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

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1947

Western Opinion

Two western members have recently been discussing the railway freight rate question in the House of Commons. Dealing with Saskatchewan, Mr. Eric McKay, C.C.F., Weyburn, pointed out that a flat increase in freight rates would cost the butter and poultry producers a million dollars a year.

Mr. Ralph Maybank, Liberal, Winnipeg, following Mr. McKay on freight rates, pointed out that the only provinces not opposing the freight increase were the central provinces. There was no concern in Ontario about the increase because the cost of it would fall elsewhere—on the western provinces and the Maritimes.

Because rates were lower in the central provinces, these already enjoyed a marked advantage over the others. A 30 per cent increase across the board, Mr. Maybank said, would mean that the advantage enjoyed by central shippers over their competitors elsewhere in Canada would be increased still further.

Mr. Maybank went on to criticize the haste with which the C. P. R. was pushing for the rate increase. In six years, the C. P. R. had not earned before taxes and fixed charges of \$692 millions. Far from being in extremis he said the railways were like camels with well fattened humps.

Mr. Maybank expressed his regret at being unable to provide the House with up to date regional operating figures. This was because the railways had changed their book-keeping systems since 1927. On this point, he said: "It seems to me that the Canadian National Railways owned as it is by the people of Canada, should be prepared at all times to give that information. We of western Canada and of the Maritimes are Canadians too. It is no part of the business of the C. N. R.—to behave as to make it difficult for some of the provinces to learn just what the true situation was with reference to that railway."

Mr. Maybank urged that a full inquiry be made into railway freight rates structure, as recommended by the Rowell-Sirois commission. Regardless of the decision of the Transport Board, Mr. Maybank urged the government to suggest to the C. N. R. that no increase be put into effect immediately. A further and fuller inquiry should be launched by the government to produce a scientific system of setting freight rates.

The Doctor Shortage

The Royal Bank Bulletin notes the fact that the number of physicians in Canada slightly more than doubled in the 40 years from 1901 to 1941, but this substantial increase barely kept pace with the growth of our population. The Medical Procurement Board found that in 1943 there were 1,261 persons per doctor, 3,477 persons per dentist, 520 per practising nurses. Of the 8,614 doctors serving civilians only 5,894 were general practitioners, the others being specialists, workers to industrial medicine, teaching, insurance, public health and hospital service.

Another health problem brought to light, says the Bank letter above quoted, is the unequal distribution of doctors. The vast expanse of sparsely populated areas in Canada constitute a particular health problem—we have only 3.32 inhabitants per square mile, as compared with 685 in England, 44.23 in the United States and 15.2 in New Zealand.

The average number of graduates of Canadian medical schools in the 25 years from 1920 to 1944 inclusive was 540 a year, but the number of graduates in medicine does not represent a net gain to the medical ranks. Deaths of physicians in the five years ended in 1940 averaged 211 per year. Many graduates, between five and 10 per cent, are foreign students who return home after finishing their courses. There is a loss of not less than 10 per cent by emigration. Others retire. In the 10 years 1931 to 1940, there were 5,254 students graduated from the nine Canadian medical schools; but the increase in the number of physicians in Canada in that time was only 1,110.

Opposition Forces Divided

The protracted debate in reply to the Speech from the Throne was concluded in the House of Commons only after the defeat of three non-confidence motions, which had been presented by way of amendment to the Government resolution calling for the adoption of the Address. The C. C. F. sub-amendment was rejected by a vote of 168 to 26. Later the Social Credit resolution was defeated by 211 to 13 votes, both the Progressive Conservatives and the C. C. F. Socialists lining up solidly with the Government on this division. The final division took place on the Progressive Conservative resolution which declared the Government did not possess the confidence of the country. This motion was rejected by 134 to 84 votes, the Government's majority of 50 including all the Social Crediters present when the vote was taken. On the other hand every member of the C. C. F. group present in the House voted with the Progressive Conservatives as against the Government and the Social Crediters.

When the final line-up took place the Progressive Conservatives were unable to support the C. C. F. resolution because it called for the socialization and increased state control of business enterprise. Similarly the official

Opposition was impelled to vote against the Social Credit resolution because of its inflationary currency proposals. The C. C. F. group, on the other hand, were jockeyed into supporting the Progressive Conservative resolution because of the adroitness of its wording. It merely declaring as it did that the King Government did not possess the confidence of the country, the Progressive Conservative amendment simply affirmed what both the C. C. F. and Social Credit groups had been strenuously contending throughout the whole debate. But on the final reckoning the Social Crediters opposed the Progressive Conservative resolution by way of reprisal for the Progressive Conservative opposition to their motion. All of which goes to show, remarks an exchange, how much shadow-boxing the group system has introduced into Parliamentary debates and votes at Ottawa.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The first robin is not yet reported.

A Central Maritime jail farm, located say, in this Province would fill a long-felt need. Removing syrups from the ration list is hailed with satisfaction by housewives, as these can be substituted for sugar for various purposes. Also it releases coupons for the hard stuff.

Finance Minister Abbott declares his sympathies are with the agitation for the reduction of income tax, especially in the lower brackets. Well how deep is his sympathy—will it reach his Government's pocket, and how far?

What we pay in taxes for teetotal drinks. Revenue Minister McCann said more than \$17,000,000 was realized last year in taxes on soft drinks and aerated beverages. This included \$9,959,000 from a one-cent-a-bottle tax and \$7,529,000 from a 25 per cent tax.

Queen Mary Needlework Guild, of which the Queen Mother is the Patron, is collecting books to send to boys and girls in the large working class district of Bethnal Green, London, which suffered so severely in the air raids. The Charlottetown Library has a list of the required books which may be sent to Mrs. Putnam, 275 Richmond St.

One can obtain a degree in almost anything now, quite different from the halcyon days when M. A. stood for Master of Arts and meant it. President Sidney Smith of Toronto University announces that the degrees of bachelor of social work and master of social work have been established in the School of Social Work, University of Toronto by the senate and board of governors.

The Church of Scotland Committee on Social Service has received intimation from the trustees of a private trust of a gift of approximately £100,000 (\$400,000) for the benefit of its work on behalf of women and children. This gift, says the committee, will make possible many developments in social service which until now have been greatly impeded by the lack of adequate funds.

France suggests the emigration of Germans to other countries would lessen the risk of war, and, no doubt, tend to Christianize the Nazis. It used to be one of the arguments of West Indian sugar planters that the immigration of East Indians from India tended to relieve the missionary situation, as the heathen came to the Christian Church and Missions in the West instead of missionaries being sent to them in the east.

Here is how to get after our proposed Brighton Bridge. Works Minister Fournier told a delegation of civic authorities and business men from Renfrew North and Pontiac Counties that if the provinces of Ontario and Quebec would approve construction and apportion a certain sum toward construction of a bridge across the Ottawa river at Morrison's Island, the Dominion Cabinet would give the matter immediate consideration. The minister said he himself was in favor of the bridge four miles downstream from Pembroke but added he did not think the "present is the best time to negotiate regarding a project of this nature."

Finance Minister Abbott said in the Commons that the estimates of expenditures for 1947-48 which he presented last week probably would have been about \$157,000,000 higher if the Government had taken into consideration the possibility that all provinces would enter new taxation agreements with the Dominion. Under proposed taxation agreements the Dominion would pay the provinces a minimum of \$206,000,000 annually for rental of the major tax fields. The difference between this minimum and the \$157,000,000 mentioned by Mr. Abbott likely would consist of the statutory subsidies which the Dominion already pays the provinces. The estimates tabled by Mr. Abbott totalled \$1,995,878,634 compared with \$2,901,994,112 for the 1946-47 fiscal year.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Neville Chamberlain, British statesman, second son of Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, born this date 1869; after a successful municipal career in Birmingham, he entered Parliament, where in spite of having to live up to the great political reputation of his father, and elder brother Austin, he succeeded in making a name for himself, and ultimately became Prime Minister. His term of office concluded with the period of aggression by Hitler of Germany, and in order to avoid war, Chamberlain went to Munich to interview the dictator, and succeeded in postponing open war for a year, long enough to enable the British to realize the danger and to make preliminary preparations for defence. Chamberlain due to ill-health later resigned, and was succeeded by Churchill. He was by nature, and long practice, an appeaser in social relations, politics, and international affairs, but reckoned without his host when he undertook to appease a would-be world dictator like Hitler, and with disastrous consequences.

Notes By The Way

The secret of the flower seed catalogues is that they come at the time when you are bound to be in the mood. —Vancouver Province.

Flying in V formation, Canada geese have been honking home lately after their annual sojourn in the South. Flocks of them have been seen over the eastern tip of the province—a sight to gladden the eyes and warm the heart. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Another hopeful sign is the decision of Chicago's oldest night club to convert to soft music and good steak in the behalf of the public who are tired of "blaring music that leaves them with bloodshot eyes." —Brookville Recorder and Times.

If everyone was a millionaire it would not mean a solution of the world's problems or those of the individual. There is no promise that it would result in greater happiness, even though everyone imagines that it would be a state of great delight. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

To the query of an old neighbor from back home, "How does it feel to be President of the United States?" Lincoln could answer, "You have heard about the man tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail? A man in the crowd asked him how he liked it, and his reply was that if it wasn't for the honor of the thing, he would much prefer walking." —Carl Sandburg, in Atlantic Monthly

Five years hence motorists will not need polishing waxes for their automobiles because they will be finished in a new type of silicone plastic, according to A. E. Byrne, manager of the chemical division of the General Electric Company, who spoke at the Royal Canadian Institute meeting here Saturday night. Using a new type of finish or varnish, he said, "the surface will be so hard, shiny, durable and weather resistant that a damp cloth will fix it." —Toronto Globe and Mail.

Owners of sugar bushes are looking forward to a better crop this Spring. They report indications of a heavier flow of sap than last year, when it was unusually light. This is good news for consumers. Removal of maple syrup and maple sugar from rationing thus far has been almost meaningless, simply because these products are all but unobtainable. If there is a good crop this year, the relief will be apparent and welcome, for the yield of the trees will come in handy to augment the cane and beet sugar supply. —Moncton Times.

Seaweed, wood-ash, wood-wool, and plastic are being used to make synthetic boards for Australia's housing commission in an effort to overcome the country's housing shortage. Sample boards composed of seaweed, and cement have been submitted by a Melbourne architect who claims that the boards could be used as interior sheathing. The same man has also submitted samples of a board made from wood-ash and cement. Another inventor has produced a plastic board which, he claims, can be used for both exterior and interior work. —Australian News Bureau.

Night-traveling motorists and pedestrians may some day have cause to breathe a silent word of thanks to a young Toronto machinist named Joe Flannery, says The Cornwall Standard-Freeholder. Mr. Flannery has just produced a simple and effective illuminated street sign that is visible in the dark for nearly a city block. The present type of street sign, as we all know, have a practical range of 10 feet or less.

Not all of the families affected by the war took to neglecting their children, by any means; but a considerable percentage of them did. The result was the wave of juvenile delinquency which built up during the war, and which has not ebbed as yet to any great degree. The fighting stopped quite a while ago. Jobs are not going begging now in such large numbers as they once were. It does seem as if the time had come when more families should take to looking after the affairs and morals of their offspring—and it looks as if police and courts around the country could spur such a reform by holding the parents responsible for the sins of the children in all cases where the evidence warrants such a course. —New York News.

Once again the plant breeder has come to the aid of Western farmers, this time with a new wheat variety named in honor of Dr. William Saunders, pioneer among Canadian agricultural scientists, and of his even more famous son, Sir Charles Saunders. The new variety, richly deserved, says The Winnipeg Free Press. The only pity is that the name Saunders was not bestowed on a variety likely to be more universally grown than will be the new one. Saunders wheat will find its special place in those regions most afflicted by sharp and devastating early fall frosts, particularly the Peace River country and the high foothills region along the Rockies. It may also prove useful in the northern fringe of settlement in Saskatchewan, but is unlikely to meet any need in Manitoba. The great merit of this new variety is its earliness, combined with resistance to stem rust and smut, good yield, and, above all, satisfactory milling quality. The great flaw of Garnet wheat, which has been gradually disappearing from the northern areas as better varieties came along, was its inferior quality as a bread wheat. Farmers of the frost belt continued to grow it only as long as they could get nothing else to mature safely.

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.

SIGNIFICANT VOTES

Sir—As one of your numerous "Liberal" subscribers I would appreciate the privilege of your Forum column to make a few remarks upon the recent divisions which have taken place in the House of Commons. Every person who is at all interested in what transpires in the House will concede that the time to time are among the important happenings and friends of the party in power scan the figures of the various votes to determine how the party is progressing and they must be greatly cheered by the recent results.

The Progressive Conservatives put forward a straight want of confidence motion in the Government. There were no side issues such as were contained in the C. C. F. and Social Credit amendments and after a month's debate in which all the stalwarts of all parties participated we have these astonishing results: C. C. F. amendment defeated 168 to 26; Social Credit amendment defeated 211 to 13, and Progressive Conservative amendment defeated 134 to 84. Now this was the first order and yet the afternoon local newspaper not only failed to make a "Editorial" reference of these things but also failed to publish the Ottawa press despatches announcing what had taken place. That paper considers that the public are more interested in its non-sensical rantings about an impracticable and impossible "Redevelopment Point" or its equally unwarranted criticism of the City Police Force than they are in matters of national concern. I am, Sir, etc. A LIBERAL. Charlottetown.

Eire And United Kingdom

By John Dauphinee Canadian Press Staff Writer DUBLIN, March 17.—(CP)—Prime Minister de Valera's government, which proclaims its complete independence on every occasion, is integrating its whole defence policy with that of the United Kingdom. So plain are the signs of this that one opposition member claimed in the Dail that Eire and the United Kingdom have a secret defence agreement. It was flatly denied by the administration, but if there is no agreement there almost certainly is an understanding. During the last couple of months there have been these developments: Eire took delivery of three corvettes from the Royal Navy to form the basis of a new Irish naval service, and three more are on order. Nine officers of the Eire army were attached to the British army for training in British methods of warfare. Four Seaforce aircraft, first of a dozen ordered from Vickers-Armstrong Company at Swindon, England, were delivered to equip the Eire air force with British planes. Eire was neutral in the Second World War but even then the United Kingdom supplied most of the country's defensive weapons. Now many observers say that if another war came co-operation between Eire and Britain would have to be more definite.

In non-military affairs, too, Eire is participating in the British Commonwealth councils. Although Eire is a Republic and does not recognize the Sovereignty of the King except in the diplomatic sphere, communications between London and Dublin pass through the Dominion office. Eire sent delegates to last autumn's preliminary trade conference, in London, among the Commonwealth countries. This year's nationally conference also brought an accepted invitation to the De Valera government. Military and civilian activities there are indications of a tightening of the bonds; but Irish protestations of complete independence can be expected to continue as long as "partition" remains.

GET GERMAN GLIDERS

LONDON.—(CP)—German-built gliders are to be used at gliding schools in Britain. Shipping arrangements are being made following negotiations between R.A.F. Reserve Command and gliding clubs operated by the British Air Force of Occupation in Germany.

AMBLESIDE, WESTMORLAND, England.—(CP)—The youth hostel here is the only hostel with a liquor license. It used to be the Queen's Hotel and the license has just been renewed despite Youth Hostel Association objections that "hotels and alcohol do not go together."

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Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

FROM Debates and Proceedings in the House of Assembly, 1874. On a motion to consider a petition for a bill to incorporate the Town of Summerside, continued from yesterday's issue: Hon. J. O. Arsenault said the petition was signed by some of the wealthiest men of the town; and it was only just and reasonable that the House should concede to their wishes in this matter. It appeared that a good many of the people of Summerside were not opposed to paying a licence for a glass of liquor, although they strongly objected to the payment of a tax for the purpose of making improvements and maintaining order. People always lost more than they gained in cases where they had not good government and good regulations.

Mr. T. Kelly said the people of Summerside had the right to tax themselves to the extent of 115 annually. The fire wardens were empowered by law to provide by-laws for the purpose of preventing the running at large of cattle, etc., by imposing fines on their owners, and to levy a tax of five per cent per annum on real estate. The law also empowered the Governor-in-Council to order an additional assessment, when required. On the whole, the town had pretty extensive powers for the regulation of its affairs, and for levying taxes. The merchants of Summerside were wealthy and intelligent, but their wealth did not consist in real estate, upon which the tax was levied. Mr. Stewart was in favor of Summerside being incorporated, although he had never been a great stickler for corporations. Charlottetown paid \$25,000 per year taxes, but not more than \$5,000 of that amount, or one-fifth, was expended in paying the salaries of its officers.

Mr. Speaker thought Summerside a very orderly place, as no robberies, housebreaking, or outrages of any kind were ever reported as having taken place there. Could the same be said of Charlottetown? He thought that the former stood higher than the latter in this respect. The affairs of the town were well managed, and people who visited it were treated in a very civil manner. To thrust a corporation upon the people against their consent would be very unfair.

Hon. John Lefurgey had to confess that the manner in which the streets had been encumbered by ship timber was altogether too bad; but it was generally so in all small towns, in the same position. Summerside was a very peaceable town, and very few crimes were committed there. He believed there were many towns in the Province that required incorporation worse than Summerside. Hon. E. Davies had intended to call the attention of the Government to the disorderly state of Summerside, as the streets had been laid off in a most irregular manner, every man building his house to encroach upon the street to any extent he chose. It appeared to be a stranger as if the town had fallen down in a snow storm, without any order whatever. Even if there had been no petition from the people asking for a remedy for the present state of things there, it would have been the duty of the Government to appoint officers for the maintenance of order, and also to levy a small tax for the purpose of keeping its streets in repair.

Mr. L. H. Davies thought it pretty cool that a town containing about 2000 inhabitants should, year after year, come to the House for aid in keeping its streets in repair, while Charlottetown had always been repaid the smallest sum to assist in keeping its streets in a passable condition. Hon. J. MacDonald said the inhabitants of Charlottetown and Georgetown had, for many years, been paying a property tax for educational purposes, which went into the general treasury; but the people of Summerside had, hitherto, paid no such tax, although land appeared to be extremely valuable there. He thought that the people of the latter town should be placed in a position to tax themselves for public improvements, and would, therefore, support an amendment to the existing Act.

Dr. Jenkins had not the slightest objection of allowing the people of Summerside to tax themselves to any extent they thought proper. He recollected reading in AEsop's Fables the story of a fox who accidentally got into a trap and lost his tail. When the fox escaped, he represented to all the other foxes what a nice thing it was to have a tail, and proposed that they should all cut off their tails, as it would be a very great advantage to them. The people of Charlottetown were pretty much in the position of the fox; they had felt the burden of taxation, and wished the people of Summerside to have a taste of it.

Challenge To Householders Last year fire took a toll of 375 lives and caused an estimated property damage of Fifty Million Dollars in Canada. As 75% of fires occur in the home, every householder should make a close inspection of his residence to discover if any physical hazards exist, so as to protect loved ones and property. It is a challenge to all Canadians to reduce this terrific waste. A financial safeguard is adequate insurance. Consult your nearest Agent or write or call on HYNDMAN & CO. LIMITED Insurance Since 1872

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The Poet's Corner MARSH MUSIC I promised my heart that I would never again Be slain by Spring and the crying of the frogs Or that never again would my heart's dry twigs be trampled Or the mind's safe thicket be invaded by Wild music from the half-green thawing bogs. Now out of the amber sundown, out of slowly Westward-moving lilac shadow, The budded marsh lifts once again that music Tender and harsh, the silver cry, the piercing Intolerable ache of frog-throats swollen with love. And I stand stricken in the faint-starred evening, Hearing the terrible music rise and The marsh, the meadows, reaching the moon, The moon, The moon, And I am drowned in fierce importunate April And answer with my difficult raging blood. —Frances Frost in the American Mercury.

Virtues of Juries (Ottawa Journal) Taking note of an acquittal by a jury in a sensational Ontario murder trial, the London Free Press wonders whether our "traditional jury system" has become "antiquated", whether the interests of justice and the protection of the community might not be better served by something else. The Free Press observes in Ontario juries an "unwillingness to convict", suggests that some juries "permit themselves to be swayed" by factors other than the evidence. The jury system, like all human institutions, has its obvious imperfections. All of us have known of verdicts hard to explain save on the theory that the jury was swayed by sympathy rather than the hard facts as offered in evidence. We have all seen persons acquitted whom their guilt clearly established. In often persons convicted when there seemed reasonable doubt of their guilt. And yet, on the evidence, we should hesitate to say the jury system has failed, or has outlived its usefulness, in criminal trials. The vast majority of verdicts are soundly based upon the evidence, we have no doubt, and we should not lightly cast aside this traditional safeguard of the individual's right because in a small minority of cases a decision is reached which seems incompatible with the clearly established facts. Probably it is better that should happen, in the occasional case, than that we should abandon so deep-rooted a trial system which in the main serves us admirably, in the main detects the guilty and protects the innocent. The alternative would be trial, in the criminal courts, by one judge. We see no reason to believe that fewer guilty would be acquitted or fewer innocent convicted in such a system. No tail, and proposed that they should all cut off their tails, as it would be a very great advantage to them. The people of Charlottetown were pretty much in the position of the fox; they had felt the burden of taxation, and wished the people of Summerside to have a taste of it.

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