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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
FRIDAY, DEC. 3, 1943

Britain And India

What has Britain done to improve economic conditions in India? This question is answered authoritatively by Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in the U.S. and former Viceroy in India, who tells of the British record in that country in a recent issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

More land has been irrigated in India than in any other country—ten times as much as in Egypt, and whose irrigation we have heard so much of, and twenty-two times as much as in the United States. These irrigation works have cost \$500,000,000 but they have greatly increased production. Previously there had been disastrous famines from time to time. In one of them, a third of the population of Bengal perished. There has not been a serious famine in India since 1900, Lord Halifax maintains. The present famine is bad enough, but due largely to the world war, and he is thinking of the far more deadly famines of former years.

Agricultural production has been encouraged by the British, with the result that rice production is second only to that of China, as much wheat is grown as in Canada, more cane sugar than in any other country, cotton next to the U. S., and peanuts half the world crop.

Industrial development was coming gradually before the war, and there were 10,000 small factories. A great impetus to industrial production on a very wide range has been given by the war. But the big majority of the people still live from the soil.

This economic progress would have improved the living conditions of the people much more, but for the accompanying vast increase in population—from 206 millions in 1872 to 388 millions now. In 71 years the population nearly doubled. This was due to the removal of the factors which formerly checked the increase—wars in India, plague and famine. The great density of population makes it extremely difficult to relieve the general poverty.

Britain has done a good deal, but Britain alone cannot solve the problem. Quicker progress will be made in improving economic and living conditions in India when this is a more prosperous world, when trade flows freely and India's products can be marketed to advantage all over the world.

Canadian Codfish in Cuba

Since the removal of the ceiling price of 27 cents per pound on imported codfish in Cuba, the market for the Canadian product, which for over a year has been barred, has again been resumed, according to a report from J. E. O'Neill of the office of the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Havana.

"Since trade was resumed," the report states, "all Canadian fish shipments have been routed through Santiago de Cuba for transhipment to Havana by rail. Current prices for imperial and large codfish are \$16.20 and \$15.75 respectively per hundred pounds, f.o.b. Lunenburg, N.S. The Canadian product is now retailing freely in Havana at from 33 cents to 35 cents per pound, and is usually available at all grocery stores. Although this price places it beyond the reach of the poorer classes, who in normal times are the principal consumers, the demand nevertheless has been greater than the supply, and consequently considerably larger quantities can be absorbed, if they are available. The quality of the fish reaching this market is excellent and it has been most favorably received by both dealers and consumers."

Our Beef Exports

Oh, these uninformed bureaucrats! The Canadian Meat Board announced last summer that if a surplus of beef developed in Canada, the United Kingdom was ready to buy it, in addition to the 675,000,000 pounds of bacon being supplied this year. Meat Board purchases of beef started some weeks ago, but only recently did authorities feel the Canadian supply situation was sufficiently good to warrant export. Officials can give no information on the amount of beef shipped so far, but one estimate was that it is less than 1,000,000 pounds. Another factor likely to enlarge beef exports is the probable transfer of some western farmers' hog production to cattle raising. Although the meat supply picture is good, informed sources said it is "most unlikely" that meat rationing can be abandoned, because of the needs of Canada's allies. Mr. H. H. Hatfield, Progressive Conservative member of Parliament for Carleton-Victoria, suggests that meat rationing and meatless Tuesdays should be abandoned and a campaign started to have Canadians eat more meat. He said stocks of meats were large and butchers were being offered more than they could handle.

Government To Blame

It is a fair assumption, says the Globe and Mail, that the wage increases given the western miners will be offered to the Nova Scotia miners, who now have an application for wage adjustments before the National War Labor Board. In other words, the Government is now seeking to use the western settlement as the basis for a national formula—a formula which it ought to have sought last May when it declared the "national emergency" in coal production.

Had the Government achieved a formula Canada would have produced more coal over the

past three or four months, instead of losing production through strikes, stoppages and slow-downs. Had the Government followed the advice of its own labor and production authorities a formula would have been worked out. It followed their advice only to the point of holding an exploratory conference of operators and labor spokesmen in the capital at midsummer.

Several suggestions for improving miners' earnings and boosting production were advanced then, including time-and-a-half for the sixth day of work in any week, regional or district bonuses as used in Britain, unification of basic wage rates, and adjustment of income-tax collections. At that time the Minister of Munitions and Supply, to whom the Coal Controller and the Emergency Coal Production Board are responsible, did not believe that wages were a factor in the production problem, which he held to be entirely a matter of inadequate manpower. For whatever reason the proposals did not satisfy the views of the production authorities, and the search for a national formula was abandoned.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Had not Premier J. Walter Jones taken up our case against Newfoundland, and fought for our farmers and traders vigorously, we would have been cut out of our cattle trade with that Dominion. Our Federal representatives were asleep if not actually anti, as usual.

Dependents of servicemen share in increased cost-of-living bonuses now paid employees of industry and trade. It is announced that the amounts would be increased to \$4.12 a month for wives with children and \$2.20 a month for wives without children.

Acting to correct what President Roosevelt has described as "an historic mistake," the U.S. Senate has passed and sent to the White House a bill repealing the 61-year-old Chinese Exclusion Act. The measure substitutes for a ban on Chinese immigration the application of a quota under which 105 members of the race would be admitted annually and Chinese residents would be eligible for naturalization as United States citizens.

Probably Prof. W. D. MacFarlane, department of chemistry, Macdonald College, had Summerside in mind when he told the House of Commons Reconstruction Committee, Ottawa, that "alcohol production might be attained in rural plants, although sometimes there might be a question for the excise department as to the consumption of some of the product"

New Brunswick meat dealers complain farmers are unable to market cattle and hogs and also unable to obtain feed for them. As a result, some farmers are reported to be browsing small pigs, usually in great demand. Butchers declare they are being offered quantities far larger than they can handle and are booked weeks ahead of requirements. One dealer said that in trying to market cattle in Maine he found the same situation of glutted markets.

Robert Bloomfield, English poet, born this date 1766; published several poems dealing with rural life, his best known being "The Farmer's Boy":

"Thine heart should feel what thou must hourly see, That duty's basis is humanity." "If fields are prisons, where is Liberty?" "Strange to the world, he wore a bashful look, The fields his study, nature was his book."

Sir Aretas William Young, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island from 1831 to 1835, died this date 1835; entered the army as an ensign in 1805; served in Ireland, Egypt and the Peninsula through the Napoleonic and Revolutionary wars; from 1820 to 1823 administered the government of Trinidad, in 1826 returned as Protector of Slaves there, five years later being appointed lieutenant governor here; his son, Sir Henry Edward Fox Young, became governor of South Australia, and later of Tasmania.

Mr. E. P. Taylor, Canadian member of the U.S.A.-Canadian Combined Production and Resources has resigned to return to his own business. He says the armies are now fully equipped, the submarines under control, and air plant production has a high priority. Production is now being staggered downward, till it finishes off with the defeat of Japan. After that the Board will deal with distribution of civilian production in Britain, U.S.A. and Canada. He will return to his civilian tasks as president of Canadian Breweries, Orange Crush, Canadian Food Products, Sunsoy Products, and Anglo-Canadian Publishers; vice-president of the Brewing Corporation of America, Cleveland; and director of Excelsior Life Insurance company, Massey-Harris Company and the National Trust Company.

What is the most popular sport in Scotland today? asks Augustus Muir. The modern game of lawn-tennis is probably a good deal more popular than ever it was before—and so is the exploration of the countryside on foot, which is colloquially called "hiking," and there are many convenient hostels at which enthusiastic walkers may obtain a night's shelter. But surveying the whole field of games and pastimes, I think there is no doubt that football must be called the most popular Scottish game if we take into account the number of people who either play or watch it being played. The Rugby game has many loyal adherents; and an international Rugby match at the Murrayfield ground in Edinburgh brings its tens of thousands of enthusiastic spectators. But the Association game, in which the ball must not be touched by hand, has numerical priority both in players and followers. This game, in its original form, is probably as old as golf; and in the Middle Ages it shared with golf the distinction of being prohibited by law, in the hope of encouraging archery. It demands skill and fleetness of foot; and when a team like the Heart of Midlothian is playing against an equally famous rival, the crowds that gather to cheer on their favorites are enormous.

The Loose Coupon Racket

(St. Thomas Times-Journal) There is no doubt the stolen gas coupon racket is becoming serious. And there are other ways of beating the laws. Drivers do not travel much, "oblige" their friends by handing over coupons from their own books. Some gasoline operators even supply known customers with gasoline without any coupons at all. According to a report from Hamilton, Ontario, this black marketing is a black-gardly business. It is cheating our soldiers. It must be stopped; or reduced to at least possible minimum. If the existing procedure is inadequate, the officials in the oil controller's office must think up new ways.

Although there may be ways of beating the book itself, the first racket is the coupon racket. The regulation printed in the ration book distinctly says that each coupon shall be valid only when remaining attached to the book and when it is detached by the persons who sell the gasoline. In other words an attached coupon is not a loose coupon, even from a regular customer, but require that the book be handed over to the retailer. The retailer must tear out the required number of coupons before serving the customer. This is tantamount to absolute control of the loose coupons, and if strictly enforced would almost put an end to the whole racket.

Three Ounces A Week

(Winnipeg Free Press) Consternation and anger will be felt by Canada's farmers when they realize that the new policy of the government means that the British bacon ration is to be cut from four to three ounces a week. At the same time all domestic restrictions on the consumption of bacon have been removed. The background of the situation is this: Canada is this year supplying 675 million pounds of first-class bacon to Great Britain. For reasons which have never been completely explained the commitments made for 1944-45 were reduced. Canada, in these two years, is to supply Britain with 900 million pounds at the rate of 450 million pounds per year. Various explanations have been given for this. In some quarters it is maintained that our coarse grain supply—the food for hogs—will not permit a larger commitment; it is said larger shipments of beef will be sent to Britain instead, though of this no details have been published; in others, it is stated that the relationship of hog prices to coarse grain prices is such that no larger supply of bacon can be raised here; elsewhere it is said that the payment of coarse grain subsidies to some producers and not to others is at the bottom of the change; while others are said to be murmuring that, if the war in Europe ends between the close of 1943 and the close of 1944, Canada will be fortunate to be the possessor of a long-term contract which will keep the British market safe for Canadian producers in the face of immediate competition from Denmark, Holland, Poland, and so on. The reasons for the smaller total contract may or may not be amply justified. In the absence of proper explanation, everyone will make up his mind on that. But nobody can find any reasonable explanation for the fact, that at the same time that the new contract was made, restrictions on the use of bacon were all taken off.

For several years now there has been a certain rationing of the market. The packers were ordered to supply a certain fixed percentage of their total slaughtering to the government for shipment to Britain. The Canadian people got only what was left; and steps were taken to see that the British got the best bacon and we got bacon sometimes of poorer quality. This suited the Canadian people very well. We have other foods in plenty. We can substitute something else for bacon and get along very well. We did not mind it, now and again our bacon was not quite a quality product. For we knew—all of us—that the whole British ration was being carefully watched. How many of us would procure the maximum balance of food for a people living virtually—and as they are—in a state of siege. We were proud, so many of us could be proud of so small a deprivation, that we were taking something off our own tables in order that our ally's table could be a little better furnished.

Hence the consternation, hence the anger, at learning that we are not only cutting down our shipments of bacon to Britain but that we ourselves are to be allowed to eat all the bacon we can buy under our own very generous rationing system. A Canadian housewife today can, if she wants it, be sure of buying her whole meat ration in the choicest bacon. There is lots of it in the stores. All she has to do to pick it up. It is not three ounces of bacon a day. It is three ounces of bacon once a week.

Mathematicians can work this out for themselves, for the figures should be available. There are many Canadian houses where there are Canadians. How much must the British do without so that we can eat all the bacon we want? How much must the British do without so that we can eat all the bacon we want? Canada stopped eating bacon altogether in order that our whole supply could be shipped overseas? Let us emphasize that: it is not if we here shared the same bacon ration as the British? The answer to these and other questions would all interest the Canadian people who, we may be sure, do not share the views of their government on the present order of things. Our Ottawa correspondent says the question is to be re-opened. And high time, too.

Keep Minard's in the home

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HENDERSON & CUDMORE

Alaska Highway Realistic Note

(MacLean's Magazine) Applications are now being received in Ottawa for hamburger, barbecue and filling station concessions along the Alaska Highway when the war is over, and the tourist business is restored. Departmental officials are perturbed over such optimism; feel that much of the ballyhoo concerning the highway's post-war potentialities is premature and overdone. Facts they have in mind are: The highway is a military road used to service the line of airfields from Edmonton to Alaska and to provide secure land access to the northwest. It was conceived and built as a military facility, not as a scenic tourist attraction. The route, severely criticized by the tourist-minded on both sides of the border was chosen on that basis, which also embraced speedy construction. The highway does not link up with trunk tourist highways, but does not start at Edmonton, but

900 miles northwest—at Dawson Creek, connecting with the railway. There is a connecting road between Edmonton and Dawson Creek, but it is long, narrow and rough. After Dawson Creek for a hundred miles the highway runs through scorchingly dull territory. The dust is so terrific that truck drivers often wear masks. Many years must elapse before the surface can be oiled or paved. Concerning post-war transportation of commercial goods by truck to the Yukon and Alaska, officials think that so long as ships are available trucking would be uneconomic, expensive and slow. Nor do they think that the existence of the highway will facilitate anything like the amount of settlement that has been forecast. It seems apparent that before the Canadian stretches of the highway could become a realization of the rosy dreams of many people, a great deal of additional money would have to be spent on it, and years of improving construction. And whether or not the results would justify the expenditures is a matter in which there is room

for considerable difference of opinion. All of which does not detract one bit from the immense value of the road as a war artery, or from the miracle of its construction. LEICESTER'S MAYOR STICKS TO ONE JOB LEICESTER, England Dec. 1 — (CP) — Charles E. Gillot, new Lord Mayor of Leicester, is of the opinion that a good Lord Mayor or mayor may not necessarily make a good justice of the peace. So for that reason he has decided not to exercise the prerogative of presiding in the local police court by virtue of his office as chief magistrate. "I don't consider it right or proper for a person by virtue of holding a mayoralty to jump over the heads of magistrate who have had years of experience," he said. WHEN CATHERINE RULED The Russian Black Sea naval base of Kerson was founded during the reign of Catherine the Great.

The Poet's Corner

HER BEAUTY I heard they say, "Her hands are hard as stone." And I remembered how she laid for me The road to heaven. They said "Her hair is gray." Then I remembered how she once had thrown Long plaited tresses, like cables, into the sea I batted in salt sea of dist-may. They said, "Her beauty's past." And then I wept. That these, who should have been Against my fount of beauty should blaspheme. And hearing a new music, mis-the theme. —Max Plowman