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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1943.

Dangers of Bureaucracies

Whither are we drifting? Eight boards or commissions have been appointed in various departments since the outbreak of war and have a total of 10,020 employees, we are told in a return tabled in the House of Commons for W. K. Esling (Prog. Con., Kootenay West).

The commissions, with the number of employees are: Canadian Shipping Board, 21; Shipping Priorities Committee, 19; National War Finance Committee, 404; Foreign Exchange Board, 320; Emergency Coal Production Board, none; Prices Board 4,723; British Columbia Security Commission, 117; Unemployment Insurance Commission, 4,407.

Writing and warning us of the serious consequences of such a policy, a contributor to the Quarterly Review declares that a Government which budgets for an increase in officialdom must be suspect, by reason of that fact alone. It draws men away from creation to surveillance and often to obstruction and irritation; it gives sheltered functionaries privilege and powers without necessarily giving them tact, humility, discretion, or respect for fellow-souls. It tends to cut society into inimical halves and inhibits enterprise. It is an added cost on workers. Whatever power also goes to the State, or to a board is taken from you—you the individual, or family, or farm, or business.

What is left? Parliament, Press, the Judiciary. But these are not always easily invoked in time to prevent evils and injustices. Suppose totalitarianism beaten on the field, but successfully invading our own lives—let in by our naive enthusiasts for planning? Can genuine democrats be pro-bureaucrat? They cannot consistently be collectivists.

Liberty and dignity are antipathetic to overgovernment. Over-inspection and supervision are morbid signs of the disease or old age of a society, harbingers of the end.

A civil service should be kept numerically in bounds; trained to be elastic and human, to be "civil" and "servants," living for the people and not the people for them.

We must not now embrace in ignorance this lower form of society, after our great history of religion and freedom. It would be fantastic to exhaust ourselves to beat German and Japanese forces as prelude to adopting and Canadianizing a National Socialism which already is forming among us. For there are kinds of opinion now here which have no more suspicion than have Hitler, Tojo, or Mussolini that man is a living soul, that thought and worship are *superior* to the State, that governments are God's vassals as much as the common man is.

Prince Edward Island Reviewed

The annual review just issued by the Monetary Times, Toronto, is of particular interest, inasmuch as it contains an article by Premier Campbell on "Results Through a War Year in Prince Edward Island." The war year referred to is, of course, the year 1942, and it is a matter of pride that our achievements in farm and fishery production, in active service enlistments, etc., as outlined by the Premier, should be so substantial.

There has been, he writes, an increase of 30 per cent in butter production, of 32 per cent in cheese production; marketable hogs are up from 45,000 to 60,000, sheep flocks increased fully 25 per cent; day-old chicks over 100 per cent. There has been a tremendous increase numerically and in the quality of our poultry products which now rank, both for eggs and dressed poultry on a percentage basis the highest in Canada. Also, we lead all of Canada in percentage of Grade A hog carcases. We have achieved a substantial increase in the number of female cattle held over for breeding purposes; also a slight increase in horse breeding, accompanied by a material improvement in quality.

The Premier notes that some of our pure-bred stock made outstanding records in the show rings, and in livestock sales here and in different parts of Canada and the United States; also that our Province is a tuberculosis disease free area for cattle and that last year on regular test out of the first 31,000 cattle tested there were only six that reacted, and these were immediately slaughtered.

He refers to the exceptionally good potato crop, the active demand existing at good prices, and the fact that none of the crop is shipped without rigid inspection for quality.

He cites the progress made in the fishery industry, the increase in canning of chicken haddie, clams, mussels, mackerel and herring, the gathering of Irish moss, and the high prices obtained for lobsters. He estimates that this year about 4,500 barrels of the famous Malpeque oysters will be shipped from the Province.

Progress in fox farming is also mentioned, emphasis being placed on the increasing scarity of wild furs and the consequent expectation of maintaining the present good demand for ranch types.

Reference is made to the shortage of farm labor, due to the fact that more men have enlisted in the armed forces from this Province in proportion to its population than any other part of Canada.

The cooperation of the provincial and federal governments on the one hand, and of the people on the other, is noted as contributing to the year's successful activities. "Our people," the Premier concludes, "are working hard and intensively with faith in the future and with the firm determination to leave no stone unturned that would assist even in the smallest degree towards winning the war."

It is regrettable that in this otherwise excellent article, no reference to our transportation problem appears. A good opportunity was missed of drawing the attention of all Canada to the fact that this Province, so important to the war effort on the food front, is badly in need of a new car ferry steamer, and of drydock facilities to keep it in condition.

More Liberal Chickens

It was left to Mr. Frederic Dorion, M. P., who was elected as an Independent for the riding of Charlevois-Saguenay at a recent by-election, to explain why some Quebec members can adopt a parochial attitude towards the war, and why there are so many defaulters from military services in certain places. Mr. Dorion, who during the last war had at the age of 19 enlisted in the Royal Air Force and won a British commission by creditable service, had felt himself included, although he was not mentioned by name, in the sharp castigation which Prime Minister Mackenzie King in his opening speech had administered to the isolationist group of French-Canadians now sitting on the Opposition benches. Resenting this charge, he denied its validity, and, declaring that he would take lessons in loyalty from nobody, proceeded thus:

"Furthermore, I find it very peculiar to hear the Prime Minister speaking about isolationism. I wondered whether he did not remember what he and his colleagues have been telling the people of Quebec during the last 25 years. I do not hesitate to declare that, considering the attitude of the Liberal Party during this period of time, no member of that party has the right to accuse any one from the Province of Quebec of isolationism."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The carrying out of the ice from the river thus early is surely another record for this Province.

* * * *

The Liberal kettle, Mr. Ilsley, has started calling the Liberal pot, Mr. Hepburn black. When certain types fall out, honest people have a chance of getting their own.

* * * *

It is surprising how readily help comes to us when it is seen we are earnestly endeavouring to help ourselves. See how the Canadian newspapers have rallied round us over our transportation problems.

* * * *

Prime Minister King has issued a warning against the formation of new parties and small groups within a party. He ought to know the ill-effects, for it is usually during Liberal regimes that such third, fourth and fifth parties are born and, for a time flourish.

* * * *

Albrecht Wenzel Eusebius Wallenstein, Duke of Friedland, Bohemian general, assassinated this date 1634; was considered the greatest leader in the Thirty Years' War; a man of transcendent ability, but wholly unscrupulous; after the battle of Lutzen, where the Prussian forces under him were defeated by Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, who was killed in action, he incurred the disfavour of the powers-that-be, and his officers aligning themselves against him, he was assassinated in the town hall at Eger in Czecho-Slovakia.

* * * *

Bench and bar are somewhat concerned over the declaration of Mr. Justice R. M. Dennistoun, Manitoba, that judges are not entitled to be addressed as "Your Lordship"—that it is a fictitious title which "savors of the old colonial days when official snobbery was in evidence." It is admitted in authoritative quarters that Judge Dennistoun's affirmation is true, but the title the Manitoba justice objects to does not date back to Canada's colonial days. It was introduced into the Canadian courts of justice early in the present century, at the instance of the Bar. Up to 1901, judges of the higher and lower courts alike were each addressed as "Your Honor." The title "honorable" is legally theirs, as set down in the "table of titles" in the Canadian Parliamentary Guide. Even so, the right prevails only during tenure of office. On resignation, a judge may not use the term "Honorable" without the sanction of the Governor-General.

* * * *

Dr. Stephen Leacock, Canadian born humorist, has written another book "How to Write," which, says Margaret Porter in the Gazette, is as witty and wise as you expect books to be that are written by Canada's sole humorist of international reputation. You will enjoy reading it, even if you have no desire to see your work in print. It is a different kind of text book, being free from the usual dry-as-dust quality that makes most books of instructions so hard to take. Though it contains sound advice for the tyro and might even prove helpful to an experienced writer, it is made more than palatable for the average reader by the infusion of Dr. Leacock's famous brand of humor. His sharpest and truest observations come in the chapter he devotes to humor, which is his own pet field. "Humor lends itself least to revision and depends on the happy first thought," he writes. "Fun in words is as hard to recapture as a laugh is hard to repeat." Dr. Leacock should know. He is at the head of the class in this subject—as this and other works of his prove

Notes by the Way

At a wedding luncheon for Sir William Beveridge, author of the famous Beverage plan for British post-War social security, A. P. Herbert, writer and member of Parliament from Oxford, was called upon. He responded by singing, to an old English tune, an impromptu ode to the Beverage plan:

Oh, won't it be wonderful after the war!
There won't be no war and there won't be no pore.
We'll all have a pension about 24,
And we won't have to work if we find it a bore.
There won't be no sick and there won't be no sore;
The beer will be thicker, and better, and more—
And there's only one thing I would like to explore;
Why didn't we have this here wa-er before?

London News Chronicle.

Hitler's new naval commander in chief spent several months in a British insane asylum in 1918-19 after being taken prisoner of war. This may mean that Hitler has made Germany so congenial that any lunatic feels at home when at large, or it may mean that the goofy admiral is also crazy like a fox. —Chicago Daily News.

Observations indicating that the red and green glow, long known to exist in the night sky but invisible to the unaided eye, originates approximately 330 miles high in the earth's atmosphere are presented in The Astrophysical Journal by Drs. Christian T. Elvey and Alice Farnsworth. In addition to the red and green lines caused in a manner similar to the Aurora Borealis by the excitation of oxygen atoms high above the earth, a third hue in the sky was located —a yellow sodium glow originating from fifty to one hundred miles up.

Stonework of the Houses of Parliament salved after the enemy air raid on May 10, 1941, is now being used to build up the Red Cross and St. John Fund. Those who wish to secure a fragment as a souvenir may do so by buying for one guinea a copy of a beautifully illustrated and well-produced book which has been compiled and published by Mr. W. J. Rand under the title of "The Houses of Parliament." Each piece of stone will bear a certificate of its authenticity signed by Sir Vincent Badderley. —London Times.

A clergyman who was a prisoner during the last war for four years and six months is now serving as manager of the shipyard at Picton, N. S. He, too, is passing the ammunition. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Long ago, as was recalled in our "Sidelights the other day, newspapers called one another such things as "spavined old hack" and "blubber-headed." Harold Ickes, U. S. Secretary of the Interior, would have been a great editor in those days — there is the authentic touch to his denunciation of "the buffooneries of those Fascist-minded bubble dancers"—Ottawa Journal.

After the war there will be a great deal of money in Canada available for investment and speculation. We have a lot of country to crack open yet. What our good American friends, with their breezy enterprise, have revealed to us in our own Northwest is a specimen. Here's hoping we have the courage to go after the big prizes in mining and oil and the horsesense to remove the restrictions with which rightful speculation was hamstrung in the years just preceding this war. We have a great country. The day the war is over the cry should be "Let's go."—Northern Miner

The lawyer, or the machinist, or the school principal preaches the sermon. A committee of church members shares the responsibility for calling on the sick or on delinquent members. Another lay group edits the church bulletin . . . Typical of such congregations is that of the First Reformed because of the war, First Reformed is being run by the First Reformed Church in Buffalo. Pastorless because of the its laymen, who preach the sermons, visit the sick, get the congregation to services. They are succeeding admirably. Attendance is going up; receipts are more than they were the previous year. And in their church bulletin they put qualifications for membership up to the reader. —The Pathfinder.

Among several sensible suggestions included in the report of the Women's Advisory Council for the design of post-war houses is one which puzzles me. It is that rooms should, if possible, be square. There may be some practical virtue in a square room of which I am ignorant, but from the aesthetic point of view I can think of no argument in its favor. I think there is a general feeling that the ideal shape is a definite oblong — always leaving aside, of course, those people who take a delight in quaintly shaped—or misshaped —rooms where corners count more than convenience. I checked my impression on oblong rooms by consulting a number of acquaintances, and found that they agreed. Several beautiful rooms were recalled —Jacobean, Georgian and modern — and all the examples cited were oblong. And the same conditions would seem to apply to windows. A broad, shallow window is usually pleasing. So is the tall and narrow window of the eighteenth century. But is there anything to be said for the almost square windows of many Victoian houses? —Leeds Yorkshire Post.

A controversy is raging over whether Stanley said, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume," or "Dr. Livingstone, I believe." Couldn't they compromise on "H'ya, Doc; pleastameetcha!" —Ottawa Citizen.

Even with the best will in the world on the part of every one, there are bound to be clashes of temperament, viewpoint and method among those directing our varied war effort. Out of these clashes a democracy finds the way to reach its decisions; They are inseparable from the democratic process. But when such clashes occur between bureaus with foreign connections, and the Washington quarrels are carried on abroad, then it is time to stop them. Washington reports that just such quarrels between the Board of Economic Warfare and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation have resulted in dissension among agencies of these bureaus in Brazil and are having a bad effect on Brazilian attitudes toward us. That is not surprising. Family quarrels should be kept at home. When aired abroad they harm every one. —Brooklyn Eagle.

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.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—As a native of P.E.I. who has strayed some miles from this home province I enjoy very much reading your paper. It is almost 25 years since I left home, 18 since I have been back, and many names represent a new generation whom I do not know, but there are other names about whom news is very welcome. I wish also to congratulate you on your editorial page, both the editorials and all the other features thereon.

With best wishes.

I am Sir, etc.
ALLAN COLE.

Milden, Sask.

WORKING MAN'S COMPLAINT

Sir,—What about building a few ships here? There is lots of lumber to the south and to the east. We can't do anything about making shells, we have no steel, no coal. New Brunswick gets two millions to build a hundred wooden ships; this little Province gets nothing. It's a great place for electing Ministers and Prime Ministers, and when they get in we hear nothing more about P.E.I. What is wrong with those two members for Queen's, one with a batch of letters after his name and not a word from him. What were they elected for? To look after Queen's. How much did they get? We paid to the Government of Canada nearly three and a half millions; not a dollar we got back. The other provinces get the cream, we get nothing. Pictou is a busy hive now, a place that was dead for a hundred years. All our boys who are not fit for service are over there getting four and as high as eight dollars a day. How much work is there around this city? You can't earn the price of your dinner. There was more work fifty years ago, and there is no dole paid either from the Government. I say we should wake up before it is too late, and when the time comes send some good men to Ottawa who have this little Province at heart, the Cradle of Confederation which we all love.

I am, Sir, etc.,
RICHARD BUTLER
Great George St.

The Poets' Corner

"ISLAND" CHARMS

There may be waters just as blue
As those that wash our Island's shore,
Tho' none can in the eventide,
Bring back that old familiar roar.
Which echoes far across the hills—
The woods—the pasture lands of home;
That rumbling when the shadows fall
Lives on, tho' far we choose to roam.
There may be other skies as bright,
And other lands seem just as fair,
Tho' nowhere on the face of earth
Will be that clover laden air—
To match the charm "The Island" weaves
And holds, within each Island mind;
For ever as we wander back
Some greater treasure there we find.

—John of the Lilacs.

Food for War

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Farmers, fishermen and stock-raisers would labour in vain to supply food to the United Nations, were it not for the added labour of those who prepare, preserve, pack and ship the food.

Thousands of Canadian men and women are doing a most necessary job of converting live and raw products to usable, transportable food for millions of fighting men and civilians overseas. In estimating the value of various tasks in the total war effort, much credit should be given to the workers in the canning, dehydration, curing, packing, refrigerating and shipping industries.

"Bacon for Britain"? Yes, but also canned salmon and dried fruits and evaporated milk for Britain and our allies overseas.

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