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

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1940.

Pan-America And Canada

The Pan-American Conference which opens in Havana this week, and about which Senator Hughes has been making inquiries in Parliament, is expected to indulge in considerable discussion of the Monroe doctrine and its bearing on present-day world events. That may be another reason —in addition to the fact that she has not been invited —why Canada is sending no representatives to the Conference. As part of the British Empire now at war with the Axis powers, Canada's interest in the Monroe doctrine can at the most be described as academic. Promulgated more than a hundred years ago, the general purport of the policy is that no interference in the affairs of the New World on the part of the Old World is to be tolerated by the peoples of the American continent, who in turn are supposed to observe a reciprocal obligation never to interefere with the internal concerns of any European power.

The Monroe doctrine (never subscribed to by Canada) has had much to do with the aloofness of the United States from movements which, if they had been universally supported, would have prevented the destructive war which is again menacing world freedom. That fact is becoming pretty generally realized by our neighbors to the south. In any case, it is known to all that there is very real intereference on the part of the Nazis in the internal economy of South American states, and recent pronouncements by President Roosevelt cannot easily be reconciled with the traditional interpretation of the Monroe doctrine and what it implies.

No Job For A Partisan

The tabling in the House of Commons by the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of National War Services, of the list of officers who will conduct national registration across Canada, tends to focus public attention on the fact that the most partisan member of Premier King's partisan Cabinet has been assigned a position in the administration which gives him practical control of the whole system of compulsory war service. In this connection we quote the following comment from the Sydney Post-Record (Independent):

"The political record of Mr. J. G. Gardiner bars him, in point of fact, from service in any wartime administration designed to command the confidence of the people of this Dominion. Throughout Western Canada, which he represents in the Ministry, he is known to be the most bitter, uncompromising and unrestrained type of machine politician that has held a Cabinet post at Ottawa in decades. It was Hon. J. G. Gardiner who prevented co-operation of the various groups in the Province of Alberta in the establishing of a united front, for the expulsion of the Social Credit fanatics from the administration of that Province. When he was Premier of Saskatchewan he ran the most sinister political machine that Province had ever known. His administration of unemployment relief in the Prairie Provinces has been an exhibition of reckless prodigality, coupled with the most ruthless partisanship that the West has ever witnessed. The choice of such a man to administer a system of compulsory wartime service in this Dominion is not merely a challenge to the better element in the country, which demands a non-partisan, representative, National Administration at Ottawa during the war, but is notice to everyone of Mr. Mackenzie King's unashamed surrender, as a national leader, to unrestrained machine politics."

Britain Stands Steadfast

The mouthpiece of Mussolini, Virginio Gayda, editorial writer of Il Duce's personal organ, has put up another journalistic kite to test the direction of the international breezes and particularly their intensity. Another chance to join the Rome-Berlin Axis in "renovating" Europe is being given to Britain, with the alternative of "inexorable destruction." Neutral observers, however, are beginning to comment upon the fact that the blitzkrieg has slowed down perceptibly.

The lull before the storm, is the diagnosis given by the Nazi-controlled Le Petit Dauphinois. This publication again springs the story of 600,000 troops concentrated for invasion of Britain by means of huge swarms of small craft. General Walther von Brauchitsch is credited with having delayed the attempt intended on the 9th and 10th inst., because of caution, and a modified attempt on Friday is now forecast. There is of course, as the Fredericton Gleaner comments dryly, the possibility that invading nations do not give their dates in advance. The extreme activity of both naval and aerial forces of the British may have had much to do with the situation. Concentration such as is named hardly could take place without discovery with Royal Air Force planes raiding twenty-two German airdromes in forty-eight hours, and crippling possible jumping-off places. Belgium, Holland and Germany were all covered.

The Royal Navy has issued a warning to all shipping to beware of a thiry-mile zone off the Italian coast. This is retaliatory to a similar Italian warning, but with this difference, that the British naval force is attacking and not defending, and if it is able to mine the coast of Italy it is proof that the sea-force of the Italians is impotent to defend its own waters.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Tomorrow is our mid-summer Sunday—hope it will be fine.

* * *

Farmers need temporary help, and will continue to need it as the days go by.

* * * *

Francesco Petrarch born this date, 1304—one of the greatest lyric poets of all time. His fame in this connection rests on the *Canzoniere*, sonnets to the mysterious Laura (whom he met at Avignon, and whose death he laments in his *In Morte di Madonna Laura*), the lyrical story of one of the great loves of the world's literature.

* * * *

Registration is not going to be a money-making job for anybody —the registrars, assistants, and deputies getting paid for the actual days they are on duty entering and compiling the necessary information; the other members of the staff being volunteers, giving their services "for the cause that needs assistance, and the wrong that needs resistance."

* * * *

Polish settlers in Canada number about 155,000 and of that number 65 per cent live on the land, the balance being engaged in the heavy industries, reports the Canadian National Railways. It is also stated that the Poles in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, about 83,000, have proved excellent tillers of the soil in turning large stretches of land into productive and prosperous country.

* * * *

Because of the acute shortage of ambulances in London, fish vans and various other delivery trucks have been pressed into use by the Air Raid Precaution Service, according to the British-American Ambulance Corps, New York. Mr. William V. C. Ruxton, president of the corps, said the British-American Ambulance Corps has seventy ambulances on order and is striving to raise $41,000 in the next few days for the purchase of an additional thirty urgently requested by the British Red Cross Society. "I know what a godsend those ambulances are going to be to England," said Mrs. Ralph W. St. Hill, United States representative of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association of Great Britain, who arrived recently from England. "If you could see the fish vans, etc., that are being used by the Air Raid Precaution Service you would realize what a joy your fleet will be."

* * * *

The Church today is a "bedraggled, defeated force beating a retreat," the Rev. Dr. Richard Roberts, a member of the faculty of the Pine Hill Divinity School in Halifax, N. S., said as guest preacher in the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, New York. "We can't boast of the Church in these times," he continued. "That is mainly due to the defectiveness of our self-committal to Christ. He does not ask us to succeed; He only asks us to try. But are we sincerely trying to hasten His kingdom in this world? Are we, Churchmen and laymen, living up to the promises we made when we entered the Church? "In this world there is no such thing as security. We are in jeopardy every hour. However, if we follow Jesus, we have His promise that we may be able to endure, for what that life gives us is courage—confidence that we can stand whatever the world may bring us."

* * * *

Real faith is closely concerned with the relation of the individual to the whole, to God. If our faith, is dependent on the expectation that we ourselves, individually, will be spared, it means that we are placing too high a value on our separate individual lives. This does not imply that we should be indifferent as to whether we survive or not; if we are full of the spirit of life, we ought to want to survive in order that we may continue our creative work. It is not fatalism which we need in this hour of peril, but so close an identification of ourselves with the spirit of life that we know that we shall live even though individually we die. This is the secret of being joined inseparably to the springs of eternal life, and it expresses itself in the faith that, even if disaster comes, if we perish, if the standards of what we regard as precious in social civilisation are crushed by wanton destruction, yet the strength of life is such, the will of God is so vital, that ultimately the good will prevail and that we shall share in that final triumph.

* * * *

According to the New York Times, in the Petain program for the reconstruction of France there is one clause that does not quite fit in with the Nazi philosophy. We might go further and say that it sharply challenges the fundamental Nazi ideology. Dedicating itself to the encouragement of education and the reform of morals, the Petain declaration affirms: "The government knows that families, common professions (occupations?) and religion existed before the state. The state is only a political machine for the national gathering (coordination?) of units and must not prevent or harm the duties of these groups. The government, however, will control them in the interest of the common good." To assert that there are human institutions older and of more basic authority than the state, to go so far as to declare that the state is only a political "machine," is to reject basic totalitarian doctrine. This maintains that the state is a super-entity through which the individual finds his highest fulfillment and to whose claims all individual rights must be subordinate. In fact, there is no such thing as individual "rights." The individual only has functions which permit him to fulfill his duties toward the state. Where, in the Vichy declaration, is the real and permanent France to be sought? In the clauses that humbly subscribe to "corporative" institutions and dutifully denounce in conventional terms the rule of "plutocracy"? Or in the clauses that assert the higher claims of family, trade and religion against the state?

NOTES BY THE WAY

Bespectacled Spinster Margaret Wilson, talented daughter of the late President Woodrow Wilson, donned the voluminous white robes of a desciple of Sir Aurobindo and sought refuge from the world in the Brahmin retreat at Pondichery, India. — Time.

Marshal Petain is quoted as stating his government "remains free, and our honor is safe". Which recalls the classic declaration of the old-time salesman: "I've been asked out,, I've been ordered out, and I've been thrown out—but I've never been insulted!' — Montreal Gazette.

As a result of the Cabinet reconstruction announced by Premier Mackenzie King in the House of Commons yesterdaly afternoon, there seems sound reason for believing that Canada's war effort has been definitely strengthened and broadened. — Montreal Star.

Systematic tax dodging is a poor-spirited affair in peacetime. There are uglier names than that for it in war time. When Canadians, rich and poor, are gladly paying steep taxes in order to help the national effort, their thoughts naturally turn to the question of their fellow-Canadians who, in recent years, have fitted to the tax-free islands of the blest. — Winnipeg Tribune.

The incident of the French fleet has caused great pain in Rome, we read, because it has convinced the Italians that the British are in this fight to the finish — the finish of Hitler. The Italians, who like a short war and not too much fighting, now are confronted with a long war and a great deal of fighting, and they don't fancy the prospect. — Ottawa Journal.

Yet, above the clamor of subservient "Ayes" assembled in that hall at Vichy rose the unconquerable Voice of France. Three men dared brook the anger of the autocrats. Their names — Margaine, Biondi, Roche—will live, for in that gathering, defying assembled Might, they spoke in the Spirit of France, the Spirit of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, watchwords which before this have thrust Tyranny from a hundred thrones. — Halifax Herald.

The British children will soon make themselves at home wherever they be placed, for the memory of youth is fortunately short, and join in the play and childish pursuits of young Canadians. They will be happy the day long and sleep secure at night. Canadian citizens who provide temporary homes for these children will be amply rewarded by the smiles of the youngsters, for fear of death from the air will soon be forgotten. — Calgary Albertan.

Mussolini was once a Socialist; Hitler was once a social failure. For quite different reasons both have boasted of what they and their regimes have done for the welfare of the masses. But as soon as war comes the Socialism is forgotten and Nationalism is revealed naked and unadorned. The transitory benefits are forgotten; the liners of Strength through Joy carry German troops to their death in the Kattegat; the factory built to produce people's car turns out tanks. Both ships and factories had been built with those tasks in view. All the safeguarding labor legislation of a civilized nation is scrapped and men and women are shifted from factory to factory, from fortress to fortress, like chain-gangs. So much for the Socialism in Germany, made possible only by the multiplication of little party tyrants, three millions of them, whose determination to cling to their ill-gotten power and comfort is the chief motive of their loyalty to Hitler. A plutocracy is ruled by the rich. If in Britain some rich men are called to rule, in Germany all rulers become rich men. —The Times (London).

It hardly needed the rumor in Washington of a British blockading force standing over the French forces in Martinique to bring home to Americans their own vivid interest in the fate of the French fleet. It was obvious from the first moment. There is no American who would not say at once that it would be impossible to allow Martinique or the other French possessions in this hemisphere to become Nazi naval and commercial bases — yet that is exactly what was in the process of taking place through the good offices of Hitler's puppet government in Vichy. And if this country has a vital interest in preventing French naval power from becoming an outpost of Hitler-Europe in this hemisphere, it has just as vital an interest in seeing it prevented from becoming a tool with which Hitler-Europe could overthrow the one barrier—Great Britain and the British Navy—that now keeps Hitler-Europe out of this hemisphere. If an American ambassador could have sat with the British Cabinet when it took its decision he could not, thinking solely and realistically of the interests of this country, have asked it to act otherwise than as it did. — New York Herald Tribune.

A secret session of Parliament is a one-way street. It does not permit the Government to give to the House information that must be concealed from the public. An official secret shared with 600 people is too widely spread, for though loyalty may be presumed discretion varies. But it is possible for members to give to the Government criticisms and suggestions which they would prefer not to make in public. The session may become then a clearing-house of ideas from which much profit may be gained. Recently there has been a movement, proceeding from the press rather than from Parliament, to give to it another function, that of a grand coroner's inquest upon past mistakes. That is a mistaken conception. Without doubt there will be in due course an inquiry into all errors, and an assessment of all responsibilities. But that inquiry must be held in public, before the eyes of the nation, whose interests have been involved, so that both the prosecution and the defence may be fairly heard. To hold such an inquest in private, and before a House the majority of which was selected to support the old administration can serve no public purpose and can only embarrass the Prime Minister. Our task, like that of the Romans after Cannae, is to see how we may be able jointly to avert the common peril. And it may comfort us to to remember that they did avert it, and that they won their war. — London Spectator.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CONSCRIPTION AND FARM DUTIES

Sir:— We are all concerned in playing our part in the struggle for freedom and democracy, but what of us farmers in Prince Edward Island and throughout the Dominion. Last Fall when the war started, many of our boys enlisted, and more would have done so but they were not wanted. Later on we were told that it was machines, not men, that were wanted. We were told to produce more crops and more livestock on the farms, and that Canada would have no conscription, etc. I have two boys and we talked it over, and we thought that our job was to produce. We have put in a larger acreage than usual, increased our livestock, etc. Then came word of Conscription for home defence, which any sensible man should know would come if conditions demanded it. But what is happening daily? Boys enlisting off the farms One of my boys has gone. No objection from me, as I have one left. But now he is going. I have tried to tell him that he should not leave the farm with a heavy crop to harvest, and I all alone. His answer is, "I'd be taken anyway, and I don't want to be called a slacker." My neighbor has three boys; all have enlisted, and the old man left to harvest that crop. Yet I know three boys on another farm and none of them has offered. They must know more than mine as to what strings to pull. I ask you to publish the above facts, setting forth the truth as I see it, and I am told that it is the same all over the Province. If my second boy is wanted, why he will have to go. But the production on the farm next year will be very small indeed ,as my wife and I cannot do the work. Personally I think it all a misunderstanding. Someone has fallen down in not explaining who has to go, and who ought to stay at home.

I am, Sir, etc.,

FARMER

(One of the purposes of the national registration which is being taken August 19-22 is to enable the judges, specially appointed in each Province, to determine the question raised by our correspondent. It is hoped thereby to avoid the mistake of conscripting young men whose services might be of more value on the farm or elsewhere.—Ed. G.)

WHAT ARE JAPANS AIMS IN THE PACIFIC?

Sir:— Whilst the conflagration is in progress in Europe, we hear just a slight rustle of Japanese silk in the Pacific: smooth soft, and practically noiseless. Though still occupied in China, more it would seem consolidating and protecting her gains there than for any other reason, whilst she is looking, where? Would she be interested in some of those islands to the south which have been a source of great revenue to countries temporarily obliterated by the totalitarian nations? That is something the democratic nations will have to guard against, although they are no doubt, on the close lookout for any move from any source which could be interpreted as a means for the extending of territories of certain powers.

The German ambassador to Japan who made such a hurried trip there some time ago, has no doubt been working overtime to point out to Japan what she may gain at this time whilst Europe is in the throes of a major conflict. However, Japan is noted for making up her own mind, no cohesion on Germany's part (to suit themselves only) would be of any avail. When Japan decides to make a move, in any direction, it will be definitely to suit herself from an angle where her own interests would be best served. Germany and Japan are two nations of commercial competitive natures such as would not permit too close an alliance of any depth as Japan could certainly never trust Germany in any sense of the word. They may cooperate to a certain extent; that would only be to the extent of the futherance of Japan's own aims—where she would guardedly be watching every step and Germany closer than ever.

The Indo- China affair is more of a feeler on Japan's part; subtlety itself; more to see what the effect would be and what results it would bring. What her future intentions are in the Pacific, will never be told outside the war cabinet. That silent, subtle, quick-thinking nation, does not intend to lie dormant; neither do they intend to be caught napping. They are ready for any emergency they will say, the emergency may be of their own making, with a —so sorry—; they see, they think, they plan, they act, always in their own interests; there you have it.

Japan may say, with German prompting, we have as much right as you, to safeguard certain possessions or areas in the Pacific which at the moment are in doubt as to whom they really belong to, and be prepared to back up her assertions with a show of strength, or force, (an untried unit where naval strength is concerned for a long time past,) at the same time to free herself from certain obstacles in the way of her expansion further south.

Suave, well educated in European mannerisms and customs, with "nothing to say," which might be a case of acting first and talking afterwards, as in China, where that undeclared war has been going on now for a long time, which seemed to be the cue for the European nations who are at war—"Excepting Great Britain" doing likewise and overrunning other countries.

We would warn our American friends, and good neighbors, whatever allocations and dispositions they make of units in the Pacific to have them located at strategic points where lightning-like quickness would be essentially the main feature and any such movement should be made discreetly and secretly.

America the guardian of the Pacific would do well to guard her defences on outlying points and co-establish the keenest cooperation with Great Britain, so that all avenues to the south could be closed at a moment's notice.

What the changes in Japan's war cabinet will mean later remains to be seen. Was the recent resignation of importance for the reason that the present policy was not aggressive enough? The unusual concern recently regarding the health of Japan's subjects in areas located outside their country, would seem to be suggestive.

The Panama canal at this time is of vital and strategic importance, firstly to the United States, secondly to Great Britain, disablement of which would mean delays interminable, where the transfer of units from Atlantic to Pacific, or vice versa, is concerned. Each vessel of foreign nationality or registration, should be searched outwardly; the prow of any vessel bent on a voyage of sabotage could be equipped underwater with a towing ring, which simple means would be capable of towing along underwater at the vessel's sides, enough charges to blow any of the lock gates skyhigh, which could be released when in the desired location by simply pulling a pin, whilst the vessel was proceeding on her way, leaving behind a deadly timed charge which might be even a day or two in working around to the precise moment of explosion. At this time there are many enemies of both countries who would be decorated in their own countries for being the means of wrecking even temporarily, this vital and speedy waterway between the two oceans.

"JOHN"

July 1st, 1940.
"The Lilacs."

Author Of "The Bluebird"

(London Free Press)

Maurice Maeterlinck, Belgian-French novelist and dramatist, admirer of Shakespeare, mystic and philosopher, arrives in New York a war refugee and Nazi victim, stripped of his money, his books and his private papers, owing his life, indeed, to his celerity in escaping from his French home on the Riviera. He plans to remain in New York with friends until the war is over, in the meantime to reestablish himself with a new play, whose design came to him while waiting in Portugal for the ship which bore him and his wife across the Atlantic.

Maeterlinck is best known to the majority of Canadian readers by his play "The Bluebird", one of those spiritual fantasies which reveal the author's personal faiths. Whether in philosophy drama or lyric Maeterlinck has always been exclusively occupied in revealing or indicating the mystery which lies only just out of sight, beneath the surface of ordinary life. His plays are occupied with the spiritual adventures of souls and the ordinary facts of time and space have no influence upon the movements of his characters. All of which is revealed in his "The Bluebird."

To the Germans, Maeterlinck has another value. In 1920 Sir John Martin Harvey, the English actor, produced in London "The Burgomaster of Stilemonde," in which Maeterlinck drew a terrible picture of the German occupation of Belgium in 1914. The Germans have never forgiven him. They would like to have him before a firing squad. It is significant that Raemaekers, Dutch cartoonist, whose bitter pictorial comments on the Germans of 1914-1918 so angered the high command, has also arrived in the United States for the duration of the war.

It is perhaps, an augury of peace that Madame Maeterinck brought with her, in a cage, two bluebirds. If you recall the play, it was by seeking the bluebird that Tyltyl and Mytil came at last to the discovery of happiness. Certainly the Europe of 1940 is no place for these birds of serene faith. In the past two months there has been an extraordinary exodus of men of letters, writers, thinkers and scientists from France, Belgium and England to this continent. They bring with them the rich fruits of the cultures of their respective countries. Most of these are men in middle or late life, but their presence here with us will stimulate our own culture, our recognition of all the arts, perhaps and lay the foundation of another Renaissance this side of the Atlantic.

The Poets' Corner

ELF'S SONG

(From "The Ballad of the White Horse")

There is always a thing forgotten
When all the world goes well;
A thing forgotten, as long ago
When the gods forgot the mistletoe,
And soundless as an arrow of snow
The arrow of anguish fell.

The thing on the blind side of the heart,
On the wrong side of the door,
The green plant groweth menacing
Almighty lovers in the spring;
There is always a forgotten thing
And love is not secure.

—G. K. Chesterton.

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