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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1943.

Post-War Planning

Some time ago a committee was set up in the House of Commons under the chairmanship of Dr. Cyril James, principal of McGill University, to study problems of post-war reconstruction and social security. The research advisor to the committee is Dr. Leonard C. Marsh, a former assistant to Sir William Beveridge, author of the widely-publicized social security plan for the United Kingdom. Dr. Marsh has prepared a report based largely on studies made of Canadian affairs during the past twelve years. From the summary of the report in today's issue, it will be seen that it covers national health insurance, revised unemployment insurance, children's allowances, extended old-age and retirement pensions, and funeral grants. The estimated cost of the scheme would be one billion dollars a year. The outlay of a second billion during the first year after the war on works projects is suggested.

The scheme is much more than an extension of existing social legislation. For example, the principle of need would be greatly restricted. Contributory old-age pensions and non-contributory children's allowances would go to the wealthy as well as the poor. Collections of contributions would be made from farmers and others who are in business on their own as well as from employees. The proposals involve Dominion administration of pensions, children's allowances, etc., which would mean a considerable enlargement of federal powers under the British North America Act. The report does not purport to present a detailed plan for the different measures it suggests, but rather an outline of a general system.

As such, it will doubtless be very fully discussed by the parliamentary committee. There will be general agreement as to the objectives which the planners have in mind—that of eliminating unemployment, want, and distress. The question is can these objectives be achieved along the lines suggested, without endangering other things which are also vitally important, such as our democratic way of life and freedom from bureaucratic tyranny.

The report opens up vast and interesting fields for discussion. Therein, perhaps, may lie a danger. We have a war to win against very powerful and resourceful enemies. That is today, as it was three years ago, the question of first and foremost importance. We cannot afford to spend too much time discussing post-war utopias.

63 Cents For 37 Cents

Our neighbours in New Brunswick netted a profit of $2,950,956.85 on their liquor business in the year recently closed, an increase of $730,649.26 net profit over that of the preceding year. In the circumstances our neighbours are quite jubilant over the business, the more so, as they proudly boast, in addition to those Three Millions (in round figures) they handed over to the Provincial Exchequer, they contributed in Federal duties and sales tax, another Two Million odd, viz. $2,158,728.11. "The total of the two amounts, first payable to the Federal Government, second payable to the Provincial Government," says the report of the Government Control Commissioner, Mr. R. G. Fulton, "indicate that out of the total gross sales of the Board 63.30 per cent of the total receipts of the Board *has been returned to the people for the various services rendered the public by the Dominion and Provincial Governments.*"

This, undoubtedly, is something to make a noise about, two governments fattening and battening at the expense of the unnatural thirst of the populace. It means, of course, in plain figures that, the Governments are pocketing 63 cents and the brewers and distillers 37 cents of every dollar paid for alcoholic liquor, while the consumer and taxpayer is left with the headache.

Mr. Lloyd George when he introduced his Health Insurance scheme in the Old Country, used to claim that the wage-earner got "6d for 4d". That is the wage earner contributed 4d a week out of his hard-earned pay, the employer 4d and the Government another 2d, bringing the total cost for doctor's attendance and medicine to 10d per week. In that case, however, it was the Government earned headache, for, through the huge miscalculation of Mr. Lloyd George's advisers, at the end of two years the Government found itself with a deficiency running into nearly $45,000,000.

Perhaps if the cost of running courts, police, penitentiaries, prisons, not to mention curing health and heartbreaks, etc., in New Brunswick were taken into account, the amount actually *"returned to the people for the various services rendered the public by the Dominion and Provincial Governments"*, might likewise prove a hugely minus quantity.

Northwest Passage By Air

People interested in our Northwest, in aviation or in progress of any kind will do well to procure a copy of the current Canadian Georgraphical Journal. Its principal article is an account by Mr. J. A. Wilson, Director of Air Services, of the making of the Northwest Airway —linking Edmonton to Whitehorse and Alaska and bringing together a score of remote points on the top of the world.

"Northwest Passage by Air" is the title of Mr. Wilson's very informative article. He recounts briefly that the quest for a short route to the Orient began in 1492 but in reality ended only when the Canadian Government concluded its airway. Writes Mr. Wilson:

"The isolation of Northwestern Canada has now gone forever. The highway will open up the whole district and give ready access to all parts of northern British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska. The advent of the airway may be much more far reaching in its effects. It gives fast transportation to all Northwest Canada and Alaska but is also the shortest route to the Orient over which will pass, when peace returns, the express traffic of two continents. The Northwest Passage, dreamt of by men of vision for four centuries, will then be at last a reality."

There are fifty illustrations with Mr. Wilson's article, presented with the clearness that always characterizes the Geographical Journal's photograph work. The pictures alone tell a faseinating story, but Mr. Wilson brightens his script with passing comments on how he picked sweet peas in Fort Nelson in October and how the tractor trains pushed back the frontiers long before we heard so much about the recent work done by the American road-building units.

B.I.S. Entertainment

Sons of Old Erin the world over are celebrating St. Patrick's anniversary today. A popular feature of the celebration locally, for many years past, has been the entertainment sponsored by the Benevolent Irish Society. This year is no exception, and preparations have been made for the presentation at the Prince Edward Theatre of a fine comedy drama "Irish Justice", with a variety of specialties between the acts. The afternoon and evening performances deserve to be widely patronized, the more so as amusement of this kind is more or less at a premium in wartime, and the proceeds go to the charitable fund of the Society, which is one of the oldest and most widely known on the continent.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

This is St. Patrick's Day.

* * * *

Even a Chief of Police is not above the law. Chief Constable Draper of Toronto has had to pay $16,729 as the result of an auto accident in which he was involved in September, 1941.

* * * *

Oh these war-time bureacurats what expensive luxuries they have become! Rev. A. M. Nicholson, C.C.F., Mackenzie, has elicited in Parliament that Hon. J. G. Taggart, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, drew from the Federal Government no less than $16,060 as salary and expenses as foods administrator for the Prices Board.

* * * *

Pierre Corneille, French dramatist and poet, died this date 1684; his masterpiece "Le Cid", but has other 20 outstanding works to his credit. He was the father of French drama,—one of the greatest, if not the greatest. His genius was essentially romantic. In breaking with the stilted style of earlier writers of tragedy, Corneille led the way towards the later romantic drama: "Violence is just, where mildness is in vain."

* * * *

So many Canadians and American soldiers are stationed in the English country districts, says a contemporary, that the speech of British children is being affected, a fact which is worrying Geoffrey Whitworth, director of the British Drama League. In order to preserve the traditional accent unadulterated, the League is making phonograph records. In the future when the records are played, and it is explained the pronunciation is the real English, listeners may be expected to retort with "Oh yeah."

* * * *

The Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Albany is willing to stop shaving if women are willing to give up cosmetics, he said and added, "You can say that's a bargain." The Rt. Rev. G. Ashton Oldham, gave this statement in commenting on the storm of protest he aroused in Hollywood by his remarks in an Ash Wednesday service that painted lips and tinted fingertips were not necessary to bolster war morale. The suggestion he stop shaving came from the irate women of Hollywood. Scoffing at the value of cosmetics as a morale-builder he declared: "God help this country if we have to depend on those things! I expected some opposition, of course. We got along without those things for a great many years and I think we can get along without them now. I don't think morale can be affected in the slightest by using cosmetics."

* * * *

Drink is the source of much trouble in the world, including Ottawa. As the result of their restrictive measures, the Federal Government has roused the antagonism of various provinces, which complain that it has utilized war-time orders-of-council to over-rule the B.N.A. Act. Ontario was the first to rebel, one of the sequels being the retirement of Treasurer Mitchell Hepburn. But now "Mitch" has been disposed of Premier Conant has taken up the cudgels. In the Legislature he declared the provincial government should be taken into the confidence of the Dominion government, particularly when the effects of any contemplated order-in-council are so far-reaching as the war-time alcoholic beverages order of last December. Similarly in Nova Scotia Legislature, the Attorney General, Hon. J. N. MacQuarrie stated in his criticisms of Ottawa that "if we want to cut down the consumption of hard liquor the way to do it is to have a supply of low alcohol content beer." He felt that "Ottawa should have given more consideration to this" when it reduced the amount of beer going on the market. "If beer had been left as it was, we might have gone even further in cutting down on spirits," said Mr. MacQuarrie, whose department administers the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. "This might have made our job of administration less difficult."

Notes By The Way

A feat often talked about, many times attempted, was last week reported accomplished. A Royal Navy gunner on a merchant ship spotted an approaching torpedo, drew a bead, fired, hit and exploded the torpedo before it reached the ship. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

For propaganda purposes, a Berlin newspaper is running Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" in serial form. It depicts life among the "Okies" — before they went to work for the airplane plants at 90 cents an hour turning out those bombers whose sting the Germans are now beginning to feel. Victoria Times.

Of tremendous interest to all who make their living on the high seas is the announcement that a way has been found or is being found to make sea water fit to drink The news comes from the United States Navy's new medical research institute at Bethesda, Md., and while *there may be a slight element of* doubt with regard to the success so far achieved, Dr. A. C. Ivy, director, goes so far as to say: "I think it's hopeful —absolutely." — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

The Ottawa Journal commends the "verbal adventures" to be found in a study of the words in dictionaries. "Pick any at random," it says —*and if it had chosen the word* "random" itself as an illustration, it would have been able to make out a good case. For "random" came into English from the Old French "random," an impetuous course, and that, in turn, was derived from the German "rand," an edge of brim, "the word originally having reference to the violence of a stream flowing full to the brim." Many's the Canadian stream will be flowing "at random" when Spring comes." —Toronto Star.

Most of us stay-at-home occidentals have wondered how in the world anybody can distinguish Japanese from Chinese. The United States army, in a pocket guide for troops in China, offers suggestions: The Jap will be short squat, almost without waistline, a skin lemon yellow, eyes slanted towards his nose, whiskers heavy. Usually there will be a wide calloused space between the first and second toes, where a thong bound his sandals before he began wearing army shoes. He can't pronounce the letter "l" and hisses the "s." Try him on "lallapalooza." —From the Victoria Times.

From Texas oil fields to Illinois, the world's largest oil pipe line has been completed, a distance of 551 miles. It is one of the largest transportation projects of the war. The line cost $35,000,000, and will have a capacity of 1,600,000 barrels. It will deliver 300,000 barrels of crude oil daily to rail tank cars for distribution in the Eastern States. Work is now in progress on a second 857-mile pipe line from Norris City, Illinois to the New York and Philadelphia refining areas. Engineers estimate that the completed line from Texas to the East will hold 4,000,000 barrels of oil—as much as all the wells of the United States produce in a day. —The Argonaut.

"Hitler is like a caged gorilla." The phrase has become part of the stock-in-trade of British propaganda. *No phrase illustrates better the men*ace of the metaphor. It is uncomplimentary to the gorilla, which neither breaks the first law in the code of creation by lusting to kill its own kind nor visits sadism on the non-Aryans of the animal world. It under-estimates Hitler, whose careful preparations gave the Wehrmacht a lead in war which the Allies only now are beginning to reduce. It is a sign of military illiteracy to regard as a cage an *area of manoeuvre stretching from* the Don to the English Channel and from Murmansk to the heel of Italy. —London Evening Standard.

On Friday Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan who lost five sons simultaneously when the cruiser Juneau sank, visited the Phelps-Dodge war plant in Elizabeth, N. J. and pleaded for increased production. On Tuesday almost a third of the first day shift walked out and was followed by a sixth of the second day shift, in protest because 100 girls were not receiving "equal pay for equal work." The union contract called for arbitration of disputes, which had not yet been attempted. Thus did these war workers, many of them deferred from a draft that promises to take fathers of dependent children, show appreciation of the Sullivan family's sacrifices for democracy. —By Burton Heath in NEA Service).

Early in the war the newspapers were kind enough to give the reading public explanations of the rank badges of the fighting forces. It would be too much to say that they have all been remembered, but the average layman at least knows that some slight difference in rank exists between a group captain and a pilot officer. It is suggested that the press might now perform a similar service in explaining the gradations of the Ottawa hierarchy. We have controllers, administrators, directors and co-ordinators, but how they are to be regarded by the lay public is a mystery. Does a co-ordinator out-rank an administrator, or vice versa? Does a director's wife precede the wife of a controller in going to dinner? Are there gradations of rank among the officials, so that the co-ordinator of tin cans is senior (or junior) to the co-ordinator of cat food? — The Printed Word.

If anyone asks the identity of the fighting Allies who held tenaciously to the eastern end of that African front for two discouraging years, all we can say is this: They are troops of that mysterious "other United Nations" which landed something like 150,000 men in North Africa simultaneously with our own better publicized landing. They are merely the fellows who fought the Axis alone before Hitler decided to attack Russia, and Japan ventured to attack us. They are merely the fellows who deflated the purported genius, Rommel, and demolished his supposedly invincible army. How we would cheer those fellows if they were Russians —or even Frenchmen who had changed their uniforms a couple of times like Darlan! But they are only Britons; so we can continue to slight them, to insult them, to minimize their victories (except when we can take credit for them) and to magnify their defeats. They don't care about that. All they care about is winning this war. —Buffalo Courier Express

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.

CHARLOTTETOWN WINTER SIDEWALKS

Sir,— This is the third letter on the above subject. As a basis upon which to formulate a practical, expeditious and inexpensive plan for the removal of snow from the sidewalks and for the prevention of the formation of ice during the winter months, certain dependable facts and figures must first be ascertained. Of these, the following are the more important:—

1. *Mileage of sidewalks within* the City limits. There are in Charlottetown twenty-six miles of streets but not more than forty-eight to fifty miles of sidewalks. Some streets are paved on one side only. On others, houses are built only a short distance from the nearest main street, thus rendering snow clearing unnecessary beyond the fartherest house. It will probably, therefore, be safe, when estimating costs, to figure upon forty-eight miles.

2. Quantity of snow to be removed. As our winters vary one from the other, in some years there being heavy snowfalls accompanied by drifts, and in others, such as the present, there are but a few inches of snow, it is necessary to figure upon the records of a sufficient number of years in the past to obtain a safe average for the future.

3. Amount of rain that falls. As rain in the winter reduces the volume of snow, a similar record of rain storms must also be obtained.

4. The number of snow and rain storms. In addition to the quantity of snow that falls each month and year, it is also necessary to know the number of days each month, upon which rain and snow storms accur. This is required when estimating the cost of snow clearing labour.

5. Cost and Speed of snow clearing machinery. The cost of the snow plow, brushes, etc., is required in order that the maintenance and depreciation over a period of years may be included in the annual cost. The speed at which the machinery can be driven is also an important factor, for upon the speed will depend, not only the number of machines required to clear the forty-eight miles of pavement after each storm, but also the wages to be paid to the drivers.

There will possibly be some who will contend that forecasts of weather probabilities and the cost of snow removal cannot with safety be based upon average records in past years. There is, however, no other means of predicting future conditions, and experience has shown that there is a remarkable similarity of weather conditions covering periods of ten and fifteen years. In our case, we have the records of thirty-two years of Charlottetown weather upon which to base our calculations, viz., from 1910 to 1942, since the first tabulations were kept by the Meteorological Department of the Dominion Government. By the kindness of Dr. Clark, Superintendent of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, where twice daily observations are made, and of Mr. J. Patterson, Controller of the Meteorological office in Toronto, I have been supplied with the figures of snow and rain falls for every month since 1940, as referred to in clause 2, 3, and 4 above.

By adding these figures and dividing the totals by 32, I have been able to obtain averages for each of the winter months, and shall publish same in my next letter. They will not only be found of interest, but will, I believe, be a matter of surprise to many.

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

Biblical Misquotations

(From the Cape Times, South Africa)

Perhaps no book has had so many quotations ignorantly foisted upon it as the Bible. One of the best known of these plausible-looking "gate-crashers" is "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." A famous Hebrew scholar being asked whereabouts in the Bible that text was, replied instantly that it could not be in the Bible, for it was not true. Whether true or not, it was said neither by Solomon nor any other Biblical writer, but by Lawrence Sterne, being his rendering of a familiar French proverb. "In the midst of life we are in death" is not from the Bible, but the Prayer Book.

Another favorite quotation from this imaginary Scripture is "Not lost but gone before," which is the title of a song published a little over a hundred years ago. A later song has as one of its lines, "Though lost to sight, to memory dear," which quite a number of people are ready to attribute to the Bible. "His end was peace" holds its place, it has been said, on many a tomb in virtue of a similiar belief. Nor is there any origin in Scripture for the sound ethical proverb, that "two wrongs do not make a right." The Bible correctly translated, nowhere says that "money is the root of all evil," or even "the love of money." What it really says is that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." But even that hardly justifies Mrs. Gamp's brilliant epigram, "Rich folks may ride on camels, but it ain't so easy for 'em to see out of a needle's eye." That is not quite what the Bible says about money-lovers.

COMPRESSED POTATOES

A one-pound brick of compressed potatoes, small enough to slip into a soldier's pocket, when crumbled in water makes 24 servings.

Premier Campbell's Tribute

(Halifax Chronicle)

Speaking in the Prince Edward Island Legislature a few days ago Premier Campbell paid a very real tribute to the service rendered by the newspapers of Canada. "The Press"—*the Premier declared*—"is passing through difficult times. The difficulties of the Press seem to be in direct proportion to the intensity of the war effort."

What Mr. Campbell says is true indeed. But these circumstances are seldom so clearly recognized. Indeed, most of us are quite content to accept the fact that our newspaper appears regularly each day as an indication that so far as publishing is concerned this is a case of "business as usual". Actually nothing could be farther from the truth.

"We should make some special effort"—Mr. Campbell declared—"to co-operate and assist the press in the excellent work which they are doing in the public interest, and which they are doing at a remuneration far below the merits of the services they are giving."

Such practical and timely recognition of the problems of the Press by the Premier of Prince Edward Island and its importance to the whole war effort are encouraging indeed. There is oftentimes a tendency on the part not only of individuals but indeed of governments to ignore the responsibility which is theirs in helping to support a Press which, in effect, is their Press, and their safeguard against the abuses and inequalities which constantly threaten to undermine the democratic system in which we profess belief.

More co-operation of this sort on the part of our political and industrial leaders would greatly strengthen the Press in the role which it is being constantly called upon to play.

Good St Patrick Had Some Rivals In Irish Heroes

(By The Canadian Press)

In wartime and out of it March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. In fact celebrations of the day by the "fighting Irish" in times of peace have been known to produce small wars on their own account, not because of their own account, not because of St. Patrick himself—it's St. Patrick's Day, that's all and anybody can get into an Irish scrap.

However, the day recalls the great national hero of the green isle—the immortal missionary who converted Erin to Christianity and according to unfounded legend, drove the snakes from its shores.

Although St. Patrick is the best remembered of ancient Irish figures, Ireland can boast of many other notables who played important roles in the shaping of the early Erin.

The first great hero in Irish history was Cormac, king of the Connacht province in west central Ireland, who ruled between 250 and 300 A.D. During this period the Irish were militarily powerful. They made repeated raids on Britain, hacking away at that outpost of the Roman Empire.

From the fifth to the 11th centuries, the Ui Niall—descendents of the king Niall during whose reign St. Patrick was taken from Britain to Ulster as a boy captive —dominated Irish history. Although there were seven major kingdoms in Ireland the Ui Neill controlled most of them and for almost 600 years they held the high kingship exclusively.

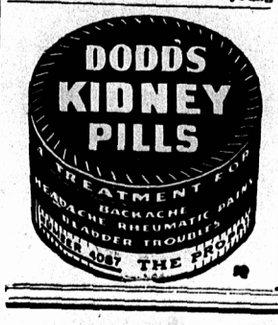
Chased Norse Out

Many Irish kings have made their place in history for their efforts in fighting off the Danish invasions in the ninth and 10th centuries. One of these was Mael-Sechnaill, who in 845 killed the Norse chief Thorgest who had invaded Ireland after taking all the islands of Scotland. Another, Aed Findliath, high king from 862 to 879 chased the Norsemen out of northern Ireland.

There were many intellectual leaders in Ireland while the rest of Europe fumbled through the Dark Ages. Cennfaelad, a noble young warrior, wrote one of the first law books of Ireland and was a leading historical poet. Dichuil wrote a geography dealing with the world that lay between Iceland and Egypt. The theologian Dungal explained the solar eclipse to Charlemagne in 810.

Incidentally, St. Patrick was not the first Christian missionary to Ireland. Earlier communities had been set up by St. Declan of Ardmore and others.

Use Minard's for dandruff



The Poets' Corner

DAUGHTER OF THE DRAGON

(Madam Chiang Kai-shek)

The Dragon sleeps no more within the walls
For swift black herons swoop above Peiping,
And Fujiyama's lurid shadow falls
Upon the crimsoned ruins of Chungking
The Dragon's daughter walks her mighty land
With feet unbound by worn ancestral ways,
And heeds her prophet father's sage command
To "build tomorrows — bury yesterdays"
She weaves a tapestry of East and West,
Her patient fingers bind the new and old;
Her motif freedom for the world's oppressed,
Her loom is faith, her colors clear and bold.
And China's heart, four hundred million strong,
Finds courage in her valiant shuttle's song.

—Isabel Tudeen in the Washington Star.

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FERRIES — KINGS COUNTY POPLAR POINT FERRY

TENDERS will be received at this Department until noon on Thursday, March 25th, for the running of a gasoline ferry at Poplar Point. Parties tendering to give full particulars of the boat, including engine horse power.
The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders to be marked "Tender for Poplar Point Ferry."

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