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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1943.

Two Striking Tributes

From another former supporter of the King Government, Dr. Pierre Gauthier, M.P., for the Quebec constituency of Portneuf, came striking testimony the other day of the effectiveness of the Conservative Opposition in Parliament. "The war effort," said Dr. Gauthier, "was too small, the Government too slow for our Conservative friends and by a studied and well-organized pressure they have forced the Liberals to come across."

This coincides with the statement made in the House on July 23 last by Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, a member of the King Cabinet for thirteen years and Minister of Public Works and Transport from the beginning of the war until his resignation in June. "Every step that has been taken up to the present in the prosecution of the war," said Mr. Cardin, "has been taken as the result of the threat of a motion or amendment being moved by the Opposition, and because of the fear that such a motion or such an amendment, if proposed, would destroy to a certain extent the strength of our Party in the House of Commons."

These statements deserve a place in any history of Canada's war effort. The Conservative Party could wish no better commendation. Their evidential value is all the greater as coming from hostile witnesses.

Oleomargarine

The recent agitation for the sale of oleomargarine in Canada has evidently petered out. The following footnote to a letter appearing in an Ontario exchange may explain why.

Briefly, the arguments advanced by those who believe Canada should not allow the sale of oleo as a substitute for butter are: that the vegetable or animal oils required for making oleo would have to be imported from countries—largely the U.S.—which have none too much to spare; that it would require foreign exchange to purchase the oils and scarce materials to make the necessary machinery; that, since we already use per capita, even with rationed butter, considerably more fats than do the people of the United States, and twice as much as the people of Britain, we would be called plain greedy if we were to ask for more edible oils from the central pool.

Contrary to a widely held belief here, oleo is not "freely" sold in the U.S., nor is its use widespread. There is a federal tax of 10 cents a pound on it, and many states have an additional tax or prohibit its sale. It is used only to the extent of two and a half pounds per capita. In Britain its use is almost a necessity, as the whale oil from which it is made is more easily stored than butter, transportation facilities for butter are lacking, and the people must have additional fats in some form.

Actually the ingredients of oleomargarine are sold in vast quantities in Canada. A large amount of our commercial and household shortening, as sold by every grocer, is in oleo without flavor or color. This amounts to several hundred million pounds yearly. It is only when such oils are sold as a substitute for butter that the sale becomes illegal.

Nazi Propaganda Futile

Our Russian allies are moving on from success to success, recapturing one strategic position after another, and demonstrating not only magnificent fighting qualities but military genius and leadership of the highest order. They are outguessing as well as outfighting the enemy. Hence the desperate efforts now being made, as reported from numerous sources, to sow disunity among the United Nations and renew contacts with at least a remnant of the once all-powerful hosts that were, in the pre-war years, content to build up Nazi domination as a barrier against Communism. Goebells in a recent article is quoted as making an unabashed appeal to the English-speaking nations to rally round the Axis powers to prevent "the triumph of Bolshevism in Europe." Significantly,too, in all the recent threats and appeals of the Nazi arch propagandist, there is not a word of the customary abuse of Churchill and Roosevelt.

"That there are remnants of the old gang of appeasers need not be doubted," says an exchange; "but it is safe to say that the people of Great Britain were never in their whole history so united upon any matter as they are in this business of uprooting and utterly exterminating the whole Nazi organization, from the bloodstained maniac at the top to the last man who found delight and satisfaction in the indescribable orgies through which the heathen Nazi faith expresses itself. This is equally true of the other British nations and of the United States. There may be wide diversities of view about the Soviet Republic, its international policies of the past, and the possibilities of trouble with it in the future, but this does not furnish a featherweight to balance the scale in which the grim determination of the allied nations is weighed. It does not affect in the least their fixed conviction that German Nazism, Italian Fascism, and the Shintoism of Japan, are the vilest faiths to which modern man has given his allegiance; that their leaders and the agents of these leaders are creatures whose presence on it pollutes the earth; and that the war against them must be waged until 'unconditional surrender' delivers them up to the avenging sword."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

"Be Prepared"—for the Red Cross Drive.

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Congratulations all round are due Senator "Jim" MacIntyre. He may not have been the ablest member of the Campbell Government, but he was outstandingly the most popular. "Lang may his lum reek."

* * * *

With more than 100,000 former Boy Scouts in the armed forces, and upwards of 85,000 active in the war effort on the home front, the Boy Scouts Association is playing an important role in the development of young manhood in Canada. Scouting has never been a military organization. Its principal theme has always been that of world brotherhood and its great jamborees have been among the most notable international gatherings of the present century.

* * * *

Writing to the Family Welfare Association of Saint John, of which he was president before going overseas, Col. W. Arthur Anglin says: "Every building throughout the United Kingdom has at least two people on its roof all night as a fire watch for incendiary bombs. I hope you are well organized, for the enemy is not crushed yet, and won't be for another three years."

* * * *

As guest speaker at the banquet of the Engineering Institute of Canada in Toronto, Dr. Edward C. Elliott, president of Purdue University and a chief of the War Manpower Commission of the United States, was remarking that some one had once said that a well-rounded speech had no beginning and no end. He had commented on this and a spinster friend had remarked something about this sounding like a reference to a bustle. Questioned about a bustle, she had defined it: "An artificial tail based upon a stern reality." As the laughter subsided Dr. Elliott smiled benignly and remarked: "That must have been a worthwhile definition, judging from your laughter and the industry with which the president of the University of Toronto is writing it down." As President Cody of the University looked up with a surprised expression the crowd roared delightedly.

* * * *

Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, member of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress, says the Saint John Telegraph-Journal, apparently is trying to back out of the stand she took in the course of her maiden speech in the House when she opposed any international agreement calling for freedom of the air in the post-war era. Using the time-worn excuse that she was incorrectly reported, she is now plumping for such a post-war air policy. The question of international air service after the war is a big one, and it is not likely to be influenced by those apostles of isolation across the border whose actions are usually based upon anti-British motives. When it is remembered that Mrs. Luce is the wife of the editor of Life and Time, both of which in the past have displayed strong anti-British sentiment, it is not to be wondered at that her views should follow similar lines. But it should be noted that the popular following of these Anglophobes has dwindled in recent months to a mere corporal's guard. Our contemporary might have added that Mrs. Luce is also the personal friend and admirer of both Lord Beaverbrook and Mr. Willkie.

* * * *

Lord Baden-Powell, World Chief Scout, born this date, 1857. Just before he died in Jan., 1941, Lord Baden-Powell left this message for the Boy Scouts of the world: "The real way to happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better place than you found it, and when your turn comes to die you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best." In a similar message to the general public the Founder of Scouting said: "Looking back on a life of over 80 years, I realize how short life is and how little worth while are anger and political warfare. The most worth while thing is to try and put a bit of happiness into the life of others." That was the philosophy of the man who gave to the world the great Scout Movement, which in this week of February 21-27 goes on parade so that the public might see it in action, and learn of the great spiritual ideals which have made it the largest youth organization the world has ever known.

* * * *

Speaking on the Address, the Hon. R. B. Hanson said he had been "pained" by what he concidered an "isolationist" speech by Hon. P. J. A. Cardin (Lib. Richelieu-Vercheres) earlier in the debate. If the views stated by Mr. Cardin represented those of his French-Canadian compatriots "then let us say goodbye to national unity in Canada." "But, on reflection, I am not really surprised," said Mr. Hanson, "...Since 1917, for more than 25 years, he, under the leadership of my right honorable friend (the prime minister), taught his people day in and day out that Canada, if ever called upon to fight in battle, should think and fight only for her own defence and for her own salvation. That, I submit, is an unworthy attitude."

Mr. King: "May I just take exception to my honorable friend's statement when he attributes a point of view such as he has just described to myself. It is not correct."

Mr. Hanson: "Well, I am content to leave the matter to the judgment of history and the public."

Mr. King: "So am I."

Mr. Hanson: "All I would add is that the prime minister had changed but my honorable friend, the member for Richelieu-Vercheres, has not changed; and chickens are coming home to roost."

Notes By The Way

A few weeks from now there'll be almost as much slush on the streets as on the radio. —Ottawa Citizen.

Rose petals scattered on one's path may be all right, but give us good old sand on the walks these days. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

We sometimes think that an usher has the most enviable of existences. He spends his time telling people where to go —and there's no comeback—Exchange.

There was something eminently pleasing in the radio quip: "Hitler's tenth anniversary radio speech was written by Geobbels, delivered by Goering, and punctuated by the R. A. F."— Stratford Beacon-Herald.

A medical columnist claims that people with heavy brains do not show fatigue as easily as those with light brains. Then how come, Doc, that a feather-headed squirt can dance all night and still manage to hit the office next a. m. three tenths of a second before the line is drawn.?—Ottawa Citizen.

The armed services can feed a boy as perhaps he never was fed before; they can clothe him in sturdier clothes; they can realize physical resources he never knew he owned; they can equip him with the last word in arms In short, they can give him everything —everything, that is, but a letter from home The people at home will have to see to that.— Detroit News

It was the rush hour and the bus was almost full when it pulled up at the stop. Several people pressed forward from the curb Calmly the conductress surveyed the situation, then called down the bus in a tone of authority: "Breathe in, everybody!" They all got on. —Leeds Yorkshire Post

The Lord Chancellor is engaged writing his memoirs. One thing can be guaranteed for them: they will be well written. They could also shed much light on British foreign policy from 1931 to 1939 Whether they will is another matter. Lord Simon may think part of the period too recent to permit of the use of letters and documents. —Manchester Guardian.

And horses mean livery stables, the places where horses are kept and groomed and made ready for hire for those needing transportation, observes The Lethbrige Herald. Lethbridge boasted about half a dozen livery stables 30 or 40 years ago, quite large and quite good ones. Some of them are now being used as garages, others as sales barns, others as warehouses. Maybe they'll come back to all their former importance in the scheme of things.

John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservatives, skipped a rink to a decisive victory in a curling match at Toronto. He was rated a "master of curling strategy and a splendid player" by his opponents. The result of the game may well be the shadow of things to come. Mr. Bracken learned the game of curling during his years in the province of Manitoba. The skill and strength shown in the use of the rocks and broom were acquired in the Western country. Manitoba was the school in which John Bracken studied the fine points of leadership among the people of the province Now he is about to enter the larger contest of leadership of the country. No reason appears why the journeyman days spent here should not culminate in "a master of strategy and a splendid player" in the broader national field. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Copies of Guernsey newspapers reached Britain recently and extracts from them have been printed in booklet form by the Channel Islands Refugee Committee. There are apparently two Guernsey papers and they are published on alternate days. They are, of course, completely under German control, but nevertheless give news to those who escaped the island. All reference to the men and women who have been deported to camps in Germany describe them as "evacuees" and the advertisements also tell a tragic story. There was one and obviously inserted by an evacuee which read: "Modern home offered to reliable couple for the duration. Rent free. Apply immediately." Other news items concern changes —Ministers who are absent from the island" and tradesmen who announce they have taken over the work of a colleague "during his absence from the island." Official orders are also in the papers, reminding the public that they are forbidden to hide, shelter or support "enemy" airplane crews or parachutists, but that liberal awards will be forthcoming for those who detain the "enemy"—Toronto Telegram.

The rationing of some food products for civilians in Canada, and the shortages in other products, brought to this newspaper, and no doubt to others, numerous complaints that while civilians were compelled to tighten their belts, there was gross wastage of food in military establishments of this country. Some reports came with so much detail that their truth could be taken as established. The Journal hesitated to make them public for obvious reasons, but plainly there was a situation which demanded a remedy. Young lads on leave told of being offered regularly more than they could eat of the foods civilians were finding increasingly scarce. They told too of kitchen wastage, sometimes because of incompetence on the part of cooks, more often simply because food was received in such quantities that it just could not be consumed. Now the Defence Council has taken action in the matter. The allowance to military establishments of tea, coffee, beef, pork and butter is being cut by one-quarter, sugar by one-eighth and less fish will be supplied. Partialy to make this up, there will be increased rations of potatoes, eggs and a new ration of tomato juice. No one disputes the fact that the Armed Services must be fed generously, that this is the first claim upon our resources of provisions. These young men in hard training have enormous appetites and nobody would have them go short But that does not mean that they should be given more than they can eat, which involves enormous wastage, while the civilian population is strictly rationed. The new regulation was long overdue. — Ottawa Journal

Funeral Services Rev. John Stirling

As the citizens of Kensington were unable to have a church service before the body of Rev. John Stirling, who died on Feb. 14th, was removed to the church at Cavendish, Mr. J. L. Davison, out of sympathy for Rev. A. D. Stirling and out of respect for the departed, fixed up his rooms, and although the notice was but a few hours, the rooms were crowded at 9.30 a. m. It was a beautiful service conducted by Rev. E. J. O. Fraser who gave a short and comforting address. Rev. H. F. Newman read the scripture, Rev. D. J. Morrison led in prayer. The following hymns were sung: Forever with the Lord and Abide with Me and For all the Saints that from their labors rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name O Jesus be forever blessed, Halleujah!"

Afterwards, Rev. A. D. Stirling thanked the citizens, saying he believed his brother had as kind friends in Kensington as could be found anywhere As the choir rolled out that magnificent hymn—"From earth's wide bound, from ocean's furthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Halleujah!"— he could imagine he heard his brother's voice singing "Halleujah" from the other shore.

A small procession then left for Cavendish and travelled fifteen miles, temperature 10 below, the air crisp and the sky cloudless and one thought of that better land, where, "There's nae sorrow there Jean There's neither cauld nor care, Jean, The day is aye fair in the land o' the leal."

There the procession was met by the delegation of Presbytery appointed to conduct the funeral service, all old and warm friends of the departed. Rev. Mr. Wilson chairman, Rev. Mr. MacQuarrie, Rev Mr Patterson, Rev E J. O. Fraser, Rev Hugh Miller, D. D., Rev. Wilfred McLeod, Rev. Mr. Tilley, Rev Mr. Buntain of Clifton took part at the grave.

Rev Mr. Miller, D D who was a classmate at College and who has been a very intimate friend all the years, gave the address which follows: A large congregation was present but a still greater number from many parts of the Island was compelled to remain at home because of the long drive and severe weather.

Funeral Address

My words on this occasion will be determined not by what may fittingly be said, but by the desire of our friends, to which, we, who are present, together with many others, pay sincere tribute. He would not have an extended eulogy and we respect his wish, said Dr. Millar.

There is one tribute, I believe, he would have me pay on this occasion: that to his home and godly parents. He was conscious of the great debt he owed them, and in his quiet manner, he frequently voiced his appreciation, and gave proof of it in his life and service. His father was an esteemed Minister of the gospel, with unusual gifts of mind and heart. Most of us have never known that home; but we are conscious what it gave to those nurtured in it. We were not acquainted with its head; but we have learned from those, who knew him and sat under his ministry, of his zeal and devotion: somewhat of a mystic, great in faith, prevailing in prayer a preacher of law and grace, as he declared the unsearchable riches of God in Christ. His mantle passed to his son and he honoured it in spirit and deed.

Rev. John Stirling was endowed with gifts of mind and heart to an unusual degree. As a student he stood in the first rank. The ease with which he grasped a subject and the clarity of his expression was admired by his teachers and fellow students. Examinations almost invariably placed him among the first if no the first. What he acquired, he retained. His education as a whole was without seam or break. Had he willed, he could have attained recognition in almost any of the learned professions. We envied his gifts and spirit, and many of us have profited by them when we listened to his preaching and shared his friendship.

He was a great preacher. With his intellectual gifts, spiritual insight and devotion, he could not be otherwise. He did not resort to enticing style or treatment, and there were no "purple patches" aimed at effect and popularity. By nature and conviction, he was above such. He was direct and simple, relying upon the power and beauty of truth to accomplish its end. His preaching was rich in thought, sincere, and evangelical in spirit and emphasis. In front of Trinity Church, Boston, there is a memorial to its greatest preacher, the late Bishop Phillips Brooks. He stands in his pulpit, one hand resting on the Bible and the other raised in characteristic gesture. Behind and to the side, stands Christ with one hand resting on the shoulder of His servant. A similar tribute may fittingly be paid our friend. He honoured his high calling, and no one would question that when Rev. John Stirling stood in his pulpit, he was conscious of his Lord by his side. His passion was to exalt Christ, and that is the supreme mark of preaching. His sermons were enriched by a deep study of the Scriptures, both in the original text and translation, and they were marked by his spiritual insight and devout meditation.

A Faithful Shepherd

Tribute must be paid to his skill and faithfulness as a Shepherd of the flock. He loved his people and no minister was more beloved. Love demanded his best and to give his best was a labor of love. None were overlooked and no demand was too exacting. He knew each by name and gladly did they wait upon his ministry. The sick, the needy and the wayward were on his heart and consequently in his ministrations. Many have expressed their appreciation of his thoughtfulness and kindness, and they will continue to do so. He was skilled in pastoral visitation and the cure of souls. Probably no part of his ministry was more acceptable and blessed as when he ministered to the ill in body and the sick in soul. Then his gentleness, sympathy, and spiritual insight were fully manifested and rewarded.

I should fail in my task if I did not speak of him as a friend. as such, character is proven and worth rewarded. Christ declared that He did not call His disciples servants but friends. I never knew Mr. Stirling having an enemy, and the secret was not that he sought at any price to keep in the good graces of all. He had strong convictions and he stood by them. The secret was in his fairness, his manliness and his passion for righteousness, and also his gentleness and compassion. None were more highly regarded by all classes and schools of thought both among the clergy and laity. Familiarity increased appreciation. His faults leaned to virtue's side.

I do not intrude into his home where his loss will be most sorely felt. It is too sacred. We remember them and commit them to Him, whom the departed served so faithfully and so gladly.

There is a passage in Dr. Watson's, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush", that came to my mind when I was requested to give this tribute. It is found in the chapter entitled, "A Scholar's Funeral," when Drumsheugh addressed George Howe's mother: "There's just a heart in Drumtochty, and its sair". With our soreness of heart, there is a recomoensing gratitude that we shared his friendship, rebuked by his gentle spirit and profited by his beauty of soul. A good man has gone to his reward, leaving the fragrance of high character and faithful service. For him death had no fear. The grace he commended to others, sustained him. We think of him engaged in higher service

"There is no death, the stars go down
To rise upon some other shore,
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown
They shine for ever more
And ever near us though unseen,
The dear, immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is life - there are no dead."

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Our Army In England

(CHESTER A. BLOOM in The Winnipeg Free Press)

Washington: News that some contingents of Canadian troops are to be sent to the active fighting front in North Africa has greatly interested American observers of global strategy as indicating a possible change in Canadian overseas military policy. That policy has been constantly announced, officially and unofficially, as the holding in Britain of a highly trained Canadian army to act as a spearhead for the prospective invasion of Europe.

Though that assumption, or contention, has never been challenged by any American critic, there is nevertheless a feeling that the announcements do not exactly coincide with all the facts. There have been some private intimations that the policy, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say, the facts, are the result of a determination to maintain a Canadian full-dress army intact—that is, not to permit any of its five divisions to be sent on detached service separate from the whole army.

If such an hypothesis has any foundation in fact, it would account for the lack of actual fighting experience (saving only the Dieppe episode) by which the Canadian army in Britain is unquestionably handicapped. For the painful experience of this war has proved, and is proving in North Africa today, the heavy penalties attached to troops lacking actual fighting experience, no matter how otherwise well trained.

* * *

The British Imperial General Staff, acting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in London and the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington, has always had at its disposal the various divisions of Australian, New Zealand and South African troops as well as other British Empire divisions. These British commonwealths which certainly exhibit as nationalistic a domestic pattern as Canada, have never hesitated to permit their fighting divisions to be used in divisional units on whatever fronts they may be required. They do not insist that they be used in groups of divisions.

Australian and New Zealand divisions have fought under the imperial high command in the Middle East, Egypt, Libya—all North Africa—as well as in Malaya and the Southwest Pacific. In fact, the hard fighting experiences of the veteran Australian divisions transferred from the Middle East and Africa to New Guinea proved a powerful factor, when brigaded with the less experienced American troops, in mopping up the Japanese jungle nests in New Guinea. The Australian and New Zealand divisions have brought honor and glory to their home lands wherever they fought on whatever front in the cause of freedom, and under whatever command.

The Canadian high command, say these experts, has perhaps not quite adjusted its point of view to the vast changes in strategy of this half of the great war to the first half in 1914-18. In the first bloody era, a more or less stabilized front for four years in France permitted the use of whole armies holding various sectors. The Canadian army then had its share as a unit.

But in this half of the war, owing to its much wider global nature, the fluidity of its fronts, the tremendous expansion of attack by air and armor, it has become necessary to use divisions on very short notice wherever they can best be placed to combat the common enemy. The British high command certainly has proved that it prefers or requires or needs "loose" divisions which can be sent wherever they are most needed; they must be readily detachable from their headquarters commands.

* * *

Conceding for the sake of argument that this hypothesis is correct, it may explain the maintenance of the Canadian divisions in Britain over such a long period of time; certainly, a more logical explanation than that the Canadian army has been singled out to be the spearhead of an European invasion. Even conceding that the spearhead proposition is correct, a preliminary experience in actual fighting would undoubtedly by this time have rendered the highly trained Canadian troops probably the most formidable fighting unit in the world. Whether it be the determination of the Canadian government, the Canadian general staff, or the Canadian commander-in-chief himself to maintain a Canadian army as a single unit, the facts speak for themselves.

There has been no place, say the military critics of this policy, where the entire Canadian army of five divisions could have been conveniently placed at one time. Not even, they say, in North Africa, where mixed units of Americans, Fighting French, Giraud's French, two British armies and various native units are coalescing to form a ring around the constantly contracting Nazi front.

The next result has been to leave the Canadian army without actual fighting experience in Britain. No matter how highly trained the Canadians may be in manoeuvres merely simulating warfare, they lack that veteran experience of taking care of themselves under actual enemy fire and unexpected conditions which is so valuable in keeping down casualties when the great hammer blows begin to be

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W. A. STEWART,
President

The Poets' Corner

MUTINY

That blazing galleon the sun,
This dusky coracle I ride,
Both under secret orders sail,
And swim upon the selfsame tide.

The fleet of stars, my boat of Soul,
By perilous magic mountains pass,
Or lie where no horizons gleam
Painting upon a sea of glass.

Come, break the seals and tell us now
Upon what enterprise we roam;
To storm what city of the gods,
Or—sail for the green fields of home!

—G. W. Russell.

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