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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1942

Words Of Courage

Prime Minister Churchill strove yesterday to impart something of his own iron will and determination to the British people. His broadcast was delivered under circumstances as serious as any which have faced the Commonwealth since the outbreak of war.

The one mortal crime at this stage of the war, he declared, would be a weakening in our purpose and therefore in unity. "The same qualities which brought us through the awful jeopardy of the summer of 1940 and those long autumn and winter bombardments from the air, will bring us through this other new ordeal, though it may be more costly and will certainly be long. One fault, one crime—and one crime only—can rob the United Nations and the British people upon whose constancy this great alliance came into being, of the victory upon which their lives and honour depend—a weakening in our purpose, therefore in our unity."

The fall of Singapore, that great British bastion in the Pacific, was not unexpected; but the fact that it coincided with these solemn words was not without significance. Another factor of ill omen—the escape of the Nazi battle fleet from Brest to the safe anchorage of Heligoland, and the consequent threat of these warships to Britain's Atlantic life-line with this continent—was not mentioned. There were doubtless good reasons for this omission (the extent of damage inflicted by British naval and air forces may be greater than it has been thought wise to divulge) but Mr. Churchill knew that his hearers had this incident in mind. He offered no alibi, pleaded no extenuating circumstances. His appeal was in different words, but in content essentially the same, as on other occasions when the scales have hung in the balance, and only indomitable courage, faith and confidence could save the day.

Should Not Go Unanswered

It is to be hoped, before Parliament finishes debating the address on the Throne Speech, that some Government member will answer the extraordinary statements made by the Hon. Mr. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries, in the recent by-election campaign in Quebec.

In this speech, says an exchange, Mr. Michaud discussed the new financial arrangements between Canada and Britain, involving, as they do, a free gift on our part of a billion dollars' worth of munitions and foodstuffs. Apparently the idea of this gift is not popular in Quebec and so Mr. Michaud proceeded to explain that the new arrangements were part of a carefully worked out plan to rescue Canada from the domination of British financiers.

"Our obligations to Britain," he said, "and the financial men of Britain will all be liquidated when the war ends, and Canada will then be in a freer position to negotiate trade pacts wherever and whenever they would suit her and without being under any obligations to Britain in shaping her financial and economic policies."

Here is a Minister of the Crown openly proclaiming jubilation at the prospect of a change in our present economic relations with Britain, the world's greatest import market. Does he not realize that the present state of these relations injures enormously to our benefit? According to the Bureau of Statistics, in the year 1941 the value of Canada's exports to Britain was \$658,250,000, or roughly 40 per cent of our total exports, and the value of our imports from Britain was only \$136,250,000, or about one-fifth of the value of our exports. In 1940 our exports to Britain were valued at \$708,000,000, as compared with imports from the Motherland valued at \$126,500,000. Owing to the outflow of munitions produced by the war, there is some abnormality in the trade figures for these two years, but in the preceding two years, 1939 and 1938, our exports to Britain were valued at respectively \$328,000,000 and \$339,500,000, and our imports from Britain at \$114,000,000 and \$119,250,000.

Here in normal times was a trade exchange of almost three to one in our favor, and its existence was possible only because Britain had extensive investments in Canada, and took the interest on them in the form of Canadian goods. It

has been a source of worry to intelligent appraisers of our postwar problems that Britain, having liquidated her Canadian investments and depleted her reserves of gold, might be forced to say that she could accept from Canada only imports of a value equivalent to the imports which Canada was prepared to accept from her.

Canada cannot afford to embark upon the policy of narrow economic nationalism which Mr. Michaud prescribes for her. But, withal, it is an appalling spectacle that a Minister in the midst of a critical war can stoop to the exploitation of anti-British prejudices, and in the process reveal such astounding ignorance of economic realities.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Beacons and Bonds—money—money—money!

There are, unfortunately, more grafters at liberty than the three recently convicted at Ottawa.

Should we get safely over February, we need not worry so much over the Car Ferry at Borden.

Now the invincible Churchill Government, with its huge majority in Parliament, is in danger of being smashed, not because of anything it has done, but because of what it has left undone. Let the Mackenzie King Government take warning.

In addition to ordinary tin cans, silver plated sugar bowls, candy dishes, platters, and many other table articles in which tin is a major component will probably be unavailable for the duration as more and more tin is required for war production.

The surprise would have been had there not been an Islander in the Battle of the Straits of Dover—our enlisted quota far exceeding that of any other province. Pilot Sergeant Higgins is of the Bull Dog type, a credit to his parents, Police Sergeant and Mrs. Higgins, to the Island, Canada, and to the Empire.

The national war services regulations as now amended provide that "at the hearing of all applications made to a board a representative of the Department of National Defence, a representative of the National Labor Supply Council and a representative of agriculture shall be entitled to be present and to make such representations as they see fit."

The Red Cross is reorganized here for another year, under the wise and energetic direction of the Hon. Dr. MacMillan. The Red Cross is the only organized charity to be permitted to have a financial campaign this year; all the others previously organized for this purpose are to be financed out of Government funds without any appeal to the generosity of the public.

The law is a respecter of persons when a Chief Constable is concerned. At Coburg, Ont., Chief Constable General D. C. Draper of Toronto was convicted on a charge of dangerous driving and fined \$300. Judge O'Connor, who heard the case, said he would not cancel General Draper's operator's licence. "I feel that his work is too necessary for him to be deprived of his driver's licence," the judge said.

After a six-week's visit in Britain as guest of the British Government Mr. L. W. Brockington, formerly special assistant to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, has returned to Ottawa. Mr. Brockington made many speeches and spent an "active and interesting" time in Britain. He saw members of the British Cabinet, heads of European governments now in London and a number of other war leaders and diplomats and will have much to tell the Prime Minister of what he gathered concerning the seriousness of the war situation.

Viscount Cardwell, English statesman, died this date, 1886; was successively Secretary of State for the Colonies and for War; in his former capacity was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the transportation of criminals to the dominions overseas; in the latter capacity, introduced the short service system in the Army together with an Army reserve which worked satisfactorily until European nations resorted to universal service and periodic training for reserves, which necessitated the development of the territorial system in Britain in an attempt to keep up with the times.

It is understood the date of the man power plebiscite will be about three weeks after details of the plebiscite have been approved by Parliament. Introduction of the legislation in the House of Commons is expected almost immediately after the present Throne Speech debate ends. Because of the shortage of paper in the United Kingdom, the special returning officers going overseas will take their supplies with them. This will eliminate the possibility of using aircraft for transport to and from Britain. Arrangements will also be made for voting by fighting men in Newfoundland and other overseas territories where Canadians are located.

The British Government are opposed to the reduction of hours of labour even for persons under 16. Lord Gainford moved that the House disapprove of any increase of the 53 hours week for children of that age, and Lord Moyne, Colonial Secretary, said he could not accept the motion as it was equivalent to a vote of censure on the Ministry of Labour and the Labour Unions which had agreed to the existing order. The motion was defeated by a majority of three in a small house of 37 members.

It is a waste of time to say the new War loan will probably succeed, or be over-subscribed, or that it will be loyally acclaimed or that it is bound to be given a good reception. It just must. The war cannot be waged long without sinews, unless the people of this North American country want to wheel out the barrel as Germans did in the last war, to move a load of paper money to the bake shop for a loaf of bread or a pound of butter. Rabbits are not in the habit of climbing trees, but this particular loan rabbit must climb to its objective because the war dogs are in pursuit.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is predicted that there will be a sacrifice of gold in the next summer. That won't be so bad as long as the production of cannon balls keeps up. — Chatham News.

Much has been said about the heroic calmness of the British under fire. They laughed unafraid at the Hitlerian horde and carried on after Dunkirk with equanimity. The Christmas edition of their humorous magazine, Punch, has just arrived in America—all gay with brilliant colored pages and cartoons to continue to pose quiet fun at the fringes of the English people. But a reader can search in vain for one note of hatred or hysteria—of those who seek to enslave them. The British not only know how to die, but how to live. — Detroit Free-Press.

With his program of English instruction in the school of Quebec, his frequent exhortations to his people to prize the British connection, his appeals for army recruits and his tributes to those who have suffered and died for the Allied cause, Mr. Gombout is doing a great work in Ontario's sister province. He is, in fact, setting an example to the politicians of the Dominion, including Ontario, whose incautious and sometimes calculated utterances tend to increase whatever cleavage there may be between the two races. Toronto Star.

The time has now come to drop the appellation, "anti-Axis powers," so often used in the last few weeks. There is a period of twenty-six members of the Washington pact simply as "the Allies," or, better still, "The United Nations," the happy phrase used in the Roosevelt-Churchill communique. The fact of being "anti" is negative; the signatories have something more positive in mind than the defeat of Hitler. The United Nations have laid the groundwork for the type of world collaboration that will insure the final victory based on the principles they have ably set forth. — Buffalo News.

In a steel casket designed by a Sheffield craftsman greetings have been sent from Britain's steel industry to the workers in the number in Russia. Thousands of Sheffield signatures, from bishops of steel moulders, have been appended to the message in which the British city pledges itself to the people of Stalingrad to play its part in achieving a maximum output and to ensure the fullest use of its resources to speed the victory over Hitlerite Germany. The casket bears the city's arms, flanked by the British lion on one side and the hammer and sickle on the other, with inscriptions in English and Russian. — British Industries Bulletin.

Patriotic citizens of Dallas, Texas, have forever established their reputation for foresightfulness by buying 10,000 candles of black wax to burn during blackouts—though civilian defence officials pointed out that such an old-fashioned would do. Don't, you say, it's really sort of touching. Can't you see hundreds of Dallasers getting up bright and early to survive like his father. This is the being out-of-doors with salt-shakers to capture robins unawares? Dallas ought to be a perfectly swell place to sell anybody Lake Minnetonka or a half interest in the Mississippi river. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

It is to be deplored that an element in the teaching profession in Ontario that grammar should no longer be taught in the secondary schools. They offer the argument that it has been thoroughly debunked into shams in the schools. It is a pity also that, before opinions like this take sufficient form and body as to exclude this subject to a large extent, educationalists do not get the experience of editors and writers and those engaged in adult education work. They would then become convinced, we feel certain, that the subject is either badly taught in the primary schools or forgotten with the passage of a few years. It is found only in the lower forms of colleges and high schools. — Peterborough Examiner.

There is a lot of controversy in these days about the A.T.S. The impartial observer, however, cannot escape the impression that the A.T.S. is a very good job of work. A colleague writes that recently in an official capacity he has been in close contact with some of the units of the A.T.S. and things stand out in his mind as the result of his experience. First is the wide variety of jobs that the members undertake, ranging from more or less simple domestic duties to work which involves use of intricate scientific instruments. The second point is the enthusiasm of the highest to be seen about the A.T.S. undertake their tasks. In an extended contact with the personnel not one member was found who had not enjoyed his job. — Birmingham Post.

There are some who see in a forlorn hope no more than a useless gesture and the only advantage as waste. There are others who go so far as to repeat the unoriginal and vile cynicism that a live coward is better than a dead hero. This disease has a mental and spiritual sense. Britain has been harshly criticized for the unsuccessful aid to Greece and the heavy losses sustained by the hopeless defence of Crete, yet it is clear to day that if these sacrifices had not been made the swastika would in all probability be flying over Moscow today, and that Russia would be under the heel of the Hun-master instead of being on top of him and driving him to despair. There may not be an analogy in the Hong Kong resistance. It may serve to upset the time-table of the Japanese war lords just as the Grecian and Cretan enterprises did. There would be time and out of time. We must leave these matters to the decision of the authorities and the judgment of the future. But meanwhile, we can only join our hats to the defenders of our Empire's outpost in the Far East. God forbid that it shall devolve upon us to perform a similar task, but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility. We shall not fail. — Royal Gazette (Hamilton Bermuda).

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War "There can be no truce with the forces of evil." — Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Nicholson.

OTTAWA LETTER

By Robert L. Cotton (Special to the Guardian)

OTTAWA, Friday, February 13, 1942.—A bell is set ringing promptly at 3 o'clock every afternoon which can be heard all over the Parliament building calling the members of the House of Commons to the Chamber. The bell keeps ringing until a quorum of the members has assembled when it stops and the Speaker reads the Journal and that it is finished the bell rings again for a second or two and then the doors of all the various galleries are opened and the public are admitted.

The question period is sometimes most interesting. The party leaders perhaps ask most of the questions but any member may address a question to any of the ministers. Sometimes the question is answered at once, sometimes delay or perhaps a few minutes is asked and quite often leading questions give rise to most entertaining interchanges across the floor of the House. No discussion or argument is permitted once the question has been answered.

Today at question time our own Mr. Lester Douglas asked the minister of Agriculture for particulars regarding proposed bonus payments to the farmers in the Eastern provinces to assist towards the purchase of fertilizer to stimulate the production of feed stuffs. The Minister answered that one million dollars had been allocated for this purpose and would be paid by the department on a basis varying according to the composition or strength of the particular fertilizer purchased. On an average strength of fertilizer the amount to be paid to each farmer would be limited to a maximum of five tons.

Just before I left the House to catch the afternoon train for Montreal Lieutenant Arthur J. Lapointe, member for Metepedia, and son of the late Minister of Justice, had begun to speak in the debate on the Draft Act. According to the seventh birthday and he wears on his uniform the grey patch of the third division. He has a fine voice, perfect English, and announcement in the House today no new matter of outstanding consequence was introduced and the speeches generally were shorter and more numerous than on any other day. After the bye-elections it was thought that the debate would certainly conclude this week but so many Liberals now want to take part that it is evident the vote will not be reached before next Tuesday.

There were fourteen speakers altogether, one Conservative, one C.C.F. and the other twelve Liberals of whom seven were French. Without exception these latter all expressed themselves as against conscription though only two so far as I know said they would vote against the holding of the plebiscite. Several speaking in French were very vehement indeed in both voice and gesture and received great applause from their compatriots. Mr. Purdy from Truro and Mr. Emmerson representing Westmoreland, N.B. both spoke with moderation and drew various maritime disabilities to the attention of the government. Both were rather difficult to hear.

Our friend, Rev. T. C. Douglas from Weyburn when I sometime ago referred to as a preacher of distinction, was the speaker for the C.C.F. and he evidently is high up in the councils of that party. He was quite critical of the Government and Opposition alike, and his public opinion in Canada is far ahead of its law makers, that no attempt has been made to put the right man in the right place or to insist on his staying there, and that Canada must needs courageous and dynamic leadership and planning for intelligent effort as she needs it now. But Mr. Douglas demonstrated that it is more difficult to impress the House of Commons than the congregation of a church, and that the lack of authority, as well as the immunity from argument and interruption which the pulpit provides, makes a notable difference.



HOLD HIGH THE TORCH OF Freedom Do your part in Canada's fight for freedom. In the Axis' assault against democracy, freedom—everything that makes life worth while—is at stake. Only victory can preserve it. Participate today—to the limit of your ability—in the new Victory Loan. BANK OF MONTREAL

Bourassa Redivivus

At the recent anti-plebiscite meeting in Montreal, the principal speaker was the octogenarian Nationalist, Mr. Henri Bourassa, distinguished writer and journalist, noted for his great eloquence and the moderation of his oratory in the present instance. The meeting was rather noisy and boisterous, when Mr. Bourassa rose to speak. He said that for more than 45 years he had combated Imperialists from Sydney to Vancouver. He said that he was in the province of Quebec where eggs were thrown at me by my own compatriots.

He said he spoke in "orange" Toronto before an audience which was entirely English and in great ranks that conscription would be enforced, and that gives you some idea of what is in store for you. I won't say any more."

The speaker urged French Canadians to take an example from the English of the other provinces "because it is not by parades and flying banners by cheering and yelling that you will make your cause more understood."

He told the audience to remember that when they spoke of Canadians to remember that "you are not the only Canadians in this country, and that there are thousands of French Canadians who share the same views we do. Perhaps some of our ancestors have been here longer than their's have been but that does not make them less Canadian than you consider yourself to be."

He asked the members of the left to take into consideration the difference of language and the difference of religion which might exist between the English and the provinces, and to forget these differences when you are thinking as a true Canadian. "You are wrong when you say that you are the only Canadians," the speaker told the crowd. Mr. Bourassa said that unfortunately the truth was that the French Canadian "spent too much of his time shouting and yelling and cheering for one politician or another and that the English politicians have been convinced that the French Canadian people are easily led. Being easily led they have exploited you to the limit."

Racial and religious discord had been exploited by politicians and as a result the races were bitterly against one another and the speaker. The speaker said that if today "Toronto is anti-French and Quebec is pro-French, it is because the French rested with the leaders in whom the people of these centres placed their confidence."

The speaker said that if the French-Canadian wanted to be respected in other provinces that he must possess religious convictions—convictions based on the teaching of the Catholic Church—and which he must be ready to put into practice not only by outward demonstrations but by the application of these principles in his every-day life.

"It is not by blessing yourself and making 'The Way of the Cross' that you can prove that you are a good Catholic, and it is not by simply yelling that you are a Canadian that you can prove that you are one," he declared.

Urges Plebiscite 'No' Turning then to the proposed plebiscite, Mr. Bourassa first urged his listeners to vote a definite "no" to the question suggested by Prime Minister King, who intends to ask the electors to relieve him from the no-conscription promises which he made in the general election of 1940.

"Prime Minister King's attitude," said Mr. Bourassa, "is similar to that of the young man who became engaged to be married, and came to his fiancée and asked to be given his ring. He doesn't tell the young lady that he doesn't intend to marry her, but he wants the ring first. In case I don't think the fiancée would believe him."

Mr. Bourassa said that while he always was opposed to Canada's participation in Empire wars, he believed that the attitude taken by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen and the

Orders From Washington

The speaker, however, said that the demand for conscription which necessary would not come from London but from Washington "because that is where the Government is getting its orders today."

Mr. Bourassa said he believed that before ten years had elapsed Canada would be annexed to the United States and that a new empire would be formed, composed of the Pan-American countries.

Mr. Bourassa said that on a trip to England early in the present century he had gone to see the leaders of the British Navy because he had been told that the British Army was composed of lions led by asses and had been told by Lord Fisher at that time that England "would spend one farthing or risk one life in order to defend Canada against the United States."

He said that since then he had been asked to be relieved of his conscription promises.

Finally, Mr. Bourassa urged the youth of the province to be calm and to stand firm and that the Government intended to put before them, and finally to vote a "definite no" when Prime Minister King asked to be relieved of his conscription promises.

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The Poet's Corner "LET IT BE FORGOTTEN" Let it be forgotten, as a flower is forgotten. Forgotten as a fire that once was singing gold. Let it be forgotten for ever and ever. Time is a kind friend, he will make us old. If any one asks, say it was forgotten Long and long ago. As a flower, as a fire, as a hushed In a long-forgotten snow. —Sara Teasdale.