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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1940.

The Legal Viewpoint

Bench and Bar, a national legal newspaper entirely independent in politics, in a signed editorial by its editor-in-chief, Harold E. A. Rose, LL.M., Montreal, takes strong exception to the action of the King Government in dissolving Parliament before a single measure had been passed and even before the Speech from the Throne had been discussed. It says:

"A Parliament in a British Country is an independent body selected by the voters and assembled periodically for the purpose of advising the King as to the measures he should adopt for the betterment of the people as a whole and also of voting supplies for the carrying-on of government. Its original purpose was the voting of supplies and this is shown—as every school-boy knows, or should know—by the familiar device of not voting the budget until the end of the session. It has the right to investigate anything in the conduct of affairs which it desires; indeed, it is a Court and its members have the same if not greater protection than judges and it can support its orders by force. That a body of such a character and of such importance can be called together ostensibly to assist in the conduct of affairs during one of the greatest crises that has ever faced this country and then be told that it is 'born but to die', that the Government did not need its advice and (we may infer) did not wish its members to be informed as to the conduct of public affairs, and after a few hours' existence, indeed, during the first interval for refreshment, be dissolved by the representative of the Crown on the advice of the Cabinet; that, frankly, makes us wonder as to the legality of such proceedings and if their legality is admitted, as to their wisdom."

A more constitutional method of procedure, Bench and Bar suggests, would have been to adopt the resolution approving the Speech from the Throne before the dissolution. "Any elective deliberative body has the right not only to suspend its sittings by prorogation or some equivalent action, but may dissolve itself and ask for a new mandate from the persons who originally elected its members or their successors. But, in the present case, Parliament did not agree to its own dissolution, nor was it even given the opportunity. It was dissolved by executive action."

"If, on the other hand, it was always the intention of the Government to call an election within the shortest possible delay in order that the people might have an opportunity of deciding who should compose Parliament and thus be given the responsibility of conducting the affairs of the country, the obvious question arises:—Why was Parliament summoned at all? Why, at a time like this, was the country put to the expense of bringing the members to Ottawa if they were to do nothing except listen to the announcement of their removal from office? Could not the Government have privately consulted the leaders of the other groups—all of whom have solemnly asserted within or without Parliament, that they knew nothing of the proposed dissolution—and arranged for an appeal to the country? No Parliamentary action is required for the issuance of election writs; this could have been done without consulting anyone, though, as a matter of courtesy, some warning should be given to Opposition parties."

Bench and Bar maintains that the Opposition parties were perfectly justified in demanding an accounting before Parliament of the Government's stewardship, and that in evading this issue the party in power obtained an improper advantage for its members, who alone have access to information of vital concern to the public and their elected representatives, regardless of party politics.

Model Municipalities

The twin northern Quebec towns of Rouyn and Noranda are, says the Montreal Gazette, setting a fine example in municipal administration. Their current budgets have been balanced, notwithstanding increasing demands for public services, and the manner in which the balance has been maintained through the years during which so many capital works essential to new towns had to be punctually undertaken, entitles Rouyn and Noranda to rank as model municipalities. The population of each town is entirely dependent on a single industry, and the commercial activities of the local people, other than mining, consist of distributive and professional trades. Rouyn has approximately 11,000 inhabitants. Less than two decades ago it was a squatters' settlement. As mining operations progressed, municipal government was established and it has grown up and is conducted on well proportioned lines of expenditures. Income and outgo are budgeted on the principle of cutting the municipal coat according to the cloth available year by year; and the town has a very excellent accounting system which enables the taxpayers to keep constant check upon value received for every municipal dollar spent. The annual balance-sheet has been just issued. This reveals a budget balanced with a surplus of \$6,414 over and above a total expenditure of \$102,714. The

surplus, says the Gazette, is the more remarkable because Rouyn is not only ahead by two years in principal and interest on its bonds, but the town, which purchases its water supply from Noranda, has reduced a debt under this head to the modest sum of \$1,380.

Noranda, somewhat smaller in population than Rouyn, but equally progressive, and equally jealous to conduct its municipal affairs on sound business lines, shows in its annual financial statement a well balanced control over municipal expenditures. In the matter of public services and schools—and Noranda is acknowledged to have some of the best schools in the province—this town continues to give leadership to Rouyn. "Due to the able management of affairs in both towns," says the Gazette, "civic government costs annually little more than \$10 per head of the population. In the matter of civic administration in which efficiency goes hand in hand with sound economy, Rouyn and Noranda serve as a guide for other municipalities."

Canadian Corps Platform

The Ontario Canadian Corps Association has announced in a recently issued statement that it is "prepared to support to the fullest a genuinely national movement designed to establish in Ottawa a government dedicated to the prosecution of the war to the full extent of our national strength. It is not interested in the fortunes of any political party, but will support any coalition of political groups or individual candidates who are definitely prepared to put the good of Canada before any consideration of partisan advantage."

Naturally an organization of veterans cannot name names; with both political faiths in their membership that would be going too far. But, as the New Glasgow News points out, it is distinctly noticeable that the platform they lay down has only been accepted by Dr. Manion. Mr. King still holds to the view that he and his followers alone are waging this war and that it is unpardonable lack of patriotism to question what they do.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Britons never will be slaves of Germany anyway.

The Legion, as was to be expected of veterans, have gone over the top, and then some.

The next event is the Boy Scout Carry-on Campaign equally important and essential.

In a race if two enter and one fails to put in an appearance at the starting point, the other has a walkover. But not so in a civic race evidently.

Dr. Manion says, except in company with Their Majesties, Prime Minister King has not visited the West since 1935. The same can be said of the Maritimes, only nobody saw him here.

General Lord Rawlinson born this date, 1864. During the last war his crowning exploit was in the great British offensive of 1918 when, with the 4th Army, he carried British arms across the old battlefield of the Somme and the Hindenburg Line, thus being instrumental in effecting the German collapse.

Canada imported 453,654 cwt. of fertilizers in December and exported 698,257 cwt. The United States figured largely in both phases of the trade. Imports in November totalled 1,304,297 cwt. and in December, 1938, 639,401. Exports in November amounted to 649,619 cwt. and in December, 1938, 421,915.

A governmental board has been appointed in Australia to control the hide and leather industry, according to a report received by the Department of Trade and Commerce from R. P. Bower, Assistant Canadian Trade Commissioner at Sydney. The Hide and Leather Industries Board provides for the appointment in each state of appraisement committees, to whom all hides and skins must be submitted. It also provides that all dealers in hides must be licensed and no dealer is allowed to buy or sell hides except under the terms of the licences granted by the Board. No hides may be sold that have not been appraised by a committee.

Brigadier-General Ross, of the Canadian Legion, told the New York Canadian Club that because of the approaching election he would make no remarks which could be taken as controversial. But he assured Canadians away from home that regardless of what happens when the people select the next Parliament, Canada "will take her full part in the war."

That had been realized before Parliament determined upon war with the approval of practically all the people. Canada decided that the price was worth while. "It is better to live in poverty than in slavery."

As a result of continued negotiations between the Government and the New Zealand Fruit Control Board and the Fruitgrowers' Federation, a basis for the purchase of this year's apple and pear crop by the Government was announced by the Minister of Marketing, the Hon. W. Nash. The Government will buy the fruit at an overall average of 5s a case at assembly point. Mr. Nash said there was the prospect of a heavy yield, and the difficulty facing the Dominion was that the British Government was not able to buy the export crop, as it was doing with all the other main commodities. The war situation had meant that at a time when the Dominion had a record crop it would be without its main overseas market. It is not known whether it will be possible to export any fruit, but efforts are being made to obtain shipping space. The Internal Marketing Department will take charge of the whole of the business side of the purchase and sale of the fruit within New Zealand. The growers accepted the offer, although they considered the price did not cover the costs of production.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Dominion government has taken precaution to see that the soldier vote in the coming election is properly recorded and distributed. Although it is not wholly clear what the system devised is, foolproof, Mr. King and his colleagues have made a genuine effort to avoid the manipulation that marked the allocation of overseas votes in 1917.—Ottawa Citizen.

A New York businessman who resides at Fifty-eighth Street and First Avenue has his office at Forty-sixth Street and Park Avenue—16 blocks away. One day while lunching with a teacher of mathematics he mentioned the monotony of his daily walks to and from the office. The instructor forthwith presented mathematical proof that there were 1,820 possible routes between home and office, all of them approximately the same distance.—Christian Science Monitor.

How many languages are there in the world? That is a question which has interested philologists for a long time. Thanks to international collaboration by experts in the number has been definitely ascertained. Grammarians have traced 6760 different tongues, over half of which are "dead" languages. The number of living languages is 2796. Of these, the most widely spoken language, followed by Russian, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Italian in order, are those of the white races. Chinese holds pride of place; then comes Japanese. Arabics, Hindustani and at the bottom of the list is Persian.—Paris Marianne.

Not so long ago, the world used to wait almost with bated breath to hear what Hitler would say next. That is long ago, so the world knows what Hitler will say, and ever he speaks—the same travesty of recent history, the same hollow pretences to exonerate flagrant crimes, the same mark beatings and the boasting of pious platitudes and the hysterical key. All this sound and fury falls on the world's jaded ear today with the effect of the mechanical organ of a roundabout at a country fair. Everyone knows now that the only safe course is to assume that whatever Hitler may say, he will behave in the worst possible way for the peace of Europe and the security of small nations. It is, therefore, no longer to him that the world turns with any hope in looking forward into the dark and gloomy future, and discouraging.—Daily Telegraph and Morning Post London.

The argument that weak isolated states are responsible among the whole world will rush to their rescue in case of attack is still used to bolster the republican campaign, though not, perhaps, with quite the former air of conviction. In the light of the fate of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Finland, and the obvious nervousness of Holland, Belgium, Roumania and various Balkan lands, the comfortable theory that safety lies in admitted weakness does not sound quite as good as it used to do. The assumption that a predatory power looking for victims would be checked by strong rivals determined not to permit shameless robbers to roam the globe does not give that sense of protection that was the former air of conviction. South Africa chose to perceive in it. In a world in which might is fast becoming the only right the insurance rates for Hermit Kingdoms are still being rapidly.—Cape Argus. (Capetown).

Ceylonization is the declared policy of the Ceylon Government, but to what extent it is being carried out is not clear. In the Civil Service in January, 1922, there were 110 posts and 25 cadetships. Today it is 137. The difference of 27 posts and 12 cadetships and 15 cadetships and Ceylonese held 22 posts and 10 cadetships. Eight posts were held by others. Today Ceylonese hold 71 Civil Service posts, 100 in the police and others five. These figures do not, however, tell the whole story. The total number of Civil Service posts and cadetships in 1922 was 135. Today it is 159. The difference of 24 posts less is not the result of retrenchment, because today all the legal and judicial posts held formerly by Civil Servants are held by Ceylonese, with the exception of one post of Chief Justice, one post of Legal Secretary and four posts of Puisne Justice. If these posts are taken into consideration, the Ceylonese proportion will be found to be much higher.—Times of Ceylon (Colombo).

There has been a steady proportion of losses, as the regular official statements prove, but they have shown no sign of reaching the menacing heights which, during the early months of the war, made the naval authorities fear that Britain, the Empire, and the Allies were facing positive defeat. It is not easy, even now, twenty years after, to say upon precisely what points the issues of victory and defeat turned, but the balance of expert opinion leans strongly to the decision that the war of 1914-18 was won and lost on the sea. Accepting that, it is reasonable to conclude that the convoy system, by blunting the point of the submarine weapon, was one of the most powerful factors in determining the high tide of the war in the light of that experience. It was certain that so soon as war came again, the system of merchant ship convoys would be adopted. The deadly perils to which it could not be subjected again.—Auckland News.

Finance Minister Ralston, who gave up one of the most live law practices in Canada when war broke out in order to serve his country again, is to be commended for the effort he is making to contribute to the financial resources of the Dominion to meet expenditures which are directly related to national defence. When Colonel Ralston returned to Ottawa he found that appropriations had been made at the previous session of Parliament for public works amounting to one hundred million dollars. These were what are known as "work-barely" projects, public buildings, wharves, and the like which are undertaken on the eve of an election with the object of keeping the constituencies sweet. In view of the imperative need to devote the resources to pay the heavy commitments on account of the war effort, Colonel Ralston set

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.

CHEAP FEEDS AND FARM REHABILITATION

Sir.—Satisfactory as were Mr. Walter Shaw's comments on the need of cheap animal feeds for our farmers, when he digressed in his letter of last week into the question of farm rehabilitation, he lost his balance and fell from his otherwise well-established plumb line. This is what he said:

"This (rehabilitation) problem will never be solved by cash advances and artificial methods, but improvements in farm conditions may be brought about by the lowering of feed costs which permits the producer a slight margin of profit on his livestock enterprise." A logical conclusion must be based upon a full complement of premises, and such certainly is not the case with Mr. Shaw's conclusion. What benefit to a farmer is cheap feed if he has not the wherewithal to purchase it or the animal's to which to feed it? Or again if his buildings are in a condition that will house even the meanest scrub? Or still worse if his knowledge of feed requirements and of many other farming methods are those of his great-great-great-grandfather? Or if, as Mr. Shaw says, of course a necessity for our farmer, modern implements, livestock that will produce at a profit and a whole lot of other things, not omitting a knowledge of how to plan and how to carry out a plan on modern lines.

Probably the farmers who venture into Mr. Shaw's office are of the class painted in the above picture and so are many that I see and converse with. But there are too many others that one cannot but pity and wonder how they are able to keep their families alive, much less in good health. Of what profit are cheap feeds to these men?

But Mr. Shaw is out of line again when he speaks of "cash advances" as the key to the non-existent conditions of all rehabilitation schemes. True, money has to be advanced, but the spending of it is left to those who will insure the greatest possible return. Nor are the rehabilitation methods "artificial." They are simply a combination of modern farm equipment supplied only to an extent by the ability of the individual farmer can utilize it to the best advantage, and a continual organized oversight, coupled with helpful advice, by the wisest public instructors, in order to insure the observance of the most up-to-date farming principles and methods.

Farm rehabilitation is not a fact. It has been tried in the United States and it has failed. It is a success covering millions of acres under proper management. One thing it will not stand, viz. the influence of party politics. A government of religion to give the people under the spolis system can not be expected to do justice to a plan of this nature. It must be left to an independent commission, preferably the highest provincial or federal educational and expert body, free from any axes to grind, and whose one ambition would be to see a full measure of success come to each and every farmer placed under their jurisdiction. Farm rehabilitation is logical, it is wise. It is humane, and above all it is enormously profitable. It has got to come to the Island and that right soon.—I. M. S. R. etc.

H. K. S. HEMMING.

The Poet's Corner

TO MY FATHER

He was the Interpreter to trustful souls, The wearied feet he led into the cool, Calm path called Ease; he gave the weary heart a rest, and the dull heart he brought to the House Beautiful; The timorous knew his heartening Where the Dark River rolls; He drew me from the town of Vanity, Past Demian mine and Castle Doubting's towers, To the green hills where the wise Shepherds be, And Zion's songs are crooned among the flowers.—John Buchan.

BLACKOUT FLASH FATAL

LONDON.—(CP)—When a bus driver was momentarily blinded by a flash from an electric torch in the blackout, he ran down and killed an elderly couple. Verdict—"accidental death."

To work to weed out appropriations that were not immediately necessary, it is probable the money thus diverted from the projects that are not urgent will reach \$50,000,000. The experience of the Minister of Finance has been that the contingencies are most reasonable when the position is explained to them. The majority of them to operate without demur.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

How Are Your Eyes?

If you are having symptom of strain—headaches, sore eyes, or dizziness—consult a specialist. At your service with year of experience and a thorough refracting service. Call in and discuss your difficulties. G. F. Hutcheson G. F. HUTCHESON F. G. HUTCHESON.

Shameful Neglect

Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) Discovery of Pilot James Wade and his passenger, James A. Noonan, forced down on a lake in Halifax county, came just when hopes were fast fading for the safety of the two men. The plane, it was feared had carried both the men to their deaths. They came close enough to death, in all conscience, and the incident which almost became a tragedy emphasizes the shameful neglect which the authorities have shown towards flying facilities in this province.

The two men escaped death, but their experience must have brought considerable discomfort to both of them as well as the greatest distress and anxiety to friends and relatives. Their experience must do what persistent agitation, so far, has failed to accomplish. It must compel central authority to establish the same standards of air safety in Nova Scotia as obtain in other provinces. The blame lies on Ottawa.

Must we wait until people are killed before our air trails are properly protected?

From Moncton to Vancouver, Canada's air lanes are equipped with modern navigation devices to aid pilots. Radio beacons guide the fliers on their courses, day and night, two-way radio communication make it possible at all times for the pilot to know what weather conditions are ahead. Only down the Atlantic, beyond the terminus of the Trans Canada Air Lines service, are we lacking in these devices which contribute so much to the safety of modern air travel.

It is necessary at present, that light upon the contents of the Prime Minister's mind than other parts of it which have been much more generally discussed. This was his deprecation of "a political campaign in this Parliament" while was going on at the front. He drew a careful distinction between a political campaign conducted on the hustings and one conducted in Parliament. People the world over he said, would be prepared to make allowance for extreme statements made outside of Parliament in a public campaign. They can understand political opponents speaking there in a different way than where they have the responsibility which rests upon members in this House.

"This, it seems to us, is no more than saying that once an election campaign is in the offing the members cannot be trusted to observe the responsibility which rests upon them—that they will behave themselves in the House with the same latitude as if they were on the hustings. And not only does this seem to us to be a grave slur upon the character of the members, but it seems also to overlook the fact that the responsibility of Parliament is largely maintained by the rules of order and rights of privilege, which exist for the express

Lenten Meditation

By Rev. James Henry Larson

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IMAGINATION

There is no realm like the philosophy of religion to give the people a beautiful temple within the realm of the imagination. All wars damage every nation on earth. Can you see a warless world of which you benefit every soul on earth? Can you visualize what the doctors are working for; a world without a deadly germ on it? Do you see the ideal of the reformer? A sober world. What did the prophet see? All the world returning to the worship of God. An endless stream of people once more entering the house of God to receive forgiveness; and an inspiration for pure living. A world of saints who know how to love one another. How can this be done? When two billion minds become pure thought centres for Christ, and capture the world for God. Then the world will become a habitation for the saints. The evil imaginations of man must be replaced by endless thoughts of beauty, goodness and truth. This is the ideal in all its abundance. The Master said, "I am the Good Shepherd, who came to give you the abundant life." Make the temple within pure, ideal, and BEAUTIFUL.

This world of ours will be remade by souls who have already built a beautiful temple within the realm of the imagination. All wars damage every nation on earth. Can you see a warless world of which you benefit every soul on earth? Can you visualize what the doctors are working for; a world without a deadly germ on it? Do you see the ideal of the reformer? A sober world. What did the prophet see? All the world returning to the worship of God. An endless stream of people once more entering the house of God to receive forgiveness; and an inspiration for pure living. A world of saints who know how to love one another. How can this be done? When two billion minds become pure thought centres for Christ, and capture the world for God. Then the world will become a habitation for the saints. The evil imaginations of man must be replaced by endless thoughts of beauty, goodness and truth. This is the ideal in all its abundance. The Master said, "I am the Good Shepherd, who came to give you the abundant life." Make the temple within pure, ideal, and BEAUTIFUL.

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Campaigns And Parliament

(Toronto Saturday Night) There is a curious passage in Mr. King's speech during the first and last day of the sixth session of the eighteenth Parliament of Canada, which perhaps sheds more light upon the contents of the Prime Minister's mind than other parts of it which have been much more generally discussed. This was his deprecation of "a political campaign in this Parliament" while was going on at the front. He drew a careful distinction between a political campaign conducted on the hustings and one conducted in Parliament. People the world over he said, would be prepared to make allowance for extreme statements made outside of Parliament in a public campaign. They can understand political opponents speaking there in a different way than where they have the responsibility which rests upon members in this House.

ROSE TO TOP FOLKSTONE, England.—(CP)—Railway clerk in the 60s at the age of 14, Charles Sheath died here a director of the Southern Railway at 80. He had been 75 years with the railway prior to his retirement last year.

SHOCKED EVEN OLD S. M. NEWCASTLE, England.—(CP)—When a former associate, an ex-sergeant-major testified a Newcastle conscientious objector's language was "so disgusting it shocks even me," the petitioner for exemption was stricken from the objectors' roll. He had pleaded exemption "on religious grounds."

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