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The Fire Menace

June is traditionally a bad month for bush and forest fires. All who go into the woods, or have occasion to be in close proximity to forested sections, are reminded to exercise the utmost precautions lest any careless act should start a blaze that might sweep with tremendous effect and destroy much of our valuable timber and resources.

Fire is the greatest enemy of our forests as well as the most destructive. Taking all of Canada, the mileage of publicly-owned woodlands swept by fires since Confederation, 81 years ago, has been greater than that cut by industry and turned to human advantage, and far in excess of what laid waste by insects.

Persons who use matches and fires should make absolutely certain that they put out the flames. Cigarette and cigar ends as well as pipe ashes, should be disposed of carefully. The reduction of forest fires depends upon co-operation by the public educated to the danger and who fully observe every precaution to lessen the hazard, especially at this season.

Prevention is proverbially better than cure and far more important than fire-fighting, is a widespread awareness of the necessity of fire-prevention. A citizenry realizing this fact can accomplish much in reducing the annual toll from forest fires.

The Legion Appeal

In its annual meeting at Saskatoon, the Canadian Legion declared itself on a subject of national importance: immigration. The Legion delegates did not merely agree to a motion calling for vigorous Government action on this matter, but, according to a despatch from Saskatoon, "shouted their approval." This enthusiastic gesture, notes the Globe and Mail, is given even more significance by the fact that it marks a notable change in policy. Two years ago the Legion refused to endorse large-scale immigration until veterans' rehabilitation had been clarified and employment stabilized. While it was admitted that these matters have not been completely resolved, the convention unhesitatingly called for a resolution recommending an important and constructive plan of immigration, directed by a separate department of Government, with all possible preference given to those of British stock.

With sufficient population in this country, suggests our Toronto contemporary, there would be no "freight rate problem." Nor would there be a "highway problem"; nor such a staggering per-capita taxation problem. The solution is so elemental that it baffles the intellect to think that our statesmen, perceiving it, refuse to grapple with it.

It is hoped that the Legion appeal will not fall upon deaf ears. But the Legion, while it has pointed the way for other groups, should not be left to carry the torch virtually alone. Important business, professional and social groups, labor bodies and political organizations have no less to gain from a forthright immigration policy than has the Legion.

Farm Mechanization

A recent report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture is an arresting statement of the progress of machine food production. It surveys the growth of machinery in agriculture and summarizes some of the results. Few urban dwellers realize that horses and mules, at their peak in the First World War, have since decreased by approximately two-thirds. This decrease in animal power has resulted in more than 55,000,000 acres of crop-land being available to grow fiber and food for human needs. The crops from these acres accounted for 50 per cent of the increase in farm products for human use between the wars.

Today each farm worker produces food for himself and thirteen other persons; in 1920 the worker provided for himself and nine others. In 1850 the farmer or his worker provided for three besides himself. According to the survey, "A modern tractor and its equipment now saves about 850 hours of man labor compared with the time required with animal power and equipment used a generation ago. A big part of these savings are due to the reduction in time required for horse and mule chores when work animals are displaced by tractors pulling a two-bottom, fourteen-inch moldboard plow will plow eight acres a day, but the same sized plow drawn by five good horses will plow only four acres in the same time. In spite of the advances so far made, 60 per cent of all farm work—about thirteen billion man hours—is still done with the hands or with hand tools."

There is another important phase to the mechanization of the nation's food production. Timeliness in plowing, planting and cultivating is vital, especially in seasons of above or below average rainfall. A late season was a serious handicap a few years ago; now, with mechanical power plus improved varieties of grain, a farmer can ready his soil quickly and still expect a normal crop. In 1945 farmers had about five and a half times as much farm power and equipment as in 1870 and farm output for human use had increased four and a half times. In contrast, farm employment had increased less than 50 per cent. The over-all picture is assurance that in the years ahead increased power and equipment will guarantee a predominantly urban and industrial nation the food it requires for national welfare.

EDITORIAL NOTES

City stores now close at 5 P.M. except Saturday.

Monday next is King's Birthday, and a Federal Public Holiday.

Islanders are fortunate in being unacquainted with the major disasters which trouble others, earthquakes, floods and large scale forest fires. On the other hand our resources are limited and should be conserved in every possible way.

"Comrade" has been the Legion fraternal greeting from its earliest days. It has a ring of fellowship and trust and there will be general approval of the Canadian Legion's decision not to alter its practice, notwithstanding that the Communists have tended to lower its esteem outside their ranks.

Today it is the life underwriters who are listening to sales talks at the Charlottetown Hotel. These hard working salesmen do not get sufficient credit for lessening the uncertainties of modern life which are at the bottom of anti-democratic movements.

The Girl Guides in the City are being reorganized, and in order to raise funds for the purpose a Cookie Day will be observed on Saturday. This is equivalent to the Boy Scouts Apple Day.

Sir Edward William Elgar, English musical composer, born this date 1857. His more important and popular compositions are Lux Christi, The Dream of Gerontius, The Apostles, and The Kingdom. He was knighted in 1904, and received the Order of Merit in 1911.

The travelling public will be pleased to learn there will be a second bus running between the City and Wood Islands and vice-versa from this week. There is a scarcity of big buses due to the austerity embargo on imports, and a movement is afoot to get the Government to relax restrictions, as this type of bus is not manufactured in Canada.

In marked contrast to local practice where Government immunity to court action is habitually relied upon, the British Government has not only abolished that immunity but when Commodore Whittle failed to claim compensation for the development of jet aircraft the Treasury entered a claim on his behalf. He has been awarded £100,000.

British Dominions are anything but unanimous on the Palestine question. While South Africa has hastened to recognize the state of Israel, Pakistan has appointed a Palestine aid committee and decided to send fighters to aid the Arab cause. Other commonwealth countries are interested only in restoring peace as quickly as possible.

Canadian firemen are using a new method of putting out oil fires, nothing other than our old friend and stand-by bicarbonate of soda. The dry chemical is contained in the standard foam type of extinguisher along with a charge of carbon dioxide and is reported to be very safe to use.

As U. S. A. has taken control of exports to Europe to protect its E.R.P., Canadians may ship their produce overseas only by approval of Washington. Evidently we are hastening towards a customs union or physical union with our good neighbour across the border.

Bruce Hutchison points out that Canada's national income works out at about \$750 per head before allowing for capital replacement, and that no matter how total wealth is redistributed it does not amount to general opulence. The only way to achieve a substantially higher standard of living is to greatly increase production.

Once more we are being put off by the Federal Government with promises for "next year." This time it is Agriculture Minister Gardiner who assumes the character of soothsayer, and it must be borne in mind he is a contender with Secretary of State St. Laurent for the Liberal leadership. Meantime we in this Province have been deprived of the vote for the erection of military quarters, and of any share in the vote for reclaiming marshlands.

The constituency of Yale, B.C., has gone anti-Progressive Conservative as well as anti-Liberal, the C. C. F. candidate, Mr. Jones, having forged ahead from the outset of the returns by a substantial lead. This constituency has been Conservative since 1871, with the exception of the period 1896-1904 when Liberals were returned. The Hon. Martin Burrell, who was Minister of Agriculture in the Borden Government, redeemed the seat in 1911, and it has been in the Conservative category ever since. At the 1945 election Mr. Stirling, the recently retired member, was elected by 9,625 votes with the C. C. F. candidate, Mr. Jones, who is now winner, obtaining 7,713, the Liberal, Mr. Gray, got 4,705.

What is the significance of the prospective retirement of Rt. Hon. Mr. Ilsley from the Government? It is the break-up of the Cabinet solidarity. Mr. Ilsley was one of the stalwarts who stood by Col. Ralston and Hon. Angus Macdonald in their dispute with the Prime Minister over Conscriptio. Col. Ralston was dismissed by his leader, and Mr. Macdonald retired to return to the provincial field. Mr. Ilsley, at the time, was Minister of Finance, and reluctantly, with the approval of Col. Ralston, decided to stick by his job with a view, no doubt of keeping an eye on Mr. King. Later he was made a member of the Imperial Privy Council, and Minister of Justice

Notes By The Way

You can lead a man into a library, but you cannot make him think. — Kirkland Lake Northern News.

Better stand alone. If you lean on someone else he may move and let you fall. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Surely history offers a lesson in psychiatry for the uneasy Kremlin. It was the late Puchner who kept thinking he was encircled until he was. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

In Pueblo, Colo., female maehers have become so aggressive that police have issued a warning to young men who have to walk the streets alone at night. It sounds as if Pueblo is making a bid for the tourist trade. — Toronto Telegram.

During the summer a number of communities west of us will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the building of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, now a part of the southern outlet of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the southern Prairies to the Pacific coast. Cranbrook in particular, long a railway, lumbering and mining centre, is planning to make the occasion one to be remembered. — Lethbridge Herald.

Britain has perfected the world's first gas turbine for road vehicles. The prototype engine was shown for the first time at the British Industries Fair, Birmingham. The smallest gas turbine ever made at an engine of practical engineering, it is 7 inches in diameter, 1.5 feet long, and weighs only 250 lbs. Its steel blades are half an inch in size and its brake horsepower is 160—equivalent to a modern 35 to 40 h. p. engine. A remarkable feature of this engine is that although its "natural" fuel is diesel oil, it will run on anything that burns with a continuous flame—petrol, paraffin or even old candle ends. — Brandon Sun.

Twentieth Century survivors of the bronze-faced first inhabitants of the North American Continent have been and are fighting a good battle against an early background of savagery and a standard of living which could not benefit from the recorded progress of mankind from the early Biblical days up through the centuries of Christian endeavor. To reach the levels of culture, understanding and humanitarian instincts of the newcomers to North America, lacking the trial and error experiences enjoyed by the white races, has been a severe handicap. In spite of this, there has been a steady rise of individual Indians to places of prominence in Canadian society. With each new generation of Indians, more and more boys and girls are taking their places with their fellows, reaping the full value of the country's educational facilities and showing genius in certain lines of community endeavor. — Fort William Times-Journal.

The crack dance orchestra engagement in Old London at the Savoy Hotel, where Buddy Vallee once played, for nearly four years the spot has been held by Roberto Inglez and his Brazilian orchestra. Its broadcasts are heard all over the world. More than 25,000 records are exported every month. Inglez receives an enormous amount of fan mail, particularly from Brazil. A few days ago a deputation of Portuguese went to London to hear and watch Senor Inglez and his men, because no native band has ever heard had such rhythm as they. They greeted him in Spanish, and were much taken aback when he dipped something like this: "or dianna ken what you're talkin' about. I'm a Scotsman from Elgin." They believed he was a native of Brazil and that all his men came from there also. But they are all Scots except two, one being an Englishman and the other a Spaniard. The good Scotch name of Roberto Inglez is Robert Ingles, and his mother still lives in Elgin. Some 20 years ago when a young man he heard a Brazilian orchestra being quite a pianist, the beat of the samba took his fancy. He was apprenticed to a dental mechanic, and formed an orchestra of his own for amusement. And that's how Roberto Inglez's Brazilian orchestra of Scots began. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when the sight of a drunken woman on the streets was rare indeed. Now it is common enough in any Ontario city to excite nothing more than casual comment. What has brought this about? It is more than coincidence that the women in public places began with the establishment of women's beverage rooms. This is only one evidence of what undoubtedly is an extremely unhealthy situation. Every week one reads in the newspapers of men and women becoming involved in police cases; they have either committed some crime themselves or have been attacked, robbed and otherwise mishandled by others. With wearying repetition they start their stories, "I had a few drinks first," or "I met him in a tavern and he bought me some drinks." How many persons charged to apologize by saying, "I had only one beer"? How many children have been neglected while their mothers and fathers have been swilling beer some place? The health of one child is more important than all the beer parlors that ever existed. It all serves to emphasize that this province is a long way from any solution to the liquor problem, no matter what statistics are glibly quoted. — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

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.

THE PROHIBITION ACT

Sir, — As I said in my first letter, I would, with your kind permission, reply to Mr. MacWilliams' fallacious argument that the proper way for the James Government to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor was to follow the method employed by the Montreal civic authorities in eliminating prostitution in their City.

In the first place, prostitution is the oldest "trade" in the world and has never been eliminated in Montreal or in any other place in the world inhabited by men and women. Again, only a relatively small part of the male population in any populated area has ever made a practice of frequenting red light districts.

Mr. MacWilliams' most serious error, however, was in stating that the Government, by offering the people the New Temperance Act, was giving them a freer access to intoxicating liquor than they had under the so-called Prohibition Act. Even the Rev. W. J. Green, Stanley Bridge, one of the staunchest Prohibitionists in the Province, could not quite swallow that statement and found himself forced by his innate sense of honesty to correct Mr. MacWilliams.

Under the original Prohibition Act of 1900, the legal sale of intoxicating liquors was placed in the hands of druggists and physicians. Anyone who knew all the liquor he wanted and those who lived some distance from such an obliging person could always send to Montreal or Halifax and get their liquor by the gallon or the case or even by the barrel. Moreover, while the average druggist in those days frowned upon the sale of intoxicating liquor to a minor, the exporting companies in Montreal or Halifax never inquired whether the sender was a minor or an adult.

From the passing of the original act in 1900 to the more comprehensive one passed in 1918, the people of the Province were unacquainted with that personage who later became so popular and whose trade was so soon to attain so much publicity — the moonshiner. The reason, of course, was that between the years 1900 and 1918, the illegal seller of intoxicating liquors could and did import his goods from the wholesale houses of Montreal and Halifax. He broke the law but he sold good liquor. There was, therefore, no demand for the moonshiner's product.

But the Prohibition amendments of 1918 took the legal sale of liquor out of the hands of the druggist and the physician and gave it to the retail vendors under a doctor's certificate. They attempted, too, to eliminate the illegal sale of standard brands of liquor by Section 67 which made it compulsory for all express companies and common carriers to keep books in which were placed the names of those who were importing liquor and the dates the shipments had been received and delivered. This section was often nullified, however, by the importer having his shipments billed as "groceries" or some other commodity.

Under Section 47 of the Prohibition Act of 1918, as Mr. Green is reported to have informed Mr. MacWilliams, a doctor could issue certificates once daily to any person, minor or adult, for 24 ounces of liquor or 12 quarts of ale. The Prohibition amendments of 1937 made no change in that regulation.

The New Temperance Act, about which I shall comment in my next letter, cuts out all the hypocrisy and makes it impossible under heavy penalties for an adult — minors are excluded — to get more than one quart of liquor a week or one quart of ale a week. Moreover, the penalties for violating the Act, and especially those pertaining to the selling or giving of liquor to minors, are the heaviest ever placed in the statute books by any Government in this Province.

I am, Sir, etc. A BELIEVER IN TEMPERANCE

A Fowl Transaction

(Wall Street Journal) On their small Russian farm, the wife of Ivan Petrovitch became ill. Now Ivan had one treasure, a highly prized cow, and like a good pious man he made a vow that if his faithful maid recovered, he would sell the animal and contribute the proceeds thereof to charity. The pledge seemed to exert a magic effect, for the woman was soon well again.

Ivan dreaded the loss of the cow and the consequent cutting off of his milk supply; but a promise was a promise. After pondering a solution to the problem, the farmer went out to market with the consecrated animal, taking along a large rooster.

At the market, a prospective buyer examined the animal and asked, "How much for it?" "One ruble," Ivan gloomily replied. "He must be crazy," the prospective buyer thought, but before he could abstract a ruble note from his purse, Ivan added: "But you can't get the cow unless you also buy the rooster."

"And how much is the fowl?" asked the puzzled Russian.

Two Schools Of Thought On The Kremlin

(By W. N. Ewer)

Terms of the Soviet note to the United States (or to be meticulous, of M. Molotov's statement to the United States Ambassador) are interesting and suggestive. For they again reveal that duality that close observers have noted in Soviet policy towards the Western Powers, both before and after the Second World War.

There have been two tendencies — one based on a desire for co-operation or at least an amicable modus vivendi; the other based on the assumption of inevitability of struggle between the "two camps." Before the war, there was the additional complication that the "capitalist world" was itself in conflict; that M. Litvinov favored co-operation with the Western Democracies against the Axis while M. Molotov favoured co-operation with the Axis. But that complication disappeared when Hitler tore up the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreements and attacked the Soviet Union.

Since the war, Generalissimo Stalin's own statements (usually in the form of written interviews) have again and again expressed a desire for co-operation and friendship with the Western Powers, whereas the attitude of conferences and negotiations of M. Molotov and his subordinates, M. Gromyko and M. Vyshinsky, for example, has been consistently unfriendly.

The cynical interpretation of this has been that for tactical reasons the Soviet Government was deliberately speaking with two voices. But such an interpretation is based on the quite unwarranted assumption that in such a policy as the Soviet Union's there could be no differences of opinion, Government and directing organs of the Party.

Now, that is not so. One need only recall that in earlier years sharp conflicts on issues of policy used to be openly expressed and openly debated in the Communist Party itself and in its executives. Even divergences within the Council of the People's Commissars and within the political bureau were known and admitted to exist.

That has indeed changed. The differences are no longer made public; and there are no longer open debates. But again and again it has been visible from external evidence that divergent views have existed. Sometimes these views continued and the Russian policy has shown signs of uneasy compromise between the two schools of thought. Sometimes they have been suddenly settled by the victory of one school over the other. M. Litvinov's dismissal in 1939 followed by M. Molotov's negotiations of a treaty with Germany is the outstanding example.

Since the war it is clear that conflict has been going on in the inner councils between those who wished to come to a modus vivendi with the West and those who wished to push on with the conflict which they regarded as, in accordance with the strict letter of the Leninist-Stalinist doctrine, in any case inevitable. It has also been clear that the second group was gaining the upper hand. M. Shdanov's speech at the founding of the Cominform seemed to mark its decisive victory, through the acceptance of the doctrine of two camps as the basis of policy—the conduct of a political offensive all along the European front as the immediate line of action.

But the consequences have been less gratifying than had been confidently expected. The Communist offensive in France and Italy have failed. Western Europe begins, instead of crumbling meekly, to solidify in self-defence. The United States has given pledges of support. In Berlin and in Trieste, Britain and America have reacted with unanticipated firmness to provocations. The coup in Czechoslovakia has had unforeseen reactions throughout the democratic world.

It has become obvious, even in Moscow, that the policy of conflict was achieving little and was endangering serious dangers. Advocates of an attempt to reach an understanding have come to the fore again.

Yet this new statement does not mean that as yet they have prevailed. The document is clearly a compromise. Its final paragraph denies all hostile or aggressive intentions, expresses the hope of establishing good and rational relations and offers to encourage the stabilization of conditions throughout the world.

But it is preceded by paragraphs drafted in the only too familiar language of the past two years: ranting and provocative, sprinkled with charges of ill faith, with accusations of aggressive intent, with condemnation of the European Recovery Plan; all giving an impression of a desire to sabotage negotiations before they can begin; or at the least of a belief that negotiation is pointless and certain to fail.

That is the most important thing about the whole document. It speaks with two voices — one

"One hundred rubles." Ivan replied. The price of the rooster was indeed exorbitant, but taken in conjunction with the cow was a reasonable proposition. So a transaction was completed.

The ruble Ivan received for the cow he cheerfully contributed to charity as he had vowed, while the 100 rubles received for the rooster he invested in another cow.

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The Poet's Corner
BOUNDARIES
The fields cross-stitched with fences
lie bright beneath the sun,
and over them, wind-footed,
the blue cloud shadows run.

Mr. J. S. McLean "Confesses"
(Calgary Herald)
What are we going to do about people like J. S. McLean? Mr. McLean, as everybody knows, is president of Canada Packers, and recently he appeared before the House of Commons Price Committee, which is trying (at a cost of several thousands a day) to figure out why two and two make four, and what can be done to prevent it.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)
PATTERSON'S CRITICISM
Reference yesterday to the efforts of Robert Clark to found New London, in the seventeen seventies recalls the hostile commentary of Governor Patterson who, as pointed out in an article by Dr. D. C. Harvey in the Dalhousie Review (January, 1932) had clashed with Clark over the land sales of 1781 and whose account, though valuable for its detail, must be taken cum grano salis. After discussing an attempt of George Spence and others to establish trade and a fishing establishment, Patterson says:

"The other was undertaken by an Old Clothman of London, Mr. Robert Clark. He came out here with a cargo of merchandise and Idlers, and landed at one of the Northern Harbours of the Island, where he began building a Town. I thought him at first a great acquisition to the Country and, disappointed by expense and want of care; and to try if I could be of use I paid him a visit; when I immediately discovered the report was true, and I took the liberty of saying so to himself.

"He landed his goods before he had a House to store them, a part were on the open beach, the remainder covered with the sails of his ship, all open to whoever chose to take of them.

"He had above a hundred people to feed, and to pay, among whom were all the Veterans of the Island, for those Gentlemen they had Wages, Victuals and Drink at will, and did as they pleased. They soon discovered he was open to flattery. He was vain of the number he saw about him, and they made him believe all the people in the Country would come and settle at his New London. He really thought himself a second Penn and believed he would transmit as great a name to Posterity. From being a little before had turned Quaker, and to give his left England, and to give his conviction, he outdid his whole Fraternity in Sanctity.

"Depending on his powers as a Preacher, and the purity of his life, he brought out, with the hopes of reclaiming them, a number of wild youths, who had before baffled all the attempts of their Friends. Of those he made Overseers, and I counted no less than eighteen, who only played and kept the others idle. I told him so, and advised him to turn about his name; and asking him whom I named, and asking him how he could bring such People with him from England. He said he hoped to make New London a place for recovering of Sinners. This, as saying it was a Vision which occasioned his coming to this Island, let me know enough of his small thing to be said in M. McLean's favor; that because of him, and people like him, any Canadian can walk into his nearest meat store and buy as much as he wants of whatever he wants.

ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY
FEMROCK, Wales — (CP) — Grassholm Island, off the coast of Pembrokeshire, was bought recently by Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for a sanctuary. Grassholm has an area of more than 20 acres and is the summer home of about 6,500 pairs of gannets.

COSTLY TO SWEDEN
The Swedish merchant man lost about 600,000 tons of wool during the Second World War.