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

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1939

A Prostituted Session

Our contemporary says that of the sixty-eight bills passed at the 1938 session of the Legislature, many are consolidations and revisions "which will be of great benefit to those who administer the law in particular, and the public in general." The fact of the matter is that these consolidations and revisions, which took up a major part of the time of the session which was not devoted to political speech-making, are of no practical value in their present form. As pointed out by Mr. W. E. Bentley, K. C., in a recent letter to the press, the Speech from the Throne refers to these measures as consolidating and revising outstanding legislation passed extween the years 1773 and 1909. "Without explanation as to why this consolidation should stop at the year 1909," says Mr. Bentley, "it would appear that such a consolidation would be almost useless. Why consolidate the legislation from 1773 to 1909 only and not include all legislation on the various subjects dealt with down to the present time? To ascertain the law as it existed in 1909, thirty years ago, serves no practical purpose."

How much these obsolete enactments have cost in lawyers' fees remains to be seen—after the election.

Of the other bills passed, one of the most important was that dealing with Farm Rehabilitation. As Mr. Hughes pointed out, it gives practically unlimited power to the Government and it is to be feared that in this case, as in the case of the National Park, an otherwise beneficial measure has been prostituted to political purposes. There was no reason why a specified sum, instead of a blank check, should not have been voted for the inauguration of this scheme during the coming season. No reason why definite limits should not have been set to the authority of the Executive Council. The Premier says that the virtue of the bill is its "elasticity" —an ominously significant term in the mouth of the leader of a Government which has already gone over four million dollars in debt, and taken more dictatorial power into its hands than any government since Confederation.

The Liberal organ boasts editorially that "the main estimates totalling $2,071,044 with a sum sufficient for fishermen's loans, farm rehabilitation and other purposes were voted in less than half an hour." Imagine the most important work of the session—the voting of the taxpayers' money—rushed through at the rate of eighty thousand dollars a minute,—scarce time enough for the chairman to read the items and put the question,—while hours and days were wasted in political shadow-boxing, in "debating" measures already debated and agreed upon in caucus, in partisan speech-making of which verbatim reports were taken by employees of government departments for campaign purposes in the Liberal press!

Of information which the electors wanted and were entitled to receive, especially in an election year, the session was the most barren in the whole history of our Legislature. There is no doubt that this was deliberately arranged by the Government with the connivance of its supporters. On the eve of facing the electorate, advantage was taken of the absence of an Opposition to make the Legislature a mere sounding board for Liberal election propaganda.

Another Wheat Flop Coming?

"It looks as if the Government is about to execute another of its celebrated back somersaults in an acrobatic effort to evolve a wheat policy that will be acceptable to western voters," says the Montreal Gazette. "First we were told that there would be no guaranteed minimum for the next crop year. The western producers, according to the Minister of Agriculture, did not want a minimum price. Furthermore, it had been demonstrated that the 80 cent minimum had enriched the well-to-do wheat growers, those with large crops, and it meant nothing at all to farmers in the areas where crops had failed. As a so-called relief measure the guaranteed price had been an absurdity, a very expensive absurdity, costing the Canadian taxpayer something between fifty and sixty million dollars. Hence the policy was to be abondoned, and that was said to be that. But it wasn't. Along came the Government with a new minimum, sixty cents per bushel for No. 1 Northern at Fort William, a figure which obviously meant nothing to the producer unless upon the gloomy assumption that world wheat prices would fall substantially below present levels. But the Government offered something else with its other hand. It proposed an acreage subsidy scheme, applicable to the poor crop areas, and it was stated officially that on the basis of the last harvest this scheme would cost the country approximately thirty million dollars. As between the sixty-cent and the eighty-cent guarantees there would be a saving of some sixty millions which would be reduced to thirty million dollars after the acreage subsidy had been paid, assuming that this year's harvest conditions would equal those of last year. Also, the Government had something for farmers in other provinces, and more particularly for dairymen.

"The Minister of Agriculture went west with the object of persuading rural electors on the prairies to accept this policy. His mission was a failure. The West still wants a minimum price and at a figure substantially higher than has been offered. It has been said with some confidence that the ante will be raised to seventy cents, but it is being said now, and with scarcely less confidence that strong western pressure is to be brought to bear to induce the Government to maintain the eighty-cent minimum for another year. If this is done, and if conditions during the next crop year are no better than they have been during the current year the taxpayer will be called upon to supply another sixty millions plus the thirty millions promised as a so called crop subsidy —ninety millions in all. Or will the subsidy be dropped? This is unlikely, having regard to the fact that it has been promised and that a general election is in prospect. It seems that the western vote is going to cost a great deal of money and from what is being heard of western sentiment it is by no means certain that the political goods will be delivered."

Editorial Notes

Tomorrow St. George's Day.

* * * *

Canada "saved the day" at Ypres, April 22, 1915.

* * * *

Demerara caputred by British forces this date, 1796.

* * * *

Shakespeare died tomorrow's date, 1616—"Our little life is rounded with a sleep."

* * *

Rupert Brooke passed hence at Skyros on St. George's Day, 1915—"Some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England."

* * * *

"Getting away with it" has been so long the experience of Premier Campbell that he thinks his luck will follow him to the polls on the 18th prox.

* ** *

A great campaign to expand and stimulate New Zealand industries so that locally manufactured products may fill the gap caused by the restrictions upon imports, has been undertaken by the Government, with the Hon. D. G. Sullivan, Minister of Industries and Commerce, at its head. Mr. Sullivan said recently that this work was proceeding satisfactorily, and every effort was being made to ensure that the necessary raw materials were made available. Protection and the development of home industries is one of the planks of the Labor Government.

* * * *

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, former Premier of Ontario, told delegates to the International Accident Prevention Association there could be "liberty of speech" as that involved restraint but "free speech" was impossible in a system that granted every individual the maximum of liberty consistent with the same right being granted to every person in the state. "We have developed conventions that are restraining in their intention and purpose," he said. "And yet I hear people educated people talk about freedom of speech—freedom to get up on the platform or write for the press and say anything we like. It is the veriest nonsense. If everyone could say and do everything he wanted we should soon have strife and chaos."

* * * *

According to Commercial Letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce: The imminent resumption of exports of cattle to the United States under the second quarter quota tended to maintain prices for this class of stock, despite the usual Lenten decline in consumption. Exports to the United Kingdom this season have been negligible. Hog prices were also well maintained, and reflect the very moderate deliveries to date, those for the first twelve weeks of this year being nearly 14 per cent. below those in the same period last year. The market for dairy produce was again depressed by the continued relatively heavy production and the weight of stocks on hand, particularly of butter, which on 1st March were 123 per cent. greater than those on the same date in 1938. Cheese prices remained at February levels.

* * * *

"On the whole the experiment of total prohibition in Bardoli and the five villages of Mandvi taluka (district) may be definitely said to be successful and Government have under consideration its extension to Valod Mahal," states the first official report reviewing the progress of total prohibition since its introduction six months ago in Bardoli taluka and five villages of Mandvi (Surat District of Bombay Presidency). "While before the introduction of prohibition, the consumption of country spirit in the area under report for the same period in the previous year was 3,254 gallons, there was not a single gallon consumed during the same period after the introduction of total prohibition. The sale of country spirit at shops on the border of the area before the introduction of the scheme was 2,032 gallons and after introduction it was 1,617 gallons. Figures of other intoxicants show the same result."

* * * *

The new chief of the Imperial General Staff, Lord Gort, V. C., is of medium height, of fair complexion, with moustache. He is a man of iron will, quick and precise in speech, and has no hesitation in saying exactly what he means. So much so that in his regimental days he was somewhat irreverently called Lord Gort almighty by the junior officers. None the less he is of kindly disposition, always giving credit where it is due, and he possesses the saving grace of humor. He is a man of independent means, and could live a life of ease if he chose; but his sense of duty and his love for his profession caused him to accept the heavy burden which is his to carry. His recreation is the very peaceful one of yachting. The family records go back to 1169, when Maurice Prendergast, from Pembrokeshire, "a righte valiaunte ceptain," landed in Ireland, and became owner of an estate in County Galway. Later on the family name was changed to Vereker.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In these days, when governmental bodies all over Canada are threatening to tax this business, or that business, out of existence, the public declaration of Premier Duplessis that this is all wrong is doubly welcome. The Quebec Government is opposed by any taxation which restricts operation of a legitimate trade, said Mr. Duplessis. While he was commenting specifically on special chain store taxes, it may be presumed that this attitude applies to other types of business and industry. The reason given by the Quebec Premier for his attitude are equally important. Provinces, he acknowledges, have no right to interfere with legitimate trade. Also, legislation that closes business establishments throws workers out of employment. In the case of the chain store, such legislation deprives the public of the advantage of competitive trade and loses to farmers and industry a steady and profitable market for their products. —Financial Times, Montreal

One of the characteristics of childhood that remains with us is that we must have sugar-coating on our pills. The child who will not take his medicine unless it is first made to taste like something else never dies in the oldest man or woman. A despatch tells of a man in a small town who found it hard to save money. So he devised an ingenious plan whereby he could be amused as he saved. Every time he filled up the gas tank on the family car, he dropped a quarter into the tank after the gas. When he came to buy a new car, he took off the old gas tank tore it apart, and took out $25.75. Why did he not just put a quarter in the sugar-bowl every week, save all the trouble and the damage done in recovering the money from the tank? Oh, but that wouldn't have been any fun! The o'd pill just tastes nasty that way. It's so much nicer with sugar!— Victoria Times.

At last Ripple Rock, that old-time menace to navigation in Seymour Narrows, is to be removed. For over 30 years it has been the subject of petitions and complaints, but at last it is to go. Four fathoms below low water it lies, but the rushing tides that swirl through Seymour Narrows cause powerful ships to become unmanageable with the surge caused by this obstruction in midchannel. Experienced masters and pilots will take vessels through only on the high water and low water slacks, causing loss of time and the disruption of passenger schedules. Opposition for long came from Victoria, which had hopes of having the C.N.R. span Seymour Narrows with a railway bridge, using Ripple Rock for a base for a central pier. The change in the railway situation in Canada, and the coming of the airplane, have rendered that hope vain. Coastal and fishing skippers will, without regrets, say "Goodbye, Ripple Rock". It has been a costly obstruction to our growing coastal traffic. —Vancouver Province.

The German legal code, such as it is, now includes a sentence of two years' imprisonment for civilians who pass on information gleaned from the British Broadcasting Corporation's evening news bulletins. It is scarcely possible to comment upon this judicial decree in terms both restrained and adequate, but I have been interested to learn, from a Dutch business man in London who travels extensively in Germany, of the popular reaction to the BBC services. He agrees with those officials at Broadcasting House who claim that the bulletins are fairly widely heard, but he contends that the listening public in Germany must remain comparatively small, unless the transmission strength of these broadcasts is greatly increased. Today, I gather, only those Germans with powerful and expensive radio sets can be sure of hearing the bulletins, whereas it is the public of more modest means which needs most urgently information of an objective nature. So far as one can ascertain, Londoners are paying no attention whatever to the new German service in English. For once German propaganda has defeated itself. — Written in The Journal's London Bureau.

Shrewd observers, watching Canada closely, are expressing the opinion that the Dominion is on the eve of an era of prosperity. One prominent expert in regard to investments contends that in some measure it is in the nature of a reaction to the events in Europe. Apart from the stimulus that re-armament programs have given to certain manufactures and the demand for raw materials, he points out that, thanks to the policy of Europe dictators, capital is being driven from the Continent and is seeking a refuge in Canada, where more peaceful conditions prevail. In like manner craftsmen skilled in certain trades, who have been compelled to seek homes where they may enjoy the blessings of peace, are moving to Canada, bringing with them their exepert knowledge and skill. Already there has been talk of developing the pottery industry in Canada, and only the other day it was mentioned in the Quebec Legislative Council that International Foils, Ltd., a Czecho-Slovakian concern, proposed to establish its plant at Cap de la Madeleine, in the province. In this way does the sheltering arm receive its reward. — Canada's Weekly, London.

A remarkable story comes from White Plains, and concerns Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Timberman, who served together on a jury hearing a $75,000 damage suit. It was the first time a husband and wife had been fellow jurors in Westchester County. The remarkable thing is not that Mr. and Mrs. Timberman disagreed on the first ballot—he voting for the defendant, she for the plaintiff. It's not that they finally agreed It is, as every married man will recognize, that in Mr. Timberman's words, "She soon came around to my way of thinking, and we both voted for the defendent at the end." — New York World-Telegram.

Bewhiskered old Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, whose memory the new warship is intended to perpetuate, was notorious as the dominating figure behind Germany's ruthless submarine policy during the Great War. Ruthlessness was, in fact, his middle name. Under the famous Navy Bills he built up the German fleet with the barely concealed object of challenging Britain's supremacy of the seas. Cunningly he framed his estimates so as to deceive the Reichstag. His advocacy of ruthlessness brought him into collision with Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg and forced his retirement in 1917. But in his Memoirs, published in '19, he still harped on the theme, maintaining that Germany had lost the war because she hadn't been ruthless enough. — Harrison in Windsor Star.

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.

THAT TRANSPARENT BLUFF

Sir,—The sharp reaction to Premier Campbell's clumsily staged bluff shows how alive the Conservative party is today, and how well they understand the methods of Liberal dodgers in trying to fool their way back into power, by hook or by crook, and mostly by crook.

How simple it looked to their shallow minds, just to vaudeville a 1941 election, to deceive Conservatives into lassitude, while preparing to steal into a sleeping camp It shows that they know how slim their chances are, unless they can catch their opponents asleep.

And what a stinging rebuff when, with lightning speed, conventions to mobilize the conquering army, in every district in the Province, ornamented two full columns of the Guardian's space. How it must have almost ruptured the Premier's heart to find that his bluff had failed. Their consternation must hvae been appalling.

I am. Sir, etc.
UNDECEIVED.

MR. McINTYRE'S ROAD BUNGLING

Sir,—I want you to publish this letter about the Campbell Government, the government that makes our roads after Hallowe'en. I want to refer to what was done to the Southport Road leading from Southport towards Georgetown.

About thirty years ago stone was hauled from the Queen' County Jail to construct this road through the brickyard swamp, and from that time there was always a fairly good road.

After Hallowe'en last year Mr McIntyre, to provide work for one of the representatives of the district's friends, spent the taxes of this Province to haul away the stone placed there about 30 years ago and the gravel placed there more recently. Then they hauled on some clay. The result was that the road became impassible late last fall.. Then a big machine was sent over to plow the clay and snow off again but nature came to the assistance of the travelling public when the frost came.

Again this Spring the frost started to come out with the result that teams could not even get through, and cars might not even attempt it,

The latest move is that the bunglers are now hauling ashes from the city in order that the residents may get to and from their homes. If this is the way the present Government did all their work it is no wonder that they rolled up such an enormous debt.

There is another matter, that of the huge hole dug at the Southport side of the Hillsboro Bridge. Was that for a spite to the Indian resident living near or was it a place for the thirty to hide after the 18th of May?

I am, Sir, etc.,
FORMER LIBERAL

THAT STUPENDOUS DECEPTION

Sir,—In the light of experience no one is now surprised at any of the familiar outbursts of Campbell Government deceptions. The present outcroppings, (reminders of 1935) are certain precursors of an early election. To hoodwink electors is their chief strategy.

This is exemplified in big black letter front page display of Wednesday's Patriot where the master bluffer sports with highway figures, as a Japanese juggler would with sharpened knives. The difference is, Japanese is adroit enough to conceal his slight of hand, while the public works juggler betrays its clumsiness.

His first deception is in comparing cost of graveling on the Trans-Canada Highway by the square yard, with that of some of his own projects, on the same basis Let him proclaim, if he dare, the comparative cost on a "cubic yard" basis, and see how quickly his bubble will burst.

He then ignores the fact that the Federal Government, being a large contributor, required the construction to be on a national standard basis, demanding volume and strength in construction. In every case the projects were let by public tender, upon Dominion approved specifications.

This required quality gravel, free of sand and mud, which could not be purchased then, nor even by the MacIntyre aggregation, for a lower, or even as low a price. $2 per ton (tender price) which was then, and is today a very low price for that quality.

It needs very little common sense to know that a 3 1-2 inch top dressing can be laid for half the cost of a 7 inch, and snipers of the Southport Highway experiment, should know by now that it is absolutely worthless. And when Hon. Mr. MacIntyre makes the statement that,—"The above would have cost, based on the Trans-Canada Highway prices, as follows,"—he makes statements which he knows to be untrue.

What can the public think of a man, who will compare Nova Scotia crushed granite, at $2 per ton, with the red sand, mud and pebble mixtures, dug out of Island holes, to pap insurgent supporters, bought at less than $1 per ton, the price of common sand, and no more resemblance to real gravel than chalk is to cheese. Like the "dead dolly" of nursery rhyme, these veneered roads will "look all mended", but there is method in the early election madness, that they hope to get it over before this veneer exposes itself. How well we remember the $50,000 a mile McIntyre Highways which have crumbled into dust before the debenture cost has been paid.

The MacMillan Government was compelled to use staple and standard material, because the Dominion Public Works demanded it. The Campbell Government, not under this responsibility, having no Federal obligations to live up to, could go their own way, which they did, trusting to luck, or the Manion Government's compassion, to help them out, when he assumes power.

And from now until May 18th, the public will have a rehash of those 1935 perversions of facts, to gull them into risking another lease of power to the great betrayer.

I am, Sir etc.
LEWIS P. TANTON.

FOGGY DAYS

REGINA—The winter of 1938-39 was a record for foggy days in Regina. In the four months December to March there were 65 days of dense fog compared with only 22 a year ago. Odd fact is fogs are usually heaviest over the Regina airport.

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We are showing hundreds of new suits that should tempt the smart dresser.
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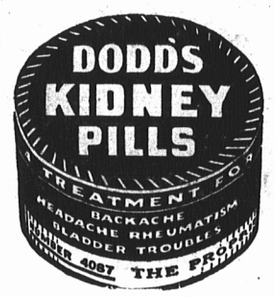

Mortgage Sale

To be sold by public auction in front of the Law Courts Building in Charlottetown on Monday the 8th day of May 1939, at the hour of twelve o'clock noon. All that piece or parcel of land lying and being on Township Number Thirty-five bounded as follows, that is to say: COMMENCING on the South shore of Bedford Bay and at the Northwest angle of land in the possession now or formerly of John Doyle; thence South to the North boundary line of land in the occupation of William Haley; thence Westwardly along said line ten (10) chains to the West boundary of land in the possession of said Robert Young; thence North to the aforesaid shore; and thence along the same to the place of commencement, containing one hundred (100) acres of land a little more or less.

The above sale is made under a power of sales contained in an indenture of mortgage dated the 27th day of April 1927, made between Robert Young of Donaldston, Lot 35 in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, Farmer, and Charity Young his wife, of the one part, and the undersigned of the other part, default having been made in the payment of the principal and interest thereby secured.

For further particulars apply to McLeod & Bentley, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

Dated this 8th day of April, 1939. 1939.

LETITIA A. WRIGHT,
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Mortgagees.
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