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Morning Maxim The man who is never idle has no time to be mean.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1937

PROPERLY REJECTED

The rejection of the Liberal amendment opposing the Anglo-Canadian trade agreement, as reported in yesterday's despatches, was practically a foregone conclusion. The amendment was ruled out by the Speaker on the ground that it was improperly worded, some parts being in agreement with portions of the treaty, while in others it was merely an expression of general principles. As it is an open secret that the Liberal members were not unanimously in favor of the amendment, it is more than probable the faulty phraseology was adopted to avoid having the issue come to a vote in the House. Mr. King was thus enabled to make an innocuous gesture of opposition, without embarrassing his party followers who were opposed to his attitude in caucus. The fact that the Liberal leader did not himself move the amendment, but merely submitted it to the Speaker for his ruling, indicates that it was not intended to be taken seriously.

The petty nature of the Opposition leader's criticism of the Conference agreement was a surprise even to those who entertained no great opinion of his ability as a statesman. A case in point was his comment on the fact that the agreement will be in force for five years. His own trade agreement with the West Indies was for a period of twelve years. Five years is surely not an undue length of time in which to insure stability of trade negotiations. According to a London despatch in the Southern newspapers, it is confidently predicted that as a result of the new-found interest in the Canadian market the Dominion will be visited within the next few months by large numbers of heads of British concerns; and the chief factor in bestirring British industrialists to go after the Canadian market is expected to be the stability of tariff arrangements assured by the five years' agreements. Hitherto, the despatch notes, there has been little inclination to invest the considerable sums necessary to explore and open up avenues of trade, with the constant threat that new tariffs might destroy all chances of business. Manufacturers and groups within allied industries have been hesitant to make heavy commitments for co-operative marketing or storage depots in Canada for the same reason. With these handicaps removed, both money and enthusiasm will be forthcoming.

It is inconceivable that Mr. King was not aware of the facts above stated by British manufacturers. What then was his purpose in opposing the five years period in the agreement? He claims to be desirous of seeing every opportunity given of extending British trade in Canada in return for the preferences granted in the British market to our own producers. He even claims the British manufacturers have been unduly discriminated against. Yet he goes out of his way to criticize the provision which British industrialists regard as the most important part of the agreement. The whole attitude of Mr. King has been on a par with his irresponsible and inconsistent statements in this connection, and it is not surprising that there has been dissent among his own followers and party press as to the wisdom of the course he has pursued.

700 YEARS AGO

A recent number of Le Nationaliste de Le Devor (which is the weekly edition of Le Devor, a Montreal daily newspaper) carried a highly interesting article entitled "The Indian Village of the Thir-

teenth Century at Lanoraie." This article was based on an archaeological discovery of a short time ago, when several Indian relics were found on the surface of Sable Hill near Lanoraie, Quebec. These relics consisted of some fragments of pottery, the bowl of a calumet, and a stone chisel.

The discovery has excited considerable interest. The designs which are distinguishable on the pottery fragments were made, it is thought, with the aid of fishbones, feather quills, and instruments of stone which the Indians manufactured for themselves. Anthropological research has disclosed the fact that about 700 years ago an Iroquois village of some size existed in the vicinity of Lanoraie.

One effect of this discovery, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, has been to recall to mind a fresh realization of Canada's youth. In 1232, the inhabitants of the northern part of this continent were primitive peoples, relying on the chase for a livelihood, continually at war with neighboring tribes and gracing their lives with but very rudimentary art. Contemporaneous Europe had by that time seen three important crusades to the Holy Land, crusades conducted in a pageantry that was founded on a high knowledge of metal-work in weapons and armor, of weaving in vestments and banners, of leather-craftsmanship in saddlery. No knowledge comparable was to be found at that time in what is now Canada.

It was not until more than three hundred winters' snows had blown over the slopes of Sable Hill that the aborigines of Canada came in contact with Europeans in the persons of Jacques Cartier and his sailors. So that this country, speaking in terms of archaeology, is hardly more than four hundred years old—the period in which the white man invaded it and over-ran it. Europe, in such terms, dates back to pre-Roman days, when the sturdy ancestors of the modern Europeans gleaned a spare livelihood from the river-valleys.

Canada, for a young nation, compares well with the older ones of Europe—and she is as yet only in the lusty vigor of youth.

WINTER MAIL SERVICE

Emphasis on the advantage of having the air mail service re-established before the winter sets in is placed by Mr. W. K. S. Hemming in a recent letter in The Guardian. Mr. Hemming points out that application for this service should be made to the proper authorities in sufficient time to have it go into effect when the trips of the S. S. Hochelaga are discontinued, and that to our local merchants the matter is one of considerable importance. Air mail service in other years has undoubtedly been a much appreciated convenience, and Mr. Hemming suggests that the cost of re-establishing it would be comparatively small. Necessary economies have resulted in a curtailment of such services throughout Canada, but special claims based on the winter disadvantages of this Province might be urged in applying for the re-establishment of the service here. The readiness which the Postal Department has shown in the past in meeting the requirements of mail transportation to and from the mainland is a guarantee that every reasonable request will be given the fullest consideration.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Yesterday was the 127th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. No subsequent engagements by land or sea have dimmed the fame of Nelson's victory on that occasion.

NOTES BY THE WAY

This Dominion grew immensely, in stature, says an exchange, when, in 1911, it rejected the Washington Reciprocity Treaty. It loomed still larger on the American horizon when it entered into the war nearly three years ahead of the United States. During the last three years it has gained still farther in the respect of Americans generally because the Bennett Government had the courage to stop the flooding of this country with dumped American goods, to the injury of our work people; because our banking system has stood three years of depression very admirably as compared with the American banking system, and because our Government has successfully taken the lead in the establishment of an Imperial trade policy which prefers Empire goods to American and other foreign goods.

The question now is not what De Valera will do, but what he did. He made it impossible for McNeill to hold office. He and his Cabinet insulted McNeill on all occasions. The titular head of the State was not even invited to official functions, and De Valera's apologies were obvious evasions that were no apologies at all.

Russia has just concluded trade agreements with Japan and with France which indicate her importance as a factor in international affairs; the agreement with Japan may well mean something much more far-reaching than a commercial deal, and may presently be seen to be part of a new diplomatic line-up in the Far East which unites Russia and Japan in a policy of mutual interest which may have important consequences for the Western nations which also have interests in Eastern Asia.

Mr. Lloyd George, addressing a great peace meeting in London, calls on the world to follow Germany's example and disarm. Honor demands, he says, that the nations carry out their pledged word as contained in the Treaty of Versailles. Unless this is done, he fears that there is a danger of the world unwittingly being plunged into war just as it was in 1914. He is convinced, also, that no ruler in Europe desired war in 1914. The Liberal statesman's references to the attitude of European rulers in 1914 is certain to recall that famous British election right after the conflict when, if we remember aright, the Lloyd George cry was "Hang the Kaiser!" Time works great changes.

Their kindly Majesties of England, the King and Queen, never performed a more gracious act than when they received informally Helen Keller, the marvelous deaf, dumb and blind American woman, who has surrounded her terrible handicaps in such a wonderful manner. And their kindness was well repaid for after conversing with Miss Keller they marvelled at her attainments just as have all who have had the privilege of meeting her.

A speaker in Toronto last week was very sarcastic about democracy as it is practised "in this country," but he was an American talking to a convention that was largely American and perhaps he just forgot for the moment where he was.

By some of the growing disparity between the number of people engaged in agricultural pursuits in Canada and those otherwise employed is cited as evidence that there is something wrong with our fiscal system. But similar comparisons in other countries give like result. The National Industrial Board of United States has issued a statement based on the census returns showing that of the major groups of those gainfully employed, agriculture is the only one that has shown a constant downward trend since 1870 in the ratio of persons employed to population.

London is linked with over fifty United Kingdom ports by regular steamship services; others are served as traffic offices. Coastal service vessels which used the Port of London last year aggregated 15,010,529 net register tons. The Port of London Authority have from time to time incurred considerable expenditure on accommodation for coasting vessels, notably at the London and St. Katharine Docks, which are adjacent to the commercial centre of the City and readily accessible from all parts of London.

The New York World says: English is spoken by 160,000,000 and is understood by 60,000,000 or more who do not look upon it as their native tongue. German is spoken by 90,000,000 and is understood and used by 20,000,000 more. French is spoken by 45,000,000 and understood by 75,000,000 more. There are hundreds of other languages and dialects, but none of them approached these.



By James W. Barton, M.D. TWO KINDS OF COUGH

That Body of Hours



THE NORTH WIND

(From "Malcolm's Katie") From his far wigwam sprang the strong North Wind And rushed with war-cry down the steep ravines. And wrestled with the giants of the woods; And with his ice-club beat the swelling crests Of the deep watercourses into death; And with his chill foot froze the whirling leaves Of dun and gold and fire in icy banks; And smote the tall reeds to the hardened earth, And sent his whistling arrows o'er the plains, Scattering the lingering herds; and sudden paused When he had frozen all the running streams, And hunted with his war-cry all the things That breathed about the woods, or roamed the bleak, Bare prairies swelling to the mournful sky.

—Isabella Valancy Crawford.

armament proposals which, in his judgment, "brought Europe to the verge of the gravest international crisis since 1914." In condemning the acquiescence of these Liberals in the hoisting of various measures for social and agricultural amelioration, he strikes a familiar note, and strongly suggests that the rejection of the provisions of "The Sixpenny Pamphlet" has left a rankling sore in the mind of its author, and he does not hesitate to foist upon these erstwhile colleagues the disastrous consequences of the dissolution of the Liberal party which resulted in free trade being given away.

Such is the gist of the communication. It is disappointing to the dissentients who may have entertained some hope that the Welsh leader would welcome their return to the Liberal fold, and approve their attitude in making a breach in the National Government. They are roundly scolded for what Lloyd George considers a series of colossal blunders on their part, and the only crumb of comfort they can extract from the missive is contained in the statement that should the Liberal Federation make a fresh start, provided the former Liberal ministers are willing to erase sundry "criminal stupidities" by which they seem still enchanted, they can count upon his whole-hearted support. Put in plain English, this means that Lloyd George is confident that he holds the golden key to the fortunes of the Liberal party, and that the mountains must come to Mahomet. Whether this is the valiant stand of a resolute freeman or simply the adroit gesticulation of an opportunist who measures his length in a grotesque mirror, intelligent onlookers will be able to judge.

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Salesman—"But I sold him some of them last week."

Employer—"I know, but selling them to him again is where the real feat of a salesman is going to come in."

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Lord Byng's Baton

(Exchange)

The promotion of Viscount Byng of Vimy to be Field Marshal of the British Army is a well earned honor to a great soldier and a great man. As it is well known, modern custom has made the Field Marshal's baton an emblem of recognition of past great services rather than a token of selection for positions of future responsibility in active military command. Like the Order of Merit, the circle of Field Marshals is rigidly limited. Viscount Byng was the logical, almost inevitable, heir to the baton released by Lord Plumer's death.

To the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who did their bit to make the Canadian Corps what it was, the name of Byng will always typify all that was best in the traditions of British generalship. All down through history doggedness of the rank and file and ineptitude of the higher command have been expected familiar features in the British process of muddling through perils to victory. The blunders of the Great War were no exception to the general rule of history. But in the Great War, as in previous conflicts, the British Empire did produce some leaders fit to command the men they led. And among these leaders none was greater than Byng of Vimy.

General Byng assumed command of the Canadians at the most crucial period in their military history. In May, 1918, the Canadian Corps was by no means a finely tempered and hardened fighting force. There was, of course, the great tradition of national heroism, dating from the epic stand by the First Canadian Division at Ypres in April, 1915. But there were other traditions—of sordid political interference, selfishness and incompetence in high places—of wire-pulling and intrigue crossing not only the Channel but the ocean. Under the wrong commander the history of the Canadian Corps between May, 1918, and May, 1917, might have been an altogether different and altogether uninspiring record. As it was, the man who was then Sir Julian Byng showed positive genius in welding diverse Canadian elements into uniformly strong and effectively disciplined fighting force. As if by instinct General Byng seemed to know that the much exaggerated Canadian scorn for the trivialities of military discipline was but superficial, and that Canadians would respond to leadership which took for granted their determination and fitness to help win the war.

Great as was the importance of the capture of Vimy Ridge, historians of the future may decide that Viscount Byng's final claim to military greatness was in the lesson he taught by the Cambrai attack in November, 1917. As is well known, the collapse of the Italian Army upset the plans for that attack and caused the despatch to Italy of the forces which were to have followed up the intended break through at Cambrai. What was planned as a major attack was finally carried out as a mere demonstration. But Byng did do what for three years all the Generals on both sides of the line had said couldn't be done—he staged a surprise attack which broke clean through the entire trench system. A counter attack soon drove back the adventurers. But the lesson was learned. Immediately following the winter the war of movement was resumed. First came Ludendorff's last desperate drives. Then came the great allied nut-cracker movements. Byng at least made war a little less hellish than a mere man-killing contest, where generalship was confined to figuring comparative casualties on the adding machine.

Mr. King's Objections (Montreal Gazette)

Even those who foresaw that Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie King would have difficulty in finding arguments against the conference resolutions, even they can hardly have been prepared for the remarkable line of opposition which the Liberal leader has adopted. Mr. King is not a novice in the difficult art of making bricks without straw, but he has had more than ordinary difficulty in his effort to build a case against the work of the conference. He is determined to attack the resolutions, but upon what ground can this be done? He finds himself in the somewhat presumptuous position of having to condemn the considered judgment of the Empire's ablest statesmen and to reject the fruit of that judgment. It is of no consequence to him that the work of the conference has been acclaimed in every part of the Empire as establishing a new principle which is to dominate hereafter in all commercial and economic relations among the several Empire units. He goes so far, indeed, as to say that while the agreement with Canada has been approved by the National Government in Britain, "the British people have not agreed to it." As a matter of convenience he forgets that the National Government received from the British people a clear mandate to revise the old free trade system, even to reverse it, and that a protective tariff, to be modified in its application within the Empire by means of reciprocal preferences, was definitely included in this mandate. If Mr. King now pins his hope upon the inconsistent behavior of Sir Herbert Samuel, Lord Snowden, and his little company of Liberal dissenters, or if he thinks that the angry scoldings of the Manchester Guardian are the voice of British public opinion, he is imagining a vain thing, as an excuse for a vain effort.

The whole attitude of the Liberal leader bespeaks the wounded pride of an unsuccessful politician in the presence of an important achievement calculated to enhance the prestige of his opponents. For a Conservative Government to succeed where his own could not is unforgivable, and it matters not at all that the progress and future strength of the Empire are dependent in large measure upon the proposals which he condemns. Fortunately, in this instance, partisanship is impotent. Mr. King knows that his opposition can be of no avail; perhaps that knowledge gives him a sense of greater freedom. Some of his contentions suggest this, including his strikingly inaccurate reference to British opinion, and including also his vehement protests against tariff commitments which bind the Dominion of Canada and the United Kingdom for a period of years. His solicitude for the taxpayers of Britain is impressive but for the fact that these same taxpayers subscribed so wholeheartedly to the mandate which the National Government is carrying out, through the conference agreements and otherwise. It is, of course, as clear to Mr. King as to anyone else that the reciprocal preferences agreed upon at Ottawa would be unworkable unless guaranteed for a period of years. Neither party to such a contract could afford so wholesale a redistribution of trade if the change were to be of uncertain duration. There must be a definite trial period, long enough to produce results upon which the advantages of the new movement can be measured with accuracy. In these circumstances something in the nature of a treaty is necessary, and the governments concerned have had recourse to a five-year agreement. Even the example set by Mr. de Valera, in Ireland, in regard to the annuities, scarcely provides Mr. King with ground for disputing the propriety of this compact, and unless Mr. King, given an opportunity, patterns his conduct upon that of the Irish Free State President, the contract will stand. And Canada, by the way does not "fetter the fiscal liberty and freedom of the people of the Old Land"; the people of the Old Land themselves, who are quite capable of managing their own affairs, have made the agreement which Mr. King, in a nobly altruistic regard for their welfare, declares to be indefensible.

Another peculiar complaint is that the tariff has been raised against other countries and that a barrier has been erected against the extension of Canada's foreign trade. As to this last, it may be recalled that a similar objection was registered against the original preference and was answered effectively at the time by Hon. W. S. Fielding, who made the first preference a part of the Canadian tariff law. Mr. King does seem to remember that a Liberal Ministry inaugurated the British preference, but when a Conservative Government, in giving further effect to this old Liberal policy, increases duties against some foreign countries, he is heard objecting; and very fine indeed is the distinction between a preference provided through one kind of tariff change and a preference provided through another kind. So far as the foreign exporter is concerned, it is the difference between the general tariff and the preferential which matters, and he is not much concerned with the manner in which that difference is created. Mr. King's real trouble is that he cannot stomach a tariff increase whether it is designed to serve the interests of the Empire or not.

There goes a real man." In wartime days that almost mystic ability to win confidence and respect was of great importance in the outcome of the war. In peacetime, during the sojourn of Lord and Lady Byng at Ottawa, it was this same characteristic which won for the then Governor-General what might almost be described as a nation-wide bond of affection, a little nearer to the heart than ever existed before.

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