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

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1946

Education

Of chief interest in the annual report of the Department of Education, tabled this week in the Legislature, is the very comprehensive and interesting report of the Deputy Minister and Director of Education, Mr. L. W. Shaw. The material of Mr. Shaw's report was compiled during the months following his return to this Province. It was intended as an appraisal of our present program of education and also to serve as a guide when considering extension and improvement. When the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction commenced its activities this material was presented to them and later it was incorporated in their general report. As such it appeared in summary form in *The Guardian* of Dec. 22, 1945.

Chiefly, Mr. Shaw recommends organization of the whole Province as one unit for purposes of financing education, and the gradual establishment of approximately 30 areas or regions for high school purposes, each to be presided over by a board. The one-room school would continue to function for elementary education, but it is likely that control of these small schools would gradually pass into the hands of the regional board.

Other recommendations are for the elimination of very small schools; the improvement of facilities in one-roomed schools; establishment of some 30 regional composite high schools; extension of P. W. C. courses horizontally to include activities of the composite high schools on the junior college level; extension of adult education opportunities; improved selection and training of teachers in elementary schools; complete revision of curriculum; appointment of an attendance officer in close co-operation with family allowance officials; extended and improved supervision.

Mr. Shaw does not deal with the financial aspect, but admittedly money will have to come from somewhere to effect these reforms. The Advisory Reconstruction Committee in its report says the cost will necessarily be "very considerable." It is suggested that the program would extend over a number of years, but even so, increased revenue must be found. The Sirois Report recommended a national adjustment grant and the Reconstruction Committee says this recommendation "must be carried into effect by the Federal Government if we are to build up any reasonable adequate educational service."

This, the Committee says, would require to be supplemented by an increased educational tax. "The per capita expenditure of $6.90 is far below that of any other province. . . . It obviously follows that the expenditure per pupil ($49.56) is extremely low. . . . On the other hand we find that the per cent of total provincial expenditure used for education is 15.1 in Prince Edward Island, the second highest of the provinces; and that the per cent of education expenditure provided by the Provincial Government is 62.1 in Prince Edward Island, away above that of all other provinces; in fact double that of all save Nova Scotia. The point that we would stress is that the amount contributed by the people towards this expenditure through educational tax has been extraordinarily low. The figure $6.90 given as the per capita expenditure on education is made up of $2.67 raised by district taxation and the balance $4.25 from general revenue. The general revenue, of course, is derived largely from Dominion subsidies, so that the actual per capita direct contribution of the people of Prince Edward Island is well below $6.90."

The recommendation of the Reconstruction Committee is "that when the Province shall have been constituted a single unit for educational finance, the amount of taxes levied for education be increased to a total of at least $6.00 per capita. The total expenditure for education would necessarily be much greater than this, and the balance would come out of general revenue, as at present."

By way of contrast, it is worth noting from the Education Department statistics that back in the year 1899, when we had 21,845 enrollments in the schools in place of the 17,391 for 1945, provincial education expenditure amounted to $146,902 against 688,746 last year. That, of course, doesn't mean that we are paying enough yet; but it does indicate, even allowing for difference in prices, that we are making progress in this direction. Last year, according to Mr. Shaw's report, there was a considerable increase in salaries but despite this the number of teachers holding regular license showed a decrease, with a corresponding increase in the number teaching under permit. "This is an unfortunate tendency," Mr. Shaw says, "and it is of little comfort to know that the other provinces of Canada are faced with the same problem. In pre-war days approximately 100 new teachers came into our schools each year. The teacher training classes in Prince of Wales College for the year under review (ending March 31, 1945) numbered only 38. It is quite obvious that the teaching profession is neither attracting nor holding the proper type of young person; and this is the case even in those provinces where salaries are much higher than ours."

A study of the problem indicates that small salaries is but one of three main factors involved in the teacher shortage; the others being unsatisfactory living conditions as compared with those engaged in business offices in larger centres, and unsatisfactory working conditions, including the relations with parents and boards of trustees.

Tribute To Churchill

The civic authorities of New York are preparing an elaborate programme for the reception of Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, who is to visit that city on March 15. One highlight event of the occasion will be the presentation to Mr. Churchill by Mayor O'Dwyer of the city's official gold medal and its certificate of distinguished service. Mr. Churchill, Mrs. Churchill and their daughter, Mrs. Sarah Oliver, will be met on their arrival at the Pennsylvania Station by the Mayor, Grover Whalen the reception committee chairman and other civic officials and will be escorted to the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. The ceremonies connected with the Churchill visit will include an official banquet, a procession up Broadway, and a reception to which 1,800 invitations are said to have been issued. If Mr. Churchill really came to America for a rest, he must have left out of his calculations the price of popularity in the land of the free. No British statesman ever captured the American imagination to so great a degree as Winston Churchill, dynamic wartime leader of Great Britain in the most tremendous military conflict the world has known. And the American imagination knows neither restraint nor repose.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Tomorrow first Sunday in Lent.

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"Ladies have the option", is the rule, now that the P. E. I. Hospital campaign in the City has been turned over to them.

* * * *

The Halifax horsemen have come and gone, leaving very pleasant memories behind them in addition to those accompanying them home.

* * * *

For the next six weeks or so, most people will be busy preparing for Spring work on the farm or in building construction and reconstruction. Now is the time to lay foundations for beautifying the province along the lines suggested by Col. Johnstone.

* * * *

The Church of England in Canada is launching its Advance drive to raise $4,300,000 and will use direct-mail, newspaper advertising and radio appeals. Newspaper advertising will be directed at the large number of non-church-goers, which far exceeds those in regular church attendance, and which must be reached if the objective is to be attained.

* * * *

Amerigo Vespucci, Italian navigator, died this date 1512; he fitted out the third expedition of Columbus, and explored the Venezuelan coast in 1499; discoverer of All Saints' Bay in Brazil in 1503; and on return to Europe was appointed pilot-major of Spain; he claimed to have discovered America before either Cabot or Columbus, and for this the Germans gave him credit, giving the newly discovered continent the name of America, a corruption of his Christian name.

* * * *

The postponed Dominion-Provincial Conference has provided a useful alibi to the Jones Government in staving off petitions and other requests for much-needed improvements in various parts of the Province. By the time the Conference re-assembles, the annual Legislature will be a thing of the past, and the bureaucrats be at liberty to act according to their own sweet wills.

* * * *

"Why," asks a correspondent, "do comedians and film stars command a salary greater by far than politicians and parsons? Is it that entertainment plays a more vital part in our lives than the welfare of the nation?" Federally, it must be admitted, the politicians fare wonderfully well at $6,000 per annum for a part-time job. As to parsons, perhaps it's because they do not draw a "gate" comparable to the comedians—and don't want to.

* * * *

One of the outstanding journalists and publicists in the Old Country has just passed away in the person of Mr. A. G. Gardiner, former editor of *The London Daily News*, and a contributor to *The London Star* under the pen name of *Alpha of the Plough*. Mr. Gardiner was editor of the *London Daily News from* 1902 to 1919. He had been ill for five weeks. "A.G.G." was one of the best known British editors of the present century and his work was widely reproduced in newspapers in Canada and the United States. Author of several standard biographies, Mr. Gardiner's publications included *Prophets, Priests and Kings, Pillars of Society, War Lords* and *Certain People of Importance.*

* * * *

This fortunately outdated picture is taken from an article in the Prince Edward Island Magazine of the dying days of last century: "Our Provincial Building is, as regards its interior, one of the shabbiest looking places that can be imagined. It is floored with flagstones, of which some are worn nearly through and others broken. It is dusty and sadly in need of paint. The windows let in little light—just enough to show that occasionally the corridors are used as a storehouse for road machines and government Paris green. A musty political smell pervades all—coming from the vaults wherein repose the corpses of the Land Office, the Two-thirds Bill, the Gerrymander, the plans for the Bridge and other decaying curiosities. Upon the staircase, in glass covered cabinets, stuffed owls and other native birds gaze fixedly down."

Notes By The Way

A great deal of foreign policy now resolves itself into everybody's being in favor of something being done and nearly everybody's being in favor of somebody else doing it. —Vancouver Province.

If the world is to be comfortable and prosperous, industry and labor must produce to the best of their ability. Production, in the final analysis, is the key to full employment.—Jacksonville, Fla., Journal.

Man works from sun to sun but women's work is never done. Thus our dear grandmothers spouted in their wisdom, but they hadn't dreamed of the day of the office gal, the bachelor apartment, the feminine latchkey, the cafeteria breakfast, and the can opener. —London Free Press.

Walter Lippman stresses that if the Big Three can not mutually find acceptable limits to their respective military power where this meets in global strategy, then—though there be no war—there will be no peace either. The world is already experiencing something of a twilight period, which may not actually herald more of darkness, but it also tends to hide that dawn, that measure of security, which so many people yearned for in their daily lives, once the Axis was crushed. —Hamilton Spectator.

Fredericton is going to have a new five-storey hotel. It will cost upwards of $750,000, will be financed by provincial and civic governments, and will overlook the St. John River, near the Parliament Buildings. Fredericton is one of the most beautiful communities in all Canada, elm-shaded, clean, with fine homes and gardens. It is not only the seat of Government but our chief educational centre. It is rich in historic interest, it stretches along one of the best reaches of the St. John River, and it is the gateway to a famous hunting and fishing region. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has reached the sad conclusion that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board is not a legal entity. It is argued that the Board consists of unincorporated individuals and as such cannot even be sued. The public has undoubtedly suspected on many occasions that the Board is composed of unincorporated individuals, some of whom are probably even utterly ethereal. Nevertheless it will be admitted that it would be rather nice if the government should get the Board within the law instead of holding fast to Stuart antiques. Who knows? Some unincorporated individual might even injure a citizen or two who would like redress.—Winnipeg Tribune.

British shipping firms are rushing from the builders craft intended to bring to their post-war merchant fleet all the latest improvements in marine architecture. British publications show pictures of trim craft with glassed-in upper decks, their funnels streamlined into superstructure, the captain's quarters, chartroom and radio shack incorporated in dummy funnels. Ranging in displacement from about 5,500 to 10,000 tons, the new ships are designed to give comfort to the traveller and to carry highly perishable cargo. Many of them have four holds forward and two aft, described as an innovation in design. They are motorships and have electrically driven cargo derricks, refrigerating machinery and steering gear. They are primarily intended for the South American trade and are spoken of in British shipping circles as comprising the "meat fleet." — New York Sun.

Many people are christened in haste to repent at leisure. This may or may not be true of the very young gentleman who has just, as we read, drawn the name of UNO in the great lottery of the font but in one respect at any rate he would seem, in the Holmesian phrase, to break fresh ground in the annals of parental crime. That children should in moments of enthusiasm be named after some joyful event is no new thing, but this is perhaps the first child to be called by one of those combinations of initials that have grown so familiar. Here is a wide and appalling field for conjecture. The mere sound must afford a warning against Boar and the twins Seac and Boac, in spite of a pleasantly Biblical suggestion, appear improbable; but there is sure to be a little Miss UNRRA, who will live to lament that too ecstatic choice. The evil that parents do lives after them, but it is interred at last. —London Times.

The announcement that holiday cruises between Britain and Sweden are to be resumed next year comes as a ray of light in a darkened world. These cruises, it is true, will not be of the free and opulent kind that we used to know. They will be limited and restricted by what Europe has become after six years of war But they mark the beginning of a better day. They are at once a reminder of a happier past and a hopeful augury for a more promising future. Though few people today would like to take up life exactly as we knew it in 1939, there is every reason why we should strive to bring back the amenities of that time. One of the best of them was the habit of cruising and foreign travel, which—with occasional setbacks arising from economic slumps — was growing yearly. The way to get people to know one another is to allow them to mix together. An intermingling of nationalities on friendly visits would do more than Conferences or World Assemblies to improve international relations. — Daily Mail (London).

Hour after hour Benito Mussolini paraded before his people. Hour after hour his stalwart right arm was held high in the Fascist salute. His people marvelled. Who else but Il Duce possessed such control, such endurance? The secret of Benito's unwavering arm was discovered by a Chicago lieutenant rummaging about the basement of Mussolini's castle at Lake Garda. "I found an artificial arm, fashioned in the Fascist salute," said Lt. William E. Brekke. "To it were attached heavy straps to be fastened about the body." In the drawing of lots for souvenirs at the castle, Brekke lost the arm. However, he did acquire a record of the birth of Fascism, "La Lampada D'Oro," a handsome volume presented to Mussolini by his followers, inscribed by Benito and signed by 600 of his devotees. The book is hand-printed on goatskin with hand-painted illustrations depicting Il Duce as a savior of the Italian people, complete with halo and flowing Biblical garments. — From Chicago News.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

CITY CONVENIENCES

Sir,—Having read rural visitor's complaint, I would like to say a few words. Two summers ago not being able to find a lavatory in the city, I called at one of our leading hotels. A few years previous I had been in the habit of going to this hotel as the manageress was a relative and, even though I did not take any meals I was always free and welcome to use the lavatory or bath room. This particular afternoon two summers ago I called at the same hotel. Upon entering I saw the new manageress in the distance. Thinking it seemed rather bold to go up without speaking to her, I asked her if she would mind if I used her lavatory. Her answer to me was: "Do you eat here?" I said no. "Well, then you better go where you eat," she said.

Being in the middle of the afternoon, and not being in the habit of eating much in the city, I had to go home. This could easily have been a stranger or a tourist.

It certainly is a deplorable situation that we have not a properly cared for public lavatory in our city, as all other cities have, and I think one that our new City Council might well take up as soon as possible.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AN INTERESTED CITIZEN.

TOBACCO TAX AND RATIONING

Sir,— What is our Provincial Government going to do about the tobacco tax? Surely, they are not going to burden the storekeepers with this nuisance, who have enough to contend with already. When the House is in session would be a good time to figure out some other way to collect or do away with this nuisance tax altogether.

Then there is the rationing system which is a disgrace to any civilized country. Well may any farmer wonder, when there is no restriction on stock feed, but he himself is told how much food he should receive. It is a case of man being of lesser importance than the beast. Picture if you can a storekeeper who in the rush of business receives those coupons. The party giving them should be equally responsible with the one receiving them. Anyone can easily see the possibilty of getting the wrong numbers, occasionally. But, what happens? If one of the investigators from the W.P.T.B. comes along, he is liable to be fined for having them in his possession. We hear so much about democracy, and our dearly fought freedom. Well, it would be better to be living among heathens than to tolerate this sort of thing.

No doubt all those restrictions originate at Ottawa which is the breeding house of dictators. Not many would suggest keeping those restrictions in force needlessly, in order to keep some people employed. If that were so, it might turn out to be an expensive way to do so. It almost looks as if you really can fool all the people all the time. At any rate, the storekeepers should never again be a party to such a thing.

I am, Sir, etc
J.R. SMITH

Bedeque, P.E.I.

THE FOOD CRISIS

Sir, — Thank you for your thoughtful and constructive editorial references to "The Food Crisis", which is today eddying outward into ever-widening circles, until I suppose it would be correct to suggest that it is the central problem before the political and economic leaders throughout the world?

I am patiently waiting for the "green light" from Parliament Hill, energizing the spirit of the Canadian people and giving something of the same fervid leadership for "winning the peace" (by producing more food in 1946 than ever before in our history) as was given to "winning the war". The time is short, if adequate plans are to be laid before seedtime.

We hear little, at the moment, about "Victory Gardens"—yet, the people who have the world facts on "food" are aware of the virtual disappearance of the so-called "wheat surplus" and an equivalent shrinkage in the current "rice supply" with the grave social echoes likely to flow from these twin causes? A recent speaker brought forward the point that "wheat and rice normally account, each, for roughly 20 per cent of the world's food consumption". That fact should be ploughed into the conscience of the producers and processors and consumers of food —so that we should become aware of the very real danger involved All that the United Nations struggled for, since 1939, is involved and endangered unless every national and individual shoulder bends to this post-war fight against hunger.

There are four clipped sentences in my farm paper (Western Farm Leader, Calgary) to which I would like to draw the notice of your readers 3,000 miles to the East. The Alberta Wheat Pool is quoted thus: "(1) —The Old World is sending terribly anxious pleas for help to the New World; (2)—Food is the scarcest article in Europe and Asia, and hundreds of millions of people are on the verge of starvation; (3) — The serious situation places a burden of moral responsibility on the farm people of Canada and the United States; (4)—Every ounce of food that can be produced will be needed—and every ounce of food that can be saved should be saved."

I am, Sir, etc
A WESTERN FARMER

CREAM HAULING

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned will be received by the Hazelbrook Dairying Association until Monday, March 25th, for the hauling of Cream for season of 1946 on three routes commencing at Murray Harbour and Murray River. Also one route beginning at Grandview through Uigg, Newtown, Orwell and Vernon.

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A. ROY JONES,
Secretary.

3-7-4i

Report On England

VI. Nationalization Is No Cure

By Leo Cherne

(This is the sixth of seven articles by Leo, Cherne, brilliant young American economist and executive secretary of the Research Institute of America, whom the Overseas News Agency and The Guardian sent to Britain to study how the Labor Government is meeting the problems of reconverting the country from her war-time economy and adapting her industrial machine to changed world conditions).

You can't alter a problem by changing its name, nor cure a problem industry by changing its owners. The British Government knows this, and it is one of the reasons why the Labor Party is not moving toward orthodox socialism —why the program for the nationalization of British industry is neither ambitious today, nor likely to become so.

An interesting parallel to the industrial problem facing England occurred during my visit there. The Russians had just sent their crack soccer team, the Dynamos, to play several of the best English challengers. After the first two severe defeats for England, national pride demanded emergency action. A third team was hurriedly recruited composed of the best players from each of the separate championship British teams. Soccer was truly nationalized overnight. That third game was one of the most exciting and closely fought sporting events I have ever seen—but the English still didn't win. The British players, but recently from military posts all over the world, were no match for the rival team which had been selected, groomed and preserved from other rigors solely for this purpose.

So too, it will take more than the nationalization of a tired coal industry to make the mines thrive, to attract new men, to increase their standard of living, to step up the output, to increase the profit on English coal in export competition.

* * *

England learned this lesson during the war. It is not who owns the factory, or plant, or mine, but what is done with it.

A mere change in title just won't matter much. The most striking illustration is the nationalization of the Bank of England. Not much more than a change of title was involved. The bank had always been a semi-government enterprise, though owned privately by 17,000 stockholders. I found it incredible but inescapable that when the 17,000 stockholders were asked whether they approved of the government's offer of compensation for their stock, only ten expressed their dissatisfaction. "The old lady of Threadneedle Street" has by law been given new guardians, but neither her behavior nor her relatives will be greatly affected.

A good deal more than a mere change in ownership will be needed in the other industries to be nationalized. The most important one, coal, is an old industry in Great Britain. With each year the mines have been worked, so many more feet of waste passageway have been added before the vein being mined can be reached. The private owners were compelled to go through the most illogical and wasteful procedures.

Substituting the government as owners doesn't change that fact, but the second step does. Lumping the property of two or three separate owners, the government, by sinking new shafts, can cut enormous lengths of unproductive distance and most efficiently reach the coal in each.

* * *

Nationalization of the mines will take a third inevitable step; a private owner can't abandon his mine without forfeiting his investment. A nationalized industry can pick the most productive and most efficient pits and, by concentrating on these, step up the nation's coal tonnage.

The question was frequently raised as to whether this couldn't be accomplished by mechanizing the old mines. The government learned during the war that some of the mines were so old and hazardous, that introducing machinery actually made them less efficient. Some of the mines would have to be entirely reorganized before machinery could, with either safety or efficienoy, be used. By treating the industry as a whole, selected mines can however be modernized.

Long before these first steps had been taken, the government had already decided to divide all British mining into several separate coal basins. All mining within each basin will be completely reshuffled and reorganized. The success of the nationalization program will undoubtedly depend upon how completely these separate basins will be made more rational. In other words, with what common sense will an entire region be viewed and treated as a whole to determine "where and how to mine."

The strongest resistance to this reshuffling may yet come from the miners themselves. The coal communities have grown up around specific companies. Nationalizing the mines may mean a ruthless reshuffling of pits, and the communities that work them. But family roots sink very deep into English soil. I met some folks who, living less than 200 miles from London, had never visited the city or at most on one or two great occasions. Budging the English mining family will not be easy.

* * *

Nationalization of industry is, however, only one string on the instrument the present British government plays. And for each industry, there will be a separate tune. Outright nationalization is only to be used in those cases where the government thinks there is no other way of improving the location and the technology of the industry.

In textiles, heavy government pressure will be applied to make the private owners themselves modernize the mills, introduce worker conveniences and completely rework the wage structure. The targets are higher wages and increased and more efficient output. The first objective is to get new workers into the mills.

The fear that parents have of the cotton mills must be broken, if the new generation is to be attracted to the looms. English cotton has always depended on female labor. Most often it has leaned on the laboring women and daughters whose husbands are out of work. If the husband works, at a decent wage, his women are less likely to be in the cotton mills. Paradoxically, the higher English employment is, the lower the output of clothes. But the remedy will not be nationalization; it will be modernization and an increased wage.

The emphasis in most industries will be on modernization. Sir Stafford Cripps, as head of the Board of Trade, has already thrown down the gauntlet to the iron and steel and consumer goods industries—modernization or face government intervention. But government intervention, if it comes, may not be nationalization. It is more likely to involve compulsory changes in production such as were introduced during the war.

The automobile industry, for example, turns out many more varieties of cars than are available in America, and yet, in the average year, only 300 thousand automobiles are sold as compared with the millions in this country.

* * *

The problem can be found in just that sentence. You can't get the advantages of mass assembly line production if a run of less than 50,000 care of exactly the same model are made. That means that the entire automobile industry in England must revamp itself to turn out no more than six separate models. Will it? That's one of the most important industrial questions for the future of England.

Here too, the nature of England plays a part. Does a modernized American-type automobile industry go with the English countryside? When you have seen the incredibly narrow, curved, unbanked, picturesque English roads, you know why England's automobile industry is as it is. And when you have seen the wide straight autobahns in Germany, or our own endless concrete highways, the evidence of the assembly line is obvious.

The techniques to accomplish these broad and difficult changes are far from completed. In some industries, like cotton, the government has introduced "working parties" — committees representing management, labor, and government, who will prepare the recommendations for recasting the entire industry.

Throughout England, too, there are the "development commissions" which are already stimulating the growth of new and diversified industry in those sections of England which have suffered most from unemployment and congenital low wages. War plants are being sold to private industry at most attractive rates where those plants could add to the diversification of employment and increased wages in the particular community.

* * *

In still another area, county agriculture committees are making machinery and knowledge available that were never before used on the little patches of extremely beautiful countryside. Farming in England isn't the factory proposition that it is in Russia and in many parts of the United States. The plans ahead don't call for any form of collectivism or nationalization, but every incentive will be used to make technical skill and mechanical equipment available where neither has been used before.

The English problem is neither the nationalization of industry, nor a change in the ownership of the profits. It is the problem of bringing one of the most tenaciously individual and most beautiful archaic countries of the modern world into competition with modern technology.

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