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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1938

**A Censored Enquiry?**

The evidence is in and counsel have been heard in the Bren gun contract enquiry; and Mr. Justice Davis is left to make what he can of it. The report he ought to be able to make, of course, would either reassure the people of Canada that everything has been quite all right and above board in this business, or it would say that something was wrong and somebody to blame.

But, says the Vancouver Province, it seems that Mr. Justice Davis is not free to make any such report. Three eminent counsel representing different persons involved in the contract have told the commissioner that he is not free to make any findings of blame against their clients. And, to make this argument still more impressive—and still more unsatisfactory in its consequences—it has also been adopted by counsel for the government in the enquiry, Hon. J. L. Ralston.

The argument in brief is that the enquiry was instituted by the government under the provisions of the Public Enquiries Act, which explicitly disallows any findings against any person involved, unless specific charges have been made against them and they have been heard relative to such charges at the enquiry.

Now that is a highly plausible contention and the only fault with it is that it is not relevant in the circumstances here. The answer to it is implicit in the reasons for which the enquiry was ordered.

The enquiry was ordered because Colonel George Drew wrote a widely-circulated article in MacLean's Magazine, in which he asked a number of pointed and embarrassing questions about the contracts let, by the governments of Great Britain and Canada (in both cases on the recommendation of the Canadian Government) for the manufacture of the Bren machine-gun in Canada.

The plain implication of these questions was that there was a good deal that was questionable in these contracts and that it was the duty of the King Government to explain.

The King Government accepted the challenge. It instituted this enquiry. It appointed Mr. Justice Davis as commissioner. It appointed Mr. Ralston as counsel to assist him. The plain intention on the face of the proceedings was that the light of day should be let in upon everything that was obscure or questionable.

There was nothing said about an enquiry hedged about with limitations which would prevent the whole truth from disclosure. No demands were made in the premises for specific charges. No hint was given that the government counsel, appointed to assist the commissioner, and presumably to assist him to get to the bottom of the whole business, would act, as he has done, mainly as counsel for the defense, as if the government were on trial.

The people of Canada are not going to be satisfied with this procedure. The people of Canada are not anxious to discover that there has been wrong-doing and corruption of any sort in this business, but they are anxious to be satisfied that there has not been wrong-doing. And they will not get that assurance if the commissioner is to be told that his findings in any direction are censored in advance.

**Making Haste Slowly**

According to the Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post, there will be no adjustment of Dominion-Provincial financial relations or amendment of the B.N.A. Act until 1940 at least. The report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations will not be available until the coming session of parliament is well advanced. March 1 is set as the earliest possible date by which the commission can complete its report. It will probably be later now that it is evident no action will be taken at the coming session.

Present indications are that adjusting Dominion-Provincial relations is to be a long-drawn-out process. The intention of the Federal Government is to submit the report of the Commission to the provincial governments for their consideration. Following this a conference of the Dominion and Provincial Governments will be held to devise means of achieving adjustments suggested by the Commission.

**The Christmas Tree Industry**

The Christmas tree business, no longer looked upon as a threat to Canada's forest resources, has received official recognition as a legitimate industry in the outline of policy issued by the Dominion Forest Service:

- (1). The Christmas tree custom is now a fixed and important institution in our social and religious life.
- (2). The production of little trees for the satisfaction of this demand constitutes a legitimate and profitable use of land.
- (3). On the Crown Lands of each province it is feasible to control the cutting of Christmas trees by strict permit regulations and thus prevent undue forest depletion or damage.
- (4). Inasmuch as the estimated 5,000,000 trees cut in Canada each Christmas season could be produced in perpetuity on 100 square miles of forest land, no threat of forest destruction is involved if only the trees are cut in the right places.
- (5). The Christmas tree trade now provides

Canadian farmers with a profitable off-season, farm-woodlot crop, of a value exceeding \$500,000 annually. When properly controlled this trade will tend to benefit rather than injure our forests. This is well seen in the case of Pike's Peak National Forest in Colorado, where the judicious thinning of young evergreen forests provides the City of Denver with its Christmas tree needs. In Canada it seems likely that future Christmas tree supplies will come more and more largely from managed woodlot plantations.

The Maritime Provinces are credited with one-twelfth of the total export of Christmas trees from Canada. Quebec supplying three-fifths is the leading province in this particular branch of the forest-products export trade.

**Freedom Of Speech**

"It is a noteworthy fact," says the Saint John Citizen, "and a remarkable one, that in any country where a dictator has arisen, he has climbed to his position of power on the ladder of free speech, and that once he has gained that power, his almost first act has been to restrict free speech to such an extent where he alone was the only one left who enjoyed freedom of expression. A dictator cannot withstand internal opposition. Thus his first act on ascent to power is to wipe out all domestic opposition, and chiefly instrumental in this clean-up campaign is curtailment of free speech."

**Editorial Notes**

Oh, Democracy, what is not done in thy name! Borden introduced his great Naval Bill this date 1912—defeated by the then Liberal Senate.

If the Provincial ploughs were as effective as the city ploughs, farmers would have no kick coming as regards vehicular traffic.

After outlining the vulnerable position of the British Isles, Mr. Hendrik W. Van Loon, in his new book "Our Battle" says: "Therefore there will be no other way out but to remove all the governmental agencies from the banks of the Thames to some less exposed spot along the banks of the St. Lawrence, as the Romans fled from the banks of the Tiber, first to the shores of the Adriatic and afterward to the Bosphorus . . . it is, therefore, well within the realm of possibility that we shall see the sleepy little town of Ottawa become the residence of the Royal Family."

Declaring that the King Government would go to the country in 1939, beyond the shadow of doubt, Mr. Denton Massey, M.P., told a meeting of Woodbine-Greenwood riding Conservatives that it would not be at all surprising if the Liberals attempted to capitalize, politically, on the visit of their Majesties to Canada in May. The election also would of necessity be fought, contended Mr. Massey, before the recent Anglo-Canadian-American trade treaties had had a chance "to prove themselves unworthy." But there was more than that, he argued, to be decided at the next election. Canada's electors would stand challenged on their vote, said he, "to tell the dictators that Canada is solidly behind that for which the Mother Country stands. That is the issue. I am not saying that some day we'll have a dictator in Canada. Neither am I saying we cannot have one. For such a thing can happen here, if we let it."

The daily newspapers came in for a fine boost when Dr. William Lyon Phelps, Yale professor and distinguished author addressed a large gathering of business men in Chicago the other day. "If you can find something on every page of your morning newspaper that interests you, then you are enormously vital and alive," he declared. By following his own advice, he said, he has not experienced a dull day in fifteen years. "The world today is infinitely worse off than it was thirty years ago," he went on. "But it is far more exciting and the newspaper puts people into relation with the exciting things that are transpiring." Analyzing the pages and departments of a newspaper, Dr. Phelps found on page 1 a record of the world's failures. Since Aug. 1 especially, the front page has been devoted almost exclusively to failures and disaster," he said. "But failure, disaster, loss, sin, crime and destruction are news and they interest us because they are the exception to the more generally prevalent virtues of honesty, decency and tranquility," he declared. For a sense of victory, instead of failure and defeat, readers might turn to the sport pages, he suggested. "That is why clergymen and college professors always look at these pages first," he went on. "Clergymen eat up stories about boxing. They will read four columns in small print about fighters whom they neither know—nor would wish to know—because of the dominant note of triumph and victory."

Canada and the twenty Latin-American republics could contribute more than a million trained men, along with warplanes and naval craft, to the mutual defense of the Western Hemisphere, which President Roosevelt has envisaged. Probably even more important, military experts declare, was the fact that their cooperation would assure availability of vast stores of strategic materials, which the United States lacks, and provide additional bases for the American navy. Estimates for some of the American nations include: Canada—Army, 3,528; reserve, 52,012. Six modern destroyers, various other naval craft. More than 100 warplanes at present, and 104 building. Brazil—Army, 98,892; reserve, 206,959. Two 1098-09 battleships, two modern cruisers and other naval craft. Air force believed to match Argentina's. Chile—Army, 29,435; reserve, 177,435. One battleship, built in 1915, formerly British, and numerous secondary ships. Probably seventy-five or more military airplanes. Cuba—Army, 14,810 (since increased); reserve, 6,546. Score or more military planes, considerable navy. Mexico—Army 56,298; reserve 28,018. One 1898 coast defense battleship, seven destroyers built or building. Fifty to 100 planes.

**NOTES BY THE WAY**

The controlled press in Berlin says the German Government is waiting for Britain and France to take the initiative in the move to restore the war-torn colonies to the Nazis. Touching indeed is the infinite confidence of the Fuehrer in the democracies' willingness to cater to his insatiable hunger.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

When H. M. S. Hood and the German pocket battleship Deutschland left Gibraltar the other morning, the British ship saluted by playing the British national anthem while the German vessel's band played "God Save the King." To which someone remarked that boxers always shake hands before they fight.—Windsor Star.

"It is beyond me," says a minister, "how a married man can deceive his own wife. And it is beyond me how a married man—Hamilton Spectator.

Guelph finds buses pay where street railway service lost money. But was it because of a change of routes? The fare is used to start at the brewery and end at the cemetery.—Brandon Expositor.

Canada's post office, in spite of expansion, closed its year with a deficit of \$250,000. It is a penny postage may not be so far away.—Braceville Recorder and Times.

A postal proposal has been made that for the coming of their Majesties the King and Queen to spend a visit with the Canadian people in May of next year, a special commemorative silver coin struck in order to mark the event, which will be history for Canada and the Empire as being the first time a British ruler during his reign paid a visit to any of the Dominions. Such a proposal will meet with general approval, as it will help the silver industry. It is recalled that the silver dollar issued in the first year of the reign of King George VI are being closely treasured. That there should be such an issue and a large enough one to make it possible that every person who wants one to have as a keepsake or memento of the visit may have that opportunity. It is a very practical and sensible proposal.—Ontario Intelligencer, Belleville.

In a recent competition in Britain to discover the perfect week-end cottage, the design that won first prize had a grass roof. The grass, it is said, serves to keep the roof at an even temperature. In the country it has, of course, the advantage of being in perfect harmony with the surroundings. It is perhaps equally happy results might follow its introduction to the town. With a few more of such innovations added to it, the city in the future might well come to mean many more amenities with those peculiar to itself, that the most reluctant town-dweller, though he cease not his babble of green fields, might find in the green roof-tree.—Christian Science Monitor.

Hitler apparently still believes, or at least pretends to believe, that the influence of free-water. What the world really needs is an international Indian list for the producers of new ideas.—Kingston King-Standard.

The gravest warnings to the Union Government concerning the infectious disease among South African natives, and of the probable consequences of failure to take immediate steps to cope with the position, have recently been voiced in authoritative articles contributed by doctors to the "S. A. Medical Journal." "A black reservoir of tuberculosis, general disease, and other periodically overflowing" is the danger foreseen by Dr. P. W. Laidler, Medical Officer of Health for East London, unless better medical conditions are provided for the Union's native population.—Johannesburg Times.

A Petrolia church is to dismantle the only remaining horse shed in that town for the reason that practically no worshippers drive horse-drawn vehicles any more. The motor car, it is said, is forming many phases of modern life—and church attendance is one of them.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Talent for the inopportune amounting to positive genius should not go unrecognized. We nominate for a medal in this class Miss Elizabeth Needham, of Boston, vice-president of the American Assn. for the Recognition of the Irish Republic. Miss Needham's bright idea is to greet King George and Queen Elizabeth on the projected visit to this country with "a man dressed like Paul Revere warning the people, 'Here come the British!'" Miss Needham doubts whether the White House and present to the arriving royal couple a model of Bunker Hill monument set in emerald, his ceremony to be closely followed by a rousing Boston Tea Party. Tactlessness plus imagination could stage a patriotic knockout!—New York World-Telegram.

The announcement that Britain stands by the open door policy in China is the most courageous and clear-cut statement made by British statesmen in the whole Chinese development. Coming as it does immediately after a similar declaration by the United States, it must be regarded as an extremely comforting thought about.—London Free Press.

The first woman to ride a bicycle—it was 91 years ago—has been discovered. She is Mary Marchbank, of Courthill, Dumfriesshire, who in 1843, when only three, sat on the first bicycle ever built and four years later rode the world's second bicycle. It is known that the first bicycle was built about the year 1840 by Kirkpatrick MacMillan of Courthill. This was the first machine accurately to be described as a bicycle, because it was the first to be propelled by actual pedalling with feet off the ground. "There is no doubt," says Mr. G. Herbert Stancers, secretary of the C. T. C., "that Mary Marchbank was the first of her sex ever to ride a bicycle, and as such should be remembered."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

There is an old adage about liquor making one sick when one is well and making one well when

**Two Million Soldiers**

It has been fashionable in recent months to point to Europe as the worlds armed camp, and to count up the million of soldiery there. But there are armed forces in the Americas. The Western Hemisphere has the respectable total of about two million fighting men. Incidentally the Dominion of Canada is one of the countries with small forces. In fact the United States, by comparison with many a South American republic to which the cousin to the immediate south is prone to apply the term "spigoty."

Regular troops total some 432,800 and trained reserves have an estimated total of 1,545,800. Here is the statistical record of the Western Hemisphere's parade states:

Argentina	36,000	450,000
Bolivia	5,000	54,000
Brazil	65,000	213,000
Chile	14,000	178,000
Colombia	14,000	50,000
Costa Rica	800	25,000
Dom. Rep.	3,000	12,000
Ecuador	7,000	25,000
El Salvador	3,000	700
Guatemala	5,000	8,000
Haiti	2,000	600
Mexico	58,000	30,000
Nicaragua	2,000	500
Paraguay	5,000	43,000
Peru	15,000	29,000
Uruguay	8,000	8,000
U. S. States	170,000	309,000
Canada	3,000	134,000
Totals	432,800	1,545,800

The figures credited to the U.S. States may be doubled unless confined to regular troops and regularly organized reserve. Compared with Canada's reserve the 200,000 of Uncle Sam is too small when National Guard and Civilian Instructors' camps are taken into consideration.

**To Be Questioned**

(Hamilton Spectator) With an almost startling suddenness, the public of the United States has become "defence" conscious. This is not due to any deliberate schemes of the past to soothe away all fears of danger from foreign aggression—for Japan, in particular, has always been rated as a dangerous potential enemy—nor is it due to the average citizen's being concerned, Europe for long has remained a distant zone from which America, in her own interests, could well remove herself.

It has been shown frequently—and the United States is emphatically not an isolated case—that the warnings of individuals and inner councils on a looming national danger can be comfortably ignored by the people in general. In fact, to get any body of people roused here must be some immediate reality. Emotionally, too, there must be a unifying force. To-day, infinitely more than in 1914—ever more than in 1917—the unifying force in the United States is a general distrust of, and a hearty repugnance to, the Fascist forces of the continent across the seas. That these forces have "back door" to the south still further bolsters this apprehension, and the coming Pan-American conference has already stirred unwise interest.

It is not surprising, then, that the press of America has been giving unusual prominence to the military and naval plans of the nation in the days ahead. These, it seems, will be aimed at a swiftly increasing strength, for America's latent hostility to war is not killing her into a false security. Rather, it has awakened her to new and vigorous efforts in the face of a sharp challenge. We then of Canada? Although we are not in quite the same position as the United States, it would be a great misfortune if any sudden or spectacular announcements of increasing Dominion armaments were to be foisted on the public. By an honest appraisal of our position is vital. Parliament in its coming session will hear a great deal about it, and there is no doubt that there will be a sturdy bolstering of our forces. Alarm should naturally be avoided, for, in spite of the lunatic prophecies of many pessimists there are still sound hopes that some sort of permanent peace will be achieved. The pity is that this whole problem has been consistently sacrificed to political expediency, in which no party or no group can wholly escape blame. Frankness, even at the risk of votes, has long been a cry for need for Canadian confidence and national self-respect. It has not been forthcoming. For a forthright discussion of our defence needs, our obligations and our position in the Empire, has been substituted only strategical camouflage. If this—and it is the one defence of the result—measures for "to" then it is a pretty doubtful kind of unity.

one is sick. This should even it up and convince one that he might just as well leave it alone in the first place.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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**The Poets Corner**

**ON A LONELY SPRAY**

Under a lonely sky, a lonely tree Is beautiful! All that is loneliness Is beautiful. A feather, lost at sea; A staring owl; a moth; a yellow dress Of seaweed on a rock, is beautiful The night-lit moon, wide wandering in the sky! A blue-bright spark, where ne'er a cloud is up! A wing, where no wing is, it is so high! A bee in winter! And a buttercup, Late blown are lonely, and are beautiful! She, whom you saw but once, and that he, who startled you, and went away! The eye that watched you from a cottage door! The first leaf, and the last! The mouse, the cuckoo, and the cloud, are beautiful! For all that is, is lonely. All that may be as lonely as is that you see. The lonely heart sings on a lonely spray. The lonely soul swings lonely in the sea. And all that loneliness is beautiful! —James Stephens.

**That Body of Yours**

INJECTING THE PATIENT'S BLOOD IN RHEUMATISM Although it is generally agreed that the majority of cases of rheumatism are due to infection—gonorrhoea, sinusitis, gall bladder—and that many are due to dampness, to climate, to errors in diet, there is also the belief that there is a "tendency" to rheumatism in some families. It may be that this tendency is due to the fact that the individual is allergic or sensitive to certain substances, just as the tendency to hay fever, asthma and eczema complex seems to pass down from parent to children. That the results obtained by a new method of treating rheumatism are due to this sensitiveness or allergy seems logical.

Dr. J. LeCalve, in Medical Press, Paris, states that injecting the rheumatic patient's blood back into him causes a mild shock which the patient withstands well, increases his resistance to further attacks of rheumatism, stimulates the circulation, and desensitizes the body against the substance causing the attacks.

The injection of his own blood has a calming effect upon the pains, especially if the injection of his blood is made directly into the painful part. The injection opens up the bloodvessels, slightly speeds up the pulse, reduces tension in muscles, and quiets the nerves.

In a number of cases Dr. LeCalve injected sulphurated oil, and also the blood, and in others the sulphurated oil alone was injected.

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jected. In forty-two cases he found that the combination of the blood and the sulphurated oil produced better results than did the injection of the oil alone, but he also obtained several cures by the injection of the blood alone. One or two injections of 30 or 45 drops of the patient's blood are injected into the painful spots and into the buttocks. It appears that the action of the injected blood, particularly its pain relieving action, is due to the fact that it promotes the presence of histamine or similar substance in the blood. As the injected blood gets mixed very slowly with the patient's blood, the relief of symptoms lasts for a long time. As you know, the idea of curing or preventing disease by injecting small quantities of the substances causing the disease is used in a great many ailments—smallpox, hay fever, asthma, and others.

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