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Far-Fetched Alibis

At a political meeting which received somewhat belated publicity in the Liberal press, Premier Campbell stated that his Government contemplated "as a studied policy for next year" the paving of six miles of highway from Summerside to Miscouche and a similar portion from Day's Corner to slightly beyond Richmond; also the subgrading of the Irishtown Road from Kensington to about Bryntown's Corner. He also said that arrangements are under way for a "more mobile system" of road maintenance. The Premier's auditors who were familiar with the present condition of the roads must have been reminded of the commentary in Alice in Wonderland: "I am yesterday and Jani tomorrow, but never am today."

"Balancing the budget," the Premier told his auditors, "is only making ordinary revenue and expenditure meet. If we are going to make capital expenditure meet we must provide immediate sinking funds for the redemption of these liabilities." This is a clear-cut statement of the Government's present attitude. Unfortunately for the electors, no such statement was made by Mr. Campbell and his associates when the campaign was in process two years ago. At that time they studiously refrained from defining what they meant by balancing the budget. The great majority of the voters took it to mean a real balancing of the province's finances annually. That, we may add, is what Finance Minister Dunning understands by a balanced budget. That must be what Mr. A. E. MacLean, M.P., means by a balanced budget because at the same political meeting at which the Premier spoke, he said there was a federal deficit last year of \$87,000,000 as against a higher deficit under the Conservatives. Actually, the Bennett Government showed a surplus on ordinary account in the last year of its administration. If balancing the budget "is only making ordinary revenue and expenditure meet," both Mr. Dunning and Mr. MacLean must be guilty of misrepresentation because they have consistently ignored ordinary account in computing federal deficits.

Premier Campbell, of course, is aware that he is committed to a definite policy, not only of balancing the budget annually, but of balancing it without increase of taxation, cutting out of unemployment relief, or serious curtailment of any necessary services. His party press (July 10, 1937) added the assurance that this could be done "without even a cutting of salaries." Where now are all these promises? And what is the use of the Premier telling his party supporters that these policies are being implemented, when everyone knows that the contrary is the case? Draconic taxation increases on the one hand, and shameful neglect of necessary public services, especially the highways, on the other, are the most striking "benefits" resulting from the Campbell administration to date. These achievements the Premier professes to view "with a considerable amount of satisfaction"; but it is really too much to expect the taxpayers to see the matter in that light!

Japan At It Again!

Britain and United States evidently have no intention of interfering in the Sino-Japanese crisis. There can be little doubt, however, as to where the onus of responsibility for starting this trouble lies. Japan is the trouble-maker. As the Montreal Star points out, a war starting within a few miles of the Chinese capital inevitably makes the question of how the Japanese got there. Obviously if they followed the example of the French at the opening of the Great War and withdrew their troops ten miles behind their own frontiers, there would be no war. This would comply with Nanking's most extreme demands. But to drop shells into the outskirts of Peiping as a curtain-raiser and then blame who can possibly be to blame for the trouble is like an argumentative burglar looking for a hole in the side board he is looting to accuse the householder of forcing a quartet on him. A war adventure in China comes to Japan at the most opportune time. Her army has been having trouble at home with tax of civilians who want to know why its upkeep costs so much. They seem to imagine that the doughy life kingdom could get along with less war equipment. And they could not be talked out of it. The anti-army political parties carried the recent elections. But there is nothing like a war to convince any people that they cannot give too much money to the army leaders to slay their sword. So whether the Japanese high command captures Peiping or not, it is already triumphantly capturing Tokio.

Since 1918 there have been six periods of general war in Europe and six intervening periods of general peace. The periods of war have lasted, on an average, about twenty-five years; the periods of peace, about thirty years. Generalizing roughly, the periods of peace have tended to become longer, the periods of war shorter—but also more destructive. As Emile Lavisse tersely says, "War is a habit of civilization." It is one of those habits which, even if known to be bad, are difficult to get rid of. For three centuries, to go no farther back, the will to war has not been curbed by the knowledge that war is evil. On the contrary, the more men know, the better, that is to say, the more destructively, they fight; and the more destructively they fight, the more surely they know that to fight thus is futile in the long run.

Where Crime Doesn't Pay

Now we are beginning to get the "behind the scenes" stories of the Coronation. An unobtrusive but very important factor in the success of that great event was police co-operation. How it was achieved is revealed in the current issue of the Canadian Police Gazette. London at the Coronation, with thousands of wealthy visitors, with fat wallets bulging from pockets of rich foreigners, with tiaras and jewels gleaming in hotels and restaurants, was bound to prove a magnet for all classes of crooks. So Scotland Yard got busy. Every day, from a little office in Vienna, the Yard authorities received radioed descriptions and photographs of confidence men, pickpockets and international thieves who had vanished from their usual haunts in Switzerland, Vienna, Paris, Berlin and New York and were believed to be converging on the British metropolis. The Vienna office,

headquarters of the International Criminal Commission, upset their schemes. So accurate were the details given in these radio messages that the "con man" from Melbourne, the hotel thief from New York, and the pickpocket from Athens found it almost impossible to elude the scrutiny of detectives at English ports.

Staffed by a representative body of experts, the International Criminal Commission is of recent origin. Established primarily to arrange police conferences on new methods between nation and nation, to acquaint police forces with the latest developments of criminology, to act as a world's clearing house for criminal information, the Commission has proved itself one of the most formidable crime-fighting machines ever known.

The smartest criminals, realizing the danger of this international bureau of crime, try to smuggle themselves into England by what is known as the "secret route." They make their way to hidden aerodromes near Brussels and Dunkirk. There, by bribing air pirates, who carry contraband across the Channel, they hope to land safely on English soil. But with the pictures and details in Scotland Yard's possession, their freedom proves to be short-lived.

Editorial Notes

Whistler died this date 1903.

Ladies convicted of drunken driving may snap their fingers at the disgrace, but one thing they shrink from, appearing in public in dress unsuited to the occasion. In Washington, released after serving a term for drunken driving, a woman prisoner asked if she could stay until dark. She wasn't wearing formal afternoon street clothes, she explained.

It is expected frequent Cabinet councils will be the rule at Ottawa for the next two or three weeks, after which it is expected Ministers who have been abroad will take time to visit their various electoral ridings. Prime Minister Mackenzie King will probably rest during much of August at his country home, but may make a western trip late in the summer. Mr. Dunning intends coming to Charlottetown.

The Winnipeg Free Press is very indignant that Prime Minister Chamberlain should have publicly called attention to Premier King's indiscreet admission of an understanding between the Dominions and the Mother Country in the matter of defence. "Mr. King, in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, yielded to the effect which Mr. MacDonald's 'tact and attitude' had upon him; and seized the opportunity afforded by the Paris function to announce his post-conference adherence to the policy which he declined to accept while in attendance at the Conference." Well, better late than never, but let us hope there is to be no recount of this patriotic admission.

For the purpose of staging a competition in the heavy draft horse class, open to breeders throughout the province, the Quebec Government has granted \$2,000 to the Montreal Agricultural Exhibition, which will be held at King's Park race track from August 9 to 17. Hon. Bona Dussault, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, in announcing the grant, said: "I am sure that the inclusion of a heavy draft horse class in the programme of the Montreal Agricultural Exhibition will be a great incentive to the breeding of good draft horses in the Province of Quebec. It is the first time such a province-wide class has been held in Montreal and I am certain it will add to the prestige of the exhibition."

Mussolini has football trouble on his hands as well as Spanish and Abyssinian. An Italian Soccer team visited Vienna to play the Austrian Admirals team there in the Central European Cup competition. The game ended in a tie, and partisans got at logger-heads with the result several members of the respective teams were injured. The tie was to have been played off at Geneva to which city the Austrian Admirals team travelled only to be told that the Italian F.B. Association refused to allow the match. The Austrians appealed to Mussolini to intervene in their behalf, and the Duce's reply was in the form of a telegram ordering the team to leave Italy within 24 hours. Naturally Austria takes such expulsion as an insult, and diplomatic intervention has been resorted to in order that Mussolini might make suitable reparation.

At the Coronation there was a noticeable absence of military display as such. There was the necessary accompaniment of a great pageant but there was no sword rattling, no vulgar boasting of the prowess and "invincible spirit" of the British peoples, just an assumption of the best things in the determining way of life and the determining of these things would be maintained, as a matter of course. There were no drum-mass production salutes there to King, a joyous abandon expressive of mutual goodwill and co-operation.—C. N. R. Magazine.

The bill signed recently by Governor Lehman permitting women to serve on juries adds this state to twenty-two others which already have similar provisions. It is a step forward in the interest of a better average of intelligence and probity in takersmen and jurors. At least a partial victory in the long struggle carried on by women's organizations and by women legislators for complete equality before the law. The associations have approved the change and, on the part of the States, is being overcome in the interest of progress.—New York Herald Tribune.

There is in Great Britain a deep-rooted desire to come to an amicable agreement with the Irish Free State on the outstanding points of discord. It would undoubtedly help that country forward if there were no hampering restrictions on trade across the Irish Sea. It ought not to be impossible to find some basis upon which common action could be taken and all grounds for ill-feeling be fully wiped out. The best minds of both countries have this idea ever before them, and friends of Ireland throughout the world will unite in wishing them success in their laudable quest.—Montreal Star.

Notes By The Way That Body of Hours

John Masfield is more than England's Poet Laureate, he is the Poet Laureate of Humanity. Yes, and more, of that vast world of animal life below man. His sympathies are as wide as life itself. A writer in The Animals Friend quotes the following from one who writes about Masfield: "There he is with his hands full of crumbs, and all the birds for miles around are flying and hopping nearer and nearer to him; now a hop forward, now a swift retreat, but always in the end clustering close about him. Here is a poet of whom another of the craft must have been thinking when he told us that the poet went out into the fields to sing his songs, and, as he sang, all the birds stopped their songs to listen, and, listening, whispered to one another, 'He de la maison. He is; for there never has been an English poet who loved more passionately and more tenderly bird and beast, and flower and tree.'—Ex.

With the return of summer when multitudes take to the lakes and rivers for recreation the problem presented by the huge increase in motor boats once again presents itself. Only yesterday, as it were, the hazards of the water were confined to falling overboard, capsizing in a squall, going over rapids or cascades, or getting into deep water when unable to swim; today the speed boat tears along life either by actual collision or by splash in the heavy wash that follows behind it. The one "in command" of it is precisely the same brand of motor along the highway to the public danger, the only difference being that the "Idiot Motor" is a motor with a shade the greater nuisance because of the noise he produces.—Montreal Star.

An inveterate young talker came to Socrates and told him that he desired to learn oratory. After a lengthy conversation, in which the young man did most of the talking, the great teacher said, "I must charge you a double fee." "But cause," asked the young man, "Be-cause?" "I must teach you two sciences; the one to hold your tongue and the other how to speak"—Christian Science Monitor.

London has given up being secretly ambiguous. England is now clearly saying that if there is war she will be in it. Her words are no threats on the contrary, they help to reassure the world, all know to-day that England is prepared to take part in everything, even war if required. But there will be no war. There is little doubt to-day that in Britain is certain of moral, material and spiritual support from the United States. There aims and ideals are identical. But England certainly does not wish that she should be directed against other countries. Thanks to her action at the Corcoran and mediation in the Spanish civil war, it seems that the time is not far when the dominating will come to an understanding with the Rome-Berlin axis.—Ex.

A minister tells of a strapping fellow who brought his mature young lady to church for matrimonial purposes. "According to my usual custom," says the minister, "I attended to the bridegroom at a certain point in the ceremony and said: 'John, this is your lawfully wedded wife. In the presence of the occasion, John turned in the direction of his newly acquired mate and stammered: 'Pleased to meet you.'—Windsor Star.

One of the most remarkable women in the world today is Miss Helen Keller. She has just completed a ten-week lecture tour in Japan and of her success as American ambassador in Tokio declared second of that to Commodore Perry years ago. There was the difference that while Perry opened Japan's doors with fear and suspicion, Miss Keller opened them with love and friendship. The Boston Post says: "This woman, who overcame blindness, deafness and muteness, will be known as one of the most extraordinary women in modern history."—Telegraph Journal.

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WHY REST HELPS THE TIRED OR FAILING HEART

When the middle-aged man (or woman) finds himself getting out of breath when he does little chores or walks at the rate of speed to which he has been accustomed, he naturally thinks about his heart and quite wisely consults a physician. The physician, after a careful examination and exercise tests may refer him to a heart specialist who is equipped with the electrocardiograph and X-ray outfit (fluoroscope). The patient is then informed that his heart is beginning to fail and that if he wants to regain his health he must build up the heart's strength—heart reserve, it is called. While a heart stimulant may be prescribed, the important part of the treatment is rest—complete rest in bed. In fact, the patient may not be allowed up for meals or to go to the toilet.

As the heart has been beating fast and hard just to give the patient strength to be up and around on his feet, you can see how it has been using up its "reserve" power. But if the patient lies down and keeps quiet mentally and physically, the heart has less than half as much work to do. This means that instead of using up its reserve power, it is now able (with so much less work to do) to store up some power—some reserve power.

Now what about middle-aged folk whose hearts are sound but who seem to tire a little sooner than they should? Well, if a heart that is really beginning to fail needs a complete rest in bed for a month or six weeks, a heart that has become a little more rapid than it was also needs some rest.

Dr. Herman G. Morgan, in Hygeia, writing about "Hearts in the Breaking" says: "The best health insurance which many overworked business men could have would be a couch in the office where a midday rest and sleep could be taken. Lazy? No, merely sensible."

Another suggestion is to go to bed an hour earlier or remain in bed an hour later in the morning, or both. This would mean as much as 20 to 25 percent more rest for the heart; enough, perhaps, to bring up or keep the heart reserve at normal.

The Poet's Corner

A SAILOR'S GRAVE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Out of the winds and the waves' riot, Out of the loud foam, He has put in to a great quiet, And a still home.

Here he may lie at ease and wonder Why the old ship waits, And hark for the surge and the strong thunder Of the full Straits.

And look for the fishing fleet at mornings, Shadows like lost souls, Slide through the fog where the seal's warning Betrays the shoals.

And watch for the deep-sea liner climbing Out of the bright West, With a salmon sky and her wake shining Like a tern's breast—

And never know he is done forever With the old sea's pride, Borne from the fight and the full On an ebb tide.

—Marjorie Pickthall.

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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.

HIGHWAY INSPECTION

Sir,—In your leading editorial yesterday you made the timely recommendation that instead of sending out Government Accountants to record how many motor cars have been able to survive the shocks of our unprecedented road conditions the Minister of Highways should organize bicycle contingents of which he himself should be constituted the Chief Cycle Corps Commander or Minister Revolutionary, and that these contingents, with the Minister as their spearhead, should go over the top of our road parapets and trenches and map out the worst places for attention and repair.

The suggestion was well meant, but if adopted would be rather hard upon the Minister. The trying and retiring of such a mount and Minister which must necessarily follow any further use of our roads in their present condition and the continuous movement of his staff throughout the Province by a Minister propelling himself under his own power alone, would suggest some less energetic style of locomotion. The ruts and dangerous footing now upon the roads, although making travel unsafe for horses, might however be negotiated if the Minister were to import some Rocky Mountain goats for highway service. Mounted upon goats, the Minister and his Highway Corps could perform the preliminary route work necessary to make the roads safe for democracy under the Campbell Government. When not engaged in active service the goats could be kept in the National Park as an added attraction to tourists.

I AM, SIR, ETC. TIRED TRAVELLER.

Sir,—As might be expected the discussion re the administration of the above mentioned Act in this province is growing, and judging by Mr. S. M. Martin's letter in the Patriot of the 3rd instant and "Fair Play's" letter in the Patriot of the 10th instant, much misunderstanding exists in respect to the matter. It would be highly desirable to have this misunderstanding cleared up, as far as possible, and I know of no better way to do this than to get the newspapers to publish in full the discussion that took place on the subject in the Senate. I hope the newspapers will do this.

I know Mr. Martin to be an intelligent fair-minded man, and a good citizen. I hope he understands his letter. If he does not, I fear nobody else does. As a piece of special pleading, "Fair Play's" rambling letter might pass muster. It has no other merit that I can see. "Fair Play" says I made "a personal and virulent attack on Judge Saunders." Well, I didn't do anything of the kind. I related some facts well known to myself and many others in connection with the Judge's work as chairman of the Board of Review, and asked the Senate what it thought of them. This was my duty as a member of Parliament, who had assisted in passing the Act, and who wanted to see it properly administered. No man charged with the carrying out of public duties will ever be disturbed by questions of fact, if he is doing his work properly. If he and his friends become angry and resent enquiry you may be sure there is something wrong. Further on "Fair Play" says my remarks in the Senate were unjust. Allow me to state that the weight and agency of that accusation would be much enhanced if the man who made it had the courage to sign his name to it. There must be something wrong with the man or the cause or both, when sniping from behind a hedge is resorted to. "Fair Play" seems to think, or wishes to make it appear, that the point at issue is a test between the veracity and integrity of Senator Sinclair and myself. This looks like an attempt to becloud the real issue, which is the proper or improper administration of the F.C.A.A. in this Province, and there are outstanding facts in abundance to enable any honest, intelligent person to reach a correct decision on this point. If "Fair Play" wishes to discuss some other point, or make comparisons, he will write over his real name, and I shall probably accommodate him. The P.E.I. Presbytery of the United Church will probably take care of itself, but even if it is not the real point at issue.

THE FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT

It is a long time since expert observers of the doings on the national scene have witnessed such busy days amongst the officials and every move seems guarded with the deepest of secrecy. One reason for this abnormal condition at this time of the year seems to be the preparations for the next session of the House of Commons when it is said a new Defence Bill will be offered by the Dominion Government, and which will be one of the most important pieces of legislation ever presented in the Canadian Parliament since the dark days of the Great War. Every reliable source of information has been exhausted in order to get the report that the Government plans to carry out an ambitious scheme for proper defence policy, even if it means a union of politicians who have not seen face to face on other questions of state. It is said that the new Defence Bill will demand an increase in Canada's naval, military and aerial strength, and the whole scheme will be in accord with the gigantic plans of the British Government, although it is understood that this move will be made in a manner that will not disregard the fact that there is a marked lack of war-like spirits amongst many Canadians which is in strong contrast to the feelings of the people of this country in 1914. Another point that is occupying the attention of the Government is that Canadian manufacturers and industrialists have shown a reluctant attitude towards engaging their big financial resources in investments for armaments or plants which will be of no value if the war scare should die a natural death. Then again, the Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of National Defence, has come across many obstacles in trying to purchase equipment or otherwise spend the \$34,000,000 which Parliament had authorized during the last session.

It has been discovered that the mere purchase of equipment is not a good investment, and the Government must organize a better force of skilled men to handle war equipment. Therefore, there will be a change of the initial plans and the new scheme will entail the complete reorganization of the Canadian militia and its accessory

I shall now call attention to one or two startling facts. Chief Commissioner, Judge Hall's travelling expenses for a little over two years in Nova Scotia amounted to \$793.20. Chief Commissioner, Judge Saunders' travelling expenses for eleven months amounted to \$3,451.50, and no man in Nova Scotia got even a third of the amount Mr. Harding and Mr. Darby each received. And yet this kind of thing has its defenders in Parliament and in the press! No wonder "Fair Play" does not care to sign his name to the letters he writes.

When Alexander McKenzie, ex-Prime Minister of Canada, had to remain under arms day and night to protect the Treasury from the raiders. If he lived in these days he would have to employ an army to do the same work, and even then they and their friends in Parliament would be too many for him.

I am, Sir, etc. J. J. HUGHES Souris, P.E.I. July 17, 1937.

Behind The Headlines At Ottawa

By Dean Wilson

Ottawa is busy, and there are many reasons for it, although these causes of unusual activity in the Capital originate from sub voce sources.

It is a long time since expert observers of the doings on the national scene have witnessed such busy days amongst the officials and every move seems guarded with the deepest of secrecy. One reason for this abnormal condition at this time of the year seems to be the preparations for the next session of the House of Commons when it is said a new Defence Bill will be offered by the Dominion Government, and which will be one of the most important pieces of legislation ever presented in the Canadian Parliament since the dark days of the Great War. Every reliable source of information has been exhausted in order to get the report that the Government plans to carry out an ambitious scheme for proper defence policy, even if it means a union of politicians who have not seen face to face on other questions of state. It is said that the new Defence Bill will demand an increase in Canada's naval, military and aerial strength, and the whole scheme will be in accord with the gigantic plans of the British Government, although it is understood that this move will be made in a manner that will not disregard the fact that there is a marked lack of war-like spirits amongst many Canadians which is in strong contrast to the feelings of the people of this country in 1914. Another point that is occupying the attention of the Government is that Canadian manufacturers and industrialists have shown a reluctant attitude towards engaging their big financial resources in investments for armaments or plants which will be of no value if the war scare should die a natural death. Then again, the Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of National Defence, has come across many obstacles in trying to purchase equipment or otherwise spend the \$34,000,000 which Parliament had authorized during the last session.

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forces in order to benefit from the costly lessons gained by military experts in the wars in Ethiopia and Spain, where it was seen that any modern and expensive equipment may be a worthless war machine unless it is taken care of by a permanent force of highly-skilled men whose ranks know what to do under a sudden fire, who have received intensive training in defence tactics and front-line hygiene.

Ottawa realizes that money spent on weapons and materials is wasted if no proper provision is made for permanent fighting force, and this means that the next move will be the creation of such a body. It is safe to state that the next Defence Bill will provide for a much larger expenditure than the one passed during the last session, which passed for \$34,000,000, and it is said that some startling changes on the Canadian political scene may be a direct result of this scheme, including surprising alterations in the political line-up of both major parties.

While Canadians admired the recent test flights of the two giant planes which made the two trips across the Atlantic Ocean, officials in Ottawa were merely recording the findings. It would amaze the average citizen of this country to learn how near the establishment of a regular mail and passenger service between Canada and the European continent, and the mysterious manner without any publicity being given for the knowledge of the general public.

An investigation in the Capital discloses that plans are well advanced, and expert opinion here states that the regular service will be in complete operation within the next twelve months. It is expected that daily trips will be made across the Atlantic Ocean by that time, and the approximate schedule should permit the trip to be made in about twenty-six hours. The cost will average about \$300. At the beginning of the service, officials in Ottawa estimate that about 2 1/2 per cent of the first class mail and a similar small proportion of the passengers will use the air route to and from the European continent to Canada. It requires about \$400 worth of fuel at present for a transatlantic crossing by air while the average-sized liner uses about \$3,000 worth of fuel for the same trip. Consequently, it is expected that a development of the whole plan will not only prove a history-making affair in speedy means of transportation between the two continents, but in time it is quite likely to be a very economical method of travel when all the big advantages are considered.

Each Government concerned in this scheme will provide a subsidy, and our own Dominion is to contribute 20 per cent of total amount, subjected to the condition that the sum shall not exceed \$375,000. In the meantime, Federal officials are very busy carrying out a vast programme of preparations to fit into the whole idea, although it is with reluctance that any of the authorities in the Capital will answer any direct questions about the plans of the Government and the only information available is the official reports that are given out now and again. This secrecy has aroused the curiosity of the expert observers in the Capital who see in these tactics a suggestion that these flights are part, and parcel of the whole gigantic defence plans of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and this idea appears to be a stronger consideration or basis for the tests than mere commerce or convenience of travel.

PROFESSIONALS TOO GOOD

JOHANNESBURG—(C.P.)—It's the old story. Aberdeen's touring pro footballers have shown themselves far superior to South African amateurs in positional play, ball control and anticipation.

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