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

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1943.

Provincial Problem

In a brief presented to the House of Commons Reconstruction Committee, Premier Stuart S. Garson of Manitoba has raised a point that demands serious consideration. He tells Ottawa that, if the provinces are to play their appointed part in the post-war period, adequate taxing powers must be restored to them. The alternative is a system of Federal grants or the transfer to the Dominion of a large share of the provinces' part of the program.

Actually, of course, says the Windsor Star, no such alternative exists. Provincial dependence on Ottawa's bounty, or the transfer of provincial duties and privileges, would be utterly unacceptable. Any such method would strike a direct blow at our constitutional system, which is fervidly defended by most of the provinces.

At the moment, there has been a tendency on the part of the provinces to make sacrifices more or less willingly. They have been impressed with the necessity for centralization of authority in a period of national emergency. They have, however, made the concessions on the distinct understanding that the transfer is to be only temporary. When the war is over, they will immediately demand a return of their jurisdiction over the things granted them by the British North America Act.

Naturally, the Provinces must play their part in any post-war reconstruction program. This is a fact of which little mention has been made in any of the plans put forward. They have, for the most part, discussed only what the Dominion will have to do, and how much it will have to spend to finance the schemes.

The Jews of Poland

The June 1 issue of The Ghetto Speaks, published in New York, gives much space to the tragic death of Szmul Zygielbojm, who committed suicide on May 12 in London, as a "personal expression of the unendurable state of affairs, his protest against the tragedy of the Jewish masses in occupied Poland." Zygielbojm was a member of the Polish National Council, who when Hitler's armies were overrunning Poland organized the Jewish population in Warsaw to offer vigorous resistance; he was instrumental also in establishing the underground movement, which has given such a good account of itself and still fights manfully against the oppressors. In the past three years he has been conducting an incessant campaign, in Belgium, Holland and France, against the enemy, slipping from country to country till reaching London, where he did his best to acquaint the world with the pitiful condition of his compatriots and awaken a sense of the urgency of the situation. One of his last utterances was a moving appeal to the United Nations to lose no more time in expressions of sympathy and vague talk of punishment after the war, but to take immediate steps to stop the massacre of the Jews while there was still a remnant to be saved. "Something extraordinary must be done to rescue us immediately," he cried, "otherwise we will all perish." Despairing of action, he took his life.

Speaking of the death of Zygielbojm, the Polish Minister of Information, Prof. Stanislaw Kot, said: "He could not bear to be away from the heroic fight of the Jewish people against the German oppressors and not to share their struggle and martyrdom. He could not survive the news of that last battle. If his last call for help will be heard throughout the world, his sacrifice will not have been in vain." In that valiant, but futile fight in the Warsaw ghetto it is reported that about a thousand Germans were killed or wounded and many factories and warehouses destroyed. The Nazis seized the occasion to exterminate the small remnant of Jews still left in the ghetto.

Parliamentary Reform

The rule of the House of Commons that members shall not read their speeches is obscure in origin and authorities are divided on the reason for it, says *The Printed Word*. Some say that it was adopted at a time when the members who could read and write were in the minority, and the majority, who disliked the parade of superior education by the literate, embodied their prejudices in a rule of the House.

It is more likely that the rule was intended to prevent members from reading into Hansard a mass of irrelevant material. Before a time limit was placed on parliamentary addresses, it was possible for members to delay the business of the House for hours or even days, simply by talking. If a written speech had been allowed, there would have been no limit no a speaker's time except his own endurance. As it was, by reading long quotations, a skilled parliamentarian could keep a filibuster going as easily as if the rule had not existed.

It may be admitted that a read speech is frequently not well delivered. But Parliament is not a school of oratory. It is, at least in peace-time, an institution for the conduct of the country's business. That business could be expedited, if members were permitted to write their speeches and read them in the House. The tendency would be towards shorter speeches, more carefully prepared, and might even reduce the number of speakers.

It would perhaps be going too far to require all members to prepare their speeches in advance. In the present parliament, as in parliaments of the past, there are some members who can talk fluently and to the point without preparation, and there are others who can talk fluently. Reduction of the forty-minute time allowance to ten minutes might be the fairest rule to adopt. If a speaker had something to say, he would work hard to condense his remarks. If he had nothing to say, there would be a restriction on the amount of time that he could waste.

Another suggestion is that the W.P.T.B. should issue a ration book to each M.P. at the beginning of the session. Each coupon would entitle the holder to ten minutes of the House's time. Coupons would be non-transferable and would be surrendered to the Clerk of the House as used. Special categories would be necessary for Cabinet Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition. Some other members would undoubtedly exhaust their coupons early in the session by pressing their claims to a "B" or "C" rating; but that is not necessarily a defect in the plan.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The 52nd anniversary of the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, was observed on Sunday, June 6, when Hon. John Bracken, Dominion Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, laid a wreath on the grave of the Conservative chieftain at Cataraqui Cemetery and delivered a short address.

* * * *

The serious farming situation throughout Ontario has made it imperative that farm commando organizations be formed in all urban centres to aid in agricultural operations, Mr. Alex McLaren, director of the Ontario Farm Service Force declares.

* * * *

The standing committee on petitions of the House of Commons ruled that the petition presented by Wilfred LaCroix (Lib. Quebec-Montmorency) for a ban on night employment of women and other reforms in Quebec, could not be received because it was addressed not only to the House but to the Prime Minister, members of the Government, and others. The petition was signed by 122,000 persons.

* * * *

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Lloyd Courtney, R.A.F., is in Ottawa to confer with officials of the R.C.A.F. Sir Christopher was one of the original members of the Riverdale Mission which came to Canada in 1939 in connection with the advanced air training scheme for the Empire, later known as the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

* * * *

Madam Helena Petrovna Blavatskey, Russian theophist, died this date 1891; claimed to have been initiated into esoteric Buddhism, and to have the power of communicating directly and personally with the unseen world; author of "Isis Unveiled" and the "Key to Theosophy"; she visited U.S.A. and formed The Theosophic Society with Col. Olcott and other converts as active members; in 1884 the Psychical Research Society exposed her trickery, and Theosophy got a set-back from which it has failed to recover.

* * * *

The first motor church to operate in the Western Desert is now with the troops. It was built for the Army and was dedicated by the Deputy Chaplain-General, the Rev. A. J. Wilcox, and enables many to worship in peace among difficulties and trials. Materials for the motor church come from many parts of the Empire—pine from Canada, rosewood from South Africa, plywood from Australia and New Zealand, beech from England, glue from Scotland. The equipment includes a folding harmonium, which packs neatly into a case on the outside. The sign on the side of the motor church depicts the soldier of today braced and ready to fight the powers of evil as his counter-part of olden times, St. George and the dragon.

* * * *

M. Gutt, the Belgian Minister of Finance, in a broadcast address from London to his compatriots in occupied Belgium, said that two years ago Belgium placed gold at Great Britain's disposal. This had now been paid back. "At the beginning of March, 1941", he said, "Great Britain had bled herself white in order to pay for her orders for war material in America. The Lend-Lease Bill was being discussed by the United States Legislature, but, days might elapse before the Bill was passed, and meanwhile there was a risk that deliveries of war material might be stopped if Great Britain did not find gold to pay for them. Great Britain asked Belgium to help her by supplying her with 3,000,000 oz. of gold, equal to 3,000,000,000 Belgium francs." They were proud, he added, that they were able to help in this way.

* * * *

Women who have been worrying about reduced sugar allotment for preserving need worry no longer, says Mary Moore, prominent Canadian dietitian and food research specialist. According to Mrs. Moore, thousands of women in both Britain and Canada are now preserving fruit and fruit juices without sugar. The method is one discovered in Britain by the National Fruit Research Station, Long Ashton, Somerset. In July, 1940, many thousand tons of fruit were on hand in Britain, but there was no sugar to preserve it. Experiments disclosed that fruit, straight from the tree or shop, could be put in clean jars without cooking the fruit or sterilizing the jars; cold water, in which are dissolved the preserving tablets, is then poured over, and the jars sealed. Research proved the fruit keeps indefinitely. The preserving tablets are now on the market in Canada and should solve the preserving problem for homemakers who had visions of nearly-empty fruit cellars this fall.

Notes By The Way

Mussolini and his Fascist followers, it is said, have decided to fight on "to the end." What else can they do? Its the end for them, no matter when Italy quits. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A letter found on a German soldier in Russia and addressed to him by a writer in Berlin advised: "We in Berlin have been given an idea of what war is." Just the barest outline; the full lesson is still to be taught, and it will be, soon —Brantford Expositor.

As to the parlor game of speculating about the length of the war, one member of the (Chinese) government guessed recently that it would take a minimum of six months and maximum of a year and a half to defeat Germany, and then two years more to conquer Japan. —Chungking despatch by Brooks Atkinson to the New York Times.

A year's military training in peace-time would be highly beneficial to all those undergoing it. It would promote health and well-being, and it would be a measure of national self-protection. A severe lesson has been taught the democracies on the folly of non-preparedness, yet it is probably safe to assume that as soon as this war is over it will be completely forgotten and the agitation against any form of military training resumed on its pre-war scale. —Calgary Herald.

It is probable that parents all down the ages, have had difficulty keeping up with the latest slang expressions used by their children. A young man from Fergus went to work in a larger war plant near Toronto. After a few days on the job, he wrote home to his mother: "I like the work fine and there is a lot of nice looking stuff around the office." "Yes," remarked his mother, reading the letter aloud, "I suppose a company like that would have some pretty nice office equipment.— Fergus News-Record.

To say you can now get a blood transfusion from a lemon is less ridiculous than it sounds, Newsweek relates. Dr. F. W. Hartman of Detroit has just reported that a sterile solution of pectin, obtained from the white peel of citrus fruits, has been used successfully as a substitute for blood plasma in treating 125 surgical patients to prevent shock. Intravenous injections of the substance increased both blood volume and pressure. It takes a ton of lemons to produce fifty pounds of the newest plasma substitute and supplement. Southern California's largest lemon processing plants last week were reported working day and night to fill government orders for pectin to aid the war effort. —

According to the Journal of Calendar Reform this is the year 2,603 of the Japanese calendar. The Japs have the habit of naming their years and it seems very appropriate. For instance, the year 1941 was called the Year of the Snake and everybody admits that the Japs closely followed the procedure of snakes during that twelve-month, capping it with their treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor while still making peace overtures. The year 1943 is also appropriately named — the Year of the Goat By the sound of Mr. Churchill's speech promising their cities will be laid in ashes and the way the United States troops are working at their ships and men, it looks as if the Japanese will be the goats —Winnipeg Tribune.

Britain's barrage balloons are moored to their "beds" for the duration, and so are their crews, who must be on watch twenty-four hours a day, relates Britain Magazine. Every morning the "beds" must be made. This means oiling the cables and generally checking up. The winch must be cleaned and started up, and the "purity test" must be made with a meter which registers the amount of oxygen mixed with the gas. Too much oxygen can cause a dangerous explosion. The fabric must be carefully examined for punctures, and any holes must be mended. Picket duty is very important, for a balloon might suddenly leave its moorings and go up. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force are gradually taking over this job, except on island sites where the balloons are water-borne. A full crew consists of sixteen WAAFs, but there must never be fewer than nine on duty. —Exchange.

If you sleep on your back, according to a story in The Chicago News, it may mean you are a pretty fine character A blanket maker consulted a psychologist about these things, and the sage replied that this posture suggests you "probably face problems squarely and courageously" and are 'emotionally stable, with no inner strains preying upon you as you sleep." If you sleep on your stomach, on the other hand, that, too, has flattering implications. "You may be an intense preson who works hard," the sleep-interpreter said, "or a rugged individualist who doesn't have as much fun as he should." Not so complimentary was the report on those who sleep curled up. This indicates, the story said, an attempt to escape from reality. As for the sleepers who clutch their pillows in an affectionate embrace, that was a cinch. To science, the story said, this means that the sleeper isn't getting enough affection —Exchange.

Persons are still sending syrups, jams and other sticky substances in fragile containers, lacking even adequate packing, wrapping or sealing in overseas parcels One day at the Base Post Office 10 parcels were damaged and required cleaning and repacking because somebody mailed syrup in a weak container which had broken open in a mail bag. Several parcels, another day, had to be reconditioned because maple syrup in a corn syrup tin with "pressed-on" lid had burst open in transit. This year a shortage of tins has resulted in maple syrup being mailed in wax-coated cardboard containers, which break open in handling People also are still mailing glass bottles and jars which become broken, the contents spreading over and damaging surrounding mails Maple sprup, if mailed at all, should be contained in strong leak-proof tins, with lids securely soldered on Each tin should be surrounded with ample absorbent material and enclosed in a strong shock-proof container —Post Office Bulletin

MOSTLY TAX

In Britain a pack of 20 cigarets costs 47 cents, of which 37 cents is tax.

The Speech That Stemmed The Tide

(Montreal Gazette)

"I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once agan able to defend our island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone . . . We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender. And even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, will carry on the struggle until, in God's good time, the New World with all its power and might steps forth to the rescue and liberation of the old."

Winston Churchill sat down, and a tense House of Commons burst into cheers. It was June 4, 1940—Three years ago today. He had just told the story of Dunkerque, how the British Expeditionary Force had been rescued naked from the beaches and brought back home. "We must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuations."

No, Dunkerque was not a victory. But the Dunkerque speech was a victory—perhaps the event will prove it the decisive victory of the war. Churchill knew how pitifully little he had to back his fighting words— no equipped soldiers except two Canadian divisions, no guns, no tanks, no allies. In short, no hope, nothing between him and defeat but a ribbon of sea, and a handful of the world's best fighter planes and fighter pilots, whose exploit could not be foreseen.

Yet he said "We shall never surrender."

In captive Europe, they heard him with awe, with delight, with new heart. A Norwegian now in Montreal, who spent 14 months under German rule before he escaped, said the other day: "You have no idea what we all owe to Winston Churchill. Imagine, if you can, what it meant to us. Our own country gone, Holland and Belgium gone, France crumbling, and England, for all we could tell, crumbling too — for they had nothing left. Every Norwegian was faced with the decision whether to turn Quisling in despair, or keep on fighting. Churchill kept us fighting."

He kept us all fighting. More than that, within a month or two he took a second decision which the event has proved right, but which required a degree of courage and firmness beyond belief— with England lying defenceless before the foe, he ordered planes, tanks, guns and men diverted to the Middle East, that Suez might be held. Had he done otherwise, had he "played safe" as it seemed then, the war might have ended two years ago in an Axis victory.

Churchill has made mistakes. In his political career of four decades he has often been on the wrong side. He has many enemies, and will doubtless have more before he dies. But friend or political foe, every free man through history must remember that on June 4, 1940, Winston Churchill saved freedom for us all.

Constable Of The Tower

(London Times)

Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode has been installed Constable of the Tower of London. The ceremony of installation, performed by the Lord Chamberlain (Lord Clarendon) on Tower Green, was shorn of a little of its picturesqueness, but was carried out with all the dignity appropriate to one more in a chain of events and episodes now nearly 900 years long.

The Lord Chamberlain carried a ceremonial gold key on a red velvet cushion. Rifles, damascened halberds, and the band clashed into a Royal Salute in honor of the King's representative, who had come (in the words of the Court Circular) "in the King's name and on His Majesty's behalf" to deliver "the Keep and Custody of His Majesty's Palace and Fortress of the Tower." Then Sir John Scobell spread out an ample parchment, from which he read aloud in the King's name the Letters Patent conferring the office and place of "Constable of our Tower of London" on "our right trusty and well-beloved Philip Walhouse Cherwode."

After the reading and the delivery of the key to the new Constable, the Chief Warder said, "God preserve King George," and the Yeoman Warders all said, "Amen." Two of the Tower ravens cocked a wise eye at the ceremony, which they have seen a good many times before from the outskirts.

Money In The Bag

(Hamilton Spectator)

Let a person of substance pass from this world, leaving behind him no directions for the disposal of his pelf, and the claimants will soon present themselves. It is little different when other hoards are discovered and enter the public domain.

A few weeks ago three young school boys in New York were on their way home from class when they passed a scrap paper and junk shop. Lying on the sidewalk in front of the premises were several old cardboard containers filled with an assortment of refuse. Boylike, they proceeded to explore the contents. One boy opened a paper bag in the carton he was searching, and was rendered breathless to find it stuffed with money. He told his companions, and they went tiptoeing on their way. The finder took the money straight to his father, who turned it over just as quickly to the police. The latter counted it and the cache totalled exactly $13,901.28. The boy was further told that if the money was not claimed by September it would be his.

Then came the claims. The parents of the other two boys felt their sons were each entitled to a third of the small fortune, and they took legal steps to protect their interests. The owners of the junk yard canvassed the situation and did likewise. Their lawyer advised them that, inasmuch as the cartons were among junk material purchased by them, and were on their property when the find was made, the money was lawfully theirs. But that was not all. A bank in Syracuse, N. Y., has also put in a bid for the money, claiming that $13,500 of it was stolen in a hold-up two years ago. That it was "hot money" seems evident from the circumstances in which it was hidden. Some crook could probably tell the authorities all about it, but he dare not do so. Hollywood will likely get another movie plot out of the incident, but who will receive the money ultimately is a decision the courts must reach.

Col. Drew Is Right

(St. Catharines Standard)

The appointment of Gordon Conant, ex-Premier and Premier for only seven months, the shortest tenure in Ontario history, as Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario, is under hot fire from Col. George Drew. Col. Drew regards it as a shameless deal between Premier Nixon and Mr. Conant with the highest gift in the Ontario judiciary as a pawn in the game.

In the making of the appointment, Attorney-General Eric Cross mentioned the good qualifications, for the position of ex-Premier Conant. On the face of it, are the qualifications in question? Do the people of Ontario, having the highest confidence in the integrity of the courts, care to have a very high and important place in the judiciary used as a consolation prize for an embarrassed and disappointed politician of the rank of an ousted Premier. The business does not look right at all and cannot be covered up by sophistry or soft soaping.

Premier Nixon was one of the loudest in condemning the way in which Mr. Conant was named Premier by the former Premier, Mr. M. F. Hepburn. The office of Premier was just passed from hand to hand. And now the new Premier, Nixon, passes something else along, a very high appointment to the Ontario judiciary. There is certainly ground for protest on the part of Col. Drew, leader of the Opposition. Gone are the days in Ontario government of the rigid rectitude of a J. P. Whitney.

National Humility

(New York Sun)

"The statement by Rear Admiral William R. Furlong, commandant of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, that all but five of the American warships damaged by the Japanese in their attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, have been salvaged and returned to service, is a supplement to last year's anniversary report. At that time the American public learned for the first time the full extent of the damage done at Pearl Harbor; ten warships sunk or severely damaged and eight other warships damaged. It also learned then that many of the vessels damaged at Pearl Haror had been repaired and put into service within the year. Now Admiral Furlong lists the battleships Arizona and Oklahoma, the target ship Utah and the destroyers Cassin and Downes, as the only Pearl Harbor losses not yet made good. Salvage work is still continuing on the Oklahoma and the Utah, however, and the only ships permanently lost as a result of the Pearl Harbor attack will be the Arizona, Cassin and Downes.

"Nobody will question the enormous amount of ingenuity and effort that has gone into the task of salvaging these vessels and restoring them to service, often as better fighting ships than they were before Pearl Harbor. But the bodies of some 1,500 Americans still lie locked in some of these ships. However great the pride taken in the pound of cure that followed Pearl Harbor, it might be as well for national humility to think a little more about the ounce of prevention that was lacking."

Two Of A Kind

(Ottawa Journal)

Adolf Hitler has conferred posthumous honors upon Admiral Yamamoto, the commander-in-chief of the Japanese navy, who was killed recently in circumstances not yet revealed. Hitler has awarded him the cross of a German knight "in appreciation of his merits in the common fight of our arms."

Yamamoto is the chap who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor, and used to boast that he would sign the peace treaty in Washington and London. He was, obviously, a man after Hitler's own heart, being accomplished in treachery, a practitioner of murder on the mass scale, a distinguished figure in the company of international gangsters who have raised burglary to a fine art.

It is exquisitely correct that Hitler thus should pay honor to Yamamoto—two of a kind. The propriety of this posthumous decoration becomes even more apparent when we think of the people who are Hitler's official intimates, the fellows who carry his bloody banner—Goering, Goebbels, Ribbentrop, Himmler, evil-minded traitors such as Laval and Quisling, the riff-raff of Europe, the outpourings of the sewers of the world. It is from this sort of company that Hitler picks his associates, chooses those whom he delights to honor—and that is the place for Yamamoto's memory. It takes a man like Hitler to appreciate the dead admiral's peculiar merits. They have that in common which joins any two members of a bag of assassins.

SUNDAY SUNDAYS

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FROM: ODE ON THE SPRING

To Contemplation's sober eye
Such is the race of Man:
And they that creep, and they that fly,
Shall end where they began.
Alike the Busy and the Gay
But flutter thro' life's little day,
In Fortune's varying colors drest;
Brush'd by the hand of rough Mischance,
Or chill'd by Age, their airy dance
They leave, in dust to rest.

Methinks I hear in accents low
The sportive kind reply:
Poor moralist! and what art thou?
A solitary fly!
Thy joys no glittering female meet,
No hive hast thou of hoarded sweets,
No painted plumage to display:
On hasty wings thy youth is flown;
Thy sun is set, thy spring is gone—
We frolic while 'tis May.

—Thomas Gray

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