian Mounted police. Under amended R. C. M. P. regulations, two dozen tins of grapefruit juice a man a year replace the previous one box of apples a man a year.

That was the only major change in the diet of the Mountie. There is provision still for 50 pounds of onions each year for each man.

ANCIENT LICENSE PLATE IS PRIZED

ROULEAU, Sask., Feb. 10—Fred Paustin, Rouleau resident, believes he has the oldest auto license plate in Saskatchewan, one bearing the year date 1910. It is a combination leather and tin plate affair, the leather piece forms the front of the plate, with the letters and figures cut out of it. The tin plate gives the plate body and the figures a shine.

Mr. Paustin's brother, the late C. C. Paustin, proudly displayed it 27 years ago on a two-cylinder, side-cranking, hard-tired auto. It was one of the first cars in Rouleau, 30 miles south of Regina.



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