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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1948

U. S. Conscription

The Washington Government is losing no time in completing its conscription regulations. The details on occupational deferments are due in a month or so. They'll exempt men who fall into specified occupations. But no specific industry would get a blanket deferment. That is: A clerk in an airplane plant could be called; but a tool maker would stay home wherever he worked. Occupations already picked for deferment include professional engineers and scientists, underground miners, tool and die makers, and farm workers. Provisions for technical students haven't been fully worked out, but they will be liberal.

Generous Act Misses Fire

A generous act on the part of the New York State Publishers Association has been nipped in the bud by the British newspapers, Mr. Arthur Sulzberger, publisher of the *New York Times*, in order to secure the continuance of Britain's liberty of the press by more extensive issues than four pages daily offered to give up a percentage of his raw material for British use if other American publishers would do the same. The British Press, while appreciating the generous motives of the New York Press, regretted the publishers could not accept the offer, even if the Government had it in its power to give approval. The attitude of the leading British newspapers was that they would prefer restricted supplies of newsprint to free gifts from abroad.

Women's Institutes Alert

A visit recently by Mrs. Allison MacMillan, Fairview, and Mrs. Julien Herring, Charlottetown, was a pleasant reminder of the interest of Canadian women in public affairs. Mrs. MacMillan is president of the National organization of the Women's Institutes of Canada, and Mrs. Herring is Past President of the P. E. I. Division.

The Institutes have been discussing the effect of Communistic propaganda upon our citizens. Older people with a background of knowledge and experience are not deceived by the something for nothing philosophy, but young people may have their viewpoint warped unless they are provided with information which will set their thinking straight. Even a Sampson may be placed in chains when his faith is destroyed, and enemies of society knowing they can never conquer while the fiery spirit of independence and love of freedom exists, constantly strive to poison the minds and disturb the loyalty of those who soon will be charged with the defense of our liberties.

A resolution asking that the press and radio give further information as to what a Communist form of government means in any country passed at the Provincial Convention of the Institutes in June is assurance that the women of P. E. I. have taken up the challenge and their action will have the approval and support of all having the interest of our future at heart.

Unique Parliamentary Session

One of the most unique sessions of British Parliament will bring to an early close King George's holiday at Balmoral, namely, a session to pass only one Bill to cut the rejection powers of the House of Lords, from two years to one. At present if the Lords and Commons disagree over a measure, two years are allowed to lapse, and then the Commons may pass it over the heads of the Lords. The Labour Government has passed through the Commons a measure to nationalize the iron and steel industry, and the Lords are determined to reject it. Without the powers the Labour Government seek in the Parliament Bill, the Lords could hold up nationalization until after next general election.

The King will return to London to read on the 14th inst, what may be the shortest Speech from the Throne in British Parliamentary history.

This speech will open the special two-week session to deal with the Parliament Bill alone.

There are so few precedents for such an occasion that no forecast can be made about the contents of the speech. It can be said that it will make no reference to the real object of the session, which, as stated, is to safeguard—through the Parliament Bill—the subsequent nationalization of the iron and steel industry.

The King will read a longer speech the day before when he prorogues the present session of Parliament, adjourned at the end of July. The Speech from the Throne outlining the Government's program for the next year, will not be read until the opening of the autumn session in October.

Bureaucratic Calculations

Doubt has been cast from time to time upon the accuracy of the calculations of the Bureau of Statistics, and one wondered how they could have been arrived at. Of course the Bureau is dependent upon the accuracy of the returns received from the private organizations reporting, and it is very insistent on returning reports for correction when they are in doubt of the accuracy. A new and most valuable monthly publication just started by the Canadian Forestry Association, *The Woodland World*, throws some light on the subject. This publication claims to be "dedicated to the proposition that our heritage of woods, waters, wild life and soil must be sustained for generations to come," a comprehensive and laudable objective which will commend itself to most people having the best interests of Canada at heart. Recently the Canadian Press published the Association's report that in 1948 to date the damage by forest fires totalled $43,900,030. This was challenged by some Government officials, who claimed that the Canadian Forestry Association's method of counting a forest fire loss was opposed to the standard government practice of adding stumpage values to fire-fighting costs to form the total. Illustrative of this method is the most recent publication (1948) of the Dominion Forest Service dealing with fire losses in the whole of Canada. For the average annual period between 1937-46, the total area burned, including 472,000 acres of merchantable timber, amounted to 2,228,376 acres. The "estimated values destroyed" are given as $3,893,349. This works out at $1.70 per acre.

"The Canadian Forestry Association assumes that each cord of wood burned represents a product and labor wage loss of $15. The value of the destroyed wood therefore presents a figure of over 43 million dollars, or $50 per acre.

"The Dominion Forest Service figures present the average damage done by 5,509 forest fires at $706.00 each. (Period of 1937-46).

"The Canadian Forestry Association's figures present the average damage done by the 2,224 fires of 1948 at $19,739 each.

"The discrepancy is in no way mathematical. It has to do with definitions. What goes up in smoke when a forest burns? Should the Canadian public be informed that it amounts to $1.70 an acre or, as the Canadian Forestry Association reckons it—$50 an acre?"

Certainly a considerable margin, and it seems to be in favour of the Association's claim.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Schools re-open.

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Next public holiday, Thanksgiving, October 11.

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By the way things are shaping it would appear as though the Federal Government might prorogue Parliament at any time now in the hope that a snap verdict may be obtained before the Conservatives get properly organized.

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Veterans Affairs Minister Gregg, who was present at the Legion convention on Monday, is justly proud of the manner in which government "investment" in ex-servicemen has paid off. As he has said, rehabilitation was not merely a national obligation to those men but the means of creating a national asset.

* * * *

The new policy of enabling civil servants to take university courses to fit themselves for promotion should have a very good effect on the morale of servants of the Crown. It will no longer necessarily follow that when specialized training is required existing staffs have to be passed over in favour of a university graduate. Now it will be possible for the man on the job to get the necessary training.

* * * *

A decided improvement in recruiting methods is being adopted in the current tri-service drive. Formerly quotas were set from time to time and the prospective recruit had to sign on for whatever branch was then in demand. Now all suitable candidates will be accepted in the branch they are interested in.

* * * *

The City Council is being congratulated on its co-operation in facilitating the construction of much needed housing units. It would be entitled to still further congratulations were it to initiate the erection of cheaper and much needed dwellings that would come within the means of people who cannot afford to pay $30 or $40 per month.

* * * *

It seems a little fantastic but both American and Canadian authorities warn against too ready compliance with requests for information. Intelligence work today is not a cloak and dagger affair but systematic collection of facts from papers, magazines, official publications and so forth, all corelated to enable the Power in question to lay its plans accordingly.

* * * *

Elections are seen as a solution of two crises—the Maritime Freight Rates in Canada, and the selection of a Government in France. Meantime most people here will agree with Mr. Coldwell that if the Department of Justice conveniently discovered that it was outwith the powers of the Governor-in-Council to appoint a Royal Commission on freight rates, the sooner Parliament has an opportunity of handling the question the better.

* * * *

The relation between Science and Life is the concern of the British Association for the Advancement of Science which is holding its 110th meeting at Brighton, England, from September 8 to 15. This year the Association has chosen as its President Sir Henry Tizard, an expert on aeronautical research and chief scientific adviser to the United Kingdom Government, who will deliver his Presidential Address on "The Passing World" at the Inaugural Meeting at the Dome, Brighton, tomorrow.

* * * *

John Greenleaf Whittier, American poet, died this date 1892; was a successful, forceful journalist turned poet; there is a freshness and individuality in his verse which ensures it a lasting place in American literature, even though its quantity be small. A complete edition of his poems, seven volumes has been published:

The hills are dearest where our children's feet
Have climbed the earliest; and the streams most sweet
Are ever those at which our young lips drank.

The Age-Old Story

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord.

The Poet's Corner

OPPORTUNITY

Master of human destinies am I.
Fame love and fortune on my footsteps wait,
Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote, and, passing by
Hovel, and mart, and palace, soon or late,
I knock unbidden, once at every gate!
If sleeping, wake—if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,
Condemned to failure, penury and woe,
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore—
I answer not, and I return no more.

—John James Ingalls.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

STURDY HORSES

Horses, black cattle, sheep and swine are in great abundance here considering our long winters, which render the procuring so much dry food necessary: the horses are in general small, but strong, active and hardy, and being seldom subject to any complaints live to a great age; it is a common thing to take them off the grass, and ride them thirty or forty miles, during which they have to swim three or four times perhaps, across broad creeks or arms of the sea, and after performing such a journey with great spirit without being once fed on the way they are turned out to grass at the end of it, and probably perform such another journey the next day equally well, and without appearing to be hurt by such hard usage.

Before the commencement of the late war, they were commonly sold for eight and ten guineas a head, but during His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent's residence at Halifax in Nova Scotia, he purchased several of them, and was pleased to approve so much of them, that they are now in request in that country, which has raised the price of them to twelve is and sixteen guineas: but unless some other market is found out, they must soon fall again as the increase is much greater than the demand for them. In some parts of the Island they are allowed to run out all winter, when they are not used, and maintain themselves by scraping away the snow with their hoofs till they come to the grass, on which they live, and keep in tolerable order till spring.

—John Stewart, Esq., 1806.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WHAT IS THIS "OTHER GENERATION" COMING TO?

Sir,—Very often parents are prone to say, "I don't know what this younger generation is coming to". Personally, I don't know what the older one is coming to.

Look at the mess the world is in for instance, due to lack of good management, as far as I can see. One of the so-called "big shots" from the U. N. goes down to Palestine, views the situation and comes back and tells us they should stop fighting. Sure we know that, but it's up to the U. N. to stop the fighting, and it's up to the older generation to send men and women down there who will do just that. I think it's high time they realized this, for the simple reason we of the younger generation don't want to have to fight a third World War as soon as we have grown up. Two in less than 25 years is quite enough.

With the rapid rise of Communism in Europe, comes the fear that perhaps it will be allowed to creep into Canada. I don't think this is probable, because up until now Communism prevails in only very bad living conditions. Usually the aftermath of war; however, as the old saying goes "there's a first time for everything", and unless our parents get some more starch in their backbones in regard to Government affairs, Canada is a very likely target for Communism.

At this point comes the question of juvenile delinquency. I think children are made delinquents only when their parents fail to teach them otherwise, and the selfishness and lack of consideration of the former is due largely to the fact that the latter very seldom show any consideration for them. Police authorities claim that delinquency is due largely to poor environment and parents who care very little for the welfare of their children which I think is terrible, because after-all, they didn't ask to be born.

The next complaint I have to lodge is the subject that breaks up more homes than any thing else, drinking. I don't think there is anything that kills a child's faith in humanity more than seeing his father or mother, especially the latter, drunk. I can see no harm whatsoever in an adult taking a drink, may be two, but letting it go at that.

Lastly, I would like to point out the rapid increase in divorce, and the continual fighting over whom should have custody of the child or children, whichever the case may be. To me divorce is breaking a promise with God, because when a man and woman marry, they promise before Him to love one another until death parts them. Divorce is a far cry from this, and I think if our elders would choose their mates with more caution it would avoid a lot of heartbreaks.

In closing, I would like to add, perhaps I have been a little harsh in my judgment, but our elders say a lot of harsh things about us and it hurts too.

I am Sir, etc.
"AN INDIGNANT TEENAGER."

FOR CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP

Sir,—With less than a month remaining until the Progressive Conservative convention I think it is time for opinions other than those of the professional writers of the C.P. to appear in the press. I wish to make known my nomination for leadership of the Prog. Con. party—the Hon. Mr. Drew of Ontario. My reasoning in this matter is, I think, exceptionally sound. It goes something like this:

(1) Canada desires national unity.

(2) Canada is frustrated in achieving national unity.

(3) To achieve national unity Canada must overcome all frustrations, all stumbling blocks, in the way of that goal.

(4) A Canadian leader would have to work for national unity.

(5) The Hon. Mr. Drew as national leader of the P.C. party would have to work for national unity.

(6) So, by nominating Mr. Drew as leader of this party Canada will overcome one of the greatest stumbling blocks to national unity, and will be one step nearer its goal.

Of course, I have given no consideration to the fact that the Hon. Mr. Drew could not possibly win a Dominion election, but since he has that peculiarity in common with all P.C. leaders in sight, I didn't think it deserved consideration. So, since the Progressive Conservatives have nothing to lose, and won't have for at least another five years, and since Canada has a great deal to gain, I deem it imperative that Mr. Drew be named the national leader of his party.

While on the subject mentioned in the six steps of my reasoning, may I say that it is an impossibility until we admit to ourselves that we have a national status, that we are an independent sovereign nation. As long as we play the national anthem of another nation, and fly that nation's flag, we are placing ourselves in an absurd situation. As I remember it, I read a Guardian editorial of January 8th, or thereabouts, that "O Canada!" had been made the official anthem of Canada by act of Parliament. Wouldn't that make it unlawful to play anything else as a national anthem, or at least unpatriotic. Isn't it time we made an effort to stop making ourselves look ridiculous?

I am, Sir, etc.
J. E. G.

Unrest In China Growing

(London Times)

The Nationalist armies, in the past 18 months, have lost almost all Manchuria and most of North China down to the Yangtse. The Communists, however, have failed to make effective use of their gains and the civil war shows no signs of ending. Caught between two opposing armies whose discipline is very erratic, the civilian population is suffering cruelly and is the real casualty of the war.

In order to deal with the dangerous military situation in the north, the Government has appointed its most successful general, Fu Tso-yi, as "Bandit Suppression Commissioner." Less picturesquely, this means he has become dictator, with a personal army, over an area which includes Hopei, Chahar, Suiyan, Shansi and Jehol. Although nominally responsible to the Nanking Government, General Fu now poses as the defender of local rights in the north and pretty well does as he pleases. His independence is a sign of the government's weakness and of Chiang Kai-Shek's inability to keep his unruly team under control.

No serious attempt is being made to punish corruption among senior government officials although the growing list of abuses is a public scandal. Thus far the rich have succeeded in escaping their proper tax burdens. Trade is falling, Inflation is running wild, and the government seems helpless as troubles spread. Summing up, the Times correspondent says "the Kuomintang today presents a picture less of a government such as we understand it than a collection of disjointed ministries, working in water-tight compartments and held together solely by the waning prestige of the president."

- Notes By The Way -

Most people seem to think that chasing the dollar and pursuing happiness are identical activities. —Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

We've often been irked while window shopping to find the price-tag of some interesting item deftly turned so it couldn't be read no matter how we craned. We always suspected this was a dodge to lure us into the store. It turns out this is a mild form of burglar insurance. Fur thieves smashed a store window the other day and "selected" the most valuable coat in the window—a natural wild mink. They were guided by the $5,500 price-tag, prominently displayed. — Financial Post.

The word from Ottawa is there will be no early election. The English-speaking Canadians must have a reasonable opportunity to learn how to pronounce the name of Mr. St. Laurent without hesitation. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A local housewife just back from a two-week vacation tells us she was amazed on making her shopping tour at the way prices of some things had jumped during her absence. This comes as a reminder that inflation isn't taking a holiday. In fact it appears to be working overtime. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Down through the ages it has been a feminine prerogative to cut a few years off her age. Now it can be done officially. And the Marine Corps is responsible. Although the corps has placed the age limit at thirty-one for women members of the corps, it has just announced that former women marines who want to re-enlist, but, who are over the age limit, "are permitted to decrease their age by the amount of time previously spent on active duty." If such a hard-boiled organization as the marines sanction it, why should anyone else object? —Boston Post.

Of course it's possible to sound the loud timbrel too much and too often on behalf of a man or a nation. But one can't help wondering sometimes if perhaps we, as Canadians, aren't too backward in coming forward. Cellini, while undoubtedly a braggart and to some degree a wastrel, was a man of parts and an artisan, indeed a craftsman of note. Of himself he wrote essentially the following (the exact wording hardly matters): "If there is aught of worth in a man's character or performance, it is his duty to declare it to the world." There, we feel, is the gist of it. All too often our worthwhile doings pass virtually unnoticed while our shortcomings, personal and public are highlighted for the world's scrutiny and censure. This is we think unfortunately, a trait of Canadian public men; it is also too often the case with prominent figures in business and industry. —Montreal Financial Times.

Russell Reeves of Chickasha, Oklahoma, is carrying a dangerous precedent too far. First he installed a radio in the barn at his dairy farm to soothe his herd with sweet music at milking time. Other farmers are also trying that experiment. The danger is obvious. If enough cows become accustomed to music with their milking the time may come when we have raised a breed of cows which won't provide a drop of milk unless their favorite program is on the air. —Owen Sound Sun Times.

It doesn't pay to be a child nowadays. There are so many people who don't want you, particularly landlords and landladies. Not that house and apartment owners haven't bitter cause in many cases to know what a small child or two can do to wallpaper and woodwork. No reasonable parents will deny that Junior raises destructive cain on occasion. But justification should be tempered with mercy, and judging by frequent reports across our land, this point is being entirely forgotten—or ignored —in may instances. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Still another untouched portrait in very little danger of being selected for the whisky ads: The Iowa man recently jailed on the following charges: (1) Driving while intoxicated. (2) Speeding 85 miles an hour in the city of Des Moines. (3) Reckless driving (he forced five cars off into the ditch). (4) Operating a car without a license. (5) Drinking intoxicants on the open highway. If state police hadn't caught him the sixth charge might have been manslaughter. — Christian Science Monitor.

Three persons from San Francisco plan to travel across Canada living off the land — shooting game with bows and arrows. We imagine they will have a lot of lean days if they lack money for groceries. — Ottawa Journal.

Usually when you go from the west to Ontario in the eighth month, you find oppressive humidity, temperature in the eighties with no relief even when the sun has gone down behind the woodlot. This year August has been cool. It has been possible for a westerner to get a "bite" of air, and to sleep with at least a sheet and a light throw. But, while it has been different that-a-way, it has been Ontario otherwise; beautiful greensward, flowers, sweet clover along the roadsides, and mile upon mile of blacktop highways, crowded with autos and trucks all rushing pell-mell to get someplace. "Oh, you're from the west—how's your crop?" Even the waitresses in the restaurants are interested in the western crop. August is the time of year to visit Ontario's industrial centres. Everyone is interested in the west during July and August and the populace, even though the great majority haven't the foggiest notion of where the prairies are or what they are like, are all anxious to know whether the west is going to have a big crop of wheat. At any other time in the year a westerner is just a poor relation, but in the crucial months of July and August that's different. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

STEPHENSON'S BIRTHPLACE

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, England — (CP) — A fund has been raised by the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders to ensure purchase of the birthplace of George Stephenson builder of the first locomotive. It is planned to make the riverside cottage near here a national historic site.

INVENTORS REWARDED

LONDON — (CP) — Ten men — five of them South Africans — will receive a total of $80,000 free of tax for the invention of the flail tank, used during the war for clearing minefields, it was announced. Granting of the sum was recommended by the Royal Commission on Awards recently.

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