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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1944

Board Shows Its Partisanship

The Wartime Information Board, it is announced from Ottawa, has distributed 87,000 copies of Mr. King's Nov. 8 speech on the reinforcement situation.

A board official told The Canadian Press the speech was "non-political," and so it was distributed. Yet it must have been obvious to all who heard it on a national radio network that it was political from beginning to end, in the narrowest sense of the word. That it was not "factual" is shown by the answer released by Mr. Ralston a few days later, and by the former Defense Minister's subsequent speech in the House of Commons.

The principle involved in the Wartime Information Board sending out those speeches is important because the board was set up to inform the people of Canada on the war effort, not to do the publicity work of a political party or group. A publicity organization which is paid for by all the people has no right to use the service to grind a party axe.

An exchange asks this pertinent question:

Will the Wartime Information Board now send out Mr. Ralston's answer to Mr. King's radio speech? Will it send out 87,000 copies? Will it send Mr. Ralston's revelation that the Prime Minister misrepresented the former Prime Minister's position to "trade associations, public and semi-public bodies and schools which were interested in that type of material" as was done for Mr. King's partisan speech?

And if not, why not?

May Get Suspended Sentence

It is now evident that the King Government may get a vote of suspended sentence on the conscription issue. To call it a vote of "confidence" would be a misnomer. Certainly it would not be a vote of confidence in Mr. King. The character and tactics of the Prime Minister have been fully exposed, and this, not by imputations and assumptions by a partisan Opposition, but by cold hard facts presented from the floor of the House by the former Liberal Minister of National Defense, and recorded in Hansard as a permanent record that all may read. No Prime Minister since Confederation has ever suffered such an indignity.

Parliament, however, may well decide that in existing circumstances, and having regard to the desperate need of reinforcements without more delay, the only course left now is to suffer the King Government in office and bend it, as far as possible, to the will of the country. That is what Col. Ralston stated his position would be.

But what of Mr. King himself, and his party followers? Here is their position, as summed up by the *Ottawa Journal*:

"Not here the picture of a resolute Prime Minister surveying the field with the wisdom and experience of the veteran commander, and from the disposition of his forces and the lie of the land making sure of the rout of his enemies. What we see instead is the spectacle of a leader compelled to accept the will of his opponents, forced to suffer public indictment by the man who through four years of war was his principal defence minister, and in the end tolerated in office not by a parliamentary vote of confidence, but by a parliamentary verdict of suspended sentence.

"Mr. King might have had behind him today the continued trust of the best elements in this country, of the best elements in all our provinces; behind him is but a humiliated, broken and discouraged party—one torn by strife and schism and awaiting only death-sentence by an impending election."

Casualties—Then And Now

Heavy as were the casualties suffered by the Canadian army in August and September, they do not compare with those inflicted upon the Canadians during the bloodiest battles of the First World War. During August and September, according to the latest release, army casualties were 17,783. This, of course, will include figures for Italy as well as the Western Front. In the historic struggle for Passchendaele ridge in late October and early November, 1917, the Canadian Corps lost 16,404 men in gaining two square miles.

The Canadians were at Ypres in the spring of 1915 when the Germans launched their first gas attack, and in that period we lost 6,104. In the Somme campaign of that fall it cost the Canadians 24,029 men to gain 4,000 yards on a front of less than two miles.

At Vimy Ridge, in April, 1917, we lost a total of 13,477. In August, 1918, we broke through at Amiens and suffered 11,725 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

In the great battle at Cambrai, from September 27 to October 1, 1918, Canadians lost 13,652 men. Earlier in the month at Drocourt-Queant, it cost the Canadian Corps 7,218 men in two days to smash through the Hindenburg line.

Gloomy Taxation Prospect

A realistic study of post-war financial needs indicates clearly that there is little prospect of any appreciable reduction in taxation until early in the 1950's, according to Mr. H. G. Cochrane, in the December issue of *Canadian Business*. Some shifting of certain taxes, however, may be feasible, the author believes.

"It would be possible, of course, to escape temporarily the full burden of taxation necessary for balancing budgets by increasing the national debt at a rapid rate throughout the post-war years. But even after allowing for a reasonable extension of borrowing until 1950-51, anticipated government expenditures indicate only the elimination of the excess profits tax and minor changes in other taxation," Mr. Cochrane continues.

The writer stresses the need for overall study of the Canadian tax structure and suggests that businessmen should now be taking a positive interest in the taxation trend.

Predicting a peculiarly Canadian type of "New Deal" as extremely likely after the war, Mr. Cochrane says the Canadian version will not be the "old-fashioned American type of New Deal of the thirties. . . . It will be a recognition of the possibility of dampening booms and cushioning depressions by contraction and expansion of the Government's fiscal policy."

In a detailed chart accompanying the article the author forecasts Canada's annual cash requirements in the period from 1945 to 1951-52.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Honours continue to be won by Islanders for "deeds of derring-do."

* * * *

Now we have a well-organized Junior Chamber of Commerce, preparations will no doubt be made for post-war activities by sea, land and air. There is a lot to do to stir-up the powers-that-be to the furtherance of our commercial and other interests as a province and city.

* * * *

The first UNRRA training course to be held in Britain for people who are to help with the repatriation of displaced persons in Europe has opened at Reading. There are 45 members in residence, drawn from a number of Allied countries. Some have been in Europe during the war.

* * * *

The loss of 2,978 lives by enemy action in the course of 10,600,000 movements of British Army personnel by sea up to the end of September represents only .0028 per cent of the total. This achievement was due not only to the safeguards maintained by the Royal Navy and the R.A.F., but to good planning work carried out by "Q" movements at the War Office.

* * * *

Opinion in usually well-informed political circles in Quebec City is that events at Ottawa are shaping themselves into a pattern which will mean adoption of the Mackenzie King motion of confidence by a majority of approximately 40. Success in the effort to form a French-Canadian brigade will mean that the process of implementing the order-in-council to send 16,000 draftees overseas will be very slow, and might even be considered unnecessary should the effort to form the brigade be successful.

* * * *

Pea soup does the trick. Mr. Albert E. Cliffe, Montreal, chemical consultant and vitamin authority, states that pea soup may provide the scientific explanation of the large birth rate among French Canadians. "The percentage of sterility among French Canadian women is the lowest in the world." He explains that garden peas are the richest source of vitamin E, and that cooking in the preparation of pea soup does not destroy the vitamin which is necessary to health of reproductive organs.

* * * *

Canada may expect an inflow of American tourists immediately after the war, for there will in all likelihood be no governmental restrictions on such traffic by the United States as there was after the last war. Such is the information which Hon. Paul Beaulieu, Quebec Minister of Trade and Commerce, brought back to his colleagues after representing the Province of Quebec at Victoria, B. C., at a convention of the Canadian Association of Tourist and Publicity Bureaus and the International Evergreen Playground Association, the latter an organization mainly from the State of Washington. There was also present a representative from Washington, D.C.

* * * *

Jefferson Davis, American statesman, died this date, 1889; commanded the Missippi regiment in the Mexican War of 1845; elected member of U. S. Senate in 1847, becoming Secretary for War in 1853; made President of the Southern Confederacy in 1861; offered to abolish slavery in return for the recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France; was taken prisoner in 1865; released two years later: "If I could take one wing and Lee the other, I think we could between us wrest victory from these people" (Northern States).

* * * *

Report on inspected slaughterings of livestock for October shows a sharp increase over a year ago in respect of cattle, a substantial gain in calves, but slight decreases in the number of hogs and sheep. With all provinces showing increases in cattle—the widest gain being in Manitoba where the total was up some 15,000 head—the Dominion total last month attained 132,843 head, or 35.9 per cent more than the year ago comparison of 97,729 head. Ontario had a total of 30,153 compared with 29,833, Quebec and the Maritimes 21,375 against 13,086, Manitoba 41,481 compared with 26,122, Saskatchewan 11,864 against 6,820, Alberta 19,612 compared with 14,043, and British Columbia 8,358 against 7,825. Calf slaughterings in Canada last month totalled 51,921 head compared with 44,013, an increase of 17.9 per cent, with Quebec and the Maritimes producing the largest quantity as well as showing the widest gain. Hog slaughterings dropped from 644,668 head a year ago to 609,072 in October, this year, a decrease of 5.5 per cent with declines being shown in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Quebec and the Maritimes had the widest gain, although total slaughterings were less than the totals for Ontario and for Alberta.

Notes By The Way

Women use enough lipstick in a year to paint 40,000 barns, but that is a hard way to paint a barn.—(Brandon Sun.)

Gourmets have noted, of course, that invasion of Norway by the United Nations brings the imported sardine closer.—(Toronto Telegram.)

It is announced that the ingenious Japanese has compounded a food for himself of rotten wood. We imagine the termites will resent that.—(Stratford Beacon-Herald.

London reports that the weather during last week was the most changeable on record. If it's that bad, it is just possible that the weatherman has been called up and his job taken over by a woman.—(Ottawa Citizen.)

In criticizing excessively long prayers and sermons, a Toronto minister says that five minutes is long enough for any prayer. The finest and most memorable prayers in the English language come well within that limit.—(Montreal Gazette.)

Maybe some of those big buildings being vacated in Ottawa by the Air Force could be converted into dwellings for those who lack suitable accommodation, or into hotels to meet the needs of transients. But, more likely than not, they will only be filled with civil servants belonging to some other department of government.—(Brockville Recorder and Times.)

What the United Nations could stand would be a bit more French co-operation and a bit less of those goofy Paris fashions. Judging by the eccentric output from the stillgay capital, the creators of "creations" for milady are either unaware that the war is not yet over, or else fail to realize that people elsewhere are still busy fighting it. (Brantford Expositor.

Millie, an everyday house cat owned by Mrs. Roland Grant, of Singac, N. J., has been trained to protect birds—and she's a good "policeman". Dogs and cats of the neighborhood dare not enter Millie's spacious back yard when the birds are feeding. She has taught them a lesson. Frequently Mrs. Grant's canaries eat out of the same bowl with Millie and she never raises a whisker in protest.—(Capper's Farmer.)

The British Council is working on plans to restock Europe's libraries after the war. A committee will be appointed as soon as possible after hostilities cease to bring the war-damaged libraries of Europe up to something approaching their full strength. The Inter-Allied Book Centre already has received promises for a million and a half volumes. It is impossible as yet to say how these books will be allocated or what proportion will remain to help the blitzed British libraries. Books on technical subjects are particularly desired as the coverage of these subjects is less thorough than the interest in them.—(Vancouver Province.)

It was a lamb stew we had for dinner, full of interesting things. It had slices of new turnip, and some new onions, some small potatoes cooked whole, carrot sliced the long way, and I noticed some of the new crop of Jacob's cattle beans, says John Gould in The Christian Science Monitor. It had lamb in it, of course, and an amplitude of juice. Juice really makes the stew. Some people seem to favor a wet stew, suggesting a few trinkets had been soaked in the rain barrel, while others favor a boiled-down bog of glutinous concentration too thick for a spoon but too thin for a fork. My idea is to have both body and wash in one suitably concocted melange, each imparting goodness to each, and both together supporting the joint resolution with incontrovertible enthusiasm.

An ardent naturalist recently filled his short leave in Palestine by paying a visit to the Cedars of Lebanon and wrote home to say that the 104th psalm is quite right: the birds do make their nest there. The whole place was noisy with the twittering of Citril Finches, which seemed to be the original birds that sing among the branches. Other birds he saw nearby were chaffinches, goldfinches, meadow buntings and great tits; and when cultivation ceased black-throated wheaters and that splendid bird, the blue rock thrush. He saw, too, the stone-chat, which the Italians called by the admirable descriptive name saltimpalo or "jump-on-to-a-post." About 300 cedars, some very large, remain, grouped in the bottom of a great bowl in the high red hills. It may interest students of birds to know that active migration was observed at 7,000 feet. "Swallows and bee-eaters were passing continuously (and one house martin. We saw a willow-wren at 7,000) and at 7,000 a flock of about twenty blue-headed wagtails feeding among a flock of goats, catching the insects that the animals kick up from the grass."—(London Spectator.)

What would have been thought of a man in Turkey who took his his wife with a halter round her neck and sold her to the highest bidder in the reign of Abdul Hamid, a contemporary of Queen Victoria, may be imagined. He would have floated down the Bosphorus tied in a sack! Yet in the first half of Queen Victoria's reign 15 wives were sold by auction in markets by their husbands for sums ranging from 1s to £15 (the highest on record), and these disgraceful spectacles seem to have been regarded mainly with amusement, says The London Leader. The last recorded wife sale in this country occurred at Aylesford, near Maidstone, when a farmer sold his wife for 2s 6d in 1852. A farmer named Thompson auctioned his wife at Carlisle for 20s and a dog. The women of that period must have been strangely indifferent to the rights of their sex. What an uproar there would be today amongst the women of this country if a wife were put up to auction by her husband.

PROBE APPRENTICE SYSTEM

ST. JOHN, B.W.I. —(CP) — A committee in Antigua is reviewing the question of introducing an apprenticeship system to the island. The committee, is going into the whole question of training young people in skilled trades.

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.

LATIN AND EDUCATION

Sir,— I have no desire to enter into the "Latin or no Latin" controversy, but I would like to quote the following from Mr. McDonald's letter: "There are many English words which have such a wide range of meaning that Latin might be useful to find the true meaning; e.g (education from educere — to draw out not to cram in)."

Now, may I suggest that our English word Educate is directly derived from the Latin Educare — to bring up a child mentally or physically, to educate — rather than from the Latin Educere, to draw out. It is true that the latter word is used figuratively in the sense of "Educate", but the direct derivation of Educate is from Educare.

I am, Sir, etc.

M.

OYSTER LEASING RIGHTS

Sir,—It was with much dismay that I read some time ago a letter by Mr. Leo Praught, also one by Mrs. Praught in your edition of Dec. 4th. And I do heartily commend you, Sir, for publishing their letters, because it does appear that another grave injustice has been done the common people (Mr. and Mrs. Praught being the unfortunate symbols), so by your making it possible for them to present the facts you have once again performed a great public service.

This case is just one more example of the short time justice would prevail without a free press and how regrettable it is that free men do not fully appreciate such a press while they still have it.

Now from the above mentioned letters it appears that productive oyster areas have been closed to the general public, in order to lease these areas to favoured individuals or companies. If this assumption is correct, then the public is very much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Praught for bringing the facts to the attention of the largest possible number of citizens.

Certainly the policy of leasing areas for oyster culture is logical, but only when such areas are nonproductive, because if the leasee is to be the sole benefactor he must bear the entire cost of establishing the product.

Therefore the public must rally to Mr. Praught's defence or forfeit by default its rights and justice, otherwise it will be a mockery for men to be sacrificing their lives on battlefields all over the world to preserve freedom and justice, if we forfeit these birthrights by default at home.

I am, Sir, etc.,

"CITIZEN".

MR. BRACKEN ON TAXATION

Sir,—I would like to express one reader's appreciation of The Guardian's service in giving that complete text of a recent address by Hon. John Bracken entitled "Taxation of Co-operatives and Corporations."

Mr. Bracken's demand that the taxation (if any) be applied "when the savings or profits have been distributed to the individuals to whom they are due" strikes this reader as very logical, as to its sequence at any rate. My own view is that it is only at this latter point that, by any stretch of the taxing mechanism, such "co-operative savings" can possibly assume the character of "income" to the farmer? Even this looks suspiciously like a concession on the part of a true co-operator. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that my "income" would be larger, by the amount of my co-operative "savings" refund.

I liked Mr. Bracken's point, that we would deal similarly in the matter of "taxing" corporation "dividends", once rather than twice, and after distribution to the shareholder.

Then there is this third corner on this "income tax" problem, into which the speaker did not go—probably desiring to have some reserve ammunition in this tax fight. I noticed it, not so much because of its importance, but rather, because it applies to me. You see I live in that "corner", and entirely below the tax-exemption floor, as a result of a good large family and decidedly modest earnings of much less than $1,000, after "operating" costs. I believe that hundreds of thousands of rural homes are in my "class". I suggest, with due respect to the tax experts, that they are entitled to no revenue from the likes of me and mine—whether they decide that my co-operative refunds are "profits" or "savings"? If they take these before distribution back to me, they must need them even more than I do, for they would be taking something to which they are not entitled, either in fair weather or foul. I am beneath the tax-exemption floor. The Law says so!

I am, Sir, etc.,

JUSTICE.

Sphagnum Scotland's Healing Moss

Healing moss, which the women of Scotland have gathered for hundreds of years to staunch the battle wounds of their menfolk, is being picked once again in the marshy hollows of Highland and Lowland hills, Phyllis Lovell writes in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal. In early times, this balm was reserved for Scots warriors in their clan battles and campaigns against England. Today, the search for the moss is being undertaken by women and children in all parts of Scotland so that British and Allied troops and those wounded by flying-bombs in Southern England and London may share the benefits.

"The healing properties of sphagnum moss, as it is known, is almost a part of Scottish folk lore. Even the stags seem to know about it. They go to this natural healer in the moss bogs when wounded. But it was not until World War I that its particular properties were recognized on a scientific basis, thanks to the efforts of a senior surgeon of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In the last war thousands of sphagnum dressings were sent to military hospitals."

I was told this by Mrs. Gowhill, who is in charge of sphagnum picking in the Midlothian area. There are, she said, over 40 different kinds of moss in the areas where sphagnum grows. It takes experience and a keen eye to identify the right one.

Once gathered, the moss is taken to adjacent centres, where it is picked over by hand, every strand being examined. After this, it is packed into muslin bags (which are made in three sizes) and sent to hospitals throughout the country. These filled bags are the actual dressing and are placed direct on the wound. Sphagnum moss possesses many qualities which are appreciated by the modern surgeon. Being cellular in structure, it is highly absorbent. It is superior to cotton wool, for it distributes fluids through its mass in sponge-like manner. It can be dried, compressed and sterilized without any loss of its medicinal properties. It also has healing value due to a certain iodine content. The Germans have long recognized its value in surgery cases, but the best supplies and best quality come from Scotland.

* * *

Between the two great wars, this Scottish balm fell into comparative neglect, but, with the outbreak of World War II, the demand arose once again. Manpower, however, is short in Scotland, and the problem of gathering the moss was acute. The situation was eased when women—despite their domestic responsibilities—volunteered to fill the breach. Just as their ancestors did in other battles and wars they went back to the hills in quest of these precious, thick spongy tufts in the marshes.

A number of women undertaking this fairly strenuous labor picked sphagnum, in World War I, too. Miss Fraser, who supervises a picking centre I visited recently in Edinburgh, is one of them. She has trained many women in the task of picking and selecting the moss, and has also trained many children who have proved enthusiastic helpers. "But", Miss Fraser said to me, "the Allied armies are now fighting to make certain that these kiddies will not be called on to remember this art in later life, as I have done, for the tragic reason calling for today's gathering of this Scottish moss harvest."

This War—Four Years Ago

By The Canadian Press

DEC. 6, 1940—Marshal Badoglio resigned as chief of Italian general staff; replaced by Gen. Cavallero. Greeks captured Porto Edda, Albania. Russia signed trade treaty with Slovakia. Canadian parliament adjourned for Christmas recess.

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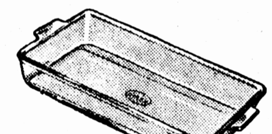

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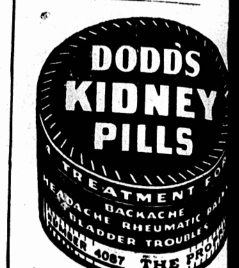
The Poets' Corner

TO A YOUNG FRIE

You asked me:
Cannot youth save the world
Cannot the young build here
this earth, a shining h
Out of our hearts, out of our
intentions?
And I made some stupid r
I think I said, No.
Now that you are gone, I t
as always, of the thin
should have said to yo
How youth is a seed, falling a
the earth,
Blowing over the land, fo
blowing, forever falling;
How some of it finds good
and grows with beauty,
How some of it withers to d
among the stones . . .
Here, in one spot, roses; and
where, the desert
(Someone else said that, long
—do you remember?)
Loam and sand, the seed fall
cannot keep from falling
How youth is a wave, rolling
in all directions,
Part of it to break against roc
die on the beaches,
Or in the great calms—
And yet, how the wave itself
rush, on, foaming, far
into the distance,
Into the darkness
And the next wave,
And the next,
Forever rising, forever breaking
Those are the things I sh
have told you.
I do not know why I did not
member them.

—Robert Nath



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