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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1943.

Social Insurance

As announced in the Speech from the Throne yesterday, the Dominion Government proposes to take action immediately to provide a comprehensive national plan for social insurance. An important feature of this scheme will undoubtedly be health insurance, on which Government officials are said to have been working for some time. It was understood that this scheme will follow the lines of the old age pensions legislation and provide grants-in-aid to the provinces for a health insurance plan approved by the Dominion. This is in line with the recommendation of the Sirois Commission, which considered that health insurance was a service that should be left to the provinces.

"The desirability of co-ordinating all medical services within the province under provincial control," said their report, "is a strong argument against the establishing of any scheme which would remove any large group within the province from provincial responsibility, as a Dominion health insurance scheme would do . . . Health insurance differs profoundly from unemployment insurance and contributory old age pensions . . . Health insurance is not subject to wide variations in demand; the risks are more easily estimated, and more constant . . . It is more nearly insurance properly so-called . . . We see, therefore, no insuperable obstacle to the establishment of health insurance by a province."

If, at a later date, it were decided to combine the different social insurance schemes—unemployment, old age pensions, workmen's compensation, health and any others — into one general scheme of contributory social insurance, as recommended in the Beveridge report for Great Britain, then the change in the control of health insurance could be made. This apparently is what is implied in yesterday's announcement in the Throne Speech.

The Beveridge plan includes, besides health insurance, a very complete health service provided by the Government itself. The improving of the health of the population would lessen the cost of health insurance and of other branches of social insurance. Does the Ottawa Government intend anything of that kind, provided perhaps jointly by the Dominion and the Provinces?

There is another question, which the Ottawa Journal raises. It is this: The Canadian Medical Association has accepted in principle the proposed health insurance with the proviso that it shall be administered by an independent Health Insurance Commission, "the majority of whom shall be representatives of organized medicine." Amplifying this, Dr. Archer, the association's president, explains that "next to the insured population the doctors have by far the greater stake in the plan."

But, as the Journal points out, if the doctors' interest is only secondary it is not clear why they should have majority control of the Health Commission.

Decision on this and other points will have to wait the consideration of the Parliamentary committee, to which it is proposed to refer the scheme in detail. The results will be awaited with very great interest by the country.

War Food Production

The Government having dilly-dallied far too long with the question of farm labour shortage, it is up to the new session of Parliament to make this Number One on the agenda of subjects requiring urgent attention. Since the national conference on farm production in Ottawa last December, when production plans for 1943 were outlined, the tension existing between producers and those administering economic controls has increased as a direct result of this labor shortage. Mr. H. H. Hannan, president of the Federation of Agriculture, put the farmers' view in a nutshell when he said at the annual meeting of the organization yesterday in Calgary, that "if the war continues as it has, a serious food shortage is not far away."

It is also manifest in the charge voiced by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture that: "Food control as at present administered is largely responsible for the present food shortages and these shortages will become progressively worse as the year advances," unless production receives more encouragement.

Suggested remedies include steps to keep available farm labor on the farms, to divert back to the farms labor that has left them, to eliminate short-term military postponements in favor of long-term deferments, to close down the marginal fringes of farm production in order to concentrate on the most economic production, to mobilize green labor, and to employ prisoners of war on the farms under certain necessarily limited conditions. These are points under discussion at present.

But the farm production picture comes into perspective only when the extent to which agriculture has been losing its labor supply is examined. A recent manpower study by the Bank of Canada supplies figures:

Number of agricultural workers:

September, 1939	1,585,000
September, 1940	1,575,000
September, 1941	1,470,000
September, 1942	1,385,000

September figures reveal peak employment in agriculture, and comparable figures for spring or summer would be two or three hundred workers less. The apparent loss in farm labor since the war started is not less than 200,000 workers. The significance of this is sharpened by the facts of farm production which, as reported at the December conference, was never higher in Canadian history than it was in 1942. With a dwindling labor supply, agriculture has steadily increased production.

Production is obviously the paramount problem of Canadian agriculture. Restiveness under economic controls betrays anxiety over meeting future commitments. The chief emphasis, which in farm opinion relegates price and other controls to the backround, must be on production at all costs. In the United States, a reflection of a similar problem was the recent action in setting up food production and food distribution administrations as agencies of the department of agriculture under Claude Wickard, secretary of agriculture. Even food rationing was placed with the department. The job assigned to Mr. Wickard is, briefly, to determine food requirements of the U.S.A., its armed forces, its lend-lease customers and its other export trade, and to organize production to conform.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Medical doctors are losing their stranglehold on patients and prospective patients over the border. The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the conviction of the American Medical Association and the District of Columbia Medical Society on charges that they sought to hamstring a co-operative group health plan and thereby violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The Medical Associations were fined $2,500 and $1,500, respectively, on charges that they conspired to "restrain trade" by influencing physicians and hospitals to boycott Group Health Association, Inc., a co-operative organization of 3,300 government employees in the District of Columbia. Group Health was set up to provide medical and hospital care for its members on a pre-payment plan. The decision noted that such a plan "was contrary to the code of ethics" of the A.M.A.

* * * *

A report on the work of the Senate Divorce Committee during the last session showed that 92 petitions for bills of divorce were presented. The Committee heard and recommended divorces in 71 unopposed cases and five opposed cases. Two opposed cases were heard and rejected and 14 applications were not proceeded with. Of the 76 divorces recommended by the Senate, 73 bills went through the House of Commons and three bills failed to get through before prorogation. Of the petitions recommended, 18 were by husbands and 58 by wives. Seventy-four were from residents of Quebec and two from Prince Edward Island, the two provinces without divorce courts. The Committee reported an increase in the number of divorces granted by Parliament during the last 10 years. The 1942 total of 73 compared with 49 in 1940-41, 62 in 1940, 50 in 1939, 85 in 1938, 46 in 1937, 40 in 1936, 30 in 1935, 38 in 1934, and 23 in the session of 1932-33.

* * * *

The actual probate value of the estate of the late Hon. Dr. Murray Maclaren, Saint John, was $2,512,500, of which $12,500 was real estate and the balance personal property. Under the will the trustees were left $50,000 to pay the principal and accumulated income toward the erection in Saint John of a new Church of St. John and St. Stephen belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the plans and location to be approved by the trustees of the will. This bequest was left in memory of Dr. MacLaren's wife, the late Olivia Mary MacLaren. The sum of $5,000 was left to be used towards the purchase or erection of a building for a home or headquarters of St. Andrew's Society of Saint John. $5,000 for gold medals at N. B. University; and $5,000 was left to the moderator and clerk of the Presbytery of Saint John of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as a trust fund.

* * * *

Earl Haig of Bemersyde, Army Commander, died this date, 1928; educated at Clifton, and Brasenose, Oxford (hon. fellow); joined 7th Hussars and after a long active war record in Sudan, South Africa and India, raised to rank of general for distinguished service; and subsequently appointed general officer commanding at Aldershot; at outbreak of Great War I was appointed in command of the 1st Army; rose by sheer ability and efficiency to command of the whole allied army jointly with Foch; was made Field-Marshal; the King became Godfather to his first born son; created Knight of the Thistle; received the Order of Merit, an earldom, the sum of $500,000, and the thanks of Parliament. In "Memory Hold-the-Door," Lord Tweedsmuir (John Buchan) pays him this tribute: "In a soldier character is at least as vital as intellect, and there can be no question about the quality of his character. He had none of the lesser graces which make a general popular with troops, and it took four years for his armies to feel his personality. To his friends that personality in war was a revelation. They had known him as an able, ambitious and industrious soldier, handsome and fashionable, a good sportsman, the type certain to succeed under normal conditions—in a word, a conventional type. But in command a new man appeared . . . The religion of his childhood was recaptured, and a spirit naturally kind and genial was braced by a kind of Covenanting fervour to an austere discipline and a constant sense of the Divine foreordering of life. He had found deep wells from which to draw comfort. The self was obliterated, for I do not think he ever thought of his own reputation Unrhetorically, almost unconsciously, his country and what he held to be God's purpose became for him the transcendent . . . In peace his main interest was in the future of the men who had fought under him, and he refused all rewards until he had convinced himself that they were not forgotten. 'He will go to Heaven for that', said Corporal Trim."

Notes By The Way

Just 18 months ago Charles A. Lindbergh told the American people in one of his "American First" speeches that Great Britain and the United States could never catch up to Germany in air power. —From the St. Thomas-Journal.

The way those little British destroyers fought off ponderous German battleships to take their convoy safely to Russia recalls: It isn't the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog." —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Members of the Bald Battalion of Olathe, Kas., all of whom are over 60 and have no hair on their heads, have offered their help in a recruiting drive being staged by the WAACS. Beneath those bald heads, so to speak, beat hearts of gold.—Windsor Star.

Only one per cent. of American men wear nightshirts, according to a Washington bureau that apparently sees all and tells all. —Edmonton Journal.

Perhaps some wills should be rewritten to dispose of that stock of butter in the refrigerator —Ottawa Journal.

If every Canadian, through careful economy in fueling could save a pound of fuel every day, the amount of fuel thus released to the war effort would total five thousand, six hundred tons daily. This amount, points out a bulletin of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, will haul a lot of war material to the fighting fronts. Yet, if furnaces are properly fired and household heat levels kept in careful control, the saving of this amount per day (really a little more than four pounds per family) is a comparatively easy matter— and all without sacrificing household comfort. Are we all trying it? —Amherst News.

U. S. authorities have ruled that motoring to church does not constitute "pleasure driving." And let the preachers make whatever they like out of that. —Ottawa Citizen.

Members of a London, Ont., club employed Russian strategy on bunnies the other day. The Nimrods outfitted themselves in white uniforms and, by thus melting into the wintry landscape, were able to knock over the pretty little rabbits, 'there, there, and there," as the old monologue says. At the same time, it seemed rather a mean trick to play on the relatives of Uncle Wiggley. One may expect a cotton-tail parade bearing placards "Unsporting to Rodents." —Brantford Expositor.

Dr. George Washington Carver, distinguished scientist, who died recently and who was sometimes called "the Ebony Pasteur," was born of slave parents and was once traded for a horse! Considerable progress has been made by the United States of America since that time, and it is to the glory of that country that, despite continuing racial prejudices, this brilliant Negro was able to rise to eminence. Not only was he an outstanding agricultural researcher, but he achieved international success as an artist. His life, adventures and accomplishments form a saga fit for the most facile of biographical pens. —Brantford Expositor

At the plant of Defence Industries at Whitby, $500 worth of cutlery has been stolen from restaurants and cafeterias serving war workers each month. This is a revelation that is distinctly unpleasant. What must the annual theft of silverware for the whole country be? —Ottawa Citizen.

Our enemies are very silent. They were not always so. On an occasion like this, at the start of new year, they were loud in their boasts, ferocious in their threats. They bellowed, and were beside themselvs, as they called down the doom that has not come on us. They decreed a bitter end we have evaded. Their Fuehrer, their Duce, stomped. These words were gross, their phantasies barbaric, and they themselves were ludicrous. Only the simple democracies were not fooled. The German people may still be buffed, but not their Nazi-Prussian leaders. Russia smashed their plans for world conquest. The devastating bombing of Germany and Italy and of countries held by them broke up the Axis war machine. The life of people willing to be deluded into thinking they were to gain the world and all its fruits is one of growing hardship. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Plans are being made in good season for the schoolboy army which is to be sent to Ontario farms in the next harvest season. Efforts are being made to enlist 100,000 for this work, and this objective should be easily reached. While the program is being prepared, attention should also be given to the educational requirements. There should be no repetition of the confusion which occurred last year, resulting in undoubted damage to the scholastic careers of thousands of our young people. It is not enough merely to recruit some thousands of students and decide that they will be absent from their classes until a date considerably past the time set for the opening of the Fall term. It should be determined now how they are to make up the lost time, and the schedules arranged accordingly. There will be no excuse for again keeping secondary schools closed, thus depriving all the students of tuition for the benefit of one group. That will happen again, however, unless a definite plan is worked out now. —Windsor Star.

Tobacco growers will not be pleased at the announcement that their crop will receive rather less attention and help from Dominion Government agencies for the duration of the war. They can probably advance some convincing arguments as to why this seeming neglect is not justified. The arguments on the other side, however, are stronger. The Government has nothing against tobacco. It is simply forced to consider proper priorities, and to give preference to those crops which actually are essential. Despite its value, tobacco does not fall within this classification. Compared to food crops and those which form a source of vital war materials, such as soybeans, it must take a secondary position. Fundamentally, tobacco is a luxury, and, in the present emergency it must share the fate of all products in that category. —Windsor Star.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

SUMMERSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sir,—In this morning's issue, you publish a letter from the Rev. R. E. Shaw, in which he complains, among other things, of the Summerside Town Council's delay in meeting with me to discuss collaboration in law enforcement.

In justice to the Summerside Town Council, I may say that I have had several conferences with the Mayor, in the course of which we reached a complete understanding on the matters which I had in mind. I therefore considered it unnecessary to arrange a conference with the Council as a whole, although I shall be very glad to meet them at any time if they have any further suggestions to make.

While on the subject, may I also refer to a letter from the "Crusader" in your issue of January 22nd? He states "Both dives mentioned in the Judge Saunders' address to the Grand Jury and possibly other places in Summerside are still operating." Anyone who walks on the streets of Summerside knows that this statement is not the whole truth. The Soviet Cafe, which was singled out for special criticism by Judge Saunders, has been completely closed for several weeks, and three others of Summerside's most visible bootleg establishments have also gone out of business in the last few months. These results have been secured by diligent police action extending over the past year or more.

I am, Sir, etc.,
THANE A. CAMPBELL
Attorney General.
Charlottetown, Jan. 28, 1943.

THE MICE NEEDED A PIED PIPER

Sir,— Remember the Pied Piper of our school books? Of course you do. He was the odd character who piped all the rats out of Hamlin when the city became infested with a plague of rats many, many years ago.

Now, I don't know whether this particular piper could have piped away a plague of mice, but if he had chanced to visit the Garden of the Gulf between the years 1724 and 1738 the people would, I fancy, have given him a chance to show his stuff.

Between those years, according to Thomas Pickon, the Island was litterally swarming with mice. "Their advent," he went on to say, "meant the utter destruction of crops. Not a green blade escaped them. They made nests in the forests, and every six weeks or so produced litters from ten to a dozen. . . They became almost numberless and consumed all the means of subsistance provided by their native woods."

Professor Caven's description of the plague gives his readers an even more vivid account of the havoc wrought by these intruders. For instance, he describes them in the following manner:

"These famished creatures swarmed from the woods and rushed upon the cultivated fields like savage tribes, carrying out some pre-conceived scheme of vengeance. . . Every field of grain from Three Rivers to Malpeque was made desolate, and the settlers soon found themselves face to face with starvation." We are further informed that after cleaning up everything in sight, they marched straight into the water where many were drowned. Schooners sailing along the Island's coast had to plough their way through huge masses of drowned mice.

The plight of the people became so great that seed for the next year's crop had to be brought in from the mainland; but before the ground could be made ready to receive it, the hungry little beasts ate it all up. Indeed, many believed the land to be under a curse so that few persons cared to settle on it.

All kinds of devices were brought into use to bring about their destruction. One of these and perhaps the most effective at the time, was cutting down and burning the forests—a "scorched earth" policy which, unfortunately, destroyed vast tracts of valuable timber. But let us not forget that all this happened over two centuries ago and at a time when poisons and sprays were practically unknown.

Should such a plague visit this or any other land today, science would rush to the rescue of the farmers and furnish him with the right "dope" to rid his place of the vermin.

I am, Sir, etc.
F. H. MacARTHUR.
Cornwall, P.E.I.

SCIENTIFIC CATTLE BREEDING

Sir,— The October number of the "Magazine Digest" contains a very interesting article on the scientific increase on the new method of breeding cattle and animals which might prove of some interest and benefit to the farmers who want real good stock and increased supplies without much extra expenditure.

I am enclosing the article "as printed" taken from the magazine and would thank you to pass it along to the hardworking Prince Edward Island farmers who have done so much, not only to feed the Nation and Empire with the best of food, but with loyal sons and daughters, fathers and mothers. I am glad to note that the province of Prince Edward Island comes second in their efforts to protect the Empire, in Canada.

Wishing the Prince Edward Island people every success during 1943.

I am, Sir, etc.
JOHN J. LOUSON.
Montreal, Jan. 25.

(P.S. I saw the first few pair of Black foxes on P E I at Daltons Ranch, Tignish, some 40 years ago.)
(Enclosure)

TWENTY CALVES PER YEAR FROM ONE COW

Condensed from The Farmer's Digest, Ambler, Pa.

No, the heading above is not a misprint! The answer to the question is found in the experimental work carried on by Aviation Cadet, Raymond Umbaugh, before he joined the Air Corps—a scientific discovery that possibly will change the history of animal husbandry as much as Columbus' discovery of America changed the history of the world.

Heretofore, the experiments, which have been conducted in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture, have been surrounded by utmost secrecy. However, the process is now fully protected, and at this date is offered for publication for the first time.

The United States Department of Agriculture in Washington was very interested in this new process of mating and breeding, and Cadet Umbaugh left in February for Washington for consultations at the request of the Animal Husbandry Department of the Department of Agriculture as there was a strong possibility of the government taking charge of his discovery for further experimentations and use.

Cadet Umbaugh explains very clearly this intricate process of reproduction in simple "layman" language:

"The technique which has been developed will permit dairymen to produce 10 to 20 calves per year from a single high producing cow instead of the usual one.

"For example, if a dairyman has a thousand-dollar cow and access to a thousand-dollar sire, he will be able to produce 10 to 20 calves per year from this mating. This is done by transferring the developed ova (eggs) from the high producing cow to scrub cows and mating the scrub cows to the thousand-dollar sire. During the heat period a cow produces one egg which can with very little difficulty be removed and transferred to another cow. In three weeks she will produce another egg and she will continue to produce an egg every three weeks until she is mated and becomes pregnant.

"By the use of hormones, we may be able to force a cow to produce as high as 25 or 30 eggs per year instead of the usual 17 all of which would be transferable.

"The genetical make-up of a calf depends upon the sperm and the egg and to no extent upon the uterus in which it has been developed; that is to say, the blood of the scrub cows which develops the egg of the high price cow will have no effect upon the heredity of the offspring.

"By the use of egg transfers, dairymen could in a few years replace all their scrub stock with registered high producing cattle. Egg transfers are possible and this technique will probably be extended to include all species of livestock and other animals as well."

Cadet Umbaugh is a graduate of Purdue University at Lafayette, Indiana, in the School of Animal Husbandry. However, most of the experiments have been carried on in Umbaugh's own private laboratory.

The Secret of Russia's Success

—By—
J. C. LEWIS

The Dean of Canterbury tells us that Russia's political and economic system is a practical demonstration of Christianity in action; the British economist, Keynes, states he was amazed at the little attention paid to money in Russia; and now, after so many years of almost painful silence on the subject, the wife of the United States President comes to Montreal and tells us, in effect, that the Russian boy has many more opportunities for higher education than the American youth. "In the United States," she says, "only people financially able can attend" higher institutions of learning.

These facts are to a large extent responsible for the tremendous morale of the Russian soldier but they represent but a few of the spokes which radiate from the hub of the Soviet economic system. The Russian soldier only retreats when his officers, for military reasons, believe it better to withdraw than to stand and die. His courage is no greater than that of men of other races, but because he knows that there is nothing in the way of economic security denied him, because he knows that whether or not he survives, his wife shall not suffer and that nothing in the way of education and advancement will be denied his children, because he knows these things are true, he stands his ground when other men of other races, just as courageous, might waver and break.

As he snuggles his frost-bitten face under the high collar of his great coat, he has the comfort of knowing that other comrades of his made the coat and that not one rouble of profit was reaped in its making; as he clasps with numb fingers his rifle, he has the same comforting feeling when he thinks that no debentante daughter of an armament maker will ever make her bow to "society" on profits made through the manufacture of his weapons. He has, too, the comforting knowledge that unemployment ended forever in Russia in 1931 and that her post-war problems do not include any worries about finding employment for her children. So long as the natural resources of her vast territory belong to her people, she will always have more work to do than she will have people to do it. There is a difference, he reflects, between industry organized for the service of the many and industry organized for the enrichment of the few.

Today, the war industries upon which this country depends to accomplish her aims in this present conflict, are owned by private individuals and conducted for the purpose of making profit. Under such a system, the desire of amassing wealth must come first, the desire to win the war must take second place. Yet, Mr. King, who speaks of freedom being the absence of fear, can see nothing anomalous in such a situation. Nor can he see anything contradictory between his platform sentiments and his recent attitude in refusing the steel workers a basic rate of 55 cents an hour exclusive of the cost of living bonus. It must be wonderful to possess a conscience which can adjust itself so easily to such contradictions.

The industries, war or peace, of Russia are not conducted on a profit-making basis. And it is fortunate today for those millions in capitalist lands who, in the past, took such delight in reviling her that this is so.

Slightly east of the Ural range of mountains, at about 58 degrees East Longitude and 54 degrees North Latitude, you may find on a really modern map of Russia a place called Magnitogorak. Thirty thousand workers in 1931 and 1932 began to build that city. Most of the time they lived on black bread and boiled cabbage. Many froze to death, many were killed. But those who survived and struggled on had the supreme joy, as John Scott says in "Beyond the Urals," of knowing that they alone of all the people in the world had their own steel plant and that it was also the largest in the world. From that one plant in 1937 came 17 1-2 million tons of steel.

(To Be Continued)

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The Poets' Corner

POETS

I reckon, when I count at all,
First Poets—then the Sun—
Then Summer — then the Heaven of God—
And ... list is done.
But looking back — the first so seems
To comprehend the whole—
The others look a needless show,
So I write Poets—All.
This summer lasts a solid year,
They can afford a sun
The East would deem extravagant,
And if the final Heaven
Be beautiful as they disclose
To those who trust in them,
It is too difficult a grace
To justify the dream.

—Emily Dickinson

FAMOUS STEELWARE

The steel wares of Solingen, in the Ruhr, have been famous since the Middle Ages.

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