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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1942.

Loss Of The Spikenard

The loss of the Canadian corvette Spikenard, with five officers of the Royal Canadian Navy and fifty-two ratings, is another grim reminder that we are at war.

Last September, it will be recalled, the corvette Lewis was torpedoed and sank with loss of seventeen Canadian ratings. In December the Windflower was sunk in a wartime collision with loss of twenty-three men.

The other side of the picture is worth emphasizing. Millions of tons of vital supplies, and many thousands of troops and airmen, have been escorted safely to Britain.

The Tobacco Tax

In the Royal Gazette of Feb. 14 appears the text of a provincial order-in-council, proclaiming that Part One of an Act to Provide a Revenue for the Public Health Service shall come into force on the first day of March next.

Under the Act, the absorption of the tax by the vendor, in whole or in part, is prohibited. Retailers must have a license, and wholesalers can only sell to licensed vendors.

The purpose of the Act as outlined in the preamble is to raise revenue to defray additional expenditures incurred in provincial public health services and particularly in providing facilities for combating tuberculosis.

The estimated annual revenue from the Health Tax (both tobacco and liquor) is \$90,000. Last April, in budgeting for a surplus of \$14,904.66, Premier Campbell estimated that the Health Tax revenue "for the balance of the year" would be \$65,000.

Since the Legislature prorogued, however, financial readjustments have been made with the Dominion Government, involving an annual payment to this province of \$701,943, including a "fiscal need" subsidy of \$437,174 in return for relinquishing the corporation and personal income tax fields during wartime.

A Liberal Dissenter

One of the most effective speeches in criticism of the King's Government's proposed plebiscite was that delivered by Mr. W. H. Moore, Liberal member for the constituency Ontario. It is the part of wisdom to establish Parliament, wise to lay down rules as to procedure, that the will of the people should be expressed by reason.

a solemn pledge given, to our allies and the world at large, to achieve "a total national effort for total war." How, he asked, are we to keep that pledge, if the result of the plebiscite taken in all the mad passions of war should be a negative one?

He quoted the following statement by the Minister of Justice, as reported on Feb. 5 in the press: "The sole goal of our effort will be for the defense of the country. Because of a mutual defense agreement with the United States, however, it may be necessary to send men out of the country."

Mr. Moore said he regarded this as a startling declaration as to relations within the British commonwealth of nations. "One might," he said, "have smiled at the naive suggestion that we discharge our duty in the world's battle for freedom by conscripting men to help 135,000,000 Americans defend the United States, were it not for the express implications that we are unwilling to do as much for the nations within the British commonwealth. I refuse to accept that declaration as the policy of this country."

In a subsequent interview with the Ottawa Journal Mr. Moore is reported as follows on another matter with which he dealt in his speech: "I think we have gone too far in laying democracy aside. Too far because we started our change too late. We have set up a great and complicated bureaucracy, a system of Government by Boards and by Order-in-Council. But we have thrown on this system a heavy job for which it has no experience whatever. Don't forget that the Hitler system was many years in growth, suffered and profited from many purges, many major changes. So was Italy's. Our boards on the other hand, while composed of splendid personnel, are new to the job and to that extent incompetent."

"I would give more work to Parliamentary committees, small workable committees of 15 or 20 members. These committees could call all the experts they want, and their reports to Parliament would be open and subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, and through the Press to public scrutiny. As things are today the public gets just what the Government's propaganda offices allow it to have—and what I might call the public fibre goes unadorned."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Will Summerside again beat Charlottetown in first obtaining its quota, and Prince County Queen's?

Australia bombed and almost invaded; and there were those there who opposed conscription, and said "it could not happen to us."

Easter mail for boys overseas should be sent off within a week or ten days, according to a notice by the Postmaster-general.

Working in co-operation with Federal authorities, McGill University is "doing everything possible" to ensure that its students are placed in positions where they will be of the most benefit to the national war effort.

An Imperial Brigadier-general was reduced to the ranks for striking over the head an abusive Nazi air officer who had been shot down in his area—that being contrary to International Law. He is now with a Canadian tank Corps, as a ranker, eager to get a chance to kill a few more Boches off his own bat, as it were.

Hon. Cyrus MacMillan, Ph. D., M. P. should make an excellent choice as chairman of the House of Commons Committee on Soldiers' Settlement. He is a veteran of the last war, and, moreover, knows many of the farms on this Island that it would be fraudulent to place returned men on.

Edward Lyon Berthon, English clergyman and inventor, born this date 1813; invented the two bladed propeller, and collapsible boats; the latter were first used in the Soudan war by General Gordon; subsequently have played an important part in all major Naval engagements, where attacks were being made by way of creeks and rivers; in this war by air crews, especially by the Nazis in Greece and Crete.

Singapore is a campaign and a battle lost—not a war, writes Mr. Hanson W. Baldwin. The war has been lengthened by this defeat. The enemy has gained a great advantage. It is not an insuperable disadvantage. We face heavy days. But for each further gain the Japanese must be made to pay in increasing measure. Only if we, in an "all-out" effort, bleed the enemy white and make his conquests not worth his losses can we win the war.

Here is something for our farmers to contemplate should we lose the war. Every hen in the Somme Department of the occupied zone has been ordered officially to lay 45 eggs a year. The departmental prefect at Amiens, suspecting that many eggs are not being delivered to regular markets, ordered farmers to turn over the number of eggs for each hen, or run the risk of prosecution for selling outside the government-controlled dairy stores.

Mayor La Guardia has been superseded as head of the Office of Civil Defence (equivalent to the A. R. P.) by Mr. James N. Landis, President Roosevelt told Congress. Before the President's announcement, Senator Hugh Butler (Rep., Neb.) urged that both La Guardia and Mrs. Roosevelt "remove themselves immediately from the O. C. D. so that the real work can go forward." He contended that civilian defence "means organizing our civilians against danger, not teaching them new dance steps." "It is obvious the administration looks on this deadly serious problem as just an excuse for another social experiment," Butler said. "The time is past for boondoggling. If the communities wish to organize dancing and calisthenics, I am sure they can do it themselves without direction from the throng at Mavis Chaney, blonde entertainer and friend of Mrs. Roosevelt. Miss Chaney was named director of children's activities, at \$4,600

NOTES BY THE WAY

Ships are needed badly by both Great Britain and the United States. With battle lines flung all over the world, requirements are colossal. Vessels are necessary for the shipment of men and supplies. No army can move without transport and munitions or replenishments. The lack of transport has been brought home to Canadians through the failure of the staff mechanized equipment to Hong Kong. Our men were at this outpost, but they were not given proper support because ships were not available to carry the stuff to them. People are inclined to shrug their shoulders and dismiss the "toe" as the sink-

Waste Into Gain

The British ministry of works announced that enough scrap to make six medium sized tanks would result from the removal of the need in large quantities. A small railings around nine famous London churches. The centuries-old guns on Tower Hill have also gone to the scrap heap, as have also some antique arms and military trophies. These are now being conserved for their handsome yield of brass (or number buttons) and high tension shells (for camp utensils) and graphite (for machine grease), as well as carbon and manganese ore. A register of old cars which are to be broken up is kept by the ministry of supply so that none shall be wasted and a new department of the ministry, the reconditioned civil stores, will be wrecked army vehicles. The wrecks are taken to pieces, and all repairable parts mended and sorted. These parts are then available at a very low cost, to car repairers in need of spare parts. Wrecked cars, make their way to the scrap heap, and are well as wrecked cars, make their contribution: 1,000 tons of scrap a week are recovered from there. Ironically enough, one of the richest mines of salvaged metals—4,000,000 tons from the bombed sites—bricks and metal, have come from debris during the past year. A large used for civil defense purposes. A. F. used large quantities for Valueless runways, foundations. The level of low marshland or for filling disused grave pits. Firewood is also obtainable from bombed sites.

There still is a French Embassy and staff in Washington. A governing body, pledged to collaborate with America's No. 1 enemy, Germany. There still is a Finnish Legation, representing a country, President, Risto Rytii, recently reaffirmed the fighting alliance with Germany. Both enjoy the customary diplomatic immunities. More extraordinary still, there was this week in Washington the Secretary of German Embassy, Ka-1 Resenberg, who was permitted to remain in Washington, although the rest of his precious articles in White Sulphur Springs, because his wife is expecting the birth of a baby. There is nothing to prevent Herr Resenberg from writing and editing a magazine which will inform him of the number of men and the number of guns of each division in an armed force. A little further on he might read how many motor vehicles there are in one armored division. —New York Herald Tribune.

Frankly, the clothing designers needn't worry their precursors but heads one bit about depriving us men of vests for the duration of the war. For thought it may necessitate the transference of two fountain pens (upper left-hand pocket), nail clip, cigar cutter, handy magnifying glass for reading the print, finger marks, and dead flies in case of range (lower right-hand pocket), two stamps stuck together, button, and a newspaper clipping (lower left pocket), though, as we say dispensing with vests will necessitate the transfer of these precious articles to other zones of influence, we can manage to do without any great spiritual wrench from all the foppish holdovers. For of all the foppish holdovers, pocket flaps, buttons, or lapels, sleeves, etc.—the vest is the worst. It is out of ten of them provide no warmth in back. Few of them fit as comfortably as a knitted garment would, but bind in the armpits, yawl at the waist, and press on a fat stomach. And all of them gather spots more mysteriously than any other outer surface devised by man. So if the designers decide to have vests, let them be made of a material that will evoke no great protest, but on the contrary, will be a relief. —Providence Evening Bulletin.

In a broadcast a little time ago, from Dublin, Denis Johnston, the well-known Irish dramatist, and he said, made particular appeal to the Irish sense of humour. Though he had not happened within the past couple of days, people were still laughing at it. Dublin motorist, he said, recently gave up to run his car, and took to a bicycle. The next evening when he'd finished doing some shopping in town, he jumped on to a street car and went home. He forgot all about his bicycle. He hurried back into town, but remembering all the things he'd left in the car, he found the cherished small home first, however, it was still parked by the curb where he'd left it. "Here you are!" he said, "just shows how the newspapers exaggerate this sort of thing. The road off, and Mr. Johnston concluded that he'd pinched his bike, he pedaled in and put contribution in the poor box. When he came out, his bike was gone."

There is in the Canadian West a general tendency, a feverish leaning, toward federalism, caused by financial embarrassment. The Prairie Provinces like to be well housed — not in slums, as the East-end, to govern themselves with the fullest autonomy, but they will willingly trade certain more or less profitable and profitable advantages for the concrete federal advantage of a very tangible nature. Recently on the Prairies, two political aspirants, "Ready, aye ready," proposed a country should, in order to arrive at national unity, understand its different categories and divisions and then act in good faith. Quebec has nothing with which to reproach herself in this large and comprehensive plan. The whole East has manifested towards the West a long and active sympathy. It has even practised for its benefit a detestable and despicable politics, refusing to its own farmers the millions of dollars which it regularly gave as premium to the Prairies. Two political aspirants, Finance which is the only metropolitan, the Prairies come to Ottawa on the wings of four hundred farmers with the purpose of boosting an annual gift which has already reached fifty millions. Will they be mostly better than Montreal, with their monumental political class and favour? Two requests (one or two responses?) — La Patrie (Montreal).

The Salvage Campaign is busily creating paper bullets. We have been urged to waste the right to offer four pulping documents that may possibly prove precious to research and scholarship. The refuse bins of the world have contained time and again, dust and paper, which were potentially the priceless treasure of the mind and

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"We shall not deserve a glorious peace unless we go into the war completely courageous and daringly." —Major-General L. R. LaFleche, Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services.

Without Rubber

It would be difficult to imagine a world without rubber. Our whole system of living has become dependent upon it. When the rubber shortage loomed up, the first thought was of motor-vehicle tires, for much of the rubber has gone into tires and if wheels are to continue to turn they must be rubbered. Hence the strict rationing of new tires and regulation of the sale of those that are rebuilt. There are many other uses however, which affect our way of living almost as much. In an electrical age rubber has become an essential and in a thousand and one other ways it has appeared indispensable. Loss of rubber-growing areas already sustained or threatened is going to make a difference almost beyond calculation when the full effects are felt. In recent years the world has depended on the Far East for the bulk of its rubber supply. Eighty-seven per cent of the product came from Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies, about five per cent from Ceylon, and all the other rubber plantations in the world combined to furnish the remaining eight per cent. Territory now in enemy hands accounted for a large part of the eighty-seven per cent, and the remainder is threatened. Even if it escaped capture, transportation difficulties would definitely limit shipments. From the reserves that have been accumulated and from the remaining sources of the product must be drawn the immense supplies required for war purposes and for war industries. When the manufactured supplies of rubber goods are exhausted there will be little left for civilian use. We are not yet facing a world without rubber, but we are facing a shortage that will call for the exercise of the greatest ingenuity if we are not to be severely handicapped. Meanwhile, it may be remembered that Germany has been carrying on war on a tremendous scale while cut off from the source of supply for natural rubber. Germany had prepared by building up a synthetic rubber industry. We will have to do the same, but that will take time. It may be necessary not only for wartime needs but for requirements during the years following the war. It has been estimated that if the war were to cease now and we had immediate access to all the rubber areas, we still would be short of rubber for the next six or seven years because of the destruction that has been wrought.

SEVEN-DAY BUSINESS

HONOLULU —(CP)—As compensation for backlogs in this Hawaiian capital the rule against Sunday business has been abolished and stores may stay open seven days a week.

SOLD FRIEND'S CAR

GLASGOW —(CP)—Described in court as a "proper adventurer" a (\$1,005.75) public funds an officer of the Border Regiment was ordered dismissed from the service.

ABSENT FOR SICK BABY

SCIOUP, England —(CP)—Charged with absence 10; three weeks from a duty as a member of the W. A. P. a 19-year-old wife and mother said "my sick baby kept calling for me. She was handed over to an escort."

DOG AND KNITTING

Nobody seems to know the names of any of the characters in this queer little canine drama. It didn't get to the police. But it was witnessed by hundreds of people and motorists and bus riders and by a reporter or two on the Central Park side of Fifth Avenue, New York City. A sweet-faced elderly woman sat on a bench in the noon sunlight, knitting something or other. "I don't know what. The big ball of yarn fell from her lap and rolled on the sidewalk. She stopped to pick it up. But she was not quick enough. A boy was walking past with a mischievous

DOG AND KNITTING

ous Scotie on the leash. The boy made a glad jump for the ball. The leash was yanked out of the boy's hand, as the Scotie's teeth closed on the yarn. The dog dashed the small dog, shaking the ball high in air. The piece of knitting followed the yarn to which it was attached. Down the street, through the traffic, darted the Scotie with prize, the knitting dragged behind it. For two blocks the boy and the deprived old lady after the gaily-fleeing animal. Then a Stop Light caused a line of cars to form a wall in front of the Scotie. The torn and dragged and muddy yarn was covered. So was what was left of the knitting.

DEAFNESS IN MANY CASES NOT A DISEASE

Medical authorities have proven that in a large number of cases deafness is brought about by conditions not due to disease. Aurine Ear Balsam a prescription, has proven a blessing to many people. Used since 1865 by those who are deafened and bothered by ringing, buzzing head noises due to hardened or congealed wax (cerumen). Over a million packages sold. Make a no-risk test. Must satisfy or money refunded. Ask today for Aurine Ear Balsam at The Jenkins Pharmacy or other leading druggists.

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