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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1946

Manitoba Held Up Too

The Speech from the Throne which our legislators are now discussing is less frank in its confession of inability to meet fiscal needs than was the Throne Speech delivered in the Manitoba Legislature last week. Therein it was confessed that until the Manitoba government can obtain some definite settlement with Ottawa it cannot intelligently formulate a budget for the coming year. Accordingly it is asking the members to pass estimates of expenditure which reflect only partially its post-war plans, and promises if necessary to call at an appropriate later time a special session to consider and pass the legislation necessary to implement the decision reached by the Dominion-Provincial conference on reconstruction. Supplementary estimates would be passed at this special session to pay for projects now being held up. In the meantime, however, it is proposed to go ahead with the government's farm and village electrification plans, as well as increased services in the fields of health, education and public welfare.

Surplus Educational Equipment

Letters keep coming in to cabinet ministers at Ottawa in support of the request that war surplus instructional equipment be made available to schools on loan. The contention is that the people of Canada have already paid for this equipment by their taxes and that the schools should not be asked to pay for it again. Moreover it is claimed that the schools have neither the money nor the facilities to compete as purchasers against commercial and private interests who are buying equipment urgently needed in education. In effect the friends of the schools want Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction, to include the desired equipment in the category of articles which War Assets Corporation gives to educational institutions on indefinite loan. At present the schools are able to get only scrap and non-saleable articles despised by commercial purchasers. Although glad to get anything which can be used for instructional purposes, educators claim that the nation's schools deserve better treatment than this.

Recently the United States Government announced that war surpluses would be disposed of to educational and public health institutions at 40% off the lowest price at which they are sold to other purchasers. This discount applies to war surpluses of practically all types except real estate. It is therefore a much larger concession than the free gift of certain instructional materials sought by the schools of Canada.

The Department of Labor of the Dominion Government has agreed to help vocational schools replace machine tools worn out as a result of use in War Emergency Classes, which trained semi-skilled workmen for industry and for the armed services during the war. It is suggested that the schools purchase as replacements used machine tools from War Assets Corporation. The Department of Labor undertakes to remit 75 per cent of the purchase price, less freight charges. Technical schools in industrial areas will be the chief beneficiaries of this plan. Educators are appreciative of this tangible acknowledgement of the services rendered during the war by the vocational schools. But the undertaking of the Department of Labor in no way affects the vast majority of educational institutions in Canada for whom other war surplus instructional equipment is requested.

Trouble Ahead

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal *Gazette* predicts early trouble for the Mackenzie King Government at the forthcoming session of the House.

The proposed large loan to the United Kingdom and last fall's departmental ruling on the custom rate on Diesel engines, those used chiefly by fishermen, are believed to be causing the King administration political embarrassment.

There are indications that some of the government's Quebec following will revolt over the extending of extensive financial aid to Britain, as they did during the war when some of them criticized the billion dollar gift and the $700,000,000 interest-free loan. They are expected to show more opposition to a peace-time loan, whatever the interest rate.

This prospect has caused some concern and has been responsible for the visit of prominent members of the government to Quebec recently. It is believed the government does not relish the appearance of another Quebec revolt. There can be not the slightest doubt that any loan to Britain will be approved by Parliament but Prime Minister King does not want to have to rely upon Progressive Conservative votes to offset the adverse vote from his Quebec members.

On one occasion last session John Bracken, opposition leader, took the occasion to remind the government that on a certain issue it had again been saved by opposition votes or attitude, and the Prime Minister is not really keen on having a repetition of that position.

Then there is the now famous Diesel engine ruling of the National Revenue Department on Diesel engines. It developed that prior to the last budget it was ruled that as the Diesel engines in question were deemed to be of a class or kind made in Canada in commercial quantities and in certain sizes and types of real use to certain industries they were subjct to duty, which meant the maximum duty against the American product.

A loud outcry came from the Maritime fishermen who contended that this ruling would mean that as they had to import the engines from the United States they would have at least $350 added to the cost of their equipment. Then, not so long ago, there was argument here against the departmental ruling.

Hon. J. L. Ralston, former National Defence Minister, appeared for importers, and J. A. Mathewson, former Provincial Treasurer of Quebec, for the Canadian manufacturers of the engines. Col. Ralston contended either for the cancellation of the ruling or for a change in the customs law which made this ruling, according to the department obligatory.

Whatever develops over the Diesel engine dispute the government has at least the Quebec support to be concerned about, and it was this Quebec support which the Prime Minister was determined to retain in the recent general election at all costs. The price was paid, but the administration has not had the unwavering backing of those Quebec followers delivered.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The P. E. I. Hospital Campaigners are now on the march.

* * * *

Sympathy goes out to Rev. Mr. Ibbott of St. Paul's, City, on the loss of his father, which occurred unexpectedly at Hamilton, Ontario, on Tuesday.

* * * *

As usual, the criticism of the Governor's speech has more bearing on what it omits than what it includes. There is a whole host of things electors want to know about last year's record and the current year's prospects than is contained in the wordy, uninspiring oration with which the House has been opened.

* * * *

General satisfaction is expressed with the announcement made regarding the re-establishment of the armed forces in this province. Perhaps, now, the long-promised new armouries will be an accomplished fact, and something done definitely to restore a measure of provincial administration, of which we have been deprived since the retirement of the late Col. Moore.

* * * *

Rt. Hon. John Allenbrook, Viscount Simon G. C. S. I., G. C. V. O., P. C., K. C., British lawyer and politician, born this date 1873; been a member of every Liberal and Coalition Government since 1922; was Foreign Secretary in 1931, Lord Chancellor in 1940; Councillor for Great Britain in League of Nations; publications include *Three Speeches on the General Strike, Talks on India, Comments and Criticisms, Portrait of my Mother.*

* * * *

Mr. John Bracken, National Progressive Conservative leader, took over the other day as skip of Pete Gilbert's Chatham rink in the first round for the Birks-Ellis-Ryrie Trophy. The leader of the opposition romped his quartet to a 13-5 victory over Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto(skipped by C. N. S. Sedgewick. His rink consisted of Don Painter, leader; Robert Gilbert, second, and Gordon Gilbert, vice-skip. Mr. Bracken said, "as a curler I am a good politician, but I have made lots of friends among curlers because they nearly always beat me."

* * * *

Because not a few of our readers are members of Boards of Trade, we reprint this sad paragraph from the bulletin of the Advertising and Sales Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade. It is headed "Last week's luncheon":

"Once to every chairman in his year of office comes the Monday when the programme committee lays an egg. And so last week the fates, which have been very kind to him, finally caught up with Chairman Peard Sutherland, giving him an experience he will not soon forget. We have had some superb speeches (such as Col. Harry Cain's), many worthy ones and a few poor ones, so the programme committee may be pardoned for a lone dud. It should be added, however, that the speaker came highly recommended. Less easy to forgive was the extreme discourtesy of the Bureau members who walked out on the speaker. In doing so they did discredit to the Board of Trade as well as to themselves."

* * * *

As previously noted, the cash income from the sale of farm products for 1945 is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at $1,654 million. This total is about 8 per cent less than the record high of 1944. Payments made under the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and the Prairie Farm Income Act are not included in these estimates. They do include, however, the amounts paid on account of wheat participation certificates, the oats and barley equalization payments and those Dominion and Provincial government payments which farmers receive as subsidies to prices. The major decrease in income occurred in the Prairie Provinces. Nova Scotia also showed a small setback. The province of Ontario on the other hand showed a substantial increase. Reduced marketings of wheat account for most of the decline in income in the Prairie Provinces but there were also smaller marketings of barley and hogs.

Notes By The Way

They celebrated Lincoln's birthday again over there. Remember he was that old-fashioned man who advocated thrift honesty and individual responsibility. — Brandon Sun.

A movement is reported to widen grounds of divorce to include extreme cruelty, desertion and permanent insanity. Being just plain no good is also a fault worthy of consideration in that connection.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Science note says that the earth travels 1,589,000 miles a day, or 583,670,000 miles a year, in its journey around the sun. This must be very discouraging to the aviators who have been able to hit 600-odd miles per hour. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

It is a serious business to lecture a judge, but if the press does not do it, nobody else will, for judges cannot be answered back in court; they are expected to exercise a restraint upon their personal feelings which makes correction unnecessary. —Peterborough Examiner.

We have heard many harsh things about men's deceitfulness, but we nominate the rabbit as the most deceitful of all animals. According to a columnist, they provide the fur for 86 different kinds of fur coats, including French sable. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Canada needs a new generation on the land. The average age of farmers in Saskatchewan —and there is no reason to believe other western provinces differ—is 53 years. A good proportion are over this age. Saskatchewan reports 4,000 over 70 and 1,000 over 68. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Things must be pretty bad in the Toronto beverage room situation when one of its well known hotels, jealous of its reputation, is seriously contemplating a request to the authorities that its licence be cancelled. Perhaps we may yet witness a return to the day when hotels were really hotels and not mere taverns with accommodations as a very secondary consideration.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

The chief fault of husbands, it appears, is "taking the wife for granted;" the brutes are not sufficiently forthcoming with "attention, affection and appreciation." Only one percent of the women questioned said their husbands were too attentive to other women. The deduction which we make from those two pieces of information is that married men are not interested in women. We may be wrong, but we are indisputably logical. —Peterborough Examiner.

A century ago men would have scoffed at visions of today's great social institutions, pension schemes and humane legislation. Only dreamers could foresee men struggling with the real groundwork of a world parliament. This is not the progress of snails or the faith of quitters. Through the ups and downs mankind is going steadily ahead, upward toward a better life. This is our conviction and our answer to the temporary gloom of today's confusion. — Vancouver Sun.

Twelve persons have perished off the coast of Nova Scotia, dying as they drifted helplessly in their lifeboat during a Bay of Fundy blizzard. Down through the years, Yarmouth, Digby, Port Greville — all the dozens of towns and hamlets that shelter on the coves and harbors great and small—have known the toll which the sea takes. Their sons and daughters have died on many waters, but this is close home. It happened within sight of land in fair weather—but more than a life's length from shore in a wintry gale. It is the starkest of tragedies. — Halifax Herald.

We must do with less butter because we cannot reduce our commitments to nations starving for fats. We cannot manufacture margarine because the entire world is short of fats and oils and additional imports are therefore unavailable. And we are actually better off than the people of the United States, where butter is unrationed and margarine is manufactured. Most Canadians, we believe, realize these things; much as they dislike the idea of doing with less butter, they will consider themselves fortunate they are no worse off and will accept the reduced ration with good grace. —Kingston Whig-Standard

The Japanese winter is not severe, but damp and penetrating. There is ordinarily no stove in a house other than the brazier filled with ashes, upon which smolder a few lumps of charcoal. You must hug the fire to keep warm, Willard Price writes in "Key to Japan." The winter air rises through the floor upon which you sit. The house is raised on posts and the wind howls through beneath you and filters up into the room. To keep warm, you must either go to bed or keep moving. One cannot stay in bed or bath all the time. The answer is action. I firmly believe that this is the reason for the remarkable activity of the Japanese. It is far more comfortable to plow and plant in the muddy fields than to sit in the house.

Sniffling may be a sign of distress, preceding a good cry. On the other hand, the person who sniffles may not be distressed at all, but merely distresses those who have to listen to the sniffling, says The Kitchener Record. Persons who sniffle are usually reluctant to admit they have a cold. They know if they do they will be told to take a lot of hot drinks, put drops in their noses and go to bed. So they deny they have a cold. They are likely to say they merely got some dust up their nose and that, if left alone, they will be all right in a few minutes. But when the few minutes have elapsed they will still be sniffling. So it is actually a relief when the suspense is broken by the sniffle turning into a series of sneezes and the event is greeted by the triumphant exclamation: "There! What did I tell you? You have a cold, after all."

Every once in a while a story crops up in the day's news which leaves us with a nagging curiosity in the back of our minds—an irritating conviction that the most important part of the story has yet to be told. Such an item is the one about the Vancouver landlady who complained to the police that a perfect stranger has been sleeping in her boarding-house bathtub. It is a straightforward tale—up to a point. The visitor is gentlemanly sort of person. He comes and goes quietly and politely as his affairs dictate. He insults nobody, disturbs nobody, makes no undue noises, throws no late parties in the bathroom. He doesn't cadge cigarettes, borrow neckties or try to persuade anybody to make a fourth at bridge. The one thing that bothers us—the inescapable question that forms and reforms itself in our puzzled head—the still, small inquiring voice that keeps insinuating itself into our mental ear—in short, the missing detail—is: Doesn't anyone in that house ever take a bath? — Calgary Albertan.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TO POTATO SHIPPERS

Sir,—The Wartime Food Corporation, Limited, of Toronto have asked the Department of Agriculture to notify shippers in Prince Edward Island in making requests for shipping potatoes out of the Province to state whether loading C.P.R. or C.N.R., also to give approximate contents of car.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. R. SHAW,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION

Sir,—I have just read Robert L. Cotton's letter in The Guardian of Feb. 25th.

While reading his letter it occurred to me that Mr. Cotton's recent generous gift for the beautification of our rural communities should have received some recognition by resolution or otherwise during Farmers Week.

So far as I know this was not done and I feel my own share of the neglect in this regard very keenly indeed. However, I hasten to assure him that this was merely an oversight, and that we as farmers, appreciate to the fullest his generous leadership in our behalf.

As president of the P. E. Island Dairyman's Association I am taking this opportunity on behalf of our organization to extend to Mr. Cotton our deepest thanks.

I trust that our Provincial Government in administering this fund will meet with the hearty co-operation of every agricultural organization in the Province.

I can certainly corroborate what Mr. Cotton says about Colonel Johnston's home at Long River. I have seen this home and I have often thought what a wonderful Province this would be if every home in it was like the one mentioned. We could then in truth claim that pleasing title, "The Garden of the Gulf."

Let us all make Colonel Johnstone's home our objective, and strive to come as near to it as possible. If this were done I feel sure it would be a great stimulus to our "tourist traffic" which in turn would add very materially to the wealth of our Province.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN H. MYERS.

Hampton, P. E. I.

PUBLICITY BRINGS RESULTS

Sir,—In your issue of February 21st reference was made to the somewhat disappointing results of a linemen training program which this Company has recently endeavored to institute. This program was suggested by the Company and the details worked out in co-operation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Vocational Training, and the local National Employment Office.

Certain readers gained the impression that the disappointing results obtained, as evidenced by the small number of applicants, were created by lack of interest given the matter by local officials of the Departments mentioned above.

To correct this impression may we say that we have received the best of co-operation from each of these Departments. In particular the officials of the local National Employment Office have examined the records of over 200 cases in an effort to furnish us with the required number of trainees. Of this group of over 200 men, 22 were sent to us as suitable for training.

It is unfortunate that the program could not have been more widely advertised in order to attract interested men. It is also regrettable that the payment of unemployment benefits tends to discourage some of our veterans using a portion of their re-establishment credits for training purposes.

You will understand of course that the program was restricted to ex-service personnel to enable them to be properly trained in a useful occupation. These men when trained will be an important factor in the development of the Company's rural electrification program, which is being pushed with all possible speed to assist rural communities of the Province.

We are happy to say that during the last several days we have received sufficient additional applications to make our training program possible and it is intended to commence classes during the first week in March.

I am, Sir, etc.,
V. A. AINSWORTH,
Division Superintendent,
Maritime Electric Co., Ltd.

FARMERS NOT ANTAGONISTIC

Sir,—In his remarks made at a labour meeting in Charlottetown on February 22nd last, Lt. Col. K. S. Rogers said that he agreed with the remarks of some previous speaker, who said that they could not expect help from the government as it is a farmers' government, and that farmers were not favourable to organized labour.

I have had quite a long acquaintance with farmers, and farm organizations, and I have yet to learn that as farmers we are opposed to organized labour. In fact I think I remember the time some years back when the steel workers in Nova Scotia were having some very serious labour trouble, that we contributed to a shipment of food that was sent over to Nova Scotia for their use and benefit.

Unless Mr. Rogers has some very good reason for remarks of that kind they should not have been made.

It probably is not too late yet to make amends. And I believe that in fairness to the farmers as a class, that he should hasten to do so.

There was also something said about the farmers being tax-conscious and that we pay less taxes than any other class. As that charge concerns only us farmers I will not comment, other than to say that perhaps we get less in return even for the taxes we do pay than that of any other class.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. B. McLELLAN

Alma, Feb. 26.

Why Canadians Should Watch Peron

(Contributed)

Whether or not Hitler is dead, the political and economic system which he tried to force upon the world still survives. Fascism is firmly entrenched in Spain and even as this is being written has likely come to bare-faced and undisputed power in Spanish-speaking Argentina. It would seem appropriate and necessary, therefore, that readers of the Guardian should have some authentic information on this Juan D. Peron upon whom the American State Department is keeping such a wary and watchful eye.

Peron first came to international notice in 1936 when, as Argentine military attache to Chile, he was caught turning British and Chilean military secrets over to a German agent. For this venture into German secret service work, he was expelled from Chile but that affront to his dignity probably did not cause him as much chagrin as his later knowledge that the information, which he had turned over to Germany and for which he had reputedly paid 70,000 pesos, had been found to be spurious.

The Chilean expulsion apparently did not cost him any loss of popularity with his Government, for in 1939 Argentina attached him to the German Army and for two years he complacently followed it in its triumphal marches over the continent of Europe. He was with the Germans when they marched into Paris in June, 1940.

The Argentine has continuously been on the verge of civil war since Peron returned from Germany in 1941. His first act upon his return was to organize a secret lodge of some fifty colonels and majors known as the G. O. U. (Group of United Officers) which became in effect the Argentine Government, with President Pedro P. Ramirez as the figurehead. One of the slogans of the G. O. U. was, "The struggle of Hitler in peace and war shall be our guide." Later, when President Ramirez, chafing under his embarrassing position of a President shorn of authority, began to plot to seize actual power, Peron told American newspaper men, "This is the government of the G. O. U. and I am the G. O. U.! In my desk I have the unsigned undated resignations of 3,300 of the army's 3,600 officers, and the rest do not matter.

Peron vigorously opposed Argentina's diplomatic break with the Axis on Jan. 26, 1944, but reluctantly calmed down when the United States South Atlantic fleet quietly but ominously moved into the La Plata estuary. However, when he learned that Ramirez's Foreign Minister, General Alberto Gilbert, was also planning economic measures against German interests in Argentine, he rushed furiously with drawn sword into Gilbert's office and ran him out of the building and the Cabinet.

* * *

Ramirez, deprived of Gilbert's support, made a desperate attempt to oust the G. O. U. by ordering the resignation of War Minister General Edelmiro J. Farrell and his "assistant", Peron. Farrell quit, but Peron, who has plenty of physical courage, refused to budge. That same night, six of Peron's generals, with drawn revolvers, burst into Ramirez's study and forced him to sign over his powers to Peron's puppet, Farrell.

Since that night Peron has been Argentina's Hitler. With Hitlerian technique he has courted both capital and labour, and has played one enemy against the other. With Machiavellian strategy, he has fomented plots which at frequent intervals have thrown the existing Cabinet into convulsions, so that within the last two years over sixty Ministers have either resigned or have been thrown out because of his machinations. Unable to get full control of the army, he has built up a mechanized police force of 40,000 military-trained men as against the 60 000 army personnel which are scattered all over the country.

A national news broadcast last Sunday night told Canadians that Peron had the backing of the Argentine Labour Party in his bid for the Presidency. Such a bare statement is misleading. Peron's courtship of labour has blown hot and cold. It is true he has given labour benefits which its union leaders could not obtain in many years of campaigning. He has established minimum wage laws and decent living conditions for agricultural workers who for centuries had existed in feudal peonage. White-collar workers, shop girls, and factory hands have been given wage raises, vacations with pay, and improved working conditions. Recently, he ordered all firms to raise wages 30 per cent. Such a decree was received with approval by all workers, even by those who hate Peron as no other man in Argentina has ever been hated. The decree was, therefore, without doubt a potent campaign weapon in Peron's bid for absolute power last Sunday.

* * *

But that is only one side of the picture. Thousands of those in the ranks of organized labour have been unwilling to accept favours from Peron because they felt the price was blind obedience and their loss of all democratic rights. For those Peron had an answer. It was mass arrests, imprisonment, and torture. His labour campaign has been planned and directed by one Fritz Mandl, an ex-Austrian munitions magnate whose record of applied Fascism culminated in the massacre of the Vienna Social Democrats in February, 1934. Today, all democratic labour organizations are underground and only Peron's Labour Party can enjoy the sunlight.

Scores of big Nazi industrialists, military strategists, and other prominent Nazis are living in the Argentine. They and the seven billions of war loot they have secreted or invested in Argentina were behind Peron in his bid last Sunday for supreme power. They cannot afford to have him lose. Yet future history may reveal that it would have been cheaper for them if he had lost—supposing he has won.

In the meantime, at least 120 factories, furnished with German blue prints, are belching forth smoke night and day, in their work of turning out armament for Peron's "particular war."

What war he has in mind, no one knows for a certainty. But for the first time in Argentine history, Peron has fortified the Chilean border and has placed troops along the Brazil frontier. He has made no bones of his intentions to make South America one political and military unit. "The people," he said, "must be inculcated with the necessary spirit through books, radio, press and schools."

In his bid last Sunday for the Presidency, Peron was supported by President Farrell, who is said to have been on the pay roll of the German Club in Buenos Aires; Vice-President Juan Pistarin whom Hitler decorated with the Cross of the German Eagle; Chief of Staff Carlos von der Becke, who is the brother of the chief Nazi agent in South America; and Police Chief Colonel Filomeno Velasco. Each of those four men has served at least two years with the German Army.

It would look as if there are plenty headaches still in store for democracy.

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