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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1940.

Farmers Unprotected

To conserve Canada's supply of foreign exchange, drastic import prohibitions and restrictions, covering a range of articles varying from passenger automobiles to rooted carnation cuttings, have been announced by Finance Minister Hsley. These restrictions apply particularly to United States commodities, and include even fishermen's tackle. The excise tax has been set as high as 25 per cent on many electrical and other appliances and a long list of products may now be imported only by special permit.

It was generally expected that fresh fruits and vegetables, of which over twenty million dollars' worth were imported during the past year, chiefly from the United States, would be included in the list of prohibited imports. Mr. Hsley conceded the "difficulties under which domestic fruits and vegetable growers had been laboring," but said the measures he announced "are not for the purpose of assisting any producers or industry, but to protect our exchange position." Prohibition of fruits and vegetables, he argued, would have been "an added blow to trade relations with the United States, which provides a good market for many Canadian primary products."

In other words, while the home market of the big industrialists and manufacturers is being safeguarded by high tariffs, the farmer's home market—practically the only one he has left so far as fruits and vegetables are concerned—will continue to be exploited by U. S. competitors, with the sanction and approval of the King Government. Restrictions on farm imports would be just as effective in conserving foreign exchange as restrictions on other commodities, but to give our farmers this protection would be "an added blow to trade relations with the United States," and our farmers, as usual, are called upon to be the sacrificial goats.

Presumably this policy was adopted with the approval of Agriculture Minister Gardiner, whose interests agriculturally seem to be confined to the western wheat growers. Have we no one in the King Government who cares a hoot about farm interests in this section of Canada?

Dr. Beauchesne's Proposal

The Dominion-Provincial Conference to be held at Ottawa in mid-January to consider the findings of the Rowell-Sirois Commission is apparently to consist exclusively of representatives of the Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government. Strong exception to this method of attempting a settlement of our constitutional difficulties has been taken in Parliament. It is contended that as the issue involves the whole people of Canada, they should be consulted before any commitments by the Provinces are made. In this connection excerpts were cited by a Western member from a proposal submitted by Dr. Beauchesne, Clerk of the House of Commons, before a special committee on the British North America Act. Dr. Beauchesne suggested that this all-important question should be dealt with not by a few individuals but by a constituent assembly, formed of eminent men coming from all parts of Canada. Provincial conferences, attended by a few ministers meeting behind closed doors, would hardly satisfy public opinion. The debate should be published. Dr. Beauchesne was also quoted as stating:

"The assembly should be convened by provincial proclamation issued in each province and by a dominion proclamation in which it would be clearly stated that the minority rights now guaranteed by the British North America Act should not even be discussed. In choosing the delegates, due regard should be given to the representation of all classes. Business men, farmers, professional men, scholars and labor men should be represented. Although the Dominion would send an important delegation, the assembly should not be a Dominion assembly, but rather an assembly of the Provinces' representatives in consultation with the Dominion. There ought to be no Government side and no official Opposition to such a body, which should work on the lines of coalition. A committee consisting of the Premiers and leaders of the Opposition in the House of Commons and Legislatures would have charge of the agenda and daily order of business which, under ordinary rules, could be adjusted daily by experienced parliamentary clerks. Speeches ought to be reported by Hansard."

Another suggestion made by Dr. Beauchesne and quoted in Parliament in connection with the proposed conference was that some centre other than Ottawa be chosen as a meeting place, in order that the assembly "may not have the appearance of being dominated, or even influenced, by the Dominion power."

Koritz

When the Greek Army focused its attention on Koritza (Coritza to the Italians) it singled out the leading city in Southeastern Albania, says a bulletin of the National Geographic Society. Koritza is the capital of a province by the same name, the most populous of the Albanian provinces and the largest grain producer among the country's major political divisions, according to the bulletin. "The city lies among 6,000-foot peaks that girdle a broad plain. On a map of Europe it can be easily located by drawing a line almost due eastward from Brindisi, on the

heel of the Italian 'boot', to a point thirteen miles from the Greek border," the bulletin continues. Although Koritza has no rail communications, there is an airplane landing field where planes that link it with Tirana, the Albanian capital, arrive under normal conditions three times a week. There also are telegraph and telephone connections with the capital, but the highways are largely tortuous mountain roads that follow deep river valleys. The main road from Tirana runs through the gorge of the Devoli River, whose source is Lake Malik at the north end of the broad plain the city dominates. "Isolated as it has been since its founding more than seven centuries ago until recent years, the city, to the surprise of travelers, has many modern features. Visitors enjoy its paved boulevards, its comfortable hotels and cafes and its new merchandise displayed in modern shops. The city now has 24,000 inhabitants, one-third of whom are Moslems, recalling that Turkey dominated Albania until 1912."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Probably the January thaw is what most people now anticipate the weather holds in store for us.

Import licences are no longer required for imports into the Straits Settlements of potatoes, fresh fruits, fruits and vegetables, dried and preserved, onions, garlic, and curry stuffs.

Our interest in the Sirois Report is gradually being awakened. By the time Premier Campbell goes to Ottawa he should be fairly well advised of public opinion thereabout.

It has taken a bloody war to induce the King Government to give tariff preference to the British Empire. It is unofficially estimated that close on 90 per cent of the prohibited imports normally came from the United States.

John Gay, poet and opera writer, died this date, 1732; his most successful work was his "Fables," but he is remembered more by "The Beggar's Opera" published in 1728; his lyrical gifts are exhibited in "Black-Eyed Susan" and other songs.

What will not luxury take? Earth, sea and air. Are daily ransacked for the bill of fare!

Arrangements are being made to grant six days' leave to soldiers serving in Canada during the Christmas season, but no special arrangements are being made for leaves in the Air Force, as there was no time, Hon. C. G. Power, Air Minister and Associate Defence Minister, told the House of Commons. Answering a question from Mr. Norman Lockhart (Con., Lincoln) he said it was not the intention to provide free transportation for soldiers going on leave.

This is how money is spent on the staff of the Director of Public Information at Ottawa. Mr. G. H. Lash, Director, receives an allowance of \$10 a day and no salary being loaned from the Railway, and the same applies to Mr. Claude Melancon, Associate Director. The salary of Mr. L. W. Brockington of Winnipeg was given as \$750 a month, while Mr. W. Herbert and Mr. George Hambleton, both on the staff of the Director, were next highest paid at \$4,800 and \$3,000 a year respectively. Public Information staff, including the Director, totals 43.

"There is every reason to expect that a distinctive Canadian brand of salmon would be well received in South Africa," states Mr. English, Canadian Trade Commissioner. "In the first place, permanency in the market can never hope to be secured by offering Canadian 'sockeye' under one of the well-known brands already on the market, for the owners of these labels are forced to buy their supplies to their own best advantage. . . . To control the label and the pack it is therefore essential that a distinctive Canadian brand be placed on the market. Secondly, the better-class trade in South Africa is particularly well disposed towards Canada salmon, so that by judiciously advertising the merits of Canadian 'sockeye,' and particularly by featuring the word 'Canada' embossed on the lid of all Canadian salmon, advantage could be taken of this factor."

The penitent has returned to the fold in England in the person of the Duchess of Atholl, who visited the Maritimes three years ago, and rather alarmed her audiences by the expression of her radical views. She returned to England and quarrelled with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain because he would not support the socialist party in Spain against General Franco, and became known as the "Red Duchess." She was elected to the House of Commons for Kinross and West Perth in 1923 and at times held junior ministerial posts. During the rise of Hitler she became a sharp critic of the Government, particularly in connection with the Spanish civil war, and in 1938 resigned her seat. She fought the subsequent by-election as an Independent and was defeated by the regular Conservative candidate, McNair Snadden. She now announces she has been welcomed back to the Conservative party by Prime Minister Churchill, and has become actively engaged in Red Cross work.

Willfully, or unconsciously, misinterpreting a British Admiralty report, the broadcaster at the Telefunken station near Berlin said the other day that such a phenomenon was "impossible and only illustrates the extremes of mendacity to which British propaganda will go." The broadcaster denied most vehemently that any German war craft, especially an armored torpedo boat, could have been sunk by a swordfish off the coast of France, "as the BBC broadcast had stated," or anywhere else. The truth was that the item passed on by the Admiralty to the BBC for broadcasting ran as follows: "H.M.S. submarine Swordfish has sunk a German torpedo boat off the coast of France." To which precise information The Daily Mail of London had scrupulously added on publication: "The submarine Swordfish is a small ship with a displacement of 640/935 tons. She was completed in 1932, and is commanded by Lieutenant P. J. Cowell, R.N."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The school population is down, because of so many young people going to employment, but the birth rate is up. The schools will not become abandoned institutions.

As Mr. McLarty points out, volume of production is almost sure to drop if there is movement of any size to "steal" men from one factory to another. Every man taken from a plant where war materials are being turned out means that another man has to be trained to take his place, and production slows down during the training period. If any considerable number of men are so moved about, the effect may be serious at a time when it is vital that the volume of production be kept up. — Windsor Star.

King Boris of Bulgaria has been in contact with Herr Hitler in Berlin. When Herr Hitler desires a conversation with a king he sends for him. When he does not want to see even on the king's own premises he sends him away, as, for example, Carol of Rumania. The new shape of things in continental Europe is being determined by the son of a cobbler in Russia, and by the son of a petty customs officer in Germany. They are absolute rulers. The high born have been destroyed as in Russia or accepted as puppets as in Germany. — Chicago Tribune.

The NBC one evening recently carried a report by a German at Athens to the effect that Germany regarded the war by Missolini against Greece, as strictly a matter of domestic policy. Germany had no interest and would take no part. The trouble with such a report is that it cannot be believed. After the earthquake in Rumania time may be needed, and lulling Greece and Turkey into a false sense of security is a technique. — St. Catharines Standard.

Berlin is trying to teach famished people that Britain is to blame for their plight, but to the best of our information is not succeeding. Unless events revise this information, we cannot see how we could advocate any measure that would smooth the path of the Nazi war machine. Many people who have relatives in the occupied countries oppose sending food into those countries. Indeed, some people are so opposed to sending supplies, feeling that they can do their share to support the gallant and desperate fight for freedom now being waged chiefly by the British people. They believe that as the principal champions of liberty, the British people should determine the principal voice in determining at what hour and by what means freedom and food can both be offered the people of Europe. — Christian Science Monitor.

Opposition to Britain is the only thing Hitler's propaganda is simply war front against the British. It is significant that the new continental order begins west of Russia, and in this connection the most interesting item in the announcements from Berlin is the statement in one of the most conservative of Nazi organs, the Hamburger Fremdenblatt, that recent diplomatic development in Europe and also in the Far East are the product of a new initiative, the operation and full approval of the Soviet Union. There is no reason to doubt that Stalin, whose policy is dictated by fear of Hitler, has given the go-ahead signal. That circumstance simply adds the plasterer cornice to a false structure, established before the foundation stone is laid and doomed to fall long before it is built. — New York Times.

As long as Britain stands, we have less to fear from any aggressor nation. It is nothing but sheer common sense on our part to take every practicable step that will contribute to ultimate British success without spilling American blood. That is certainly approaching when, in accordance with this policy, we must repeal the Johnson Act which now prohibits loans to warring nations. The default, Great Britain, unfortunately, is in this classification. It must be plain to anyone that, in today's circumstances, more money must be lost by retaining the Johnson law and thus withholding eventually necessary credits from the British than we would have if we cleared the way for new loans to Great Britain when they become essential. — Providence Journal.

The thing to be remembered is that Mr. Hitler must keep his hegemony over these disparate and uncoordinated nations not as a matter of pride of accomplishment but as a matter of survival. He must keep them submissive, healed, and satisfied at the very time when he is locked in a life-and-death struggle with a mighty empire with worldwide resources and with the material backing of the richest country in the world. For the moment, the advantage is his. He can pound and batter at England and wreak much damage on her. He can hamper her production. He can, in some instances, harry her lines of supply. But he cannot bring her to her knees in submission, because her resources and those of her killing allies are greater than his and because, also, the idea which England has come to symbolize is an idea which he cannot extirpate from the hearts of his own people. Let alone the hearts of the whole world. — Baltimore Sun.

Many Americans were under the impression that the United States had already delivered to Great Britain some of the army planes called "flying fortresses." The intention to do so was reported several weeks ago. Now it is reported again that twenty-six bombers are to be sent to Britain with deliveries to be completed by March. Negotiations are also under way by which twenty more ships of this type will be released to the British in exchange for motors to equip bombers for which the American army lacks engines. By this time it should be manifest that intentions and negotiations do not spell delivery and that in all questions dealing with airplane production there should be no counting of wings before they are spread. And big as these "fortresses" are, they are but a drop in the bucket compared with the need on the first line of democracy defence. The current Nazi attempt to wipe out British production in the industrial cities of Coventry and Birmingham points up the necessity of speeding American production. Since the success of British military strategy depends on the ability of American pilot being cal-

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.

POTATO BONUS
Sir.—In your issue of December 3, appears a letter under the heading of "Potato Bonus" and signed "Merely a Farmer." I could fill several columns expressing my contempt for a person or persons who use my name in an anonymous letter in your columns. Let him be sport enough to sign his name; or leave newspaper writing alone. I am, sir, etc. FRANK B. CLARKE.

New Synthetic Gasoline

(From "China at War")
Prof. Li Ki-wei, dean of the National Yunnan University, has perfected a device to produce liquid fuel. It is not made of petroleum, or coal, or vegetable oil, but of refuse and by-products. During experiments, it showed a service ability 20 per cent higher than natural gasoline. This new artificial gasoline, which takes about one month to produce, has physical and chemical properties similar to the natural fuel. It has a lower ignition point higher B.T.U. (British Thermal Unit), and is devoid of corrosive elements. It is colorless, after bleaching, and has the same smell and specific gravity as gasoline. Prof. Li is continuing his experiments, seeking to improve the quality of the fuel, shorten the period of the manufacture and increase the production. As to cost he estimates that a gallon of the liquid can be made for \$6 to \$10 in Kunming, where the price of natural gasoline is \$20 a gallon. This price estimate applies to laboratory production; on a commercial scale the cost would be lower. The agricultural products used as raw material are available in large quantities in Yunnan, Szechwan, or almost any other province in Free China. The equipment can be made easily in China. Prof. Li is setting up a distiller to produce more of the artificial gasoline. He will use the distillation to run motor cars and airplanes. When he is convinced that his process is perfected, he will present it to the Ministry of Education for national use. A 42-year-old native of Peking, Szechwan, Prof. Li is a returned student from France, where he obtained a science degree from the University of Paris. Following his graduation, he spent six years in industrial factories and technical colleges in France and Germany as a chemical engineer. Returning to China, he served with several universities before joining the staff of Yunnan University. He is an authority on paper making. Besides being an accomplished scientist, Prof. Li is well-versed in Chinese literature, having written two books on ancient Chinese opera.

led, the United States can well afford to be generous in the allotment of planes to Britain. — Christian Science Monitor.

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HENDERSON & CUDMORE

Having no bugle, a company of South African engineers made military history by substituting a saxophone which a former dance band player had brought with him to camp. More than 6,000 people in Tokyo, Japan, have been arrested this year and fined a total of \$700,000 for breaking price regulations fixed by the government.

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The Poet's Corner

THE NIGHT IS RENT
The quiet moon hangs in the mid-
night sky,
A dog barks, and again the silence
isais,
Pregnant with foretaste of eternity,
aeta are aces, and far beyond the
walls
That lieh them round, in dream
beside the earth,
Kings of a m... Then, with
dreadful sound
The night is rent, as though some
monstrous birth
Had spawned its brood upon the
quaking ground,
While from aead ruin pany mortals
flee.
Amazed, yet not confounded; know-
That those who stake their all for
liberty
Must stand unshaken though the
fires of hell
Consume them utterly; that by their
pain
Men yet unborn may sleep at peace
again.
—D. Ewens in New York Times



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