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

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1941

The Legislature Opens

The Speech from the Throne, read at the opening of the Legislature yesterday by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, quite properly emphasized the need of wartime economy.. If this indicates a determination on the part of the Government to curtail extravagances, and live as far as possible within its revenue—which it has not yet succeeded in doing, even on current account—the change will meet with warm approval. Practically every Province reports a surplus for the past year, owing to increased industrial and other activities arising out of the war; and we should be no exception. While there is no hint of a surplus in the Throne Speech, however, there is pretty plain indication of an increase in taxation. The Legislature, according to the Speech, "will be asked to provide new sources of revenue to furnish the funds required for our expanding public health services." This is likely to prove an important subject of debate during the session.

It looked yesterday as if the Government had already started to implement its wartime "economy" measures. No copies of the Speech from the Throne were available to the rank and file of the members, His Honour apparently reading from the only copy in the House. After the House had adjourned, copies were distributed among the vacant seats. Another case, not of economy, but of somebody blundering.

But this detail was forgotten in a handsome gesture which the Government made to the leader of the Opposition. Yesterday, Hon. Dr. MacMillan celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. After the Speech had been delivered, an attendant came forward with a vase of magnificent roses, and placed them on Dr. MacMillan's desk. There was an outburst of applause, in which Liberal and Conservative members joined with equal enthusiasm. A card was attached to the flowers, wishing the Opposition Leader "many happy returns." There was no question as to the sincerity which inspired this tribute, and it spoke volumes—more, perhaps, than all the speech-making on political issues to which the formal debates will be devoted—of the real feeling of the House towards Dr. MacMillan, and the esteem and respect in which he is held. This little incident passed without any formal protestations on either side; it was nicely timed, and quite unexpected so far as the Doctor was concerned. A smiling acknowledgement was all that was required; and the smiles of the Premier and the Opposition leader seemed to meet midway on the floor of the House, and the warmth generated from this unusual collision seemed to permeate the assembly. Perhaps it will all be forgotten in the intenser heat of political controversy; but we like to think that this will not be the case—we like to think that the real Premier Campbell, the real Mr. Dennis, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Wright, Mr. "John Archie" Campbell, Mr. Cox and all their cabinet associates and supporters, were more truly represented in that passing incident than in anything they may say, in resounding periods, about the nefarious "Tories" or in their own questionable defense, as custodians of the public treasury. For one short interval, at any rate, the Legislature became genuinely human; and even the grim physiognomies on the walls, of bygone politicians now by the process of time become statesmen, appeared less formidable. They, too, seemed to be smiling behind their whiskers.

An Opportunity Missed

Under the caption "Mr. McCarthy's Muzzle," the Washington columnist of the Montreal Gazette describes the failure of the first press conference of Hon. Leighton Goldie McCarthy, the new Canadian Minister to the United States. "Not even a bad throat," writes Mr. L. S. B. Shapiro, "could keep the Minister's dynamic personality and great good humor from bubbling out and making—at long last—the sombre, high-walled reception room of the Legation into something warm and alive . . . Leighton Goldie McCarthy was a huge personal success. The press conference was a failure."

There were probably fifty or sixty of the ablest newspapermen of the United States present, all anxious to hear about Canada's war effort. They represented several hundred of the leading daily newspapers of the Republic, reaching millions of readers. The Canadian Minister had the opportunity of a lifetime to tell our American friends about the part Canada is playing in this struggle to preserve democracy.

After a preliminary exchange of pleasantries in which Mr. McCarthy proved himself a most ingratiating person, the journalists brought out their pads and pencils and gathered around the Minister, They asked him to give them some idea of the extent of Canada's war effort. They wanted to know how many troops Canada had overseas. They asked if Canada was planning a lend-lease bill similar to the one recently passed by the Congress. They sought an explanation of the Canadian system of compulsory military training and how it works in comparison with that of the United States. These and similar questions were "declined in the same pleasant but inexorable fashion," and the conference rapidly deteriorated into nothingness.

Mr. McCarthy pleaded that he had not had a chance to study the situation. He promised another conference "later on." Finally 'a newspaperman, in apparent desperation, asked for some statement on which he could hang a story — some statement perhaps expressing the Minister's confidence in the outcome of the war," and Mr. McCarthy salvaged what was left of the conference by saying, "The way to insult an Englishman is to suggest that he isn't going to win the war."

Mr. Shapiro finds it difficult to credit Mr. McCarthy's explanation that he had not had a chance to study the situation, for the reason that 'the new Minister is a man of great brilliance and vast experience on both sides of the border.". Moreover, the questions were of a stock variety and could have been easily anticipated and answered.

The failure of Mr. McCarthy's first press conference was in marked contrast to that of Lord Halifax after his arrival in Washington some six weeks ago. The new British Ambassador is anything but a "public hound," yet, after an arduous tour of duty as Foreign Secretary in London, he submitted himself to the Washington press corps forty-eight hours after reaching American shores and answered almost every question hurled at him during a ninety-minute period.

It was due to no fault of Mr. McCarthy that he was obliged to commence his press conferences by leaving a bad impression. His tongue was tied by Ottawa. He was "instructed in the tradition of silence which has caged his predecessors and has made them notoriously the very last and hopeless source for newspapermen seeking information about Canada."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Lady Day, in the Feast of the Annunciation.

* * * *

Yesterday's was a brave show in the city and inspiring as well.

* * * *

Our Legislators have made a good start under most "promising" auspices.

* * * *

British civil estimates disclose the salary of Viscount Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, has been raised by £2,000 to £17,505.

* * * *

The Tea and Legislative Reception at Government House yeasterday afternoon was fitting conclusion to the loyal and patriotic events of the day.

* * * *

A genial presence missed at yesterday's opening of the Legislature was that of Hon. J. P. McIntyre, Minister of Public Works, who is recovering from a prolonged illness.

* * * *

Notwithstanding criticisms to the contrary our streets are a credit to the powers-that-be in the City Council. The winter has been a record for depths of snow fall and continuity, with plenty frost thrown in as a make-weight. Yet notwithstanding there has been no extraordinary hold up of traffic, though not infrequently "man-power" has had to be requisitioned to get a car out of the grooves, which car drivers themselves create by insisting upon following one another's tracks when the snow is soft.

* * * *

Because of decreased importations of furs in Australia the skins of domestic cats gone wild are being used for coat trimmings. Refugee immigrants' knowledge of fur dyeing also has made marketable a red fox formerly considered valueless. Wallaby fur likewise is marketed. A coat of Australian water-rat skins brings £75. Cat skins are bringing £4 5s a dozen. A New South Wales trapper received £58 for 275 pounds of rabbit skins.

* * * *

Where do fish spend the Winter? That's a question often asked of fish experts. The answer depends largely on the kind of fish. Some fish spend the Winter the same way they do any other time of year. Others go into a Winter sleep or hibernation. They do not fall into complete unconsciousness, however, but seek shelter among weeds or stones and cease to feed. Carp, for example, always move into deeper water. This species spends the Winter in groups, some of which may contain fifty to one hundred fish. They make a cavity in the ground and huddle in circles with their heads together until Spring.

* * * *

The famous Strathcona House, Montreal, home of the first Lord Strathcona, and in which King George V and Queen Mary stayed when Duke and Duchess of York, is to be demolished to make room for a modern apartment house. From 1914, when Lord Strathcona died, till 1927 when it was purchased by the late Lord Atholstan, it remained vacant, though furnished. Lord Atholstan converted it into a home for old ladies, and gave it the title of "My Mother's Home," in memory of his mother who was greatly interested in the welfare of decadent females who had known better days. It is not stated whether a new memorial home will be provided.

* * * *

Air Minister Power states the four reasons why "Canada was selected from amongst the nations of the Commonwealth" to undertake the Empire Air Training Plan were:

1. "Our freedom from prospective attack."
2. Proximity of the Dominion to the United States 'which would furnish us with a supply of raw material."
3. Proximity to the United Kingdom "which would also supply us with material and which was close enough and accessible enough to make delivery of the output easy."
4. Reputation of Canadian youth "for efficiency as members of the Royal Air Force and of the Air Arm of the Navy during the last war."

* * * *

Chaos was the main dish in a Hamilton, (Ont.) downtown restaurant when a tipsy panhandler approached Magistrate H. Burbridge who was supping at one of the tables. The magistrate turned to his dinner companion Police Sergeant Eric Howell, and suggested that he do his duty. The sergeant turned to the waitress and asked her to phone for the patrol wagon. The waitress turned to the phone but got her numbers mixed and called the fire department instead. By the time the trucks had clanged to a stop outside and an undetermined number of firemen loaded with axes, hose and fire extinguishers had tramped through looking for a fire no one knew what had happened. By the time order was restored the panhandler, apparently sobered, had vanished while the Magistrate, and the Police Sergeant felt very foolish.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In February Canadians were "savers and lenders"; in March they are "earners and givers.' We save and lend for our Government; but we 'earn and give' to comfort and strengthen our splendid fighting men on every front. But no matter how we save, how we "toil and moil", or to what extent we give, always bear in mind our sacrifices are not worthy of mention with those of our kinfolk in the Old Land, or our fighting men, who freely place their lives in jeopardy for the defense of our way of life. —Moose Jaw Times-Journal.

Conscription of manpower in Canada may be impracticable — even inadvisable — for the present. But does present doing suggest that we have mobilized man-power for industry, or planned for industry, when, with our more than 12,000,000 people, and after eighteen months of war, we find ourselves incapble of anything like full speed ahead with a comparatively smal. shipbuilding program that is nevertheless vital? It is now eight months since this country took a national registration. To what extent have we used it? To what extent have we mobilized skilled workers, or trained skilled workers, or made provisions to train skilled workers? And to what extent have we left skilled workers in non-essential industries? — Ottawa Journal.

An article appeared recently dealing with the situation relative to the Steep Rock Lake iron deposits which have been declared of quality and quantity sufficient to supply all the needs of Canada for generations. It was pointed out that the big problem of mining was the draining of the lake so that the ore bodies could be reached from surface approach. This may have caused some people to wonder whether similar ore could not be located elsewhere than under the lake, in territory beyond where surface mining could be undertaken without the necessity for diverting the waters of the Slene River of which Steep Rock is merely an expansion. It is a proper and reasonable question. The geologists have the answer. They tell that, in the making of the present day earth, iron deposits were not original. Iron is the result of a chemical process, largely involving limestone. In this process volume was reduced. Reduction in volume naturally created depressions in the earth. Thus the iron and the depression are coincidental. Naturally the depression fills with water. The deduction is that, if there were iron somewhere else than under Steep Rock Lake, there would be depression and water there as well. In a general way this may be correct but, while it appears characteristic of the district it is still not possible to say absolutely that all the iron is under water. Some of the shrinkage may have been in land so high that the new levels were not carried below the water line. While that possibility exists it cannot be said that prospecting of the area in the hope of finding a dry land mine is hopeless. Up to the present however, all evidence is that Steep Rock Lake iron bodies are under water. No extensions have been found that would give promise of dry land mining. Draining of the lake appears to be the only feasible and practical means of reaching this huge deposit of the world's most valuable mineral. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

It is difficult to understand how Boston policemen will ever untangle traffic jams hereafter without the aid of the hornblowers — but Boston will have to do the best it can. Its City Council has just enacted an ordinance, effective immediately, specifically forbidding sounding the horn on a motionless motor vehicle. And now how will Annabelle's young man ever let her know he's waiting with the jalopy? Playing a radio so loud as to disturb the "quiet, comfort or repose" of neighbors within fifty feet likewise is forbidden. What are city apartment dwellers to do after 1 p.m. without the usual jazz band accompaniment? Will they, like the dweller in the shadow of the elevated who went to the country for a vacation, be unable to sleep in the unwonted stillness? It may seem strange to some that a city must legislate against "unreasonably loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises," including dogs that bark excessively. But probably it is a matter of education. As the Duchess said to Alice, 'Take care of the sense, and the sounds will take care of themselves." — Christian Science Monitor.

When Mr. Ernest Brown was invited to be the guest at luncheon of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce he was Secretary of State for Scotland. It was as Minister of Health he came to Edinburgh, however, and he confessed in his speech that he was rather startled when Mr. Churchill asked him to become the Scottish Secretary. Though he is not the first Englishman to have held this office, it is a rare distinction. Before coming north, Mr. Brown sought and received the Prime Minister's permission to tell the company one of the things Mr. Churchill said to him when he was appointed nine months ago "Ernest" observed the Prime Minister before Mr. Brown left Downing Street, "let me remind you of what Lloyd George said in the last war about the Scots, for I agree with it. There is only one thing wrong with the Scots—there are not enough of them." — Edinburgh Scotsman.

Today is a proud one in the life of the people of this capital city of Regina and of the province as a whole. Back to our midst on furlough comes Squadron Leader Ernest McNab, D.F.C., the gallant son of a distinguished father, who represents the King in Saskatchewan. His exploits and his leadership in the Battle of Britain have brought a warm glow to the hearts of his many friends and have excited the admiration of all his fellow-countrymen. Let it be treasured in the records of this province that a Saskatchewan officer led into action against the Luftwaffe the first squadron of the R.C.A.F. Let it be remembered that the son of our Lieutenant Governor was the first member of the Canadian force in this war to destroy a German bomber, winging its murderous way across the estuary of the Thames. Regina welcomes home a daring officer whose valor and devotion to duty have been recognized by his Sovereign. The best wishes of the citizenry will assuredly go out to him in the new duties which he will soon take up. — Regina Leader-Post

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"At the present we are on the 'get me' end of this great conflict, the end where self and selfishness run rampant, unless, by the process of God's love we are brought to our knees and there see the tragedy of human greed."— Rev. Roy Mess, Rector of Christ Church, Chatham.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WHARF REPAIRS

Sir,—The Dominion Government have had a crowd of men at Tignish Run all winter working trying to repair the wharf. I should not say working, putting in time, for the kind of weather we have had they couldn't do much else but put in time. The Dominion Government must have lots of money to waste. I thought they wanted all the money they could get to finance the war. And of course it is party work too.

I am Sir, etc.,
TAXPAYER

POST WAR PROBLEMS

Sir,—Military experts tell us that this world-war may end during 1941. If those are the probabilities it would look like good business to prepare now for post-war conditions and opportunities. When the battle has been won for the second time within a quarter of a century, let us not dissipate the winnings of our combined efforts, and again throw away a golden opportunity as was the case after the first great war. I would suggest that right now a post-war committee of practical business men and women embracing our whole Dominion be appointed to provide suggestions to the British Empire and the United States governments, to assist in putting the world's house in order, so that all may live and let live. I believe we are all convinced now that this is a total war, that the winner will take over and mould the future for us all. Therefore I would like to suggest that when the English speaking race (which includes the British Empire and the United States) have won final victory as we all hope and know they will, let us have a United States of the World in a broad way, by tearing down all trade barriers, eliminating all immigration restrictions, closing all plants manufacturing weapons of war, disarming all nations except for an international police force provided by the above stated Governments, such as we have in British countries for the maintenance of law and order. And finally let us all strive to make our British justice even more just.

I am, Sir, etc.,
F. C. RAMSAY
Montrose, P. E. I.

THE VACANT SENATORSHIP

Sir,—With your kind permission the following facts are submitted for the consideration of your readers:

The Senate vacancy caused by the death of Senator J. J. Hughes, should be filled by the appointment of a French Acadian from Prince County for the following reasons:

1. The new appointee should be a Prince County man because this County has almost twice the population of King's County, which for a great many years has had two Senators, while the much more important County of Prince has had but one. Besides Prince County has been the banner Liberal County for the past fifty years. In the last two Provincial elections, every one of its Five Constituencies returned its full quota of two Liberals, while in the last ten Dominion elections the Liberal candidates were victorious with ever-increasing majorities. Can a Liberal Government forget such a record?

2. By all that is just and fair, the vacant seat belongs to a Roman Catholic. Our present population stands at 39,000 Roman Catholics and 49,000 Protestants. At present there are representing this Province at Ottawa, three Protestant members of the Commons and two Protestant Senators, while there are but one Roman Catholic member of the Commons and one Roman Catholic Senator. Surely then, every fair-minded Prince Edward Islander must admit that a Catholic appointment is the only possible just solution of the question.

3. The French Acadians make up thirteen thousand of our population, yet they have had no representative either in the Commons or in the Senate since 1898: that is forty-three years ago. Since the Acadians form more than one-seventh of our population, and since we have eight representatives at Ottawa can any fair-minded person deny their right to representation in the Senate which was constituted especially for the protection of minorities? Do we believe in Democracy or do we not?

It is therefore suggested that the logical man for the position is Mr. Joseph A. Bernard of Tignish. Mr Bernard is a man in his fifties. For the past twenty-five years he has successfully conducted one of the largest commercial enterprises in the Province. He is a man of fine personality, of marked ability, a splendid platform speaker, and nobody can deny that he would be a valuable acquisition to any deliberative body anywhere. During all these years he has done yeoman service in the Liberal cause in Prince County. The large and ever increasing majorities secured by the Liberals in the First District are in a large measure due to his organizing ability and untiring energy. He is Vice President of the Liberal Association of Prince Edward Island, and also of the West Prince Liberal Association. The Liberal Government of 1925 refused to appoint a French-Acadian Senator. Surely this time, when the justice of their claim must be admitted by all, when after more than forty years of waiting, an opportunity of righting matters presents itself, our good Liberal Government at Ottawa will put aside all petty party considerations and do itself the honour of carrying out those principles of fair play and justice for which it stands.

I am, Sir, etc.,
P. J. PERRY
Prince County, March 24.

Shipbuilding

(Halifax Chronicle)

The premier of Nova Scotia has expressed surprise, in the Legislature, that Nova Scotia shipbuilders have failed to meet the competition of Ontario and British Columbia. "There is no excuse, except that the bids are too high," he is quoted as saying . . . "I can't see why our shipbuilders cannot compete with those of other provinces."

This is similar to the view of Navy Minister Macdonald, who told the House of Commons the other day he regretted the situation, but failed to see what could be done about it.

The premier told the Legislators on Thursday that "our contractors have competed against the Upper Canadian contractors, and I see no reason why the shipbuilders can't do the same." He is undoubtedly an authority on contracting, having been associated with that business for many years. But shipbuilding is not an exact parallel to the contracting industry.

For one thing, shipbuilders contend that they must tender on unfamiliar specifications—which involves some risk making it more difficult to finance the operation. They also point out that for the past several years their average profit has been meagre so that any gain to be made would be treated as excess profit. And most of the excess profit goes back to the government. Conceivably contractors have a higher average profit, because of more activity in recent years, and, therefore, would enjoy a better return on their business. Contractors also tender on less puzzling specifications.

The shipbuilders' story is that they must offer a fairly high tender to provide them with a margin of safety. For, under the present system, most of their profit disappears in taxes, and if they make a loss there is no assistance forthcoming.

Yet it is important for the war effort that all facilities be utilized for shipbuilding and boatbuilding. It is important for this province that our shipyard and boat yards play a part in the program.

Despairing statements by prominent men only add to the difficulties.

If a cost plus basis is the only practical way, let us demand it. Ships and boats are urgently needed. The cost plus system (cost plus an agreed profit) has been employed for other urgent activities. Why not here?

But, above all, let us have a strong united effort.

NIPPON GO BRAGH

(London Express)

To get the point of this you must understand that Irish newspapermen are not allowed by their government to admit that Sons of Eire are serving with the British forces.....

So, under the heading "Nippon Go Bragh!" a columnist in the Irish Times mentions the names and nationalities of nine British military successes:

Gen. Wavell, English.
Gen. Mackie, Australian.
Gen. Wilson, Japanese (North Island.)
Gen. O'Connor, Japanese.
Gen. O'Moore Creagh, Japanese.
Gen. Dill, Japanese (North Island).
Gen. Brooke, Japanese (North Island.)
Adm. Cunningham, Japanese.
Adm. Somerville, Japanese

"Caesar" Goes Home

(Hamilton Spectator)

Mussolini likes to pose as a modern Caesar, destined to restore the glories of the ancient Roman empire; but it is one thing to assume the title and another thing to live up to it. When Benito joined the axis partnership he certainly crossed the Rubicon, but the cast of the die was disastrous for him and his country. Nothing he attempts succeeds; every order he gives his generals is the signal for fresh disaster for Italian arms. And when he decided to see to it personally that his orders were carried out, by going over to Albania and conducting offensive operations against the Greeks, planned on such a scale as to sweep them, as it was fondly hoped, out of the conquered territories, he brought upon himself the crowning humiliation. For the full week the Italian offensive was in progress with the Duce, in his armoured car rushing about from point to point behind the lines, goading on the luckless troops to slaughter, no fewer than 50,000 men have been put out of action. He came, he saw and was conquered.

So the proud Duce, already completely discredited as a "leader," returns to his native soil, deflated and crestfallen. Moreover, his native soil is itself overrun by German troops; Italy has lost her freedom and come under the thraldom of the Nazi yoke just as Prime Minister Churchill predicted. It is no wonder Mussolini's armies fight half-heartedly; for they know that the triumph of Hitler in this war spells not only the end of all ambitions for a Roman empire but the end of Italy itself. A victorious Britain will be far more generous when conflict ceases than the so-called axis "partner." The curtain has already been rung down on Fascism, as it will be rung down on Nazism. So far as Mussolini's opera-bouffe is concerned, the "commedia e finita."

F. D. R.'s "Handicap"

(News of the World)

Twenty years ago President Roosevelt little realized that he would one day be the most powerful man in the world.

After supervising the demobilization of the U. S. Navy he had been attacked by infantile paralysis as a result of baths in ice-cold water.

His legs had been put into the steel braces which he still wears, and he moved about, as he still does, in a self-propelled chair.

To a distinguished English visitor who expressed the hope of a speedy recovery, he said: "Thank you, but my career is at an end. I can never surmount this handicap."

"Nonsense," said the visitor, "With all your other advantages you might well be President one day." —a prophecy which Mr. Roosevelt brushed aside as not worth discussing.

The Poets' Corner

TO A GERMAN AIRMAN

"Ships, towers, domes, theatres and temples lie"
In smouldering tangle as you wing away,
Unscathed, unrueful, to salute the day
That saw three hundred years of London die.
Monstrous perversion, that the power to fly
Closer to heaven should lead men to repay
Inventive power with hell! But on your way
Mark this: towers are not England, nor the sky
That lights you, England intrepid in your path,
Is children singing; little men who wear
Trafalgar inwardly; the slow to wrath;
The Cockney grin: young guardians of the air.
They rise above each burning aftermath.
"Earth has not anything to show more fair."

—Blanche Davis in New York Herald Tribune.

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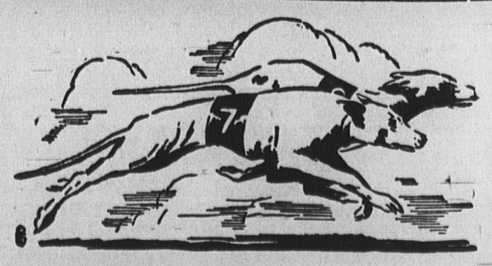

GOING TO THE DOGS

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