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

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1938

Parliaments And Courts

Has Parliament the right to usurp the functions of courts or commissions duly constituted by Parliament? Our local Liberal legislators decided this question in the affirmative when they passed the Road Act 1937 and the National Park Expropriation Act, witholding right of appeal to the law courts under both statutes. But in the House of Commons recently a similar question arose in connection with a petition for parliamentary interference in the matter of western grain rates. The following quotations from Hansard indicate a somewhat different attitude from that expressed by our provincial Liberal Solons:

Hon. Mr. Dunning, (speaking on behalf of the Minister of Transport): "The Minister of Transport desires to state again that Parliament has constituted the Board of Railway Commissioners the final authority to adjudicate on railway rates, and he expresses the hope that in future members of the House will address matters of rate adjustment to the Board of Railway Commissioners rather than to Parliament itself . . . Of course, Parliament is the highest court in the land, and there is no means of preventing discussion of these matters in Parliament, nor is there any desire on the part of anyone to prevent such discussion. Nevertheless, Parliament having created a body and clothed it with the necessary authority, it is desirable, generally speaking, that that body should be left as free as possible in order that it may exercise its jurisdiction equitably on behalf of the people of Canada whom it is appointed to serve." . . .

Hon. H. H. Stevens: "It should be on a footing of the findings of a court of equity and should stand as a matter of justice . . . I do not believe that victory should be achieved in this House at the expense of constitutional and proper methods and at the expense, further, of public confidence in our judiciary, because if you are going to do this sort of thing in this instance you might just as well do it in some other matter. All the talk about this being the high court of Parliament, this high-sounding phrase, makes me a little weary. If there is a body in this country less fitted to be a court, it is this House, and we might as well admit it."

Hon. Mr. Dunning: "I said so."

Hon. Mr. Stevens: "What is the use of talking about this being a high court of Parliament? This is not a judicial court. Unfortunately, even the proper and legitimate functions of Parliament are not discharged in the best possible form because of the introduction of patronage which has grown up over the years. To call this a court similar to courts of justice, or to suggest that it could take the place of a court of justice, or a court of equity is, of course, silly. It is not a court in that sense. Courts have been established and the confidence of the people has reposed in those courts. That confidence should not under any circumstances be disturbed. If there is one thing that we should be proud of in Canada, it is the respect which, down through the decades, the people have had for the courts of the land, and unfortunately these are times when loosely expressed opinions have a tendency to disturb the confidence of the less informed people of the country in our courts. Those of us in whose hands rests the responsibility of leadership in Canada should be extremely careful not to lend any colour to the disturbance of public confidence in the courts."

The Vanishing Eskimo

Mr. Richard Finnie of Ottawa, writing in Forest and Outdoors, tells us the Eskimo population of the world is not more than about 36,000, that about 7,000 of these primitive people live in Canada—only one-third of the number once counted among our people. Civilization, which has brought the Eskimo many comforts, also has removed the immunity isolation gave him to physical ills once strange to the Far North.

As Mr. Finnie points out, storybook Eskimos who lived in snow igloos, subsisted mainly on blubber, dressed in furs, hunted with bow and arrow from sealskin canoes, no longer exist. Today's Eskimos for the most part live in wooden houses or canvas tents, eat canned goods, hunt with rifles, fish from power boats, smoke tobacco and drink tea.

Whether this is a good thing for the race, says the Ottawa Journal, remains to be seen. Naturally the period of adjustment to modern conditions is a difficult one. The time of transition has exposed the Eskimos to ailments and influences he was not trained to resist, and in the process the casualties have been heavy. Perhaps now he is entering a new phase.

U. S. Trade Anomaly

Foreign trade of the United States in 1937 is the subject of an interesting article by Mr. D. S. Cole, Canadian Trade Commissioner, New York, in a recent issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. During the year, the export trade of the United States recorded heavy increases over 1936 with all countries in the British Empire and accounted for 40 per cent of the total exports. To the United Kingdom the increase was 21.5 per cent. To Canada the exports for 1937 were valued at $509,508,000 as against $384,151,000 in 1936, an increase of $125,357,000 or 32.6 per cent. Exports to all European countries except Spain and Greece showed gains in 1937 over the previous year.

But it is with the reverse side of the picture that Canadian producers are concerned. The United States imports from twenty-one principal countries show Canada near the bottom of the list, so far as percentage of trade increase is concerned. U.S. imports from South Africa increased by 141.4 per cent during the year; from the Irish Free State by 91.9 per cent; from New Zealand by 79.1 per cent; from Australia by 70.2 per cent; from British Malaya by 40.1 per cent, and so on. From Canada, the only British country having reciprocal trade agreements with the United States, there was an increase of only 4.4 per cent.

Moreover, all the non-Empire countries listed came off better than Canada. Argentina increased her importations to the United States by 108.7; China by 34.7; Soviet Russia by 27.4; Belgium by 26.4; Brazil by 16.2 per cent, Germany by 13.8 per cent.

The total from all foreign countries, British and non-British, showed increased imports to the United States of 24 per cent,—19.6 per cent better than the figure given for Canada.

In view of the prospects of further trade negotiations between Canada and the United States, these figures are deserving of very careful analysis.

Perhaps Hon. Mr. Dunning will explain, in his belated budget speech, why Canadian exports to the United States showed such a small increase last year as compared with the increase from countries which had no reciprocal treaties with our Southern neighbors.

Editorial Notes

Garibuldi, Mussolini's great predecessor died this date, 1882.

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In the end, unfairness always bounces back upon the man who is unfair, though some politicians are loth to admit it.

* * * *

Conscription from six to sixty in Czechoslovakia is the price to be paid for having aggressive totalitarian states as neighbours. That is what would happen here were the U. S. A. to follow the example of Mexico.

* * * *

Mr. Dunning has succeeded in clearing up part of the Campbell Government North Shore mess through his ambassador Senator John Sinclair. How much better would it have been to have allowed appeal in the ordinary course to a court of law.

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Warning independent retailers that destruction of chain stores through taxation might result in even greater competition in the form of consumer co-operatives, Mr. D. M. Nelson, vice-president, Sears, Roebuck & Co., observes—"I do not believe that many of the so-called independent retailers have asked themselves the question, 'After the chain stores, what'?"

* * * *

One disadvantage of being President of a National Bank is that you cannot disclose important decisions regarding policy and constitution. For instance, it must have been embarrassing for Mr. Towers to find in the issue of the Guardian containing a report of his speech in Charlottetown, a report from Ottawa that the constitution of the Bank of which he is President, and the policy of which he had outlined, was to be completely changed, while he had never uttered a word about it.

* * * *

According to a visitor the Island is away ahead of the West in the matter of road projects. With the exception of main thoroughfares, the roads out there are gravel and clay, very dusty in dry weather in summer and boggy in spring and fall when rain does happen along. Conditions are such that summer tourists are at a discount, and boards of trade prefer it that way rather than have them come and be disappointed. Should the West be favoured with one or two good harvests hardsurfacing will be the first order of the day.

* * * *

A daily feature in the Winnipeg Free Press for years past has been the cartoons of Mr. Arch Dale. Frequently illustrating a point made in the current leading editorial, these cartoons carry a "punch" all the more effective because of their humor. They are done with such gusto, with such skill and such penetrating insight into human nature, that they raise chuckles all across Canada. Even those whose political ideas are being pilloried have been known to laugh long and heartily. Whether or not this is the case with Premier Aberhart, whose Social Credit promises have been subjected to a devastating bombardment by Cartoonist Dale, we do not know; but he should feel flattered by the attention given him by the Free Press in republishing, in booklet form, a collection of Mr. Dale's cartoons in which Mr. Aberhart is the central figure. "$25 A Month: Adventures in Aberhartia" is the title of this amusing pictorial indictment of what our Winnipeg contemporary believes to be a false economic doctrine.

* * * *

"There are men and classes of men," says Robert Louis Stevenson, "that stand above the common herd: the soldier, the sailor, and the shepherd not infrequently; the artist rarely; the physician almost as a rule. He is the flower (such as it is) of our civilization; and when that stage of man is done with, and only remembered to be marvelled at in history, he will be thought to have shared as little as any in the defects of the period, and most notably exhibited the virtues of the race. Generosity he has, such as is possible to those who practice an art, never to those who drive a trade; discretion, tested by a hundred secrets; tact, tried in a thousand embarrassments; and what are more important, Heraclean cheerfulness and courage. So it is that he brings air and cheer into the sick-room, and often enough, though not as often as he wishes, brings healing." This memorable tribute comes to mind in estimating the loss the city and Province have sustained in the passing of Dr. R. J. Ledwell. The last to relish fulsome praise either of himself or his profession, Dr. Ledwell was devoted wholeheartedly to his work, in which he excelled both as physician and surgeon. Not least among those whose esteem he valued are the many people in humble circumstances, to whom he was not only a doctor, but a loyal friend and benefactor.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In response to a request from an official at Sing Sing for assistance and guidance in setting up some tanks of small tropical fish for inmates of the prison who were interested in aquatic life, the Aquarium undertook to collect and install four fifteen-gallon tanks of "tropicals", and to provide the prison library with a small collection of books and magazines about the maintenance of such aquaria. Various commercial dealers in tropical fish contributed the equipment and the Aquarium supplied the library out of duplicate publications in its own files.—New York Zoological Society.

Stephen Leacock, who presents his countless readers with a new book this month, is the perpetrator of the best "synthetic Scotch" in the language. His dramatic, burlesque, "Hannah of the Highlands, or the Laird of Loch Aucherlocherity", begins with the following verse:

Sair maun we greet, but hoot awa'!
There's muckle yet, love isna a'—
Nae mair ye'll see, howe'er ye whine,
The bonnie breeks of auld lang syne

Modern Scottish poets have still to equal this!—Glasgow Bulletin.

People who are fond of going about carrying banners inscribed with popular demands might do worse than add to their permanent collection of needlework petitions a despairing appeal to "Give the taxpaper a square deal." It would not be likely, of course, to carry a moral weight at all commensurate with the poundage of the banner, but it is just conceivable that it might check the lamentable tendency, so noticeable nowadays on the part of those dressed with a little brief authority, to apply the surpluses lavishly provided in recent years by taxpayers (and rate-payers) to any other purpose but that of "declaring a dividend" for the benefit of the taxpayers (and ratepayers) themselves.—Johannesburg Times.

Magna Carta Week is to be celebrated from June 12 to 18 — the 732nd anniversary — in Ontario. The observance is being recognized by the Guelph branch of the Canadian Legion in association with other bodies. Announcement of the event speaks of the importance of "preserving the liberties secured at Runnymede," while the legion branch president, in appealing for support of the celebration, refers to the British system, "whereby every man is free to learn what he can from a free press, free to form and state his own opinions, free to elect his own government, free to choose his own occupation, free to come and go as he thinks best—provided he doesn't make a nuisance of himself to his neighbors."—Ottawa Citizen.

Strange missives reach the foreign correspondence department of Imperial Airways, but the linguists generally manage to deal with them. The other day, however, a letter arrived in a dialect which even the most experienced official was unable to decipher. As it might have been from a prospective passenger, every effort was made to find out what it was all about. But even after the aid of foreign consulates had been invoked, the riddle remained unsolved. As a last step, the missive was entrusted to a firm specializing in little-known languages. Even these past-masters had no easy task. Actually the letter had been written in an obscure Slavian dialect, and the cost of the translation work on it ran into a sum of several pounds. And, when all was said and done, all that the mysterious letter contained were the words: "Dear Sir, I beg to apply for a position with your Company as a laborer."—Imperial Airways Bulletin.

He was a "relief client", euphemism for that barbaric old phrase about being on the town. He seems to have tried to combine in himself many philosophies of the New Deal. He bought $320 worth of furniture (Spend yourself out of debt). He subscribed to a window cleaning service for his apartment (Make work for others when the Government is paying for it). He hired a commercial diaper service for his infant (National Youth Administration). He tore up a relief cheque because it was not large enough ("I will not let the people down"). He insulted employes of the Emergency Relief Bureau (Was he not one of the 27,000,000 voters in power?) He tried to hit a policeman with a chair (Perhaps he had read how the hands of the police were tied in the taxicab riots). The magistrate sentenced him to ten days in the city prison. Outrage This "relief client" was trying to express the More Abundant Life. Such a man is needed in Washington.—New York Sun.

At one time Francois Haby was barber to Kaiser Wilhelm II. When he died the other day at the age of 77, it was widely recalled that he "invented" the famous fiercely upturned moustache that terrified a good part of the western world and left an indelible mark on the minds of those who were young at the time. We don't know just what status the kaiser would have achieved as a comic ogle had he been bald and clean shaven, but we secretly suspect that Germany would have lost something quite effective in spreading its kultur with the sword. The kaiser, it is true, is today such a mild-looking fellow as he turns grey that it will be hard for a certain generation to believe that such a satanic oppressor ever stamped over civilization and democracy the way he did in cartoons and picture prints around 1914-1918. We prefer to believe, indeed, that the affable gentleman at Doorn is only spoofing right now, and softens his features by some treatment for the news photographers. Away down deep he was undoubtedly still a killer who has scant respect for Belgium and hates France. If he is not, then the age of debunking is over.—Hamilton Spectator.

New Yorkers will receive with decidedly mixed feelings the news that Sir Gerald Campbell has been promoted to be British High Commissioner in Canada. They will be delighted at this recognition of his worth and correspondingly depressed at the prospect of losing him. For in the seven years that Sir Gerald has served his country here as Consul General he has made a niche for himself in the social life of the city which another will find it very difficult to fill. It is natural, of course, that the British Consul General should be in demand as a speaker at public gatherings. But in Sir Gerald's case that demand has been enormously reinforced by the joy with which every audience he has addressed has acclaimed his simple charm, his patent friendliness and his never-failing wit. These qualities have been quite as much in evidence to those who have had the good fortune to know him privately. One rarely runs across a more amusing and companionable man. Let us congratulate the Canadians while hoping that he will find time in his new post to pay us many a visit, the more the merrier—literally.—New York Herald Tribune.

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.

TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO TODAY

Sir,—Twenty-Two years ago today, the Canadian Expeditionary Forces were engaged, on the Western Front, in a hand to hand struggle to prevent the then enemy from the realization of his fondest hopes—to break the line and advance to Ypres and the Channel Ports.

It is needless to repeat the deeds of heroism, individual and collective that marked the progress of that second of June day, 1916, as wave after wave of field grey clad figures hurled themselves with reckless abandon against the ever thinning ranks of Canadians who just refused to be blown or bullied from their desperate positions and who in so refusing have set such an example of endurance that can never be forgotten, so long as historians continue to record the deeds of valiant men.

The Canadian people can never forget what they did there, and we who fought and still survive retain a hallowed memory of those who passed on. So fallen comrades Rest in Peace safe in the knowledge that you have fought the good fight and won through to the consummation of a noble achievement.

But for what have you died? To save the world for democracy?, or as a few people will be callous enough to think, to save the world from over population. Charming thought it is not? The bookkeeping of the World War shows that to kill one man cost $25,000. This is the official price tag on each of these little wooden crosses that bloom where poppies used to grow. So whether to save the world for democracy or from over population the price is too high and it would appear the world got stuck in paying such a figure to get rid of these seventeen million men who may have been excess population to some, but not to those who loved them.

And now the world seems drifting headlong towards another war in which $25,000 will be a bargain price for blowing a decent human being to pieces and seventeen million dead may be only a beginning. But, all this does not appear to halt the desire for armed conflict and bloodshed, and an aroused public opinion of great magnitude may be the only means of prevention. Intelligent efforts can and must be made against it. This of necessity must be through the teaching of the youth of today who will be the men and women of tomorrow, who must shoulder successfully the burden and responsibility of life—Man's duty to his God, His fellowman and his Country. An inculcating of knowledge that will enable these succeeding generations to make the utmost use of their prerogative—the right to place in responsible positions, men of such calibre as are capable of administering the affairs of state with such efficiency that the masses will receive the full benefits of rule by democracy and thus eliminate the worldly dissatisfaction that engender "'isms" of all characters.

In this manner can be abolished the absolute rule of dictators whose unhallowed presence and ruthless authority have the greatest tendancy to disrupt world peace.

This instruction, in addition to fuller knowledge and trust in the Divine Ruler of the universe will perhaps be the means of saving humanity from further debacles of the kind witnessed in 1914-1918, from which the world has not fully recovered and could ill afford to lose the millions who then died and who might have had within their ranks, other Edisons, Marconis, Burbanks or Bells and the loss of whose efforts will never be fully realized.

Abolish the causes of war by intelligent reasoning and then we may feel that we have not broken faith with those who died.

I am, Sir, etc.,
C. W. MacARTHUR,
Borden, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

LIVING LIFE OVER

Could we, all fresh and eager for the going,
Stand once again at the dividing ways
With every ambush—every pitfall showing,
And all the love and laughter of our days;

How would we choose?—Old wisdom heavy on us
And young impatience straining to the start?—
In bondage to the knowledge pressing on us
Yet free with all youth's courage in our heart?

Ah, who would know that agony of choosing?
Who would forgo the vision and the dreams?
The zest of the adventuring or loosing—
The sweet belief that life is what it seems?

Well that each day waits in a misty morrow—
That all unknown our way across the years;
Enough that strength is measured to our sorrow.
And laughter is apportioned to our tears.

—Lucy Gertrude Clarkin in St. Dunstan's Red and White.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE USUAL SIGNS OF HEART DISEASE

Now that it is known that a heart murmur may not be a serious condition, many nervous individuals are thinking about other heart symptoms— rapid heart beat, getting out of breath easily, pain over the heart or under the breast bone, or perhaps high blood pressure. These are all symptoms of a failing heart, but a failing heart is not the only condition that may cause these symptoms.

Getting short of breath may be caused by eating too much acid food—meat, eggs, bread, or by an obstruction in the nose or throat which interferes with air passing to and from the lungs.

Rapid heart beat and a rise in blood pressure can be caused by excitement or other emotional disturbance or by simply eating a heavy meal.

The pain in the region of the heart or under the breast bone can be caused by pressure of gas in the stomach or by a cold strain, or infection of the chest muscles —pleurodynia or false pleurisy— or by pleurisy itself.

It can thus be seen that some of the 'regular' symptoms of heart disease can be caused by simple or harmless conditions.

Of course, if an individual is in doubt about his heart he should go to his physician or to a heart specialist as the latter has not only the electrocardiograph equipment which records the regularity and strength of the heart beat but he has also the Xray outfit which enables him (by means of the fluoroscope) to actually see the size, position, and beating of the heart.

However if the pain in the chest is like a vise, a squeezing or tightening pain, which comes on during exertion or after eating a heavy meal, the blood pressure is 'always' high, the heart beat is always irregular and fast, sometimes strong and sometimes weak, perhaps some swelling of the feet to all of which symptoms there is added breathlessness on slight exertion, it is likely that true or organic heart disease is present. Even with any or all of these symptoms the patient can live for many years by simply living within his strength. Living within his strength means avoiding heavy exercise, avoiding heavy or large meals, and keeping free of excitement.

A heavy meal increases the work of the heart by fifty per cent. Emotional disturbances such as anger or fear increase the work of the heart at least 25 per cent.

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