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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1939

A Futile Smoke-Screen

The resident Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette pictures a 1939 Dominion election, with Premier King, whose record is not particularly impressive, raising the smoke screen of "national unity," so as to divert public attention from less pleasant issues. "Already," writes The Gazette's staff reporter, "Premier Mackenzie King, not so sure about the record of his administration, has hinted, even threatened, that he will seek to focus public attention on the question of national unity. If that be so, he is almost bound to charge certain Provincial Governments with throwing sand in the machinery, and to challenge those Provinces to get behind the Dominion in efforts at solidifying national unity, which, these days, means increasing Federal power, widening central authority."

But if such a line of campaign strategy is really contemplated by Mr. King, it is likely to lose much of its force by reason of the ironical failure of his pre-election representations in 1935. "He will be answered," writes The Gazette correspondent, "with counter-charges that, since his return to power in 1935, harmony between his Government and some of the more important Provincial Liberal Administrations has been only a legend. He will be told that a complete failure to harmonize the interests of Ontario with those of the Dominion on certain essential issues must be laid to a considerable extent to him."

After giving a list of the matters of high concern over which the King Government has got into conflict with the Hepburn Government, the Gazette's writer quotes Mr. King's announced decision to fight the Ontario Liberal Premier "to the finish", and adds: "This in the face of disclosures made at the recent Liberal caucus that Federal Liberals from Ontario are fearful of their fate in the coming general election, should this personal strife reach into the rank and file of the Liberal parties in that Province."

But the big issue, the Gazette's correspondent thinks, will turn upon the question of social security reform, and here the King Government's record is anything but radiant.

When Their Majesties Come

The visit of Their Majesties next spring will be a memorable one. There will be great demonstrations, manifestations of loyalty, many trumpetings and flags. Yet, suggests the Ottawa Journal, it will not be such things—not the parades and decorations and like outward signs—that the King and Queen will look for or notice most. What they will seek to find, rather, will be the measure of well-being for the common crowd; whether in this realm of the Empire there is prosperity and good and decent living for the average man; whether behind our facade of professed loyalty to the things and institutions which the Empire stands for there is practical devotion told in a practical way.

Cheers, like tears, dry up and leave no trace. When Their Majesties return to England and to Buckingham Palace, the memories they will have of Canada, the things they will talk about, will not be of the welcoming cheers they got, nor of the parades nor salutes of cannon, nor of the expression of devotion in official addresses of welcome. Their talk and their memories will be of what they noted here in the common, everyday lives of our people; of what they saw in our social, economic and cultural progress; of the proof (or lack of it) which we gave in useful allegiance to the things we spoke.

Lower Trade, Higher Taxes

Although Canada's external trade declined 16 per cent in value last calendar year from the 1937 record, it is noteworthy that the national revenues of the Dominion for 1938 were almost on the previous year's level. The difference may not exceed $5,000,000, or approximately one per cent.

In the calendar year 1937, the National Revenue Department collected $437,869,231. The figures for last month are of course not yet available, but an estimate published by the Ottawa Journal places the collections for the whole calendar year of 1938 at $433,000,000.

Last year customs receipts fell to about $81,250,000 from the 1937 total of $93,772,334. But this loss of $12,500,000, as well as corresponding declines in excise duties and taxes, was almost counter balanced by a 1938 gain of approximately $24,000,000 in income taxes. In 1937 this source of revenue yielded the Treasury about $118,000,000. Last year income tax receipts rose to a total of $142,000,000, that is, if the unofficial estimate for December is approximately correct.

We therefore have the paradox of reduced business and lower earnings, coupled with a 20 per cent increase in the tax collections from income.

Science And Faith

That scientists of the present generation are believers was evidenced by Dr. George D. Birkhoff, mathematician and dean of the faculty of arts and science at Harvard, in his address as retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Richmond, Va. He told his audience of the country's leading scientists that a life of delving into the abstractions of higher mathematics had convinced him that faith and intuition were as essential as reason in the development of modern scientific ideas. "In the daring effort of the scientist to extend knowledge as far as possible," Dean Birkhoff said, "there arises an aura of faith. It is this spontaneous faith which furnishes the most powerful incentive and is the best guide to further progress." On any scientific level, he said, intuition, reason and faith played interdependent roles. Intuition spontaneously provided essential elementary concepts. On the base of these notions, reason built a rational superstructure. Finally, faith embraced those general points of view which were above reason, but which seemed of supreme importance in giving scientific conclusion the widest possible scope. Dean Birkhoff outlined three articles of his own faith, as follows:

1. It is desirable to accord reality in equal measure to all kinds of knowledge everywhere, and so to view the universe as broadly and impartially as possible.

2. In order to understand the various facts and their interrelations we must always use abstractions, that is, conceptual tools of a logical or mathematical nature.

3. The transcendent importance of love and good-will in all human relations is shown by their mighty beneficient effect upon the individual and society.

Editorial Notes

Napoleon III died this date, 1873.

* * * *

Archdeacon Raymond has been the recipient of many congratulations on his high and well-deserved preferment.

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Everything is reported to be ready for the opening of Parliament this week. The Leader of the Opposition has called a party caucus of his 37 followers in the House of Commons for Wednesday; while a Government caucus will be held later to sit on Premier Hepburn, and to discuss the length of the session.

* * * *

A new rector of the Irish College in Rome is announced in succession to the Right Rev. Mgr. Curran who has retired, viz. Rev. Dr. McDaid, curate in Kilrea, Londonderry. Only in his 40th year, Dr. McDaid will be one of the youngest priests ever to have held the post.

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In Quebec the authorities have decided to take stern action with that objectionable type of autoist and teamster who refuses to give the right of way to a passing car. In Quebec City the other day an accused was sentenced to 10 days in jail, or a fine of $10 and costs estimated at $75.

* * * *

Lord Tweedsmuir's term expires in about a year, and already quid nuncs are suggesting probable successors, among whom is mentioned Sir John Reith, Chairman of Imperial Airways, and former director general of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Perhaps Mr. W. E. Gladstone Murray, of the C.B.C., may have some hand in farthering Sir John's candidature, as through long association with him in B.B.C. he must be intimately acquainted with his administrative ability and attractive personality.

* * * *

An old Charlottetown reporter, Mr. J. E. Matthews, takes his seat as member for Brandon, Man., in the House of Commons this week and later will move the adoption of the address. After graduating in journalism, Mr. Matthews went into the insurance business with the late Mr. J. K. Ross, later being transferred to Brandon where he made good, rising to the Presidency of the Association, in which capacity he re-visited here last year.

* * * *

Complaint is made that the padlocking of speakeasies is creating a fire risk in the city. One house which has come under the ban has been practically wrecked since being padlocked, and the representatives of the proprietrix have been refused admission to make necessary temporary repairs. Property owners in the vicinity are afraid of incendiarism, and the law refuses to do anything in the matter for a period of six months. There must be something radically wrong with a law that, in order to get rid of one evil, creates a greater.

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In Toronto they have a 50 year old newsy so fond of good music that when there is any opera on, he sells his evening papers in evening dress including top hat, in order to get to the Opera House without delay. The other day he told a reporter that he would gladly give a daily news paper for life to any one who would pay his expenses to New York to hear "Don Giovanni" at the Metropolitan Opera House. A C.P. story to this effect was carried to New York newspapers, with the result that Mr. Edward Johnson, manager of the opera company, and Mr. Richard Crooks, leading tenor, volunteered to pay all the expenses to-and-from Toronto. "A newsy who has the good sense to appreciate Don Giovanni", said Mr. Crooks, "deserves all the encouragement that can be given him."

* * * *

New menaces to Australian security have brought Constitutional reform into the forefront again. The Australian Federation consists of six Sovereign States which transferred to the Commonwealth certain powers over national affairs, including defence, customs, post-offices, quarantine, interstate industries and control of territories. Legal clashes between Federal and State authority have been frequent. The failure of the recent Premiers' Conference called to deal with defence has turned the minds of many Federal members to the old problem of amending the Constitution to give the commonwealth powers to deal with all national questions. There is a feeling on both sides of the Federal Parliament that the lead must be taken by the Parliament as a whole, although the original move must be initiated by the Government, as suggested by Mr. Lyons in his election policy speech in 1931. There are two methods of amending the Constitution. The first, which is simpler and quicker, is that of "reference" by the States to the Commonwealth of specified powers and functions. This method has proved unworkable hitherto, because of the refusal of the States to surrender powers. The second method is by referendum, an amendment so approved requiring the assent of the majority of the voters in a majority of the States.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Five of seven children belonging to a Glace Bay, C.B., family are ill with a severe type of diphtheria. The other two are unaffected. Why? Because they were recently the only members of the family to attend a toxid clinic. The moral of this ought to be obvious to parents in general. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

If the tax were reduced from eight to six percent — a reduction of 25 percent, in the tax-the consumers would pay $42,000,000 less. Their purchasing power would be substantially increased and trade and industry would benefit. This is all assuming, of course, that the Government found it possible to reduce the tax. —Winnipeg Free Press.

A visitor from Saskatchwean brings the story of a farmer in that province who, seeing his neighbors go on relief one after another, consulted his bankers as to whether, if he also became a public charge, they would allow him to keep his accounts with them — between seven and eight thousand dollars at each of two banks. He explained when asked that being the only self-supporting member of the community he saw no reason why he should continue to support all the others. Wonder how many of us, on a smaller scale perhaps, have sometimes felt like that. —Calgary Albertan.

The National Trust are seeking a warden for the Calf of Man, an island property some five miles in circumference, and separated from the Isle of Man by a channel a quarter of a mile across. Though the channel is narrow a strong tide runs, and may in rough weather cut off all communication for days on end. Bounded by cliffs rising to 400 ft. in places, the island has a well built farmhouse and some 60 acres of farmland and further rough grazing. There are also two lighthouses, one of which has been turned into a residence. The problem is to find someone who is prepared to make the island his home, to run the farm for his own needs, to look after the property, to watch the bird and plant life, and to collect landing fees. On this island sanctuary merlins, peregrines, choughs, ravens, guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins, razorbills, and some 70 other species may be observed. —London Times.

Throughout Southern Ontario, the process of suitably marking historical spots is going on apace. The Ontario Highways Department has inspired a great deal of this effort, and Northern Ontario has been reminded from this source that it should not overlook its historical spots. In the Porcupine, the one historical relic preserved is the first little stamp mill set up on the Hollinger property, and year by year as the immense development [illegible] is recorded, this mill, already most suitably placed by the company, will take on much added historical value. But there are other notable happenings to which attention should be called in the future. There should be a spot to mark some historical landmark in Kelso, from which the thrusts into the Porcupine were made and names of men like George Bannerman and the many others who contributed to the opening up of this country should be linked with the story. —Timmins Press.

Industrial plants in Britain are steadily becoming cleaner and factory chimneys which belch great quantities of black smoke over the towns and countryside are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Yet the big British towns, while freer of smoke and hence cleaner than they used to be still leave much to be desired in this respect. Strangely enough, Cardiff, the world's largest coal port, is the cleanest town of its size in Britain. A speaker at the annual conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society said that not only were the public buildings of Cardiff less sooty and begrimed than those of other cities in Britain, but that Cardiff also had a better sunshine record than similar places in these islands. This is due to the quality of the Welch coal burned in the city. —Industrial Britain.

A weather-wiseacre could have told on Sunday that the present cold snap was overdue, for if he looked in the sky he could see two of the brightest "sun dogs" that ever framed the sun. Officials of the weather bureau may say that "sun dogs" are no indication that it is going to be cold, but they are merely proof that it is cold. All the unofficial weather prophet has to do in reply is point to the thermometer. There is no denying that when the mercury dips to 35 below there is a lack of balminess in the air. Even so evanescent a thing as chimney smoke seems to wilt and go floundering, not up into the blue, but all over the street And citizens, forgetting from one winter to the next how cold sub-zero weather can be, have to become acclimatized all over again. Yet, though Winnipeggers may grumble, they have a secret pride in carrying on in the face of 30-below weather, or better, or worse. For proof, one has only to refer to the Weather Bureau. When the Arctic seems to have swamped the city and thermometers are depressed, the bureau is deluged with requests for copies of the official weather map. These are proudly despatched to friends who are at ease in more balmy regions of the earth, but who have less stamina. —Winnipeg Tribune.

On New Year's Day, just nineteen years ago, the American Quaker began their post-war work of mercy in feeding the starving children of Germany. The German Government had requested aid in the emergency and while generous contributions were made by all classes, the Friends took the lead and furnished the organization. Dr. Rufus M. Jones, now back in Germany again to see what help is needed that can be given to persecuted minorities, was the chairman of that organization. This work continued for five years. President Ebert urged its continuance when, the most urgent need having been met, the Quakers were preparing to withdaw. According to the New York Times, "between February 15 and October 7, 1924, more than a million German children from 6 to 14 years old were fed daily". These children are now from 20 to 28. Many of them doubtless are storm-troopers taking their part in the Nazi persecutions. To them are addressed the mirthful comments of Dr. Gobbels' newspaper: "Surely these three Quaker figures are wise men who, no doubt, this time too, hail from the East....We hope they will make themselves known when they are here. Then we shall know when to begin to quake—quake duly before the Quakers from the U.S.A. Don't expect us to take them seriously. We can't help it, we must laugh." Yes, it is well enough that they can laugh. At the time of the earlier Quaker visit there were tears of hunger and of gratitude in German eyes. —The Christian Century.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THREE SIMPLE SYMPTOMS OF CANCER OF STOMACH

A man of fifty half apologized to his physician as he entered the consulting room because there didn't seem to be much wrong with him. "I have little or no pain, just a little heaviness about the stomach but I have no appetite and I am losing weight."

An Xray showed trouble present and an immediate operation revealed cancer which was removed.

It is this lack of severe pain in the stomach that prevents patients consulting a physician until it is sometimes too late for operation. This explains also why "the stomach is the commonest seat of cancer in the body."

Dr. John Morley, Manchester, in the British Medical Journal, after recording the heavy death rate from cancer of the stomach in England and Wales, speaks of the mild or hidden symptoms of cancer of the stomach.

"The first symptoms to be noticed in the great majority of cases are a vague discomfort after meals and an unaccountable failure of appetite. The patient is usually of the cancer age (over 40 years) and has never suffered with indigestion before.

With the failure of appetite there is a steady loss of weight and, as a rule, a progressive development of anaemia (thin blood).

The Xray is the most important method of learning whether or not cancer is present."

As the best method of treatment is by operation, if patient is too much run-down and blood very thin, Dr. Morley suggests that the patient be built up and his blood enriched as much as possible before operation by a short course of large doses of iron. Even in the hopeless cases it is often possible to lessen the distressing effects of anaemia by the use of these massive doses of iron.

The thought then is that when the individual is over forty years of age and the symptoms above mentioned are present—uneasiness in stomach after meals, loss of appetite—the possibility of cancer be considered.

Fortunately most cases of 'pain' in the stomach are not due to cancer.

It should be remembered that cancer of the stomach is 'easy' to cure in early stages and difficult —really impossible—to cure in its late stages.

Lacking Ginger

(Montreal Star)

The outcome of their attempt to organize a "ginger group" in the House of Commons to oppose Premier Chamberlain's foreign policy must have been more than a little disheartening to the promoters of the movement which was launched after a great splurge of preliminary publicity last night, for it looks very much as though it had "died aborning." Led by the irrepressible Mr. Sandys, son-in-law of Winston Churchill, and Capt. Liddell Hart, military critic of the London Times, who has been one of the bitterest opponents of the Munich Accord, the meeting did nothing more than demand the formation of a non-party national government with a strong foreign policy. But the audience in attendance was not the audience that had been confidently anticipated. Many invited did not turn up; Churchill himself was a notable absentee; and both the former Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden and his friends, and the Labour party as a whole, declined to have anything to do with the matter. In other words, the support of prominent members of all parties, which the movement had claimed, was not forthcoming.

But the "ginger group" did achieve one thing,—they appointed the Duchess of Atholl as treasurer of the fund which they hope to raise by subscriptions of $5 apiece from one hundred thousand supporters. If the latter are as nebulous as the meeting would seem to indicate, then they may have to look closer home for ready cash.

Premier Chamberlain, far from being worried, ought to be greatly heartened by this latest manifestation of the weakness of his opponents in Parliament. Of course he has some, and bitter ones. But so has every Premier, even in less strenuous times than these, and the failure of those who hold his foreign policy weak is the best proof that he has the solid majority of Parliament behind him. As the days pass by, and the fact that the Munich Accord has saved Britain and the Empire from a war that might have spelled disaster for whole generations becomes increasingly clear, the debt the nation owes to Chamberlain is more and more manifest and is being acknowledged in quarters where it had been previously denied or at least challenged.

The Poets' Corner

WINTER NIGHTS

Now winter nights enlarge
The number of their hours,
And clouds their storms discharge
Upon the airy towers.
Let now the chimneys blaze
And cups o'erflow with wine;
Let well-tuned words amaze
With harmony divine!
Now yellow waxen lights
Shall wait on honey love,
While youthful revels, masques, and courtly sights
Sleep's leaden spells remove.

This time doth well dispense
With lovers' long discourse;
Much speed hath some defence,
Though beauty no remorse.
All do not all things well;
Some measures comely tread,
Some knotted riddles tell,
Some poems smoothly read.
The summer hath his joys,
The winter his delights;
Though love and all his pleasures are but toys
They shorten tedious nights.

—Thomas Campion (1567-1619)

Just Wasted

(Hamilton Spectator)

"I doubt it," said the carpenter.

The doubts are over. The whole suspicious history of man's inhumanity to the oyster has been revealed as legendary, and the most hidebound anti-vivisectionist can reflect that in the eating of this shellfish delicacy there is neither cruelty nor sadism.

The oyster, in short, can't feel anything. You can prod him, tickle him, run him through with a sword and his reactions are less than those of a politican to a campaign for reduction of the tax rate. And the authority for it is T. Ireland, F.R.Z.S., Australian museum conchologist.

Now a conchologist, for the relatively ill-informed, is a specialist in the study of mollusks and other shell-covered forms of life. Mr. Ireland, as such, was confronted with the statement of the president of the New South Wales Gun club, who probably was defending himself for fox hunting or something along that line, that "sticking forks in live oysters and eating them is the cruellest thing I know."

Retorted Mr. Ireland: "You can cut an oyster into 50 bits and it will feel no pain. It's about as sensitive as the sole of my boot."

With this imperial contribution to the more humane drive of villization, surely another dominion, in the midst of armament building, might give solace to those who believe that a worm is a trifle annoyed when put on a hook. A conchologist might not know, but a

Mussolini's Tactics

(London Free Press)

A fine exhibition of the new technique being employed by the dictators is now being given by Italy. Extravagant demands for French territory are being made in the controlled press and by Fascist officials. This serves the double purpose of causing anxiety in France and giving the Italians something other than tightened belts to think about. At the same time less publicized statements indicate that Mussolini can be appeased with much less than the original demand.

This is perhaps intended to make it possible for Il Duce to put forward terms to Prime Minister Chamberlain which appear reasonable in comparison with what some of his followers are clamoring for, but which mean more than anyone was prepared to concede before the outcry was staged. Obviously Mr. Chamberlain must be prepared to make additional concessions when he visits Rome next month, or the appeasement policy must be abandoned. There are signs that it may be abandoned anyway but the British leader is determined to follow it as far as possible before giving up hopes of a peaceful settlement of the problems now vexing Europe.

Mussolini may be preparing a graceful compromise, comparable to that of Munich, by which the peace of Europe can again be saved by concession which will not involve transfer of any British territory. But it is difficult to see how far this policy can be pursued, without a point being reached which will call for concessions from the other side. Indeed the statement of Prime Minister Chamberlain that he is waiting for some generous gesture from another quarter might mean that the point is very near.

In addition to using the old horse-trading trick of asking a great deal in the hope that he might gain something Mussolini may be pursuing a deeper policy. By attacking France while he is wooing Britain he may be hoping to divide Britain and France. In this, he is being aided, consciously or not, by the fact that Germany, at the moment, is more friendly to France than to Britain.

What the outcome of the Rome conversations in January between Chamberlain and Mussolini will be can hardly be predicted. But it is safe to say that no second Munich agreement is likely.

No Chips In Europe?

"We have no chips," observes the New York World-Telegram. "In any European war . . . The only axis we are joining is a peace axis that extends from the North Pole to the South Pole and stays inside this hemisphere."

So the United States has no concern with what happens in Europe? Let us see.

Suppose Germany and Italy make war on Britain and France, and win. Peace terms are dictated by the arrogant and triumphant dictatorships and the will of Hitler is supreme in Europe. Britain loses her navy, the Empire is dismembered—Britain becomes another Holland. France is mutilated and made impotent. Italy dominates the Mediterranean, Italy and Germany control Africa—they are free to take what they want of Europe and Africa, and Japan, with their aid and approval, would reach out over Asia.

Would our good friend Uncle Sam have then no chips in Europe? Could he contemplate, without doubt over the outcome, the prospect of taking on alone—as inevitably he would have to do—the combined might of Germany, Italy and Japan? Could he stand alone, the last redoubt of democracy, in a world otherwise mastered by raw power?

Uncle Sam sleeps better of nigh'a, we think, because he knows the British Navy holds the seven seas. Uncle Sam has ships in Gibraltar, in the Maginot Line, in every gun and fort and man supporting the things in which the United States believes. Americans who are thoughtful and well-informed know this is true, know their fortunes are linked inextricably with the fortunes of the other democratic nations.

King George The Sixth

CHAPTER FIVE

"Rule, Britannia, rule the waves;
Britons never will be slaves."
—Thomson.

Up to the age of thirteen years, Prince Albert, who is now King George the Sixth, lived in the comparative seclusion of the Royal household, sheltered in the peaceful nursery under the watchful eyes of the Governess Madame Bricka and her devoted staff and the sound intellectual atmosphere as created by the brilliant tutor, Mr. Hansell and his scholarly assistants, but the period which followed from 1909 to 1917 was far more active, being destined to prove a decisive time in the young Prince's life and bringing him closer to the realities of life.

Anyone who has studied carefully the life of the late King George the Fifth is bound to be impressed with the fact that the beloved King loved the seas, with a distinct preference for service in the Royal Navy. Of course, this great love for the Navy started early in the case of King George the Fifth and he is said to have been an extremely enthusiastic student while undergoing his training in the Naval Training Colleges. He had a natural inclination for this kind of work, and it is no secret that the monarch influenced his second son by recounting the stories and experiences of a cadet at Osborne and Dartmouth since the basic training in the Navy does not vary greatly from one generation to another. Consequently, in 1909 Prince Albert decided to follow in the footsteps of his father, and he expressed a desire to enter the Naval Training College at Osborne.

It must be remembered that almost all naval cadets who enter upon such a sea-going career receive a carefully planned training course to prepare them for the ordeal of the strict discipline which is characteristic of the British Royal Navy from the top ranks to the lowest position and it is only by slow degrees that any youngster can become accustomed to the kind of responsibility, technique, self-control and the routine which is entirely different from that which one finds in the ordinary private or public schools of Great Britain. All orders must be taken without question and they must be carried out "on the run" in a prompt and diligent manner, whether it is a command of the Admiral of the whole fleet or anyone of only one rank higher. There are no excuses and no person is allowed to answer back. Only those individuals who have actually been through such a training can really appreciate the atmosphere of such a place as Osborne or Dartmouth.

However, Prince Albert entered Osborne as an ordinary cadet with a strict understanding that he was to work his way through the courses without any privileges or marks of rank, though he had never been prepared to follow such a strict discipline. Yet, he succeeded in all the practical and theoretical tests, which are the preliminary requirements to the Naval career, whereas many other cadets, who had the advantages of a preparatory school training specially planned to fit them for this ordeal, were eliminated as unfit for such a calling. Most other children who would be placed in such an environment suddenly and without preparation would have failed, but the second son of the King had gladly and eagerly worked day and night to accomplish his purpose of becoming acquainted with one of the most important services of the nation's defence forces, which indicates that he sensed his responsibilities early in life. Unfortunately he began to suffer severe attacks of a grave illness towards the end of his career and it interferred with his ambitions.

(Continued next week)
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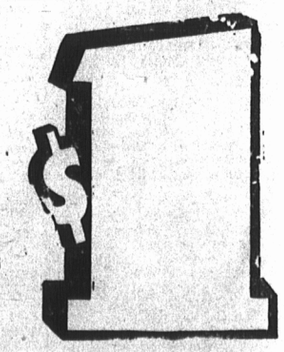

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