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

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1946

It Needed Saying

Agriculture Minister J. G. Gardiner is being complimented on a timely and effective speech he made in Parliament in protest against the habitual disparagement of farming as a profession. It was, as he said, something that had been on his mind to say, and, after listening to a number of speeches by people "who had never had farms and never intended to farm, telling how terrible conditions are on the farms," he thought that was "as good a time as any."

The *Globe and Mail* has the following pertinent comment on this subject:

It has been the custom everywhere to depreciate farming, especially since the Industrial Revolution created a clear division between rural and urban people, and doubtless long before that. Farmers themselves have by no means been guiltless of complaint about the poor returns, the hard work, and the many other factors which from their point of view do not appear to be problems to the town dweller. There is, as Mr. Gardiner aptly emphasized, a basic inconsistency in deploring the terrible condition of agriculture in one breath, and then in the next going on to deplore the departure of so many young people from the farms to the cities.

"If we are going to keep our boys on the farms (he said) we shall have to preach a different kind of philosophy from what is being preached today in this House and elsewhere. We must preach the philosophy that there is nothing better, or more worthwhile, than producing food and clothing, the two things that are necessary to all of us. If farming, producing the things we need the most, is not considered the best of all the professions or trades, or whatever you like to call it, there is something wrong with our way of thinking."

It would be idle and untruthful to deny that there is plenty of room for improvement in rural living. Far too many rural homes lack the conveniences which are comparatively commonplace in urban dwellings. Nevertheless, in many parts of rural Canada, these things are being introduced, and the numerous benefits accruing from cheap electricity for instance, are becoming available.

In recent years, also, a great deal more is becoming known on the place of agriculture in the economic system. The effect of national policies and world conditions on price levels is much more clearly understood, and it may be taken for granted that so far as these factors may be controlled policies which formerly meant slow starvation of agriculture will be avoided. Wartime demand has, of course, raised prices of almost all farm products, so that, as Mr. Gardiner stated, total farm income averaged $1,600,000,000 annually during the last three years, bringing an average return to each farm of $2,000. Various factors, like hired help, would reduce this measurably, but in general farm income is about two and a half times what it was in 1932, a depression year which still colors thinking about farm income. Apart from the question of farm prices, for too long farming has been stigmatized by the failures of bad farmers.

Much more is being done to provide proper education for rural life. Better facilities are being created, and more useful subjects being taught. The value of education for farmers has never been so widely recognized as it is today. Related to this, there has never been so much scientific study of farming and its problems. Soil conservation, technical methods, better crops, improved stock breeds, and the like, are much more clearly understood as basic principles of farming success.

Thus, there are several reasons why pessimistic talk about farming is no longer in line with facts. True, people have to work hard, especially at certain seasons of the year, but that is, or should be, understood by any one intending to take up this ancient way of life. There are compensations which urban life cannot possibly provide, even with shorter hours and a relatively secure source of income. If our farmers and would-be farmers would concentrate on the improvements which exist and are being made in rural life, then it might become generally recognized that farming is indeed "the best of all professions or trades."

Making Haste Slowly

Back in February of 1936 the Minister of Justice—who then was Mr. Lapointe—recommended, and the Cabinet approved, appointment of a royal commission "to inquire into and report upon the penal system of Canada." The commission went to work, and on April 4, 1938, presented to the Minister of Justice a report of 418 large printed pages. This monumental work was the report to end all prison reports. The commissioners had visited all the Canadian penitentiaries, had heard the evidence of convicts and penologists and officials, and had gone abroad to study the prison systems of England, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and France.

The commission made 88 tabulated recommendations, including the advice that a three-man Prison Commission be established. The Government said this was a great report, the solution of all our prison problems, and something would be done about it at once—or, well, almost at once. Meanwhile as evidence of good faith the superintendent of penitentiaries was fired.

Month then followed month, and year followed year, while the famous report gathered dust. Mr. Lapointe used to explain how difficult it was to find the ideal men for the proposed commission. Mr. Lapointe died and Mr. St. Laurent succeeded him, and the war became the standard excuse for delay. The war was using all the good men, of course. Meanwhile, strange as it may seem, the penitentiaries carried on, perhaps not with entire satisfaction to criminals but with a minimum of disturbance.

And now at last, more than ten years since Mr. Lapointe made his recommendation which the Cabinet approved, another step is taken Major General Ralph Gibson of Toronto has been appointed Commissioner of Penitentiaries, the recommendation for a three-man commission having been tossed overboard — the explanation being that the report of 1938 now needs "considerable study" before it can be implemented, and one man can make that study as well as three.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

It was Rustico's day yesterday, and they made the most of it.

* * * *

Christopher Columbus, explorer, died this date 1506; discovered America in 1492; he never realized that he had made the greatest discovery in Maritime history.

* * * *

At it again. Antique furniture and other pieces to the value of some $200,000 have been bought in Edinburgh by Mr. Leslie J. Meade and packed by him for sale in America.

* * * *

Evidently seed-time delay is common all over the Dominion, seeing that in the Prairies they have been having severe frosts instead of sunshine. In Ontario they complain the farmers are at least three weeks in arrears with work.

* * * *

Is rationing in foodstuffs to be stiffened in the interests of starving Europe? Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of British Privy Council, and Food Controller in general, is in Ottawa with his staff discussing food policy with the King Government. Restriction in home consumption is advocated to permit of more being exported.

* * * *

Article XIV of the new French Constitution deals with the press as follows "Every man is free to speak, write, print and publish; he can by means of the press or any other manner express, diffuse and defend any opinion in such measure as it does not abuse this right, notably as it does not violate freedoms guaranteed by the present declaration or injure the reputation of another person. No manifestation of opinion can be imposed on anyone."

* * * *

It would be bad for our stockmen were the grain freight subsidy from the West to the East discontinued, and Agricultural Minister Gardiner is to be commended on his determination to leave well alone in this respect. On the other hand he must have been cynical when he announced that the reason why the Department of Agriculture hesitated about publishing information on the results of machinery experiments because "we have found that when we put out statements farmers do the opposite of what is recommended.

* * * *

A reasonable explanation. Multiple orders by wholesalers, jobbers and retailers have distorted civilian demand in the United States until government stabilizers can no longer measure actual shortages, says *Nation's Business*. Frantic for merchandise, retailers place the same order simultaneously with six or eight prospective suppliers. Then, when OPA asks for unfilled orders in a given industry, it gets a report two to five times the actual demand. That's why every industry thinks it is four to eight months behind with "mountains of unfilled orders."

* * * *

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has presented Mr. Bevan, British Minister of Health, with a far worse problem than the British Medical Association objections to the new nationalization of hospitals and health services. Mr. Bevan was wrong in believing that, because some of the noisier physicians in Britain were Socialists, therefore the medical profession wanted to be turned into a Government agency, but he is up against something far more important in Cardinal Griffin's simple remark that he hopes that, in nationalizing hospitals, the Government will remember that R. C. hospitals are based on religious as well as medical foundations. This is one point, says *The Letter-Review*, which is recommended to the theorists at Ottawa who believe that it would be simple to nationalize health services in Canada.

* * * *

The economic illusion of our times, says *The Letter-Review*, is that fostered by the Government during the War, to the effect that the only requirement for making the nation prosperous is to have plenty of money around. Actually, an excessive amount of money in circulation results in added difficulty in obtaining increased production. It causes a steady pressure for higher wages and higher prices, which discourages buying on the part of the public in general, because it is very difficult to convince the public that the value of their savings, and the purchasing power of their incomes, may have to fall as a direct result of large Governmental expendiaures for War purposes, with excessively generous attempts at Social Security imposed upon them.

Notes By The Way

A man's business shows where he stands, says a banker. And his golf, where he lies. —*Hamilton Spectator.*

Nature was never lovelier; yet man's inhumanity to man continues. There are days when all the good news on Page 1 seems crowded into an upper corner, under weather. —*Buffalo News.*

If the "baby bonus" is only leading to an epidemic of wife-beating as seems to be the case in some parts of this district, 'twere better if it had never been introduced. —*Brockville Recorder and Times.*

Because restaurants — and many housewives as well — think that the only way in which to make a palatable sandwish is to cut off all the crust, vast quantities of bread are being wasted every day throughout the length and breadth of this country. —*Brockville Recorder and Times.*

One housing administrator is warning municipalities to "go slow" on temporary housing. Perhaps he is right because temporary housing can become a liability instead of an asset, but nowadays almost anything that is habitable is needed in some heavily congested centres. —*Brockville Recorder and Times.*

Officially, Mr. Truman may be President of the United States, but if the American people want steel, they have to see Phil Murray. If they want automobiles, they must kowtow to Walter Reuther. If they want music, they're obliged to kunckle under to J. Caesar Petrillo. If they want coal to heat their homes and keep their industries running, it's a case of kiss John L. Lewis' big toe, or else. —*Windsor Star.*

Ah, but if fair be kind, then kindness is also fairness. Kind is fairer, fair, kinder, if it also possesses the unaware wisdom, the graceful humor, the breath-catching gallantry that wears pleasure as an orchid and pain as a diadem. Envy the Duke if one will; the Duke requires no envy. But envy above all him who finds perfection in an imperfect face pillard above a something less than perfect form. For the perfect corporal beauty is but the perfect triumph of the average, whereas the illusion of beauty is imperishable perfection itself — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

This week the dispatches told of a man who built a store at Hudson Hope in British Columbia 30 years ago in the expectation that a railway soon would be built into that community When news came a day or two ago that the government of the province, after all these years of waiting, would extend the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to Hudson Hope, the merchant, now 84 years old, was so overjoyed that he collapsed and had to be taken to a hospital. — Toronto Star.

Luminous carpets which will light the way to your seat in the cinema but will not interfere with the showing of the films are on the way. Experiments by manufacturers at Kidderminster, Britain's carpet manufacturing centre have reached an advanced stage. "Cinema owners," an executive of one big firm said, "are showing special interest in our activities." Manufacture involves the use of phosphorescent dyes which give off a twilight glow in the dark. Two big problems confronting the manufacturers are (1) How to prevent the dyes wearing out through constant treading on the carpets; (2) How to make the carpets look attractive even under the full glare of the cinema lights. Both are being solved. —London Daily Mail.

One of the strangest living creatures on this earth has absolutely no sense of direction. This state of affairs has made it necessary, through laws of nature, to give the processionary caterpillar a very novel way of returning to its original starting place, whether it be its nest or some remote place. The pine processionary worm of France is endowed with the ability to find its way home by using a "rope" as a guide. This worm spins a fine cord, one end of which is fastened securely to its nest or a twig of a tree. The worm then starts on its merry way, unwinding the silken cord from its body as it travels. When it is prepared to return to its nest, it merely follows the cord back along the route it has made. —From Forest and Outdoors.

We live in an old house, with nine average sized rooms which just seems to accommodate four children, a dog, a cat and whatever other pets are current impediments. Each once in a while we have company and they ask why we live in a large house. So much work and no help, and all the other objections. But where, we ask you, do children play in these modern bandboxes? Where do they entertain? How can you stage a hockey game in a kitchen filled with sinks and cupboards or a boxing match in a hall which holds only the telephone? We have never been able to figure out what becomes of children in the house of today, even those in small families. —*Elora Express.*

In these days of almost instantaneous communication, information can be imparted, direct consultation between the heads of the British states held, and decisions reached and exchanged, more readily and fruitfully than through representatives sitting "permanently" in London or other central points and rushing to telephones to talk things over with their respective governments. The direct approach is bound to work better than the indirect. The nations of the British Commonwealth will often speak in unison, but it is folly to urge that they speak with "one voice." —*Edmonton Journal.*

One day in March Mrs. Harriet Kerr, who had come to Sydney from the bush to obtain treatment for her crippled girl was so broke that she had to beg a tram pass to get to the Children's Hospital. Next day she was the owner of a block of nine flats worth £15,500. This was the first prize in a raffle to aid the War Veterans' Appeal. "Now I'll be able to hand my tram pass back," she said. "I came to Sydney in the only dress I had and had to borrow my mother's coat I've been properly down and out—but God is good". Her husband, a sheep station hand, is unable to work and receives an invalid pension. They intend to go on living in the country. —*Australian News Letter.*

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

LONDON — (CP) — St. James's bombed churchyard is to be a garden of remembrance, dedicated to the fortitude of Londoners.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CHANGE NEEDED AT P. W. C.

Sir,—I have read with much satisfaction Mrs. Frank's letter outlining the problem to eliminate the bottleneck at P. W. C. In her letter she shows the people of Prince Edward Island, who are really interested in their children's future how easy it would be for our present Government to prove to the electors they really mean to make a change in our educational system. I know there are two or three out of every hundred in Prince Edward Island satisfied with things as they are, but you will find this percentage satisfied with anything.

Ever since the first letter appeared in your columns for or against this subject I have paid particular attention to the opinions of all who are in favor of a change. Most of them do not offer any suggestions because it certainly is not expected that each one of us make a study of school courses or any other subject that might come up for provincial discussion. We leave it to the boards appointed by our electors and often this leads to indifference. I believe the people of this Island now want a change and it is up to the Premier to initiate this change.

I am, Sir, etc.
A LIBERAL.

Use Airplanes And Radar In Whale Hunt

(Robert Musel Reports from London to the British United Press.)

The zero hour strikes for the whales of the Antarctic this Fall when a British expedition armed to the teeth with new scientific gadgets, including 'planes and radar, sets out to protect the tottering fat ration of the homeland.

Whales have been hunted for more than a thousand years at sea, but this new expedition will mark the first time the giant mammals will not even have the slim chance now remaining to them of escaping capture by staying comfortably out of sight of the parent whaling ships.

Sir Ben Smith, Minister for Food, stated the problem in simple mathematics in the House of Commons: Britain needs 4,000 tons of whale oil a week to maintain a safe minimum fats ration. At present it is down to 2,000 tons of whale oil weekly.

* * *

The new expedition had been planned before this revelation, but Sir Ben's statement gave it additional urgency.

While it is engaged in pursuing any whale unlucky enough to be in the vicinity of its operative radius, the expedition will try to give some of its attention to one of the current mysteries of the deep—why are this season's whales so thin?

Whaling ships now returning from the Antarctic after the worst Winter season in many years— if not in history — have reported that not only did they meet with wild weather and fewer whales, but that those mammals they did catch had far less oil than is normal.

Whales feed on minute organisms strained from immense gulps of water by a specialized apparatus in the mouth. If they are not getting the usual quantity of food it would probably mean some sea change which eventually might affect the species of fish dependent on these organisms. Experts putting into port on one whaler spoke of signs of "whale starvation."

* * *

The parent ship of the Fall expedition will be a 22,000-ton factory ship which will carry a 'plane catapult. The commander of its air wing will be John Grierson, jet 'plane test pilot, who in this instance will fly a slow-speed amphibian 'plane of the "Walrus" type.

Grierson will have two other Fleet Air Arm pilots working with him in the job of spotting whales from the air and radioing their positions to a fleet of fast trawlers which will operate from the factory ship. This will cut the tedious searching phase of whaling from weeks down to days. Grierson's 'planes will be equipped with radar since whales can be spotted this way as much as submarines were during the war.

Among other whaling suggestions now being considered by the Government are the use of rocket-propelled harpoons from 'planes which would carry a lethal charge, enabling the 'plane to kill a whale and then radio the position of the kill to trawlers.

The expedition plans to be gone five months, heading from England to Capetown and then the Antarctic.

Liberals And Liberalism

(Ottawa Journal)

That able and brilliant man, Minister of Justice St. Laurent, was surprised—and a bit sarcastic—when he found Mr. John Diefenbaker, Progressive Conservative, "preaching liberalism with a small 'l.'" If Mr. St. Laurent remains long enough in Parliament—and we hope he remains there long—he will get over such surprise. He will discover that a Liberal label and a liberal mind are not the same things; and the real creed of liberalism—which is a state of mind, not something that belongs to a party name or organization—is expressed more often from the Progressive Conservative side of the house than from his own side.

It would be foolish to say there are no liberals in the Liberal party. It would be equally foolish to say that there are no crusted Tory reactionaries in it; and it would be false to say that some recent actions of Mr. St. Laurent's Liberal government haven't been reactionary. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a liberal; there were times when he acted like a Whig artistocrat, but in the main he knew and cleaved to the ideas of the Manchester School and gloried in the traditions of Gladstone. Not so his successors. M. King declares himself a liberal, but we venture to say that his liberalism is more in line with the social workers' school of the United States, with its mixture of paternalism and socialism, than with the traditional liberalism of England. Nor can it be said accurately that a single one of Mr. King's ministers, most of whom are planners or collectivists, adhere to the liberal creed. Sir Robert Borden, labelled a "Conservative" had more liberalism in his little finger than the whole of them lumped together.

Any one, of course, can claim the name Liberal. But the claim isn't necessarily true. Hearing it sometimes in Canada we recall the words of G. K. Chesterton.

"As much as I ever did, more than I ever did, I believe in liberalism; but there was a rosy day of innocence when I believed in Liberals."

Revised Subsidy Still Costly

(Montreal Gazette)

The headway made in reduction and elimination of subsidies used to hold down the delivered costs and stablize prices of consumer goods, is emphasized in the annual report of the Prices Board on its 1945 operations reiterates its declared policy of dropping or cutting down subsidies wherever possible, even though some price increases may result, with the general aim of progressive removal of all subsidies and restoration of a free-price structure.

Despite the revamping of subsidy payments and policy as the war drew to an end last year, maintenance of the system through 1945 required heavy outpourings of public funds and substantial payments are still being made. Close and constant scrutiny of the program is obviously necessary so that still further reductions may be made whenever conditions warrant in order to lighten, and ultimately eliminate the high cost of this phase of price control.

Statistics appended to the Board's report estimate the cost of subsidies, and trading losses on bulk purchases of basic commodities, at $93 millions in 1946. The gross cumulative since December 1, 1941 to the end of last year is reported at $328.3 millions. This is in addition to the general administrative expenses of the Board which provisional figures in the report indicate amounted to nearly $14 million last year.

The report points out that elimination of reduction of a number of subsidies during the past year, including several expensive ones on maor items of supply, began the process of narrowing down the sphere of payments to basic foods, certain farm supplies, textiles and fuels. Even in these essential fields, some cuts and adjustments were made.

The Board recognizes that price increases have been and will continue to be inevitable on products from which subsidies have been withdrawn or reduced, though it promises to limit them within reasonable bounds. So far such increases have represented a moderate cost naturally accompanying the readjustment to normal price and trading processes as against the necessary but abnormal and expensive process of price control bolstered by subsidies.

"Forward Side By Side"

(Hamilton Spectator)

Lord Halifax presented a paradox which it was difficult for the average American to understand—the aristocrat who was at the same time a thorough-going democrat—but he remained long enough in the United States to outlive initial prejudices and to gain the respect and affection of all classes. In taking his leave as British Ambassador, he gave eloquent expression to the cordial relationships prevailing between the two countries, dwelling on the outstanding accomplishments of the Anglo-American partnership during the war, and pleading for its peace-time continuation. Mr Winston Churchill's famous Fulton speech, though it provoked a certain amount of unfavourable criticism—based largely on misunderstanding — did nevertheless produce in the minds of thoughtful people on both sides of the Atlantic an inspiring conception of mutual co-operation for the general advancement of human welfare. The theme has been taken up by Lord Halifax, in an article printed in Collier's, in which His Lordship speaks of the loyal collaboration of the United States and the British Commonwealth as being capable of solving most of the problems which are at present plaguing mankind.

Such association implies no lack of loyalty to the United Nations. The object being peace, there could be no stronger reinforcement of the democratic cause than the friendship of the Anglo-Saxon races. "Anglo-American friendship is the beginning of a process, never exclusive but continually expanding, which is a necessary condition of peace," writes Lord Halifax. Differences between the two partners are easy of adjustment—"we have a common heritage of thought and belief on almost everything that matters . . I have often thought, too, that opinions or comments which some of us are inclined to think are anti-British are pro-American, and that others, which some of you may consider anti-American, are only pro-British.

The Poets Corner

YOUNG GRASS

Like swift tree shadows running with the wind
The boy darts forward in an ecstasy
Of joy. He pauses, gives a shout and flings
Himself headlong upon the waiting earth.
He rolls upon the sweet green sod until
At length he and the twinkling grass are one.
His shining face is washed by woven strands
That cup the dew. An enchanted meadow lark
Takes wing to see. A cricket, listening,
Begins his chirping song. A bright-eyed toad
Leaps high in blithe surprise. On seeing him
The insects and the little creatures capture
All the wonder of the small boy's rapture.

—Florence Marie Taylor in the New York Times.

Both you and I have a perfect right—and indeed a duty—to stand up for our respective countries."

If only the United States and the British Commonwealth, holding to what they learned in the hard school of war, "will go forward side by side in the wider comradeship of the United Nations," concluded His Lordship, "they will render a service without price, not only to themselves, but to all people in all lands." Separately, they could become the victims of despair, but together they have it in them "to move mountains from the path that leads to a world of freedom and peace." What a blessing it would be if all could be impressed with the sanity of this vision and of the disinterested sincerity of those who proclaim it!

SOUTH AFRICAN GRATUITIES

PRETORIA, South Africa—(CP) —The Department of Defence has paid ex-service personnel £17,390,646 ($78,257,907) in grants, loans and war gratuities, according to a statement issued by the director-ate of demobilization here.

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