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

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1946

The Paris Conference

The peace conference which convenes at Paris on July 29 will be more limited in scope than the Versailles conference of 1919. That may be all to the good. At any rate it will not attempt to lay down a general settlement as was done at Versailles, and the agenda contains no reference to peace treaties with either Germany or Japan. It is chiefly with the satellite powers — Italy, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland — that the conference discussions will deal. There will be problems of boundaries, reparations and population which are of immediate concern to Europe; and it is, of course, impossible to discuss these matters, or any settlement with Eastern and Southern Europe, without reference to the basic problem of Germany.

The first world war ended on November 11, 1918, and the peace conference began its regular business sessions on January 12, 1919. There was no delay similar to the one which has occurred since the war in Europe ended. Such a cooling-off period was planned in order to build the machinery of the United Nations. Also it was hoped to avoid the mistakes of the past by giving the Great Powers special duties in keeping watch over Germany and Japan and by keeping the Charter of the United Nations free from the changes and chances of a military settlement in Europe.

Lastly it is emphasized that the Paris conference will put much greater emphasis on economic problems than was done at Versailles. There was nothing in the old League Covenant to compare with the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations. That is one lesson we learned from World War II — that freedom from fear is a mockery unless it is accompanied by freedom from want.

The Flag And The Legion

Parliament has done well to shelve the flag issue until next session. This is in accord with a suggestion made by *The Legionary*, organ of the Canadian Legion. The acrimonious dispute that has developed could have been avoided, *The Legionary* believes, "if instead of appointing the Senate flag committee and inviting designs from every amateur herald in the Dominion, the Government had given direct leadership and asked Parliament to approve of the Red Ensign, with a maple leaf in the fly, as the official flag of Canada. Had this been done a year ago, the Government's bill would undoubtedly have been endorsed by the legislators with a minimum of delay and would have been accepted with satisfaction by the great majority of Canadians to whom the Canadian Red Ensign has already for years in actual fact been the Dominion's own flag."

Why didn't Prime Minister King take this course? He chose to walk crabwise instead of straight forward, creating unnecessary trouble for himself and the country. *The Legionary* takes a charitable view, suggesting that Mr. King "no doubt believed this to be in the best democratic tradition and had no idea his decision would provide a field day for every would-be flag designer in the country"; a conclusion which is problematical, to say the least. Something other than Mr. King's passion for democracy accounts for his pussyfooting on every issue that threatens to cost him votes.

The Legionary suggests that "all too many Canadians of both French and British descent, including a good many war veterans, have only the scantiest knowledge of the innumerable advantages this country enjoys by virtue of her membership in the great community of equal, freedom-loving nations which constitute the British Commonwealth and Empire." From this it concludes that "far too many Canadians fail to realize the extent to which Canada's prestige would be lowered in the eyes of the rest of the world if the visible sign of her membership in that Commonwealth were to disappear from her national flag. Shelving the flag issue for a year would provide an opportunity for clear thinking and well-informed individuals, as well as newspapers, schools and organizations such as the Canadian Legion, to conduct an educational campaign which would make it clear to Canadians of every racial strain what a priceless privilege it is to be a member of the British Commonwealth and Empire, like Australia, New Zealand and the other sister-members, to be able to incorporate the badge of that membership, the Union Jack, in our flag."

Farm Employment

Recently the Department of Labor at Ottawa issued an order under which experienced farm help who have been working in industry and are now idle may, after due process of inquiry, be refused unemployment insurance benefits if they refuse farm work.

The order, says the *Winnipeg Free Press*, is hedged with many "ifs" for the protection of the worker. Thus it applies only if he has had farm experience or is able to do the work, if it

will work no hardship on him or his family, if there is a specific farm job to which he is to be sent, if he has drawn to weeks unemployment benefits in the last three months and so on. Only after all these "ifs" have been answered his refusal of farm work is referred to an arbitration board which can order payments stopped.

This seems ample guarantee against hardship resulting from an arbitrary ruling which interferes with or terminates what is undoubtedly the right of the insured man. Nevertheless, it is an arbitrary removal of the right to get his payments to which he contributed while working. It is a method of compelling him to work. It is using a contributory fund, in part his own savings, to coerce him into work which he has rejected. It is not the purpose for which the unemployment insurance system was set up. It is one of those interferences with individual liberty which normally Canadians resent.

But there is famine over most of the world and five bushels of wheat will feed two persons for a year and there is a crop to be harvested. If Canada allows its crop to rot in the field because of lack of harvest help and a million persons starve to death in Europe this winter, Canadians would have to shoulder the responsibility.

Perhaps it is because Canadians realize these facts so well there has been no protest anywhere against his arbitrary ruling. There has been no protest from labor unions and they ordinarily would be first to raise their voices. But it is something to be kept in mind, something about which to protest should there be the slightest abuse of the ruling or when it is no longer needed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hay cut and ungathered over the week-end will get leave to be until the sun returns to duty.

It is now predicted Parliament will prorogue September 1 unless greater progress than heretofore is made with the crowded order paper. Previously it was assumed the House would rise about the middle of August.

Now that sweets are severely rationed we are being told of their medicinal qualities. Candy and cookies given to children last night are good for their teeth, Dr. J. D. King of the Medical Research Council, told the National Conference of Maternity and Child Welfare in London. He said experiments at an orphanage resulted in decayed teeth becoming hard and healthy through eating candy at nights.

Lord Dufferin and avia was appointed Governor-General of Canada in 1872, and on this date 1783 visited Charlottetown for conference with the government; was entertained at a ball given at Government House; he paved the way by his visit for the entrance of the Province into Confederation; and three years later was able by his diplomacy, to allay the growing discontent with Confederation in British Columbia.

The signing of a four-year wheat contract between Canada and Britain will mean that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange will not be opened for wheat trading for another four years. High government sources explain that the signing of the contract will mean that the Canadian Wheat Board, which has been handling the marketing of Canadian grain since 1943, will continue in operation for another four years and that this automatically will shut the exchange out of the wheat business. At the same time, these sources disclose further information on the terms of the contract, which will be at a fixed price of \$1.55 a bushel for the first two years with no ceiling but a floor price for the second two years.

This will be appreciated by those here having the responsibility of handling officers and men. Claiming that independence was the outstanding characteristic of Worcestershire folk — though he admitted that some critics of his native English county called it just plain "okkeriness" — Mr. Syd Carter tells a story of the Home Guard days. He had taken a party of men from a village to dig some machine gun pits. He explained what he wanted done and bluntly told them "to get on with it," for things were urgent in those days. The leader of the party looked him up and down: "Be you a asking us, or be you a telling us? Cos, if you be a telling us..." Mr. Carter recognized the red light, and gave the right answer. "That's all right then, Master Syd" came the answer "We'll dig 'un." And "dig 'un" they did, with speed and accuracy. In this respect Islanders are no different from Worcestershire folk.

At least once a week an overworked British House of Commons devotes most of its question hour to Scottish members bubbling with inquiry about what is being done by the country and its 5,000,000 people. Joe Westwood, Secretary for Scotland, and his under-secretaries George Buchanan and Tom Fraser, answer cautiously the written questions on the order paper and then barely have time to catch their breath before they are buried in a shower of supplementary questions. In one recent session 17 written questions, supplemented by at least as many asked orally, ranged from inquiries about the height and weight of Aberdeen children and lack of motor trucks to queries on pollution of rivers and why the electrification of the Hebrides was taking so long. Thoughtful Scots believe persistent propaganda for their own country will bring more industries and employment north of the border. They are making the English well aware that power from Scottish hydro-electric plants now being developed will be used to drive machinery in the south. They will keep on reminding England that Scottish water power should be used to develop Scotland and give jobs to Scottish men and women. "If we keep repeating it often enough the English eventually will agree with us—but we just can't afford to stay silent," said one Scot.

Notes By The Way

Quebec is planning a campaign against slot machines. The hardware of these gambling devices is extraordinary and the great deal of punishment and still come up clanking. —Ottawa Journal.

Children in the New York City area are personally experiencing inflationary bites in their spending allowances — lollipops have gone up 233 percent in price. Forcibly selling at one cent each, the price last week was three for 10 cents. —Toronto Star.

This is the time for mothers of young children to remember that flies are germ-carriers. In many instances attacks of summer diarrhoea among children are caused by germs distributed by flies in the baby's food or dishes. The health department urges housewives to keep flies out of the house with screens or mosquito netting. —Toronto Star.

If anyone has serious thought of raising the interest rate to \$3.00 a year, he had better think again unless he wishes to stir up real trouble for all those connected with the Government in this country which is far from being the thing that we were told it would be when it began its operations. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

H. G. Wells's blast against British royalty can be dismissed as so much wind. Like that other literary giant, H. G. Wells, Wells always tries to attract attention to himself or to his works by saying or writing unusual extravagant and amusing things. With all their learning, Wells and Shaw are still badly in need of higher-down than even a presidential airplane. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

We don't suppose that anything we may say will be of the slightest influence in persuading more of the younger doctors to cast in their lot with the country rather than the town or the city. But we do know that the country will welcome them and on the whole give them a good and satisfactory living if they are put up their "chuckles" in some of the villages that, having their own physicians, are now without them. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

The New Jersey Council of Christian Churches may be on hand in contending that the name of President Truman's official plane should be changed from the Sacred Cow, thinks it is more fitting that it be named after the suggestions of American Eagle of Christ of Freedom sound a little higher-down than even a presidential airplane. Maybe it's a good occasion for compromise. All right then how about the Independence Accommodations of the State of New Jersey or Jackson County Democratic Club, Air-Borne Division? or the increasing number of the estab-lished Shangri-La? Or do we hear any other suggestions?

Reflecting on the reports of the Bikini tests, a philosopher might conclude that the self-destructive elements in the human mind are gaining complete control. Not only was the tremendous power of atomic energy developed, but even in peace time, the first tests of it are for destruction. But they can have constructive results. The nuclear energy of the atomic bomb may gain knowledge. The atomic energy of the atomic bomb may gain knowledge. The atomic energy of the atomic bomb may gain knowledge.

Canada's first drive-in highway movie theatre — "to which the fans bring their own seats under gasol-ine power" — opened this week on Hamilton's outskirts. Occupying an area of 13 acres, it may be followed by construction of at least five others in major centres of the Southern Ontario region, from London to Toronto. The theatre consists simply of a big open lot averaging 10 to 18 acres, with an area of 200 to 500 cars, projection equipment and a screen. Adults are charged 50 cents each; no charge for children. At 8:00 p.m. the theatre is estimated to make "the take" might run around \$1,500 a night during midsummer. The typical possessor of a television set is a young man, single, with a double salary, and a young woman, single, with a double salary. The theatre is a system of graded and gravelled ramps on which cars of the spectators are ranged before the show starts. —Financial Post, Toronto.

How completely one of the country's most vital necessities — telephone communication, has been placed in the hands of women is shown by a study by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. The New York Sun reports that in the following statistics 99.1 percent of employees were women, four out of every five of them operators. Of the whole number of employees, 75.3 percent were women. Men of course, do have their place. Serious outdoor jobs keeping the lines functioning through blizzards, hurricanes and floods are theirs. And they still hold most of the major executive posts. But the "voice with a smile" with which the average telephone user is in contact is distinctly feminine. Its typical possessor is a young woman, under 30, unmarried and a high school graduate. These statistics would indicate that it is temporarily her place is at the phone, she is not averse to sur-rendering it for a place in the home.

Most people are optimists in the sense that they think they have plenty of time to catch their train. For years railway companies have tried to correct this amiable weakness by keeping the clock outside the station a minute or two fast. The London Times. Only when the too casual traveler has reached the platform, or in more technical language he has discovered with a mixture of relief and irritation that there is no such desperate hurry after all. He need not have been so cross with the old lady in front of him at the ticket office who took an intolerably long time in counting her change. The great railway companies have decided to abandon this time-honored practice and in future, so it is announced, the clocks of the L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. will show the right time. What has prompted this "iconoclastic proceeding" we are not told. It may be that old pretense is by

PUBLIC FORUM

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

BREAD RATIONING SUGGESTED

Mr. Lawrence Skey, Progressive Conservative member for Trinity (Toronto) would like to have Donald Gordon in the Cabinet and Parliament; would have him in the House to answer questions about his Prices Board, taking some load off Mr. Isley.

The plan is hardly practicable; Donald Gordon is busy as an "executive" with six telephones. The plan is, could never find enough hours in a day to be in the House answering questions about his office tending prices. The thing just couldn't work.

But with the general proposition that Donald Gordon should be in Parliament, and in a Cabinet, too, we agree entirely. To use a current expression, the man would be a "wow". Indeed if we were asked to pick an ideal MP, somebody who "has what it takes" to be a popular political leader, it's Donald Gordon we'd nominate. The fellow's got everything — passion and humor, a gift for stony eloquence, a frightening industry, and last but not least, capacity to laugh at himself.

Most MP's take themselves too seriously, become pompous, forget how to laugh (which means they've forgotten how to think) want to be statesmen before they cease to be agitators.

The last fault is the worst. One trouble with politics in this country is that there are too many statesmen and not enough politicians; not enough politicians in the sense of realizing that the source of responsibility is the people, and realizing also that public men who do not keep close to the people know little about the prejudices and foibles share in their joys and sorrows.

Also, we have too many responsible people for stony eloquence. They are too busy to be worth their salt. They are too busy to be worth their salt. They are too busy to be worth their salt.

Donald Gordon wouldn't be like that. He wouldn't be eternally fearful of blurring out an indiscretion, would assault people's minds sometimes with the wildest sort of language, content that he was hacking his way in the right direction. And he would go out and meet people. We can imagine him with his feet up on the desk of the C.P.R. Mr. Goldman; but we can imagine him also in violent argument with some miners in Alberta, and they liking it and him, and imagine him singing "Annie Laurie" in some fisherman's Cape Breton cottage. There would be a warm drop of rum in the place all the better.

Our public life is too dull, too stale, too bloodless, too jaded. There are too many graphs and charts in it; too much of the affliction of the association tax; too many statements or would be statements, too much pomposity. What we want is more color, more soul, more of storm and sunshine. There would be more storm and sunshine, more glamor and more appeal. If Parliament had Donald Gordon, the pity is we didn't catch him before they made him a bureaucrat.

NEW DELHI — (CP) — An Indo-Indian Association has been formed in Delhi to further cultural relations between India and Britain. The association has already arranged for the interchange of visits in the field of sports and athletics and co-ordinate facilities for the exchange of books and manuscripts.

IN THE PROBATE COURT
The 20th day of July A. D., 1946.

In Re Estate of John Melvin Diamond late of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, deceased, intestate.
To the Sheriff of the County of Queens or any Constable or literate person within said County.

USE SPILLER SPATER
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100 BLACK FLIES, MOSQUITOES

Donald Gordon and Parliament

(Ottawa Journal)

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PLAN INDIAN CANAL
CALOUTTA (CP) — The government of India is examining a scheme for the construction of a canal to connect the Bay of Bengal with the Arabian Sea at the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula. The canal will be three miles long and 100 feet wide to allow, at low tide, vessels a draught of 26 feet.

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ADDITIONAL RELATIONS
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QUICKIES
By Ken Reynolds

SAFFRON WALDEN — (CP) — German prisoners conducting a strike in the Saffron Walden district, Essex, are chafing "Send us home" slogans on walls.

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