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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1945

A Proper Challenge

The King Government has extricated itself from a tight corner by employing its parliamentary majority to defeat a motion of the Opposition leader, Hon. John Bracken, for the production of all Orders in Council and Treasury minutes passed since Sept. 6 last, when Parliament resumed.

Mr. Bracken, says the *Globe and Mail*, made out a compelling case for a proper request and had sound constitutional authority on his side. The Cabinet is the Executive Committee of the elected representatives of the people sitting as a Parliament. It is responsible to them and can be called to account by them for all its actions. It is empowered under traditional limitations to exercise its authority through Orders-in-Council when problems and issues demanding immediate action arise, or matters like appointments which do not require the sanction of Parliament to be dealt with.

The long-established principle is that, except in the cases of orders authorized through the prerogative of the Crown, there can be no valid Order-in-Council which has not behind it some statutory authority. Legal recognition of this principle was given some years ago in a decision of the Privy Council, the highest court in the British Commonwealth, and the late Mr. LaPointe, a Liberal Minister of Justice, endorsed it when the issue was raised by Lord Bennett.

Parliament is entitled to know to what extent the Government has found it necessary to exercise its executive power and whether such use as has been made of that power has the backing of statutory authority. Obviously the only possible way of ascertaining these vital facts is through a careful scrutiny of the Cabinet's Orders-in-Council. If this is denied the elected representatives of the people, they cannot pass a proper judgment upon their validity. So Mr. Bracken was upholding a fundamental principle of our democratic system when he declared that the House of Commons had "a full and inalienable right to a disclosure of all actions of the executive."

When a state of war prevailed there may have been some excuse for the Cabinet to withhold its Orders-in-Council from the scrutiny of the Commons, because in some of them matters of military secrecy would be involved. But now that peace has come there is no semblance of an excuse for such an attitude. It is a repudiation of a basic principle of the democratic parliamentary system of the British people and it is a very strange performance on the part of a Ministry which bears the label "Liberal." The Government has had its arbitrary way, but the country will note that Mr. Bracken's well-conceived attempt to check its dictatorial tendencies was supported by the solid strength of all the Opposition groups, the Independents, and an Independent Liberal.

Britain's Colonial Burden

Some pertinent facts relative to Britain's Colonial administration were given recently by Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, in an address at an Ottawa luncheon. Mr. MacDonald set out to answer some of the misrepresentations made regarding British Imperialism. It is a common accusation, for example, that Britain exploits dependent communities, economically and politically, in order to enhance her own wealth and power. Such is far from being the case.

In peace time, Mr. MacDonald pointed out, every Colony keeps all its revenues for expenditure on its own domestic development. The Government in London does not receive a penny from any of them. Moreover, where the Colonies cannot raise from their own resources sufficient monies to promote their proper welfare, the taxpayers in Britain give them the money.

In the Budget which the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented to the House of Commons at Westminster a fortnight ago, nearly £5,000,000 was provided for expenditure on development and welfare in the Colonies. That is approximately \$22,000,000 Canadian dollars. Because of lower costs of material and services in the Colonies, it is the equivalent of several times that amount. It is worth about \$200,000,000 in Canadian values. Of course, that is assistance over and above the considerable revenues which the Colonies themselves produce. Also, it is only one year's contribution from the British taxpayers. They are committed to even greater sums in each of the next ten years. In other words, in these times of their own economic and financial stringency, they are providing immense sums for economic development, social services and education amongst their Colonial fellow subjects. The money is not a loan. It is an outright gift. The British people get no return from it except the satisfaction of fulfilling wisely and generously their duties as trustees for dependent peoples.

Coming to the political side of British Colonial administration, Mr. MacDonald answered the criticism that the desire for self-government is thwarted at Westminster. The contrary, he pointed out, is the case. The process of extending their freedom to British Colonials is going on all the time. It is accomplished by stages, in a regular, steady series of reforms, of their political constitutions, one giving them more responsibility and power than the last. Within the last twelve months, for example, "an extremely liberal constitution" has been inaugurated in Jamaica which gives the Jamaicans almost complete control in the administration of all their own affairs. Within the last six months a great advance towards fully representative government has also been made in Nigeria. A few days ago the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced a new constitution for Ceylon which

gives the Ceylonese complete self-government in their island affairs. At the present moment considerable extensions of democratic government are being planned at Malta, Malaya, Singapore, East Africa, West Africa and elsewhere. The fact is that under British guidance the peoples of fifty British Colonies are marching in orderly and certain fashion along the road towards the attainment of complete self-government, such as Canada and the other Dominions already enjoy.

British policy in India has been the chief target for attack by critics, and Mr. MacDonald does not shun discussion of this issue. It is, he says, that British Imperialism is an obstacle preventing the Indian people from gaining their national freedom. The central fact is that for a long time past the British Government and people have striven to help India to become an entirely free nation. As far back as 1930, the British Government summoned the famous Indian Round Table Conference at which it proposed a Federal Constitution for India which would make her a fully autonomous Dominion within the British Commonwealth. Owing to quarrels, not in Britain but amongst Indians in India, the proposal never reached fruition.

In 1941 the British Government then went even further, and declared that when the Japanese had been defeated and the war was won they would be ready to accept any constitution for a free India which the Indians themselves could agree upon. They attached no conditions whatever to that offer. Two months ago, as soon as Japan was defeated, the new British Government reaffirmed that offer and took every practical step which it was in their power to take to put it into practice.

Whether the Indians achieve their great ambition does not, therefore, depend on the British. As soon as they can compose their differences and draw up a political constitution of their own choice, they can be as free as any nation on earth.

It is well to have these matters authoritatively discussed, especially at Ottawa, where judging by Hansard there is a good deal of misunderstanding on the part even of Federal Cabinet Ministers as to the nature of British Colonial policies.

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

Surely all the wells are filled to overflowing by this time.

There is still time for laggards to get in on the Victory Bonds before Saturday and thus help to raise the total of individual contributors. It will be at least a year before another such opportunity presents itself.

Our air service is building up, but why do the bureaucrats at Ottawa declare that Trans-Canada Air Transportation Board is by no means ambitious to establish a line to Charlottetown on account of "the operation being expensive and the revenue insufficient?"

Sir Martin Frohisher, English navigator, died this date 1594; was the first Englishman to attempt the North-West passage to Cathay; sailed in command of a small expedition 1576, reached Labrador; the following year he set out with a larger expedition but returned on account of the discovery of supposed gold ore near Hall's Island in Frohisher Strait; made another unsuccessful attempt in 1578; later was appointed to command a man-of-war distinguishing himself against the Spanish Armada in 1588, when he was knighted for his services; he was mortally wounded during the assault on a fort near Brest in the war with France.

It is announced in London that the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 World Wars will be commemorated on Armistice Day, November 11, this year, and that the ceremony will follow the lines of those held up to 1938. A BBC commentator will set the scene; there will be a short service of remembrance in Whitehall, which the Cabinet will attend; and the King will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. The service will be held simultaneously in the BBC's Home Service and General Forces Programme, and edited versions of the ceremony will be carried in the Pacific, African, North American, and General Overseas Services. The Church services will commence at the usual hour, and the two minutes silence observed at warship.

They are having their own military and demobilization troubles over the border. Gen. George C. Marshall declares that demobilization in the United States has become "disintegration not only of all the armed forces but apparently of all conception of world responsibility." In a speech the U. S. chief of staff said "it is certain that the military establishment cannot hope to insure the safety of the United States very much longer at the present rate of demobilization unless some permanent peacetime program is established and at an early date." "If we are to nourish the infant United Nations Organization and thus establish some possibility of a future decent world order," Gen. Marshall said, "definite measures must be taken immediately to determine at least the basic principles for our post-war military policy. I have never felt so certain of anything in my life."

A Chinese flying officer known to not a few here is Tom Tung Yeh. He was born in Hong Kong and, as a baby, went to Australia with his parents, who have a fruit business in Cairns, North Queensland. Soon after the Japanese entered the war he and two Chinese friends, We Wong Hoy and L. Fang Yuen, left Cairns for Brisbane and joined the RAAF for aircrew duties. An attack of the mumps and one or two other minor maladies divided the three friends before they had gone far. Tom was sent to Canada for his final training and the other two remained in Australia, for the time being, but all three finished up in England. "We naturally wanted to have a crack at the Japs when we joined up," said F/O. Tung Yeh. "Maybe we shall be lucky enough to get out there." F/O. We Wong Hoy is at present a navigator in a Coastal Command Flying Fortress squadron. He has two brothers in the RAAF. F/O. L. Fang Yuen has finished a tour as a wireless operator on Australia's senior Lancaster squadron and is now with Transport Command.

Notes By The Way

A company has been formed to manufacture orange powder from Florida oranges. A daily output of 6,000 pounds of dehydrated juice which will be in production next Spring. Marketing reports. The addition of water to the powder makes the product indistinguishable from fresh orange juice in appearance and vitamin content, it is claimed.

Newspapers do not glorify crime, and though startling crimes may carry extensive headlines there is no reason to believe that the method of handling the news encourages youth to engage in this industry. The capture of criminals and the penalties they pay for their "industry" are chronicled just as prominently. Nothing is to be gained by the press adopting an ostrich policy and ignoring crime. — Toronto Telegram.

Out of \$26,451 paid in a little more than an hour for jewelry at Christie's in London last October \$20,500 was for a suite of emeralds and diamonds. The London auctioneer reported that he had three pear-shaped emeralds mounted as pendants, an emerald and diamond necklace, an oval emerald mounted as a brooch, a diamond and emerald corsage ornament, an emerald and diamond bracelet, and a pair of rectangular diamonds.

Bad manners are bad manners. Customers who were bad-mannered before the war will be bad-mannered after the war. Customers were not bad-mannered before the war, and they are not going to begin now, merely to bedevil a merchant who has done his best for them. A much better way would be for each other in trying to be polite and reasonable. — Pasadena Star-News.

Canada is pre-eminently an agricultural country, and yet the farmer does not exert that attraction for Canadian youth that is so prominent in the United States. The problem of Canada is just as much a problem of immigration and immigration, and the finest colonializing material is to be found right among our own people if it can be attracted to the farm. — Chatham News.

We've seen shocking things take place over butter. People who trusted and respected stooped to all sorts of devices and subterfuges to get their hands on a bit of it. Women went behind one another's backs for half a pound. If we don't go as far as to say that butter is a class by itself and way ahead of livestock enterprises on land. Oysters vary from two to six acres, and they themselves are self-feeding, taking their nourishment from the sea. They are not a class by themselves, but a class of food material coming into the bay in fresh-water streams which flow down through the rich soil.

Jade, like the other semi-precious stones, is a material which means of sawing, drilling or grinding, and for this preparation the use of fine drills, etc., actuated by a foot treadle, is about the best. The hardness of jade make this technique essential, and thus the tools remain fixed and the carving is done as a result. The carver does not clamp down a rough piece of jade and proceed to work on it. He ramps down to them a series of operations which means the utmost nicety of judgment and skill.

It is a popular fallacy that there is a tremendous demand for woolens and not enough wool or adequate processing machinery to meet it. Actually there are large accumulated stocks of wool in assembling centres. Much machinery has been retooled. But labor is scarce, and that is the real problem. A demobilized man is entitled to his own protection, which he and his entire family take together. Canadian mills are slow on military production. There is no change in the situation as it existed before VE Day. We ourselves are making the same numerical mistakes as before the collapse of the Reich. — Tip Topics.

Isn't it time somebody said a word or two about the unnecessary noise of airplanes over American cities and homes? In wartime no one would think of that. When the thunder of motors shattered the night hours we figured those planes were going somewhere in a hurry and for our protection. When a P-51 or a Thunderbolt roared through town at tree-top level we thought, "That's Johnny Jones giving his best girl a final 'buns.'" Even if some of the noise seemed unnecessary and annoying, it was a necessary part of our earthbound civilization, what of it? Those fliers might be going overseas tomorrow. We could take it—at least for the duration. But today it isn't so easy to be easy-going. There are good reasons for demanding reform. Before aviation gets into full flight and airfields are sprinkled around every town, the question of noisy flying should be aired. Unnecessary noise is already cooling some folks' air age ardor. — Christian Science Monitor.

"Hounded" by NEAR-SIGHTS

Blinding pain, constant throbbing can make life misery. Many headaches may be caused by the failure of the kidneys to filter out the poisons from the blood. If kidneys fail and poisons remain in the system, headache, backache, rheumatism, dizziness, and many other ailments may result. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills help your kidneys clear out trouble-making poisons and excess acids so that you feel better—your bloodwork better. Get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Mr. McLure Gives Boost to P. E. I. Oyster Industry

(A.S. in The Ottawa Journal)

Around the clean coasts of Prince Edward Island, oysters are definitely domestic livestock — not "wild beasts" as an Australian judge ruled recently in a pearly squabble in the Antipodes.

For this we have the word of W. Chester S. McLure, Progressive Conservative member of Parliament for Queen's, P.E.I., unofficial ambassador-at-large for the Island province, and enthusiast on oyster aquaculture.

Mr. McLure does not insist that Prince Edward Island Malpeque oysters are the best in the world any more than he insists that two and two make four. Why labor the point? He says the oyster industry in Central Canada who never had a chance to sample the delectable bivalves from the aqua-farms of the Gulf.

To many people in Canada, the phrase, "and the territorial waters thereof" is just so much legalistic patter chiefly linked with the N.R. M.A. But not to Mr. McLure, nor to his colleagues of the coastal constituencies.

The waters are as vital as the shore itself. There's gold in those green hills of surf-tipped billows, and jobs for a large number of his caplets' ankles are to be had on the living hidden wealth of the bays.

This time of year — just when October has set into Malpeque oysters are at the peak of succulence and flavor. Later they are in danger of getting too dry by the time they are good but not quite the oyster's ideal.

There really is a reason why oysters had not served during the months having no "R" in them. Mr. McLure tells us. From May to August is spawning time, and while not poisonous nor harmful, oysters in these months are not clean and firm. Besides, the temperature of the water is too high for them to be at their best.

And how about pearls? Well, pearls have been found in Prince Edward Island oysters. In Montreal a commercial traveler almost by accident discovered a pearl embedded in a Malpeque. He sold it for \$2 to the counterpane, who sold it to a restaurateur, proprietor, who in turn passed it on until the price was run up to \$800.

But pearls, the Prince Edward Island member hastens to explain, are rare in healthy oysters, and so they are not allowed to be in his balliwick. The wealth is in the animal itself.

There are advantages about oyster-farming which puts it in a class by itself and way ahead of livestock enterprises on land. Oysters vary from two to six acres, and they themselves are self-feeding, taking their nourishment from the sea. They are not a class by themselves, but a class of food material coming into the bay in fresh-water streams which flow down through the rich soil.

You don't need any cowboys to ride rough shod and scatter sheepherders with pipes and crook, nor even an old mongrel like Rover who brings in the cows, and you don't need any cowboys to guard your oysters until their owners come with twelve-foot scissor-like rakes and sweep them into the boat on a first stage of their trip to Canadian and United States markets.

What would happen if Mr. McLure, if an oysterman raided the aqua-farm of his neighbor? He admitted it was hard to say. In general they just don't do that. They are not a class by themselves, but a class of food material coming into the bay in fresh-water streams which flow down through the rich soil.

Actually oyster-farming is a comparatively new development in the Prince Edward Island coast, although its bays have always been famous for the Malpeque "cup oysters" which are so highly prized. The oyster industry today are practically 100 percent immune from oyster maladies.

Stretching of sea-bottom, preferably with already oyster-covered oyster-beds, is one deadly enemy of oyster-farming. The disease was since a blessing in disguise, almost P.E.I. oysters today are practically 100 percent immune from oyster maladies.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

U.S. POTATO IMPORTS

Sir, — This morning's mail brought me a potato bulletin under date of November 3, 1945, from Messrs. Leo Holman Ltd., Toronto, which I felt would be of public interest to the farmer throughout the Province, and which I have permission to quote:

"MacLean's" Article Contradicted

A recent issue of Maclean's Magazine contained the following reflection on the Russian sailors then in Canada taking over Canadian minesweepers:

"In Toronto's West End 126 men live, work and study in seclusion behind barred windows. They are the 25 officers and 100 other ranks of the Red Fleet in Canada. Some of the 126 minesweepers on order for the Soviet Navy."

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