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

The Future Of Conservatism

That there is life and vitality in the Conservative Party has been made abundantly evident by the various conventions held recently, culminating in the rally in the City Tuesday night. It has been rumored, with what authority is unknown, that the Liberals were planning to dissolve the Legislature and hold an election in January. What advantage this would give has not been stated, though presumably the idea would be to have the party in power at the end of the war and reconstruction period, assuming that 1945 would see hostilities cease and the soldiers returning. In the event also of Premier Campbell withdrawing and a successor being appointed, it would suit the convenience of the organizers to have the new Premier not only duly installed, but with considerable experience of office behind him before making another appeal to the electorate. These, of course, are mere surmises, but there must be some ground for them, otherwise sitting members would not be making themselves so busy as they have been for some time, nursing their constituencies.

Locally the Conservatives are ready for the fray except for a rallying cry. No party is likely to make headway that has not a creative policy to pursue. In Opposition, in the House or in the Legislature, it is the destructive critic that is paramount. To be effective he must be able to discover and condemn the faults, follies and weaknesses of Government policies, administration and legislation with no concern about the consequences of his condemnation other than that the administration may be compelled to take note and mend their ways. It is mightily different, however, when a campaign is afoot to oust the Government at an election. The Opposition must have both principles and policy to advocate for the public weal. Otherwise, what is going to attract new voters or retain old voters in the Conservative fold? "Auld lychts" in religion and politics are all right for those who are more or less done with the visions of youth and progress, but are mere stumbling blocks and hindrances to those who have nothing behind them and everything still before them.

The Conservative Party is, and ever should be, a Reform Party, with its eyes set on making existence a little better and more worthwhile than heretofore. That was the idea of Disraeli who saved the Party in England from oblivion, and made it a power for three generations. He did not play up to the money barons, but to the farmers and the man-in-the-street. He launched an advanced programme of social reform which made the old Whigs' hair stand on end, and many of the mummified Tories turn in the places of comfort and contentment to which they had retired, and to prophesy dire consequences to the reformer and the Party. But Disraeli won out, carrying the country at successive elections. During his regime were passed a Factory Act, an Artisans Dwelling Act, and the Agricultural Act—all advanced socialistic legislation in that day and generation. At the same time he looked after the affairs of the Empire and added India to the Crown. Disraeli was undoubtedly one of the greatest statesmen of modern times, and he was not that by playing up to capitalists and hobnobbing with vested interests.

If the Conservative Party is to be redivivus we must have a man—or preferably men—of vision, reform, progress and faith at the head, prepared to sacrifice, if need be, old time shibboleths, heelers and stand-patters, and appeal to be handicapped in life's battle as well as to the aspiring, the youths and the mothers and daughters who will have a greater stake than ever in the welfare and natural wealth of this great Dominion of ours.

Spy Thrillers Outdone

The size of the allied armada which converged on Gibraltar is said to exceed that of any recorded in all history. An exchange recalls that in the principal naval engagement in the First World War—the Battle of Jutland—there were only 151 warships engaged in the British fleet, much less than half the number escorting Lieutenant General Eisenhower's forces.

Most remarkable of all the stories that have yet come to light is that of Maj. Gen. Mark W. Clark, second in command of the expedition, who with a staff of seven picked officers went secretly to North Africa by submarine and met a group of friendly French officers from whom he gained a great mass of essential military information on which were based the details of the attack three weeks later. General Clark on this trip made the arrangements for General Giraud to come to Africa and collaborate with the United Nations.

The latter in itself is another thrilling chapter of this adventure, which, in fact, Hitler gave as the chief reason for his decision to occupy the rest of France. Giraud, who had escaped last Spring from a fortress in Germany where Hitler held him prisoner, had latterly been under police surveillance in France. But he managed to elude his guards, escape in an automobile disguised as an old woman and finally meet a British plane at an appointed time and place near the coast and then fly across the Mediterranean to take command of the French troops in Africa.

The most romantic novelist would hesitate to involve his heroes in such seemingly improbable adventures. It's just another case of fact being stranger than fiction.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Our week's prohibition record: (1) one man, Indian, remitted to Supreme Court on murder charge (2) another charged with manslaughter, and (3) several others charged with conspiracy in connection with allegedly running a wholesale moonshine distillery. Evidently neither the letter nor the spirit of the law is being observed.

* * * *

Rt. Hon. Viscount Runciman, British statesman, born this date, 1870; educated at Cambridge, represented Oldham in Parliament in 1899 and Dewsbury 1902-16; in succession was financial secretary to the Treasury, President of the Board of Education, President of the Board of Agriculture, Commissioner of Woods, Forests and Lands, President of Board of Trade; prior to revolution in Spain went as special representative to investigate matters; at outbreak of present war appointed chairman of Commission on Shipping.

* * * *

Sir Stafford Cripps, in competition with four other candidates, has been elected by the undergraduates Lord Rector of Aberdeen University—a distinction greatly sought and appreciated by statesmen, naval and military heroes. His predecessor was Admiral Edward Radcliffe Garth Russell Evans, of H.M.S. Broke, when that ship in 1917, with H.M.S. Swift, engaged and defeated six German destroyers; the students elected him two terms in succession and on present occasion Sir Stafford got ahead of him.

* * * *

Three men, who pleaded guilty on Nov. 2 to a charge that prior to Pearl Harbor they served as agents of the Japanese Government without registration as such, were brought before Judge Marcus B. Campbell in Brooklyn Federal Court who sentenced them each to seven years in prison. They were Joseph Hilton Smyth, 40, of Old Lyme, Conn.; Walker Grey Matheson, 51, of Washington, D.C., and Irvine Harvey Williams, 38, of Noroton, Conn. They bought the old-established magazine, The Living Age, with Japanese funds and converted it into a Japanese propaganda publication, the chief feature of which was articles by pacifist clergymen and others opposing war and advocating appeasement.

* * * *

Whether it be for a wake or wedding, the Prices Board will permit no extra supplies of sugar, tea or coffee. Board record at Ottawa shows an inquiry as to extra supplies for a wake had been received from eastern Ontario and it had been made clear no concession could be made. If refreshments of tea and coffee are served at wakes in lieu of the stronger potions which where once common, the Prices Board states the supplies must be provided from individual rations. "This is equally true of all social gatherings, for which no exception can be made, even when it is a case of members of the armed forces being entertained," an official declares.

* * * *

A lot of people have wondered how to pronounce the Scandinavian name of Canada's ace fighting airman, PO George Beurling. He settled it at an interview with newsmen recently. "You just give the first syllable the Scottish 'burr' and add 'ling'," he said. He admitted the "Beur" had confused some persons. His father is a Netherlander of Norwegian-Swedish background, and his mother is of English origin. As for his various nicknames he is indifferent. "I guess nobody much calls me George, except my mother. My father calls me "Buzzy" and some of the guys overseas tagged me "Screwball,' I don't care what they call me." Pressed whether any nickname appealed more to him he said he guessed maybe "Buzz" did because it was given him by Verdun playmates who used to watch the airman when he was a small boy running along the street holding a model airplane and making a buzzing noise with his mouth.

* * * *

Canadian banks will have to share in restriction of wartime civilian activity by closing more branches and curtailing or suspending certain services over the next few months, states Mr. Charles St. Pierre, president of the Canadian Bankers' Association. Despite the tremendously increased demand for banking services to serve the armed forces, industry, and the public, the elimination of branches would be extended "in keeping with the greater concentration necessary for victory," Mr. St. Pierre declared at the Association's fifty-first annual meeting. Mr. St. Pierre is general manager of Banque Canadienne Nationale. "This step reflects the views of the authorities at Ottawa and must be taken by the banks as part of their share in the curtailment of normal activities being experienced by business generally," he said in his presidential address before the opening session of the meeting.

* * * *

Holding that the "over-all record of Great Britain in this war is one of the great achievements in military and spiritual history," Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of the New York Times, called upon all Americans in a speech at Baltimore to evaluate fully the British war effort and reject as disloyal "a lot of complaining about the British" in certain U.S. A. cities. Mr. Sulzberger pointed out that during the desperate days of 1940 Great Britain, "armed with little more than her courage," turned back the threatened Nazi avalanche and held the bastions of democracy throughout the world until the United States entered the war against totalitarianism. "This is not a single war," he contended. "It is a coalition war. Britain, among others, is our partner. We are drawing a great semi-circle around the continent of Europe and the ring will eventually strangle the German power."

NOTES BY THE WAY

A young married couple recently determined to spend their first wartime holiday on the western coast. A huge crowd was on New street station, but they managed to get into a crowded compartment when, to the wife's dismay, she discovered that she had left her ration cards at home. Returning home and collecting the books, they gathered up their luggage once again, only to discover that their "macks" had been left in the first train. The next train not being due to leave for an hour, they adjourned to the station buffet for a stimulant. In the crush at the counter, a tall fellow's elbow was jabbed into the husband's eye, which needed first-aid. When at length the by now disgruntled couple arrived at their destination, they learned that the landlady was too ill to accommodate them. The new address given to them was half a mile farther from the sea. Nothing further happened to upset their peace of mind until on reaching home madame found that she had once again left her ration books behind—and on the mat in the hall reposed her husband's calling-up papers! —Birmingham Mail.

Wilbur Glenn Voliva who died recently, used to contend that the world was flat as a pancake and would soon be destroyed. For some reason his statement does not sound as silly as it did years ago. —Buffalo Courier-Express.

The large estate left by the late Dr. William Locke, Williamsburg foot specialist, may indicate the reward that comes to a man who serves humanity at a charge so low that it creates amusement —Toronto Globe and Mail.

An old soldier says these Nazi broadcasts in English are "an awful lot of Boche."—Exchange.

It is urged that many a statue could profitably be added to the scrap pile. To obviate confusion, incumbent solons had better keep their hats on —Winnipeg Tribune

A rosy-cheeked boy of 12 is a bit young to be serving in the front, lines, but there are quite a few in Russia. Leland Stowe tells how he met one little veteran, Petya Kuputovski, an orphan. The boy escaped barefoot from his village after the Germans came. He had seen the Fascists burn to death his mother, two younger brothers and two sisters, together with all the Jews and families of guerillas they could find —New York Post.

According to reliable reports reaching Czecho-Slovakia circles in London, only a small number of the names of the victims of Nazi executions are made known. The number of Czechs executed since the death of Heydrich exceeds by far the total of 1765 officially admitted by the Germans. All radio receiver sets have been provided with a white label with the words —"Remember that listening to foreign broadcasts is punishable with hard labor and even with a death sentence." The majority of death sentences were passed for possession of arms:" "systematic sabotage of economic measures:" "offering armed resistance:" "illegal slaughter of pigs and cattle:" the "illegal grinding of cereals:" and the "removal of clothing from army stores destined for the front." —News from Czecho-Slovakia.

There was no way of getting a-round the parade, for the great thoroughfare bisected the entire town (Berlin) Unter den Linden had been extended by Hitler's order to form a magnificent avenue for parading, straight through the heart of the city. The new street stretched north and south and was called the Axis (the origin, incidentally, of the term "Axis powers." since the southern end of the Axis pointed towards Rome.) —Kressman Taylor

The announcement by the L. M. S. Railway Company that it has lost 2500 cups in a single week recalls a pre-war problem which puzzled Mr. Robert Graves, the poet and writer. He never could understand why the yearly consumption of white china egg-cups per head of the population of the United Kingdom came to 52.4. It seemed to him a ridiculous figure, implying that every man, woman and child in these islands smashed, rid, or otherwise disposed of one china egg-cup a week. Mr. Graves, in spite of varying desperate suggestions, could not solve the problem, which, in fact, remains unsolved, if not absolutely insoluble. —Manchester Guardian.

A shortage of oranges in Britain has led to the acceptance of a new and rich source of vitamin C, the anti-scurvy vitamin. It is now a question of would a rose by any other name taste as sweet? That's debatable. But the fact that they're effectively taking the place of semi-tropical citrus fruits in the diet of British children is beyond question. Before the war it never occurred to anyone to use rose hips. Children, of course, have always chewed them. When vital shipping space had to be conserved for more essential cargoes, and the supply of oranges dwindled, a small army of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Teachers' Institute members turned into the country lanes of England and Scotland with their baskets. Two hundred tons of rose hips were turned into a syrup for the older children. Two teaspoonfuls in 24 hours give all the vitamin C which older boys and girls require. Mother has no problem in urging little Johnny and Susie to take their vitamins, for the children sip it with relish. Britain's Ministry of Health is well pleased with the result of the rosy diet and is hoping for a much bigger collection of rose hips this autumn.— Kitchener Record.

To the 360,000 miles she has traveled since March, 1933, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has added several thousand more. The first President's wife to fly the Atlantic is no stranger to travel by air nor to travel by almost every other means except perhaps camels or elephants. In her adaptability and her unfeigned friendliness toward all sorts an conditions of people she is what we like to think of as typically American. The British will like her and she will like the British.—New York Times.

Is the Ontario Liquor Control Board being reasonable when it 'limits a person to the purchase of only one bottle of high-powered liquor a day? Why, that's only six bottles a week! Even if they be large bottles, can a man get along on only one bottle a day? Of course if they were really rationing liquor, one bottle a week would be something to consider — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Vichey's Fleet

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The French fleet has at last to face the consequence of crossing the bar to fight for the Germans. It is not the fleet that fought alongside the British at the start of the war, but it should not be smaller than was the portion that ceased fire when ordered to do so by Admiral Darlan in 1940. It may be increased in submarine and other small craft.

Around last March the French fleet was regarded as capable of tipping the balance of naval power in favor of the Axis. Vichy itself must have alternated in a belief and lack of belief in this estimate, but Berlin appears to have held to the conviction that if its sailors could man the French ships, control in the Mediterranean could be wrested from the Allies for all time.

But Vichy knew the use to which the Germans would put its fleet and was fully aware that its own bargaining power would be reduced if deprived of the weight of the fleet. Now the issue has been decided, not by Vichy or Berlin, but London and Washington. Both lost the initiative that for a time could choose the best time for the French fleet to put to sea to issue a victory.

The components of the French fleet which ran into French harbors in 1940 may be greater in actual strength today than then, but its collective strength is diluted by the dispersion of is ships. Recent rumors of movements of French ships of various types makes specific allocation of the fleet today difficult, but these movements, carried out or not, cannot alter the known components of the fleet or materially change the grouping of the ships. They are mainly located at Toulon, but the rest are scattered along the coastline of north and west Africa, with a handy, force held in Martinique, in the West Indies.

The larger assemblage at Toulon remains much as it was in 1940 after the affair of Mers-El-Kebir, the French naval base near Oran. There can have been little increase in capital ships since then, although it is probable that submarines and other small craft have been added. Construction activity at Toulon was feverish last spring and was kept going 24 hours daily.

Details of the fleet then stationed at Toulon reasonably agree in the naval reports given of them. The strength they indicate must bear pertinently on the actions Admiral Harwood—of Graf Spee fame—now contemplates in the Mediterranean, if these actions are not already being fought.

In Toulon harbor Vichy held three battleships, four cruisers, 28 destroyers and some 40 to 50 submarines. Two of the battleships, the Strasbourg and the Dunkerque, are of 26,000 tonnage and are new and modern. The Provence is of 22,000 tonnage. The cruisers include Dupleix, Foch, Algerie and Primauget. The destroyers are said to number 28 or 30. The larger part of the 90 submarines listed in the Vichy naval strength are probably laid up at Toulon.

* * *

The dispersal of French ships entailed considerable strength being based on Casablanca and Dakar. If the Americans did not find all these warships at Casablanca, it is pretty certain they sank or captured most of them. Besides the battleship, Jean Bart, of 35,000 tons, recently completed sister ship of Richelieu, there were these cruisers: Colbert, La Galissonniere, Georges l'Eyguies, La Guoire, Montcalm and Marseilaise. Besides these ships there was a 12-000-ton aircraft carrier. Of the submarines based on Casablanca, three were known to be big enough to cross the Atlantic.

The battleship Richelieu, 35,000 tons, was allowed to move from Toulon to Dakar, a long way off on the west coast of Africa, and is still the nucleus of some considerable naval strength there, mostly thought to be undresea craft.

At such various ports as Oran, Algiers, Bizerte and others belonging to France in North Africa, other small squadrons have been located. These and the complement demobilized at Alexandria make quite a hole in the naval strength Vichy might, under more favorable circumstances, have assembled at Toulon for the present emergency.

Instead, the former French ships at Alexandria can now be manned by the British. This small squadron would be effective aid in making good the strength the British have had difficulty in amassing in the eastern Mediterranean. The squadron is composed of the battleship Lorraine, four cruisers, ten destroyers and two submarines.

The consequences of the pugnacity of Darlan's admiral at Oran were avoided by the French admiral, Godefroy, at Alexandria. Instead of inviting heavy loss of life, he agreed to having his squadron demobilized and kept in and about the harbor of Alexandria.

When the tide of Axis superiority seemed to imperil the Allies in Egypt, resentment against the British seemed apparent in the French crews of the warships interned at Alexandria. This was pointedly alluded to by Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham when he relinquished his Mediterranean command to take up the British naval representation at Washington, but recent events may have converted the French crews to an attitude the reverse of having to fight for their standing enemy, the German.

What action the United Nations will take toward Martinique in the West Indies has not been revealed, but it can scarcely avoid taking over the two French cruisers and aircraft carrier still in port there. The cruisers are Jeanne D'Arc and Emile Bertin, and the carrier Bearn.

That Foreigner, General LaFleche

(Montreal Gazette)

The Government, says Maxime Raymond, "faithful to its policy of equivocation, has chosen from outside the Province of Quebec a Minister with a French-Canadian name." Evidently, in the eyes of Mr. Raymond and his Bloc Populaire, Major-General LaFleche is not a true French-Canadian.

Leo R. LaFleche was brought up in Sorel, his father's birthplace. Both his parents were French-Canadians. His forefathers came here from the village of LaFleche in Anjou three hundred years ago, and took part under Maisonneuve's leadership in the founding of Montreal. The R. in his name stands for Richer—he is, by an odd coincidence, a distant cousin of that correspondent of Le Devoir whom Cardinal Villeneuve rebuked on Tuesday for impudence in censuring L'Action Catholique's support of LaFleche.

Educated at Mont St. Bernard College, Sorel, the future General started his career as a bank clerk in this city. His first extended departure from the Province of Quebec came when, in 1914, he volunteered with the famous Vingt-Deuxieme and went overseas the following year to glory and near-death. He came back with the D.S.O. and the Legion of Honor, to spend a year in hospital recovering from the wounds which mark him to this day.

This is the background of the "Minister with a French-Canadian name" whom the Government has "chosen from outside the Province of Quebec." It is true that for the most of the inter-war period, General LaFleche has held one of those Government positions which, according to Mr. Raymond, are given so stingily to French-Canadians. Therefore he has resided in Ottawa, fully a mile outside the Province of Quebec, except when he was representing his country as military attache in France. Thus, by Mr. Raymond's standards, he has ceased to be a true son of Quebec. He is instead "candidate of the whole imperialist and conscription press of the country"—including the semi-official daily of the Cardinal's own archdiocese, L'Action Catholique of Quebec.

We had known that the Raymond group was isolationist, at home as well as abroad. We had known it was narrow. But to call a man an expatriate because he has moved across the Ottawa River reveals a degree of parochialism hitherto unsuspected, even in that Bloc which, quite unconscious of irony, calls itself "Canadien" and hopes to be "populaire."

Education

(Ottawa Journal)

In a lecture in Ottawa some 20 years ago, Sir Michael Sadler, famous British educationist, said that instead of teaching our young people how to think we were merely teaching them how to remember.

That was acute criticism, but no more acute than the further remark that the theory of education as a means to an end, with the end material gain, was a dangerous heresy. It will be well if we in Canada can take these truths to heart. With the close of the war and with a mechanical age more upon us than ever before, it will be right and necessary that we give more of our young people technical and mechanical instructions, but it will be a pitiful mistake if we come to imagine that only as education or as the end of education.

Education is something for its own sake. Something to make men see more of truth and beauty; to bring them a deeper sense of sportsmanship and fair play; a deeper understanding of life's meaning, of its humanities, and compassions and pities. And education is not science, that god of so many.

In the last generation George Meredith, caught up by the modern passion for science, cried out, "More brain, O Lord, more brain." Yet all of the 19th century's passion for science—a passion in which Germany was held up as the great example—brought little of gain. And education is not the promotion of pride and vanity, and intellectual arrogance, and the "right of private judgment." "Let us be our own oracles and tripods and gods," shouted Voltaire. But in succeeding years the world was to learn what havoc this mad resolve wrought with the fundamental articles of the ancient faiths. A deadly dialectic loosened and undermined human confidence in all the codes and conventions, the rules of life implicit in the constitution of society. Every argument met its match in a contrary argument of seeming equal force until nothing appeared capable either of proof or disproof. Every ground in science, in politics, in economics, in religion, in morals was challenged. The old moorings were swept away.

That is not education: it is chaos. Education, if it is to promote the good life, must teach love, affection, justice, mercy, pity. It must teach God. The forces that make for unity, for social cohesion, are not found in grand abstract theories, nor in science divorced from sentiment or love or religion. They are found rather in the affections and passions, in those mysterious influences; those mighty factors in the human story, the love of home and the love of country. Feelings in common, beliefs in common, common hopes, loves fears a common way of life, in a word a communion of souls, to which the intellect makes only partial contribution—these are the mortar of societies. It will be well for us here in Canada if, in building the foundations of our education for the future, we keep these truths in mind. Science, technical instructions, "education" for social glory or material gains — these things are not enough.

COMEDY OF ENGLISH

The musical comedy has been developed almost exclusively by the English-speaking peoples.

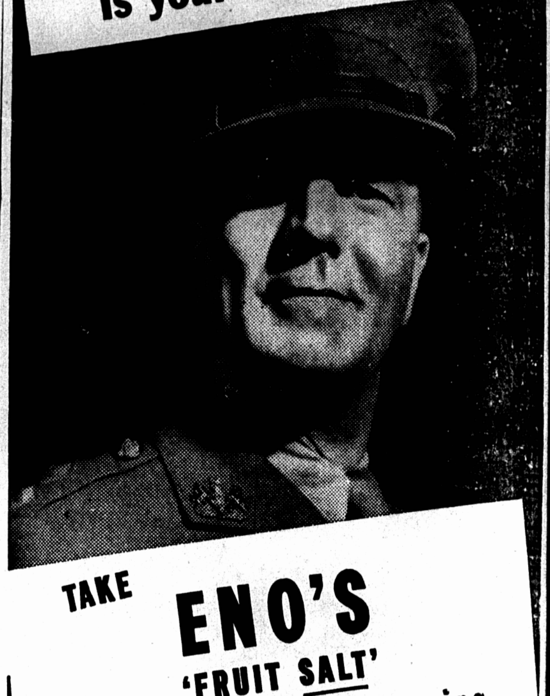
The Poets' Corner

SONNET: 1914

Dear! of all happy in the hour, most blest
He who has found our hid security,
Assured in the dark tides of the world at rest,
And heard our word, 'Who is so safe as we?'
We have found safety with all things undying,
The winds, and morning, tears of men and mirth,
The deep night, and birds singing, and clouds flying,
And sleep, and freedom, and the autumnal earth.
We have built a house that is not for Time's throwing.
We have gained a peace unshaken by pain for ever.
War knows no power. Safe shall be my going,
Secretly armed against all death's endeavour;
Safe though all safety's lost; safe where men fall;
And if these poor limbs die, safest of all.

—Rupert Brooke.

Uce Minard's for sprains.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