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

TUESDAY, MAY, 21, 1946

Exemption From Taxation

Many industries in Canada are not paying income tax today. They are exempted because they are owned by governments, Federal, Provincial and municipal or because they are co-operatives, Professor J. L. McDougall, of Queen's University, an expert employed by the Income Tax Payers Association, told the Canadian Senate's tax committee that if these industries were taxable they would pay about $125,000,000 a year to the Federal. As they **do not** pay income taxes, the remaining taxpayers of the nation must make up this amount.

From these figures, as broken down in some detail by Professor McDougall, it was clear to the Senate committee that the exemption of publicly-owned companies and co-operatives from taxes had become a serious factor in Federal finance and a factor which is steadily increasing as public ownership spreads. It is true, of course, that if a power company for example, is exempted from taxes because it is taken over by the state, then the company's rates to consumers can be reduced. The taxpayer, who is also an electrical consumer, thus benefits. He pays more taxes than he would have to pay if such companies were not exempt, but he gets cheaper electricity.

Such benefits, however, are not fairly distributed, as witnesses before the Senate pointed out. If a large power corporation in Ontario secures exemption from taxes, Ontario electrical consumers benefit at the expense of taxpayers in other provinces, who have to help to make up the treasury's losses in taxes. An unfair distribution of benefits and burdens has therefore resulted across the nation.

Senator Haig observed that when taxes were low this unfair distribution did not matter much but he went on to refer to the case of the Ontario Hydro, a vast publicly-owned power system, which is exempt from the present high income taxation. People outside Ontario, he said always "knew Ontario was getting away with murder, but the tax was so small it did not make much difference." By taking over the Montreal Light, Heat and Power organization, he said, Quebec had relieved itself of $8,000,000 of taxes a year, while Ontario had relieved itself of about $50,000,000 in taxes through public ownership of its Hydro.

The Income Tax Payers Association urged that taxation be applied to every industry and if this were done, it said, the present taxes of ordinary Canadians could be substantially reduced. In 1944, if the treasury had secured $100,000,000 in taxes from companies now exempt, the government could have abolished income taxes altogether for all the 1,069,000 taxpayers with incomes of $1,550 or less.

If $125,000,000 could be secured by taxing these companies, all the 1,423,000 taxpayers earning less than $1,800 a year could be exempted from taxes altogether. This would have meant total exemption for 43.8 and 58 per cent of the taxpayers respectively. In the light of these figures it is clear that the exemption of publicly-owned companies is now a major concern to the great body of small taxpayers throughout the nation, as it is to private companies which have to pay taxes and compete with tax-exempt companies.

Professor McDougall contended that if the Federal Government desires to encourage socialization of companies as a matter of high policy then it should do so frankly and directly but, he said, "it is in the highest degree improper to perpetuate such discriminations as crept into the taxing statute when rates were so low as to be nearly negligible into a period such as the present when the tax rates are so high as to be a crucially important factor in the operation of any and every business. Nor should these discriminations be allowed to continue because they have been in existence for some time. Why should the Dominion dragoon communities which wish to leave their utilities in private hands into assuming the risks and responsibilities of ownership? Yet, with exemptions so important as they presently are, no other course open to the municipality promises such quick, easy and certain profits. What has been said concerning utilities applies, with appropriate changes, to co-operatives. If they are encouraged it should be done by direct subsidy and not by tax advantages of undetermined amount."

Finally Professor McDougall urged that at least tax-exempt companies should file income tax returns, as in the United States, so that the government may know what revenues it is losing, the amounts by which the treasury is indirectly bonusing these concerns. Today nobody knows what the amount of the bonus is exactly for Professor McDougall's figures are admittedly an estimate which he considers conservative.

British Cause For Wonder

Under the title, "How Much Nationalization?" the *London Spectator* raises a question to which it has not yet been able to find a satisfactory answer. In the election campaign that led to a Labor party victory little was done to enlighten the electorate about the possible extent or limit of nationalization. In the opinion of the *Spectator* the Conservatives who oppose nationalization have done little better in getting down to details. From some of the Labor party ministers has come the statement that with nationalization completed, at least 80 per cent of British industry will remain in private hands. This statement, though it has the flavor of mathematical exactness, nevertheless does not indicate just which industries are to be nationalized and which are to be left alone. What is more, it is obvious that some of the outspoken Laborites differ with this estimate; some of them have said, in effect, that what has happened so far is "only the beginning."

The *Spectator* does not raise the issue that nationalization will not work in this industry or that, or that it should not be applied to this industry or that. Instead, it makes the always embarrassing request for more details and urges that every major proposal for nationalization should be preceded by a White Paper setting forth the government's policy in detail. Proposals that have so far reached Parliament have been cast in general terms with the details to be filled in by administrative orders. This method of legislation, together with the piecemeal attack on the whole problem, compels the *Spectator* to believe that "nationalization," like Mesopotamia, has become a blessed word to its advocates, with qualities that are superior to the annoying request for details.

– EDITORIAL NOTES –

Friday, Victoria Day, is the next public holiday. The City stores will observe half-day Wednesday and all day Friday.

* * * *

They have commenced tunnelling through Mount Blanc to connect France and Italy by an auto highway. When will similar work be begun between here and N. B.?

* * * *

Farmers on the Prairies are planting some 13% more wheat than last year, and hope to raise a bumper crop of at least 400,000,000 bushels, most of which will be earmarked for overseas shipment.

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It will be noted that Prime Minister King told British newspaper men that he was looking forward to sharing "in the coming Commonwealth talks"—not Imperial Conference. What's in a name after all if it means the same thing?

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Quebec *Official Gazette* on Saturday contained a proclamation that all school boards in the rural municipalities of Quebec are held to pay their teachers a minimum of $600 per year, and the government is authorized to pay up to 75 per cent of such salary.

* * * *

Almost all has been said that could be said about the alleged bottleneck at P. W. C. Now it remains with the educational authorities and the Government to take the necessary action with reference to the helpful suggestions that have been forthcoming. We have not the slightest doubt but that benefit will result from the discussion in our columns.

* * * *

Canada normally uses 43,000,000 tons of coal a year. She gets 17,000,000 from mines in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia. She could increase that production by half a million tons but no more. The rest of our coal, all used in industrial plants in Ontario and Quebec is imported from the U. S. A.

* * * *

Eight of nine United States war veterans have found jobs, census figures show. Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, told an employment conference at St. Louis, the Bureau of Census had just informed him that of 9,110,000 veterans returned, 8,120,000 are employed. He said special programs for vetgrans had given them a "substantially better chance" than the average applicant for job.

* * * *

"Canada Day" is having a rough passage in the Senate, according to an Ottawa correspondent. It passed through the House of Commons by a small majority, and according to the Ottawa correspondent, some have gone so far as to assert that it had finally the blessing of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. But in the Senate the line-up is different and the Cote bill, now become virtually a government measure, is having a tough gauntlet to run for there is heavy opposition to it both from Liberal and Conservative benches.

* * * *

Marquis de Lafayette, French soldier and statesman, died this date, 1851; best known in history for the assistance he gave the American colonists in their war with Britain; during the war he imbibed republican views, and in the early days of the French Revolution he led a minority of the nobility in the States-General to join the Thiers-Etat on June 25, 1789; after the fall of the Bastille he became Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard; at the Restoration in 1815, he again became commander of the National Guard in the Revolution of 1820.

* * * *

Following upon the increase in the flour extraction rate in the United Kingdom to ninety per cent, the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture announces that from May to September the basic feeding stuff rations for pigs and poultry will be reduced to a basis of one-twelfth the pre-war numbers. Smaller issues than last year will also be made for the autumn calving cows. At the same time, Britain's farmers are urged to increase their own production of feeding stuffs to the maximum by such measures as silage making. Pig and poultry keepers will thus be receiving less feeding stuff than during the war, when it is estimated they were limited to about ten per cent of their pre-war purchases. Until last month they were receiving a ration based on one quarter the pre-war numbers. The present ration is half the ration previously announced for the period beginning the 1st of May. United Kingdom pig and poultry farmers, who were hoping to build up the livestock population, are thus asked to make a considerable sacrifice in the interests of the starving peoples of the world. This sacrifice will also be felt by the general British public, when the supplies of pig meat and eggs diminish.

Notes By The Way

Remember when you had trouble in deciding whether to get the gray suit with the light stripe or the blue serge with the two pairs of pants? —New York World-Telegram.

It's high time somebody stopped calling the British wives of Canadian servicemen "brides." It's wrong from an etiquette standpoint, and furthermore, it only sets them off as a group apart from the people into which they should be assimilated. The Canadian girl who married a soldier in 1941 or 1944 is no longer called a bride. She's a wife and, probably a mother by now. Likewise the English or Scottish girls who married Canadian soldiers in the years between 1940 and 1945 are wives and mothers, and it seems just a trifle silly to continue referring to every wife from foreign shores as a bride. —St Catharines Standard.

Somewhere between the foremast and the main on the old sailing ships stood an oaken barrel. In it was Jack Tar's most precious commodity—fresh water. As a respite from scrubbing, or after a tough trick hauling on the braces, the sailing man headed for the water butt and its copious scuttle, or dipper. Other mariners usually were there, and the pause that came with the drink made an ideal time to swap news and views. So shipboard gossip came to be known as "scuttlebutt." Gone now is the cask and the armed sailor who stood beside it to see that none of the water was wasted. But the word, as a synonym for gossip or rumor, lives.—Ships.

Mrs. Anton Lang of Oberammergu has written to a London correspondent giving the first news of the villagers' plans for a revival of the Passion Play. She says that no revival is possible this year, and it may be some time before the village is able to resume the four-yearly cycle. Over a hundred and sixty Oberamergau men are still away from home, and the village lost a hundred men killed in the war. As only natives of Oberammergau can take part in the play, a new generation of men and players is needed. The village is full of soldiers and refugees but is not damaged. Mrs. Lang, who is the widow of the Christus of 1910 to 1922, says that her eldest son, Carl, has been wounded, but is home again, and that Tony Lang, who married the May Magdalene of 1934 Klara Mayr, is teaching in an American university and has a family of five children. —Manchester Guardian.

A closer link between the agricultural scientist and the farmer was urged at a meeting of the Eastern Ontario branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada recently. Farmers, it was felt, could make more use of the knowledge obtainable at experimental farms, more time could be spent in visits to government farms, agricultural schools and research stations. The agricultural scientist on his side could make better contact with farmers by getting to know on the spot their practical problems. This is sound sense. Sitting on a rail fence or on a bale of hay exchanging views and information is no waste of time for either the farmer or agricultural expert. In Britain before the war, "field work" for the agricultural scientist was encouraged and the farmer often found on his own doorstep one who knew more about farming than he did—Ottawa Citizen.

The simla failure may now lead the mission to play its other card, an offer to set up an interim Government which, with the exception of the Viceroy, would be all-Indian. Such a plan would no doubt provide for a large measure of local self-rule in the provinces and might allay the fears of Dr. Jinnah, the Moslem leader, that his followers would be submerged by the Hindu majority. We shall know more about the negotiations later in the week, when the mission will issue a full report and Prime Minister Attlee will address the House of Commons. Meanwhile the ancient picture of a tyrant Britain holding India in chains is fading. The Indians can throw off their own chains as soon as they are ready. Their leaders may come to realize that the old feud is less important than the common need to overcome the present "threat" of hunger and build a better economic future. —New York Times.

With the bread shortage inevitably leading to wisecracks, our research department has been busy tracking down the old remark, "If the people have no bread, why don't they eat cake?" Marie Antoinette (1775-93) usually is given credit for it, or less frequently, her comfidante Princess de Lamballe. Rousseau used the phrase in his Confessions (about 1763) in connection with an incident which occurred in 1740. Anticinette may have used it, when chided for her extravagance, as an old joke from Rousseau, with whom she must have been familiar. Or the remark may just have been attributed to her by Paris journalists, who had a habit of putting epigrams in the mouths of persons of rank. The observation could have been a variation of one made sarcastically in 1771 by Joseph Francois Foullon, intendent-general of finance. As tax collector he was hated for his severity toward the poor. He was supposed to have said, "If the people cannot get bread, let them eat hay." Modern nutritionists might argue that the hay would be more healthful than the cake. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

The Comet Line ran from Belgium overland across the Pyrenees to Spain, and along it hundreds of Allied airmen, soldiers and sailors were helped to safety from German-occupied Europe, says The Manchester Guardian. The "Line" was not so much a route as a chain of inflexible human purpose, and a 29-year-old Belgian woman, Mlle. Andree de Jongh, who was one of its most devoted human links, has been invested by the King with the George Medal for "outstanding gallantry and tenacious devotion to the Allied cause." Slight, fair-haired, pretty, Mlle de Jongh left a commercial studio where she worked as an artist to make 34 perilous journeys to the Pyrenees and back to Belgium, guiding 180 men to safety. In one emergency when there was no boat, she swam the Somme 20 times to help across non-swimmers. Her father, a schoolmaster, who worked for the "Line" in Paris, was arrested and shot. She dodged the Gestapo until 1943, when she was caught and sent to Germany, to the ghastly concentration camps at Ravensbruck and Mauthausen. Her sister Suzanne was arrested — the sisters met in a concentration camp. Her mother was imprisoned. Her aunt was imprisoned. Such was one Belgian family's contribution to the war.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

WEATHER PROPHECY

Sir,— Who is the guy that prognosticated that this Spring would be an early one? The present late Spring goes to show that very few can forecast the weather more than two or three days ahead, and considerable harm and loss can occur, if anyone is influenced by such statements. The farmer may plant too early, and the crop be a part failure. The fisherman sets his trap early, (as we are going to have an early Spring), and talking about fishing, the writer planned to have a weeks fishing, in May, and if my intentions had been carried out I surely would have caught a cold, and possibly pneumonia, with the continued rainy weather all through May. "A Prophet Has no Honor in his own Country."

I am, Sir, etc.
FISHERMAN.

PREMIER DREW AND THE CONFERENCE

Sir, —In the leading article of last Friday's Guardian you quote a portion of Premier Drew's closing address at the Ottawa Conference, to the sentiments of which no true Canadian can take exception. It is, of course, as Colonel Drew stated the people of the Provinces who pay the federal taxes, as we in Prince Edward Island do to our sorrow, and it was the duty of the Conference to decide upon "a procedure by which these combined taxes may be channelled into the most effective courses to the advantage of all the people who live in the nine Provinces." He certainly was "talking pretty" when he spoke these words but why did not Premier Drew, unquestionably the most, influential member of the Conference, back up his words with a resolution in favor of the allocation of taxes being based on the needs of the smaller provinces instead of upon their population, which does not grow and even decreases because of lack of revenue with which to maintain desirable living conditions.

The answer to this question was simply that the Colonel knew that the Liberal Ontario representatives in the Federal Cabinet, who in financial matters are the real governors of Canada, would stand pat in favor of the per capita system of paying Provincial subsidies, and he had not sufficient courage to come out boldly in favor of a system which might mean a possible loss of revenue to his own Province of Ontario.

It must be remembered in this connection that ever since 1896 the electors of Ontario have been taught by their own Government and their representatives in the Federal Cabinet to regard the Maritime Provinces as poor relations, actually dependent upon Ontario to be saved from bankruptcy, and he no doubt felt that he would lose many Conservative votes were he to follow that course.

Premier Drew, however, apparently does not realize that Canada is passing through a serious crisis and that the time has come when Ontario and Quebec must be made to understand that in 1865 they gave the sea-girt Provinces what has proved to be a raw deal. I do not contend that the so-called Fathers of Confederation realized the extent to which the terms of the B N A Act were unfair, but same having been proved beyond contention for so many years in the very nature of things, unless the wrongdoing of Confederation days is reversed in the near future accompanied with ample compensation for accumulated loses, the Maritimes will have no choice but to say adieu to their partners in Central and Western Canada.

It will always be in the interest of Quebec to follow a friendly course for the Maritimes and in case of secession, in which Quebec might be tempted to follow suit, would no doubt be quite willing to agree to any generous move on the part of Ontario.

Finance Minister Ilsley, who was forced by Premiers Drew and Duplessis to move his "sine die" adjournment, has the power in his budget speech to solve this knotty problem providing he can come to some understanding with his fellow Ontario members in the Federal Cabinet.

I am, Sir, etc.
H. K. S. HEMMING.

At Washington

(By Clyde Blackburn, Canadian Press Staff Writer) — Recent alarming reports of expert surveys give the impression that this tree shaded, flower-decked national capital hides under a beautiful exterior almost unbelieveable depths of slum-life, vice-crime and disease sources.

A survey conducted by the Metropolitan Health Council has revealed that 100,000 humans live in 25,000 "slum dwellings" which lack even indoor plumbing, a constant threat of typhoid epidemics.

Other reports on health conditions have described alarming shortages of hospital facilities, inefficiency in hospital administration leading to unnecessary deaths and mistreatment in some institutions.

The slum and small-business areas are infested with huge rats which do an estimated $15,000,000 a year damage to property, not to mention occasionally attacking children.

Murders, rape and common assault are the almost daily feature of the local newspapers and so many escapes have been made from the district jail that it has become the subject of congressional investigation.

All this is a matter of official record in the capital city of a country looked upon by much of the world as a heaven on earth and from which is directed much of the humanitarian effort to carry light and comfort to dark places abroad

Canada's ambassador, L.B. Pearson, is one of the most active workers among those who are trying to stretch the world's food supply thin enough to ensure that none starve. Mrs. Pearson is a leading member of a Washington Spanish-language study class for the wives of diplomats and cabinet ministers. The hold monthly Dutch treat luncheons and scheduled one for the Canadian Embassy May 24. Mr Pearson said it was all right on one condition; no cereals, fats or oils—the major food shortage items—may be served!

Former President Herbert Hoover, just back from a world food survey, is not much concerned about black markets. He said the prices asked on most food black markets abroad were so high that only a few extremely wealthy people could pay them. The amount of food involved was so light that he did not estimate it in his report to the president. Besides, he added in a talk with reporters, he would hesitate to talk about black markets abroad in view of what was reported to be happening in the United States.
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The Poet's Corner

FROM: GIPSY VANS

Unless you carry the gipsy eyes
That see but seldom weep,
Keep your head from the naked skies
Or the stars'll trouble your sleep.

Watch your moon through your window-pane
And take what weather she brews;
But don't run out in the midnight rain

Nor home in the morning dews.
Then you can huddle and shut your eyes
As the gipsy-vans come through.

—Rudyard Kipling

RASPUTIN'S DAUGHTER FILES SUIT FOR DIVORCE

LOS ANGELES, May 16 — Mrs. Maria Rasputin Bern, 45, who says she is the daughter of the Russian Grigoryi Rasputin, who exerted strong influence over the last Czar and Czarina, has filed suit here for divorce from Gregory Bern, charging desertion. "My father was not mad, nor was he a monk" she told reporters. "He was a very religious man and a very good man—but not a monk."

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOSPITAL

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the Act of Incorporation a Public Meeting of all contributors to the Prince Edward Island Hospital will be held in St. Paul's Parish Hall, Charlottetown, on Tuesday, May 28th, 1946, at 8 P.M. for the purpose of electing trustees for the government of the Institution in accordance with the bye-laws and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

ADA E. HARRIS,
Secretary,
Board of Trustees.

SHEFFIELD, England — (CP)— The Earl of Harewood will be installed as president of Sheffield University on June 25. Nine other national and international personalities will receive honorary degrees.

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Every person who is troubled with gas in the stomach and bowels should get a bottle of Dr. Evan's Stomach Mixture and see how quickly it will relieve all distressing symptoms.

Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture, taken at meal times not only prevents all bad effects from gas but it promotes the functional activity of the stomach assist digestion and improves the appetite.

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