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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1941

British Columbia Election

The Pattullo Government retained 31 seats in the last provincial election in British Columbia, which took place in 1937. The official Conservative Opposition numbered only eight, the C.C.F. seven, with one Labor and one Independent member completing the list.

The election was called by Premier Pattullo for the express purpose of submitting to the electors his policy in regard to the income tax—his present policy of "co-operating" with the Dominion, and his future policy which is that of refusing to give up the income tax entirely as a source of provincial income.

Premier Pattullo, it will be recalled, was responsible along with the Ontario and Alberta Premiers for scuttling the Dominion-Provincial Conference on the Sirois Report. He was pretty roundly denounced by his fellow-Liberals in other Provinces for his share in that fiasco.

Well, we shall know today how the British Columbia electors reacted, and whether or not they possessed the common sense which Premier Campbell believes the people of Prince Edward Island would have exercised in the circumstances.

Personalities among the campaigners included Professor J. Friend Day of Vancouver, supporting the Conservative party; Professor E. S. Farr, Liberal candidate in Oak Bay; Miss Dorothea McBride (sister of Sir Richard McBride), Conservative candidate in New Westminster.

One thing British Columbia provided for in this election, was to give the franchise to all their men on active service, at home and overseas. That is something the Nova Scotia Government neglected to do, with the result that N. S. service men overseas have no vote in the election which takes place in our sister province on Oct. 28.

Wooden Ships Still Needed

Since the beginning of the war reference has been made on many occasions to the desirability of putting the shipyards of the Maritime Provinces, to work turning out the wooden craft which could be constructed to meet the increasing need for vessels of all descriptions. Little if anything, complains The Moncton Transcript (Liberal) has been done to take advantage of the opportunity, although across the line along the New England coast, shipyards are humming again and new yards are being created.

Whatever is being done to get the steel ships launched, however, there is another way to increase the tonnage of the Canadian merchant

marine. There could be more shipyards in the Maritime Provinces for the building of wooden ships.

There is no shortage of wood in Canada. There would be no great difficulty in recruiting the labor. Handy men in the towns and villages from Cape Breton to the south shore of Nova Scotia, around the Bay of Fundy to Passamaquoddy north along Chaleur Bay and across in Prince Edward Island, everywhere in the Maritimes where fishing, farming and lumbering dovetail there are sturdy workers fit to be employed on wooden shipbuilding.

"Veterans of the craft are still available. They are to be found among the inshore fishermen: some are retired on farms, or as storekeepers in the villages. They built ships in the last war. They could be brought back to give Canada a seaworthy fleet of wooden ships to help to win this war. Every ship can be used."

One of the chief difficulties in reviving wooden shipbuilding in these provinces has been the lack of funds for private enterprise. The government can find the money for anything that is regarded as essential, and surely any contribution toward the solution of the problem created by the lack of shipping is worthy of attention.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is understood there will be no further unit of the Home Guard on duty here—what is to become of the finely erected huts built for their use?

With the air plane passenger service we see less of our distinguished visitors than ever—they pop in and pop out with hardly time to say "how do?" and "good-bye!"

When tobacco rationing became a famine in the larger Australian cities it almost led to a new phase of the war of the sexes. Adelaide tobacconists resorted to the device of selling smokes to men only.

Sarah Bernhardt, French Actress, born this date, 1845, the most outstanding dramatic artist of the nineteenth century; she entered the Paris Conservatoire at thirteen, made her debut at the Comedie Francaise in 1862; while from 1880 to 1900 her golden voice and dramatic power was universally recognized. In addition to being an actress, Sarah was a painter and sculptress as well, and exhibited in the Paris Salon.

Dobbin and the Old Gray Mare have hit the comeback trail to alleviate the gasoline shortage and fill other transportation gaps in the defense economy. Wayne Dinsmore, president of the Horse and Mule Association of America, predicts that the use of work animals, already stimulated by the defense program will receive such impetus from gasoline rationing that the declining horse and mule birth rate will be reversed. "Rationing or higher prices for gasoline, difficulty in obtaining trucks, or truck parts, for rural or city use," Dinsmore said, "is likely to be felt in the horse and mule business."

A notable feature of the making of munitions in Canada is that within the last three months certain plants that have gotten into real mass production have been able to reduce their unit costs far below those in Britain and considerably below those in the United States. Some of the figures furnished are more than illuminating, they are startling; and they should help to break down what has come to be a rather ridiculous inferiority complex in our industrial field. Plant efficiency here equal to that in much older industrial countries has been completely demonstrated.

Are we retrograding or progressing backward? The following letter appears in a recent issue of The Spectator, London: Sir,—In his "Country Life" column in your issue of August 29th Mr. Bates tells us that sheep's milk cheese (quite common on the Continent) is now being made in England; and in view of its excellent quality and of the present shortage of cheese in this country, he welcomes its introduction. I should like to point out, however, that ewe-milk cheese has long been known in Scotland. Readers of Scott's Heart of Midlothian (first published in 1818) may remember that Jeanie Deans, anxious to present a Dunlop cheese to her benefactor, the Duke of Argyle, says if he would like "the ewe-milk, that is, the Buckholmside cheese better," she would see that one was sent him. To this a note is appended: "The hilly pastures of Buckholm, which the author now surveys, are famed for producing the best ewe-milk cheese in the South of Scotland." I fear that the manufacture of such cheese in Scotland has now greatly diminished, if indeed it exists at all; but if the example of Mr. Bates's North-amptonshire friends were to be followed in other parts of the country, it would, I believe, meet with general acceptance. —I am, &c.

A nice constitutional point is raised in a Times leader of last Monday, says The Spectator, in which Mr. Churchill is encouraged virtually to select a successor to himself and to indicate to the King in advance that successor's name. It has been suggested that this is rather like the method adopted by Hitler, who nominated Goering to succeed him and (a little unfortunately), failing him, Rudolf Hess. But I think it is sound constitutional procedure. When a Government is defeated and resigns, the obvious course is to invite the Opposition leader to form a Ministry. But today there is no real Opposition, and no such contingency as the defeat of the Prime Minister in the House is contemplated. But the perils of this mortal life in war-time are not to be ignored, and if ever (quod Deus avertat) Mr. Churchill had to be replaced the King ought not to be faced with the immense responsibility of deciding whom to send for. As The Times puts it, with considerable delicacy, "He (the Prime Minister) can do much, while he is still at the head of affairs, to guide the choice which it will fall to others finally to make." That seems good sense. Mr. Churchill himself, of course, is where he is because his predecessor advised the King to send for him.

NOTES BY THE WAY

When Finland's foreign minister says his country is in the war on the same side as the Nazis only by "accident," it may be assumed that he is apologizing mildly for the company. — Kansas City Times.

Every statement issued by the provincial government on the state of Alberta's finances should carry prominently the name of the provincial treasurer that the results arrived at do not take account of the fact that Alberta still refuses, despite the Privy Council's ruling, to pay the \$20,000,000 of the annual debt charge, representing the unpaid interest on the public debt. — Lethbridge Herald.

This newspaper has more than once expressed its conviction that no sound peace can be made with Hitlerism. The alternative as we see it is to achieve as quickly as possible a victory over the Hitler-Chamberlain peace program called the final destruction of Nazi tyranny. The best hope of speeding a sound peace is more rapid and effective work toward the initial advantage of the Nazis, the destruction of their military and political power.

Britain last year had a spate of marriages—or an epidemic, if you prefer that terminology—"honorable estate." The total was 468,267, exceeding that of 1939 by 28,573. Even the 1939 figure was a high one, being 21.2 per 1,000 of population, with only 17.4 the average for the four preceding years. The 1940 total works out at 22.6 per 1,000, the highest on record. At London's Caxton Hall registry office 40 per cent of the weddings are reported to have been "uniform weddings." During the last war the record was established in 1915, when 39,885 weddings took place at a rate of 19.4 per 1,000. — Toronto Telegram.

Washington is a town that has grown too fast. There are more than a million people in the metropolitan area now; in 1930 there were only 621,000. The city has never been able to catch up with this booming growth. The local government, run by an inferior and congress concerned with other things, is under-financed, helpless and outmoded in design. Tree-lined avenues and impressive red-brick mansions stand side by side with dwellings that breed disease and crime, where whole families live in single rooms and negroes pay twice as much rent as whites. Washington is a bottleneck. — Alden Stevens in M. Call's Magazine.

Australia the other day decided to accept the Keynes plan, now in operation in England, and in introducing a compulsory loan. Our newspapers have no consideration in being given to the idea of a compulsory loan and there is no likelihood of any. The Ottawa government has raised \$27,000,000, 000 by way of loans since the war began. \$59,000,000 in the first, \$34,000,000 in the second and \$55,000,000 in the most recent one. The Ottawa government has raised \$1,000,000,000 in the last year. The voluntary loan is considered by the government to have worked very well in Canada so far and while it continues to work there is no disposition to use compulsion. — Vancouver Province.

A number of towns and villages that in the province have had the name of the place painted on some building, such as the water tank or rink roof, in order to establish their identity from the air. The idea is not new, but it has been revived from the fact that the R.C.A.F., who occasionally use their bearings, find it a great help if they can identify some town from the air. The neighboring villages of Toronto has made arrangements for the painting of its name on the roof of the skating rink, and it might be a good thing if the local authorities would follow the example. The water tower or the skating rink would be ideal spots for the sign. — Stirling News-Argus.

England's national flower, the rose, will bloom in treeless, leafless bushes exported there by British nurserymen. They have been carried in ships of the Iceland Steamship Company, whose house-flag bears the original rose, not the twisted form used by the Nazis, which, say heralds, has a tradition of evil centuries old. Carriage plants grown in Sussex have also gone to Iceland from the R.C.A.F., who occasionally use their bearings, find it a great help if they can identify some town from the air. The neighboring villages of Toronto has made arrangements for the painting of its name on the roof of the skating rink, and it might be a good thing if the local authorities would follow the example. The water tower or the skating rink would be ideal spots for the sign. — Stirling News-Argus.

"We recognize," said Lieut. General McNaughton last week, "only an aristocracy in the army that is an aristocracy of education. We can use well-educated intelligent men." Here is a declaration whose significance seems of unusual interest. It is not so long ago that the aristocrat of any army was the mighty six footer who could wield a claymore or a broadsword. At the center of such a man proved to be a good target for Boer sharpshooters and short stocky men came into their own. Then in the First Great War the soldier with intelligence, with individual initiative, was remarked. Now the mechanization of the army has brought forward the value of education. — Ottawa Journal.

A grumpy individual blew like a storm into a local hardware store demanding to be shown the sporting rifle. The proprietor courteously explained that he had sold out and that no more were available just now—the reason for which he would explain to anybody. The grumpy individual turned and walked out. He was a grumpy fellow, but he was an awful country when a man couldn't get a sporting rifle anywhere; things had come to a pretty pass, etc., etc. Quietly standing at

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"Free peoples are again co-operating to win a free world and no tyranny can frustrate their hopes."—John Winant, United States Ambassador to Great Britain.

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.

APPEAL FOR AID FOR BRITISH MINESWEEPERS

Sir:—Would you kindly publish an "Appeal for Aid for British Minesweepers" received from the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. The National Secretary writes:—"How we are going to clothe these men and their families this winter, I do not know. There are no reserves of comforts on hand at any of the Depots. The men require now, immediately, heavy woolen garments. Civilian help in Britain is cut off with the rationing of clothing. We shall be very grateful for everything received."

The Overseas Parcel League will accept and ship without delay, at no cost to the donor, any contributions for these men. Now accepted as the British Minesweepers Auxiliary, the League is shipping weekly some five hundred woolen garments direct to the Seamen Missions in Britain. Consignments taken over by them at Port of Landing and distributed where needs are the most pressing. We ask your help. The League operates with no overhead cost at all and weekly ships all stores in hand, to date with no losses. Comforts are needed most in the order given. Heavy turtle-neck sweaters—Sea Stockings—Socks—Sleeveless Sweaters—Scarves—Caps and Balalaavas—Mittens. On application, instructions for the making of any of these with the exception of the turtle-neck sweaters will gladly be furnished. These are machine-knit, and are purchased from the factories as a more suitable, better-wearing and warmer garment than can be knitted by hand, also they are cheaper. \$2.00 donates a sweater. Information regarding these also will gladly be given by writing to the address below or telephoning P.L. 7181—room 520.

Mine-sweeping, because of the personal sacrifices necessary, is a voluntary service; yet such is the calibre of the men, that when the Admiralty took over all but one trawler from the pre-war British Fishing Fleet of the World (This is of bombed Hull) EVERY MAN VOLUNTEERED and went with his boat. Mr. Churchill, speaking recently said of the minesweeping service—"We don't hear much about the mining service now, yet almost every night thirty or forty enemy airplanes are casting these destructive engines, with all their ingenious variations, in the most likely spots to catch our shipping. We don't hear much about it because men and ships are toiling ceaselessly to clear the approaches to ports every morning of the deadly deposits of the night. It is going on night after night and day after day, and it may well be imagined, as the service has to be performed in all weathers constantly under the attack of the enemy, how excellent is the service rendered by the faithful men engaged in it. It is done in secret and in silence, and we live on!"

I am, Sir, etc. THOS. WALLGATE Hon. President. Overseas Parcel League, Windsor Hotel, Room 520, Montreal.

Turkey And The War

(Sydney Post-Record) Independent observers at Ankara, who have been able to get a "close-up" slant on the currents and cross-currents of Turkish sentiment, are convinced that Turkey is neither pro-ally nor pro-Axis, but is on the fence to stay till the war's end, unless sooner pushed off. The recent Turko-German haggling over chromium, and the way it has turned out, furnishes a perfect case in point. Chromium is an essential raw material for armament steel, and Turkey's total supply, eagerly coveted by Germany, has all been sold to Britain up to the end of 1942. But the statesmen of Ankara have been able to maintain their equilibrium on the middle of the fence by agreeing to sell Germany half of Turkey's exportable chromium, as and from the beginning of 1943. This of course is a rather doubtful score for Germany because the war will be on its final lap with the outcome well in sight by the beginning of 1943, and any chromium supply the Nazis may derive from Turkey is not going to reach them soon enough to help them over a crisis.

In the meantime, fully half of Turkey's exports are being bought by Germany, and relations between the two countries remain unimpaired, albeit frequently strained to the breaking point. In 1939 Turkey signed a mutual assistance treaty with Britain, and it still remains nominally in full force, virtue and effect. But then again, as recently as last June, Turkey signed a non-aggression pact with Germany. This year Turkey signed a new trade agreement with Britain. Last week she signed a similar pact with Germany.

The inference from all this requires no particularly acute reasoning. Turkey is doing her utmost to stand in with both Britain and Germany. She wishes to maintain her neutrality, to keep out of the war, and to do business with any of the belligerents that can take the back of the store was another individual—a veteran of the last war. "I'll tell him where he can get a rifle if he's interested," he said. "And the best of instruction in the use of it, too." It was the perfect answer. — New Glasgow News.



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her goods and pay for them. There is not a scintilla of sentiment in President Inonu's foreign policy. Nor, for that matter is there any duplicity in it. But it is fairly certain that the Turks hope devoutly for a complete unequivocal British victory over Nazi Germany. Not for sentimental reasons, but for the better assurance of Turkey's future integrity and independence. The Turks know there is nothing to fear from the democracies. They also know there is everything to fear from the totalitarians. Nothing but a miraculous chain of events could possibly involve Turkey in this war on Germany's side.

Even in World War No. 1 it was the merest accident, coupled with Russia's diplomatic stupidity and Britain's slowness in a crisis that thrust Turkey into the conflict on Germany's side. There was a pro-German faction in Turkey then, but it was in a minority at the beginning of the war. The trick was turned by the action of the Commander of the Turkish fleet—who was a German, in attacking Russian vessels in the Black Sea and bombarding a Russian port. The Turkish authorities disclaimed all the responsibility for these incidents, and requested an investigation to fix the blame where it belonged. But Russia scorned negotiations and declared war on Turkey. Britain and France followed suit. Turkey thus became a belligerent ally, against her will, of the country she liked least and distrusted most. That alliance finished the history of the old Turkish Empire. It is not without reason that the statesmen at Ankara wish to keep their country out of this war. And it is just a question whether Turkey would not serve Britain best by remaining on the sidelines till the last gun has been fired. That would certainly be better than that she should become an ineffective and helpless ally, capable only of offering "token" resistance to Hitler's hordes of mechanized vandals.

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