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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

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Rural Electrification

Some interesting comments on the subject of rural electrification are made in an article in the Winnipeg Free Press by Mr. Walter Tucker, Liberal party leader in Saskatchewan. Mr. Tucker's main purpose is to show that during the period the C. C. F. has been in office in Saskatchewan, the Manitoba Government has taken electricity to 16,000 farmers, eight times as many as the C. C. F. provided with electricity in the same period. He goes on, however, to point out that experience of all other countries has been that "no farm electrification programme succeeds unless there is substantial subsidization by the state."

Mr. Tucker concedes that where a high density per mile of line can be secured, subsidies have not been so necessary. In England, for example, subsidies have been granted sparingly. In France the state has subsidized rural capital costs by from 30 to 50 per cent. Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba all make direct subsidies to farm electrification.

The experience of Nova Scotia, Mr. Tucker says, was that little progress was made until a system of subsidies was established in 1937. In Ontario the Hydro had been in operation for fourteen years before any substantial number of farms secured power. The real impetus for farm electrification in Ontario came in 1921 when the Province agreed to pay one-half of the capital cost of rural lines. In Manitoba in 1929 a new policy was established providing for the Government paying a subsidy of 50 per cent of the capital cost, amortization and interest on generation, transmission and substation equipment. The balance of the cost is spread over 24 years and collected in the light accounts. In Manitoba the electricity is brought to the farmer. All he has to do is wire his buildings and buy his equipment.

In Saskatchewan, the total average cost of bringing power to the farmer is divided into two parts. The first part covers the cost of building the main or trunk transmission lines. This is \$277.50 and is paid by the Government. There is no subsidy, all of it being charged to the farmer in the rates he must pay. The balance of \$485.10 covers the cost of building the feeder line from the trunk line to the farmer's buildings. This full amount the farmer must pay, 75 per cent of it at once and the balance within five years by a system of focal taxation. "If experience elsewhere can be relied upon," says Mr. Tucker, "the Saskatchewan scheme will not lead to the extensive rural electrification now under way in Manitoba."

A Word Omitted

Commenting on the reception of Prime Minister Nehru of India in the House of Commons last week Mr. Rodney Adamson, Conservative member for York West, called attention to one significant omission in the addresses of welcome. That was the absence of any reference to the word "British". "Yet," added Mr. Adamson, "it was the genius of British institutions and the British parliamentary system which made the ceremony possible. In fact it was essentially because of British ideals of freedom and self-determination that the meeting was possible at all. The very omission of the word 'British' before 'Commonwealth' in the speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) emphasized, more clearly than any words could have done, the essential quality of British freedom which made it possible for the leader of a sister Commonwealth country, embracing a republican form of government, to speak to us in a free Parliament; because we are both dedicated to the principle of freedom of the individual and the dignity of man. We believe that these are inherent foundations of the British parliamentary system. Perhaps this omission of the word 'British' was one of the most significant aspects of yesterday's meeting."

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Saints Day.

In North Sydney plans for a \$900,000 port and terminal expansion have been submitted to the Department of Transport and are approved with minor alterations. The port handles a great deal of traffic going to and coming from Newfoundland.

The Historic Exhibition will soon be getting under way. All sorts and conditions have been making selections to be put on view at the first exhibition of its kind in the Province. The next three days should be extra busy days with the promoters, who

are deserving the thanks and congratulations of all for their initiative and enterprise.

The Provincial Government's offer to pay 10 per cent of the purchase price of a snowmobile for country doctors should improve medical service in rural areas. The terms of the offer should also result in improved local organization in which this Province is notably lacking.

American tourists may now take back with them \$200 in goods or \$500 worth if their trip extends over 12 days. Direct benefits of the tourists trade should spread next season from caterers and carriers to the business community generally.

Antonio Canova, Italian sculptor, died this date 1822, revived the art of classic sculpture. The greatest work of his novitiate was "Daedalus and Icarus"; others include "Theseus Vanquishing the Minotaur", "Psyche and the Butterfly", "Perseus with the Head of Medusa", "The Group of Hercules and Lichas", "Hebe", "Cupid and Psyche."

One of the recommendations of the Scottish Advisory Council on improving the efficiency of the prison system merits consideration wherever detention is used as a form of punishment. The proposal to pay prisoners for work done would not only be good for the prisoner, but would relieve the innocent sufferer, his wife and family.

Other organizations might well with advantage follow the Boy Scouts example and publish immediately the result of their tag day receipts. It is not right that collections should be taken from citizens without an announcement of the response made. The Boy Scouts have a long and enviable record of immediately publishing the returns of their annual Apple Day appeal.

The erratic behavior of herring has played an important part in the rise and decline of seaports from the time of the Hanseatic League. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea has decided to publish a "Herring Atlas" of the Northeast Atlantic to help fishermen in their uncertain pursuit.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's declaration that no constitutional changes are now intended in exercise of Parliament's new powers is reasonably reassuring. It would be unwise and perhaps useless to make amendment difficult. The necessary and only efficient guarantee of liberty is the constant vigilance of the people.

The statement of Dr. Brock Chisholm that "War, itself, is obsolete," has resulted in the obvious effort that war, on the contrary, is right up to the minute in equipment and tactics. From a different viewpoint, however, the evolution of a new concept of empire by the British Commonwealth has long deprived war of its ancient motives of acquiring raw materials and tribute.

Mrs. Frantisek Nemeck, wife of the former Czechoslovakian Minister to Canada, will open a pastry shop in the capital this month. For the reddish blond, vivacious Mrs. Nemeck, the shop will be the fulfillment of a dream. Ever since her husband resigned his appointment following the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia last year, she has toyed with the idea of such a venture. Her husband now works with the Labor Department in Ottawa. In her store, in the Glebe section of South Ottawa, Mrs. Nemeck hopes to sell French, Swiss, Danish, Italian pastries, and hand-made European chocolates. She also plans to introduce Ottawa hostesses to "Mignons"—one-bite confections of whipped cream and tantalizing flavors—and to "Kolacs"—small round pastries filled with jam or cottage cheese, and traditional fare at Czechoslovak embassy parties in Washington. It is quite evident that Mrs. Nemeck intends to make a success of her changed condition, and does not care who knows it.

How jealous some members of Parliament are of fellow members' success. Mr. W. R. Aylesworth (PC., Frontenac-Addington) was congratulated by fellow members of the Commons for winning the top award with his Jersey herd at the Ottawa Winter Fair. Mr. Gordon Graydon (PC., Peel), rose on a question of privilege at the House opening to extend his congratulations. Prime Minister St. Laurent followed and said he believed all members would agree that it was good to see one of their number giving good example to the farming community. Thereupon Mr. George Cruickshank (L., Fraser Valley) declared he attended the fair and found that the cattle were "almost equal to those in Fraser Valley." He admitted, however, one of the fair's greatest attractions was the R. C. M. P. Musical Ride. He suggested that the Government have the Mounties perform the ride in various parts of Canada and the United States. It was "one of Canada's greatest tourist attractions."

The Poet's Corner

THE HUNTER
The hunter crouches in his blind
Wealth camouflaged of every kind,
And conjures up a quacking noise
To lend allure to his decoys.
This grown-up man, with pluck and luck,
Is hoping to outwit a duck.
—Ogden Nash.

Old Charlottetown

HORTICULTURE NEGLECTED
There is a great contrast at the Queen's Head every fall, viz. large exportations of potatoes and large importations of apples. I asked a very intelligent gentleman why apples were not exported from here as well as potatoes, and he said, 'Oh, apples will not do well here; the climate is too cold.' This seems very strange indeed, said I, as the potato is a native of South Carolina, a warm country, and also nearness to native of Siberia, a very cold one. But I found out the cause of this some time after, and that is, all the trees (apples) that I have seen here, are produced from seed, and trees raised in this way are liable to degenerate very much from the parent stock; but if proper scions and proper stock were procured, and properly inoculated or grafted, the farmer of this island would be able to export apples from their orchards, as well as potatoes from their farms. . . . Not only will apples, but peaches, and also nectarines, apricots, figs, and four or five different sorts of grapes, come to perfection in the open air here, if properly raised and treated after the manner adopted in England; cherries; white and red magnum bonum, and orlean and other superior plums, as well as the jargonelle, madam, summer and autumn bergamots, and other high flavoured pears.

There are also some hardy exotic natural grasses that I know of that would be a great acquisition to our farmers, if they would only cultivate them. But men in general are so wedded to their own notions that it is seldom, if ever, they are removed from their error; and therefore it is only by ocular demonstration that any chance of attaining to so desirable an end, and which best is exhibited in true colours by experiments of all the natural grasses, on a small scale, in a Horticultural Garden. This is a plan that is adopted in England some time ago, and which contributed much to the welfare of agriculture there.

Therefore, graziers and dairymen, as well as horse owners, ought to subscribe towards establishing a Horticultural Garden near Charlottetown, for it would be very much to their interest to introduce into the island, and into the Island, that will not be so liable to be destroyed by the winter frosts and summer droughts, as what the timothy is; and therefore, the very painful and termination of their part of slaughtering their cattle before they are in a fit condition for the knife, for want of fodder."

The Outlook for Agriculture

(Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia)
The improvement in winter food supplies as yet had comparatively little effect on the prices of Canadian farm products, says the current Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia. The general level of such prices is now only about 6% below the peak reached in the summer of 1948, though in the United States the index of farm-product prices is 15% below a year ago and 20% below the January, 1948, peak. Canadian farm income too, has so far been sustained at or near record levels, and for the full year will probably not show much reduction from the 1948 record of \$2,400 millions. Though farm income is still high, the sellers' market for food has been waning, and the terms of exchange between food producers and food consumers are beginning to swing in favor of the consumer, the Review points out. Britain's dependence on Canadian food is becoming less extreme, and uncertainty overhanging the future of British purchases in Canada. The dollar stringency has not lessened. If anything, it has increased, as devaluation indicates.

Devaluation, it is true, is a necessary step towards the solution of the trading problem. But it has the immediate effect of making Canadian food prices higher in terms of sterling and in relation to those of such soft-currency food-producing countries as Denmark and Australia which devalued along with sterling. With devaluation, the reality of the dollar shortage is reflected in prices, and the dependence of devaluing countries on import restrictions as a means of limiting dollar purchases is reduced.

The development of surpluses in the United States further complicates the marketing problem. The fact that the United States is now producing over 50% more wheat than in the 'twenties and 'thirties and in recent seasons has exported more than Canada, Australia and Argentina put together is perhaps the most disconcerting factor from

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The Canadian point of view. The existence of farm surpluses in that country naturally interferes with the use of ECA funds to finance purchases in Canada. . . . The difficulty is to translate the need into effective demand and particularly into effective dollar demand. Recent prices for primary food stuffs have been arrived at under conditions of scarcity which are now abating and the terms of trade for food producers are probably more favorable than can be sustained. The task ahead is to achieve a reasonable readjustment which will facilitate a healthy flow of international trade, and which the prosperity of agriculture so greatly depends.

No Sure-Fire Cures

(Globe and Mail)
For many a century men dreamed of finding the elixir of life, which would bring them immortality, if not also eternal youth. . . . The wisest of medical men know the fallacy of such hopes, and still approach their work with humility and a questioning mind. It is a pity that others take advantage of their discoveries to play upon a natural weakness of human nature and raise hopes which may never be fulfilled. The new "anti-biotic" drugs, of which the sulfa derivatives and penicillin are the best known, are examples of such over-exploitation. Extravagant claims made for this class of drugs are already proving false, and forcing both doctors and laymen into more realistic appraisals of the problem of disease and illness. The American Mercury has brought together considerable evidence from official medical sources which shows that while these powerful miracle-working drugs have a place in therapeutics, it is much more limited than formerly believed. Some specialists have come to

The Age-Old Story

A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wisdom; but the fool will not receive instruction, and will despise his father's counsel.

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WHY YOUNG FATHERS INSURE
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Notes By The Way

They say that to be strict with children robs them of spirit and individuality. One great asset to parents is discipline, but it is thousand times better to subdue a little surplus spirit than to live to see children cast into prison, or with a noose around their necks, with a curse for you on their lips in the bargain. . . .

The three-day debate about devaluation for which the British Parliament was specially summoned turned out to be at least as unedifying as the pre-election debates of our own House of Commons. We agree with the London Times and other serious critics who deplore that a moment in Britain's life should have been the occasion for a certain unregenerate joy in a manner in which the verbal jousts were conducted. . . .

Responsible doctors, of course, need no advice on orders of this nature. But it is most desirable that laymen be not misled by excessive claims advanced by those who seek a wide publicity. Men are prone to forget the vast complex of life, and to interfere without realizing the great danger. This folly is all too apparent in their environment, where they are frequently upset the balance of nature, with grave consequences. We still know far too little about the body and the causes of disease to be too sure in assessing the value of superficial results. It is inspiring to ponder the advances of medical science in the last century or so, but it is wise to remember how much we do not know.

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