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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1943

Airport Site Dispute

While the extension of the runways to the Charlottetown airport is being urged solely as a necessary war project, it would appear that consideration is being given in other provinces to postwar civilian requirements as well.

Hitler's Ancient Prototype

A parallel to the vain-glorious boasting of the Nazi war-lords may be found, for those who like robust humor, in the imaginary but unforgettable history of the Picrocholian war, written by Rabelais four centuries ago.

Rabelais devotes a chapter to the Picrocholian war council, which out-gobbeled Goebbels in boastful utterances and plans of conquest. Like the Nazi Fuehrer, Picrochole had his stooges and sycophants, who egged him on with fantastic visions of loot and glory.

"Having passed the Picrocholinian sea, behold, Barbarossa yields himself your slave. . . Then you shall conquer the kingdoms of Tunis, of Hippo, Argier, Bomine, Carone, yea all Barbary.

"Italy being thus taken," pursued the royal sycophants, "behold Naples, Calabria, Apulia and Sicily all ransacked, and Malta too."

"I would," said Picrochole, "very willingly go to Loretto." "No, no," said they, "that shall be at our return. From thence we will sail eastwards, and take Candia, Cyprus, Rhodes and the Cyclade Islands, and set upon the Morea. It is ours, by St. Trenian! The Lord preserve Jerusalem; for the great Soltan is not comparable to you in power."

"I will then," said he, "cause Solomon's Temple to be built." "No," said they, "not yet, have a little patience, stay a while, be never too sudden in your enterprises. . . It is requisite that you first have the Lesser Asia, Caria, Lycia, Pamphylia, Cilicia, Lydia, Phrygia, Mysia, Bithynia, Caraxia, Satalia, Samagaria, Castamena, Luga, Savasta, even unto Euphrates."

"Shall we see," said Picrochole, "Babylon and Mount Sinai?" "There is no need," said they, "at this time. Have we not hurried up and down, travelled and toiled enough, in having transfretted and passed over the Hircanian Sea, marched along the two Armenias, and the three Arabias?"

"But," quoth Picrochole, "what doth that part of our army in the meantime, which overthrows that unworthy swill-pot Grangousier?" "They are not idle," said they. "We shall meet with them by and by. They shall have won you Brittany, Normandy, Flanders, Hainault, Brabant, Artois, Holland, Zealand; they have passed the Rhine over the bellies of the Switzers and Lanskenets, and a party of these hath subdued Luxemburg, Lorraine, Champagne, and Savoy, even to Lyons, in which place they have met with your forces returning from the naval conquests of the Mediterranean Sea; and have rallied again in Bohemia, after they had plundered and sacked Suevia, Wirtemberg, Bavaria, Austria, Moravia, and Styria. Then they set fiercely together upon Lubeck, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Gitland, Greenland, the Sterlins, even unto the Frozen Sea. This done, they conquered the isles of Orkney, and subdued Scotland, England and Ireland. From thence sailing through the sandy sea, and by the Sarmates, they have vanquished and overcome Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Wallachia, Transylvania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, and are now at Constantinople."

"Come," said Picrochole, "let us join them quickly, for I will be Emperor of Trebezonde also."

There was there present at the time (says Rabelais) an old gentleman well experienced in wars, who hearing this discourse said, "I do greatly doubt that all this enterprise will be like the tale or interlude of the pitcher full of milk, wherewith a shoemaker made himself rich in conceit; but, when the pitcher was broken, he had not whereupon to dine. What do you pretend by these large conquests? What shall be the end of so many labors and crosses?" "Thus it shall be," said Picrochole, "that when we are returned, we shall sit down, rest, and be merry."

"But," said Echeppron (for such was the old soldier's name) "if by chance you should never come back, for the voyage is long and dangerous, were it not better for us to take our rest now, than unnecessarily to expose ourselves to so many dangers?"

This advice was received with contempt and derision. Picrochole ordered his armies to the assault, — with the result that he was soundly trounced by Grangousier and put to ignominious flight.

Rabelais wrote these things in jest; but there is much in his account of the rapacious Picrocholians to suggest that they were the Nazis of their day, fitting prototypes of Hitler and his greedy gangsters.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Already known as the Million Acre Province, we can likewise claim to be the Three Million Dollar Loaner—three dollars plus per acre to Speed the Victory.

A shelter is being erected at the Charlottetown Airport for the comfort of passengers and friends waiting there for or coming with the planes.

There has been an influx of R.A.F. maintenance staff recently to take the place of those returned to England in July after completion of two years service in Canada.

The Jones Government, alas, did not rise to anticipations in its subscription to the Fifth Victory Loan. Perhaps it was cautiously waiting for the Sixth Loan, which the Premier thoughtfully announced in his appeal, for the Fifth.

The officials who put over the Speed the Victory campaign deserve the warmest congratulations on the huge success of their effort. At the outset it appeared an herculean task, and certainly it took all the time, energy and ingenuity of organizers and collectors alike to assure its complete success. But the powers-that-be here knew where "the pay dirt" could be worked to advantage, and never let up till success was achieved. As nothing succeeds like success the organization will doubtless be kept intact to repeat the experiment six months hence.

A number of British guest children from both Canada and the United States, who were sent across by plane have found themselves stranded in Lisbon, Portugal, through lack of the necessary transport planes there to carry them to England. Their parents had been warned, but chose to take the risk. This announcement is just one more incident in the long history of approximately 11,400 children who have made the journey to North America since 1940. About 6,400 of them came to homes in Canada and the rest to the United States. Many have returned and although no official figures are available it is thought the contingent now is something under half the original number.

Dorothea Beale, English educationist, died this date 1906; was tutor at Queen's College, London from 1849 to 1854 when she became Principal of Ladies College, Cheltenham, where she pioneered in the suffragette movement for the place of women in the sphere of education; she exerted a remarkable influence over her pupils, and made the college she controlled the best secondary school for girls in England; she subsequently founded St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, for women students, one of the first to be officially affiliated with the University; "Stroll down Fifth Avenue and observe the luxuries demanded by women, and you will understand why wars are waged," was the gist of a recent statement by an American General, discussing with me commodities for which our merchants scour the earth."

A novel point was raised to create unprecedented procedure, in a jury trial proceeding in the Montreal Superior Court before Mr. Justice Fabre Surveyer. At the outset of the fourth day's hearing, J. P. Charbonneau, K.C., counsel for Alphonse Patenaude, attorney for the defence, challenged one of the jurors, Arthur Bourassa, under the provision of Article 237 of the Code of Civil Procedure which enacts that "a judge may be excused if he is related to one of the parties within the degree of first cousin inclusively." Counsel declared the juror in question was first cousin by marriage to Gustave Monette, K.C., who was acting for the plaintiff in the case before the Court. As the juror was judge of the facts to be decided, Mr. Charbonneau argued that Mr. Bourassa, as a juror, occupied what was the veritable position of a judge in the case to be decided, and therefore, counsel said, the motive for recusal as set out in Article 237 of the Code of Procedure, applied to a juror as much as it would apply to the trial judge. Mr. Bourassa was called to the witness stand and, in reply to Judge Surveyer, said that he was married to the first cousin of Mrs. Monette. His Lordship dismissed Mr. Charbonneau's objection, holding that the motive of recusal set down in the Code of Procedure applied to a judge and could not be extended by analogy to jurors; otherwise the motive for disqualification would have been specifically mentioned in the article of the Code, which constituted a law of exception.

Basic English

(London Times)
The lively correspondence on Basic English has disclosed some pardonable uncertainty about the nature and the function of the language so named. The root of the matter is the desire to make English a universal language, in which men of all nations and tongues may communicate with each other. Basic English is one of the many devices for simplifying English so that it may be more easily learned by foreigners. The idea is made up of the initials letters of the words British, American, scientific, international and commercial. To include in a little more of this name of word-making—the name is Basic, not Basical. The initials letters of Art and Literature do not form part of it. The limits, therefore, are clearly suggested. This simplified English is not meant to be an introduction to English literature, or a short cut to Shakespeare or Samuel Johnson. It is meant for an international vehicle for communication on practical affairs. On the other hand it is not meant to be a substitute for English, a separate language, like pidgin English. Any such separate language would be a dead end. Basic is meant to open the way. It has progressive stages, each of which is an installment of the whole language. It has been said that the foreigner who has learned only the first stages of Basic will not be able to understand a simple letter from an English newspaper nor what his English-speaking employer may say to him. But partial knowledge is not to be held up as a knowledge. The advocate of Basic could reply that at least such a foreigner would be nearer to understanding than one who had no English at all. It is unfortunately true, moreover, that the foreigner who had mastered Basic would be better able to express himself in the King's English than many a British-born subject of His Majesty.

There remains a danger which was well stated by The Times Literary Supplement about two years ago: "What if the child, grown to man's estate, turns upon his parent? It must not be forgotten that Basic has been simplified not only by selection from the English language, but also by distortion. Something must take the place of the many verbs that have been cut out. 'I will destroy this Temple,' is plain English. 'I will make a destruction of this Temple' is neither plain nor English. But it is being held up as an example of English; it is being taught as Basic English. The teachers of the 'teaching books' and the 'learners' books' are proclaiming it to be 'the quickest way of learning English.' It may be so; but it is a little disturbing to read that Basic is already being used to teach English to English-speaking children. 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