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

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1939

An Appalling Tragedy

Reports last evening indicated that at least twenty-five persons were feared definitely to have perished in the fire which destroyed the Queen Hotel, Halifax, yesterday. The tragedy is the worst experienced since the Halifax explosion during the Great War. The property loss of some $800,000 is nothing compared with the death and casualty toll, for it seems pretty certain that few of the thirty-five persons still missing were able to make their escape from the burning five-storey building.

It is difficult to imagine how such an appalling tragedy could have occurred if the building was adequately equipped with fire escapes. That, of course, is a matter for investigation. In the meantime, the sympathy of all sections of the country goes out to the anguished relatives of the victims.

The New Pontiff

Since the death of Pope Pius XI the interim spiritual ruler of the Roman Catholic world has been Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State, who yesterday, on the occasion of his 63rd birthday, was elected by his fellow Cardinals to fill the Papal throne. The new Pope, who is a man of outstanding prominence not only as a churchman but as a scholar, diplomat and statesman, has assumed the name of Pius XII.

Born of a distinguished Roman family which has long had close connections with the Vatican, His Holiness Pope Pius XII brings to his exalted office exceptional qualifications in times such as these. He filled numerous important offices before going, as Papal Nuncio, to Bavaria in the midst of the World War. There, among other things, he worked hard to further Pope Benedict's last effort to bring the warring powers together and to end the conflict. When the Germans lost the war and the Bolsheviks, for a short time, ruled Bavaria, his life was in danger and he finally left, but later returned and secured a concordat between Bavaria and the Vatican.

Further diplomatic successes followed, in Germany and elsewhere. On succeeding Cardinal Gasparri as Secretary of State in 1930, the new Pontiff was brought into close touch with his immediate predecessor, Pius XI, who had an increasingly warm regard for him and entrusted him with many important missions, including the opening, in October, 1934, of the great Eucharistic Congress at Buenos Aires.

On the latter occasion Cardinal Pacelli spoke for two and a half hours in one of the most amazing linguistic feats ever witnessed. He made addresses in Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, German, and Latin. When the delegates were later received by Pius XI, His Holiness smilingly observed that he would not try to rival Cardinal Pacelli's "Pentecostal eloquence."

In 1936 the Cardinal visited the United States, to study at first hand the problems of his church on this continent.

An aphorism attributed to him throws a revealing light on his breadth of understanding. "When I meet an ordinary man," he is quoted as saying, "I treat him with great respect. He may be a saint. When I meet a priest, I see a man who ought to be a saint. But I want to find out."

The issues facing the Christian world today make the choice of an able and experienced successor to the late lamented Pontiff one of great importance, especially in the matter of promoting peace and amity among the European powers.

British And German Air-Power

The alleged overwhelming superiority of the Nazi air fleet has been the subject of a good deal of comment since the Czechoslovakian crisis. According to a writer in the London Spectator, who claims to have first-hand information, this superiority, so far as Great Britain is concerned, lies only in numerical strength. This is the least important factor, because for months past the German aircraft industry has been organized on what approaches a war-footing. On an outbreak of hostilities, the production rate cannot be increased to any extent. The British industry, on the other hand, has not touched a war rate nor anything like it. It is for this reason that the Nazie hierarchy will not indulge in a war unless it can be sure of a shock win; and every day that passes makes the prospect of such a victory more remote.

German factories, it is emphasized, must always be vulnerable to raids, for all of them lie within range of enemy aricraft. Great Britain, by producing machines in Canada and in other parts of the Empire, can be certain that supply will never be completely stifled; and the possibility, amounting to a certainty, that she will be able to obtain a steady supply of warplanes from America is a matter of the gravest concern to the German Air Staff.

"If we consider the types of machines now being supplied to the British and German air forces" says the Spectator writer, "we have good reason to be optimistic, although I must repeat that sheer superiority in numbers gives a lead to the Luftwaffe that must remain for some months yet. German first-line bombers are confined almost entirely to two types, the Dornier 17 and the Junkers 86K. Both types can carry nearly a ton of bombs some 1,500 miles. The former has a top speed of about 280 miles an hour, and the latter about 230 miles an hour. The British counterpart to these machines (size for size) might be considered to be the Vickers Wellesley, which is one of the lightest bombers being used in the Royal Air Force. The Wellesley has a top speed of 230 miles an hour, a range similar to the two German machines, but a bomb-load nearly double. Supply of this type of machine has almost ceased, and in its place is the Vickers Wellington, which is a bigger bomber whose performance it is forbidden to reveal. One can only say that it is phenomenal and quite unapproached by anything that Germany has yet produced.

"Indeed, we have quite a lot of machines up our sleeve which Germany is unable to match. Every week really heavy bombers, all with speeds around 250 miles an hour and more, are being supplied to the R. A. F., bombers which carry two and three times the load of bombs which the chosen lighter type of bombers of the Luftwaffe can carry. And a point not realised about the operation of these bombers against Germany is that the distance from the French frontier to Berlin is only twenty miles farther than the distance between the German frontier and London, provided the German raiders respect Dutch neutrality. Our fighters, type for type, give nothing to those of Germany, the fundamental difference between them being that German fighters are armed with cannon, while ours depend on multimachine-gun armament. The performance of the German Heinkel and Messerschmidt fighters, which are the two standard types, is in no way superior to that of the British Spitfire and Hurricane, and one can reasonably assume that the reliability of the British machine is superior to that of the German."

Editorial Notes

British re-armament ordered this date, 1937.

* * * *

Organization of the National Conservatives is going ahead in Queens, but what about Prince and Kings?

* * * *

The Grim Reaper is making his presence felt these days among former P. E. I. clergymen, the death of no fewer than five being announced within a fortnight.

* * *

Inappropriate prizes are no more appreciated than inappropriate Christmas gifts. At a busman's carnival in England a bald headed bus driver won a prize of a permament wave and is at a loss what to do with it.

* * *

"Why," asks a correspondent, "will Sir. John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Rt. Hon. W. I. Fielding continue in the grateful memory of successive generations of Canadians? They administated millions of public money, controlled patronage and contracts without number.

But, in spite of all temptation
To plunder a rising nation,
They remained douce honest, men.

"They were above suspicion, they appreciated the difference between meum and tuum, had their opportunities of becoming rich quick, deliberately missing these golden opportunities, and died poor but honest."

* * * *

The Liberal Party is teetotally opposed to their members giving their constituents written pledges regarding how they will vote when elected, and have introduced a clause into the Election Act making it an illegal practice and an offence against the Act, for a candidate to sign any pledge or document requiring him to take any particular course of action if elected. Of course, the Prime Minister had already made it plain that verbal promises were merely a means of getting elected, and he is now making doubly sure that his signature to any such promise would render his election null and void. However promises must be considered "charts" not redeemable I. O. Us.

* * *

Another Agricultural Conference is being called by the Liberals for Montreal this month to discuss marketing and other problems of the farmers. How solicitious these politicans have suddenly become on the eve of an appeal to the sadly betrayed agriculturist electors! All phases of marketing problems affecting the east will be discussed at the conference, organizers state, with close attention being paid to the matter of butter surplus. The delegates at the preliminary conference were Mr. J. K. King, deputy minister of agriculture for New Brunswick; Mr. Waldo Walsh, director of marketing in the Nova Scotia agriculture department; President W. J. Reid of the Maritime Chamber of Agriculture; Mr. W. R. Reck, deputy minister of gariculture for Ontraio, and President, J. A. Marion of Quebec's Chamber of Agriculture. It will be noticed that our own Deputy Minister, who happens to be a conservative appointee, was substituted by Mr. Reid, who has been prominent of late in the Councils of the Campbell Government.

* * * *

A spare man entered an oratorical contest from MacGill University in Montreal the other day and carried off the Hersey gold medal against six other competitors. The original entry became indisposed and at the last moment, Mr. Edward H. Piper took his place, and discussed "The Canadian's view of Canadian History." Referring to the all too prevalent feeling among other Canadians that the French-Canadian owes a debt of gratitude to Great Britain for her generosity, Mr. Riper contended that the French-Canadian feels that his rights and privileges were hard earned. He accepts without qualification that Canada is his home, and belives the French-Canadian is misunderstood by the rest of Canada simply because of the ignorance of other Canadians. Remedy for this ignorance, he held, is to once again study history "with the minds of adults rather than with the romantic and easily influenced imaginations of children. The success of demagogues on the platform or at the "mike" is due largely to the fact that they are addressing a semi-ignorant or half-baked audience, with little or no historial back ground, and with minds of babes and sucklings ready and eager to shut their eyes, open their months and to swallow at a gulp whatever the sk[illegible] propagandists offer them."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Every political controversy produces its catch phrase; the earth is now divided among "aggressor nations" and their victims. Aggressor nations are the villains who scheme and struggle to get something they haven't; the non-aggressor nations seek virtuously to keep what they have and desire only to pick up an archipelago or a peninsula here and there for the obviously admirable purpose of "orderly development of communications" or "rounding out the empire" or, it may well be, to relieve an oppressed people from heartless exploitation by greedy, unsympathetic masters. —New York Sun.

The map of Europe has been literally recast by Hitler and Mussolini while England and France have looked passively on through four Fabian years. Is there a statesman of consequence in the world who will undertake to say that Hitler and Mussolini have slaked their thirst and satisfied their hunger and that London and Paris may now put down, in confidence, their cup of trembling? The lust for power is the appetite that grows on what it feeds upon. The retrospect is there for all to see. What dark totalitarian vista appals the eyes of statesmanship that is not afraid to look? How far from Washington is a brown-shirted, black-shirted Europe? — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Just the other day Saskatchewan began an interesting experiment in the collection of the gasoline tax. As in Manitoba, farmers in Saskatchewan are allowed to obtain gasoline tax-free for use in farm operations. Hitherto both provinces have required the farmer to pay the tax on buying any gasoline and then to apply for a rebate on the portion used in farm work. Complaints have been frequent that this tax-free gasoline is used illegally for other than farm purposes. To check such abuses, Saskatchewan now is allowing farmers to buy a special purple - colored gasoline without paying the tax at all. If motorists or truck drivers are found using this purple gasoline for other than farm purposes their cars and trucks may be impounded for six weeks or two months. —Winnipeg Tribune.

When he reads of the plans being made by various official bodies for proper celebration of the royal visit, the average private citizen may thank his stars for his obscurity. If Their Majesties planned to remain in Canada for a year it might be possible to arrange for every citizen to have an opportunity to demonstrate his or her enthusiastic loyalty As it is, many communities and thousands of individuals will be deprived of the privilege. The fact will not mar the visit as far as our guests are concerned. Every town that is omitted from the tour will understand that it is a matter of bad luck. Cheering crowds will greet the King and Queen wherever they go. The recriminations will fall on the heads of those who arrange the tour. One can picture Ottawa statisticians already busily engaged with their slide-rules and tables of population, calculating that if Toronto, for example, is entitled to eight and one-half hours of the visit, Squashville is entitled to three-quarters of a second. But, when they total their results, they find that they still add up to several months. So they resume their calculations with the knowledge that whatever decision is reached, many places are going to be offended. With malice towards none, The Printed Word asks its readers to remember the old Western saloon sign, "Don't shoot the pianist. He's doing his best."

This is true about neighbors the world around: you get along with them or you don't get along with them. Sometimes the fact that they are new to the community or that they are of a different race or nationality rears an invisible barrier between you which seems insurmountable. Yet this great wall —since it is one we our elves build —is one which we can break through. Look at your neighbor — even if he lives on the othere side of town. Perhaps his name is unpronounceable, his language incomprehensible, his customs inexplicable, yet he is more like you than he is unlike you. If you hear him sing, or see him dance, or watch him work at his hobby, you will find he has something to contribute to the enrichment of community life. By sharing your cultural heritages, you and he — despite different social or racial backgrounds—can learn to live happily and harmoniously together, eventually helping to develop new outstanding centers of thought and art. Civic-minded bodies, as Louis Adamic says, have done and can do much to bring together different national or racial groups in any community—in the New World or Old World. Members of these groups can become good neighbors, cross each other's thresholds, enjoy each other's fellowship at festivals, programs, exhibits, and other activities in which all can take part. They can help each other to adjust to social or economic changes affecting them. Differences which once loomed large disappear when people of different backgrounds discover how much they have in common. What they need is a chance to discover this fact for themselves. —An editorial from the Rotarian Magazine.

The optimist and the pessimist, for all their anonymity, get together frequently—in anecdotes. The managing director of the stock exchange of Stockholm, Sweden, put them side by side recently in a story he credits to the English. "The optimist," he said, "sees a light where there isn't any, and the pessimist comes along and blows it out." William Lyon Phelps, distinguished book critic, knows the strange pair, too. The pessimist, he explains, looks at a bottle of whatever you please and wails, "O,woe, it's half gone." The optimist, eying the same container, exults, "Great, it's still half full!" Humorist Billy Van has been the "sparkplug" at many a sales meeting. Sometimes, in such groups, he holds up a large map of the United States. On it, somewhere, is a black patch, small as a thumbnail. "Now, gentlemen," he asks, "what do you see on the map?" Almost to a man the answer is, "A black spot. "But he counts the day saved when one or two of the salesmen reply instead, "A lot of clean white territory which is wide open for our product." Currently popular and worth a wide audience is the story, its origin unknown, about two little girls who were frisking about in a strange garden. Soon one of them ran to her mother and said, "This garden's a bad place, Mother. I've been all around and every rosebush has sharp, long thorns on it." Presently her small sister came skipping up the path and cried, "Mother, I love this place. I've been all around and every thorn trees has such pretty roses growing on it." To try to add anything to these parables would be to risk seeming pompous....so these lines shall leave the reader—perhaps where they found him—picking as pleasant a path as possible between indefensible optimism and debilitating pessimism. —An editorial from the Rotarian Magazine.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

SIGNS AND TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA

An "up" patient in a large hospital was suddenly stricken with what the attendants thought was some kind of fit. He threw himself on the floor, struggled with an imaginary foe, working his face, arms, legs, and body. The visiting psychiatrist took one look at him, ordered the attendants away and advised the patient to behave himself as there was nothing really wrong.

The 'fit' was simply hysteria where the individual, starving for attention, desires to be the central figure or hero in the 'show'.

Instead of a 'fit,' there may be loss of speech, no appetite, vomiting, inability to swallow food, or loss of memory. Dr. S. Barton Hall, Liverpool, in The Practitioner, states that before a patient's condition can be called hysteria, it must fulfill the following requirements.

1. An examination of the patient from head to foot, including laboratory investigations shows that there is really no organic cause for symptoms.

2. The underlying circumstances causing the patient to use any of these methods to call attention to himself should be found. There must be something giving him a feeling of inferiority, a feeling that he is not making a success of himself.

3. The underlying cause or reason must be related in some way to the patient's symptoms.

4. As there is always some background for the behavior of the individual, something that has happened in years past, this something must be located.

"The patient appears to her (or his) friends as somewhat selfish and self-absorbed; there is a lack of genuine emotional power, a defect which the patient attempts to make up for by these melodramatic acts."

In treating these cases Dr. Hall suggests that the physician should adopt the same serious attitude that he applies to patients with organic disease. He must not try to ridicule or suggest that the patient is 'acting.' He must by careful examination and explanation show that there is no basis, no organic condition, that could cause the symptoms.

Dr. Hall further suggests that getting the patient away from the surroundings where his fits or other 'behaviorisms' make an impression is an important part of the treatment. The hysteria patient will not make a show or create a scene if he is left unnoticed.

The Poets' Corner

CHALLENGE TO TIME AND DEATH

Do not think, O Time,
That loot the rich and have despoiled the great—
Do not think my fate
Is to be slave to you as these are slave;
You that so little gave
Can little take away: O you were kind
To bribe me not with praise,
Favor or fortune: thus I dare be blind,
Deaf to your foot approaching down the days:
You never bought me with a coin or less—
Me, who have nothing, me you cannot dispossess.

And you, Time's brother, Death—
When you may come I know not, but I know
All things that flower and grow
Are caught by you, and all escape again:
Creatures of sun and rain,
The fluted, pinked and pied, frail as as they are
—Frailer than I am—laugh into your face;
The cup and bell and star
Cut down, break forth anew in every place,
You that have not the spring in your control—
O Death, you lift your hand in vain upon my soul!

—Audrey Alexander Brown in the Winnipeg Free Press.

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.

YOUTH TRAINING COURSES

Sir:—I notice in your Public Forum of March 1st a letter from a correspondent residing at Bloomfield Station alleging favoritism in the selection of candidates for short courses under the Youth Training Scheme.

I may say that the first course to be organized under that scheme was the forestry course in the autumn of 1937. At that time only a few days were available for the selection of students, and the only feasible method of obtaining a student group representative of the whole Province was to allow the members from each electoral district to nominate one student. I really believe that this was a very efficient method of selection, and the group selected for that course was certainly a very creditable body of students.

Unfortunately that particular method of selection was open to the criticism of political favoritism, and in order to avoid any such criticism the Government decided that for subsequent courses the selection of students should be placed in the hands of a non-political committee. The personnel of the selection committee is as follows: The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Dominion Poultry Promoter, the representative of the Dominion Department of Labour, the Rector of St. Dunstan's University, the Secretary of the Adult Education League, the Field Promoter of the Department of Agriculture, and the Supervisor of Women's Institutes.

It was felt that this committee was both independent, and highly qualified for the duty of deciding among the applications of the various candidates for courses. The members of the Legislature do not in any way interfere with the decisions of the committee. The committee has endeavored to carry out its duties in a very impartial manner, and if any mistakes have been made the public may be assured that such mistakes were not the result of any intentional favouritism.

The difficulty of the task facing the selection committee may be judged from the fact that the maximum capacity of the various courses during the present season enabled the committee to select 605 students for the various courses, while there was a total application list of 2,302 from which the selection had to be made.

I am, Sir, etc.
THANE A. CAMPBELL
Premier.

FARMERS' MEETINGS

Sir:—Farmers week has come and gone and many farmers will no doubt be asking questions regarding its accomplishments. I was privileged to attend practically all of the sessions not as a farmer delegate but as one intimately concerned in farm problems. I am sure, I will be forgiven if I quite sincerely give my impressions and make a few criticisms of these meetings.

Under present day conditions one would naturally expect the delegates would have given very serious consideration to the pressing problems of the day, and suggested solutions that would assist the directors of the various Associations and others in promoting the best interests of Agriculture throughout the province. With few exceptions the meetings were exceedingly barren of constructive ideas, and earnest co-operative effort on the part of the delegates.

The Farmers Institute meetings were undoubtedly the best of the series, and pointed the way through the medium of short practical addresses to better farm practices. These talks were the high lights of the whole week, but even in the Farmers Institute meetings unfortunate criticisms were not absent. The Sheep Breeders and Swine Breeders meetings were harmoniously conducted but these meetings lacked a definiteness of program and discussion on policy in keeping with the importance of these two phases of production.

The remainder of the meetings to my mind were to a great extent failures. There was a serious wastage of time in discussing non-essentials, much talk on fine constitutional points, election of officers and above all too much unfortunate and unfair criticism of those who are sincerely attempting to promote extension and marketing work.

One visitor from without the Province who attended one or two of these meetings remarked "why do the Island farmers constantly try to injure their own business by attacking those who are in positions of responsiblity? It would be so much easier for all if they offered sincere co-operation". Frankly I do not know, but undoubtedly throughout the most important meetings there seemed to be too much criticism and not enough helpful suggestion.

The Horse Breeders meeting was ruined by the introduction of material that was of no interest whatever to the meeting. The Egg and Poultry meeting was full of non-essential discussion and impoverished in so far as constructive recommendation was concerned. The Dairymen's meeting shelved the report of the Superintendent and the recommendations of a special committee with scant notice, and went on to hear addresses from politicians, and others on topics of the day. Why delegates, who admit deep consideration on these problems is necessary, go on to destroy through unfair criticism the work of managers, directors and government officials and then in turn waste their time listening to long winded discourses and resolutions on the Wood Islands Ferry, the Brighton Bridge, Educational problems and sundry other matters far removed from the problems which they are gathered together to discuss is beyond my comprehension.

I can only say that as long as this practice is tolerated at farmers meetings, will solutions to farmers' problems be retarded. Every one of these meetings should have definite suggestions for improvement and extension submitted by the Board of directors, and these recommendations should receive earnest, helpful and complete consideration, before matters of lesser importance are permitted to be introduced for consideration. When delegates recognize this and approach their meetings in a spirit of helpful co-operation, devoid of fault finding and criticism, then will these meetings make a definite contribution to the industry, which they represent.

I am, Sir, etc.
SPECTATOR.

WHAT PRICE MACHINERY?

Sir,—Some weeks ago a Liberal member in the House of Commons speaking on the high cost of machinery said that if the present government could not do something to greatly smash the price of farm machinery, the government itself should be smashed.

About the same time that this statement was made in Parliament Mr. Lewis Tanton in a letter written to the Guardian on the subject of farming, went on to show that present prices of farm products were not after all so bad as compared with the days when our fathers sold potatoes for 15 cents a bushel, eggs for 10c a dozen, etc., and lived in solid comfort at that.

It is a strange thing, that even Mr. Tanton who in his own way is a considerable economist, did not take into account in the above comparison of prices, the vast difference that exists in the price of present day farm machinery as compared with that of 40 years ago; and it is a strange thing too, how or why the average amateur economist on Prince Edward Island and even the average practical farmer in this province is loath to face this problem squarely, and to see for himself that the one great factor that makes profitable farming difficult today, that in fact bids fair to ruin the average farmer, is the high cost of the machinery which he uses as compared to that which his father used.

Prices of farm products today are on the whole as good as they have been in the history of Prince Edward Island, if we except those few hectic years that followed in the wake of the Great War. But what about the price of farm machinery?

Forty years ago a self-binder could be bought for $125, a truck-wagon for $40, and a beautiful buggy for $100, that took the place of the present automobile that costs $1,000; while in the case of the self-binder it now costs $250 and the truck-wagon $100, to say nothing of the fact that it is now manufactured in Ontario instead of in our own home village; and this is only one instance of the way the money of Prince Edward Island is sent away for all sorts of manufactured goods, so that the Island is now literally bled white.

Forty years ago, I was thoroughly conversant with farm prices and farm problems on my father's farm and those of our neighbors also. I remember quite well that in the fall of the year the average farmer reckoned on paying about $100 yearly to keep up the purchase and repair of farm machinery. Compare this amount with that which the average farmer contrives to pay today. Why, Sir, the average farmer who owns an automobile pays that much for gasoline, which amount is also a dead loss to our Island. The fact of the matter is, that the average farmer simply can't afford to buy automobiles, at their present cost, and it is as clear as day, that if the farmers of Prince Edward Island continue to fall recklessly for expensive machinery and especially for trucks and automobiles, the great majority of these farmers will be ruined. As a matter of fact, did not the president of the Central Farmers' Association assembled at Charlottetown one year ago announce to the Association that 50% of the farms on Prince Edward Island were already mortgaged for 50% of their value?

But what is to be done about it? Clearly, one of two things must happen: either the average farmer on Prince Edward Island will have to resort to a thoroughly old-fashioned and simple system of farming, and dispense with the luxuries of high-priced automobiles and certain other high-priced modern machines, or else the price of modern machinery must speedily be reduced away below its present cost. But to say as the Liberal M. P. to whom I have referred suggested, that the present Canadian government, or any other Canadian government can do anything to radically reduce the price of machinery, is in my opinion, saying more than the history of governments will justify.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ONLOOKER.

PLAN RIFLE MEET

WEYBURN, Sask. — (CP) — Negotiations are underway for an international rifle shoot here next summer. An invitation has been extended the 104th United States Infantry of Williston, N. D., to participate.

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