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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1943

Four In A Row

The handwriting on the wall is becoming more and more distinct for the Mackenzie King Government, the loss of all four federal seats in Monday's by-elections being unmistakeable evidence that it has lost the confidence of the country. The Progressive Conservatives, adhering to the policy of not contesting Government-held seats in wartime, took no part in any of the contests. All four ridings—two in Quebec, one in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba —were seats with long Liberal traditions.

One effect of these by-elections may be to discourage provincial Liberal governments from calling snap elections this year in the hope of capitalizing on lack of public interest in matters other than the war effort, and also on the tremendous pressure wielded by patronage dispensers at Ottawa. Never before has a Dominion Government had so many plums to dispense in the way of jobs and contracts. This did not prevent a complete Liberal debacle in Monday's by-elections or in the provincial general election in Ontario last week. Such plain proof of public dissatisfaction with the King administration is too obvious to be ignored. Ontario, Quebec and the Prairie Provinces have been heard from. Is there any reason to believe that the same answer will not be returned from the Maritimes and British Columbia at the first opportunity? Federal and provincial Liberal politicians must be pondering this question gloomily. The chances, anywhere, look about as rosy as they did for Mussolini after the Allies landed in Sicily.

No Constitutional Problem

The situation created by the failure of any party to secure a clear majority in the new Ontario Provincial Legislature, says the Globe and Mail, does not afford any scope for controversies or even dissertations by constitutional pundits, because the position is clear and simple. The voters have pronounced condemnation upon the Administration of Mr. Nixon by a majority of more than two to one, and he has no alternative than to submit his resignation at an early date. It is within his right to suggest to the Lieutenant-Governor the name of a successor for the Premiership, but he need not do so unless he chooses, and the representative of the Crown is not bound to accept his nominee.

The theory held in some quarters that the Crown has now become a mere figurehead and automaton, stripped of all but decorative functions, has no support from constitutional experts of real authority. It remains an important part of the constitutional structure of British countries. It has very useful duties to perform in safeguarding the rights of both Parliament and the people from unwarranted usurpations of power by Prime Ministers and Cabinets, and it can, *pace* the Winnipeg Free Press, exercise within certain well-defined limits its discretion about the selection of a Prime Minister or the granting of a dissolution. There have been instances in Britain when the Crown appointed a new Prime Minister without seeking any advice and chose somebody else than the person who would have been recommended if advice had been sought. When Mr. Gladstone retired in 1894 he wanted, as his correspondence later revealed, to be succeeded by Lord Spencer, but Queen Victoria did not consult him, and chose Lord Rosebery. Thirty years later, when Mr. Bonar Law retired owing to ill health, George V, after careful deliberation, passed over Lord Curzon, who both by reason of his abilities and experience and his seniority in the Conservative hierachy seemed Mr. Law's natural successor, in favor of Mr. Baldwin. There was a good motive for his action, namely a conviction that, since the Labor Party, which had become the official Opposition, had very scanty representation in the House of Lords, a peer could not be a satisfactory Premier, and a commoner must be chosen.

The Lieutenant-Governor will therefore choose Ontario's new Premier, and if he asks Mr. Nixon's advice it can be taken for granted that the latter will suggest the name of Mr. Drew, as the leader of the strongest party. Once named Premier, Mr. Drew will have to construct a Ministry capable of carrying on the government of the province. It need not necessarily command a clear majority in the Legislature. Governments formed by minority parties are by no means uncommon. From 1921 to 1925 Mr. King governed at Ottawa without a definite majority; Ramsay Macdonald held office in Britain with two Ministries which lacked majorities, and Mr. Bracken carried on for a time in Manitoba with only minority support.

So Mr. Drew is entitled to form a Ministry and undertake the administration of the province's affairs. But, when the Legislature meets, the life of his government obviously will be very precarious unless he has taken steps to build up majority support by some means or other. If he fails to do so, and a vote of non-confidence is carried against him by the Opposition forces, his inability to command the confidence of the Legislature will create a political crisis and a new situation, in regard to which alternative courses of action are open.

Toscanini Wept

On the day Mussolini fell Arturo Toscanini was conducting a concert and he did not learn the good news until intermission time. Usually his return to the stage is measured, his manner detached. That Sunday, however, he almost ran, and close observers saw tears besides. And then they heard music which moved some to tears. The aroused maestro conducted the music of the third act of "Rigoletto" with a fire which few of his lucky listeners will ever forget. Maybe he had a happy prescience of the demand which has come so quickly for his return to La Scala. He has been exiled from all Italy since he would not play the Fascists' "Giovinezza."

The U.S. has been Toscanini's home, at any rate his headquarters, since he was 31, and he is 70 now. But Toscanini is still an Italian citizen of Parma, just below the Po, where the Nazis may try a last stand. He studied the cello early, but at 19 he conducted in Rio de Janeiro. Triumps at La Scala, Metropolitan Opera, in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and, for the last six years, at NBC followed.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The year's major attraction now holds the attention of all. The Exhibition grounds is the centre.

* * * *

The Liberal Party is going to pieces all over Canada—Quebec, Ontario and the Prairies alike. Only the Pacific Coast and the Maritimes have to be heard from to finally seal the doom of Mackenzie King.

* * * *

Charlotte Mary Yonge, English novelist, born this date, 1823; was a versatile and prolific writer, whose early religious training influenced her works; some of her most popular books are: "The Heir of Redcliffe", "The Daisy Chain", "Heartease", "Landmarks of History," "Life of Bishop Patteson',.

* * * *

The word "blitz" originally used to describe a heavy air raid, has now been absorbed into the English language and has acquired a variety of meanings. Its true meaning is, of course, "lightning." Now, according to BBC, when a British factory is asked to make special intensive efforts to fulfill an urgent requirement, the executive say that there is a blitz on.

* * * *

Asked about the French-Canadian vote in Ontario, Mr. Coldwell said a considerable portion of it had gone to the C.C.F. This was reflected in C.C.F. victories in such counties as Essex, Sudbury, Timmins, Nipissing, Cochrane, Waterloo and Parry Sound. Wherever the French-Canadian vote was also a labor vote, he thought, it had deserted the Liberal standard for that of the C.C.F.

* * * *

An outstanding help to the C.C.F. party in its first important victories was the character of its candidates. They were mostly new men, young, alert and with the distinct advantage of having no party history to forget or defend. Theirs was a brand new venture, and their ability to shake so many seats out of staid and calculating Ontario is an achievement that none can dismiss.

* * * *

Admiral King of the U.S. Navy is quite outspoken on the prospects of the war. He says Russia will soon make mincemeat of the Nazis provided we provide her with the essential tools. He says: "We must get into Russia all the munitions we can possibly get in there to implement her manpower and exploit her dominant position. It further follows that the Allies are bound to exert every possible effort to divert German forces from the Russian front so that the Russians can do even better."

* * * *

Radio listeners to BBC overseas shortwave programme on Sunday heard the service in St. Machar's Presbyterian Cathedral, Aberdeen. Built in 1136, St. Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, is the only granite cathedral in Britain, and, with its twin towers and short conical steeples, is an outstanding landmark by the side of the River Don. The site was consecrated by St. Machar in the fifth century, and the story is told how he came as a missionary from Iona on the instructions of St. Columba to go North through the land of the Picts till he came to a place where a river made a curve like that of a bishop's crozier. There his cathedral would be raised. Visitors can see this curious turn of the Don by looking towards the river from the Northeast side of the cathedral. The Rev. John Wilson Baird has been minister of St. Machar's Cathedral since 1934. Graduating from Glasgow University in 1913, he served in Mesopotamia from 1916 to 1919.

* * * *

The prospective visit of Mr. Joe O'Brien to Ottawa recalls verses originally published in Saturday Night:

One little Bureaucrat had nothing much to do
"I must have some help," he said, so then there were two.
Two little Bureaucrats, one each for Air and Sea.
What about the Army? So then there were three.
Three little Bureaucrats, no one from the Law.
"We've got to have things legal," so then there were four.
Four little Bureaucrats said, "Let us connive.
To get a dollar-a-year man," so then there were five.
Five little Bureaucrats were in a nasty fix.
They had no Statistician. So then there were six.
Six little Bureaucrats, with little claim to Heaven,
Got themselves a Clergyman, so then there were seven.
Seven little Bureaucrats, for to make a date,
Had to have a Rubber Stamp, so then there were eight.
Eight little Bureaucrats, for to wine and dine,
Had to have a Treasurer, so then there were nine.
Nine little Bureaucrats, but so far all were men,
Added on a Lady one, and then there were ten.
Ten little Bureaucrats, and 'tisn't hard to tell
That if you give some folks an inch they'll surely go to Ottawa.

Notes By The Way

Sirloin steaks still may be seen occasionally —on the hoof.—Chicago News.

The most perverse paradox in history is that mankind's chief prayer has always been for peace and that he can never make it endure.—London Free Press.

The people are fleeing from Berlin as they are told there is no hope of escaping freedom's wrath. The end may not be near, but it can't be so far either. —Hamilton Spectator.

Freedom is not preserved by overcoming one tyrant, but by constant watching to see that no person or group gets too much power. The sad part is that any group with power to get its "rights" invariably wrongs others by taking more than it deserves. —Victoria Times.

The ring of bologna for the meatiest description of the deposed Benito Mussolini goes to R. M. Harrison, Windsor Star columnist, who defines him as: "A bloated monstrosity, headed for the alcohol jar in the world's museum of bad gusses and fatal mistakes." —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

General Draja Milhailovic's Fifth and Sixth Brigades of Slovene partisans are reported by the Yugoslav Government-in-exile to have broken through Italian lines and reached the Udine region of Northern Italy, thus threatening the rear of the position which Nazi troops are establishing along the Po. Ach, der stab in der back!—Windsor Star.

Russia has awarded a prize to a farmer-scientist who, it is said has developed a type of wheat that will withstand the cold and drough of Central Asia. And not only that, but it will produce a second crop from its stalks, without replanting. Something like that would push Canada's frontier back another 100 miles, and at the same times tempt a lot of farmers to pull up stakes and move with it. —Windsor Star.

It will take long and patient help for Italy to achieve real popular Government, and it will have its ups and downs, and the neighbors will probably have cause occasionally to complain about the noise. It will be difficult sometimes for us not to be dictatorial, on the one hand, or patronizing on the other. Rome wasn't built in a day and Italy won't become a pure democracy in a day. But the principal thing is to get the world on the righe track as to overall standards and their enforcement, so that we can live in a world which rewards decent rather than indecent national behavior. —Minneapolis Star Journal.

William Roy Hathaway of Birmingham served seven years in the Alabama state prison for a crime of bank robbery which he did not commit, and the legislature has just approved a bill which will give him $7,000, as compensation for those lost years locked behind steel bars. The $7,500, if invested wisely and prudently, may reasonably start Mr. Hathaway along the greatest road of prosperity, he has ever known through an improverished life, but that $7,000 is small payment indeed for depriving any innocent man or woman of thier liberty for such a portion of the over-age span of existence —San Francisco Argonaut.

Replacing, in effect, a treaty more than 80 years old between four countries, a provisional agreement has now been made between two countries, Canada and the United States, for the control of fur seal capture in Bering Sea and other waters off the continent's west coast, and under its terms the Dominion will share in an increased measure in the annual take of sealskins at the Pirbilof Islands and adjacent areas under the jurisdiction of the United States. Twenty percent of each year's take, instead of fifteen percent, will now be delivered to Canada by the United States Government, and in dealings in sealskins a five percent difference counts for something. —Fisheries Bulletin.

Nazi Germany needs today as never before every ounce of assistance that can be squeezed out of the satellite states and out of the people of the occupied countries. She needs soldiers, she needs workers, she needs food, she needs goods. The policy of bullying, of conscription of labor, or requistion of materials, of threats and penalties, has exhausted its possibilities. In some measure, by arousing and increasing resistance, it has defeated its own purpose. So there is to be a new model of the New Order. Kind words are to replace harsh orders. Lavish promises are to be used instead of brutal threats. The Herrenvolk will no longer assert domination; it will plead for co-operation. —London Daily Herald.

While talk goes on concerning the future political status of India and the desirability of improving the social conditions of the teeming hundreds of millions of inhabitants, with their vared tongues and religions, the great Eastern empire continues to do its part in the war effort. The Indian armed forces are approaching the 2,000,000 mark, of whom half a million already have served overseas. The battle casualties among the Indian armed forces are about a hundred thousand, of which sixty thousand or more are believed to be prisoners of war. The Indian troops participated in the Hong Kong and Malayan warfare, which proved disastrous to the United Nations cause —for the time being. The road to recovery is being prepared. The most remarkable feature of India's contribution in the war is that all the armed forces are raised by voluntary enlistment. The raising of such a large army is practical testimony to the trust the Indians in question place in British guidance. Vast numbers of the people realise that British rule has been beneficial to the empire and its inhabitants. They know that their patriotism will work to the greater advantage of India once peace is restored. The Indian army and the Indian navy are serving truly, well and freely. The enlistments continue at a steady rate. There is comfort in this thought for all save the irreconcilables and the Axis partners, Japan in particular. —Montreal Gazette.

Hot Up The Fire

(Sydney Post-Record)

The dicton of Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain is a compound of classical allusions, vigorous modern prose, and vivid colloquial expressions. So far as traditional oratorical phrasing is concerned Churchill can compete with Burke, Gladstone, Webster and Robert G. Ingersoll. He can quote from literature, ancient and modern. He can develop periodic sentences like Macaulay.

In choice of phrase, he is far more earthy than most of the great speakers of the past. His "blood, sweat and tears" conjures up authentically the sacrifice and suffering of nations at war. His scathing denunciations of Hitler and Mussolini are sublimated billingsgate. His threat of a "maximum avalance of fire and steel" if Italy does not surrender, of vengeance by fire and sword for Germany if the Nazis are not overthrown, is modernized Ciceronian.

The catholicity of Churchill's vocabulary would have scandalized the old school. A specialist in rhetoric, the Prime Minister does not hesitate to wrench words from their syntax or to use slang — so long as it contributes to the graphic quality of his speech.

"We should let the Italians, to use a homey phrase," he told the Commons, "stew in their own juice for a bit and hot up the fire to accelerate the process."

"Stew in their own juice" is a bit of slang in current if not good usage, but "hot" as a verb hasn't a leg to stand on. Yet somehow it elucidates Churchill's meaning as nothing else could. That is just what the United Nations are determined to do, in fact are doing — hotting up the fires for the Axis.

Although lacking his own personality as speaker, the Churchill prose will lose some of its color, it will go down in the annals of oratory as something special. It has sustained Allied morale and struck terror into the hearts of dictators and their people.

Garibaldi's Curse

(Brantford Expositor)

More than three-quarters of a century ago, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian patriot, led his red-shirted "Thousand" to the liberation of Sicily. This fisherman's son, ardent supporter of the Young Italy Movement founded by Mazzini, had barely escaped from Italy with his life, had fought with the Montevidean revolutionaries in South America from 1836 to 1848, returned to join an abortive insurrection in Italy, fled to New York in 1849, fought with the Sardinians against Austria in 1859, and chagrined over the outcome of that struggle, pledged his services to the Sicilian revolutionaries. In his role he gathered his "Thousand" volunteers, invaded Sicily and drove out 20,000 Bouron troops.

From Sicily he went to Italy and staged a triumphal march on Naples, which Mussolini vainly tried to imitate with his so-called "March on Rome" in 1922. When Victor Emmanuel II entered Neapolitan territory, Garibaldi hailed him as king of a United Italy. On two occasions re attempted unsuccessfully to take Rome from the Pope and fought in the war with Austria in 1803. His last military adventure was in the service of the French in 1870 after the overthrow of Napoleon III.

Garibaldi's dash, heroism and idealism earned him great popularity in England where he was a visitor in 1864, being greeted with widespread enthusiasm. He appreciated this sympathy and, as a result, phrased the so-called "Garibaldi's Curse," asserting "England is a powerful and independent nation, the friend of the oppressed. But if ever England should be so circumstanced as to require need of an ally, cursed be the Italian who would not step forward in her defense."

As it turned out, Victor Emmanuel III, grandson of the Victor Emmanuel of Garibaldi's time, broke his oath to the constitution, admitted Mussolini to power, endorsed the Axis cause and, with Mussolini and the Fascisti, not only refused to step forward in England's defense, but joined the ranks of those who sought to conquer her.

The words of Garibaldi must even now be ringing in the ears of the ex-Duce and the puppet monarch who pretends to be supreme commander of the Italian forces.

The Poets' Corner

FROM: EPICOENE

Still to be neat, still to be dressed
As you were going to a feast;
Still to be powdered, still perfumed:
Lady, it is to be presumed,
Though art's hid causes are not found,
All is not sweet, all is not sound.

Give me a look, give me a face,
That makes simplicity a grace,
Robes loosely flowing, hair as free:
Such sweet neglect more taketh me
Than all the adulteries of art;
They strike mine eyes, but not my heart.

—Ben Jonson.

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