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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1945

Outrage To Democracy

As indicated in a recent despatch from Ottawa, the National Emergency Powers Bill which the King Government has asked Parliament to sanction is causing resounding repercussions.

This statement is no mere figure of speech. The preamble of the bill states in part:

It is necessary for the peace, order and good government of Canada that during the period of transition to normal from the exceptional conditions existing during the war, with the attendant dangers and responsibilities for the nation as a whole, acts and things done and authorized and regulations and orders made under the War Measures Act be continued in force and that the governor in council be authorized to do and authorize during the said period such further acts and things and make such further orders and regulations as he may by reason of the national emergency resulting from the war deem necessary or advisable for the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada.

The bill pretends to place the War Measures Act in peace-time garb, but in point of fact it goes much further. The Government now seeks authority over all matters pertaining to: (a) "production, manufacture, trading, exportation and importation"; (b) "transportation by air, road, rail or water"; (c) "supply and distribution of goods and services, including the fixing of prices"; (d) "employment, including salaries and wages"; (e) "appropriations, control, forfeiture and disposition of property and of the use thereof, including the control of rents and occupation"; (f) "entry into Canada, exclusion and deportation, and revocation of nationality."

The second last clause, be it noted, extends to forfeiture of property — the most extreme of socialist proposals. The last clause is an outright denial of the rights of British citizenship.

Not only does the Government seek all this authority; it also wishes the power to "authorize such acts and things"—in other words to delegate the authority to its underlings. Parliament is to be supplanted for one year, and the bureaucracy which has been built up during the period of war is to be perpetuated on a wider scale.

In the words of Mr. Diefenbaker, who discussed the bill very ably in the House of Commons last Friday, there is "not a field of economic welfare, not a field of business, not a field of life itself in all its ramifications that the Governor in Council will not have absolute power over, as will those to whom he will delegate the power." This is blank cheque legislation with a vengeance!

Under the proposals as drafted, the only right which Parliament will possess will be the right to determine supply. It will have set aside the national constitution, relinquishing not only its own powers, rights and privileges but the autonomous rights of the Provinces as well.

Once approved, the Dominion-Provincial Conference now assembled at Ottawa would be nothing more than a formality. The Provincial Premiers would be entirely in the hands of the Federal Cabinet.

But that is not all. Still another and unconsidered result was stressed by Mr. Diefenbaker. If approval were given to the bill, Parliament would be giving the effect of law to all the Orders-in-Council passed since the beginning of the war and not yet revoked. It would mean that orders which the House has never seen, secret orders which the Government repeatedly has refused to produce for scrutiny, orders which have set aside the courts and which deny the citizen's right of appeal, would be law in the land. Never before has any Parliament been asked to do any such thing.

It is no wonder that such a bill is causing a furore at Ottawa and among the Provincial Premiers and others now assembled in the Federal capital. It is inconceivable that it should ever pass in its unmodified form. It is almost equally inconceivable how it ever entered the heads of any Canadian government to think that it could be passed.

Compulsory Voting
Possibility of introducing compulsory voting in Canada has been suggested many times during recent years.

The world has an outstanding example of the working of the compulsory vote in the Australian experience. There the measure has raised the total votes cast in elections from 64 per cent up to 95 per cent.

According to information given by V. F. Turner, Australia's chief electoral officer, compulsory voting also solves the troublesome problem of registration. The endless series of election-time complaints about names missing from voting rolls—frequently the result of the voter's own laxity—are largely eliminated by the compulsory system as set up in that country.

at first glance. About 95 per cent of the delinquents are able to give valid explanations, including sickness, distance from the polls, or religious or conscientious objections. The Australian chief electoral officer says it is found necessary to fine only about two per cent of those who do not vote.

St. Andrew's Day Dinner

Today is St. Andrew's Day, observed by all true Scots and by all in whose veins Scottish blood runs. The observance suffers nothing in heartiness through distance from the land in which it took its rise.

Tonight a special treat is in store for those attending the St. Andrew's Day dinner under the auspices of the Caledonian Club. The toast to "The Day" will be replied to by Hon. Thane A. Campbell, Chief Justice of the Province.

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

Government hog breeding stations and chicken hatcheries should go well together.

No sooner does one delegation return from Ottawa than another goes. Yet we have supposedly representative government.

If Princess Elizabeth comes to Canada before the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice leave on return to England in February, then there is little chance of Her Royal Highness visiting this Province.

British children will receive nearly 15,000 pounds of chocolates and candy from the people of New South Wales this Christmas. The shipment, totalling 400 tons, includes puddings, cakes, meat, honey, cheese, dripping and soap.

The bureaucrats are beginning to disappear. Oil Controller G. R. Cottrell has retired, and with him goes the oil control organization which provided an adequate supply of petroleum products during the war.

Principal James, of McGill quoted to the Turgeon Committee on Reconstruction, on one occasion, an estimate that it would take all the food produced in Britain, the United States, Canada, and the Argentine Republic to provide full nutrition for the people of those countries alone.

The flag issue is capable of becoming a very heated one. Mr. King offered a most intelligent solution, in his remarks to the Canadian Legion, in which he recommended that the national flag should contain the Union Jack in chief, with, in the fly, a large maple leaf substituted for the present almost indecipherable coat of arms.

Dedicated to Major-General Chisholm, deputy Minister of Health, Ottawa: From the famous editorial, "Is there a Santa Claus?" by Mr. Frank Church in New York Sun, Sept. 21, 1897: "Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. . . . Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those which neither children nor men can see."

The Feast of St. Andrew; the Saint was the son of Jonas, a fisherman of Bethsaida, in Galilee, and was the brother of Simon Peter, but whether elder or younger, we are not informed in scripture; he was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist to whom the latter exclaimed as Jesus passed by: "Behold the Lamb of God"; on hearing these words, the two individuals followed Jesus, and having accompanied him, were invited by the Saviour to remain with him that day; thereafter, Andrew went in quest of his brother Simon Peter, and brought him to Christ, a circumstance which has invested the former apostle with a special pre-eminence; St. Andrew is the Patron Saint of both Scotland and Russia.

In these days, when the public debt is equivalent to nearly two-and-a-half years' revenue, every Canadian might well consider what would be his personal family position if he found himself confronted with a debt the equivalent of 20 months' previous earnings. A nation basically is composed of a large group of families, and what is true of each component family should be true also of the nation as a whole. The natural impulse of the head of a family in debt would be to get out and dig, to work just a little harder and longer to bring in the extra revenue. Added impetus to this goal of debt reduction might well be gained from mental absorption of a sentiment recently expressed by a German economist who, with Teutonic bluntness, visualized that Germany eventually could win the post-war economic and financial struggle because, as he put it, "We Germans are not afraid to work hard and live frugally."

Notes By The Way

Col. Charles Lindbergh says he will not accept the offer of a Nobel Prize for his flight across the Atlantic. He says it is found necessary to fine only about two per cent of those who do not vote.

If the current crop of young "uns" would learn to be honest with themselves, face hard work as a challenge, and not look for so many short-cuts in the world, the world could have a society based upon real values instead of sham.—Exchange.

It is believed in Tokyo that Emperor Hirohito is prepared to sell, or hoard his jewels to secure money wherewith to buy food for the starving Japanese millions, now reduced to garbage can rations. It is a good idea. We thoroughly approve.—St. Catharines Standard.

A seventy-year-old Bertie town-ship farmer predicts late fall will be a bumper crop because of the shortage of walnuts and hickory nuts and other preservatives which are scarce. And because of the shortage of coal and the housing shortage and a few other details, let's hope he's right.—Ottawa Citizen.

Research scientists in Britain are using penicillin to cure dairy cattle of mastitis, one of their most serious diseases, reports the Manchester Guardian. The results are "all most excellent" says the paper. Professor Scott Watson, who is Chief Education and Advisory Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture, United Kingdom Information Office.

While races are not really white. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the skin-color is actually a combination of yellow and black pigments, creamy white in issues and red tints from the blood circulating through the skin. In albinos, the black pigment is missing and only a small proportion of the yellow pigment is present.—Britannica.

Fressed wood logs, made from waste which formerly went into the plant's boilers, are being produced by the Hamilton Paper Mills. The logs are said to burn better than the original wood from which they have been salvaged. The logs are made by a process of ingenuity that will find new markets.—Hamilton Spectator.

The New York World-Telegram says "the public is sick of strikes" and cites a recent poll on the subject. This is the sort of industrial labor disputes. Seventy-nine per cent favored this compulsory action, said the World-Telegram, and 70 per cent favored the compulsory courts, to which disputes would have to be submitted.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The mere requirement of knowledge is not in itself education: it is the manner in which the knowledge is acquired and the background which is implicit in the knowledge imparted which gives education its value. Company vocational and academic education produce too many men who have no knowledge or love of virtue, and who for that reason are less than they could be, and ready for any mischief from indolence to anarchy.—Peterborough Examiner.

If Palestine is to become a sanctified and sacred land—and the cause of other battlegrounds—it will not be enough to lecture the British on the shortcomings of their administration of the land. They must be supported, diplomatically, in an effort to reach an accommodation with the Arabs which will allow them to make a real homeland of Palestine. And they must be assured of military support if the Arab cause comes.—New York Herald-Tribune.

The decision of Mr. Justice J. R. Macdonald, in declaring void a clause in a deed which stipulated that a certain parcel of land was "not to be sold to Jews or to any other race or nationality," was on the noblest level of jurisprudence. It was in the main because of the noble and unselfish attitude of the British justice, and in setting a noble precedent moved forward substantially the achievement of the equality of mankind.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

Santa Claus is not a namby-pamby escape from the world. He is the alter ego of reality. He is the companion who brings relaxation to the weary, and who makes necessary to a sane world than any invention of the 20th century. Certainly you can't see the true Santa Claus, but you can see the effects when they have paid a visit. The professor probably would be the first to deny that such feelings should be erased from the earth. No, the time hasn't come to resist the urge to let loose with a string of high C's when the singing starts. Inactively, the untrained male singers try to get their voices against a background of singing in a couple of registers, and the result is a musical shambles. This explanation sounds reasonable enough. There are few more moving anthems than The Star Spangled Banner—when played by a brass band with an augmented drum corps. But because it is so difficult to sing by mixed voices our neighbors have worked out a good compromise. In large meetings the audience stands at attention while a professional singer does the lyrics. That, at least, surmounted the national anthem problem "A. . . . dignity. And it seems more than the only other . . . that comes to mind—passing against a background of singing in pulpit places.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Canadians, when in unimpaired company, manage pretty well with O Canada. Certainly the Canadian Club members try to get an impressive rendition. The trouble starts when the ladies join the gentlemen. Regardless of the enthusiasm at the beginning, the anthem bogs down quickly and long before the singers are in sight of the final "These most of them are reduced to mere lip moving. A friend who knows about such things blames all this on sopranos. Every audience, he contends, contains at least one lady who had a siege of soloing in a choir. Like an old firehorse getting a whiff of smoke, she cannot resist the urge to let loose with a string of high C's when the singing starts. Inactively, the untrained male singers try to get their voices against a background of singing in a couple of registers, and the result is a musical shambles. This explanation sounds reasonable enough. There are few more moving anthems than The Star Spangled Banner—when played by a brass band with an augmented drum corps. But because it is so difficult to sing by mixed voices our neighbors have worked out a good compromise. In large meetings the audience stands at attention while a professional singer does the lyrics. That, at least, surmounted the national anthem problem "A. . . . dignity. And it seems more than the only other . . . that comes to mind—passing against a background of singing in pulpit places.—Winnipeg Free Press.

FOOD FOR EUROPE
UNRRA has provided 1,309,904,960 pounds of food, mostly to Greece, Yugoslavia, France, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of importance to the Charlottetown Guardian. It does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

A POOR "BEST"

Sir,—On many occasions in your editorials you have championed the cause of our soldiers. What think ye then of a recent news item which stated that the best our Government can offer the 5,000 unemployed veterans in Montreal is "a job in the bush"? The fate that befell the late Kaiser after the 1st World War was chopping wood. Is this too the reward that a grateful country gives to those who, in the orbit of death?

I am, Sir, etc.

AMICUS MILITIS

Whitehall Notebook

By James McCook, Canadian Press Staff Writer

While conference halls resound to discussions of who shall and shall not have the secrets of the atomic bomb, the ordinary Londoner can walk into His Majesty's stationery office, lay down 2s 6d (50 cents) and march away with almost all the "secrets" under his arm.

A booklet, "Atomic Energy," traces the story of development of the bomb mainly in the United States but with the help of Canadian and United Kingdom scientists. It is published by the United States Government which permitted republication by the stationery office here. Written by Prof. H. D. Smyth, chairman of the Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J., it frankly reveals "the basic scientific knowledge on which the several developments were based." All pertinent information which could be released without injuring national security has been included and that information, in effect, tells how the bomb was conceived and developed.

Liberal hopes: Liberals now hold only 12 of the 640 seats in the House of Commons, but their hopes for the future are high. Lt.-Col. Frank Byers, M.P., one of Field Marshal Montgomery's officers, said in a recent address. He said that the party which will be re-elected throughout the country is capable of forming an alternative government.

The Liberals must form a distinctive policy, have at least 90 candidates, and create an effective propaganda machine and proper financial resources.

The Poet's Corner

THE POET'S HEART

The poet's heart grows faint in times of war. Their not signature for bars of hate. They sing the lovely days that they cannot wait. The days to come for which they cannot wait. The poet's heart still fails to comprehend the things a poet cannot wait. Aggression driving men to rape and kill. Their is the heart that lavishly must spend. The trust value of its utmost will. Fainting the beauty of the sky in the words. The quiet of tides, the seafoam's mist. The nameless wonder of the soaring birds. These are the things a poet can resist. And they will sing of them to right war's wrong. And triumph in the certainty of song. —Dorothy Quick, in The New York Times.

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The Uncomplaining British

(Vancouver Province) Britain may be the home of heroes, but it is far from a pleasant place of abode. Though V-bombs no longer work destruction, uncomplaining islanders remain devoid of many of the elemental comforts of everyday Canadian life.

A family letter, not written in complaint, but merely to announce the awarding of the Victoria Cross to a young kinsman for his feat in piloting a midget submarine through the minefields of Johore Strait, and with rubber flippers on his feet attaching a "limpet" charge to the underwater hull of a Japanese cruiser—the last of Japan's fleet to be blown up before surrender—tells of some of the life of the present day residents of Merrie England.

Meat rationing is down to the value of 1s 2d a week, and there are queues for such unrationed commodities as soap and salt. Even the scant clothing allowed under the ration regulations, no wrapping paper is supplied. A lady purchasing underclothing must take a newspaper or shopping bag with her, or bundle the stuff under her arm.

"Coming down London Road (one of Liverpool's most famous shopping streets)," says the informant, "I passed one lady with a pair of corsets tucked under her arm, and two others carrying home saucapans unwrapped. We have to take our own newspapers or other papers with us each time we go to the butcher or the fishmonger, for they do not supply wrapping paper."

An attempt to obtain some necessary articles of clothing from

Canada by sending a money order here was blocked by both postoffice and bank.

Yet in this proud nation that is innately opposed to government restrictions, there is no peevish complaint. It is part of the aftermath of a war in which blood and treasure was spent regardless. People with useless money in the banks are not too proud to receive a used garment or a few pounds of food dainties. It is a part of the price of freedom, and they pay without complaint.

MATRESSES FOR COWS?

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 29.—(AP)—The happy day when even cows can get a good night's sleep on sponge-rubber mattresses was foreseen today by E. B. Newton, director of technical service of the Goodrich Research Laboratories. He predicted in an address that the relief the manner mattresses would give to tired bovines would be reflected in increased milk production.

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