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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1947

The Dairy Situation

As Premier Jones told the Dairymen's Association, there is doubtless big money to be made in raising purebred cattle for export purposes. There is another angle to the situation, however, which was noted by Mr. J. H. Myers in his annual report as president. The present alarming downward trend in the dairy industry seems to be due in part at least to the tempting offers for dairy cows and heifers for export from this country. "While it is not desirable to interfere with this trade in dairy cattle," Mr. Myers said, "yet I would strongly urge dairy farmers to take a long-range view of the business and do everything in their power to check the decline and bring production back to its former level."

This statement is borne out by the report of the dairy superintendent, Mr. H. J. MacDonald, who warns that Canadian farmers are now "in reverse as far as dairying is concerned." Butter production in Canada declined 23,060,152 pounds in 1946 below that of the previous year, which is about 8.48 per cent. This decrease has been shown in every Province almost every month. It represents two and one-half times as much butter as is being imported from New Zealand to meet current shortages.

Mr. MacDonald also noted, as did Deputy Minister W. R. Shaw in a recent article appearing in *The Guardian*, the need for more efficient production in cheese and butter plants. Overhead costs in the smaller factories are high, and the price paid to patrons is not satisfactory compared with plants of a larger output. He suggests that the commercial feed grain shortage could be materially reduced by devoting more attention to the production of home grown grains with suitable fertilizer, barnyard manure, or a combination of both. "There is not a factory in Prince Edward Island," he states, "that could not increase its production 50 per cent if a suitable programme were introduced within its territory."

These words are worth pondering. It is regrettable that more time was not spent in discussing this aspect of the problem, and in outlining, by resolution or otherwise, some policy that might serve as a profitable subject for debate at the coming session of the Legislature. One of the resolutions adopted was to the effect that "at future meetings of the Association, more time be allotted for the discussion of the dairymen's problems." If the case be as serious as the Deputy Minister and dairy inspector have pointed out, this postponement may prove to be an expensive one.

Recruiting, Then And Now

Although recruiting for the Army is not what it was when Napoleon was on the war path 130 years ago, the present day appeal to the youth of the country is probably a lot more effective, but. At that time huge posters prominently displayed in inns and public houses proclaimed: "Wanted a number of bold, aspiring Yorkshire lads to serve as Gentlemen Soldiers whose hearts beat high at the sound of the drum, and who have an inclination above service employment." The Lincolnshire Regiment of Foot couched its appeal in part, thus: "All those who delight in the honourable profession of Arms and disdain the Drudgery of Servitude may exchange their whips and smocks for Laced Coats and Silver Hilted Swords. Spirited Lads of Size, Character, and Qualifications may acquire themselves of all women labouring with child and young children, and enter into the direct road to Honour and Preferment." This particular poster closed with the words "God Bless the King," and the sentiment, in brackets, "And Damn the Enemy."

Manitoba Municipalities Share

Approximately \$1.9 millions a year for education, an estimated \$50,000 saving in social services, and an increase of \$450,000 of the aids to municipalities were offered by Premier Stuart Garson at a meeting with municipal representatives held to discuss financial arrangements arising out of the recent Dominion-Provincial agreement. This will leave \$350,000 in reserve for new and increasing services, and the whole amount to \$2.75 millions per year—half the additional revenue available to the Province under the agreement. In addition, the Province will pass on to the municipalities, in the form of pro rata reimbursement for relief costs, half the sum of \$2,700,000 being one half of the amount of the Province's relief debts which have been cancelled by the Dominion.

The principles on which the proposals are based, the Premier said, are: (1) recognition of fiscal need—the basis of Manitoba's case to the Dominion at all the discussions; (2) the necessity to concentrate the funds where a thorough job could be done, rather than spread them about ineffectively in small sums; (3) the importance of education and the heavy financial burden which its increasing costs are placing on the municipalities; (4) the importance of leaving control of local expenditures in the hands of the municipality.

Distribution of the education grant on an equitable basis is to be achieved in this way, the Premier stated: each municipality will levy for education a rate of six mills on its balanced assessment (10 mills for a school district in an unorganized territory). The Province will contribute sufficient to make up the difference between the proceeds of this levy and \$1,400

per elementary school room, and \$1,900 per high school room. This will mean that each municipality, no matter how poor, will be able to spend \$1,400 on its elementary and \$1,900 on its high school rooms, by levying an amount equal to 6 mills on its balanced assessment. Municipalities who now impose a higher levy—for example, 10 mills—can use the four mills lee-way in any way they see fit. If any municipality wants better services and is prepared to levy more taxes for their support, it is free to put in as much higher special school rates as it wishes.

The Premier stressed that the meeting with municipal officials was arranged as soon as possible after the agreement with the Dominion was reached, in order to give the municipalities a chance to consider the new situation in preparing their estimates for the coming year.

It would be interesting to know what plans, if any, the Jones Government has with regard to distribution among Prince Edward Island municipalities of new Ottawa revenue.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It should prove extremely beneficial to have diesel jitneys in operation here once more. The Island is ideally suited for such services.

Three items featured in mainland newspapers the past three days were: "P. E. Island potatoes being shipped to England, P. E. Island oysters developing in B. C., silver and other foxes granted floor prices."

A new cement block factory at St. Eleanors will fill a much felt want. If any one doubts this let him visit the new McCormack building, corner Kent and Hillsborough, and see for himself what can be accomplished by recourse to cement blocks. Even for wooden houses, cement block foundations will be in great demand from now on.

A curious sequel to the new Citizen's Act is the decision of the Quebec Legislature to require five years' residence in that province before the date fixed for the enumeration to entitle a man or woman to vote. At present only 12 months' residence is required, but because the new Citizen's Act necessitates five years' qualification, the Legislature considered it right and proper that newcomers to the province, whether citizens of other provinces or not, should have to wait a similar period for registration as voters there.

What is Education? asks London Daily Mirror. It is strange that the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland should condemn the traditional three R's and recommend in substitution for them "physical training, handwork and speech." The tendency of late has been the other way round. Educationists, alarmed at the elaboration of the modern curriculum, have favoured a simplification in the primary stages. Physical training has its merits, and handwork may sow the seeds of craftsmanship, but it is difficult to see how anyone can become educated unless they proceed on a sound basis of reading, writing and arithmetic.

The Counsellors of State in London are the Duke of Gloucester, the Princess Royal and Lord Lascelles. To them are delegated the functions normally carried out by the King, to be exercised jointly by no fewer than two of their number. They are subject to the condition that they shall not act in any matter or thing on which it is signified, or appears to them that special approval should be obtained. They are empowered, among other things, to summon and hold Privy Council, but shall not have the power to dissolve Parliament or grant rank, title, or dignity otherwise than by the express instructions transmitted by the King.

A "rising from the dead," bordering on the miraculous, has been successfully brought about by a London doctor. According to all the rules of science, one of his patients had died; his heart had ceased to beat and all signs of life were extinct. After 12 minutes had elapsed, the doctor, Dr. Hamilton Bailey, began to massage the patient's heart with his hand. The heart began to function again, its beats became regular once more. The "dead man" is now back at work again without knowing anything about it! The details were not revealed to him but the facts have been given in the well-known medical journal "The Lancet."

Mr. Harold Nicholson, veteran British diplomat, and a great authority on international affairs, says, in *Foreign Affairs*, that the Paris Conference on treaties with the minor Axis nations proved that it was a mistake to deal with problems of this sort at open meetings; that this sort of conference only ends in the representatives of every small nation paying more attention to making appeals directed to their own constituents at home than to efforts to obtain a lasting peace; that the only practical method is small conferences of representatives of the Great Powers, with opportunity for the smaller nations to have their opinions properly considered. It was because of this experience at Paris that the decision was taken to deal with the German Peace Treaty at small, private meetings.

Cardinal John Henry Newman, English ecclesiastic, born this date 1801; became an English Church clergyman, and one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement; resigned his Vicarage of St. Mary's, Oxford, and two years later was received into the Roman Catholic Church, becoming rector of Dublin Catholic University; was created a Cardinal in 1879; Newman excelled as a preacher; as a Christian poet ranks high; his *Lead Kindly Light* has attained the greatest popularity of all modern hymns in all churches: "From the age of fifteen, dogma has been the fundamental principle of my religion. I know of no other religion; I cannot enter into the idea of any other sort of religion; religion as a mere sentiment, is to me a dream, and a mockery."

Notes By The Way

One of the great trouble-making factors in a democracy is the readiness of the average individual to exercise his right to believe anything that he has never heard before. —Municipal Financial Times.

When tea was first introduced in England, a lot of people disliked it intensely. The reason was, that though they had heard it praised they had no idea how it should be prepared. Having bought some of the leaves, they boiled them for about twenty minutes, strained off the juice, and added to it with salt, pepper and butter. In many parts of England people still talk, though as a rule humorously, of "making a dish of tea." —(H.R.P. in Empire Digest).

If we started to list the kind, neighboring islands that were introduced in three parts during the past year, it would take a lot of searching to find them all and a lot of paper to record them fully. The Argus Journal, Neighbourliness in the small town, humorously of "making a dish of tea" since it is often full of surprises. The fellow who needs help often finds it coming from the most unexpected places, and that makes it consistent of comely and satisfying for all concerned.

The British people ate less in the first year of peace than they did in the last year of war. They did eat even less in the second year of peace than they did in the first. Thus the Government present us with one installment after another in the never-ending series of depression and deterioration in our daily life. There is to be relief for the weary housewife—no extra proteins or vitamins for the people who are exhorted to work harder and produce more. Instead, they are promised less bacon, less meat, less bread and butter, and less beer.

Why—why—why? This is the question which beats insistently at the brain of every woman in every town. There is no consistent or coherent answer. There never has been. —London Daily Mail.

My personal detestation is for the dropper-in, that borrows an hour in the belief that he is always welcome. It does not occur to him that one may have work to do or that one is not always in the mood for promiscuous conversation. He spends his time in the book in which you are engrossed, to chatter to this social vagrant, or switch off the wireless in the middle of a symphony concert of the news, or to break some other chat, or to irritate beyond belief. There ought to be a law against such people. Droppers-in are the devil. —St. John Erve in Belfast Telegraph.

In these times there are so many things which tend to deprive people of the required amount of rest to keep physically fit. For instance, the automobile is an invention that is often cited into time that would normally be spent in bed. The business executive has so many meetings to attend, and so many errands to run, that he seldom gets a moment's rest at home each week in his family and retire at a decent hour. Because of this situation doctors insist that modern people must learn to relax. No one, who is not a patient, should be so tense and busy all the time without an eventual "crack up." Drawing on resources of vitality can harm one, if it is overdone. Experts assert that the moderately-careless person, who will go further in the long run. He'll have more to draw upon, in reserve. They advise living at a sensible pace. Get the most out of life without overdoing it. The radio is a wonderful invention, but it is 80 percent as good as sleep from the standpoint of heart, blood pressure and temperature. —Kitchener Record.

A letter to the London press recently put at a word for queues as a great opportunity for reading. The correspondent pointed out that she had read the whole of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" while queuing for tomatoes. A particularly appropriate choice, one reflects—unless her wait were long and in the end fruitless, when she has to read "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" while queuing for tomatoes. The Christian Science Monitor. The idea has much to recommend it, and one can conceive the possibility of a small lyric queue at each bus stop. But what of those epic affairs that stretch as far as the eye can see, an appeal to call for nothing less than Homer or a volume of Gibbon? Will the glory that was Greece be proof for so long that was Rome be proof for so long against the discomfort that is London on a wet, cold winter's day? Probably not—but in the summer the academy of the grandeur would seem to offer a practicable and profitable course to its students.

There's something heartening and reassuring in now items these days. The flapping sisters and aerobics are still in vogue, it's true, but a recent dispatch tends to prove the nation is growing up. The Wall Street Journal exults. Take the matter of the desk of the executive. Grand Rapids has a justifiable reputation as an up and coming metropolis. They know how to make good furniture—and lots of it. Tomorrow's desk for the executive does everything but blow a fuse. Now when he has a touch of hay fever, he has a touch of hay fever. He has a bar, ice box, razor, flashlight, electric heater to warm his toes if his blood is a bit thin and circulation poor, radio, a few clocks, cigarette lighter, television, safe, international communication facilities, fluorescent lamps and numerous other gadgets. That's

PUBLIC FORUM

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

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT"

Sir.—It is interesting to learn that the lobsters shipped to the British Columbia coast seem to thrive and enjoy their new habitat. They have not, as yet, been there long enough to get down some for their native Prince Edward Island shores. It is a well-known fact that anyone born in Prince Edward Island who goes to live elsewhere acquires a nostalgic longing to return, even if only for a visit to "The Island." I well remember the former shipment of Island lobsters to British Columbia some years ago. Within a short time elapsed no trace could be found of them and it was supposed that they had died. This was not so, for some fishermen fishing oysters near Belxox on the Gulf of Mexico picked up some lobsters with their oyster tongs. They could not account for the find, as lobsters had never been known to be on that coast. The mystery was solved when tags found affixed to them identified them as lobsters that had been shipped to British Columbia from Prince Edward Island. They had come through the Panama Canal and were on their way back to their dear Prince Edward Island home. "Believe it or not!" I am, Sir, etc. A. E. ARSENAULT, Charlottetown.

THE FARMER'S CONTRIBUTION

Sir.—One of your Forum correspondents seems to be concerned with the modest figure cut by the farmer on the income tax ledger at Ottawa. So am I, but far too few Canadians (urban or rural) are aware of the basic role played by our 736,000 farmers not only in supplying food to millions of people who seldom see a farm within 200 miles of their homes, but also, in energizing Canada's industrial economy. I understand that one-third of the entire manufacturing plants from Charlottetown to Westport are dependent on the farm. This ought to pinpoint the interdependence of Canadians, everywhere. It makes it easier to understand why, when agriculture is in poor shape, prosperity shrinks and unemployment expands in the cities and towns.

For example, I found the following breakdown in the cost of a \$300 farm implement (a binder laid down at Regina, Sask.): thought-provoking figures based on information gathered by a committee of the House of Commons inquiring into the price of farm implements in 1937. They will deliver different messages to different readers. I have no doubt, but to me they spotlight the fact that the farmer is not only a great producer, but is also a great consumer—that, in addition to feeding the rest of us, he keeps most of us at work:

Labour	27.00
Overhead	42.00
Factory total	150.00
Freight to Regina	27.00
Selling charges	33.00
Bad debts, etc.	18.00
Agent's commission	45.00
Margin	27.00
Total Cost	\$300.00

I am, Sir, etc. STUDENT.

the way a man's desk should be "complete and convenient." It should be equipped by a good secretary in their in which a man can lean back and catch forty winks after lunch. And a secretary or a wife should understand that it doesn't need to be cleared often; that it rarely has a more dignified will leave it alone a man can always find what he needs.

While some 16,000 Canadians were going to the United States as new residents in the first nine months of last year. The balance is still on the wrong side, to say nothing of the investment in education which the migrating Canadian carried with them. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Take more than a grain of salt before swallowing the apocryphal tales by the official "historians" who are telling the world what Churchill said to Roosevelt and how British warships were lost. —Toronto Telegram.

Explaining Mr. King

(Ottawa Journal)

Writing in the American Mercury, Mr. Bruce Hutchison ends up by explaining Mr. Bruce Hutchison. We see Mr. Hutchison, the poet, the weaver of words; we see little of Mr. King.

Retracing the oft-told tale that Mr. King has held office longer than any comparable democratic statesman in the world, Mr. Hutchison says: "No one in Canada knows precisely why it is a matter of continual wonderment among his friends, and endless affront to his enemies. . . . 'Whodunnit' jumping off place, providing ample scope for his imagination, Mr. Hutchison holds out a clue; the clue that Mr. King, deliberately, plays a role of mediocrity. Thus: (Mr. King) has no world press, such as that sometimes enjoyed by lesser men of lesser country, because he totally lacks box appeal, and because he has made a fetish of obscurity. As Roosevelt played his role in the guise of the Great Guy, as Churchill made himself a masterpiece of mediocrity, like most such acts it is phony, but it has worked since 1922 with only a single interruption of five years—a record of more than nineteen years in office, unparalleled in any Anglo-Saxon country since Robert Walpole. It has worked so smoothly that the world has hardly noticed it."

There is something of Mr. King here; there is more of Mr. Hutchison. More of the word-painter who makes grey seem purple, the matter-of-fact mysterious, the commonplace heroic. There is nothing mysterious about Mr. King. He is, partly, the architect of his own fortunes; he is not nearly as much the architect of them as a combination of accidental circumstances which are an open book. In an era when most Canadians of talent were concentrating on the professions or on commerce or on making money, Mr. King was concentrating on politics. Public life became his mistress. Others might make politics a part-time job; he would make it his career. He would get to know how to manage men and parties, study the history and philosophy of government, know all about its arts, its problems and compromises, in the era when all was a matter of the man with the better mouse trap.

Mr. King, in this aim, by no means an ignoble one, was helped by the local Canadian Legion Council. When Borden and Meighen brought conscription in 1917, Quebec, with its 65 seats, was handed over to the Liberals. Mr. King, in the past 20 years, has been the beneficiary. His competitors for power may have had their failures; no talent they could summon would be able to defeat to overcome the handicap of 65 Quebec seats irrevocably against them. If genius be found in Mr. King—and Mr. Hutchison seems to imply that it is—then the genius mainly of not permitting Quebec's sun to set on the wrath of conscription.

We are not disparaging Mr. King; we are merely pointing out that his success is plainier than the figures on Mr. Hutchison's typewriter.

Parliamentary Reflections

OTTAWA.—With homes for Canada veterans the most pressing domestic need facing the nation, the Liberal Government's housing policy oscillates between the twin poles of gross inefficiency and gross waste. The inefficiency lies in a system of controls which diverts two-thirds of the materials and manpower available to the construction industry into non-residential buildings.

The scandal consists in how little value is being given the veteran for the money he pays. Parliament has been hearing the unwelcome details of the exploitation of the nation's war veterans in their desperate attempts to secure the homes they require. Speaker after speaker in the Debate on the Address has been telling the story. It is no exaggeration to say that rarely has a more dire situation been uncovered in the realm of domestic policy. Ex-service men have returned to civilian life to find that the country for which they fought overseas cannot furnish them with a home,—or that it can only do so upon terms which condemn them to becoming the victims of government-sponsored real estate exploitation.

Here are the facts, all of them duly authenticated, which the House of Commons already has heard in respect to the government's housing policy, especially as it applies to veterans of World War II: In the first place, government controls are so organized that approximately two-thirds of the building which is going forward in the nation consists of non-residential construction. Since only a fraction of the housing construction which is going forward is available to veterans, the ex-service man's chance of getting the home he needs for his family is slim at heart. Suppose, however, that he is able to qualify for one of the homes being built in connection with small holding projects being developed by the government for ex-service men only. He first of all needs a pamphlet for his guidance published by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It tells him that he should not pay more than a maximum of \$4,800 for his small holding. He then goes to the local office of the Veterans' Land

The Poets Corner
 DAWN
 A thrush is tapping a stone
 With its beak in its beak
 A small bird hangs from a cherry
 Until the stem shall break.
 No waking song has begun.
 And yet birds chatter and hurry
 And throng in the elm's gloom
 Because an owl goes home.
 —Gordon Bottomley.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)
 FIELD MICE INVASIONS
 In the days of the French Regime, and to a lesser extent, for some time after the British gained control of the Island, field mice were a terrible scourge to the settlers almost yearly. They left the country starving, for they destroyed everything that was fit to eat, and the name of a town on Prince Edward Island still stands as a commemorative of the plague of mice. That town is Souris, which is the French word for 'mouse'. Between the years 1724 and 1738 the settlers suffered from three destructive visits of the mice. On the Island, as in Nova Scotia, the mice increased in numbers with unusual rapidity. Every six weeks the females produced litters of a dozen or more, and under the same conditions a single mouse in the woods they multiplied amazingly. When spring came they broke out of the woods to devour everything in sight. Sweeping down upon the cultivated lands they ate their way through the spring sowing at Three Rivers to the harvest at Malpeque. And every year that the mice appeared, the farmers found themselves facing starvation. When the mice had cleaned out the barns and the fields, they swept down on the grassy flats that lay along the rivers, and ate the food of the cattle. And then, with the same insatiable voracity, they attacked the human beings. A record of this movement as was evidenced in Nova Scotia, they poured over the dykes and drowned by the thousands, so that ships sailing along the coast would pass through a sea of mice. From "Story Parade" by Roland H. Sherwood.

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