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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3,. 1942

Wartime Controls

The King Government by order-in-council has vested almost unlimited powers in its wartime control bodies. This no doubt is necessary in the prosecution of an all-out war effort, but in Toronto and Kingston, Ont., there have been court judgments questioning the validity of such procedure. These judgments have found the orders of our wartime economic controllers to be without the force of law. Such a situation—with the courts pulling one way and the Government and its bureaucrats another—obviously leads to chaos. Last Tuesday the Government acted in the matter by referring its system of wartime administration to Chief Justice Sir Lyman Duff and his colleagues of the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice Minister St. Laurent, who made the reference, selected the order-in-council appointing a chemicals controller, and one specimen order of the chemicals controller, as typical cases upon which to make the test.

This is a most important issue. The Justice Minister has asked the Supreme Court to say whether the order-in-council is ultra vires of the Governor-in-Council, and if the special order, respecting use of glycerine, is ultra vires of the controller. If the Government is upheld, the judgment will serve as a precedent for all the courts to which actions may be taken for violation of orders issued by wartime controllers. But if the Supreme Court finds the Government wrong in delegating such wide powers to controllers, and that the orders of these controllers have no force in law, the whole system of economic controls set up over the last three years will be upset.

Of course, the various wartime control organizations are continuing their operations on the assumption that their powers are unimpaired by the relatively few unfavorable court decisions. Mr. Donald Gordon, chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, in an official Board statement reminds all and sundry that "any person found violating any orders of the Board or its administrators will be prosecuted."

It is expected a decision will be issued soon after the Supreme Court hearing on Dec. 14. In the meantime, Mr. Gordon's warning is worth heeding. Orders issued by the Board or its administrators, he says, arise from vital wartime needs. No one can disregard them with impunity.

McNaughton's Plan

Now that the manpower crisis has burst on the Government at Ottawa, with results which resemble panic, it is interesting to recall that the crisis is totally unnecessary.

In 1939, two days before the war actually began, Lt.-Gen. Andrew McNaughton presented to the King Government a full dress plan of national selective service. The core of this plan was that skilled specialists in industry and agriculture should be kept at work in their special fields; and that under no circumstances should such skilled craftsmen be permitted to join the armed services. McNaughton knew that a modern army is dependent on industry.

The Government completely ignored the McNaughton plan. It has continued to ignore it to this day. The chief reason why the plan has been ignored is that the government itself refuses to do its plain duty: to apply a conscription law which would put every man and woman at work wherever he or she can best help win the war.

Will It Be Orlando?

In his hour of extremity Mussolini has reportedly called Vittorio Emanuele Orlando back from the political tomb in which that ancient stateman has long been immured. The story goes that Il Duce is seriously thinking of a new nationalist government which will include anti-Fascist elements. If it is true that Orlando is among these, then the Fascist case is even more desperate than reports had led anybody to suppose.

At the Versailles Conference, recalls an exchange, Orlando was one of the Big Four, the others being Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George. Orlando was a skilful stateman, an able advocate and a keen logician. One of the high points in the affair at Versailles was when he withdrew from the conference because Wilson refused to recognize the validity of the secret treaty of London under which Italy claimed outright possession of Fiume. That dispute was compromised and he returned later, but his government soon fell when in a speech in the Italian Chamber of Deputies he pleaded for loyalty to the Allies. The Nitti ministry succeeded his but he remained more or less active until after the ascendancy of the Fascist party. In 1925 he finally broke with the Fascists and retired into private life as Professor of International Law at the University of Rome. Even this position he resigned in 1931. This action he took in sympathy with the stand of certain members of the faculty who were removed because they refused to take a Fascist oath of fealty. Since then he has lived most quietly, his name rarely mentioned. Any enlargement of Mussolini's government in the manner suggested can only mean that there is desperate urgency to rally all elements of Italian life behind Il Duce's rapidly declining prestige.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

* * * *

Government reception this afternoon and civic reception this evening in honour Lieut. MacMillan, D.S.C., and Bar, of whom every Islander is proud.

Boston is locking the stable door after the steed has been stolen. Isn't this a hint to our civic authorities to examine the fire precautions of our own dance halls and other places of amusement and entertainment?

* * * *

Sir Aretas William Young, Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, 1831-5, died this date, 1835; born 1778, and entered the British Army as an ensign in 1795; served through the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in Ireland, in Egypt and in the Peninsular; in 1813 was sent to Trinidad, and in 1820-23 administered the Government; in 1821 was appointed protector of the slaves in Trinidad, and in 1831 was gazetted Lieutenant-Governor of this Island; died here in office; his son, Sir Henry Edward Fox Young became Governor of South Australia from 1848 to 1855, and Tasmania from 1855 to 1861.

* * * *

Here is a word picture of Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Winston Churchill from the pen of that brilliant Island journalist, Mr. Beverley Owen: "Cripps' qualifications as a barrister, as a deadly logician and champion of the extreme leftist scale of thought are conceded out of hand. His sincerity is not in question. He is a brilliant Briton. But it is hard to envision Mr. Cripps and Mr. Churchill walking down the garden path together. In temperament and outlook they are as different as Joe Louis and the Bishop of London. Cripps is grim and humorless, without color, impressive before a black-clad bench of judges. His rhetoric is too perfect, words drop from his lips like cold crystals. Churchill is dashing, impetuous, sardonic, his phrases roll through his cigar, titled like a cannon. Cripps hopes to wreck capitalism, with a barrage of cold logic; Churchill would mellow it like the wine in his Chartwell Manor cellar."

* * * *

In order to assure more adequate post war conditions, the Canadian Army has issued strict orders regarding marriage. It states that officers below the rank of captain and all warrant officers under the age of 20 years will, before marrying, be required to obtain written permission of their commanding officer. Non-commissioned officers and men may be granted permission to marry by their commanding officer, subject to the following conditions: that the soldier is free from debt and realizes his financial responsibility and that the moral character and disposition of the intended wife are such that it would be in no way undesirable for her to occupy public quarters. If under the age of 19 years, the soldier will be required to produce the written consent of his parent or guardian, before permission is granted, and if the intended wife is under the age of 18 years, the written consent of her parent or guardian will be required also before permission is granted.

* * * *

With the worst intentions, Mrs. Casgrain and Mr. Jean Dropeau have done good in bringing some of the Quebec French newspapers to espouse the all-out war policy. Here for, instance, is what Le Canada had to say in reply to the anti-propaganda: One of the young partisans for the candidate of the League in Outremont exclaimed that 'if the Royal Police can make arrests today, it is because in the past French-Canadians have battled to save Canada for England.' If Canada had not been saved for England in 1776, it would have passed over to the Union of the Thirteen American Colonies and the Province of Quebec would today be another star in the American flag. This means that in place of being arrested by the Royal Police, the young subversive speakers would be arrested by the G-Men. In other words, what is the difference? The League for the Defence of Canada ought to know that there are American conscripts in Australia, in New Guinea, in the Solomons, in French Equatorial Africa, at Lake Tchar, in Morocco, in Algeria, in Tunisia, in Egypt, in the Near East and without doubt in other places also which the military censors keep from us at the moment. One must be very childish to imagine that a universal war is going to spare the French-Canadians, under the pretence that we are a people of brave souls, kind and peaceful, who wish harm to nobody.

* * * *

With the changed outlook in Europe, economists are discussing the future. In the very first post-war period we shall have to share our food and certain other supplies with the war-stricken peoples abroad. After the last war it lasted from November, 1918, until after the harvest of 1919. This time it may last through two harvests, but it need not be longer than that—provided we use the world-wide supply built up for war purposes to lend them or give them the tools and the materials to become self-sustaining again. The human capacity for recuperation is greater than we think. And so is the adaptability of men. If priorities for certain fertilizers could be obtained, the British Isles, which for a century have depended on imported food, could within a year grow 90 per cent of the necessary food supply. We have, however, a greater end to achieve than that. Our greater end is to prime the pump which will, so to speak, cause the desert to bloom—to make the initial investments in the form of materials, and technical knowledge and promotion, which will start the undeveloped regions of the world in a great development. In the primitive places this means, after political security is established, communications and public works and the exploration of their hidden resources. In the sparsely inhabited and poorer countries it means the encouragement of the simpler industries which, in the natural evolution of things, will become the foundation of the more complex capital goods industries.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"You can get out of cheese much of the strength you thought you got out of meat." —Lord Woolton.

Chaplain Forgy of "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" is a bit apologetic over his immortal outburst at Pearl Harbor. He need not be. When Oliver Cromwell's troops were about to cross a river to attack the Royalists the great Protector ended an address by saying: Put your trust in God; but mind to keep your powder dry." Much the same idea, and very sound. —Montreal Gazette.

It is easy for pianners to brush off the farm labor problem by suggesting that farmers' wives should help out more in the fields But they will have to dig deeper than that in their bag of tricks, if food is to be produced for this country and its allies. With few exceptions, farm women have been devoting more hours and more woman power to production, right down through the years, than city women will put into factory work under an all-out economy. The average farm wife has been giving all she has for so long that there isn't much stretch left. —Kitchener Record.

Glasgow still has an elaborate system of tramways. A young doctor on his way home from a case early one morning waited patiently at a car-stop for the all-night car. He put his ear to the electric standand to hear if the car was approaching, but no hum was audible. Then he had a bright idea and took out his stethescope, which he adjusted and placed against the standard. At that moment two policemen rounded a corner. Well, what could they think? A man at one o'clock in the morning holding a stethoscope against an electric standard! The doctor pocketed his instrument and began to walk home trailed by a couple of suspicious constables. — Manchester Guardian.

One of the tiny assemblies in the gyro horizon and directional gyro indicators for warplanes, says Patnfinder, weighits only 15-100,000 of an ounce; 3,000 of them could fit into an ordinary needle.

The restriction upon the manufacture of hats reminds me (writes "G. C.") of a comment I once heard from a staunch member of "No Hat Brigade" about man's deep conman hair to protect his pate "In the first place," he said, "God gave man hair to protect his pate. Not satisfied with that, man invented the hat to protect his hair, and followed this up by inventing the umbrella to protect his hat And in spite of this armament what does he do when it rains Stands in a shop doorway!"

Not long ago we called attention to the fact that the Federal Judge in New Jersey who administered the oath to Boss Hague's man Meaney was Judge Guy L Fake Judge Fake is not the only Federal jurist with what we may call, for want of a better adjective, a curious name for one who dispenses justice In this connection, the name of Judge Thomas W Slick of Indiana, also comes to mind And if conditions in the Federal judiciary ever make it advisable to assemble a three-judge court from as many states, Judge James A. Fee, of Oregon, might be called to sit with them. Judges Fee, Fake and Slick—there would be a heaping ful for you!—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

What we need is publicity abroad, intelligent publicity on what we are and what we are doing The same thing can be said of the Anglo-Canadian provinces. Among them there is about as much prejudice and inexact notions about French-Canadians as in the United States. We have often noticed it. It is a truth which the majority of Canadians and all those at the heads of our governments have been compelled to admit. What is to be done? Our conclusion is the same as that of a correspondent: we must ourselves organize our publicity and not let it be done by others. Do not let this propaganda be confined to Americans only. It should equally be aimed at the English-Canadian provinces. Frankly, as we see it, we need a healthy French-Canadian propaganda service, an organization backed by men of financial standing to carry its work to a successful end. —Le Droit (Ottawa).

For a long time it has been clear that production must obey rules different from those which have guided it up to the present. Accordingly as the exigencies of war have increased it has been necessary to leave the beaten paths, have recourse to new methods. A goodly number of firms have understood that from the beginning and set to work without delay to meet new needs They have had to suffer scarcely at all from restrictions that have been laid upon them. But other concerns have been slow to get into motion, hesitating about the part to be played. Today they are embarrassed and are looking to the future with apprehension. It is to be hoped that they will not delay any longer and that, in spite of counting upon a support that will probably not be given them, they will take their future into their own hands and use the means which experience has dictated to them. In this way they will attain maximum production as the textile, industry has done and, in addition, organize themselves with the reconstruction period in mind when they can no longer depend on the assistance of the authorities. —La Presse (Montreal).

In a small Lancashire town there is a grocer's shop, kept by an ex-collier (crippled in a pit accident) and his wife and five children. Some months ago he received from a wholesaler three large tins of pineapple chunks, which he still guards jealously. "Aye, Ah've tow.d 'em all Ah'm selling nine or none. Ah've got nine families registered wi' me, and Ah'm noan selling a tin till Ah've got another six to goo wi' 'em. Ah daren't let these three goo—it'd cozz to' much jealousy. They know Ah've got 'em cozz one 'ooman saw 'em coming into t' shop and wanted to buy one there and then She keeps askin' after 'e an' saying, 'Ah'll bet tha's etten 'em thysen, thee and thy brood o' brats!'!' Aye, an' what's more, Ah've got to bring em out every week-end and show em to t' customers just to prove Ah've still get em! Not so bad, is it, when it's mi own stuff as Ah've bowt an' paid for months ago?"— Manchester Guardian.

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.

RUSSIA AND HER CRITICS

Sir,—Your issue of Saturday November 14, brings to its readers a letter from J. C. Lewis—a letter that must appeal to us as worthy of thoughtful perusal. It is one that strikes a resounding chord in the grateful minds of freedom-loving people everywhere.

We abhor the Nazi propaganda of stealthy fifth columnists, whom, upon recognition, we rightfully deprive of many of the privileges accorded ordinary Canadians; but not even passive resistance is offered to those of the class whose public statements your correspondent deals with so cleverly.

To belittle Russia's wonderful progress and achievements, or to pick flaws in her system of government—obviously U.S.S.R.'s own affairs—are pronouncedly ungrateful, and indicate a lack of even common decency. Does not Russia fill for us the role of "a friend in need" and should she not, by all of us, be recognized as a friend indeed? Our government considers Russia a friend and ally of the highest value and importance. But note the inconsistency which is apparent in the Government's assisting so earnestly in furnishing her with fighting equipment, etc., while individual detractors not only operate with impunity but are even allowed facilities for their dissemination of unappreciative vaporings which can serve no useful purpose, and certainly do not tend towards unity in an all-out war effort.

If "He who receives a benefit with gratitude, repays the first instalment on his debt" what must we think of those who, ignoring or disparaging the tremendous fight that the Russian people are continuing to wage against our common enemy, have with gross impropriety busied themselves with adverse criticism of Russian institutions?

We are told, "there are two kinds of gratitude, the gratitude we feel for what we get, and the gratitude we feel for what we give"; but not a trace of either of these is to be found in the broadcasting of derogatory criticisms of a benefactor. "Looking a gift-horse in the mouth" is putting it much too mildly. Read what Shakespeare has to say of ingratitude:

"I hate ingratitude more in a man
Than lying, vainness, babbling drunkness,
Or any taint of vice whose strong corruption
Inhabits our frail blood."

No matter what our religious tenets it will be admitted that the pro-Ally delineation of things Russian by the Rev. Dean of Canterbury, coming as it does from such a highly respected and eminently qualified English scholar as the Very Reverend Dr. Hewlitt Johnson must appeal to us as fairer and more authoritative than the carping criticism of any itinerant or broadcasting quasi-fifth-columnist of the stripe that has earned such a denunciation from the virile pen of your correspondent.

I am, Sir, etc.,
APPRECIATIVE
Summerside.

Storing Bulbs

(Science Service News)

In most parts of Canada, gladiolus corms have been dug and are now in storage for the winter months. It is best to remove the tops by cutting them off an inch or two above the corms as soon as they are dug. If the tops are left on for later topping and cleaning, thrips may be carried into storage on the tops and will eventually work their way down the stem to feed on the corms, state officials of the Division of Entomology, Dominion Department of Agriculture. The corms should be carefully dried, and after the soil has been shaken placed in storage. Some growers do not remove the hulk at all which is sound practice so long as the corms come from a disease-free plantation.

If at all possible, the corms should be stored in a cool place at a temperature of from 35-40 degrees F. This will check thrip developement. If this temperature can be maintained for a period of two or three months it will kill all stages of the insect.

Should fumigation with napthalene be necessary it is best to carry this out early in the winter to allow pleanty of time for the corms to air for at least a month after treatment. Otherwise, growth will be retarded in the spring. If the corrosive sublimate method is to be used this can well be delayed until spring and should be carried out just before planting. The same applies to the treatment with hot water. By delaying treatment until the spring, drying of the corms prior to restoring will not then be necessary.

Whether thrips were known to be present in the garden during the past summer or not, it is a wise precaution to treat all corms sometime prior to next spring. This will take relatively little time and may save much heartache next summer when the spikes are beginning to break. The danger of contaminating neighbouring gardens by planting untreated corms should also be borne in mind when deciding whether or not to destroy the thrips during the period of storage.

Boasting About Waste . . . . .

(Financial Post)

All over the continent, patriotic publishers are exercising the greatest possible economies in the use of metals for engravings, paper, manpower and other materials. The distribution of information is an essential wartime service but the press does not expect nor ask the right to waste materials. Decidedly not in line are the publishers of the American magazine, Time. By their own admission, metal, paper and manpower are of little account to them. In a published letter to subscribers last week, Time boasts of discarding three already printed covers in one week and having 52 more covers on hand "all electrotyped 8 up" in case of emergency. It adds that half of these "will have to be melted down, unused of course."

White paper scrapped in that discard of covers would probably amount to 30 tons. In addition hundreds of pounds of metal, to say nothing of manpower, acids, electric power and other components would be wasted in the melting down of unused engravings. All these are vital materials in wartime. The publishers of Time, always critical of the efforts of others, arrogantly assume that because the news may move more rapidly than they can print it, they are at liberty to indulge in wholesale waste, at a time when any waste is an outrage.

Before many months are over, it is proposed that some continent-wide curtailment of paper will be ordered. There is of course, no shortage of paper in this country, but Canadian publishers and readers will be asked to sacrifice in order that American consumers may get adequate supplies. This they will do cheerfully, but they will expect and they have a right to expect, that there will be no more of the shocking waste that Time so boastfully admits.

TO SAVE THEIR BIKES

STOCKHLM — (CP) — Netherlanders who take lessons in the German language are exempted from having their bicycles requisitioned by the German authorities according to word reaching here.

FOUR TIMES LORD MAYOR

PLYMOUTH — (CP) — A ... mayoral record in 500 years of ... corporation was established when Lord Astor was re-elected Lord Mayor for the fourth successive year.

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