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

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1946

Premier Drew's Statement

The Ontario and Quebec Premiers have been criticized for being responsible for the breakup of the Dominion-Provincial Conference; but the following statement by Premier Drew, which appears in the verbatim reports and which got less publicity than it deserves to have done at the time, surely afforded a common ground of agreement among the Provinces:

"One thing I could not fail to notice throughout the statement of the Prime Minister," Premier Drew said, "was the repetition of the phrase that the Dominion Government is prepared to contribute. The Dominion Government contributes nothing. The sooner each one of us, and the sooner every Canadian taxpayer, realizes that, the better it will be for the logical disposition of our problem.

"There is no one here who has not read comments in some newspapers and probably there is no one here who has not heard some of the statements over the radio which picture the Provincial Governments as constantly begging for further concessions from the Dominion Government. No Provincial Government is here as a beggar. Each Government here sits around this table as a partner. There is no question of generosity on the part of the Dominion Government or of lack of generosity. There is no question of selfishness on the part of the provinces or of lack of selfishness. What we are discussing here is the allocation of taxes *paid by the same taxpayers across Canada.* What we are seeking is a procedure by which these combined taxes may be channelled into the most effective courses to the advantage of *all the people who live in the nine Provinces.*

"There is no Ali Baba's cave here in Ottawa. The people who will pay all taxes, no matter which government imposes or collects them, are the people who live in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, with a small additional population in the northern areas, officially represented here, I presume, by the Prime Minister of Canada. With that small additional number in the vast northern areas the taxpayers are the people who live in the Provinces. *What we are discussing is the way in which, by our combined good will and judgment, we may use the total money the taxpayers pay to produce the best results in living conditions, production and security for all these people."*

The significance of this recognition of the principal of fiscal need by the Ontario Premier seems to have been lost sight of at the Conference. There are other significant points in the above-quoted statement, every one of which could and should have been indorsed 100 per cent by our Maritime spokesmen.

A Noble Memorial

Many Canadian veterans will remember the Canadian military hospital on Lord Astor's estate at Taplow in Buckinghamshire. Opened in July, 1940, and presented to the Canadian Government by the Canadian Red Cross Society who had leased the land rent free from Lord Astor, it received into its wards the first casualties from the Normandy beaches in the summer of 1944. It is, moreover, close to the site of the 1914-18 Canadian military hospital and so has been a fitting example of the constant interest which Lord and Lady Astor have taken in Canadians.

On April 29 this hospital was presented by Lord Bennett, chairman of the overseas advisory committee of the Canadian Red Cross on behalf of the Canadian Government, to the British Ministry of Health. It will in future be known as the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital in honor of Canadians who lost their lives in World War II, and it is to be used as a key centre for research and treatment of rheumatic cardiac diseases in children.

Wool Research

Australia intends to spend from £250,000 to £300,000 a year more on wool research, which means an annual expenditure of anything from £370,000 to 420,000.

This is the biggest program of scientific research on an individual product in Australian history, writes Clive Turnbull, in The Melbourne *Herald.*

The idea is to find ways of growing more and better wool, more and easier ways of using wool and ways of making wool more acceptable to users.

This vast project to be carried out for the Commonwealth Government by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is of first importance to Australia. It involves both a short-term program, dealing with immediate problems and a long-term program, designed to increase the production of wool and to find more use for it.

To take one aspect along: If Australia, by the application of scientific method, were able to increase, over the next 20 years, the yield of wool per sheep by 3 lbs. it would mean, at the immediate pre-war rate, an addition of at least £15,000,000 to the national income.

But much more than this is involved. The whole future of the wool industry and, therefore, of the Australian economy, depends upon an increasing efficiency in the production of wool, and an increasing efficiency and range in the manufacture of wool.

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—EDITORIAL NOTES—

It is not anticipated there will be any hard-surfacing of roads this year, for reasons that must be obvious. Repair work will be reduced to a minimum.

* * * *

The opening of a new street between Gerald and Birchwood Streets should provide 40 to 50 lots for new dwellings in a most desirable part of the City.

* * * *

Igor Gouzenko, during the current espionage trials, indicated that Canada's free press, free newspapers and freedom of expression, influenced his change of allegiance to this country.

* * * *

Yesterday's reception and ceremonies in connection with the visit of Cardinal McGuigan will long be cherished in the memories of those privileged to participate. It was the event of a lifetime, well organized, and most successfully carried out. If coming events cast their shadows before, it may have been the first step towards honoring a future Pope.

* * * *

Edward Jenner, English physician and discoverer of vaccination, born this date 1749; he met with much opposition from the public and from many members of the medical faculty, but received support from eminent physicians and surgeons which enabled him to form an organization to popularize the discovery; after his death statues to his memory were erected in Gloucester Cathedral and in London.

* * * *

Sir Wilson Jameson, chief medical officer in the British health ministry, said in an interview at Montreal that, paradoxical as it may seem, war brought better health to Britain. She had achieved the lowest still-birth rate, the lowest neo-natal or first month death rate and the lower mother mortality rate in her history. Death rate for one-year-olds had been lowered to 46 per 1,000.

* * * *

The two Provincial Governments of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick are to be congratulated on working together in a Safety Campaign. Autoists and others must constantly be reminded that prevention is better than cure, and that they cannot afford to take any risks. Parents should warn their children to keep off the streets and highways, and car and truck drivers should exercise that vigilance which is the price of safety for themselves and others.

* * * *

Jersey Island was for generations the source of early potatoes for the British market, and the Jersey farmers depended on potatoes as their cash crop. They grow all kinds of vegetables, of course, the farmers being more market gardeners than dairymen, though that also is a profitable undertaking. While in the war and in the possession of Germany, German seed potatoes were introduced, and with them the Colorado beetle. Result, Jersey has lost her British potato market. This lends added weight to the appeal of the Federal Department of Agriculture for us to avoid accepting for experimental planting, any potatoes from European countries.

* * * *

Savings on deposit in Canadian chartered banks at March 31 were at a new high total of $3,170,180,000 according to the monthly condition statement of the banks. This was an increase of $92,228,000 over the February 28 figure and compared with $2,724,692,000 for the corresponding day of last year. Combined notice and demand deposits totalled $5,155,431,000 compared with $5,073,323,000 for the previous month and $4,659,474,000 for the same month of last year. Holdings of government and other securities were well ahead of the previous month and year ago totals at $4,196,708,000 against $4,119,427,000 and $3,605,949,000 respectively. Call loans combined were down nearly $56,000,000 from the previous month but were up roughly $85,000,000 over the year ago total.

* * * *

In a discussion on the farming problem in the House of Commons, Mr. Gardiner suggested that members, instead of spreading "hard-luck" stories, change their philosophy and stress the good features of farm life. Mr. Gardiner said 42,856 veterans thus far have applied for land under the Veterans Land Act. Some 31,763 applications have been dealt with and 24,000 requests have been granted. The number actually settled on the land was about 6,000. Mr. Case said that if people were to be encouraged to return to the land the agricultural picture would have to be made "brighter" than it was at present. He suggested that price ceilings be removed on farm products to bring more money to the farmer. In industry it was possible to fix costs at a certain level but this could not be done on the farm. The tendency had been to "rob" the people of their incentive to work, rob them of their initiative."

Notes By The Way

It stands to reason that divorce has become a problem that demands the attention of all those who are interested in the welfare of the family and the sanctity of the home. There must be something lacking in moral and religious training when such a state of affairs exists in this beautiful province. —Brantford Expositor.

The difference between a bull and a cow is that the cow does no damage in a china shop. That, now, is the view in Parramatta, NSW, because a cow lumbered through a china shop there—some of the passages between the shelves were only three feet wide—and out into the backyard without breaking a single thing. —Australian News Letter.

Do you want a steady, lucrative job? Then hurry and get an agency for that glass mattress which a manufacturer will soon have in production. The demand should be enormous. The convenience of the furniture for spinsters who wish to see whether there is a man under the bed, and whether he is good looking, can hardly be over-emphasized. —Sudbury Daily Star.

A few days ago James C. Petrillo decreed that films cannot be used for television. This was just as if the International Ladies Garment Workers Union had passed a resolution that suits cannot be worn by red-headed women. As if this were not a sufficient demonstration of power however, Mr. Petrillo has now gone on to forbid any member of his musicians' union to work in television at all—until he sees what the effect of television will be on the radio business. —Nw York Times.

Isn't it tragic to think, isn't it horrible to reflect, that the only damnable thing the Germans are sorry for today in their maudlin self-sympathy is that they failed, that they lost the war. What in high heaven can be done with a people like that. They can't be expunged from the earth. Hitler nothing, it is the German spirit, the German people who are the abscess on all Europe. At least they were; perhaps the Russians are taking their place. Blessed Canada; blessed United States! —St. Catharine's Standard.

Millions of people are not in a position to pay cash for their needs, and it will not be long—once industry gets into productions — before this fact is reflected in retail sales, according to the Retail Institute of America. Unless credit controls are dropped, millions of middle and lower income families will be forced to cash their Government bonds to enable them to buy the things they need. The Institute further believes that merchandise supply may be far closer to meeting demand than is presumed at this time. —Marketing.

Norwegians are investigating refined cod liver oil as a possible substitute for linseed oil in paint products. During recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find markets for whole Norwegian cod liver oil. Faced with the competition of new vitamin preparations developed during the war, Norwegians are suggesting that the vitamin content be removed from the whole oil, be prepared in "easy to take" form, and that the remaining product be used as a substitute for linseed oil. Norway has hitherto imported large quantities of linseed oil. —From Norway Digest.

The food conservation programme may prove a blessing for Americans. Call off all banquets and you get quick relief from banquet speeches. Can you think of anything more desirable? As Mark Twain pointed out long ago banquet programmes haven't varied for centuries. The food is always the same and cold; the routine never alters and the speaker generally is too long-winded. Not only could food be saved if this sort of thing were stopped, but we would save ourselves from endless hours of boredom. —N. Y. Sun.

With more motor cars on the streets and with Summer approaching, our ears will soon be assailed by the idiotic blasting of motor horns. Those peculiar beings who delight in blatant noise and who are supremely unconcerned for the comfort of others will be out in full force, unless something is done to curb them. The authorities should resolve now to stop this outrage. They should declare war on the noisy wedding processions and on the morons who sit in front of houses and make their horns substitute for doorbells. The remedy can be applied. There are laws which provide penalties for public nuisances. It is more than a matter of mere convenience. The blaring has a definite effect on the nerves of the populace. The perpetrators are menaces to both peace and health. —Windsor Star.

Decision to form a special civic committee to deal with the smoke nuisance in Ottawa will be widely approved. The sooner it is appointed and starts work the better, for it is in the coming weeks that the defence against a repetition of last winter's foul onslaught must be prepared. It is not sufficient, as the works commissioner appears to think, that the revised bylaw should merely limit still further the time during which dense smoke may be allowed to pollute the air. The bylaw, to have "teeth," must be prohibitory, with the onus on the owner or tenants of buildings to prove that they cannot comply with the regulations. By next winter all buildings should be equipped with smoke-consuming equipment. In new buildings yet to be erected such devices, or their equivalent in smokeless heating systems, should be made obligatory. After a full survey of present offenders, proper notice should be served and an ultimatum issued. —Ottawa Citizen.

Residents of Bergen-op-zoom in Holland decked flowers over some 2,000 Canadian graves in a ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery marking the anniversary of the German surrender to the Canadian Army in Holland. Prince Bernhard was welcomed by the Canadian Minister to the Netherlands and inspected a Canadian Honor Guard brought especially from London. After Protestant and Catholic service the Prince laid a wreath at the cenotaph. War Minister J. Meynen declared in an address that the Netherlands people would also remember that "Canada, although not attacked, declared war on Germany, to help defend the great human values." Others attending were Foreign Minister J. H. van Royen, Finance Minister Pieter Lieftinck, Allied Military Officers and Diplomatic officials, the Queen's commissioner for North Brabant and representatives of Dutch Organizations. —From Netherlands Information Bulletin.

The Forty-Sixers

(Time Magazine)

A slow-speaking, nail-hard adventurer was walking around the town of Yellowknife last week in a bright golden haze, Ulric Joseph ("Spud") Arsenault, (from Wellington, P.E.I.) a trapper and prospector in the Northwest Territories, had staked out 20 likely-looking claims about 50 miles north of Yellowknife last year. Last week Beaulieu Yellowknife Mines Ltd. agreed to pay him $100,000 cash for his properties, give him 250,000 shares of stock (worth 50c a share to start) in the new company organized to help them.

Yellowknifers were only mildly astonished. Such things had happened with delightful frequency in the most exciting mine area in the Western Hemisphere.

Better than Hollywood. Yellowknife is a story-book mining town on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, 700 miles north of Edmonton, in the cold, desolate sub-Arctic where temperatures fall sometimes to 60 below zero. Traces of gold were first discovered there in 1898. But fur-trapping was the area's No. 1 business until, one fall day in 1934, Prospectors C.J. Baker and H. M. Muir found high-grade ore on the shore of Yellowknife Bay. Then the gold rush was on.

War nipped it. Gold-mining, a non-essential industry, was stopped. But last week ex-servicemen were heading north in droves. The Negus mine was already back in production. The Con mine (Consolidated Mining & Smelting) and the Giant Yellowknife mine (expected to be the area's biggest producer) would be producing soon, as would a half-dozen others. Besides, some 250 other companies, most of them new and almost all of them with the alluring word "Yellowknife"* in their names were busy prospecting, drilling, promoting and hoping. They had plenty of reason for hope. With all its curtailments and setbacks, Yellowknife had already produced more than $14,000,000 worth of gold (up to the end of 1944), and has created many a private fortune.

*The name stems from the hand-made copper yellow-looking knives used by the area's Indians.

Frank Salerno, 24, a tall, wavy-haired radio man from Denver, went to Yellowknife last year for a vacation. On a hunch, he staked out 18 claims. The payoff: $175,000.

Bill Johnson, 64, from Snohomish Wash., a veteran of the Yukon who says that prospecting in Yellowknife "is easier than anywhere else," was chief cook at the Con mine until 1938. Since then he has staked 34 claims, now has several hundred thousand shares of gold stock worth anywhere from 17c to 50c a share.

Yellowknife, spread out over a rocky peninsula and the hub of a 200-sq.-mi. staking area, has become a throbbing roistering place of 3,000 people, quick riches, hard living, crudity and fun. Said one amazed visitor: "Just like a movie set, only more so. Tall Thomas Doornbos, called "Old Tom Doorknob" fetches water from frozen Yellowknife Bay in two four-gallon buckets, sells it around town for 25c a pail to people who are too busy or too lazy to get their own. The restaurants have a frontier ring to their names: Lil's Place, the Wildcat Cafe, Ruth's Roving Hornet. The one movie house shows three-year-old films.

The traditions of the "mushers" of the dog sleds are carried on by the "cat skinners" who drive the caterpillar trains (tractors and sleds) which bring supplies across the snow from Edmonton. Passenger service to and from Yellowknife, as well as to outlying claims, is furnished by Canadian Pacific Airlines and by bush pilots in small planes like ski-or pontoon-equipped Noorduyn Norsemen.

No Klondike. Hunting for gold in the wild, bleak country north of Yellowknife is simple. The main requirements are guts, patience, a grubstake and a $5 license which permits a prospector to file up to six claims a year. A claim is staked into the ground to mark a 1,500-sq.-ft. plot. To keep the claim, a prospector must do $100 worth of work on it a year, such as excavating four cubic yards, or diamond-drilling 15 feet. Last week there were some 15,000 claims in good standing. In the year ending last March 31, nearly 10,000 claims were filed in the office of Mining Recorder Fred Fraser.

Morally, Yellowknife is no Klondike. By comparison with wide-open Dawson in the 1890's, Yellowknife is a well-run Sunday school. Prices are low. There are no gambling houses, no prostitution. Most of the inhabitants of the town's one-cell jail are drunks who got too obstreperous. With little crime about, Yellowknife's three Mounties have other jobs. In emergencies they must deliver babies. They care for the dead even to digging graves. It took 82 sticks of dynamite recently to blast one grave in Yellowknife's frozen ground.

A Book Unwritten

(London Spectator)

As the Nnuemberg trial winds its slow length along the problem of a permanent record of the trial becomes more acute. It is immensely important that many of the damning documents cited by the prosecution, and many of the admissions extracted from the prisoners, should be put on public record, and there is all the material for a volume of fascinating interest. But who is to write ?

The matter, I know, has been considered, and various names have been discussed. But the persons most competent have not the leisure either to attend the trial long enough to get the necessary atmosphere or to concentrate on the actual writing of the book. So something that is urgently needed seems likely to go by default, unless indeed, which ought not to be impossible, one of the counsel engaged— British, American or French—felt equal to undertaking this most necessary service. But lawyers have not always adequate literary gifts, and what is needed here is a book that would present the arresting drama of Nuremberg against the vaster and more tragic drama of the war as a whole.

There exist, of course, verbatim reports of the whole proceedings, but they have already attained a volume so formidable as to serve no useful purpose except as a quarry from which information on this aspect or that of the issues raised at Nuremberg can be unearthed by patient excavators in future years. The conclusion, I am afraid, is that what might be the book of the session—or longer—will never be written.

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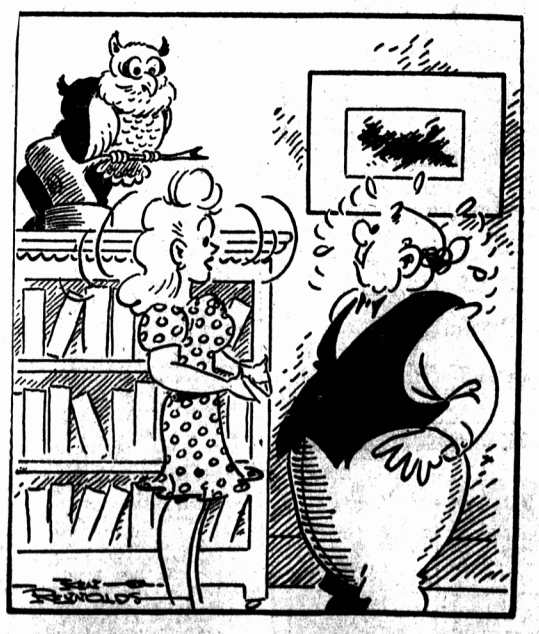
HEADS U. N. B. ALUMNI

FREDERICTON, May 16—(CP)—Dr. G. H. Prince, deputy Minister of Lands and Mines for New Brunswick, has been elected president of the Associated Alumni of the University of New Brunswick. Miss Zula Hallett was elected president of the Alumnae Society.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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