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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1947

A Lesson Worth Learning

The letter by Mr. A. F. Paterson, of Saint John, in today's Public Forum on how and why we became Canadians is well worth reading and studying. It contains a great deal of Confederation history which unfortunately is not to be found in our school textbooks, though this history is essential to the claims which we have made from time to time, and are still making, upon the Dominion Government.

Mr. Paterson brings clearly into focus one of the most important principles of our constitution, namely that we are a Confederation of Provinces, not directly of peoples. This makes the Provinces the units for the mutual welfare of which Canada is constituted to function, regardless of their respective populations. Canada, he points out, is the only such Federal union under the British Crown and its system of government as defined in its constitution is unique.

We as the smallest Province of Canada should never forget this fact. We should never permit our elected representatives to forget it. As a full-fledged Province we have rights under Confederation which have nothing whatever to do with our numerically insignificant representation or population. These rights are written into the bond, and when one studies the true facts about Confederation one realizes why this is so.

What is needed most of all is a campaign of education on this subject,—education not only in the schools but among our educational and political leaders as well. No man should be regarded as being qualified for public office—certainly not as being qualified to represent us in Parliament—if he fails in this regard. Too often in the past, on the floor of both chambers at Ottawa, our case has gone by default for lack of informed and vigorous championship. Need we ask then why Federal Governments appear so indifferent to our interests? In this respect at least the remedy is in our own hands.

Pennsylvania Too

The anticipated changeover from steam to diesel-electric locomotives will bring this Province into line with the most modern railway systems on the continent. So at least it would appear from a recent press despatch from Philadelphia, in which it is stated that the Pennsylvania Railroad, "declaring that it is keeping fully abreast of every modern development in all forms of motive power," has announced that it is embarking on a thirty million dollar programme to replace its through-service fleet of coal-burning steam-powered engines with diesels. It expects to place diesels in large-scale operation this year on its freight and passenger runs from Harrisburgh, Pa., to Chicago and St. Louis. With the new engines plus new coaches and sleepers, Pennsylvania railway officials predict that operating time should be "reduced markedly."

There is no reason why the same result should not be obtained here, though more important will be the fact that the general efficiency of the line will be improved, and the ferrying of coal across the Strait for railway consumption greatly reduced. This is all unofficial, of course; but it is something that is bound to come, and all the signs point to it coming speedily.

The Undefended Border

Addressing a Toronto University audience recently External Affairs Minister St. Laurent sounded this sensible warning: "The easy-going, neighborly relations between Canada and the United States will not be maintained without constant watchfulness. I do not say this because I think there is the slightest intention on either side to move away from the present happy state of our relations. I say it merely because even the simplest relations between human beings require constructive action of both parties. The relationship between a great and powerful nation and its smaller neighbor is, at best, far from simple. It calls for constant and imaginative attention."

Commending this statement, the Ottawa Journal says there are people who, judging by their talk, would have it that Canadians and Americans have been a sort of anaemic lot who never had any differences and who are too good and placid and compromising to ever have them. The truth—anyone who has ever studied the story of the British-American-Canadian triangle knows it—is that Canadians and Americans, descended from fighting breeds, have had lots of trouble, lots of differences, lots of quarrels. If they didn't come to settling them by shooting, this within a century or more at least, it wasn't because they weren't fighting mad at each other, but simply because they had enough sense to cool off and arrange things with common sense and dignity.

Manitoba Forestry Program

What has become of the Advisory Reconstruction Committee appointed about two years ago by the Provincial Government? This Committee turned in a voluminous interim report in July, 1945, which was tabled in the Legislature and which has been referred to frequently in these columns. In view of the anticipated fiscal settlement with the Dominion Government, would it not be advisable to bring the Committee's recommendations up to date, or frame new ones to suit present circumstances? The need for this was indicated recently by Premier Jones in referring to the terms of the proposed settlement.

That seems to be what they are doing in Manitoba. An important report dealing with farm forestry and tree culture projects for the non-forested regions of the Province has just been released by the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Government of Manitoba.

The 150-page printed book outlines a long-range program of forest development for the prairie and aspen grove areas of Manitoba. It was prepared by a Committee which included Professor J. H. Ellis, Soils Department, University of Manitoba, who acted as chairman; C. B. Gill, Chief, Forest Management, Department of Mines and Natural Resources; and Professor F. W. Brodrick, who served as secretary.

The report estimates that there are 1,339,000 acres of land in the prairie region of Manitoba on which farm and community forests and woodlots could profitably be developed.

It deals extensively with the trees and shrubs which have been found suitable for the various soil types and moisture conditions throughout Manitoba, and discusses such topics as field shelterbelts, afforestation of sandy areas, development of demonstration woodlots, and the use of trees in combating the detrimental effects of wind and water erosion.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

There is a great and growing demand for practical bricklayers in the Province.

* * * *

"All I know is what I read in the daily newspapers," said the late Will Rogers, and twelve million Canadians get most of their information from day to day in exactly the same way.

* * * *

Prince County and the Province is honoured in having Mr. MacNaught, M. P., chosen to move the reply of the House of Commons to the Speech from the Throne. It may, too, be coming events casting their shadow before.

* * * *

Robert Burns, Scottish poet, born this date 1759:

The tempest's howl, it soothes my soul,
My griefs it seems to join;
The leafless trees my fancy please,
Their fate resembles mine.

* * * *

Oh! wad some power the giftie gie us to hear our voice as others hear it. "When I first heard those bland and fruity sounds, that finicking and affected enunciation, that all too cultivated Oxford accent, I was appalled," writes Philosopher C. E. M. Joad. "I have never seen myself as others see me, but to hear myself as others hear me is a liberal and a mortifying self-education."

* * * *

Saint John farmers on strike for increase in price of milk have decided to handle their own produce through a co-operative organization. Unanimous decision to take up the association's option and purchase Geldart's Dairies, Saint John, was made at a meeting in Sussex of members of the Association of Milk producers and suppliers for the Saint John area. The purchase price was announced at $55,000, following the securing of an option on the Geldart plant. Members of the association went on strike Dec. 10 after the New Brunswick Dairy Products Commission had refused to order an increase from $3.40 to $3.75 per hundredweight of 3.8 milk, began shipping milk to Geldart's Dairies Saturday. Members of the association now are being canvassed for the purchase of shares, which are set at $50.

* * * *

The British Foreign Office has issued a code of conduct for the guidance of officials serving abroad. A stern warning is given against recourse to the Divorce Courts in domestic entanglements, and solemn warning given as to other behaviour in foreign countries. "While there are certain courses of conduct reprehensive whatever the rank of the member," it recited solemnly, "in other cases conduct may be reprehensible if the member holds a high post, but less serious when the member is of junior status." The code suggests that marriage to a non-Briton "may well diminish an officer's utility as a British representative abroad and may even result in there being no post in the foreign service to which he can properly be appointed." The code bars foreign service representaives from running for Parliament at home or taking outside jobs, warns that negligence with official documents is a "grave disciplinary offence" and tells women diplomats they'd have to resign if they got married. The pay of these officials runs from 275 pounds to 3,500 pounds ($1,100 to $14,000) a year.

* * * *

Evidently Lloyd George was presuming to be "horrified" when he told Dr. Murray Butler in 1921, that the British Dominions were prepared to desert the Mother Country for some unexplained reason or other. Lloyd George was a "Little Englander" by inclinations and choice, and probably when he was counting the cost and consequences of the war then recently concluded he was prepared to cut adrift from the Dominions rather than the other way about. There can hardly be any doubt that Dr. Butler was recording what he had been told by Mr. Lloyd George, but the question arises what ground or authority had he for "the secret" he divulged? It may be recalled that the great issue at that time was whether Britain should renew her offensive and defensive treaty with Japan. The United States was opposed, and Canada and Australia considered it would be a tactical blunder for the Mother Country to fly in the face of U. S. A. Canada especially, acting as the interpreter between Britain and U. S. A. strongly opposed the renewal of the Japanese Treaty, and this may be the basis for the incident reported by Dr. Butler.

Notes By The Way

Which is better — all this prosperity which no one can afford, or hard times at popular prices? —Edmonton Journal.

We're told that horses, like sheep, can be trained to follow a leader. Having visited a race track, we believe it! —Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

Britons who, in their innocence, have usually taken it for granted that William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-on-Avon and is therefore an Englishman, were somewhat astonished to hear of a dramatic criticism which appeared in The Ceylon Observer after a native company in Colombo had performed "Hamlet." "Ranasinghee's Hamlet" the criticism ran, "showed us how right we were in urging that ham English actors should be restrained from interpreting the work of the man they have the brass to claim as their national poet. "Our position is that Shakespeare was a Ceylonese, and the job of interpreting him is best done by his own countrymen."

The Canadian climate makes hardy people, says scientist. Naturally, the other kind die off. —London Free Press.

Friend of ours just back from a quick business trip to Europe reports that on the way home his plane was held up for some time at Shannon. Along about 3 a.m., a piping-hot breakfast of bacon and eggs was served to the passengers at the airport and was gratefully devoured by them. Hours later, when the plane was well out over the Atlantic, a stewardess came by with a second breakfast; this also consisted of bacon and eggs, and was somewhat less enthusiastically received. The plane stopped off at Newfoundland after several more hours, and the passengers were ushered into the airport restaurant there. The sun was shining brightly behind them, and they were pained, but by no means surprised to be served a third breakfast of bacon and eggs, which few of them were able to choke down. —New Yorker.

One can be the best sort of Canadian while speaking the French language and eating pea soup. By the same token, one may be the finest type of citizen if he has not the slightest idea of the meaning of one word in "Alouette". It would help if each would learn the other's language, but there is no reason why either tongue should ever disappear. In fact, this would be a loss from which Canada could never recover. —Windsor Star.

So much of the adventure-mystery has been contained in reports of fatilities in Nahanni Valley, the reading public of this continent and beyond will watch with keen interest developments by expeditions which seek to solve its macabre riddle. Thirteen men are said to have perished in its northern BC-Yukon reaches, three by decapitation. The suggestion of tropical vegetation and prehistoric animals, of Mongol cave men, hotsprings, fabulous waterfalls and sinister atmosphere combine to give it a weird appeal for those of courage who wish to probe its secrets. Other stories of gold furnish an undeniable encouragement to investigate its unexplored territory. The prospect is one to spur the imagination, whether or not the legends surrounding the country are justified. —Victoria Times.

The countryman has been a bit disturbed over the size of some of the billboards along the roads. When they hide whole mountain ranges he feels the time has come to take a stand. Now it looks as if the whole problem is solved. Companies can have their billboards painted on the sides of the block-long trucks that ramble over the roads. If the length of the trucks keep increasing, a company can put a painting and a long commercial on one van. Billboards on wheels! Ah, there's something. "Be a Glorious, Gorgeous, Glamorous Go-Getter. Get your man with the Fatal, Fascinating, Fragrant, Soap That Has the Subtle Secret of the Ages." Perhaps the pictures and legends could be changed hourly by an automatic device. A music box could play catchy jingles. That's it, singing commercials, beautiful pictures and snappy slogans. No reason why our trucks can't serve a double purpose. —Wall Street Journal.

We fear there is a deep dark plot behind the statement of a Scottish professor who says there is evidence that the level of general intelligence of the Scottish people is falling, says The Ottawa Journal. Now this might be just modesty. It might be a sort of inverted pride. Or it could come from the realization of our Scotch friends that in the conquest of such worlds as remain open to them they should be discreet and subtle and walk softly. The Scot doesn't boast much; he lets his works speak for him. He may have a very large share in government, in banking and business, in industry and the learned professions, but he would let it appear that this is all more or less incidental: that his real concern is with the Robert Burns legend and the Scot's traditional thrift and the latest story about Sandy and his saving ways. Perhaps the Scots feel now that their success in managing the world's affairs is becoming a bit conspicuous— hence this subtle suggestion that really they are losing their grip, are becoming less intelligent, less capable of running for us our banks, our governments, our churches and our industries. They are a shrewd and far-sighted people and have gone a long way with a style that is unostentatious but singularly effective; we greatly doubt that they are now on the downward path. That sounds like something from the Scottish joke-factory in Aberdeen.

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.

KEEPING LIVESTOCK FIT

Sir,— There are so many things about farm work, and particularly about the barns and livestock at this time of the year, calling for attention, that it is difficult for the farmer to keep up-to-date with even thinking about what is ripe for immediate attention, let alone actually attending to each chore.

Livestock that have been confined to enclosed quarters for the past three months or more,— some of which may not have been housed under very comfortable circumstances,— are almost sure to show, the effect of their disadvantages in one form or another. This can be verified in too many instances from their physical condition, but, in other cases, the defect may not become apparent until it is too late, —perhaps not until an increase of its kind occurs, if the animals are being used for re-production purposes.

In this latter event, preventative treatment is the surest remedy, and previous experience of the stockman the safest guide. Livestock that show physical decline are easier to detect and there is no excuse for a bad case, except that the caretaker has failed in his obligations, or the possibility of doing differently was beyond his control.

Common ailments that often convert possible profits into probable losses are frequently of a minor nature, and preventable, or easily overtaken, if perchance they have already taken hold. There are, of course, external and internal parasites that take a tremendous toll of animal feed, intended for animal growth, production, and ultimate profit. These affect all kinds of livestock and will certainly change the farmers' tune into a dirge if allowed to hold continuous sway. There are remedies for all such ailments, readily secured, and easily administered and neglect is the only answer for failure to do one's duty in this respect.

Then again, there are what might be called "hidden, or invisible ailments," not so easily detected as to cause, but none the less apparent. The good stockman's experience works wonders here on occasions, and he can often recoup such a potential loss. It may be a lack of mineral, or using feed not properly balanced, or one of many reasons that must be ferreted out and remedied. Horses, Cattle, Poultry, Sheep, Swine are all subject to attack and infection, but taken in time can be redeemed to normal health and activity. So the good farmer will keep these things in mind and attend to them at the proper time. Otherwise, he is not keenly alive to his own best interests. Now, and for the next few weeks, is a good time to attend to all your livestock needs, if you hope to have early maturing stock for a hungry market, or thrifty sturdy replacements for your breeding animals.

I am, Sir, etc.
J. A. Gillies.

HOW AND WHY CANADIANS ARE CANADIANS

Sir,—No doubt in no English speaking part of the British Empire do the people know so little about the historical background of their native land as the people of the Maritime Provinces. Also it is a tragic fact that the true history of the origin and defined governmental nature and objectives of the Dominion of Canada has never been published under one cover and is not taught in the schools of any Province, not even in law schools.

The first mention of the word Canada appears in Cartier's account of his visit to the St. Lawrence River in 1535, but historians are not in agreement regarding its meaning. However it was subsequently adopted as the name of the territory which is chiefly in the St. Lawrence watershed and thus the inhabitants of that section became Canadians. That section was finally ceded to Britain in 1763, fifty years after Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and the Hudson's Bay territory were finally ceded to Britain.

The political leaders of that St. Lawrence section under British rule and for reasons disclosed by records, were unable to successfully govern their Province of Canada and that Province reached the verge of governmental and financial collapse and of being forced into the United States.

In 1864 some political leaders of the Province of Canada, uninvited, visited the Maritime Provinces, which had been well governed and were far in advance of the Province of Canada economically and socially, and they literally begged the people of the Maritime Provinces for help to save their Province by agreeing to arrange some kind of a union of the Provinces which, among other things, would give the Province of Canada continuous access to the Atlantic on British territory and thus free the Province of Canada from being at the mercy of the United States in carrying on its import and export overseas trade. Also to establish means of interprovincial transportation so operated as to insure proper regulation of trade and commerce among the Provinces. These proposals eventually became the basic constitutional principles of the Dominion of Canada.

In October, 1864, a conference of political leaders of the Province was held at Quebec City and they drafted a scheme of union known as the Quebec Resolutions.

The Quebec scheme was adopted by the Legislature of the Province of Canada, rejected by the people of New Brunswick and by the Legislatures of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island and not discussed by the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

Following this setback the Province of Canada sent a delegation to London to ask the British Government to force the Maritime Provinces into a union based on the Quebec scheme, which the British Government refused to do and replied, in effect, that they would not ask the British Parliament to sanction a union unless the Provinces arranged an agreement of union.

Negotiations were resumed and in 1866 sixteen delegates were appointed with authority to arrange a union, five of whom represented Nova Scotia, five represented New Brunswick, three represented Lower Canada and three represented Upper Canada, with the understanding that Upper and Lower Canada would act as separate Provinces.

In December, 1866, before officially approaching the British Government, those delegates held a conference at an hotel in London and drafted an agreement of Union, which a judicial committee of the Privy Council declared in 1931 to be "the original contract upon which the whole structure was subsequently erected."

At that Conference New Brunswick's delegates practically dictated the terms and conditions of union which obligate the General Government "at all times" to provide whatever services may be necessary to promote the interprovincial and overseas transportation and trade conditions mentioned above. That is why the Intercolonial Railway is a part of the constitution of the Dominion of Canada. Probably the most important principle upon which New Brunswick insisted is the fact that in nature the union is a Confederation of Provinces, not directly of peoples, which makes the Provinces the units for the mutual welfare of which Canada is constituted to function regardless of their respective populations. Canada is the only such Federal union under the British Crown and its system of government as defined in its constitution is unique.

Early in 1867 a joint Imperial-Provincial conference was held at which legislation necessary to bind the General Government to adhere to the principles of the Confederation was prepared, to meet the wishes of those delegates, and subsequently the British North America Act, 1867, and the Canada Railway Loan Act, 1867, were passed by the British Parliament. Consequently any Federal legislation that is repugnant to what is written in those three documents and of which there are many cases is beyond the power of the Federal Parliament to lawfully enact.

Of course that legislation of the British Parliament could not compel the Dominion of Canada which did not exist at that time to do anything, therefore as soon as it started to function at its first session the Federal Parliament passed two Acts under which it undertook all its obligations to the Provinces defined in the 1866 agreement and the British Acts which give legal permanency to it, and thus the Dominion became a party to the inter-provincial transaction.

All things pertaining to the original union are matters of inter-provincial agreement except its title upon which those delegates could not agree; but they did agree "that Her Majesty the Queen be solicited to determine the rank and name of the Confederation." Several titles were suggested, the most popular being "The United Provinces of America" and "The United Kingdom of America." Most people thought that America was an essential part of the title, however, and evidently for diplomatic reasons Queen Victoria selected for the Confederation the name Canada which had been discarded as the name of a land division of British North America.

Upper and Lower Canada were constituted as separate Provinces named Ontario and Quebec respectively, and Her Majesty selected the word Dominion to denote the rank of the Confederation in the Empire. Thus the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario became Canadians as a result of the inter-provincial agreement 1863, with the inhabitants of the sections defined in the B. N. A. Act 1867 as Quebec and in the Ontario Boundary Act 1889 as Ontario also being Canadians because at one time these sections were named Canada.

So Canada followed Acadia into the discard as the name of a land division of North America and became the name of a confederation of several land divisions or British Provinces in North America, and thus the present Canada came into being in 1866-7 and exists only on paper according to what is written in the documents which constitute the Dominion of Canada. Of course a confederaton of several countres could not be literally one country.

In 1870, pursuant to the 1866 agreement, Ruperts Land and the North Western Territories were brought under the jurisdiction of the Federal institution which is functioning at Ottawa under the name of Canada, and the inhabitants of that vast area also became Canadians.

Pursuant to the 1866 agreement and under the agreement arranged between the Executive Council of British Columbia and the Parliament of Canada in 1871, that Province became a member of the Confederation and its inhabitants became Canadians; and under the agreement arranged between the Legislature of Prince Edward Island and the Parliament of Canada in 1873 this Province became a member of the Confederation and its inhabitants became Canadians. Previous to 1867 the people of all these sections were known as British Americans which they are still.

Because of the changed relations between the United Kingdom and the several Dominions, caused chiefly by the First Great War, the British Parliament passed the Statute of Westminster, 1931. That statute does not change Dominion-Provincial relations in this nation nor does it change Canadian citizenship within these confederated Provinces, but among other things it makes the Provinces which are members of Canada, sovereign states of the British Empire and with the consent of the Provinces grants this Dominion extra-territorial authority in connection with the subjects which the Provinces entrusted to it, but does not authorize the Dominion to act for the Provinces in connection with any subject over which the Provinces retained control.

The people of the Maritime Provinces are British subjects and retain their citizenship rights as such because these Provinces were constituted as British Provinces before Confederation, with the King's representative at the head of each Provincial Government, a fact which their subsequent entry into a Confederation named Canada does not change. That is why the King and Queen visited each Province as guests of the Provincial Government when they came to America.

The primary purpose of the Canadian Citizenship Act recently passed by the Federal Parliament is acceptance of authority which Canada has possessed since 1931 regarding Canadian citizens abroad, and citizenship certificates are now issued for use abroad but are not required within these confederated British Provinces, nor for a Canadain to visit any State of the United States of America according to an agreement between these two North American Nations.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A. P. PATERSON,
Saint John, N. B.

---Capital Closeups

(By John LeBlanc, Canadian Press Staff Writer.)

The Klondike had nothing on the Ottawa of these pre-session days.

The annual gold-rush is on. Here, the prize isn't the gleaming yellow metal, but something just about as rare in this crowded capital —gem-scarce living quarters for Canada's lawnmakers.

It happens every year when the legislators from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia stage their perennial invasion, but this year they say the housing situation is tighter than ever it was even in the rushing days of the late war.

The result is that the member of Parliament, big shot though he may be in his home territory, is just another hat-in-hand suppliant around here, doing his persuasive best to convince the landlord that he's just the fellow to occupy that apartment or house.

Some of the members —the newer ones, anyway —come in with wives and occasionally children, in high hopes of settling down to some family life during the session. They're disillusioned fast, and usually they settle for a room unless they hit the jackpot by a lucky stroke.

The smart ones arrive well in advance and manage to snap up the accommodations (what there are of them) before their dilatory colleagues arrive. By opening day —it's Jan. 30 this year—little is left except hotel or rooming house beds. Some have to double up with charitable friends until quarters of the right kind float along.

The Poet's Corner

AT THE GRAVE OF BURNS

Fresh as the flower whose modest worth
He sang, his genius glinted forth—
Rose like a star that, touching earth,
(For so it seems)
Doth glorify its humble birth
With matchless beams.

The piercing eye, the thoughtful brow,
The struggling heart, where be they now?—
Full soon the aspirant of the plough,
The prompt, the brave,
Slept, with the obscurest, in the low
And silent grave.

I mourned with thousands — but as one
More deeply grieved; for he was gone
Whose light I hailed when first it shone,
And showed my youth
How verse may build a princely throne
On humble truth. . .

Through busiest street and loneliest glen
Are felt the flashes of his pen;
He rules 'mid winter snows, and when
Bees fill their hives;
Deep in the general heart of men
His power survives.

—William Wordsworth.

Old Charlottetown

(And P.E.I.)

THE BELFAST RIOT

The Legislature met for the first time in the new Colonial Building in January, 1847. An election for the district of Belfast was ordered to be held on the first of March. There were four candidates in the field: Messrs. Douse and McLean on one side, and Messrs. Little and McDougall on the other. A poll was opened at Pinette. The chief supporters of the two former gentlemen were Scotchmen, and of the two latter, Irishmen. A riot ensued, in which a man named Malcolm McRae was so severely injured that he died. Several others lost their lives in this disgraceful scene. Dr. Hobkirk testified before the Executive Council that from eighty to a hundred persons were suffering from wounds received in the contest. A large force was sent to the locality, and on the nineteenth of March, Messrs. Douse and McLean were returned without opposition. There is not now a more peaceful locality in the Island than that in which the riot took place; national prejudice and political rancor are lost in kindly fellowship. —Campbell's History, 1875.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE