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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31, 1949

The Newfoundland Market

The Corner Brook (Newfoundland) *Western Star* reports that Prince Edward Island farmers are already booking orders there for delivery of potatoes at $1.70 per barrel, landed in Corner Brook. "While this may be good news for customers who will welcome the opportunity to purchase vegetables at lower cost," it says, "it presents a problem in principle, which is of gravest concern to both the people and the government. The problem is, how are Newfoundland farmers going to meet this competition?"

The competition, according to our Corner Brook contemporary, stems from many causes, chief among them being (1) the low rates ($65 to $85 per month) paid for farm labour in other provinces, (2) the removal of import restrictions, (3) the lack of mass production methods in the local field, and (4) the absence of a sound marketing system. It suggests that the time has come for a thorough survey of the situation "by competent persons." One fact, it adds, appears quite obvious: the small farms will in future be out of the picture insofar as marketing is concerned. No country can afford to pay the prices which must be asked by farmers who are trying to earn a livelihood by "hand raising" crops of vegetables on eight or ten acres.

The *Western Star* adds that "Premer Jones has sent shiploads of vegetables North, South, East and West in Newfoundland. He has stated that a firm market is to be developed here. That is good business for his Province and he cannot be blamed for going after it. But we, too, are an island province and must combine our export policy with a vigorous policy of production for consumption, if we are to avoid financial collapse."

The fact, of course, is that Prince Edward Island growers are not so much competing with Newfoundland farmers in their own market, as with exporters from other potato growing provinces. This applies to other farm products as well. Agriculturally Newfoundland has always been dependent upon imports and Prince Edward Island is only now regaining a portion of the trade we enjoyed in years gone by with the Ancient Colony in farm products of all kinds. But we do not expect or desire this trade to be entirely one-sided. Newfoundland has export commodities of her own in which we are interested, and it remains only to develop the two-way trade channels to mutual satisfaction. This, we understand, is what Premier Jones and Premier Smallwood have been endeavoring to do. The *Western Star* could make a helpful contribution to the discussions by emphasizing this fact and listing the products which Newfoundland could market advantageously here and elsewhere throughout the Maritimes.

"Profits Most" — What!

The following from Rotary *Whizz*, Ottawa, carries its own striking moral:

In 1923 a very important meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Attending this meeting were 10 of the world's most successful financiers. Those present were:

(1) The president of the largest independent steel company.
(2) The president of the National City Bank.
(3) The president of the largest utility company.
(4) The president of the largest gas company.
(5) The greatest wheat speculator.
(6) The president of the New York Stock Exchange.
(7) A member of the President's cabinet.
(8) The greatest "bear" in Wall Street.
(9) Head of the world's greatest monopoly.
(10) President of the Bank of International Settlements.

Certainly we must admit that here were gathered a group of the world's most successful men. At least men who had found the secret of "making money." Twenty-five years later, let's see where those men are:

The president of the largest independent steel company, Charles Schwab, died a bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death.

The president of the great utility company, Samuel Insull, died a fugitive from justice and penniless in a foreign land.

The president of the largest gas company, Howard Hopson, is now insane.

The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cutten, died abroad, insolvent.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, was recently released from Sing Sing Penitentiary.

The member of the President's cabinet, Albert Fall, was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

The greatest "bear" in Wall Street, Jesse Livermore, died a suicide.

The head of the greatest monopoly, Ivor Kreuger, died a suicide.

All of these men learned well the art of making money, but not one of them learned how to live!

Britain's Situation

The Associated Press Bureau in Washington cites Administration officials there as being favorably impressed by Britain's position as a bulwark against the intrusion of influences alien to true democracy. This is indicated also in the statements by President Truman at the American Legion convention reported in yesterday's news columns. Such admissions, notes the *Globe and Mail*, happen to coincide with information from Sir Stafford Cripps in London which throws a sharp light on what his Government actually is accomplishing in this regard.

By slashing five per cent from next year's Budget appropriations, the British Government is taking a material step toward saving £150,000,000. Such a reduction in national revenues would have a good influence in lowering British costs and thereby enabling her to meet export requirements more readily, and to that extent ease the dollar strain now threatening her economy. The opinion prevails that no part of this revenue loss will be charged to the maintenance of the armed services — which leads to his second point.

The armed services require one-quarter of the Government's present income. As that income is budgeted at £3,000,000,000, the cost indicated for keeping the Kingdom's Army, Navy and Air Force at current levels runs to £750,000,000 annually. A considerable portion of these services is on duty abroad. The work they are doing is certainly not for the exclusive benefit of British, nor even sterling bloc interests. They are standing guard for the whole democratic world.

The five per cent cut in spending by the Government would reduce the aggregate tax to 35 per cent of national income. There is talk of a possible 10 per cent cut, which would lower tax income to 30 per cent of national income. To maintain the armed services at the present rate of £750,000,000 per year obviously would require that most of the economies would be effected in home services.

The Chancellor indicated that these cuts are not the result of outside pressure. But the sacrifices involved certainly go a long way toward meeting some points already raised by the United States in connection with the possibility of further dollar aid to Britain.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Official ending of Great War I 1921.

* * *

Florida can have its hurricanes. A gale such as Monday night's one is a close enough substitute.

* * *

General Crerar does not believe in leaving our defences to chance in view of the possibility of a third World War. Be prepared now, he advised a Toronto gathering.

* * *

Teachers and the Minister of Education are certainly at loggerheads. The teachers could, of course, take their grievances to the Premier except that it would be an appeal from Caesar to Caesar.

* * *

Ontario consumers have been warned that coal prices will be advanced September 1 because of American freight rate and price increases. The same factors do not altogether apply here, but there is little doubt but that we will have the higher prices anyway.

* * *

Ontario pays their Speaker $3,000 per annum because they can afford to do so from their ample resources. Prince Edward Island pays our Speaker $600. in accordance with our restricted financial resources. No one would suggest both provinces should be placed on the same footing of remuneration in this respect.

* * *

There is no more loyal and patriotic part of the Empire than the Ancient Colony now our Tenth Province. It was only natural that the first visit of His Majesty's representative, Viceroy Lord Alexander and his Viscountess should create scenes of enthusiasm and welcome such as reported from St. John's. It was more than a Red Letter day for them; it marked the beginning of a new era both for Newfoundland and Canada.

* * *

Ten years ago on August 26, 1939, a number of units of Canada's Non-Permanent Active Militia received an urgent call to arms. Approximately 100 units and formations were affected by the order which constituted this country's first major step in preparedness in anticipation of war. The majority of these men were immediately assigned to guard duty on armouries and military buildings throughout the Dominion. Less than a week later, on September 1, 1939, the calling out on active service and the organization of the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions as the Canadian Active Service Force was authorized. The order entailed the immediate mobilization, equipping and training of thousands of men, although war was not declared by the Government of Canada until September 10, 1939. It was these NPAM units plus a handful of professional soldiers then serving in the Permanent Force which formed the nucleus of the largest and hardest hitting army Canada has yet put in the field. That Army, in March, 1944, reached a peak strength of almost 500,000 men and women.

* * *

John Bunyan, English religious leader and writer, died this date 1688. Born near Bedford of humble parentage, he spent a happy, careless boyhood, but it was gradually borne in upon him that he was extraordinarily wicked, although he never seems to have lived an immoral life, swearing being his only vice. He married in 1648, gradually gave up his amusements and dancing, and led a solitary religious life, but could find no inward peace. At length he became happier, and preached the gospel. But nonconformist preaching was not tolerated and in 1660 he was imprisoned in Bedford jail. In prison he wrote his *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, describing his own religious conflicts. He was released for a short time in 1662, and again imprisoned till 1678. In that year appeared his *Pilgrim's Progress*, one of the most famous religious books in English. Before his death it was read widely in England, New England and by foreign Protestants. Written in the form of an allegory, it has appealed to successive generations of readers. He was pastor of Bedford Church for sixteen years. He published *The Life and Death of Mr. Badman*, and more than 50 other works: "He who bestows his goods, upon the poor shall have as much again, and ten times more."

The Poet's Corner

FROM "IN MEMORIAM"

I envy not in any moods
The captive void of noble rage,
The linnet born within the cage,
That never knew the summer woods;

I envy not the beast that takes
His license in the field of time,
Unfettered by the sense of crime,
To whom a conscience never wakes;

Nor, what may count itself as blest,
The heart that never plighted troth
But stagnates in the weeds of sloth;
Nor any want-begotten rest.

I hold it true, whate'er befall;
I feel it, when I sorrow most;
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.

—Lord Tennyson.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

POOR FIRE PROTECTION

"Yesterday a fire broke out in a building belonging to Theo. Chappell, Esq. and occupied as a warehouse and work-shop. The conflagration was so rapid that scarcely an article could be saved.

"We have to regret the unprepared state this town is in for an accident of this nature. We did not see a fire-hook or ladder on the ground, which are usually appendages to an engine; indeed we are informed that such articles are not owned by the public.

"The utility of an Engine Company has been long talked of, but we believe has never been efficiently organized; the necessity is so obvious of persons being trained for that duty, needs no further comment."

—Prince Edward Island Register, Jan. 24, 1824. In a subsequent issue, a correspondent signing himself "Proprietor of a Log Hut" suggested the provision of "two or more puncheons each placed on a light sleigh and laid on their bilge with a scuttle cut in the upper part, and a spiggot in one of the heads; by this means half a dozen men, or one horse, would convey water from any distance, and with that which could be handled in buckets, by the inhabitants forming in line, would be sufficient to keep the Engine employed. The sleighs might have axle-trees on which trucks could be placed if required to be used when the ground was clear from snow." It appears from this letter that the Fire Wardens when appointed were numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, each having the immediate charge of the pumps bearing his own number. The pumps, however, not infrequently were out of order.

Labor's Responsibilities

(By Bruce Blossat)

Labor Day is the moment of the year when our politicians remind the workingman that he is the backbone of the nation and recite for him the long list of rights and privileges to which he is heir.

We prefer to talk about the opposite face of those rights and privileges—the worker's duties and responsibilities.

There is no question that organized labor has achieved a fair measure of maturity since the first wild days of its new-found strength in the depression 1930's But its leaders still shout too much of rights and not enough of duties; and its rank and file is still too insistent in exercising its privileges and insufficiently concerned about its responsibilities.

Labor wants a rising floor under wages, but no ceiling. It wants full protection in its right to strike but acts as if it should be exempt from penalty when people are hurt or property is damaged while a strike is on. It wants a freedom for itself that it is unwilling to accord to others.

Admittedly, labor is not alone in this stress on getting instead of giving. The farmers too often have exhibited a similar attitude. And for a long span in U. S. history, businessmen behaved in the same fashion. Government and the greater strength of rival groups curbed their more irresponsible uses of freedom, but many businessmen still resent any checkrein on their activities.

This one-sided, immature approach cannot be condoned in any group. But today it just happens to be labor's turn to be lectured.

So we call upon workingmen to give more attention to the two-sidedness of life, to measure their role in society fairly in relation to other groups, to recognize that government as a referee must balance labor's needs and rights against the welfare of farmers and businessmen and the whole public.

Too many labor leaders have fallen into the habit of identifying themselves with all humanity and thus labeling criticism as an attack upon "people" in the large.

They would do better to urge upon their men a responsibility to act under the same laws that govern others; to accept a role in society equal to their numbers, their ability and their character, rather than to try to be the whole show; and to develop a new pride of workmanship to replace that which vanished when the minutely subdivided tasks of mass production pushed the proud craftsman off the scene.

Workingmen with this sort of attitude would greatly enhance labor's stature and enrich their contribution to American living.

The Age-Old Story

I have set a watchman upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day or night.

Farming, A Brotherly Occupation

Britain's Economic Dunkirk

(Ronald Stead in the Christian Science Monitor)

At times like these, when American criticism of Britain fills the air it is reassuring to know that the British will come safely through their economic Dunkirk.

You cannot know that, of course, unless you happen to be British yourself. And even then you cannot justify the opinion by facts or estimates. These point to quite the contrary conclusion. But there is past experience to draw upon—such as the complete unimportance of the facts and estimates which showed most logically and conclusively that Britain was beaten militarily in the Spring of 1940.

As many Americans were convinced of that then as they are convinced today of Britain's defeat economically. But my quaint countrymen could not see it at all. The absurd thing is that they were right.

I remember an American newspaperman thumping on the desk in London at that time and asking most impatiently, "Haven't you people enough sense to know when you are through?"

The same question has been asked recently in various forms as I have moved around in the United States.

* * *

The answer, of course, is "No." To justify it, as far as possible one looks to the past, not the future. For in the past lie the historical reasons for knowing that the future somehow will answer the economic problems which appear so completely baffling to the British now. The British slogan for today is "Hold on and look for the way"—just as it was in those dark days of 1940, when the military prospects were so utterly and logically bleak.

This is a time for mutual faith if the British and Americans are not to cast away the fruits of British tenacity then and of America's victorious war effort subsequently.

The attitude of the British in 1940 did not make sense, in the light of the then hard facts. But it makes an encouraging memory today.

At that time I went down to the coastal zone where untrained soldiers without guns awaited the first invasion of Britian since 1066. I toured the region on a vain quest for somebody who believed in the appearance of things sufficiently to admit defeat. Nobody obliged.

Illogical elderly gentlemen with shotguns said that the sooner the German armies tried to invade England the better, because it would teach the Nazis a lesson. Women living in flower-surrounded cottages declared firmly that they would not even offer a German paratrooper a cup of tea if he descended in the garden. They alluded, darkly indeed to new uses for carving knives. A troop commander whose ammunition did not fit his guns, reckoned that the enemy massed about 20 miles away, across the English Channel, would not dare to take the chance of striking.

The classic recollection for me, however, is furnished by a demure and pretty member of the prewar London secretarial staff of the Christian Science Monitor. At the very outbreak of war she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She was stationed in an area where there was once a false invasion alarm.

"What did you do?" I inquired when hearing of this. "I sharpened my nail file," responded Roma gently but seriously.

* * *

The great point is that these persons were not acting. They were just being their own peculiar selves.

They broke themselves as a nation financially, by throwing all they had into a fight which they supported alone until the United States could arm and join in.

From the time that happened, the spotlight swung away from Britain to the United States. Naturally. Now it is back on the British again illuminating their postwar economic chaos — charging it up to socialism with which the old home of capitalist conservatism is experimenting in the quest for a middle way that America itself may have to find some day.

American criticism of the British can be stimulating. It has been so stimulating to United States airmen in England that they have adopted a voluntary conduct code with the slogan "Don't Let's Be Beastly to the British." Remember, says the code—inter alia—the British standard of living is considerably below normal.

If I may speak American for a moment, you can say that again.

* * *

Only just now, after lengthening travels in the United States have I started to take comfort and plenty for granted, the way Americans do. The British have lost the knack of it. I still turn out light switches here meticulously, as though electricity were something precious and costly — the way it is in England. Folks rationed at home to 20 cents' worth of meat a week are apt to gasp when they see superfluous food tossed into garbage cans.

They — I should say we, since I am merely a visitor here— used to live like that once. Then the test of effective nationhood became "Can Britain Take It?" History shows that Britain could. Now, after a postwar austerity, comes the call for more of the same. With it comes a fresh spate of criticism.

Persons who believe the British can take both and still win out—somehow, someday—will be comforted by the fact that the odds against the performance appear to have such a reassuring 1940 look about them.

— Notes By The Way —

A will of his own helps a young man to succeed — almost as much as a will of his rich grandfather.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Slums are always costly because they breed problems of health, sanitation, delinquency and crime. Blighted areas, too, which amount to rot at the centre, spread a city out involving higher costs for services and administration. They create transit problems. — Vancouver Province.

A game overseer in Essex County is using a cap pistol to make a record pheasant crop wilder. At present they are so tame that they have absolutely no fear of man and do not even move from the roads when cars approach and pass. It doesn't seem that there will be a deal of sport or skill required in the shooting down of such birds. One might as well go to the farmer's poultry yard and shoot down the chickens there.—Niagara Falls Review.

Search any country with an old religion and what do you find that is always prized above rubies? **Why, silence.** There is great temptation to chatter too much. We all do it. Try for just one hour to-day to say as little as you need. Odd, the sense of mastery that will grow within you in that short hour. Odd, the respect for you that will grow in others. For remember: "It is the silence of the god we fear, not his wrath; silence is the unbearable repartee."—London Daily Express.

How'd you like to vacation in the land of square trees and golden frogs? No, this is not a tall tale. To prove it all you have to do is to go to the village of El Valle, about 80 miles from the Panama canal in the Republic of Panama. There and only there you will see the small forest of four cornered trees with yellow frogs in them. A famed botanist, Dr. Walter Lindsay, director of the Canal Zone experimental gardens, inspected the trees and definitely pronounced them square but could not identify the species other than that it was apparent to him that all of the trees were of the same variety. Neither the square tree nor the golden frogs has ever been seen anywhere except Panama. The frogs are a radiant, bright yellow. — Milwaukee Journal.

We believe that the vast majority of right-thinking persons will applaud the North Bay Chamber of Commerce for its action in calling on the Ontario Liquor Licence Board "to guard against the indiscriminate issuance of beverage room licences" in this city and surroundings. A large number of applications are being made for beverage room licences in this district. Some undoubtedly merit approval, others may not, but the fact remains the number of applications filed is exceedingly high and many citizens, including those who drink with moderation, are understandably alarmed. There is a strong suspicion that a number of persons planning to operate hotels merely want to "get into the beer business." Their desire, if any, to provide the traveling public with proper hotel accommodation is secondary. — North Bay Nugget.

When the average person is a child he finds the grasshopper a fascinating insect. The big long legs, the wings, the different colors, the big hops, and the inevitable "tobacco juice" are all calculated to make the average youngster absolutely entranced. When children grow up—as all of them, sometimes unfortunately have to do—the grasshopper loses his appeal. In the West he becomes a menace, an absolute good-for-nothing unless you like seeing him on the end of your fishing line. Adults in every section of the Prairies dislike the 'hopper. They know he can eat a bumper crop into an ordinary crop or an ordinary crop into a crop failure. Any fascination he may have had for them in childhood soon disappears. How many other objects of childhood wonderment become distasteful once adulthood is reached? — Lethbridge Herald.

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