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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1946

Big Farm Conference

The Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, whose annual meeting takes place today, is an important link in a great organization. Young in years, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has grown to giant stature, as is evidenced by the fact that it has received an official invitation to participate in the forthcoming international conference of farm organizations scheduled for London, England, for ten days commencing May 21 next.

The conference in London will be the culmination of negotiations and conferences which have been proceeding for almost a year, commencing with the visit of the British Farmers' Delegation to Canada last spring. All United Nations which have national farm organizations are invited to send voting delegates to the conferenee, each limited to six voting delegates, while those countries not having national farm organizations are invited to send not more than two observers each, both of whom should be farmers.

The delegation which will represent the Canadian Federation of Agriculture comprise the following: H. H. Hannam, president; W. J. Parker, Winnipeg, and J. A. Marion, Montreal, vice-presidents; R. J. Scott, Belgrave, Ontario; J. H. Wesson, Regina; Alex Mercer, Vancouver; Ben Plumer, Calgary; W. H. McEwen, Moncton, N. B.; Percy French, Vernon, B. C.; R. S. Law, Winnipeg; R. H. M. Bailey, Edmonton; with C. G. Groff as secretary of the delegation.

The basis of deliberations at the conference in London will be the constitution for a permanent organization of primary producers, to be set up as an international federation of agriculture, with the main purpose of co-ordinating its activities effectively with those of the United Nations' food and agriculture organization.

More Agriculture Needed

The butter shortage in Canada is typical, says *The Letter-Review*. It could be relieved, very easily, by active efforts to substitute the production of butter for Canadian use for some of our output of cheese for export, but that would alter incidence of the shortage, not relieve it. Canada has to face facts. With the best opportunity of any country in the world to increase agricultural production rapidly, and on a scale which would be of international importance, this country has, for many years, before the War and during it, tended to a growing indifference to agriculture. In a starving world, Canada cannot afford to remain a nation of twelve million, failing to develop the food production of half a continent to the maximum. On the other hand, if we are to restore and expand our agriculture, there will be required the complete remodeling of all our plans for capital investment, wage levels, housing, social security and public finance. Every plan so far made in each of these fields is on the assumption that this will now be primarily an industrial and not an agricultural nation. World conditions at the moment are such that we must be prepared, if we propose to contribute effectively to the world supply of food to do so by the very important sacrifice of devoting an increasing amount of our national productivity to food, which, for some years to come, we must provide to other nations without expecting any immediate return. The question is whether we are prepared to face this fact, which up to the moment has not been mentioned in public discussion in Canada.

We Leave Europe

Here are some bitter, but unfortunately truthful, words from the Hamilton *Spectator*:

Neither the Canadian public, nor our Canadian soldiers, nor, we suspect, the Canadian Federal Government, ever had a very clear idea of what our occupation responsibilities were to be in Europe.

Now we know.

We have no responsibilities, because Canada is not one of the "occupying powers" and is not a member of the Allied Control Commission.

This on the word of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, who has announced that our current occupation force would be withdrawn from Germany early in April because our Allies are "becoming increasingly able to share in occupation duties."

As it costs money, and means ordering men to do jobs they don't like, it is of every advantage to Canada to leave the business to countries like Great Britain, who are "increasingly able" to carry the load.

But relative post-war suffering is something that Canada and the Prime Minister particularly could well leave alone and say nothing about.

The plain fact is we are withdrawing from Europe because Canada is incapable under its present political set-up of carrying on any sustained effort in the international arena—except in mouthing our "coming of age" and "maturity" over the radio. Behind our grossly overrated, tinsel-decorated and expensive diplomatic corps, and a good deal of Ottawa-primed publicity that is continually humiliating Canadians everywhere — there is still the same group of politicians playing safe with a voting bloc that has paralyzed them for so long in world affairs that they are possibly unable to see what every one else can see.

It is a pity, indeed, that Mr. King's announcement, long overdue, should come in the wake of ugly and widely-echoed demonstrations by our troops overseas, who should be the last to accept any blame.

There was no attempt to inspirt them with the need for occupation; no honest squaring up to the issue with the Canadian people, any more than there was in the twilight of 1939. The day to day compromising, behind the old shabby facade of national "unity", is a decaying and corrupting element that we seem unable to shake off.

It goes far behind the occupation issue; behind even the conscription betrayal. It is chronic. It was one thing to shift the burden of the war on the Canadian civil "volunteers" from 1939 to 1945; another to boast of the way in which the Government, as an agent of the taxpayers, is re-habilitating them. It is another thing forever to play political games with Canadian pride—or what s left of it.

We are taking men and supplies from Europe, but we are probably taking more. It is not unlikely that Canada is politically clearing out to reach the same exalted position that it held at the outbreak of the last war, and to redeem which it paid such a bitter cost.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

"Friends of Russia", organizations and individuals alike, are now busy finding alibis. It is still a truism that if you fly with the crows you may be shot with them

* * * *

The Federal Civil Service in this province will have no objection to be the "Guinea Pig" for the Royal Commission on salaries, provided "guinea" is taken solely in its financial sense.

* * * *

Money spent on daily newspaper advertising by civic bodies means more revenue from tourist traffic and industry, according to the Ottawa Board of Trade. Encourage your newspapers, and you develop prosperity as the night follows the day.

* * * *

Nikolai Vasilivich Gogol, Russian novelist, born this date 1809; well-known for his Cossack tales and realistic novels exposing the abuses of officialdom; achieved fame with his *Evenings in a Farm*, and *Mirgarod*, the latter including the masterpiece *Taras Bulba;* other great works are *The Government Inspector*, a satirical comedy, and his powerful last novel, *Dead Souls;* he died in 1852.

* * * *

It is just the luck of diabetics, after depriving themselves of candies and wheaten bread in the days of plenty, to be advised now in days of scarcity that they may take both in moderation without endangering their lives, or even perceptibly hardening their arteries. When doctors differ it is the patient who bears the consequences.

* * * *

The Provincial Government can do hardly otherwise than assume responsibility for seeing that the Dominion Government shoulders the Airport housing scheme. Neither they nor the Federal Government's Committee or Council on rehabilitation have done anything worthwhile in the matter of housing, and the Provincial Government, as guardian of our rights and privileges, must assume the blame. We are told at Ottawa that there have been no requests for housing accommodation from this Province, which is plain proof that our provincial authorities have been asleep at the switch.

* * * *

It may be all right but one must have grave doubts about the genuineness of those self-confessed traitors fathered by Russia. It may be recalled that during the Soviet's first Five Years' "Comeback", they seduced many leading engineers and mechanics from the United Kingdom and U. S. A. to supervise operations, and afterwards locked some of them up as spies, obtaining by duress confessions from the accused. A Roland for an Oliver may be as appropriate in international politics today as in the days of Charlemagne romances.

* * * *

"The things you believe before you are twenty are true (writes Mr. L. A. G. Strong of BBC). It is difficult to bring them about in the world of facts; but that is no excuse for giving up the attempt. Our elders, in their very love and care for us, would like us to give up the attempt. But at all costs we must stay young in spirit. (That's a very different thing from not growing up, by the way, a disease to which the British are very prone, the men especially.) To be young in spirit is to remain flexible, adventurous, fluid, not set in a mould." In other words, to keep young continue to interest yourself in such Movements as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

* * * *

The development by United Kingdom industry of a new material which may prove the perfect plastic is reported by a London *News Chronicle* correspondent. The correspondent writing from Barrow (the North England industrial centre) states: "Experts from Imperial Chemical Industries have been co-operating with specialists on Vickers Armstrong staff in Barrow shipyard and the result is said to be remarkable. In the opinion of experts, the new material, the name of which has not yet been disclosed, may well revolutionize many branches of industry." The plastic is stated to look and feel like candle wax; to be unbreakable, non-inflammable and heat-resisting. Of much lighter density than wood it will float, is waterproof and absorbing and can be sawn like wood.

Notes By The Way

Having developed a plane that goes nearly as fast as sound, they are now experimenting on one that can travel almost as fast as gossip. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

You remember plastics—those amazing modern substances which take the place of steel in everything but a nation-wide industrial recovery.

Holland needs farm tools, especially two and a half million pitchforks. She dulled the prongs of her former supply by using them on retreating Nazis. —Hamilton Spectator.

Woman may still be inferior to man, but she can put a top on a jar of fruit that no man can remove without the help of all the tools in the house, a basin of hot water and a vise. —Peterborough Examiner.

Uncle Sam has some very funny laws. All the laws cited are still valid, and all who violate them are technically liable to imprisonment. Here are a few: In Ohio all cats going out on the street at night must have a red light tied to their tails. In Boston it is forbidden to play the violin, and to have dogs more than a foot high. In South Carolina it is forbidden to go to church with a revolver in your pocket. In Virginia baths in rooms are banned. People must bathe only in the yards of their houses. —Guelph Mercury.

Britain is a great builder of ships; she builds them better and more cheaply than any other country, looks upon them as among her principal exports. Is the Government of Canada, which talks so much about imports being necessary to exports, intending that this country enter into competition with Britain in shipbuilding? Intending to produce here the one article of export that Britain produces most efficiently? Odd how practice conflicts with theory; hard facts with pious professions. —Ottawa Journal.

Pedestrians hereafter in Kiev will have to be on the qui vive. Their alertness will be quite in order in the ancient capital of the Ukraine, where moving sidewalks, modeled on escalators, are being planned, says The Buffalo Courier-Express. The pedestrian will mount a strip which will move slowly and then be automatically transferred to a faster moving one. The Russians are a hardy folk and maybe they can take this in stride. It will be all right with us, however, if the Russians get the jump on us in the matter of moving sidewalks, modeled on escalators.

One of the biggest problems confronting the Swedish Lloyd Co. in the resumption of its Gothenburg-London passenger traffic is how to find accommodations for travelers in London's overcrowded hotels, Business Week reports. The Swedes, not wishing to lose this business, which saw 30,000 passengers a year traveling the Gothenburg-London route before the war, have placed a proposal before the Port of London Authority—whereby the Swedish Lloyd ships would remain in port longer than normally in order to serve as "floating hotels."

A Queensland soldier of the AIF on Tarakan (Borneo) has been admitted to hospital with minor leg trouble and a heart affection. Not satisfied with his heart action, but unable to find an active symptom of heart trouble, a medical officer ordered an X-ray, which disclosed two hearts beating alternately. A Brisbane heart specialist says the man will probably live to a ripe old age. "His chance of dying with a broken heart, is two to one against, and that's important these days," he added. —Australian News Letter.

While reading a recent day's news, we became unaccountably interested in the fact that the Duodecimal Society of America had successfully ridden out the war, and had finally made its annual awards for 1944 and 1945, says The Peterborough Examiner. The Duodecimal Society, which we don't pretend to understand fully, seems to be interested in weights and measures, among other things. However, it wants weighing and measuring to be done on a basis of 12, as when you buy eggs or doughnuts. It would also wish to see the world do its arithmetic and pursue the pure and applied sciences by counting in twelves instead of tens. The Duodecimal people don't come right out and say so, but we gather they believe the adoption of their system would do no end of good and solve a lot of problems. We doubt very much if the world's problems would be solved if we all sat down and practiced counting by twelves until we could do it perfectly. However, the suggestion is a new one to us, and has the refreshing quality of novelty. It will be interesting to watch the society's progress in the future, to see if it ever succeeds in securing governmental authority to replace that useful coin now known as the dime with a pretty little silver coin called the dozen.

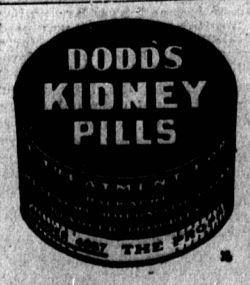
The Poet's Corner

HILL-CLIMBERS

"Hills are made to climb," one said,
And so I tried their slopes,
Much too steep I found their sides
And far too great my hopes.
Hills are made to climb, perhaps,
But braver souls than I
Must scale their heights and merit
Such closeness to the sky.

Content within my valley now,
Where purple shadows run,
I speed the eager on his quest
Whose climb has just begun
And lave the bruised feet of him
For whom the climb is done.

—Charlotte Essman, in the New York Times.



PUBLIC FORUM

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

ISLAND PHEASANTS UNLIMITED

Sir,—I have noticed many letters under the above heading and I thought my experience might be of some assistance to the present promoters.

When I became Minister of Agriculture, I found that Queens County was well supplied with Hungarian partridge, also Prince County up to Summerside. There was none west of S'side so I had 200 huns trapped and dispersed in Western Prince County and in Eastern Kings as there were none there. In three years we had the whole province well stocked. We were offered $5.00 per pair for hundreds of huns but refused to sell. We did exchange 60 huns for 60 pheasants. We also secured 200 pheasant eggs and had them hatched under hens. This was not very successful as many of the eggs were not fertile and the young that came out seemed to leave their foster mother before they were old enough to take care of themselves. When snow was deep we found the huns used to center in the deep railway cuttings, especially when the sun would expose the banks of clay on the sides. We had the superintendent of the railway arrange to have section foremen report any difficulty with the huns and we sent out feed or grit.

There has been no care given the huns since I left office and we may lose them altogether if we are not careful. I have been enquiring of travellers concerning the matter. One man who had 14,000 miles registered on his car had seen one flock of huns, also one male pheasant at Tea Hill. Why shoot off the few pheasants we had. The sportsmen request it. If they are true sportsmen give them a 22 rifle, then the birds would have some chance. Now if this movement will be provincial wide, then all sections must be served alike. The country has a suspicion of the city in matters of this kind and while I have every confidence in the promoters I would suggest that you publish the section of the country in which these birds you got were liberated.

I am, Sir, etc.
W.H. DENNIS.

O'Leary, P.E.I.

REPLY TO MR. DENNIS

Sir,—In replying to Mr W H. Dennis' letter, I first would like to thank him for the interest he has shown in the propagation of the huns and pheasants on Prince Edward Island when Minister of Agriculture and for his continued interest in game birds now here and his confidence expressed in the promoters of Island Pheasants Unlimited.

Regarding the Huns, we have been in touch with different sections of the Island and the report is, that the huns are thriving, also all upland game. The reason is the open winter, making plenty of grit and food available.

The huns run in cycles and the gunning on the huns amounts to about 20 per cent in the depletion of the flocks

The pheasant, according to game experts have little regard for snow and cold weather, providing the grit and other food is available. This bird roosts in trees, the biggest drawback being sleet.

Our aim is to distribute pheasants over all sections of the Island. Increased propagation is the aim of our club and if all sportsmen will become members, a greater number of birds will be brought in and released, making for bigger propagation.

We released 106 pheasants in November and December, 1945 They were banded with the numerals 46 and released in the following districts: Miscouche, 12 birds; Summerside, 10 birds; Winsloe and Hunter River district, 34 birds; Beach Grove, 10 birds; Mason's Road, 9 birds; Canavoy, 21 birds; Bedford, 10 birds.

We have 250 birds on order to arrive the last week of March, and they will be released in the following sections, Hermitage, 30 birds; Rocky Point, 30 birds; West River, 30 birds; Borden, 20 birds; Montague, 20 birds; Cardigan, 20 birds; Murray River, 20 birds; St. Peters, 20 birds; Souris 20 birds; Alberton, 20 birds; Tignish, 20 birds. These birds will be banded starting at the numeral 1 and up and a record will be kept so as to follow the flight and also to keep a report of the kill.

We wish to thank Mr. Dennis for his letter as we are only too glad to answer all questions if possible, as our club executive acts on the suggestions presented at our public meetings.

We welcome all sportsmen to our membership.

I am, Sir, etc.
FRANK ACORN
Secretary
Island Pheasants Unlimited

CITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Sir,—I wrote you when the matter of housing at the airport was suggested, questioning the legal right of the Council to engage in such an undertaking outside the city.

I pointed out the fact that the Federal Government was responsible and that in the case of Vancouver where housing under consideration was within the city, Ottawa gave a guarantee to pay the loss.

The matter was pushed through so hurriedly here that the public did not know what was going on.

The result of the Civic election removes any question of doubt as to the views of the taxpayers and has fortunately removed the promoters from a position where similar actions can be taken at the city's expense.

We all welcome the new Council to their positions and their responsibilities, and I believe we have in the group now heading civic affairs, men who will not stand for some of the things that the public is well aware have been going on, and I think it is the taxpayers' duty to bring to the attention of the Council any irregularities that come to their attention.

During the past few years the principal development in this vicinity, apart from tax free and government propositions is outside the city limits. I want to point out two reasons why this is so, and I think a remedy can be provided by the Council.

The first is, that land available for building purposes within the city is held by the owners at prices altogether out of line with the rate at which they are assessed; the builder for speculation or the party wishing to provide himself with a home is faced with an immediate increase in tax rate on the lot he selects of anywhere from 5 to 50 times the present taxes. Why not assess these lands on a basis of the price demanded from the man wanting to use them as a building site, and collect taxes accordingly, or else make the land available as a site for a home where the city will benefit accordingly.

The second is, attention to a condition suggested in the wording of an ad. in your paper a few days ago. This ad. described a house and lot offered for sale in the vicinity of the city and included the statement that it had "All city conveniences with country rates and taxes." I would suggest to the Council that they take steps to remedy this, and that householders outside the city, provided with all city conveniences should contribute equally with the city owner toward the upkeep of the city. This seems to me the only fair way to adjust matters.

I am, Sir, etc.,
TAXPAYER.

P.S.—The above was dictated before I saw your report in this morning's issue of last evening's Council meeting. The figures the Council disclosed are so out of keeping with those quoted by the promoters of the scheme, that one may well ask a lot of questions and I think most of us could guess what the answers would be if the facts were all known.—T.

WHY ALL THE SECRECY?

Sir,—In an editorial appearing in the Financial Post of February 2nd it asks, "Why all the secrecy?" and adds, "It is unfortunate and indeed indefensible that the Dominion, or the conference itself, did not decide in favor of open publication of these terms. There can be no possible justification for keeping them secret until the end of April. Every citizen, every taxpayer, is entitled to know the terms ...."

While Ontario no doubt, is very greatly concerned as to the aggregate amount finally agreed on to be distributed to the various provinces by way of per capita subsidy, as Ontario will be the province that will make the greatest contribution, what concerns Prince Edward Island and the other Maritimes is a fair and reasonable adjustment that will place all the provinces on an equitable basis, to be not only able to take care of their fiscal needs, but placed in a position to develop their resources as partners of the Confederation Pact Ontario and some of the other provinces have been living in luxury, at the expense of the other partners of Canada.

When you consider centralization of industry, brought about largely by Dominion expenditures in modern and adequate rail transportation, St. Lawrence waterways and canals, costing hundreds of millions of dollars, without any toll on vessels, and the supplying of Ontario and Quebec with hydro-electric power at the expense of all the taxpayers of Canada, and the proposal now to extend these waterways at further heavy expence, which will further supply those two provinces, each, with one million additional horsepower, and then realize the shabby treatment meted out to Prince Edward Island and the other Maritimes, where the terms of Confederation have not as yet been carried out, nor have the terms of the Duncan and other Commissions been fully implemented, this is a matter of the most vital importance in any adjustments to ensure our future prosperity.

When you consider alone, that one of the main objectives of Confederation was that there should be no obstacles in the way of inter-provincial trade, and then realize the very inferior and lack of transportation supplied to Prince Edward Island, compared with the provinces west of the Maritimes, notwithstanding the guarantees given our province when we agreed to enter Confederation, and the incalcuable losses suffered as a result of this failure on the part of the Dominion, it seems to the writer, as suggested by the Financial Post, that there should be no secrecy in connection with such an important Conference.

Why should any one man, or handful of men from any province, be the sole arbitrator, or consider that he or they solely are capable of dealing with such matters of importance, or undertake to sign away the rights of the Province, without an opportunity for the people and the taxpayers to be given every chance to carefully size up the offers that are made by the Dominion in this adjustment. The Montreal Star, in an editorial in their issue of February 14th, make the following statement: "The Pact of Confederation was not made with the Governments of the Provinces, but with their people, and any Government in office today should be careful to see that in matters affecting their welfare, the views it expresses elsewhere represent the people's views."

To the writer's mind, Prince Edward Island Boards of Trade, Farmers' Organizations and individuals, should be on the alert before it is too late

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. O. HYNDMAN.

Charlottetown
February 20, 1946.

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