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

THURSDAY, DEC. 9, 1943

The Bacon Situation

It is high time that Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, either stopped talking about the bacon situation, or talked truthfully to the point and not in language calculated to mislead and misinform our farmers. When the terms of the new bacon contract with Great Britain were first announced, there was amazement that it was for only 450,000,000 pounds yearly for the next two years, as against 500,000,000 pounds for this year. Mr. Gardiner at first gave the impression that this was entirely satisfactory to the British Government. It was necessary for spokesmen of the British Government to correct this misunderstanding.

When it became clear that the reduced quotas would mean a drastic cut in the present very limited bacon ration in the Old Country, there was indignant protest from all parts of Canada over the new agreement. Coincident with the news that Britain's bacon quota was to be reduced came the withdrawal of restrictions on bacon consumption in the home market and an increase in prices of western feed grain, making the raising of hogs in this part of Canada practically prohibitive.

Then Mr. Gardiner made his most extraordinary statement. Speaking at Regina, he was quoted as saying: "We are not going to keep urging the Canadian farmer to produce enough hogs to supply the British market when the British advise us that they may not require our bacon production after the war." The Canadian Government, he said, was justified in looking after Canadian agriculture first and foremost, "just as the British Government must look after the future of the British producer." And then, to make confusion worse confounded, he said: "We are not going to urge the farmers to raise more hogs but we are advising him that we can sell all the bacon he can produce."

Mr. Gardiner's statement with regard to the attitude of the British Government has now been repudiated. Rt. Hon. J. J. Llewellyn, British Food Minister, speaking at a Dominion-Provincial conference at Ottawa, bluntly declared that the Canadian farmer "need have no fear that by going into hog production extensively now he will have his market slip away from him." This statement had such an effect on the convention that it raised the question among provincial representatives of paying provincial bonuses to encourage hog production in 1944.

Mr. Gardiner has done a lot of quibbling in his political lifetime. This last performance is surely the limit. He had apparently no scruple in "passing the buck" to the British Government; but the British, for once, refused to be placed in a false position by the Mackenzie King Government and took a timely opportunity of letting the people of Canada know where they stood. Doubtless we shall have more alibis from Ottawa over the bacon muddle But now that our producers know the truth—that Britain wants our bacon and is not trying to double-cross us as Mr. Gardiner insinuated—they will place very little credence in what he or his spokesmen have to say on this subject in future. It will require to be indorsed by some more trustworthy authority,—and that is about the most humiliating position for any responsible Minister of the Crown to place himself in.

Japan's Stolen Empire

When the Cairo conference decided to dispossess Japan of her stolen Empire it put its finger on a lot of territory. Few realize what a tremendous thing the Japanese empire is; that it involves dominion over nearly a quarter of the human race. The Ottawa Journal presents it in this way:

	Area square miles	Population
Manchuria	503,013	39,154,026
Korea	35,246	22,833,857
Kwantung	1,438	1,656,726
Formosa	13,880	5,212,000
Pescadores Islands	50	60,000
Mandated Islands	829	85,000
	604,456	69,102,594

Here, without the Japanese homeland, is 604,450 square miles of territory with a population of 69,000,000; this not counting the vast areas that Japan has brought under her sway since Pearl Harbor: Malaya, Burma, The Netherlands Indies, the large and small Melanesian Islands, the Philippines, the coasts of China.

Japan, we may feel certain, will fight to the death to retain such possessions; will not easily go back to her own 148,00 square miles supporting 75,000,000. That, however, is what fate decrees for her.

Party Organization

The Progressive Conservatives in Ontario have appointed a farmer and a labor man as assistants to the provincil chairman of their party organization,—a move which the independent Windsor Star hails as a "master stroke of political strategy." The Star credits Mr. Bracken with this achievement, and says:

"The appointments at least indicate that the Progressive Conservatives are continuing their preparations for battle. They form another step in the movement to put the party on a war basis, and it is a refreshing sign after the long period the Conservatives spent in the doldrums. The party made the almost fatal mistake of letting its organization die. Rebuilding it is a long and difficult task, but the attempt is being made, and if the group can be revitalized it will be, on the whole, good for the political life of this country."

But there is another angle to the party organization question with which a Star columnist deals, and it is this:

"Both the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives are taking their politics more seriously. They are campaigning for votes in the future. The two old parties could borrow a bit of strategy from the C.C.F. and get some of their party members as teachers and professors in the collegiates and universities.

"The C.C.F. saw the wisdom of educating the young people in politics years ago. So, there are C.C.F. teachers in the schools and C.C.F. professors in the universities. These party lieutenants keep up a steady stream of C.C.F. party propaganda until most of the pupils are thoroughly steeped in it by the time they graduate.

"The Liberals and Conservatives overlooked that field."

If this criticism be true, it is time something was being done about it.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Slippery foothpaths will lead to more broken limbs.

* * * *

Overseas' New Year letters for the boys at the front should be mailed this week

* * * *

Duncan Campbell, Maritime historian, died this date 1886; nothing known of his early career; came to Halifax from Glasgow at the age of forty-seven and settled for a time at Amherst, then in Charlottetown where he remained several years; he was the author of "A History of Prince Edward Island" which was published by Bremner & Co., Charlottetown; later proceeded to Halifax where he was employed by the Halifax Chronicle; wrote "Nova Scotia in its historical, mercantile, and industrial relations", which was published in Montreal in 1873.

* * * *

Admitting the need for a reduction in the Income Tax rates in the lower brackets, there still remains the problem arising from the fact that the income-per-household is, in certain classes, at unprecedented heights. Where perhaps formerly only one member of the household was working, there now may be several, ranging from the young boy or girl to grandpa and, for all we know, grandma. In the last war, such households found an outlet for surplus funds in silk shirts and floor lamps. This time—and at this stage—the dance clubs and the race tracks are doing very well, not to mention the bootleggers and others of that ilk.

* * * *

Some ill-informed comment has been made of late about alleged British "hoarding" of oil supplied in the Middle East. The facts will bear close examination. The main British source of oil in the Middle East is the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's fields at Masjid-i-Suleiman. Crude oil is piped thence to the refinery at Abadan, an island at the head of the Persian Gulf. Abadan has the largest single oil refinery in the world. When the Mediterranean was open, oil was sent from there to Great Britain; but when the Mediterranean had to be closed to merchant shipping, the route to Britain was increased to 11,000 miles, by the Cape of Good Hope route. It was therefore much more economical in tanker space to ship oil from the Western Hemisphere. Victory in the Mediterranean and increased shipping production have now changed the situation, so the British and American shipping authorities have begun to reallocate tanker tonnage so as to make greater use of oil resources in the Middle East. British foresight has preserved these oil supplies intact, and all facilities have been increased. With the Germans driven from Syria, Iraq and Iran, and British specialists from Burma working in the service of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at Abadan, an adequate supply of oil from this source is assured.

* * * *

Wartime experiences in England have quickened an urge towards equality in education which was already growing strong in pre-war days, and these discriminations from a past age are no longer found tolerable. It is easy, therefore, to understand the line which the main proposals follow in plans outlind in a Government White Paper recently issued. They conceive of an education for all arranged in three stages: 1. Primary education from five to 11. The name "elementary" is to be dropped, and few will regret its passing. But the hope of a true common school, a first-stage school attended by all classes of the population, is not likely to be realized yet in England (though far more likely in Wales). Some reasons for this will be given later. 2. Secondary education from 11 to 16. The age of school leaving is to be raised from 14 to 15 as soon as possible after the war and to 16 when facilities have become available. Three main forms of curriculum are contemplated. First, an academic form designed largely for those who will go on to the universities and the professions and will normally remain at school until at least the age of 18. Second, a "technical" type of curriculum, though still broadly conceived, planned for those whose destiny is industry or commerce as skilled workers. Many of these will leave at 16, though by no means all of them we may hope. Third, a more general, unspecialized curriculum, though with variety of offerings, for the large intermediate mass. The first type is represented by the existing schools officially classed as secondary, now to be known as grammar schools. The second we have with us in all too small supply in the junior technical schools. These will be much increased in numbers and expanded in respect both of length of course and variety of curriculum-provision. The third may be seen as the present "senior" schools raised to secondary status and expanded much as the junior technical schools will be. This more general type is to be known as the modern school.

Notes By The Way

The Boston Globe having opined that the best way to wean a kid away from hoodlumism is to "switch his interest," the Ottawa Citizen cracks back with: "Maybe so; but that isn't where Dad switched us—and, boy, was he effective!" —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

We have run across no more vivid example of the accumulating demand for consumer goods which may help to stimulate business after the war, than a statement by Montgomery Ward and Co that it had to return 55 million dollars to customers in the first six months of 1943 —because the merchandise they ordered was no longer available in the mail order company's stocks—Milwaukee Journal

We have run across no more vivid example of the accumulating demand for consumer goods, which may help to stimulate business after the war, than a statement by Montgomery Ward and Co. that it had to return fifty-five million dollars to customers in the first six months of 1943—because the merchandise they ordered was no longer available in the mail order company's stocks. —Milwaukee Journal.

Will Badoglio bring out a new stamp? According to the Italians the issue brought out some time ago was not a success It bore the portraits of the Fuehrer and the Duce and sold well in Germany. Mussolini fas asked by Hitler to explain how it was so few were sold in Italy. "Well," said Benito, "everyone complains that they won stick." "Look," said Adolf He wet the back of a stamp and stuck it on an envelope. "Yes," replied Mussolini, "but the Italians insist on spitting on the other side."—Manchester Guardian.

City Council has voted $100 to a brewery to blow a curfew whistle each night at 9.30 warning all children under 16 years of age off the streets unless accompanied by parents or guardians. Policemen have been instructed, when the curfew law becomes operative later this week, to escort such children home Parents permitting their offspring to roam the streets after 9 30 p. m. will be fined $1 the first time; $3 for the second offence and $5 on each occasion thereafter. —Victoria Ex.

It is strange how the idea persists among "other ranks" in the army that the Colonel's wife lives in luxuriant ease despite the rigors of war and the desperate shortage of servants. This illusion led to a delicate situation the other day. A Colonel known to me sent a man around to his home to fetch some papers. The Colonel's wife, in the middle of her morning's dusting, answered the the door in person and helped the man to find the documents. As he turned to go, the soldier asked a question: "What's the old blighter like to work for?" he said. —Leeds Yorkshire Post.

Mr. Churchill has, indeed, personified the aspirations of a democracy at war. The splendid words, the cheerful acceptance of the black moment, the magic power to rally the broken battalion — these are only in a superficial way aristocratic. They are gifts which amultitude of men share and make possible, and whether their full expression came out of the blood of Marlborough and the Normans or the blood of cotters and weavers, miners and pale clerks in shops hardly mattered. It did come through Winston Churchill —New York Times.

The foot soldier is doing a job equally as important to any other. He is the man who eats dust under a blazing sun, or slogs through mud and rain mile after mile. He is the man who backs his way through fever-ridden jungles, or trudges across frozen plains. Long ago a phrase was coined to describe the infantry. A famous general once termed it the "Queen of battles"; the term is still used and although a bit flowery it is still a true description. It should be remembered that victory will not be completely won until Allied soldiers march into and through the aggressor countries. And most of these soldiers will be infantry. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

We used to think that a man had to serve at least five years of apprenticeship before he could become a marine engineer. Now we're taking young men out of technical schools and making them into marine engineers within a year or two years; the navy is full of them. We used to believe that a man had to serve five or six years before the mast, be a third mate, second mate and first mate, before he could get a captain's certificate. Now we take young men off the Prairies, give them a year or two at sea (in most cases less than that) and they make them captains of warships. So all down the line. We used to say that the Russians didn't know anything about machinery, that they wouldn't be able to repair their tanks when the tanks broke down. We were wrong. As wrong as we were with our old notion that a man had to be at least 60 years before he could be a general. —Ottawa Journal.

Returning from a warfront town, General Marshall held a press conference. Twenty-one newsmen were present. Marshal said he would answer one question from each newsman. He turned to the man nearest him on the right and said. "All right, what's yours?" The question proved to be rather elaborate. "I will answer that in a minute," said Marshall. "But let's go ahead. What's yours?" And before answering any questions, he went the rounds of 21 men and got their 21 questions. Then he proceeded to answer the questions one by one. Not only did he remember the questions which each of the 21 had asked, but he remembered who asked it. Pointing to each man, he said "Now your question was —." And then he named it and proceeded to answer it. This was more than a feat of memory. It gave order and body to the answers, and eliminated the confusion of most press conferences. —Washington Merry Go Round.

HAVE LONG HISTORY

The sequoia trees of California are thought to be oldest living organisms extant today. Some are estimated to be 4,000 years old.

Lamps Of Tomorrow

(Hamilton Spectator)

Diesel engines and other mediums of power by combustion have

steam age put much of humanity

lally to the conquest of the air. The exhaustion of coal is said to be within measurable distance, and there are those who now predict that neither will the sources of crude oil continue to yield indefinitely at the rate this fuel is being consumed. In view of those conditions the future of electricity appears to hold the surest promise of permanency, as long as waterways flow to spin the turbines and there is an atmosphere of powerful elements to experiment with.

The electrical scientists are not idle, and the world envisioned by some of them will be vastly improved by new methods of utilizing this mysterious force. Notable progress has already been made in creating revolutionary methods of illumination. The wireless phosphorescent light of to-morrow is something to capture the imagination. It consists of a gas-filled globe, which is coated with phosphorescent materials, and glows brilliantly without any wire connection; its electric impulse is derived through space from a nearby high-frequency oscillator.

Other types of lamps include an incandescent device which can be hurled across a room and will not break, but the object it strikes will most likely suffer; one that continues to burn just as strongly after the current is turned off and the bulb is removed from its socket; a lamp on which a meal can be cooked; another that gives off a delightful perfume, and one that almost rivals the sun in brightness.

The uses are many to which electricity may be put in the future, and present modes of illumination are likely to become obsolete in the post-war years. What is interesting to laymen in the achievements of electrical science is the wider knowledge of obtaining energy from space. That advance holds tremendous possibilities and, once fully developed, might make electricity so abundant and cheap that homes could be heated with it; everything that runs could be powered by this clean, odourless force.

That day may never come, or be so remote as not to concern this generation of coal-shovellers and ash-sifters; but there are scientists who soberly declare that it is closer than most persons imagine. The principle has been established; what remains to be overcome is the difficulty of applying it economically and feasibly. The "lamps of tomorrow" tend strongly to corroborate their theories.

Reconstruction Ministry

(Financial Post)

The biggest job that has ever faced Canada and quite likely the biggest this country will have to face, will be the reconversion to peace after this war. If it is to be successful then real preparations must start at once. It will be very much too late if we wait until actual victory is in sight.

Great Britain, the United States and Australia have already set up cabinet ministries for the sole purpose of looking after reconstruction. In Great Britain Lord Woolton has been chosen for this vital job, in the United States the veteran industrialist Bernard Baruch will handle it.

In Canada, all that we have done is to appoint a few exploratory commissions, armed with no executive power. Any preliminary work that has been done is spread over several departments, with no official directly responsible.

A ministry of reconstruction should be set up immediately at Ottawa. So long as the work is merely a part time job spread over several departments too much of it is liable to be overlooked to fall between stools. Already vital questions are looming which must be answered before industry and business can make definite plans to tackle their important share of the gigantic reconversion to peace.

There is the matter of disposal of surplus war stores, and the various crown war companies. There is the timing and advisability of various works projects to take up temporary pockets of unemployment. There is the whole problem of de-control, of ridding us of wartime controls promptly while at the same time preventing unfair distribution of short supplies and an inflationary price debauch. And finally there is the complicated question of demobilizing half a million or more men and women from the armed forces and of incorporating them into our civilian economy.

The Ministry of Reconstruction must have a well-defined field of its own, but it will of course have to work in closest co-operation and harmony with other ministries dealing with returned soldiers, tax policy, etc.

Exploratory commissions, public and private, have done good work, but the time has now come for definite action.

The Transferable Vote

(Sydney Post Record)

It is possible that at the coming session of the House of Commons, the present system of voting in Federal elections, the heritage of an archaic past, may be revised to provide for the transferable vote. In the old days of two-party contests, the system of marking an X opposite the name of the favored candidate resulted in the return of the man selected by the majority, and the chances of a candidate being returned by a minority vote were slim, since three-cornered contests were comparatively rare. Today, however, the political picture in Canada is much different. There are many parties, and frequent cases where a candidate of any party has been returned to Parliament although a majority of the votes have been cast against him. In the recent Ontario elections, nearly half the successful candidates failed to get a clear majority of the votes, yet these candidates purport to represent constituencies as the favored representatives, whereas in fact they may not be. The majority well does not prevail because of the present antiquated system of marking ballots.

Such mishaps as minority candidates can be avoided by the transferable vote system. The transferable vote ballot is not marked with an X. The voter looks down the list of candidates on the ballot and marks them numerically in the order of his preference. If a candidate fails to obtain a clear majority on the first ballot—of first preferences—the ballot is scanned again for second preferences, and so on until a clear majority is obtained, and the majority of voters elect the man they want.

Such a reform in the Dominion electoral system is of course long overdue, and under the present three, or four, or five-party system Canada has today the transferable vote is the most satisfactory method of determining the majority wish that could be devised. It may prevent a stalemate at the next Federal election, an eventuality that at the moment at least, appears inevitable under the present voting system.

BUSY GIVING ADVICE

LONDON —(CP)— Citizens' Advice Bureau, an establishment designed to help people do everything from mending pants to getting flavor out of cabbage, has replied to 2,500,000 questions since its inception a year ago.

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Last night, as through the crowd on Market Street
A new-made soldier proudly swung along,
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Whose face turned up to him in silent song:

I marked, above those gay young hearts atune,
The unimportant beauty of the moon.

—Ray Melton.

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Murray River ..... 8.00 a.m.
Little Sands ..... 8.20 a.m.
Belle River ..... 9.00 a.m.
Eldon ..... 9.30 a.m.
Vernon ..... 9.45 a.m.
Arrives Charlottetown 10.30 a.m.
Leaves Charlottetown on return trip 4.00 p.m.

—SUNDAY—

LEAVES:—
Murray Harbour ..... 3.45 p.m.
Murray River ..... 4.00 p.m.
Belle River ..... 5.00 p.m.
Eldon ..... 5.30 p.m.
Vernon ..... 5.45 p.m.
Arrives Charlottetown 6.30 p.m.
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LONDON, —(CP)— S. G. King, controller of the Far East section of the prisoners of war department of the Red Cross and St. John organization; said there has not been a single authenticated case of atrocities in prisoner of war camps in Japan.