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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1942

Prime Minister King's Dilemma

It was to be expected Prime Minister King would run into mountainous trouble with his Quebec wing as the result of the Plebiscite. All along, not only now but during the Great War, Quebec was encouraged by the Liberal Party to believe they were a people by themselves out with the rest of Canada so far as national defence is concerned.

That section reads as follows: "The powers conferred by the next preceding section may not be exercised for the purpose of requiring persons to serve in the military, naval and air forces outside of Canada and the territorial waters thereof."

A large number of House members recognize the proposal to repeal section three of the Mobilization Act a purely negative move on the part of the Administration; but they also assert that an accompanying change in section two, made necessary by repeal of the section, if not the demand for positive action.

Section two of the Mobilization Act reads as follows: "Subject to the provisions of section three hereof, the Governor-in-Council may do and authorize such acts and things, and make from time to time such orders and regulations, requiring persons to place themselves, their service and their property at the disposal of His Majesty in the right of Canada, as may be deemed necessary or expedient for securing the public safety, the defence of Canada, the maintenance of public order, or the efficient prosecution of the war, or for maintaining supplies or services essential to the life of the community."

The repeal of section three, obviously, requires that the first phrase in the second section be deleted, that is, the words from "subject to and including" hereof. That leaves to the Government complete, unlimited power to do all that is necessary to make the nation's war effort effective; and there will be a wide and clamorous demand in the House that the administration regard section two, when reinforced by the recent plebiscite vote, as an inescapable duty, as a marching order for the "double quick."

The Liberal caucus no doubt yesterday was a stormy one, though details are not forthcoming. It can readily be assumed how indignant, not only the rank-and-file, but the Quebec leaders in Parliament must be at what they consider "the betrayal" of their independent nationhood. But Prime Minister King, running true to form, is in a position to keep the Quebecers in hand—he still holds control of the dispensing of "the loaves and fishes" so dear to the Quebec politicians' hearts, and all he has got to do is to tell his followers there that if they attempt to "dish" him, he will resign, go to the country on the issue, with the pleasant prospect of letting that "terrible man Meighen" get them by the throat and choke them off. It is a dire alternative the died-in-the-wool Liberal politician in Quebec would hate to contemplate.

Penal Reform Needed

A strong indictment of Canada's penal system was made at a recent meeting of the Canadian Conference on Social Work by a well known Toronto legal authority, Mr. J. M. McRuer, K. C. Mr. McRuer pointed out that 46,723 adult prisoners were convicted of serious crimes in the Dominion in 1940 while England and Wales, with almost four times the population, had a corresponding figure of 47,000. Of all adults convicted in this country in 1938, 10,089 could be classed as repeaters, Canadians did not seem to realize the financial significance of these figures. He said that the Royal Commission of which he was a member had analyzed the records of 183 prisoners who had been convicted 10 times or more. The total aggregate time they had spent in penal institutions was 2,037 years and the cost of their maintenance amounted to \$1,347,000. The Commission estimated that the cost of their convictions could not be placed at less than an additional \$3,200,000.

present system of administering the penal laws of Canada operates neither to protect society nor as an effective deterrent to the commission of crime," he declared. "We in Canada have provided a police system to apprehend offenders which is comparable to any system in the world. We have provided a comprehensive and efficient system of the administration of justice where the offender is dealt with when he has been apprehended. I do not say that it is perfect but I do say that it is designed to be just and fair. But, when the accused is found guilty the serious responsibility of the state is no longer acknowledged, except insofar as the responsibility for his safe custody until the term of imprisonment has expired."

The increase in crime is certainly a clear indication that our methods of administering justice following conviction do not deter others from committing crime. The increase in recidivism is an equally clear indication that the present treatment of prisoners does not deter others from repeating their criminal offences. The problem, Mr. McRuer, argued, must be recognized as a national one, and an attempt must be made to solve it as such. It was "wholly illogical" that hundreds of confirmed criminals should be serving sentences in provincially-controlled reformatories, while 25 per cent, or more of the population of the federally-controlled penitentiaries should be first offenders, or youths. The efforts of a "true reformatory" should not be wasted on hardened criminals, though it might be very desirable to keep in custody for long terms, men undergoing reformatory treatment.

"There would appear to be no serious constitutional difficulty involved in correcting this by the centralization of authority. Following the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on the Penal System of Canada in 1938 most, if not all of the provinces expressed a willingness to permit the Dominion authorities to take over all of the reformatories within provincial jurisdiction.

Penitentiary reform, it will be recalled, was one of the issues raised by Mr. Mackenzie King when in opposition. It is evident from Mr. McRuer's criticism that there has been no improvement in recent years, and that the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1938 have been largely ignored. The present time may not be opportune for government action in this direction, but it is one of the problems which will assuredly have to be dealt with after the war.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Four more days for the Red Cross canvassers to make their calls.

The Red Cross campaign in Charlottetown ends today—so generous was the response to the first day's canvassing. Another war record to be proud of.

Like the weather, everybody is talking about the iniquitous move to deprive this province of the accountability department, but also, like the weather, nobody seems to be doing very much about it—except the officials concerned.

Youths who must now go home and presumably in bed long before midnight will have just to make up for it by sallying forth to view the rising sun, on the principle that "early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

The City Council is equally interested with the Provincial Government and Board of Trade in seeing we do not unnecessarily lose citizens and taxpayers to the competing municipality of Moncton.

In England they are getting after the hoarders and black marketers to some tune. The Houndsditch Warehouse Company, two subsidiaries and six directors have been fined a total of £207,201 (\$922,044) on charges of selling goods in excess of their legal quotas between December, 1940 and May, 1941. The penalty was the heaviest yet imposed in the Government campaign against hoarders and their outlets, the black markets.

Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian scientist, statesman, and explorer, died this date 1930; organized the first expedition to cross and explore Greenland; later engaged in Polar exploration in the specially built ship Fram; took a leading part in the movement which led to the separation of Norway from Sweden, and was appointed Minister to England by the newly formed Norwegian government; took active part in the work of the League of Nations; wrote many volumes dealing with his Polar expeditions and their scientific results.

Even without precise detailed information, it is known that, as the weeks pass, the Nazi rear lines which must fulfill the requirements for the loudly-bruited spring offensive are becoming increasingly weak; and it was doubtless due to this knowledge that Hitler, in his address at the Berlin memorial meeting on March 15, told his people they could not expect victory in the East before summer thus postponing once more the date for the triumph he had promised Germany. Again, the other day Hitler told the Germans they must fight another winter in Russia before victory can be assured. Too many such postponements are bound to make the Germans, unless reason has deserted them, wonder if his promises are not of the stuff of which dreams are made.

Here is practical patriotism for you with the enemy at their door. In a letter to The Times Mr. G. E. Cator, Agent for Malaya, says the Malaya Patriotic Fund which has already removed 40 Great Britain £370,000 (\$850,000) and over 800 cases of comforts, marked the crisis of Malaya's greatest ordeal by sending £48,000 (\$240,000), for distribution among war charities, including £25,800 (\$129,000) for the Aid of Russia Fund, £8,000 (\$40,000) for the Red Cross and £5,000 (\$25,000) for the Admiralty Welfare Fund in memory of the officers and men of the Royal Navy who lost their lives in H. M. ships Prince of Wales and Repulse.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Can anyone explain, asks J. S., why the retail price of lettuce should be 1s. and 2d. each and radishes 1s. per bunch and eggplant? Only the rich can afford to buy at such prices. This only goes to prove what the poor must suffer if outdoor wages were not controlled. —Birmingham Mail.

Lord Vanillart, at that time Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, regards the fall of Austria into Hitler's hands as directly due to the sinister part played by Laval. "He is the greatest crook I have ever met in a long experience of international politics," Lord Vanillart told me yesterday. —G. Ward Price in London Daily Mail.

Banquets worthy of the name, we fear, must go. Their pleasures will become brighter in the memory. A well-lighted hall, tables festooned with nappies and sparkling silver, the tinkle of china, the pop of a distant cork, and the hiss, no doubt, of any liquid in the glass, the soft-footed service of deft-handed waiters, the animation of friendly banquets, the hidden balcony—these are certainly not the least delights of the public dining room. Instead of the public dining room, the tables sink away after the loyal toast—the subsequent proceedings are no doubt of a more intimate nature (the less is his and his alone if the public luncheon and dinner have to go for the duration of the war). The time will pass from our midst for the time being. — Leeds Yorkshire Post.

Canada's Indians are upholding nobly the loyal traditions of their forefathers. In the last year, preliminary figures, over 1,200 Indians have taken part in the armed forces in Canada, and the number of Indian enlistments which have not been reported to the Department of Militia and Reserves is estimated to be in the thousands. Many of these Indians are known to have enlisted in the American Air Force and may now be striking down the enemy with their bombs. The Indian enlistments are being used in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the last war. This number is estimated to be 35 per cent. of the Indian male population of military age in the nine provinces. — Canadian Resources Bulletin.

Senator "Billy" Sharpe, of Ontario, who died the other day, enjoyed a distinction that is very rare in Canadian parliamentary annals. He was one of two brothers who served in Parliament at the same time. He represented Lisgar in Manitoba, while his brother, the late Sir John Sharpe, sat for Ontario. There has been one other instance of two brothers being in Parliament together, that of the Schells, one representing Ontario and the other Glenora. The present Parliament had a father and son as members, though the children were not in the same family. The father, Hon. Ernest Lapine, died. The son, now an off-ice overseas, sits for a Quebec constituency and is a man of very real promise. There was a time also when Hon. James H. Ross sat in the Senate and his son, George Ross, the present M.P. for Meuse Jaw, had a seat in the Commons. — Lebridge Herald.

A chamber of horrors may be used in every army training unit soon. Experiments have been carried out by the War Office to get men used to the noise of battle and the gut and sound of diving-bombing, because men who have been trained to do this in the noise that frightens. A soldier is sent alone into a dark room, which is equipped with sound films and dummy guns. As he handles the guns, he hears the noise of bombs and dive-bombers. At the same time, through special strings which show planes diving on him. All the time someone outside lobs dummy hand grenades and bombs into the room, so that the soldier is choked with the fumes of burning cordite and strafed by real machine-guns. After three or four spells of this most men can go into battle with iron nerves. — London Daily Herald.

They found Gus dead in his cot in the South State street telephone booth that had been his home for West. Eighty-seven years old, the oldest beggar on State street, a hard worker who toiled conscientiously at his mucking seven days a week, came rain, shine, heat, cold, sleet, snow, or zero blasts it was to be expected that occupational disease would occur at a later date. Hence it was no surprise to anyone when they found him dead in bed after the rigors of a winter. He had been many years of panhandling. The surprise came when the police searched the pockets of his bed and found a small amount of money. Thereafter Kelly a few years ago in Kelly had managed to accumulate something over \$140.00, yet so one had ever suspected that he had more than the price of his next meal, if that. But guys like Kelly and Gus Reinhold's are always surprising the co-conspirators when they find out. He had a good beat to work; he had always been a hard worker. Accustomed to the street since boyhood, Gus, the oldest beggar on South State street, through years of panhandling—a nickel or a few pennies at a time—had accumulated an estate consisting of two well-worn suits of clothes, a razor and a comb in each. — From the Chicago Daily News.

Belgian refugees feel pained by the way in which the efforts of their country in this war are overlooked. It was customary in Europe to describe the French as gentlemen with decorations, but no knowledge of geography. The same description could be applied to the editors of a widely circulated weekly magazine which last week published a map of Africa on which the Belgian Congo, whose troops have taken such an important part in the conquest of Ethiopia, capturing almost 20,000 prisoners and a round dozen Italian generals (which is not much to say after all), was listed

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"It is for us a matter of life or death, we will win or we will perish." — Adelaar God-bout.

The Too-Compleat Angler

(Christian Science Monitor)
It used to be "news" when a man bites a dog but today a hook that bites the fish gets only an inch of space in a big metropolitan daily. This hook is one of the inventions of an airplane company employee. However repugnant such an invention may be from the point of view of sportsmanship, it supposedly presents technical progress. Can the day be far off when biting fishing hooks will be equipped with little propellers to enable them to wander about in search of trout? In the front handle of the fishing rod and electric storage battery would transmit current along the fisherman's line to operate an electric eye attached to the hook. This eye would not only locate the fish but measure it before catching. It might even be adjusted to report to the angler a properly exaggerated picture of any fish that happened to get away. Wonder who nobody ever thought of this before? Probably Isak Walton, of the "Compleat Angler" would not have welcomed the mechanization of fishing. He thought of fishing as an "art" practiced by "very honest men" who spent many hours deceiving the fish into doing the biting, meanwhile reserving to themselves the privilege of making the news whenever they might gather to relate their fishy illusions.

The Senate Wants To Work

(Ottawa Journal)
On Parliament Hill the Senate has been discussing (when have we heard this before?) how to do a job. The senators, judging by what they said, think that they are being overlooked in this war. They are being overlooked by "forgotten men"; and don't like it. It isn't mind you, that the senators are troubled in conscience because they are drawing their pay cheques and not turning in the man hours. On the contrary, it is their case is that while the other day, there is no reason at all why they should not be more useful, do a real, bang-up job.

WANTS FLAGS AND BANDS TO STR CANADIANS

(Ottawa Journal)
"I really do not believe that Canada is a worn-out expression," declared Senator J. A. McDonald, of Shediac, N.B., explaining the reason for his speech in the Upper House this week. "I have just returned from Halifax."

"I might say on this trip I did not hear one hand. What about courage and white for purity, for centuries. What about the greatest practical demonstration 'March of the Cameron Men,' 'Cock liberty the world has ever known'?"

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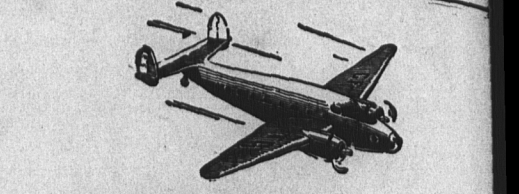
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The Poets' Corner

SCHOLAR
He is a quiet man, because he too much is said, and little worth the saying.
Silent in town meeting, when he goes,
And never finds a handy phrase at praying.
A country man's a listener. His will tell the time for plowing by the sound of his April bog. He hears
The special buying of a coon-wise And knows November nights have come again.
He shares the deep thanksgiving of the earth.
Muted in the music of the rain, His chuckle echoes back the blue Jay's mirth.
And sitting the brown richness of his land,
He holds a thousand sermons in his hand.
—Blanca Bradburn in the New York Times.

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To meet war requirements, T.C.A. began on May 1st daily service for Air Mail, Passengers and Air Express to St. John's, Nfld., connecting at Moncton with Transcontinental flights. Those desiring to use the service should enquire at T.C.A. offices.
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Lv. St. John's, Nfld..... 1.45 p.m. N.T.
Lv. Sydney..... 3.50 p.m. A.T.
Ar. Moncton..... 5.15 p.m. A.T.

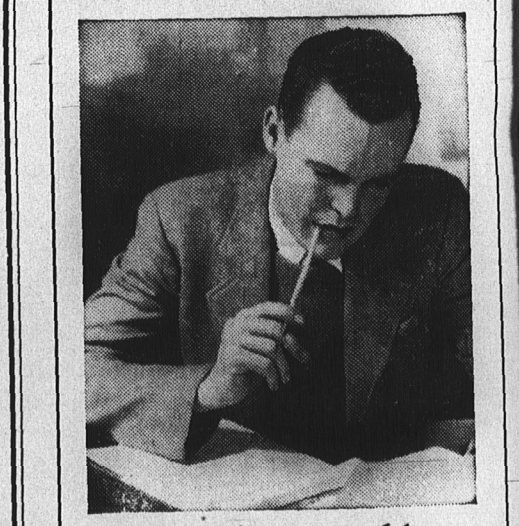
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