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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1946

Whither Are We Drifting?

It is a serious reflection on our Federal Government that a Macedonian cry should have been sent to the Prime Minister overseas to come immediately to their assistance. Affairs have been going from bad to worse at Ottawa, and one minister after another, realizing the situation has hastened away to "vacate" in Europe while the going is good.

We are faced with serious problems, the solutions of which demand statesmanship of the highest and most vigorous description. We are entering a new era not only for domestic trade and commerce but for nations and international relationships. The world is no longer divided into separate communities with dividing lines which can be defended and protected by standing armies and navies. The airplane has abolished that for ever, and now, as happened in Jugo-Slavia recently, the only protection one nation has from another, is to bring down airplanes which may violate their territories from above, and take the consequence. Hence it is that Canada and the United States are resorting to what may be considered extraordinary measures to line up and protect our northern boundaries lest they be invaded by hostile air fleets carrying innumerable soldiery ready for infantry attack on a scantily populated territory, and to "dig in."

But we are faced with worse and more immediate dangers than that. The industrial situation has become more than the powers-that-be at Ottawa can handle. Neither the Government nor the opposition has risen to the occasion, and the danger is that a state of anarchy may eventuate. In a well-intentioned attempt in the first instance, the Government, to prevent inflation resorted to measures which kept the cost of living down to a fairly reasonable figure, and which included the ceiling of prices and likewise of wages. Gradually, through pressure, largely from south of the border, these ceilings have been relaxed giving certain products and employees preference over others, letting loose a wholesale demand from all and sundry for relief. In the first instance, it was up to the Government to handle the wage situation and to see that strikes, organized to a considerable extent across the border, were kept under control. But by a fatally false move by the Progressive Conservatives in the House of Commons, the onus was transferred to Parliament instead of the Government, and now the unions and industry are locked in deadly conflict, with practically no one to straighten matters out. The consequences are already self-evident, and they will be worse before they are better. Canada had the opportunity of a lifetime of becoming the industrial centre of the British Empire, second only to Britain herself. Now she is held at bay by organized strikes from over the border, and the administration at Ottawa is helpless. Perhaps the only ray of sunshine in the clouded administrative sky comes from Quebec, where the Provincial Government is showing the iron hand in the silken glove. It is not a question whether labour is right or wrong, but who shall direct affairs of state.

Labour has its rights and should be protected, but so much depends on how organized labour is led and directed—making allowances for the interests of capital as well as of labour. Here is where the Co-operative and Credit Union Movement proves its superiority over the American type of unions, and every endeavour should be made to develop and extend its influence, for as sure as night follows day there will be tragic trouble in store for us unless the two great powers in industry, capital and labour, can reconcile their differences.

Labour's Anniversary

A good motto for Labour Day 1946, which falls on Monday, is this editorial comment in *The Labour Leader*, a Labour newspaper published in Ontario: "As unions grow in numbers and exercise rights, they are no longer groups of under-privileged citizens demanding a hearing and opportunity. The union becomes an accepted institution performing functions in industry and society and must assume proportionate responsibility for national welfare."

Worth noting, too, is this statement from a Labour Day mesasge by Mr. George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labour:

"The important point to remember always is that we have been free to organize, free to appeal to public opinion, free to use our economic strength, and that it has only been because of our freedom to act that the wage-earners of America and Canada are today so far ahead of the world's economic procession. Without this freedom we would still be in the mire. With freedom we shall be able to map programs for further advancement and to take appropriate action to translate these programs into reality.

"What the workers of America and Canada have accomplished under the free enterprise system of our country is the envy of the world, yet we often read derogatory utterances concerning our economic system that emanate from the proponents of totalitarianism. Free enterprise proved its efficacy during the recent war when, without enslaving labour, without giving away our cherished rights and liberties, American and Canadian industry, in cooperation with American and Canadian labour, outproduced and outfought the Axis. The war showed that the American and Canadian system was not only the best from the viewpoint of wage-earners in peacetime but likewise the best system for the defense of our national sovereignty during the most terrible war of all time."

Prince Edward Island is fortunately free from serious labour difficulties, not only because we have comparatively few industries apart from agriculture and fishing, but because we have too much common sense to be misled by irresponsible demagogues. We take pride in our standing as citizens, and in cooperating for the betterment of the Province and the country generally. This fact was noted by more than one member at the last session of the Legislature, and it was a tribute well deserved.

Labour Day should serve as a reminder of the splendid contribution made by labour to Canada's war effort, both in enlistments and in subscriptions to war loans, Red Cross and other campaigns. We doubt if any other Province can boast of a finer achievement in this respect than Prince Edward Island.

What labour expects in this post-war period, in this Province as elsewhere, is work at decent wages under decent living conditions. That is an objective to which everyone should subscribe. Nothing less than that is good enough. We should not need to be reminded of the fact that this is a vital part of the Four Freedoms for which we fought.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Churches are still open, so let Dad, Mum and the children go there tomorrow.

* * * *

There is to be quite an influx of conventions this month, showing the popularity of the Island and the Charlottetown as a suitable centre for such gatherings.

* * * *

Who is the "Nigger in the woodpile" here who advised Reconstruction Minister Howe that the house shortage here is not sufficiently urgent to warrant the authorization necessary to go ahead with Charlottetown apartment building scheme?

* * * *

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, born this date 1880. Her Majesty spent some time during the war in Canada, and her granddaughter, Princess Margaret, was born in an Ottawa hospital, when Princess Juliana was resident in the Capital.

* * * *

Spenser's welcome to September is as applicable today as when originally written:

Next him September marched eke of foot,
Yet was he heavy, laden with the spoil
Of harvest riches, which he made his boot,
And him enriched with bounty of the soil;
In one hand, as fit for harvest toil,
He held a knife-hook; and in th' other hand
A pair of weights, with which he did avoid
Both more and less, where it in doubt did stand,
And equal gave to each as justice duly scanned.

* * * *

That all producing gold mines don't make money was strikingly demonstrated by a submission of Lt.-Col. Alan Cockeram, M. P. for South York, in the House of Commons. Col. Cockeram submitted a list of 39 gold mines which had ceased operations between 1939 and 1944 which had paid no returns to shareholders. Total production of these mines (on which production taxes were paid) amounted to $21,859,000, Mr. Cockeram reported. Yet the investors never received a cent of dividend.

* * * *

To commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the landing of Julius Caesar upon the beaches near Deal, England, on August 25, 55 B.C., Deal Town Council erected a tablet at Deal Castle. Caesar and his legions were encamped for 10 days around Deal after their first landing in 55 B.C., before returning to Gaul. It was also to Deal that Caesar returned the next summer after spending the winter preparing for a further invasion.

* * * *

John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, died at Snowhill, London, this date 1688. In an old account of the poet in Bedford there is an anecdote to the effect that a Quaker called upon him in jail one day with what he professed to be a message from the Lord. "After searching for thee," said he, "in half the jails of England, I am glad to have found thee at last." "If the Lord sent thee," said Bunyan sarcastically, "you would not have needed to take so much trouble to find me out, for He knows that I have been in Bedford jail these seven years."

* * * *

In *Industrial and Agricultural Progress*, Mr. Norman Mackintosh writes: "Canada needs a greater population. There are few who will gainsay the statement. Canada is considering the problems and the possibilities of a renewal of immigration, realizing that it must inevitably be a flow of selected migrants. There are those who favour the coming into Canada of adaptable and desirable migrants in their adolescence, certainly still in their prime: there are those who would have only young children to grow up in Canada, and those who would prefer that Canada's population be increased principally by children born in Canada. To gain the men and women of the right timber for Canadian citizenship who will help to build the greater Canada that is certain to come, should the planting be of seedlings or of saplings? Anyhow, in the babies of her heartily-welcomed veterans and their brides, Canada has found, and is smiling upon, a grand little crop of soundly-started seedlings.

Notes By The Way

It is shown by sticking a thermometer into a cucumber that it actually is 20 degrees cooler inside. This seems to clear up everything but the turnip's blood count. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

As the specifications for a new jet-propelled motor car list its top speed at 130 m.p.h. and make no mention of brakes, we assume it has an extra-loud horn. — Chicago News.

A Pennsylvania motor league official declares that auto traffic on country roads has developed a better grade of roosters and hens, by weeding out the mentally unfit fowls that jaywalk. And there's no doubt that the same factor has resulted in a brighter, brainier race of pedestrians. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Colossal stone heads, some weighing up to 40 tons, have been found by the Smithsonian institute in the jungles of southern Mexico. Probably the work of a civilization that flourished around 500 to 900 A.D., it is still a mystery how they got there. The basalt from which they were carved is not native to that part of the country, and the nearest source of it is 75 miles away. —Science News Letter.

Americans do not come to Canada to be "entertained" but to enjoy the quieter pleasures of the outdoors, those recreations which cost nothing but are beyond price, the soft murmur of waves on pines, the welcome warmth of the sun reflected from the waters of a quiet lake, the singing reel and the laughter of their children at play far from crowded city streets. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

There are just two kinds of power in the world. One is military. A nation which can mobilize and equip millions of soldiers can speak with force. A nut on with a unique weapon may have a frightening authority as people do not want and would like to get rid of it —as is the case with the United States today. The other kind of power is in men's minds, and it can exist in twenty nations having a total population about 140,000,000 as easily as it can in one having the same or a greater population. —New York Times.

When General Eisenhower and Senator Austin spoke at Norwich University's commencement in favor of keeping the United States strong, they did not speak as militarists. General Eisenhower is a military man by profession and Senator Austin was co-sponsor of the Selective Service Act. But anyone who knows them realizes that neither is a lover of war, neither is a narrow nationalists. Indeed both are earnest advocates of peace and active supporters of the United Nations. —Christian Science Monitor.

At home and abroad Americans face a real challenge to prove that their free system offers more of the good that mankind is seeking than does the Russian. We know it does offer more, both in spiritual and material satisfactions, more in equality of opportunity, in freedom for the individual to develop fully. But the better the pudding the clearer the proof. America is not making too happy a showing today in places like Germany where a direct comparison is made but parts of Europe that have been occupied by Russia are also disillusioned. There is still hope that peoples who have a choice will favour free ways. —Christian Science Monitor (Boston).

TAKE TWO NOTES BY ...

One freshly picked red rose, presented to London's Lord Mayor recently, was this year's instalment on a fine levied in 1379, originally imposed for a minor building violation, says The Christian Science Monitor. But, in addition to cancelling out fines, roses still are used for token rent payments in Britain, too. For instance, at least three large estates cost their tenants only one such flower per year. Stranger pledges than the rose exist in Britain. One Welshman must acknowledge the presence of the King by sending forth a knight in full armor. And a duke retains property worth $10,000,000 by presenting a white satin banner to his monarch each August 3. Colorful in a different way, and still in force, is a tithe consisting of six horseshoes and 61 nails—obviously the stipulation of a shrewd bargainer— although a less utilitarian lessor agreed to accept a bucket of snow. On the gustatory side, certain tithes still specify a pair of mallards on a silver dish, three eels, or a pie containing four fishes. Pleasant British gestures to the past, these.

In spite of the five-month inter-lude between, there's something about August that reminds the countryman of February. Both mark the end of a period; both months are times when Nature's forces seem to rest a bit and gather their strength for the oncoming seasons. August is one of the silent, brooding months, says The New York Times. Earth's pulsating rhythms gradually diminish to faint surges; now is a time of catching up before the coming of fall's climax. The thorn hay fields lie brown beneath the brassy sun that circles the sky south of the horizon's pole. During the sultry stickiness of dog days one can almost hear the corn grow. Goldenrod holds bouquets of yellow beauty on stiff stalks along the stone walls; wild asters make patches of blue color on the pasture hillsides. Scraggly staghorn sumac lifts its maroon cones in the fence corners. Dawns are strangely quiet as the first fingers of light pull in night's canvas. A few birds chirp in half-hearted fashion, but missing are the buoyant arias of a few weeks ago. Day comes on quietly and the desultory hours seems longer than sixty minutes. There's work to be done on the farm, but the rush of summer is over and men move more slowly as they wait for the time of harvest. Days are growing noticeably shorter, though dusk still creeps slowly down the mountains. At eventide the crickets tune up their wing strings and the chimney swifts put on their aerial circus. A night hawk zooms across the garden where the fireflies are circling about with their lanterns. It is Nature's quiet time, getting ready for the activity that comes a little later when autumn's beauty bursts on the landscape.

Unlawful Gambling

(Summerside Pioneer)

Although a certain amount of so called lawful gambling is allowed by the Provincial Government at various horse race meetings, a great deal of unlawful gambling exists in this Province.

We would like to point out one or two examples. During Old Home Week each year, overnight pools are unlawfully conducted in Charlottetown. For those who do not understand what an overnight pool is, we point out that the procedure is as follows: a certain group of horsemen, other sportsmen, "would be" financiers, and others congregate, generally in a barn, to place bets on the following days racing. Bets run as high as $125.00, in some instances, for the privilege of purchasing a single ticket on a favorite horse. Many thousands of dollars change hands. The question comes up, who is it who collects these uncontrolled commissions on this large volume of unlawful betting? It is not the Government, and we suggest that in view of the lack of employment in the Province they could use some additional revenue, provided of course that they would see their way clear to spend it where it would do the most good. It is also understood that individuals, operating on their own, circulate throughout the crowded barn selling some "get rich quick schemes" of their own. We are told that the police are used to direct traffic in the vicinity of the gambling barn, and that they are on call, close by in case of any disturbance.

Now the point we would like to make is this; if it is the policy of the Government to allow this type of gambling, why do they not make it lawful, control the system of betting, and collect an additional revenue. If it is not the policy of the Government to allow such uncontrolled gambling, why has the Attorney General not done something about it? Surely the Premier, and the members of his Government know that this unlawful procedure exists.

The Potato Harvest

(St. John Telegraph Journal)

New Brunswick's potato growers, who for weeks had hopefully scanned the skies for the dark clouds that would portend a real rainstorm, finally got it a few days ago. The green potato fields, stretching beyond the horizon, glistened happily in the downpour and the powdery soil drank thirstily. This was not merely a proverbial "million dollar" rain. This rain may have been worth, literally, from $2 to $3 millions.

For the original estimate of a harvest of seventeen million bushels worth $17 millions had shrunk so greatly, under the blistering summer sun, that some observers predicted it would go no higher than twelve million. Then the rain came down and hopes went up again. Now the outlook is that a good average crop of as much as fifteen million bushels will be harvested—if the harvesters can be obtained.

This is the big "if" in the tuber belt today. That is why the national employment service has stepped in with an urgent appeal to men in all parts of the province to send in their names for jobs as potato pickers, loaders, tractor drivers and digger operators. The employment service, acting as a two-way clearing house, is urging farmers to figure their labor needs right away and say how many they will need.

These emergency workers will get free transportation to and from the country, and free board. What they earn will depend on themselves—good pickers in good fields have been known to fill eighty to ninety barrels a day, which at the standard rate of fifteen cents a barrel is twelve or more dollars, and at least one family of pickers picked up more than a thousand dollars in a month.

During wartime, members of the armed forces on special leave worked side by side with farm hands, lumbermen, grandfathers and grandmothers, school children and vacationists to clean up the bumper crops, some years around seventeen million bushels. Now no servicemen, except returned veterans, can be obtained—and the country is depending on the cities and towns for help in outracing the approach of frost in late October.

Citizenship of War Brides

The forthcoming changes in the British citizenship law announced by Mr. Chuter Ede, Home Secretary, on August 1st have special importance at the present time because of the large number of British women who married servicemen from other countries.

Under the existing law, a British woman who marries an alien loses her British citizenship if, by the law of her husband's country, she aquires his citizenship. This rule does not affect those British women who married American servicemen: they retain British citizenship since they did not become American citizens by marriage. But those who married servicemen of certain other countries acquired their husband's citizenship on marriage, and therefore automatically lost their British citizenship. The law will now be changed, so that a British woman will never lose her citizenship by marriage.

Another aspect of the existing law is that a non-British woman who marries a British man automatically acquires British citizenship. This, too, will be changed under the new legislation. In future the alien wife of a Briton will have to apply for naturalization in order to become a British citizen herself.

These forthcoming changes have long been urged by women's organizations. The rule that a British woman loses citizenship by marriage to an alien dates from 1870, and until 1933 she lost her own citizenship whether or not she acquired her husband's. She might, therefore become stateless, e. g. by marriage to an American. In 1933 the law was changed to eliminate this possibility; from then until the present time, a British woman would lose her citizenship only if she acquired her husband's citizenship. The 1933 Act was regarded by women's organizations as entirely inadequate. But the difficulty was that, by a long-standing convention, the law governing British citizenship can only be changed in agreement with the Dominions, and these nations could not agree to make a woman's citizenship entirely independent of that of her husband. Agreement on this principle was, however, reached in conferences of experts from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom during the last few months, and later this year another conference of experts will work out the details.

When passed, the new citizenship Act will take its place in the long list of measures which have equalized the rights of British women with those of men.

CLEAN OUT BEGGARS

JOHANNESBURG, — (CP) — A "hobo squad" of the South African police is carrying out raids against Johannesburgs beggars who are estimated to "earn" an average of £15 ($60) a month with some getting more than £60.

ST. IVES, England — (CP) — Trencom Hill, 64-acre estate has been given to the National Trust by Col. G.L. Tyringham as a memorial to Cornish men and women killed in the last wars.

The Poet's Corner

TRAIN AT NIGHT

Sometimes at night
I hear a train
Far off
Shunting in the yards,
And half asleep, half awake,
Dreaming,
I see a great giant
Striding the mountains,
Shuffling his huge feet
Along the valleys,
Puffing wearily,
Tired from a long day's hunt,
Whistling erily
As he trudges,
Shuffles
Home.

—Arthur S. Bourinot

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