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

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1946

New Food Agreements

As a result of discussions between Canadian authorities and the British Ministry of Food, particulars became available recently regarding the probable purchases of supplies by the Ministry from Canada during the next couple of years or so. The United Kingdom, it is stated, is prepared to purchase the maximum supplies of bacon and ham which Canada can provide during the current year, in 1947 and 1948. For its part, Canada has agreed do its utmost to maintain these supplies at the highest possible level. It was also agreed that the present contract for the calendar year 1946 in respect of bacon and ham should be extended to cover the import of a minimum of 350 million pounds into the United Kingdom in 1947 and 400 million pounds in 1948. The contract price for the remainder of 1946 is raised to $25 per hundred pounds f.o.b. seaboard for Grade A Wiltshires. For 1948 the price will be not less than the then current contract price (in March) of $22.50, same basis, and will be subject to later review.

Further discussions have been decided upon to take place before January of next year to consider the possibility of assessing the prospective requirements of the United Kingdom for 1949 and of negotiating the contract for that year. The new price for bacon means an increase of approximately $3 per hog in price.

The Order-in-Council of 1944 established a premium of $3 on A's and $2 on B's per hog until six months after the termination of the war. This premium was to be decreased by $1 and $2 on A's and $1 on B's per hog. This will provide for a net increase of $2 in price and premium combined. With regard to cheese the present contract for the supply of 125 million pounds to the United Kingdom each year expires on March 31st of next year. It was agreed that this should be extended to March 31st, 1948, at the same prices—20 cents per pound for first grade f. o. b., factory shipping point. An extension of the contract to cover the season ending March 31st, 1949, has also been agreed with prices to be fixed at a later date and to this end the United Kingdom and Canadian representatives will review the arrangements before January, 1947.

Increased quantities of Canadian shell eggs are looked for by the United Kingdom during the months from October to April inclusive, and more especially during the months from October to December inclusive. Owing to difficulties in handling supplies in the United Kingdom during the summer months, the request was made to cease shipments of shell eggs by the first of May each year diverting the summer surplus to the production of frozen melange and/or sugar dried eggs. It has been agreed that the current contract which expires at the close of the current calendar year should be extended to cover the supply to the United Kingdom of 1,750,000 cases of shell eggs and 5,000 tons of dried eggs in 1947 at the current basic prices for the shell eggs. Great Britain has agreed to furnish to Canada by the autumn of 1946 (preferably by October) an indication of the requirements of eggs in shell and dried or frozen form during 1948.

In order to maintain the carcass meat ration which is similar to that of wartime, the United Kingdom will require all the beef and mutton which Canada can spare this year, and, so far as can be seen at present, next year, and probably in 1948. It will be ready also to purchase all the hog casings which Canada can provide up to 1948. There has been a request also for an increase in the export in carcass form of meat suitable for sausage manufacture. The question of the supply of other meats such as offals and tongues are to be the subjects of further discussions.

Where The Taxes Come From

A detailed study of Canadian income taxes, issued by the Department of National Revenue, establishes one central fact. It is that income taxes come and must come, from the great body of average Canadians earning small incomes. They do not come from a few rich people.

The analysis may be summarized conveniently as follows:

The total income of individuals which the income tax system can touch for the year 1945 is estimated at $4,542,911,000. Of this total $3,882,546,000 went to people who earned $5,000 a year or less. This group thus received more than 85 per cent of the total taxable income. The group earning $3,000 or less received $3,356,475,000 or over 73 per cent. Obviously, because there are so many of them, the average citizens are receiving most of the taxable income of the nation.

On this total income the 1945 taxes were $681,766,000. The group earning $5,000 a year and less paid $403,898,000 or 52 per cent of all taxes paid.

The group earning above $5,000 received a total taxable income of only $660,365,000 and paid $277,868,000 in taxes.

The group from $5,000 downward included most of the taxpayers—a total of 2,299,500. Only 65,500 persons received taxable income over $5,000 a year.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

To the question "Which is the more reliable source of information, newspapers or radio?" asked by Northwestern University, 87.6% of the people answered "newspapers."

* * * *

Authorities, after considering the matter, say there is no prospect that there will be an increase in sugar available for canning purposes in Canada.

* * * *

It does not seem very practicable to adopt two Canadian flags—as suggested—one an "official" flag, and the other a "national" flag. Better incorporate the Union Jack or the crown in the design selected than make two bites of a cherry.

* * * *

They have got extreme heat on the Prairies and a severe drought in England—aren't we fortunate to be in Prince Edward Island where the farmers are so far quite satisfied with the brand of weather we are having?

* * * *

President Truman's stock has gone up with capital, and down with striking labour, according to reports. But much may happen between now and next Presidential election to adjust matters; and after all labour is usually much more Democratic than Republican.

* * * *

Dr. Edvard Benes, Ph.D., LL.D., President of Czechoslovakia, born this date, 1884; co-founder of the Little Entente, one of the authors of the Geneva Protocol, elected president in succession to Dr. Masaryk in 1935; resigned in 1938 following the German occupation of Sudetin areas; elected head of the National Czechoslovak Committee of Paris, 1939; re-elected President of the Republic in 1940.

* * * *

Good news for "sweet mouths." Alongside a Montreal East wharf an American tanker is pumping 1,250,000 imperial gallons of Cuban molasses into the tank farm of the Canada West Indies Molasses Co. Ltd. It is the first bulk shipment of the sweet, thick syrup to reach Canada since 1941. The cargo is valued at about $37,500 and was secured for the Dominion by Mr. H. J. Dobbins, deputy sugar administrator in Montreal, from the Combined Food Board of Washington, D.C. It was delivered by the SS. Castana out of Puerto Padre and Preston, Cuba.

* * * *

Prime Minister King is not in favour of an Imperial Policy adjusted by a formal shadow Imperial Government. As the final session of the Commonwealth Premiers at 10 Downing Street drew to a close Mr. Attlee asked if the dominions desired any change in the present Empire consultative system. All representatives present — Mr. King, Prime Minister Smuts of South Africa, Walter Nash, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, and Herbert Evatt, Australian Minister of External Affairs —reaffirmed their belief that the present method was satisfactory. The present method works through daily calls from and to the Dominions Office to the Commonwealth dominions, close liaison by the Dominion high commissioners in London with the British Government, and occasional dominions talks such as the one just ended. According to a spokesman at 10 Downing Street, Mr. King said it was sometimes stated there should be more "imperial conferences" on the old model, but "in my view this present method of consultation means in fact that we have a Commonwealth conference going on all the time."

* * * *

Adoption by the House of Commons of a Government-sponsored resolution for a joint Parliamentary inquiry into the position and needs of Canada's Indians is a long overdue move toward remedying the deficiencies of national policy and material provision for Indian welfare, says the *Montreal Gazette*. The inaction which has persisted down through the years on the anomalous problems of the Indians, and the archaic paternalism which has maintainel their restricted, inferior status, constitute a reproach to both the lethargy of officialdom and the indifference of public opinion. Setting up of the committee of inquiry will not of itself bring about any improvement in the situation or lead to the evolution of a system of Indian treatment of which Canadians can be proud. Much will depend on how thoroughly the committee pursues its investigation of a problem so long neglected; on how enlightened and conclusive are its recommendations; and on how far the Government is prepared to go in implementing the committee proposals.

* * * *

The story behind the New Brunswick Connell stamp is told by the *Telegraph-Journal*: "Around the middle of the last century Hon. Charles Connell of Woodstock was one of our best-known public men. Each province, then and until Confederation, had its own postal service, and in 1851 Mr. Connell was postmaster-general in the New Brunswick cabinet. That year, he ordered 500,000 five-cent stamps with his own picture on them. There are several versions of why he did this. One is that it was to please a daughter of whom he was very fond; another that he was an unmitigated egotist; still another that a clerk, who hoped to curry favor, was really responsible, and that Mr. Connell actually had no knowledge that his likeness was to decorate the stamps until they were printed. At any rate, as soon as they arrived from a United States engraver the laughter started. Mr. Connell became the butt of so much ridicule that he never did put the issue in circulation. Instead, he took the 500,000 little paper squares and lighted a bonfire with them on the lawn in front of his big white-pillared mansion. So few of them escaped the flames that the 'five-cent New Brunswick Connell' is now called 'Canada's rarest stamp'."

Notes By The Way

Understood to be the first post-war period case of its kind, an Edinburgh tram driver was fined 10 shillings at the Sheriff Court for failing to give a pedestrian a free and uninterrupted passage over a street-crossing. The Edinburgh Scotsman reports

Many thousands of Dutch tulips are now coming into bloom in Ottawa, in the parks and on the driveways, and around the War Memorial. This contribution to beauty by the people of The Netherlands is something for the enjoyment of every resident of Ottawa, and there are few things lovelier than a bed of tulips in bloom. —Ottawa Journal.

It is pleasant to come across an occasional frank avowal of personal taste and prejudice on the part of the great, says The London Times, and there must have been many who added their own private endorsement of the forthright words of Mr. Ernest Bevin. "I am never satisfied before I eat my breakfast, but I am after." The more fastidious shades of refinement reproach any allusion to the physical attributes of a man, but the Foreign Secretary is large and genial enough to be above such consideration.

According to "Spring 3100", magazine of the New York police, exercise is a poor way to reduce. To lose one pound a 155-pound lass would have to (a) wrestle for five and a half hours or (b) saw wood for 10 1-2 hours or (c) walk 144 miles or (d) climb the Washington monument 48 times. This has all been figured out by Prof. Arthur Steinhaus of George Williams College in Chicago. Professor Steinhaus's advice is just to eat less and save yourself a lot of sweat and tears. —Windsor Star.

Great talkers are not always great men of action. We think history proves, however, that great talkers have more often been men of action than their less vocal contemporaries. Lloyd George was a great talker; he was the Empire's Man of Action in World War I. Winston Churchill is a great talker; he was the Empire's Man of Action in World War II. Also, we seem to remember that Sir Bernard Montgomery, not entirely averse to speech, did a pretty good job in World War II as well. —Ottawa Journal

Booth Tarkington became delighted with life when he first discovered it, when he was young. Of all the words that this stylist used so well perhaps "pleasant" and "pleasing" were his favorites. His people walked pleasant, lawn-bordered, tree-lined streets, and they were pleasant people who laughed pleased laughter. He liked them as he found them—these Americans of the Middle West—and he did not want them or their world to change. So in his fiction there will live for many fortunate years the pleasing picture of a pleasant land as a "fine-tempered, gay and good" man enjoyed it. —New York Times.

A wartime invention shortly is to be put to work in the worldwide female occupation of bewitching, befuddling and beguiling the gullible male. The invention is a satin material, technically termed 'photo-luminescent". It glows in the dark like a luminous watch dial, and during the war was used to light up the landing paddles used on aircraft carriers. Now a United Kingdom firm of dress designers is reported to be toying with the idea of using it in milady's gowns. Youths may look forward to being deceived in the dark as to the proportions of their female companions by a luminous voluminous gown. But we unfortunately, are slightly past that stage, and besides must walk home at night alone. Accordingly, we do not anticipate with any degree of pleasure the prospect of meeting some midnight in Central Park a nymphlike but headless apparition in a photoluminescent gown approaching out of the darkness like the ghost of Anne Boleyn "with 'er 'ed tucked underneath 'er arm." —Calgary Albertan.

Under the rather interesting heading, a U.S. firm has published a thought-provoking institutional advertisement as follows: "It was easy for Hitler to crush France because that once-great nation was weakened by bickering between labor, government, management. Workmen had demanded their 'rights' without regard to equal rights of others; too much of management had demanded fantastic profits; government had listened to pressure instead of patriotism. "All three were destroyed. "If the war taught us anything it should be that production by co-operation is the only thing left that can win in war or peace. Decent management here wants to pay more and more money to the man who earns it. Intelligent workers know they can be paid only out of what they produce. Honest government knows it must work for both. "Pay because of power instead of for production, control of many by a few, 'smear' tactics, threats, force, invasion of privacy— these have a foreign smell. They are the methods of Communism and Fascism. "Is that what their users are working toward? "If so—and if they get it— then Hitler did win the war.' That states the case simply. Some readers many regard it as an over-simplification. Yet reflecting on the lesson conveyed it seems superfluous to add to it. Read it again. —Brantford Expositor.

Driven to desperation by the chatter of the other occupants of a railway carriage in which she was trying to relax over a book, Eva Ruth Spalding recently did what so many of her fellow Britons have done, or threatened to do, from time out of mind. Then and there, while her anger still seethed, she wrote a letter to "The Times" of London, says The New York Herald Tribune. She did more than give vent to her exasperation. She suggested a remedy, to wit that railroads should provide silence compartments for travelers who prefer peace and quiet to floods of conversation. Since there were non-smoking compartments, why should there not be non-talking compartments, she argued, reasonably enough it would seem. At any rate the good old Thunderer did not let her down. Not only was her letter published, but also the editor ran an editorial on the subject. Our own railroads are promising us marvels of comfort and luxury on the through trains of the future. Would it not be fitting that along with the chromium glories to come there should be set apart some blessed harbors of refuge where the misanthropes, the weary and those who are just naturally sick and tired of the sound of the human voice could retire and be left severely alone? Why not?

Canadian Business A Year After V-E-Day

(Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia, May)

The dominant impression that emerges from a survey of Canadian industries as the first postwar year progresses, says The Bank of Nova Scotia in its current Review, is of a high level of economic activity despite the stresses and strains of the readjustment from war to peace which are in evidence. Some recession from the wartime peak has inevitably taken place, but certainly less than might have been expected. Consumer spending, supported by a continued high level of income and a lower rate of saving, bolstered by family allowances and veterans' benefits, and stimulated by accumulated needs, has increased at an accelerating rate. Export requirements for food and materials for reconstruction are enormous, and the financing of these needs has been partially taken care of by the extension of large export credits, including the substantial loan to Britain. In a great many lines demand still far exceeds the available supply, thus maintaing inflationary pressures in the economy.

The employment situation, says the Review, furnishes perhaps the best overall picture both of the size of the changeover from war to peace and of the extent to which readjustments have so far been made. In the past year considerably more than a million persons have been released from war work or discharged from the Services. The shock of this exodus has been cushioned in a variety of ways: a backlog of labour shortage existed when transfers out of war work began to assume large proportions, many veterans did not seek work immediately upon discharge, considerable numbers of women withdrew from the labour market, and employment in civilian industry expanded rapidly as war work was curtailed. Nevertheless, throughout the Winter there was a mounting volume of unemployment, which by Spring somewhat exceeded a quarter of a million. That is did so is scarcely surprising in view of the fact that reconversion was only a little over half completed, and that a continued heavy rate of discharges coincided with the seasonal low point in Canadian employment. Furthermore, employment has been held back by a number of factors including shorages of materials (especially materials and components from the U S A.), by shortages of certain types of skilled workers, and in some instances by lack of housing. It seems clear, however, that we are now passing the low point in the immediate readjustment from war to peace and that there should be considerable improvement in employment in te coming months.

The main body of the Review is devoted to a survey of conditions in the chief industries. The end of the war brought about a radical change in the pattern of demand for the products of the manufacturing industries. Some industries had practically to shut up shop, for others demand simply shifted from wartime to peacetime products and for still others, like textiles and food processing, peace meant an intensification of the already heavy call for their products. By Autumn most of the basic supply controls affecting the durable goods industries had disappeared, and with the easing of manpower and materials shortages as war production fell off, there was growing evidence of larger supplies of hardware, electrical appliances, radios, furniture, etc. Producton of automobiles and of the larger electrical household appliances however, has been held back by the effects of strikes both here and in the U.S.A.

The enormous backlog of civilian construction that accumulated during the war is reflected, says the Review, in the steadily mounting volume of construction contract awards which in 1945 were 40 percent higher than a year earlier and even slightly above the wartime peak. Much unfinished work was carried forward into the New Year because of shortages of labour and materials. While supplies in many lines are improving, it is clear that they are still far from adequate to satisfy all demands. Consequently it has been found necessary to reimpose a measure of the control over construction that was lifted when the Construction Control was dissolved last December.

As for the primary industries, agriculture finds itself faced with a greater need than ever for maximum production. A measure of security has been assured farmers by the extension of British food contracts until at least the end of 1947, and the chief limiting factor on production seems likely to be the scarcity of farm labour. Lumber and pulp and paper continue in short supply, though the situation is very definitely better than it was a year ago, and the outlook is for further improvement. Pulpwood production may exceed last year's large output and a record out of long lumber is expected. Newsprint output showed a marked upturn after V-E Day and both export and domestic markets have benefited accordingly. In mining, production of most of the principal base metals tapered off with the cessation of war demand, nickel output being cut back particularly sharply. However, market uncertainties have now been clarified to a considerable extent and the outlook appears satisfactory, at least for the present. The lifting of restrictions on gold mining and a somewhat better labour supply eased the situation for this industry in the latter half of 1945.

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.

MR. J. LESTER DOUGLAS ON THE AIR

Sir,—His broadcast published in advance in The Guardian by Mr. J. Lester Douglas, coming as it has in advance of the Federal budget speech does not make very satisfactory reading for Prince Edward Island. This address, if not actually originating from the pen of Hon J.L. Ilsley, was at any rate inspired by him because of which fact it was, to say the least, discouraging. Since the breaking up of the Ottawa Conference, which was forced upon Mr. Ilsley by the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, the feeling has been gaining ground in the Maritimes that Mr. Ilsley intended to take the law into his own hands in his forthcoming budget speech and grant the three Maritime Provinces the enlarged annual subsidies that they require, charging the amount of same to the general expense fund of the Dominion.

It will be noted that Mr. Douglas emphasizes in his address that Mr. Ilsley is adhering closely to the theory outlined at the Ottawa Conference, namely that it would be decidedly to the advantage of the several Provinces to have all levies of taxation in Canada controlled by the Central Dominion Government in order that, in times of distress, it would be possible to institute a system of relief to the Provinces by lowering taxation, increasing customs protection and adding generally to the credit of the Provinces for borrowing purposes.

At first sight this idea has generally gained favor but those who have endorsed the plan have evidently not taken into consideration the fact that economic conditions in the Maritime Provinces differ radically from those in Central and Western Canada and that such favors as might be granted in times of depression to the Dominion as a whole might be injurious rather than beneficial to the Provinces by the sea.

At no time in the past has the Ottawa Government admitted publicly, nor apparently does Mr. Douglas realize it, that in the Maritimes a free trade fiscal policy is of prime importance. It is generally admitted that in the hungry world of the future, where populations in the East are increasing at an enormous pace, there will be a constantly growing demand for high grade food such as is produced in this section of Canada, and particularly in Prince Edward Island. In the Central Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, a very different condition exists owing to the fact that the many manufacturers provide employment to the urban people and afford profitable markets for the local farmers. Because of these facts there is an unquestionable need of customs protection against the over wealthy mass-producing manufacturers and other countries where wage rates are much lower than in Canada.

Another very important point is that under our present Federal system the deciding of what would be the particular form of relief would necessarily be left to the Federal Government, composed as it is and likely to be for many years to come, of men who have at heart the welfare of the Central Provinces, and give but scant consideration to the well being of their poor relation, "away down in the Gulf". So long as we maintain our strong party system at Ottawa, it is but incumbent upon the members of the Ottawa Government for party reasons to give constant evidence of their desire to do all in their power to assist their own constituencies and their Provinces as a whole. This is the leading imperfection of the Canadian Confederation system and once more proves how short-sighted were the Fathers of Confederation in the Maritimes, and particularly in Prince Edward Island, in accepting the terms of the British North America Act. These are serious matters and must sooner or later be given ample consideration by the people of the three Maritime Provinces.

I am Sir etc.,
H.K.S. HEMMING

DIPLOMATS DRINK LITTLE

NEW YORK, May 27—(AP)—One of the bartenders at United Nations headquarters at Hunter College said today that business was so bad in the delegates' bar that the concessionairies had considered closing it.

Mort Green, who alternates in the public and delegates' bars, said the diplomats generally drank orange juice, "cokes" or nothing at all.

RUB OUT THAT COLD WITH— MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

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The Poet's Corner

THE WILD DUCKS DRIFTING

The wild ducks drifting southwest on the water
With the slow tide without a wind are borne
Past reeds, past islands, not a wing in flutter
Like swans they go or dreams of swans at morn
Foggy with lingering slumber, and my thought
Drifts with those lazy hundreds down the bay
Till flocks and reverie alike are caught
In the loud sudden ambush of bright day
Exploding in their midst a fusillade
That scatters them with clumsy skyward cry;
My thoughts as well, prey to the ambuscade,
Disperse; leaving some stricken word to die.
And soon the casual sounds of day begin
As though the spectral peace had never been.

—Robert Hillyer, New York Herald Tribune.

Where Is Toronto?

(Moncton Transcript)

Glancing through the pages of a recent issue of a Toronto paper we came across a news story under a two column heading: "Begin to List Meyer as Tourist Attraction." After devoting a couple hundred words to Meyer (Major-General Kurt Meyer the ex-commander of a German S.S. Division) why he is in Dorchester penitentiary and tabulating several rumors that are supposed to be coming from behind the high walls, the paper states:

"The 36-year-old favorite of Hitler is reported as shortly expecting to have his wife and six children at Dorchester, or wherever he is permanently imprisoned. One suggestion is that the maritime provinces have a big opportunity of competing with Maine, New Hampshire, Quebec, for the U.S. tourist traffic, by capitalizing on Meyer's crowd-pulling value. That is, have him placed on public exhibition in an iron-barred cage at the prison. The Ottawa department of justice and the army, of course, would have to approve such exhibition of the lifer.

Just to keep the record straight, it might be well to point out that the people of the Maritime Provinces have no intention of using Meyer as an attraction for tourists, even if permitted, and if Quebec, Maine, New Hampshire, or Ontario, want 'im they can have 'im, cage and all. It is extremely doubtful however, that Meyer in his iron-barred cage would attract half the interest in the Dorchester area as would the man who wrote the following in the Toronto story:

"If Meyer if figuring on escape, he will find the odds, against him. Dorchester prison is in the midst of miles of marshes and swamps, and while it is not escape proof, few have avoided recapture after a day or two of liberty. Many have given themselves up after floundering around in the marshes, unable to find refuge or food. There is a standing cash reward of from $50 to $100 for information leading to the recovery of an escaper, and this appeals to residents within a radius of about 20 miles."

If the good people of Dorchester should ever find out what the Toronto paper has said about this village "in the midst of miles of marshes and swamps", they would do doubt favor a two-year course in the geography of that area for the author, given first hand, at public expense. At least it should call for a letter to the editor of that newspaper. But where is Toronto?

ANTI-SNAKEBITE

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