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Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O.
Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Ian A. Burnett.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1946

Russo-British Relations

British Foreign Secretary, Bevin and the Soviet Foreign Vice-Commissar, Andrei Vichinsky, appear to be on excellent terms despite their allegedly heated exchange of statements before the United Nations Security Council on British troops in Greece. Both smiling expansively, Mr. Bevin and M. Vichinsky talked together at length at a reception at the Russian Embassy which followed the UNO session.

Mr. Bevin sat between M. Vichinsky and the latter's wife. The United Kingdom Government, according to despatches, welcomes the prospect of an impartial examination of their responsibilities in Greece and Indonesia. If the Russian and Ukrainian suggestions that the Security Council of UNO investigate these matters result in full publicity for the facts, so much the better, from the British point of view, for Britain's actions in Greece and Indonesia have frequently been obscured and distorted by the emotions surrounding these issues, and for political reasons.

This is indeed what UNO is for. There may be those who regret that so early in its life the Security Council is burdened with such problems. But UNO has much to gain by refusing to evade delicate issues, and the United Kingdom has nothing to lose from an international inquiry into their motives and actions.

In fact Foreign Secretary Bevin in his card-on-the-table speech to the House of Commons in November invited just such action. "Great Britain," he asserted, "will not be afraid and will not in any way decline to have anything it does or wants or seeks to promote discussed in open assembly, at the United Nations, if necessary."

It may be pointed out in passing that the cases of Greece and Java are by no means parallel to that of Iran. In the latter, the question was raised not by the United Kingdom Government or any third party, but by the Iranian Government itself. In fact the United Kingdom Government attempted to get the U. S. S. R. and Iran to settle the matter out of court. In the case of Greece and Indonesia, the question was raised by the Soviet and Ukrainian delegations respectively without consultation with the Greek or the Dutch Governments and without attempting to get those Governments and Britain to settle out of court. And indeed, Mr. Sophoulou, the Greek Prime Minister, issued a statement on January 22nd that United Kingdom troops are in Greece at the invitation and the full co-operation of the Greek Government for the purpose of maintaining order.

Thus there is no occasion for the Soviet delegation to become excited, and every reason why the British representatives should remain calm and collected.

Approved Hospitals

It is pleasing to note that once again our four major health institutions, the Charlotte-town Hospital, Prince Edward Island Hospital, Provincial Sanatorium and Prince County Hospital are included in the approved list of hospitals by the American College of Surgeons. The results of the 28th annual hospital standardization survey in 1945 show a total of 3,181 hospitals, or 80.8 per cent of those under survey, as meeting the minimum standard for approval. This compares with a total of 3,152 approved hospitals following the 1944 survey. The requirements which the American College of Surgeons considers fundamental to good hospital care, and upon which, accordingly, it bases approval, are summarized as follows: Modern physical plant, assuring the patient safety, comfort and efficient care; clearly defined organization, duties, responsibilities and relations; carefully selected governing board with complete and supreme authority; competent, well trained superintendent responsible to the governing board; adequate and efficient personnel, properly organized and competently supervised; organized medical staff of ethical, competent physicians and surgeons; adequate diagnostic and therapeutic facilities under competent medical supervision; accurate, complete medical records, readily accessible for research and follow-up; regular group conferences of the administrative staff and of the medical staff for reviewing activities and results so as to maintain a high plane of scientific efficiency; a humanitarian spirit—the primary consideration being the best care of the patient.

Constitution Not Affected

News despatches written around the conference of the Dominion and Provincial Premiers, notes the Globe and Mail, have had little information about the prospects for creation of permanent inter-governmental machinery of consultation and co-operation. It would indeed be tragic were the opportunity to erect that machinery not acted on. Proposals for its development—a Co-ordinating Committee of the Premiers or their Ministerial nominees and a permanent Economic Board—were first advanced by the Ontario Government. But the Nova Scotia Government gave emphasis to the same need, in less detailed fashion, in its submissions to the conference.

The only objections heard have questioned the constitutionality of such machinery or simply assumed that "it will not work." The

suggestion that creation of permanent machinery would mean, in effect, setting up an "eleventh government" enjoying powers without responsibility can be supported only by deliberate misrepresentation of what that machinery would be and do. More specifically it has been objected to as the "determining body" in the allocation of the National Adjustment Fund, the \$20,000,000 Provincial "pool" proposed by Ontario to finance social services in the less prosperous Provinces.

But here again, suggests our Toronto contemporary, there is confusion about, if not misrepresentation of the functions. The Co-ordinating Committee and Economic Board (or to use Nova Scotia's designations, the annual Government conference and the permanent Financial Committee), would not dictate what that money would be distributed, regardless of whether it came from a Provincial Fund or in the form of Dominion grants. The Co-ordinating Committee following recommendations of the Economic Board, would advise how the money should be most equitably allocated among the "have not" Provinces on the statistical basis of their fiscal need. This is the basis suggested by the Sicors Report and presently approved by virtually all the Provinces.

If such money is to be distributed according to fiscal need, there must be some competent, expertly staffed agency to determine what the need is, year by year. But even if it were "unconstitutional" for a committee representative of all the Governments and their financial experts, to undertake this function, it would not be difficult to alter that situation. In none of the proposals, excepting those of the Dominion Government, does there appear to be any fear of constitutional change, much less a hint that any change is undesirable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Civic nominations today. "The public scold is usually a bore," says The Printed Word.

Notwithstanding "blue-stockings" and suffragette adverse criticism, the consensus of opinion among farmers supports Premier Jones's advice to agricultural students on how to choose a help-met for the farm. A "doll" may be all right in the sitting room, but a sympathetic partner is what is needed in the kitchen.

We have now direct air passenger service with Halifax, which should facilitate business considerably; but to make the connection worthwhile we ought to have additional car ferry service between Wood Islands and Caribou, a hard surfaced road to the former and a hotel or rest-house for the convenience of travellers. Let the Federal, Provincial and Civic representatives join hands and voices demanding these.

An interesting and informative coloured chart has been issued by the Halifax Herald and Mail showing the subscriptions to the different nine war loans, the revenue and debt of Canada, and the cost of living. It shows that whereas in Great War I the cost of living rose from par to 100%, then down to 160%, in Great War II, under ceiling regulations, the cost did not rise beyond 120%.

The Russo-Japanese war began this date 1904; Japan had designs on Korea and resented the fact that Russia had occupied Manchuria; Japan had great advantage in vicinity to the disputed territory, and took Russia by surprise, as she did U. S. A. forty-odd years later; Russia had fleet and garrisons at Port Arthur, which Japan attacked before European reinforcements could be sent; Admiral Tojo sailed for Port Arthur without raising any suspicion of object, engaged Russia's unprepared fleet in the harbour and defeated it.

It is something to be proud of when our young people go out into the world, and in open competition "carry off the bacon". This is the case with Mr. Herman Ebers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ebers, Brighton, a professor at Westmount, who takes mental recreation by studying at Columbia in the summer. He carried off all the mathematical honours in what at Cambridge are called the tripos, and now a great future lies before him in the field of education. His two brothers, Earl and Douglas, have similarly distinguished themselves in their chosen fields, Earl in scientific investigation, now with the Canadian Rubber Corporation, and Douglas, who was recalled from the Army to render important service in aeronautics to the Government at Danville. Herman was formerly on the staff of the Guardian, and an enthusiastic in sport, an enthusiasm he has carried with him to Westmount as his record in hockey indicates.

Old age pensions are not to be something for nothing. The Toronto Telegram publishes the following enlightening dispatch from Ottawa: "Old age pensions for everyone at 70 years is one of the promises dangled by Finance Minister Ilsley in the Dominion's plan now before the co-ordinating committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference. But the people should not be so optimistic as to think it is something for nothing. What the country has not yet been told, though it is in the cards, is that before the citizen collected the pot of gold at the end of his span of three score years and ten he would be called on to make very substantial annual contributions to the pot. Government actuaries working on the scheme have decided that to make it workable there should be a three per cent levy on all incomes. It would be a contributory old age pension plan. It is probable there would be no exemptions from the three per cent old age tax. A working man earning \$1,500 a year would be called upon to pay a tax of \$45 a year to the old age pension fund in addition to all his other taxes. He would pay until he was 70, and if he was fortunate enough to reach that age he might commence drawing \$30 or \$35 a month. The old age pension fund would be the winner on those who were unfortunate enough to die before reaching 70 years."

Notes By The Way

A GI sent home from India a handsome small rug. His picked family noted its unusual pattern, "TAMBATAR." They finally found someone with the knowledge of Hindu who could translate it for them. He simply turned the rug to the reverse side.—Counterpoints.

A railroad company in England runs what is called a "whitewash special"; it carries no passengers, and every time a bump is hit, a splash of whitewash is dropped to mark the place for a repair crew. In such a machine were put on some of our war-neglected highways, they'd be one long streak of whitewash.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

General Eisenhower was given the freedom of the City of London. Just what does that mean? It means that the General has been granted two ancient and honorable privileges, guaranteed by delectable statute: 1. He cannot be arrested for drunkenness within the city of London. 2. He is exempt from the city's tax on beer.—From Empire Digest.

Once upon a time the customer was king and the sellers were his courtiers. Today that situation is reversed. The public which buys a three-halving to six-halving hot matches has to pay court to the seller. It has to plead for the privilege of spending money on travel or goods. Never forget that there can be no settled order or comfort for anybody till the customer is reposed on the throne of his throne.—London Daily Express.

Now it is rumored from Ottawa that the supply of housing material are to be taken. It is reported that a joint committee of the Canadian Construction Association and the Department of Reconstruction and Supply is to be set up to study the current housing shortage and to develop a speedup in the supply, allocation, and production program. It is high time.—Winnipeg Free Press.

The Examiner believes strongly that Canada needs more popular entertainment, to refresh and gladden the hearts of its people, to extend their intellectual horizons, to stimulate their creative energies, to the fulfillment which only fine drama, music and art can provide. Nagging at the movies, which is popular every day, is a most valuable in Canada at present which harm the country far more than it can possibly help it.—Peterborough Examiner.

There's a tavern called The Devil's Arms in the town of Niebul in Schleswig-Holstein, in Germany. Soldiers of several nations now stationed in and around Niebul go to the tavern for spirits, as well as for a glass of beer, because the tavern-keeper is a clergyman. The Rev. John Lance, a British Army padre, now keeps the inn, over which the sign reads "The Devil's Arms." Drawn From the Wood by John Lance. In the building is a small office where the padre-publican meets the soldiers for a drink and themselves and their problems. If it is the padre they are looking for, otherwise he is willing to draw the cards of the suitors. He is well in the friendly impartial manner of the British innkeeper.—Brandon Sun.

Every day and in every way we receive new reminders about how simple it is to destroy ourselves. "Simplicity itself," declares one scientific authority about the actual process of putting together atomic bombs, "is the most expensive process of isolating uranium has been achieved; and the United States staff of atomic engineers an atomic missile with a 'television head' that can be launched from an airplane and just told by disintegrating where it is to go and what to do. At this rate of progress the whole affair will soon be as simple as putting a postcard in an envelope. When it really need not be obviously some sort of boomerang ray or development of television to be sent into the air, it is atomic car: 'Gone away; return to sender.'—The Manchester Guardian.

French people are still grinning over the narrow escapes of Resistance fighters like that of the leader of the Lyon area who arrived in the station one morning during the occupation to find French police officers waiting for him. He had happened to be carrying a small one-filled with anti-German pamphlets. Then he spotted a 12-year-old child in a suit and hat. "Hello there," said the Resistance leader, "how about trading your little suit and hat for my heavy." "Gladly, sir," replied the youngster. The man knew that if caught the child could easily clear himself in the meantime; he would make good his escape. However neither was stopped and a small package of pamphlets was made in the safety of the court-yard. "Thank you, my lad. You have done me a great favor. Do you think you could give me these three sub-machine guns."—From French Information Service.

It is in a time of white woodlots, snowmounded stone walls on which no chipmunk scamper, and when few birds wing about the scrub oaks, that the hunting outlook for members of the domesticated cat tribe becomes meagre indeed. In the shut-in season of that long winter, then, the life of that well-soused and plump animal known as the "barn cat" might well be considered fortunate. Established by farm tradition as the guardian of grain bins and feed bags, sure of a saucer of milk twice a day, the barn cat can look through peep holes in frosted windows—and scratch the flakes of snow, savoring the difficult landscape with that calm independence of spirit on which its happiness is often found. The barn cat listens in alert sentryhood for that rattle in the oat straw the cautious snoring at the vulnerable crack in the feed box, which indicates the raiding activities of some brave but deuce-to-be short-lived mouse or rat. It is in such midnight moments of indoor sport that the barn cat acquires its reputation for the cautious snoring of whisker which make him a shining ornament of stall and stanchion.—New York Herald Tribune.

In The Faith of Remembrance

(Montreal Gazette). The old day call lonely man, bundled against the chill wind, lingered at the gate of Bellevue Hospital in New York. A guard asked him to come to visit a patient.

"No," said the man. "I came to pay my respects to the late Stephen Foster, who died exactly 42 years ago today in the charity ward here at Bellevue. He had made the pilgrimage to the hospital gate for the last twenty years. 'I'm an old banjo player,' he explained, 'and my favorite songs are Stephen Foster's.'"

It was an act of human remembrance that Stephen Foster would have appreciated. His life had been distressed and tragic enough. But to have a person come to the hospital almost as though he were living, and this more than eighty years after his death, is a striking tribute to the survival of his personal influence.

The desire to be remembered after death, and with some touch of affectation, is one of the most human of emotions. Only the anti-social, whose lives end in bitterness, would wish to have their names forgotten. For all others there is in life the pathetic hope that there may be some lingering kindness of remembrance.

One of the most touching things that the late Dr. Stephen Leacock ever wrote was his article on his seventieth birthday. He knew that he was getting old, for the taxi men were beginning to call him "Dad." He didn't think that; there was much to be said for old age, despite the fact that Cicero had written an entire treatise on the subject of "Old Age." "Give me my stick," he said. "I'll face it. But over all the things of the future that I may be forced to build by their deaths. The breaking of the faith with those who died in the denial of the remembrance, and the suppression of the constructive energies that it could release is the living. In the great days only a few years ago, when the darkness of the menace was over us, it was the duty of those who live to give a glow of remembrance to those who have passed on. So it was when Winston Churchill, touring England's coastlines with the duty of those who live. So many miles away, would stop his car whenever he came upon a company of men who were in the line of them. 'What you are doing will last a thousand years.'"

So again he told us of the blitz, that even death, which was so near to all, would not extinguish the meaning of the life. The Empire lasted a thousand years, this would be remembered as its finest hour. Were the words and the hopes that the duty of those who live to give a glow of remembrance to those who have passed on. So it was when Winston Churchill, touring England's coastlines with the duty of those who live. So many miles away, would stop his car whenever he came upon a company of men who were in the line of them. 'What you are doing will last a thousand years.'"

A hundred years ago Thomas Hood, amidst the uncertainties of this very thought in a notable sonnet: "It is not death. That this warm conscious flesh may melt, and the ruddy streams forget to flow. And all life's ruddy streams forget to flow. It is not death to know this, — but that piety thoughts, which visit at new graves in tender pilgrimage, will cease to do so, and so off—and when the grass waves Over the past away, there may be No resurrection in the minds of men."

The Lobster's End

(Hamilton Spectator) Your Maritime will take some canards with a smile, but not if they hit at his lobster. The Blue-nose crustacean is unchallenged, unbested, unmet, for a fight on his own side. Let any one put in a claim for a worthy competitor and he gets what is coming to him. In the recent year from Fort-Land, Maine, that fishermen brought in a lobster weighing seventeen pounds and having an extreme length of three feet. The New Englander said it was too tough for eating and of doubtful age.

The Saint John Telegraph-Journal had the answer right on the button: "Probably it was due to the infirmities of age that it crawled into a fisherman's net with the idea of ending it all after being discarded by New Brunswick lobstermen for being under-size and undesirable!"

Possibly it had been attacked and almost swallowed by a New Brunswick oyster, or one of those voracious New Brunswick smelts. At any rate, it ended its career in a blaze of glory. It owed the good people of Maine, due solely to the happy chivalry of the New Brunswick fishermen toward the helpless and the young. To make headlines down there a lobster would at least have had to eat up the net and possibly the fisherman, too.

JUNGLE HIDES GOLD —(CP)—Life in Olanstown here was enlivened by a minor gold rush as Chinese, who buried valuables in the East Japanese moved into New Britain, dug deep into the earth and caves in search of money and jewels. Although some were successful in many cases the jungle baffled all attempts to locate the treasure.



The Poets Corner

STORM
A long, slow swell
On deep blue seas,
Wind in the trees,
The lagged note of a tolling bell,
Take, my mind, the peace of these
And weave me slumber, war me ease.

Wild and fierce are the whips of the flesh—
Grant me dreamless sleep,
Unbroken rest!—
Pierce and sweet is youth's song
In the blood in the clamouring veins.

The warm sun shines
On the sea-scoured shore,
With only the tempest's dying roar.
The long, slow swell and wind in the pines,
To tell of the storm that is no more.

That raged, and died, as storms before,
If ever my mind, relaxed as these,
Might weave me slumber, win me ease!

—Marjorie F. Campbell, in The Hamilton Spectator.

Not Satisfied

(Eastern Chronicle) Says the Charlottetown Guardian, editorially: "Hon. Lionel Chevier, Minister of Transport, intends to accept the invitation of Mr. McLure and visit us at an early date. This is not wishing him any bad luck, but for his own and our ultimate benefit, it is hoped he will experience some of the difficulties and delays not infrequent at this season, or later between Sackville and here." "The Island papers are hard to satisfy. Would they relish a return to the hazardous days of the 'Northern Light' and the Charlottetown to Pictou route?"

About everything possible has been tried to get them closer to Nova Scotia. We have even adopted many of their estimable suggestions and we are proud to have them. Instead of sticking Hon. Lionel in a snow bank or putting him adrift on an ice cake, they had better be good to him. Show him what a fine people they are, and what a great province they have and how important it is.

USE NICOTINE WITH DDT SPRAY

(GOSFORD, Australia, Feb 2)—(CP)—Tests conducted here confirm that nicotine should be added to DDT spray used on fruit trees, to combat the increase of aphids on treated plants.

Mites on plants treated only with DDT were found to have increased phenomenally. This was due, apparently, to the destruction of parasites which had helped to keep the mites in check.

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QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds
Illustration of a man and a woman in a car. "Just when I was ready to trade it in on one of those cars in the Guardian Want Ads—you have to slam the door!"

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A delicately perfumed preparation which restores, strengthens and beautifies the hair. It will restore gray hair to its original color.

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