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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1938

A Maritime Council

The need of closer co-operation between the Maritime Provinces was emphasized by Premier Campbell in an address at the opening of the Maritime Winter Fair at Amherst. Suggesting this as a sounder alternative to Maritime Union, the Premier went on to discuss the formation of some kind of a Maritime Council for dealing with problems common to the three Maritime Provinces.

The suggestion is a good one, and could be carried further. We have abolished the old Legislative Councils in these Provinces, but there is no reason why the institution could not be revived in modified form, to function jointly in the interests of the three Provinces.

Nowadays, with the emphasis on social service ideals, the tendency is in the direction of advanced measures which, though good in themselves, might impose excessive costs upon a Province. If there were a Maritime Council for reviewing such legislation in harmony with the wider interests of the three Maritime Provinces, it might be a step in the right direction.

There is also the need of controlling certain undemocratic tendencies which have cropped up in the Provincial Legislatures, resulting in the passing of legislation without proper revision and entailing a tremendous amount of friction and dissatisfaction. We do not need to go outside the measures passed in this Province under the Campbell Government for striking examples, where constitutional rights have been invaded. If we had a Maritime Legislative Council to take the place of the old-time Provincial Councils no only would it be possible to have more uniform measures adopted, but the check thus affordid on rash and ill-advised legislation would be distinctly to the advantage of democracy.

The method of constituting such a Maritime Council would of course be a matter for serious consideration. The limits of its power would require to be clearly defined. But its mere existence, we suggest, would have a sobering effect on our provincial legislators.

Mr. Dolan's Visit

In the past few years, Canada's tourist industry has made encouraging strides and the prospects are for further expansion and development. This Province has many natural advantages which have impressed visitors most favorably, and on which it is hoped to capitalize to a greater extent in the future. In this connection much interest is being taken in the visit here this week of Mr. Leo D. Dolan, chief of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, who will address a public meeting in the Board Room of the City Hall at 8.15 this evening. Mr. Dolan's subject will be the tourist industry of Canada, and his message should prove of much interest and importance. The meeting is being held under the auspices of the P. E. I. Travel Bureau, which has done much to publicize our tourist attractions abroad, and stimulate interest in the value of the industry at home.

Mr. Dolan is no stranger to Prince Edward Island, and those who heard him on former occasions will not need to be reminded that he is a fluent and entertaining speaker.

Captious And Silly

There was a singular point of exception taken by Hugh Plaxton, (Liberal) M.P., when he appeared by order of the Davis Commission to give evidence in the Bren gun inquiry. He asserted that, as a member of Parliament he was not subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, that its terms of reference were ultra vires of the Crown insofar as they directed an investigation of the connection of any member of the House with the Bren gun contract.

"I ask it to be understood," declared this young M.P., "that in entering the box I am not waiving, compromising, or alienating any of the privileges that belong to the House of Commons and which may obtain to me as one of its members."

"You are not," asked the Commissioner, Mr. Justice Davis, "making any reservations as to the extent to which you will submit to examination?"

"That is true," replied Mr. Plaxton, "but there are no doubt privileges of the House of Commons which obtain (sic) to me personally. For instance there is my right to review the evidence and findings of the Commission. That is one right I wish to make clear I am not ceding for a moment."

To this curious and cryptic observation, Mr. Justice Davis made answer: "It is quite unnecessary for me to rule on the position that you take unless you refuse to take the stand."

Mr. Plaxton did not refuse to take the stand, and if he had would doubtless have been compelled to do so. Neither did he decline to answer nor evade any of the questions subsequently put to him. Had he done so, he would of course been obliged to toe the mark by a prompt ruling of the Commissioner.

Commenting, the Sydney Post-Record says: "Apart from his obvious indiscretions in taking Major Hahn, his brothers' client, to Ottawa and introducing him to the Minister of Defence, in accompanying him subsequently to London, in aiding him finally in procuring the contract now under inquiry, this youthful member of Parliament did no wrong which has been brought to light. But he seems to be as much at sea as to his 'privileges as a Member of Parliament' as he was with respect to the propriety of his neighborliness in helping a contractor, for whom his own brothers were legal advisers, to obtain a Government order running into several million dollars. Members of Parliament are not above the law of the land, nor are they immune from giving evidence before Ryal Commissions charged with investigating public business. Mr. Plaxton's point was not merely untenable—it was captious and silly to the last degree."

The Danger Point

Apropos of certain well-known enactments under the Campbell Government is the following comment in the Fortnightly Law Journal:

"It is the old story of Samson and Delilah. So democracy in Canada is being betrayed into the hands of its enemies. The skilful demagogue promises utopia and sets up his boards and commissions to filch the power from those alone who can upset his plans, until he has put it beyond their power to take the power away from him. By permitting him to set these boards and commissions above the law the voter is jettisoning the one safeguard that he has against this new tyranny. So the tyranny of the many is being used to foist upon its very creators the tyranny of the few, and all without the realization of the victims that they are digging their own graves. That is why the legal profession must guard so jealously the rights of the judicial branch of government and preach to the public the dangers of voting the Courts into a subservience where their effectiveness to guard the rights of the people, the true basis of democracy, is sapped beyond the danger point."

Editorial Notes

* * * *

Milton died this date, 1674.

* * * *

It is a sad reflection on the sanity of Canadians and British Americans that they enjoy the reputation of being the largest purchasers of Irish sweepstakes, when there is so much need of money for home circulation.

* * * *

Congratulations are due to sub-Inspector Anderson on his well-deserved promotion in the R.C.M.P. force. The Inspector has been most active and successful in the discharge of his duties here, and enjoys the goodwill and respect of the community generally.

* * * *

The Bren Commission expects to finish its investigations at the end of this week, and the chances are that Mr. Justice Henry Davis, the Commissioner, will prepare his report for the Government in time for submission to parliament early next session.

* * * *

Report of an enthusiastic and harmonious meeting at today's Conservative convention is anticipated by our local contemporary. It wouldn't have been wise to have ventured on such a prediction in connection with its own party convention.

* * * *

There was a sharp rise in the export of mink in September, 109 head at $2,019 compared with 27 at $475 in August and 13 at $535 a year ago. Four went to Newfoundland and the rest to the United States. One fox at $125 was sent to St. Pierre.

* * * *

Dominion Bureau of Statistics preliminary report of butter and egg stocks in 9 leading cities of Canada combined is as follows:

	Nov. 1, 1938	No. 1, 1937
Creamery butter, lbs.	43,256,515	34,087,137
Cheese, lbs.	29,860,578	24,671,457
Cold storage eggs, doz.	3,693,153	4,192,743
Fresh eggs, doz.	195,989	
Frozen eggs, lbs.	3,064,525	3,013,956

* * * *

A national committee is to be appointed by the Federal Government to make the necessary arrangements for the Royal Visit early next summer. Our Government should see that this Province is fully represented—and not merely by partizan politicians. There should not be, nay must not be, any political manoeuvering and junketting where the King and Queen are concerned.

* * * *

Quebec Liberals are greatly upset by the loss of the two provincial by-elections, and are now protesting against Liberal Leader Godbout's suggestion at the beginning of the contests that Duplessis should dissolve the legislature and go to the country for a new mandate. What they need, of course, is a purge of the Provincial Liberal party; so long as the old Taschereau gang hold sway, the Liberals of Quebec are destined to remain in the shades of opposition.

* * * *

Encouraging success has attended the efforts to provide gardens for the unemployed this season. A public meeting has been called for tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock in the board room of the City Hall, at which the committee in charge of this work will report and a Free Gardens Association will be formed among citizens generally. Important developments in connection with the project will be discussed, and it is hoped there will be a large and representative attendance. His Worship Mayor Foster will preside. The speakers will include Hon. W. H. Dennis, Hon. B. W. LePage, Mr. J. O. Hyndman, and others.

* * * *

Our farmers are still being solicited to get "out from under" their legitimate debts to merchants and others under the provisions of the Farmers Creditors' Arrangement Act. Such solicitation on the part of agents working on commission is entirely contrary to the spirit of the Act and was the subject of strong protest in both Houses of Parliament at the last session at Ottawa. That did not stop the practice in this Province. We had occasion recently to refer to the activities of two men who are going through the country interviewing farmers and coaxing them to apply for debt reduction. We have received further complaint on the same score. It is high time that an inquiry was instituted into the matter.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Shanghai reports Chinese soldiers raided and set on fire a course where the Japanese play golf. Is there a limit to those war atrocities?—Toronto Telegram.

The Colonial Office warned West Indian citrus growers last year against any undue extension of planting. This was undoubtedly inspired by the rapid increase in Palestine production, with the resultant intense competition in the English market. While Trinidad was willing to regard the message from Whitehall as well intended, however, our producers entered a vigorous protest against the proposal to give the full Empire preference to Palestine fruit admitted to the United Kingdom, and the matter is now under consideration. —Trinidad Guardian.

Fortunately, human beings can grow as long as they can breathe. Men and women in their 70's are charming if their minds are alert and if they are interested in their environment. I recently read extracts from the journal of John Burroughs. He began the journal when he was 40 and he was making entries when he was 83. The quality of the observation and expression in the later writings gives no suggestion of age. —William Feather in The Santa Fe Magazine.

On the lighter side of the crisis was the discovery that gentlemen with beards had extreme difficulty in fitting their gas masks, and those of certain religious sects had to choose between sacrificing either their beards or their means of safety. Gas-mask fitting, indeed, promises to revolutionize not only women's hair fashions (the need is for shorter hair) but also to prove fatal to the manly beard which seemed in for renewed popularity. Once again beards are war's first victims. Alexander the Great forbade his warriors to wear beards because they proved such an easy "handle" for the foe in hand-to-hand fighting.—Manchester Guardian.

Robert Louis Stevenson once commented in the need of a reform in the English language to include a new pronoun which would obviate the tiresome and sometimes endless repetition or "he or she," "him or her," and "his or her," especially in legal documents. Gregory Hynes, an Australian lawyer, in a paper read to the Australian Literature Society, now proposes that the Latin reflextive "se" be incorporated in English-speaking countries with the English pronoun. Thus, "se" would be used for "he or she," "sim" for "him or her," "sis" for "his or her." If a man or woman followed such a rule in sis speech se would find sis pronouns less of a trouble to sim, or would he? — Australian News-Letter.

Municipal taxation, as every one knows who has given any study to the question, has not only become a menace to individual property owners but also a detriment to the financial prosperity and economic progress of urban centres. The removal of this grievance cannot be postponed without serious loss to the municipalities concerned. It is hindering the building of homes by people of average means, and is driving many of those who can afford it to settle in rural communities. Worse than that, rather than pay taxes on property, owners have destroyed many houses, thereby adding to the housing problems. If the municipalities unitedly demand relief from this burden insistently and urgently enough the Provincial Government will be compelled to grant it. — Brantford Expositor.

Pelee Island has become a mecca for hunters, and the annual pheasant shoots in this most southern point of Canada are known internationally among sportsmen. Pelee Island is becoming recognized as the asset it should be to Canada, and the pheasants are now appreciated as an asset to the island. Few Canadians appreciate what they have in Pelee Island. The pheasant shoots are popularizing it, and those who engage in them come away with a pleasant knowledge of the fine beaches, the pleasant climate, the good fishing and rural beauty of the island. Some day Pelee will develop into one of the great playgrounds of Ontario, with cottages lining its beaches of tourists enjoying its facilities as a holiday land. One must feel that the pheasant shoots are opening the way for this development. —Windsor Star.

Eminent English restaurant and epicure, Mr. W. Boddy is visiting Canada. And he expresses displeasure at the cooking served up by chefs in this country, threatening to have his wife show them how to turn out tasty dishes. He doesn't like our vegetables, steaks or gravies when they are put upon the table. Can it be that Mr. Boody has failed to guess one probable reason for the cooking in Canada not suiting him? Quite possibly he expected the dishes here to be cooked just the same as in England. It may not have struck him that Canadians might prefer the handiwork of their own chefs to those over in England. Many Canadians might go overseas and be quite disappointed even by the famous roast beef, just because they do not like it as rare as the average Englishman seem to. Tastes differ. It is quite possible that Canadians are acquiring a distinctive taste for food, just as they do for sports, or for moving pictures. If Canadians are satisfied with the type of cooking offered them, that is the prime consideration as far as the chefs of this country are concerned. And they are not likely to cook as they do in England if the people of Canada prefer something different, Mr. Boddy notwithstanding. — Windsor Star.

It is manifestly futile to attempt to correct malnutrition among the Indian masses by recommending the consumption of foodstuffs which they cannot usually afford. Not long ago strenuous efforts were made, under the stimulus of high authority, to popularize the addition of effective quantities of milk to the average Indian diet. Undoubtedly this would be of great value were it achieved, and figures were published conclusively demonstrating, from scientific tests taken in Simla and elsewhere, milk's great physiological utility, especially when taken regularly by children of school-going age. But though the campaign was well-intentioned, it encountered some criticism on the ground that, desirable though it obviously was that more milk should be taken, there was little point in urging its use upon those whose exiguous household budgets did not normally permit of its purchase.—Calcutta Statesman.

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.

THE WHEAT SITUATION

Sir,—That comment on the wheat situation, by the October Monthly Letter of the Royal Bank of Canada (set forth in The Guardian's editorial columns of October 5) merits the close attention of Canadians.

I was specially interested in the reference to the world-wide policy of economic self-sufficiency which "has given to agricultural workers protection by means of tariffs, quotas, exchange restrictions and other regulations formerly largely open to manufacturing and industrial workers only". Canada's primary producers (taking "world" valuations for what they sell and paying North American prices for what they buy) notably of wheat are in a particularly exposed position along this trade war "front" and, as you know, just got in behind the Wheat Board defensive position during the past year—while wheat prices moved down from $1.20 per bushel to less than half that price.

There is, of course ample room and cause for the principle of international co-operation; especially among the chief wheat-exporting countries—Argentina, United States, Australia and Canada supply 75 out of of every 100 bushels entering the international market—but, in the interval, I concur in the view that (both on the import and export side of the wheat scene) "such barriers will not be lightly surrendered" either in Bavaria or Saskatchewan.

I am Sir etc.,
FARMER.

THE BUTTER BUNGLE

Sir,—The "High Taxation" organ is again worrying over the butter bungling of the King Government. And not without cause.

It asks us to compare prices. A good idea. Just what Hon. J. Myers acted when the King dairy smashers cut the New Zealand duty from 8c to 1c, and with millions of pounds of imported butter, bankrupted the price down to 16c per lb.

"Look at your milk cheques" was Mr. Myers dictum. It stung then to the core. And the Patriot now suffers a relapse of its virulence.

The Meighan Government, in 1925, handed the butter trade to the King Government at an average price of 37c. Mackenzie King, in 1930 handed the business to the Bennett Government, with the price smashed down to 19c average, and to 16c summer production. King's reduced duty accounted for 7c per lb of this price decline. Hon. Mr. Bennett restored the 8c duty, and handed the market again to Mr. King, with an established (and "pegged") 24c. August-September summer production price. Yes dairymen,—"look at your milk cheques" of August-Sept. 1935, and the summer production price, in days of severest depression, 24c and again look at your 22c milk cheques, in November fall, 1938 production, in the days of boasted King regime prosperity, and you will better understand why the Patriot is struggling in the whirlpool craving deliverance from the incompetency of its rulers.

The Conservatives handed to King in 1926 an export trade of 9,000,000 pounds in 1926, valued at $1,483,335. The worshipful King Government handed back this trade to Mr. Bennett, emaciated to 833,678 lbs., valued at $18,892, with 30,000,000 lbs of New Zealand 19c butter in cold storage to hamper the incoming government in its

COMBAT RHEUMATISM

Rheumatism is often caused by uric acid in the blood. This blood impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Plan to help prevent rheumatism by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 106

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To A "High-Ranking Official"

(Ottawa Journal)

Comes a "high-ranking official" of the National Defence Department (who do you suppose he can be?) to tell the newspapers that "due to the difficulty which has arisen over the Bren gun contract," Great Britain may not give us any more war orders. Says this anonymous gentleman:

"We cannot get enough money in Canada to manufacture all our own armament requirements, but with Britain's help we could do well. The Bren gun contract was a precedent by which Britain can create a secondary source of supply."

We like that "with Britain's help." Over and over again our Ministers have told Parliament that our armament program was for ourselves alone; that we weren't thinking of Britain. Yet now we are told by this "high-ranking official" that for that very armament program we should have Britain's help. Poor Britain!

We like, too, this spectacle of Canada's Defence Department, or somebody presuming to speak for it, telling the British Government what it should do to create "a secondary source of supply." The late Sir Sam Hughes once cabled Kitchener about what he should do in France. Evidently Sir Sam has his successors.

Truly, it is to be hoped members of the British Government and British War Office don't see this statement of our "high-ranking official.' They might, conceivably, be amused by it, but they would have more cause, we fear, to be disgusted with it, to consider it impertinent.

The British Government will place armament orders in Canada if, in their judgment, such orders be necessary. That we here in Canada should expect such orders, or undertake to tell the British War Office why, for their own sakes, they should place such orders here—this while we speak of our own program as being "solely for Canada's defence"—is to assume a role that our pride should protect us from.

In the meantime, there is no basis for the assertion that the present investigation of the Bren gun contract has any bearing whatever on British orders in Canada. Or that it could have. The British people would be the last people in the world to ooject to or find fault with any decision by the Canadian Government to see to it that one of its own armament contracts is everything that it ought to be. That is Canada's own business, it is quite proper and decent business, and the British know it.

About the identity of this "high-ranking official" of the Defence Department, we have no sure knowledge. If he really be an official of the Department, then his Minister or somebody in authority should take his aside and inform him that officials of the public service in Canada are not permitted to give interviews to the press or make speeches about matters of public policy. If, on the other hand, this "high-ranking official" should turn out to be none other than the Honorable Ian MacKenzie, then we think Prime Minister King, when he returns, should take him aside and tell him that if he wants to put out propaganda he should do it under his own name—with the propaganda at least not absurd.

work of salvaging the wreck. No wonder the high taxation" organ is struggling to sem the torrential flood.

And buyers today are withholding orders for winter stocks, in anticipation of a 20c price when the big volume of New Zealand and Australian butter is dumped into Canada, freed from the Bennett "Dumping" law, repealed by the Liberal butter price busters.

I am, Sir, etc.
LEWIS P. TANTON

"A QUEER NON-PARTISAN"

Sir,—When a writer is ignorant of the distinction between a partisan and a "partisan sword," and is in a still more deplorable ignorance of what he writes about, he should have respected the advice in my last letter and retire into silence.

I make no apology for being a consistent Conservative, even a "partisan" in politics, but when one, from whom we have a right to expect adherence to truth assumes to assert that,—"Only once through all (my) years was the one party wrong and the other right," I hurl back his false imputation, and challenge him to produce a line or syllable ever written or uttered by me, in my long public record, to condone evil by my own or any party, or that I ever wielded a "partisan sword "to sustain a moral wrong. If my detractor could say as much, how happy would his position be.

If (Rev.) J. W. A. Nicholson had kept posted on the operations of the Temperance Alliance, not only of recent times but for the last fifty years, or if he followed the Committee reports of the Grand Division, S. of T., for a like period, signed by myself as chairman, or had he read my reports, rendered quarterly for the three years in which I was Grand Worthy Patriarch, or could he have known my support of Hon. D. Farquharson, introducer of the Prohibition Act 38 years ago, he would not have strained the truth by his wild, unjust and unfounded insult. In season and out of season I denounced every party, Conservative or Liberal that played fast and loose with the temperance question.

I do not blame the Rev gentleman for exercising the inherent right to display the Liberal colors of his choice. But when he takes advantage of his position to unsheathe his "partisan sword," to whitewash what he should know to be the most inefficient and blackest record of prohibition enforcement in the history of the Province, I take issue with his biased perversion of this great moral issue.

A man may be a Liberal, or Conservative, and yet place temperance before his party. And the man who does this fearlessly is a better friend and more true to the best interests of his party than the crouching servitor who blindly follows his idol into the shades of evil.

I am, Sir, etc.
LEWIS P. TANTON

The Poets' Corner

RECESSIONAL

Now along the solemn heights
Fade the Autumn's altar-lights;
Down the great earth's glimmering chancel
Glide the days and nights.

Little kindred of the grass,
Like a shadow in a glass
Falls the dark and falls the stillness;
We must rise and pass.

Little brothers of the clod,
Soul of fire and seed of sod,
We must fare into the silence
At the knees of God.

Little comrades of the sky,
Wing to wing we wander by,
Going, going, going, going,
Softly as a sigh.

Hark, the moving shapes confer,
Globe of dew and gossamer,
Fading and ephemeral spirits
In the dusk astir.

Moth and blossom, blade and bee,
worlds must go as well as we,
In the long procession joining
Mount and star and sea.

Toward the shadowy bring we climb
Where the round year rolls sublime,
Rolls, and drops, and falls forever
In the vast of Time.

—Charles G. D. Roberts.

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ARMISTICE WEEK

WE REMEMBER WITH PROFOUND RESPECT THOSE CANADIANS WHO FELL IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS AND ALSO THOSE WHO RETURNED AFTER SPLENDID SERVICE TO CANADA AND THE EMPIRE. WE HOPE THAT THE ANNUAL POPPY SALE WILL MEET WITH ITS USUAL SUCCESS.

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