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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1942.

No Potato Fertilizer Grant

Our farmers will be inclined to echo the surprise expressed by Hon. Mr. Hanson in the House of Commons, that potatoes are not included in the list of products for which the fertilizer grant will be available. The $1,000,000 set aside to encourage the use of chemical fertilizer in the five eastern Provinces is solely for the purpose of increasing the yield of pastures; clover, alfalfa, and grass meadows; field corn; spring wheat, oats, barley, spring mixed grains for grain production; and mangolds and turnips for feeding livestock. The grant has been made by order-in-council, to be spent by the Agriculture Supplies Board by July 1, 1942. Payments to farmers are to be based on 40 cents per unit of nitrogen and 20 cents per unit each of phosphoric acid and potash in a ton of fertilizer. For example on a ton of chemical fertilizer containing two per cent of nitrogen, 12 per cent of phosphoric acid and 6 per cent of potash, the farmer would have $4.40 deducted from the net cash price of the fertilizer by the vendor, who will be reimbursed accordingly. Purchases are to be limited to a minimum of one-quarter of a ton of any one kind or analysis of fertilizer, and a total of five tons to any one farmer, and a farmer must buy only for his own use and not for resale. By arrangement with the provincial government supervision of the operation of the policy will be carried out by the provincial fertilizer boards and councils.

This information was given in the House by Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, in reply to a question by Mr. J. Lester Douglas.

"Why are potatoes not included in that category?" asked Hon. Mr. Hanson. "That is the most important thing of all."

"The reason," said Mr. Gardiner, "is that this is provision for increasing the production of feed to be fed to live stock in order to increase the supply of meats and dairy products."

On the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, the grant will be welcomed; but no reason has been advanced why similar provision should not be made in the interests of our potato producers. Mr. Douglas missed an opportunity of indorsing Mr. Hanson's statements in this connection. If he gave any indication that he was disappointed by the limitation placed on the grant, Hansard has not recorded it.

Education

Current annual expenditure of all governments in Canada increased from $886,000,000 to $1,256,000,000, or 46.3 per cent, in the ten years ending 1940, and there were substantial increases in most departments of government, but there was an actual decrease of $3,400,000 in the annual expenditure on education, according to a bulletin of the Citizens' Research Institute. It needs some explaining why the money voted for education in all the provinces declined from $146,800,000 to $143,400,000.

The decade included the depression years and economy was needed, of course, but there was an increase of $3,700,000, or 21 per cent, spent on agriculture; an increase of $7,000,000, or 39 per cent, spent on development of natural resources; an increase from $61,000,000 to $118,000,000 on public welfare (not including capitalized relief money); and an increase from $7,095,000 to $8,095,000, or 14 per cent, on recreation. Then why the decrease of 2.3 per cent on education?

It looks, comments an exchange, as if there were undue zeal for economy in this exceedingly important department of government. What happened, no doubt, was a general tightening up of expenditure on urban schools, a reduction in rural teachers' salaries, and a denial to some of the universities of the support which they badly needed.

After the war and when the adjustment of relations between the provinces and the Dominion is completed, one of the things which every province should be able to do is to maintain its whole education programme in a reasonably adequate manner.

Where The Money Goes

The huge cost of equipping men and machines for modern warfare is brought home in figures recently released by the Dominion Public Relations Committee of the Second Victory Loan. The statistics will give some idea of the money required by the Government to carry on the war on a scale never envisioned in former battle days. Ranging from the cost of $55 for a rifle and bayonet to a 10,000-ton cargo vessel at $1,750,000, the figures supplied by the Committee are as follows:

Soldier's personal equipment excluding rifle, $95; Bren machine-gun, $325; anti-tank rifle, $200; two-pounder anti-tank gun, $1,500; Bofors anti-aircraft gun, $25,000; 3.7 anti-aircraft gun, $75,000; universal carrier (baby tank), $5,000; infantry tank (18-tons), $75,000; cruiser tank (25 tons,) $100,000, field artillery tractor, $2,700; army truck (three-ton) $1,500.

Ammunition too, is expensive, with .303 rifle bullets, used also in machine guns, costing $5 a hundred rounds; 25-pounder gun shells, 100 rounds, $1,250; 3.7 anti-aircraft gun shells, 100 rounds, $2,000; 40 mm. anti-aircraft gun shells 150 rounds, $1,000; 500-pound bomb $100.

For a fully equipped infantry battalion, including 41 officers and 896 other ranks, personal equipment, motor transport, Bren guns, universal carriers and stores, cost $300,000.

In the field of aircraft and supplies an elementary trainer plane costs $8,000; intermediate trainer (Harvard), $40,000; medium bomber, $100,000; heavy bomber, from $175,000 to $300,000; flying boat, $225,000; fighter plane, from $25,000 to $50,000; parachute, $235.

Naval units are even more expensive than aircraft. A mine-sweeper, regular type, is listed at $600,000; a corvette, regular type, $575,000; motor torpedo boat, $150,000; cargo vessel (10,000 tons), $1,750,000; Fairmile anti-submarine patrol boat, $130,000.

The list concludes by giving the daily maintenance cost for 1,000 soldiers, which is $5,500 in Canada, and $7,100 overseas.

In modern, mechanized warfare, the cost of equipping and maintaining an army is higher than ever before. If Canadian forces are to hold their own and fight on to victory on at least equal terms with regard to equipment, the best that money can buy must be provided, it is pointed out, without counting the cost. Otherwise the cost will be heavy in lives.

The money subscribed by Canadians to the Second Victory Loan, it was emphasized, will be used by the Government to provide the equipment and supplies listed above for the Canadian armed forces.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Pity the Nazis and Japs would not observe Lent.

* * * *

The Car Ferry steamer is experiencing hard sleighing with two boilers out of commission.

* * * *

The Victory Bond salesmen never ask you to smile and look pleasant. They take it for granted.

* * * *

Thin lacquered steel will now be used for beverage bottle tops instead of tin which has been forbidden.

* * * *

A city bus service just inaugurated should be much appreciated these days, when economy and quotas necessitate curtailment in the use of autos.

* * * *

Provided they reduce their sugar consumption by 20 per cent bakers may continue to use sugar for frosting or icing bread, cakes, biscuits, pies and similar products, Sugar Controller S. R. Noble has ruled. The bakers had complained that to attempt to sell unfrosted cakes would be a severe handicap, besides frosted sugar could be done within the 20 per cent reduction.

* * * *

Use of glycerine for making dessicated cocoanut, cakes, biscuits, confectionery, chewing gum or any other food product is prohibited by Order-in-Council, and the order specifies that refined glycerine shall not be used for any purpose in which it is possible to use a substitute. All existing contracts for the sale of glycerine are cancelled as of Sept. 30, 1941.

* * * *

In British territory you must abide by the law or take the consequences, be you peer or peasant. Lord Carbery, a resident of Kenya and Pebble Beach, Calif., was sentenced in Nairobi, Kenya Colony, to an aggregate of two years at hard labor for selling $127,000 worth of United States securities without the consent of the Governor and for failing to make a return on the securities. In giving the maximum sentence, the magistrate said that "any fine would be wholly inadequate to meet the case."

* * * *

Things have come to a pretty pass when a letter from a Wolfville correspondent to the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Mr. Hanson, is opened and read by the censor. The Prime Minister admitted the folly of such action, and said he himself had suffered a similar indignity. Then, what is he going to do about it? Is it not a case of appointing incompetents to jobs requiring men of the greatest discretion and more than average common sense?

* * * *

Procrastination, dilly-dallying, and downright wrongheadedness have been characteristic of the King Government in connection with the War. In 1937 they turned down the British Government's appeal to be permitted to use Canada for the training of R. A. F. recruits, and only agreed after the War made it imperative. In 1940 they went to the country on a cry "No Conscription," though the Empire was then in dire straits for men to defend her shores. Pearl Harbour, the sinking of Britain's China Sea battle ships, the fall of Hong Kong demonstrated the absolute necessity of an all-out conscription of men and wealth policy, and the Mackenzie King Government's response was a $2,000,000 plebiscite to find out whether the voters think the Government should use their discretion—if they have got any. Now the Minister of Agriculture —of all men —proclaims that every available man will be called to arms.

* * * *

David Garrick, English actor and dramatist, born this date, 1717; was a pupil of Samuel Johnson and the two of them went to London together from Hereford to seek their fortunes; Garrick got an opportunity to appear at Goodman's Fields as Richard III, achieving an immediate and extraordinary success; he never looked back, became part owner of Drury Lane Theatre ultimately selling out for $175,000 and retiring from the stage; he elevated the whole tone of the stage, substituted for the old stilted and declamatory style one more vivacious and natural, thereby greatly increasing the popularity of Shakespearean performances: "Corrupted freemen are the worst of slaves."

But who are so free as the sons of the waves?
Hearts of oak are our ships,
Hearts of oak are our men,
We always are ready,
Steady, boys, steady!
We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The fellow we used to envy because he had such a swell new car will please move over and make way for the guy who owns a horse and buggy. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

They are going to cut the frills off men's shirts as a war measure. Now where are the frills on men's shirts? If they would only cut the collars off, it might save the bother of putting a knot in a tie. — Vancouver Province.

Steel Controller Kilbourn, in appealing to owners of decrepit autos to turn them in for scrap, says an old car will make a tank cannon and 25 will build a tank. Sacrificing owners may reconcile the crocks to their fate by singing to them the lullaby, "Hush, little flivvers, don't you cry: you'll be a big tank bye-and-bye." — Montreal Gazette.

President D. J. Binnington addressing the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Dairy Association, created considerable stir by reporting that this province during the past year produced 2,002,000,000 pounds of milk. That represents an increase of 160,000,000 pounds over 1940. It's an all-time record for Saskatchewan. It was achieved under wartime conditions despite the fact that there are fewer farmers in this province than there were 10 years ago. —Regina Leader-Post.

How important is this measure and the need for increasing the production of cereals and vegetables was stressed recently by certain Arabic newspapers and leading businessmen. It is estimated that, unless there is a considerable increase in the area planted with cereals, Egypt will face a serious shortage because the lack of fertilizers is reducing the yield. This question must be tackled quickly if last year's mistakes are not to be repeated. Then farmers complained that they were told too late to restrict cotton acreage and grow other crops, because plans were made in the autumn. In the next few weeks, therefore, it is imperative that appropriate legislative action should be taken.—The Sphinx (Cairo).

Spirit and the fire of the soul have ever been the keys to victory, whether it be victory in the affairs of a nation or in the heart of the individual. The singing heart is never dead until the melody itself is forgotten, nor is the singing nation beaten until the last notes of the last folk song are lost with the dust of time and the dead years. We who have read of Russian victories in the past few weeks, may have wondered at this strength of purpose, even though we realized Russian equipment was something greater than we had imagined. There was something else. There was the Russian spirit which we might have been able to appraise if we had been given to evaluating things of the spirit the past 20 years. — London Free Press.

So large a place does the halibut fishing occupy in Prince Rupert that a small boy there saying his prayers one night in front of his mother said, "Our Father which are in Heaven, Halibut be Thy Name." That is how vital the halibut fishing industry is to Prince Rupert. If that industry is going to be taken away and left to the Oriental who is now our enemy, I wish the Government to understand what it means in the development of that part of the country. —Hansard.

It seems clear that we are in for a long, hard struggle in the Pacific. The Japanese are not supermen. But they are also far from being futile cretins. They are superior to any other Orientals in organizing ability, in military and naval power, in industrial productive possibilities. They are hard working, tough, tenacious. Nothing in their historical record, I think, suggests that they would throw up the sponge at the crash of the first bombs over their cities, or that they will surrender until very nearly every available weapon has been shot out of their hands. — By W. H. Chamberlin, Foreign Correspondent.

Whatever Quebec sentiment may be toward a Government which asks the electorate for an unrestricted mandate, French-Canadians will do well to subscribe to the new Federal War Loan. This is a practical way of demonstrating that voluntaryism suffices for the war effort assumed by the nation. This consideration is added to the arguments that militate in favour of this form of tax to which everyone is free to contribute according to his wishes and his means. The gravity of the situation escapes no one. It could not be more serious unless the enemy invaded Canada or the United States. One can logically oppose an augmentation in the military contribution to the defence of the Empire, but there is no reason to be niggardly about the cost of the war when material assets are menaced, as are persons, by the imminence of the conflict. —L'Evenement Journal (Quebec).

Soupfin shark livers bring nice money to those fishermen who are lucky enough to make a good haul along the B.C. coast. The halibut boat Olympia No. 2, after two weeks on the fishing grounds, brought in enough to net each man on board $700. A week or so later the Cape May, with a crew of four, unloaded enough livers to enrich each man by $1,700. In addition, each man's share of ling cod was worth $100, making a total of $1,800, approximately $100 a day for the time the Cape May was out. Sharks livers are sold to reduction agencies, and are worth $4.50 a pound. Finding the sharks is largely a matter of guesswork and luck. — Toronto Saturday Night.

A boy, AWOL from the navy came to Minneapolis and, pretending he had been at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese assault, spread baseless stories of things that never happened there. Listeners repeated the stories as facts and the yarns came to the ears of the navy. The boy was found and promptly put away where he has no gullible audience. It is always amazing to learn how many people will believe stories told by someone of whose reliability they know nothing. The moral, of course, is: Don't repeat wartime rumors without checking them, and then don't repeat them. In this case the lies were only the inventions of a stupid boy. The next ones may have been planted by an Axis agent. — Minneapolis Times.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"We know now, as we may not have known a year ago, that this country is in a 'total' war, in the fullest sense of that word." — J. A. McLeod, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

LETTERS TO SOLDIERS

Sir:—All over our land, young men are being called to the service of their country. The average ages of these boys is about 24 or 25 years, full of life, full of ambition and hope. An overwhelming majority of them have never been away from home and home influences, friends and associations before, to be suddenly, practically without warning, taken from all and everything they hold dear and into a life that is entirely foreign to them. These boys need help.

A kindly old lady—one, you know, who would rather pray for her enemies than wish them any harm—expressed to me her indignation against the enemies of her country, and asked if there was anything she could do to help in this trying time. (She knew I had been a soldier and might be able to suggest something for her to do.)

Without hesitation, I said "yes, I know something you can do that will make you very happy, and will do a great deal of good. When you go home call up your pastor and ask him for a list of the boys that have entered active service from his parish; then you write a nice encouraging letter to each boy every week. If there are too many for you to do this, ask some ladies to help you; then form a club to meet, if you wish, every week to read letters received, answer any questions or requests asked, and to write other letters, sew and knit, etc. Tell the boys you are writing them every week."

Only those who have seen active service overseas during the last war, who have been months living in mud and filth, who were constantly reminded of the murder of innocent people, and the cruel torture of little children, where the earth was covered with broken destroyed homes, where it was dangerous to walk during the day, sleeping in holes, concealed and out of sight, more often than not wet and cold—only one who has been through all this can fully appreciate the pleasure of a letter from home. Send them smokes, socks, candy, cakes, and anything else you will, but believe me, before them all will come your letter. There is nothing that can take the place of a letter from home to a lad "up the line"—and the line is anywhere away from home.

To him it is a slender thread of tremendous spiritual strength that joins him with the Godly influences of home life. It is like a smile that is 3,000 miles long. It is like a friendly warm handclasp that reaches over continents and oceans and says, "Old boy, we are thinking of you;" some will say, "We are praying for you." We will never know, never faintly estimate even, the value, the moral value of such letters.

Why not you do as this saintly old lady is doing, and make this "Doing Your Bit." Ask your clergyman, your lodge, your club or your community for a list. Then form your "Letter A Week Club." You will help that boy, you will unquestionably help your country, and it will help you more than either. I almost forgot, but don't you forget: the young women. They too are "up the line."

I am, Sir, etc.,

"STRETCHER BEARER"

Boston, Mass

Plebiscite Boxscore

(By The Canadian Press)

Since the throne speech debate began in the House of Commons more than three weeks ago, 37 members have expressed opposition to any government move to enact conscription for overseas service. And all 37 were elected at the 1940 general election as supporters of the government.

Of the anti-conscriptionists, 30 have been French Canadians, an unofficial survey showed today. Four other French Canadians who took part in the debate did not state their position definitely.

Twenty of the group, however, said they were in favor of the government's proposal to hold a plebiscite seeking release from past pledges never to impose conscription. Twelve opposed the policy and two took no definite stand.

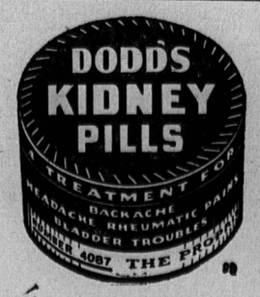
Of the other 97 speakers in the debate 53 have been Liberals. Six Liberals called for imposition of conscription while seven others said they would oppose any such move. Forty-four have supported the plebiscite plan while four have expressed opposition.

The 26 Conservative speakers divided 24 against the plebiscite and two indefinite, 23 in favor of conscription and three indefinite.

Other opposition groups have generally expressed no definite opinion on the plebiscite issue and have qualified their demands for conscription with appeals for simultaneous complete mobilization in other phases of the national effort.

RIVERS OF EGGS

Miramichi River and River Philip provided the principle Canadian collections of Atlantic salmon eggs in 1941.



CHURCHILL SAID IT!

"We cannot afford to relax. On the contrary, we must drive ourselves forward with unrelenting zeal."

To express your unrelenting zeal in pursuit of Victory—buy the new Victory Bonds to the very limit of your ability.

None can afford to do less — each should strive to do more . . . even if the doing of it means the deferring of non-essential purchases until after the war.

S. A. MacDONALD

Protection Of War Provisions

It is impossible to assess with any accuracy the annual loss to Canada caused by insect infestation of stored products, alone, but it must amount to many millions of dollars, state officers of the Plant Protection Division Dominion Department of Agriculture. In war time, the preventoin of waste of food is peremptory although it represents but an unspectacular phase of Canada's far-reaching war effort. The time has not yet come for the full story of that great effort to be written, but, meantime, it is possible to lift the curtain on a corner of the battle for the prevention of waste as represented by the incessant fight waged against insects infesting and destroying stores of grain and flour in winter storage boats and in sea-going ships.

This work is carried out by the inspectors of the Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, with the assistance of the Division of Entomology as advisor on the most effective means of insect control. The work of inspection is divided into two parts —the examination of all boats loading grain and flour for Overseas, and the examination of boats loading grain at the head of the Great Lakes for winter storage. The examination includes, not only the boats but the cargoes, warehouses, elevators and docks. Through stress of war, and also on account of the nature of the varied cargoes carried, such as dried fruit, nuts, rice, from warm climates, the boats afford special facilities for insect infestation, and form a menace not only to the cargo itself but to all stored products.

A case in point was the arrival in Montreal in July 1941 of a ship from India with a consignment of 92,000 bgas of nuts among its general cargo. So heavily infested were the nuts with a large assortment of various stored products insects, that when the cargo was unloaded the docks and warehouses became infested and the insects spread to other stored products in the vicinity. Hence the necessity for unceasing vigilance.

* * * *

Since the outbreak of war until December 31, 1941, the inspectors of the Plant Protection Division have examined 1,192 boats loaded with grain and flour at seaboard ports for Overseas, together with their cargoes, of 212,713,412 bushels of grain and 798,502 tons of flour, with a total value of $213,682,233. In addition, 303 grain boats loaded at Fort William for winter storage in the Great Lakes were inspected along with the cargoes of 58,142,892 bushels of grain and 46,625 tons of flour, with a total value of $42,289,118. Four hundred and ninety-six of the sea-going boats and 214 of the winter storage boats required cleaning before loading.

The meaning of the word "inspection" as used in ordinary language is apt to be undervalued when applied to inspection carried out by the Plant Protection Division, for the inspection of one boat alone is no sinecure and entails a good deal of careful work. Armed with a flashlight, the inspector examines all cargo space 'tween decks and lower holds, paying particular attention to areas around pillars, cracks in floors, sections of walls with filling pieces, areas surrounding conveyor parts, and in the vicinity of gangways. He looks behind and beneath anything in the shape of permanent dunnage, carefully scrutinizing straw mats where they are used. He pays particular attention to upright stanchions, collars for bins, shelves, grain hatches, bilge boards which have not been filled up with oakum, and any other spot that may have been overlooked in the regular cleaning of the cargo space. He prys behind sheating used for the prevention of condensation of moisture — a favourite hiding place for insects — removing the lining material in his search.

Bilge boards attract his undivided attention. In grain winter storage boats in particular, these boards are often important localities for infestation. If there are spaces between the boards, and if they are not tightly caulked with oakum, the inspector levers off a few of the outer boards here and there in different parts of the hold and makes a critical examination. Between the vertical (outer) bilge boards and the horizontal (inner) ones, serious infestations may be found. In that case all the outer boards have to be removed to admit proper cleaning, regardless of the prohibitive cost. Without such cleaning under these circumstances, no boat would be considered safe for winter storage of grain. In certain boats, where the keel is protected by wood, infestations have been found below the boards and in those cases all the boards must be removed to permit thorough cleaning.

The Poets' Corner

AIRPORT AT NIGHT

Nothing but sound—the dark air curried
by these combs of steel sound . . .
And we walk on the platform to where a tower of flaring light
flashes and strokes up through the elastic dark.
We look out over half-light to the amazing palm of ground, open
for the dim cross-shaped forms leaving and arriving.
One arrives while we watch: we hear a bubble choking and see high light;
the floodlights jut a stream of flat brightness
on the runaway. And as easily as a feather the spotted shadow
curves down and touches, its blur of sound cut off.
A pocket of blackness has opened; the earth reaches up to this form
and welcomes it back to its solid side.

—Daniel Smythe in the American Mercury.

GLASGOW — (CP) — "The Battle of Britain," story of the Royal Air Force's victory over the Germans in the summer and autumn of 1940, is to be published in Yiddish.

ATTENTION
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