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

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1940.

King Should Resign

There have been few examples of such wilful blindness as that characterizing Mackenzie King during the last six years. Time after time he ignored warnings of the approaching war which were given him by far-sighted leaders in England who indicated that Canada should do something to prepare herself, or, if not, to allow the British Government to establish and operate at their own expense a program of air training. This was turned down on the ground that we are a self-governing people and could not allow a "foreign" nation to maintain military establishments in our midst. The warnings went unheeded because Mr. King believed they were unwarranted and defence activities might offend the Germans.

Recent history has proved that Mr. King was in grave error, amounting to almost criminal negligence. Our defencelessness is known to the world. The people of the United States have stated on several recent occasions that they must be prepared to step into Canada to save us from falling into the hands of the enemy.

King's cringing policy leaves us like a lamb in the midst of wolves, and for our own good and the welfare of the Empire he should hand over the reins of office to one who can work in closer cooperation with the Mother Country.

Britain's Example

The temper of the British Parliament was shown by the despatch with which it put through legislation yesterday transforming the country for the time being from a democracy to a virtual dictatorship. Less than three hours sufficed to vest in the Churchill Government "complete and absolute control" over all persons and property in the realm. This, it is emphasized, does not apply to "just some persons or some particular class, but all persons, rich or poor, men or women." This is equivalent to the power that Hitler himself exercises in Germany. The difference lies in the fact that it is an emergency measure adopted by a free and independent Parliament which retains the right to revoke its action when the emergency has passed. It reflects the mood of the British people at this time, who are determined to let nothing stand in the way of achieving maximum efficiency in the prosecution of the war. Conscription of manpower has already been in effect since the outbreak of hostilities. Yesterday's enactment amounts to conscription of wealth and labor and every available resource which the nation possesses.

This is the kind of action demanded by the grim realities of the situation facing the Old Country. They have gone to this extreme while we in Canada are still practically at the beginning of our war effort. Their example should impress this fact upon the King Government, as well as the fact that all our precious liberties under democracy are dependent on the effort we put forth—now—to make victory assured.

"A Bitter Thing"

Collapse of the European democracies would be a bitter thing for our national defense for reasons other than the British Navy," remarks the New York Times. "We can build enough ships to make up for the loss of British ships, but we will find it a much harder business to recover our faith in the democratic way of life if that way has been destroyed in Great Britain, in France and in the narrow fringe of free nations in Northern Europe. The advocates of a self-contained 'continentalism' for the United States argue that the United States has lived since its birth in a world that did not share its faith. But the difference is that up to yesterday the people of the United States were sure that they had the right answer which the other nations would learn sooner or later. The future belonged to our way of life. If the war ends with the extinction of freedom in Europe we shall be far less confident of the answer."

Superfluous Farm Youth

Superfluous farm youth "turning to the open road" calls up a picture of the unwanted farm boys and girls turning to a life of hoboes and drifters, a witness told the La Follette Committee on farm opportunities in Washington. But there is a much higher opportunity for the excess farm population. One might almost call it a mission. From the farms come the boys and girls who maintain and increase the population of our cities. In fact another Washington witness went on to mention that in contrast with excess births on the farm urban births are always in deficit. That the farms populate the cities, or, if we will, that the cities batten on the farms, is a truth as old as the farms and cities, if not as old as the hills. It has been estimated that in the half century before 1920 half of the children born in our rural districts went to live in the cities. It must have been like that in ancient Mesopotamia and China. Social consequences of the very first importance have been deduced from this fact. Spengler is one of many who have traced the decay and downfall of civilization to this parasitism of the city on the open country. But that is a race or national problem. It is not a farm problem. On the contrary, it obviously helps to solve the problem of excess population on the farms to have this permanent urban demand for rural immi-

grants. For youth on the farms the cities are an enormous inexhaustible "frontier," as we say nowadays, and how many of our best citizens today came from the farm as boys to make their way in the world.

Canada And The War

From Australia the other day came this: "The first practical reaction to the new Nazi invasion has been a rush to the colors with the heaviest recruiting since the outbreak of the war."

The paragraph leads The Ottawa Journal to come out with the following criticism, as mildly powerful as words can be phrased: "No rush to the colors has come in Canada. Reason? Simply that any rush to the colors here would be met with the polite admonition to those rushing to go back home. It would be the admonition given would-be recruits for the past two months."

"Incidentally, people have been calling The Journal during the past two days, asking: 'Why not get after the government for slackness about the war?'"

"Well, The Journal got after the government about the war and the only notice taken by the people (no doubt by many now calling us) was to vote the government overwhelmingly back into office."

"Mr. King's number is in the telephone book."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A case of contravention of the Defence of Canada Act comes before the City Police Court this morning.

What we want, and want badly is an inspired voice to rouse us to our peril. A pussyfooting Premier may pass muster in times of peace and plenty, it requires a genius to lead a people in time of trouble.

Tom Hood, humorist and poet, born this date, 1799. His "Song of the Shirt" in Punch, 1843, led to the inauguration of a great movement for the social betterment of the underdog: "Great giants work great wrongs—but we are small, for love goes lowly; but Oppression's tall."

Doctors of Derby, England, call Bertie James, 20-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold James, the "miracle child" because of the manner in which he has survived so many accidents. Since he began to toddle last Christmas, the child escaped death by drowning, explosion, fire, illness and a fall from a bedroom window.

One of the most interesting appointments in the Churchill new government is Mr. Harold Nicholson, M.P., to be Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Information. Mr. Nicholson is the well-known author, journalist and erstwhile diplomat, who knows more about the ongoing in the high political and diplomatic places in Europe and elsewhere than perhaps any other member of the House of Commons or even Lords, barring, of course, Lord Halifax.

The well-merited promotion of Mr. C. N. Bisset to the management of the Eastern Trust's Montreal office will be highly appreciated by his many friends, though they regret it necessitates the loss of an ideal citizen here. Mr. Bisset has entered wholeheartedly and successfully into civic life, and borne a major part in promoting the best interests of the community, commercially, socially and religiously. His place will be hard to fill, in this respect, but we welcome Mr. J. E. Richardson, his successor, and hope for the best.

"The need for conservation of American exchange suggests that even now we should avoid as far as possible the importation of articles which can be produced with reasonable efficiency by the use of existing labor and equipment," Mr. Wallace R. Campbell, president, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, stated in a recent address to shareholders of the company. Mr. Campbell pointed out that the automobile industry is an obvious example of an industry in which there is no lack of productive capacity in Canada and yet there were 18,064 finished automobiles imported in 1939 which required an expenditure of approximately \$15,000,000 in United States currency.

As the result of a creditors' petition filed last August a receiving order in bankruptcy has been made in Plymouth, England, against Keith Hugh Williams. Well known on both sides of the Atlantic as a financier, Mr. Williams is reputed to have made and lost five fortunes. In the course of his career he has been a sailor, Texas ranchman, salesman, clerk, coffee-stall proprietor, bank clerk and wrote a book called "Money Sense." He once bought 4,000,000 gold mine shares at a farthing each and was said to have made between £150,000 and £200,000. In one legal action he said that he had lost £10,000 (\$50,000) at a Mayfair card party for charity. Two years ago he obtained one farthing damages in a seventeen-day lawsuit growing out of the game, but had to pay costs which he estimated would amount to £100,000 "before I am through."

After long debates by scientists in the London papers and decisive experiments at the British Laboratory, as to the practicability of running motor cars by sewer gas, laundry vans early on a recent Monday morning covered their usual routes in West Middlesex propelled by methane gas supplied by the local sewerage works. The motoring correspondent of The Daily Telegraph of London announced that in a few weeks fully 200 garages in the London area north of the Thames would be equipped to supply methane gas in place of petrol. He continued: "Vast quantities of methane now go to waste, dissipated from sewage digestion, from the blow-holes of coal mines, or from coke ovens. In Scotland there are natural sources of methane reckoned to be equivalent to 15,000,000 gallons of petrol a year for three to five years. All told, the Gas Traction Development supply from 7 to 15 per cent of the nation's requirements."

NOTES BY THE WAY

In the British Isles there are not a few churches which make a particular appeal to Canadians. Amongst these must now be considered the new cathedral at Portsmouth. Some time ago the bishop of the diocese conceived the idea of obtaining stones from the principal ports of the British Commonwealth of Nations usually visited by the men of the Royal Navy, so that they might be incorporated in the building. The city of Montreal has just contributed a block of limestone as its donation, and this, suitably inscribed, will duly adorn one of the walls of the building. This is not the first time that gifts of this nature have been made. In an Anglican church near Belleville, Ontario, there is an altar which contains stones from many of the best known ecclesiastical shrines in England. Another example is to be found in the beautiful church of St. Andrews and St. Paul, in Montreal. This church was being erected, a former minister, who had returned to Scotland, was at pains to secure stones from the Island of Iona and other points of special interest to the Scottish churchmen to be included in the building as a link between the home church and Montreal's Presbyterian cathedral. — Canada's Weekly (London).

The war news from British industry is as good as the announcements of battles won by sea and air. Reviews just published from great British undertakings show the interests of the world tell of encouraging stories of Britain's industrial strength and capacity, especially in engineering and shipbuilding. The Associated Electrical Industries group, for example, report that orders on hand exceed £19,000,000 and that the number of employees, the highest in their history, continues to grow. Orders are coming in from Europe and foreign countries, one of the biggest being the recent £1,500,000 contract for a huge power station for the Lake of Geneva engineering and armaments firm of Vickers has maintained a strong position in spite of immense costs of A.R.P. and pre-war expansion to meet possible requirements which have now materialized. This firm is particularly proud that H.M. ships Ajax, Cossack and Ursula were built in its yards, and believe as they built as they were finely handled. As the chairman of the company, The aviation section designed and produced the Wellingtons and Spitfires. The general aviation division shows a spectacular advance of over £1,350,000 in profits for the year, yet government orders represent only 7 1/2 per cent of the turnover. Their trading conditions are steadily improved favorably in spite of the war. — By Robert Williamson.

There is no need to inveigh against the "dynasties" of the United States where she does or to wax rhetorical about "alien garnisons in the North," today in relation both to the war and the constitutional issue because her people have willed it so. History is passionately democratic as democracy as the United States. Its people are intelligent, industrious, far-sighted and singularly free from self-deception. They are sturdy and loyal, tenacious in their grasp of principle and firm in holding to their ideals. That is why, with deep conviction and stern resolve they are at one with the people of Great Britain and the overseas Empire in the war against Germany. For their neutrality is unchangeable and unshakable. They are in the front because they love freedom, not because they love freedom slaves. They are in it because, claiming for themselves the right of "self-determination" they want to see their own people free from corresponding rights and duties on the Continent of Europe, and they are ready and able to vindicate it before the whole world. — By Marquis of Londonderry.

The largest number of unranked nuts ever dropped at once in the lap of youth was the collection presented to a gathering of American college students by Charles F. Kettering of General Motors. Mr. Kettering is the boss of the research department of his company and is noted, we may say, for his famous "radio" which he may have surpassed his audience by telling them what he did not know—a rare trait among public men. Twenty-five items appear in his second list: How to cure many diseases—cancer, arthritis of old age, etc. How plants fix sun's energy. What is flat on? What makes grass transpire? What makes metal rust? What is an engine cylinder? What is magnetism? What is electricity? What is fatigue of metals? What is the nature of light and other electromagnetic waves? What is the nature of the atom, of matter and the electron? What are proteins, carbohydrates and fat? What is the nature of hormones? What is the nature of vitamins? How to use farm products more effectively? What is mass or matter? How do catalysts work? What and why of solubility? What is energy? What is the photoelectric effect? What can be done with chemi-luminescence? What is a lubricant and how does it work? What does a molecule look like? What are enzymes, viruses, etc? How do our senses function? What is immunity to disease? There, indeed is a "challenge to youth," to use a favorite phrase of the up-and-coming politicians, literati, and drama. It might take time out of these pre-graduation days and reply to Mr. Kettering. After all, he might well be surprised at his modest list. The little girl in Kipling who had

One million Hows, two millions Wheres And seven million Whys.

We fancy that a young man or woman who turned in a correct and intelligent answer to even one of the Kettering questions would get a job. — From the New York Sun.

The coming of the summer season brings with it one of the greatest menaces to the health of the public, the ordinary housewife. Until very recent years, the housewife was regarded as an extremely bothersome pest but otherwise of no serious importance, good or bad. Continued investigation by health authorities has revealed

THE PUBLIC FORUM

HAVE WE NO PRIDE?

Sir,—I am neither a Conservative nor a Liberal. C. C. F. or New Democracy for by law I am still a minor and therefore a member of no particular party.

Therefore those who read this condemnation of Mackenzie King's War effort need not jump to a hasty conclusion and class me as one who has tasted party defeat and consequently is swayed by a loser's prejudice and bitterness against the lately triumphant Liberal party.

We are living in an hour of great crisis. Let us forget party politics, remove all thought of bitterness and prejudice and think only in terms of Canada and the Empire.

Mr. King has made his long awaited statement to Parliament. To a few glib, strong party people what he has said may seem to them to be a vast amount of work outlay and sacrifice.

To those same people Canada's War effort may appear to be equal to that of any of the Dominions, and I believe Mr. King would have them and others believe so, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

Any child can see where we stand by comparing our war effort with that of Australia, a dominion of eight million people compared to our eleven million.

Here are the bare, cold facts, you may make whatever excuse you wish for Canada but you cannot get away with the fact that facts are still facts!

Australia has organized and is completing the training of a Seventh Division; Canada as yet has failed to train her second division.

The Australian Navy consists of several modern, heavily armed cruisers, two submarines, more than a dozen destroyers and numerous auxiliary crafts. The only noteworthy vessels in Canada's Navy are seven destroyers. Australia, like Canada, bears the full expense of her much larger navy.

Then again the Australian Air Force contains more men and aeroplanes than the R.C.A.F., yet the Air Force is supposed to be Canada's greatest single contribution in the struggle to combat Hitlerism and his German allies.

Some may argue that the Allies do not want man-power as Canada's contribution, but rather that Canada is to do her part through the manufacturing of guns, ammunition, vehicles, aircraft and supplies.

If Canada had done this perhaps Mr. King might be looked upon in a more kindlier light, but he has not done even this much.

Our Country has been at war nine months and as yet not a single aeroplane has been shipped from Canada to the United Kingdom.

Not a regiment in Canada is properly equipped with the sixty or eighty vehicles that completes the equipment of an Infantry or Artillery Battalion.

Most of our regiments have not more than two or three light trucks; there are less than twenty tanks in the whole Dominion, none have been exported.

Our ammunition output is disgustingly slow, even Mr. King realizes this in his statement to Parliament he said he is "studying plans for the acceleration of this industry." Yes, studying it nine months after the war began, weeks after the big spring drive has been under way. He is still studying it!

Some may argue that we have no facilities for manufacturing ammunition and the planes, yet 38% of Canada's factories are lying idle. Why didn't he make use of these factories nine months ago?

Mr. King passes the blame to the United Kingdom, for the slow pace in which the Empire Air scheme has been worked. Whom does he blame for his refusal to accept the plan three years ago? He stated that they had set the rate at which men were to be trained but he neglected to remind us that it was not the British Parliament who have taken months to select and commence the building of air-training centres.

This job was entrusted to the Dominion Government with the idea that they would forget party politics and red tape and have the necessary purchases of land made in the Autumn before the snow fell. But no, party politics entered into the scheme and through lack of energy and leadership the matter was delayed until early summer.

Why is it that the Australian Premier has made a passionate plea for more recruits while in Canada they are being turned away? Surely it cannot be for lack of uniforms for we have had nine months to make them. It is not because we have more men than Australia for they have two hundred thousand compared to our one hundred thousand. Why is it then?

It is because the Canadian Government lacks the right kind of leadership, energy, initiative, and greatest of all Statesmanship! The Government continues to play party politics even in this grave hour. Australia has sent five times the number of men overseas yet they can ill afford to do so as Japan is an ever growing danger.

Canada is keeping a large home defense when her only enemy is Germany, and these men will be of little resistance if that Nation is victorious!

As Lord Baden-Powell said in his visit to Charlottetown, "one stick may be broken but a number tied together offers much greater resistance, in unity there is strength."

Germany may conquer the Allies singly if each waits her turn but if all mass their men and arms together on the Western Front she can be stopped.

Home defense to Canada is like the unattached stick. Many people will probably say Mr. King has been elected for another five years what can we do now? We can do a lot, for Public opinion can, and will, sway even the most bitter politician. Your opinion, expressed not only in words but in action, can, and must, stir the Canadian Government and arouse them from their prolonged sleep, so that something will be done and done quickly for the restoration of the Name, the Honour and the Pride that Canada obtained through her magnificent effort of the last war!

I am, Sir, etc.

J. A. MacKENZIE, Kensington.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Sir,—The fate of our Empire, and of the world, on account of war, is uppermost in our minds at the present. To arms! To arms! If the cry. More guns, more tanks, more planes, more of the young, the strong, the handsome and the best. When Britain began to re-arm, Earl Baldwin remarked that what we needed first was moral re-armorment. War ceased in 1918, but there was no peace. It could not be built on hatred. We have worshipped and served the gods of pleasure and lust, despised the poor and those of other races or religions. Neglected to spread the Gospel of love, except in a small way. Under pressure from a small number of electors, each successive government has been forced to the sale of alcoholic liquors for gain. More than this, each successive government has added its quota to the debt of eight or ten million dollars. And it is believed that during the last forty years, enough public money has been wasted through artifice and subterfuge, which if invested at 4 per cent per annum, would at this time be a

large enough sum to pay our indebtedness, and still have our "weighed in the balance." But the "hand writing" is not yet on the wall. Some prayers are being offered. But we read in Isaiah Chapter 1.—15 to 20.—"When ye make many prayers I will not hear, ye shall eat the fruit of the land. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with a sword." "The prayer of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord." To any one interested I would say turn up the 16th verse of same chapter.

I am, Sir, etc.

J. A. MacKENZIE, Kensington.

LIQUOR CONTROL IN N. B.

Sir,—In the Public Forum of your paper of May 21st, I noticed a letter written by one of the citizens of Charlottetown. Referring to the first part of that letter I cannot say anything regarding it as that was before my time, but in his reference to Dr. Baxter of New Brunswick not being afraid of liquor control by a vote it is not correct. Hon. J. M. B. Baxter did not give the people of New Brunswick a chance to vote for or against liquor control as he did not come to the people with the issue. I know what I am talking about as I happened to be a voter and

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taxpayer in New Brunswick at the time. It is true that two of his Government members voted against in the House at Fredericton. One of these was Col. A. J. Brooks from Kings County and up to now Mr. Brooks has not allowed a liquor store in Kings County and Kings County has a surplus every year. Liquor did not do that.

Hon. M. Baxter forced liquor control on the Province of New Brunswick when one of the planks of his platform was to enforce the Prohibition Law, and he won his election on this issue.

Referring to the balance of the letter in your paper of May 21st I consider the arguments in favor of liquor control to be childish to even think of.

I am, Sir, etc. J. L. McALUAY, Charlottetown.

THE EXAMPLE OF CHINA

Sir,—In the past I was an advocate of clearing up what we called our waste land, draining swamps and clearing the woods. I have been in Kings County and up to now Mr. Brooks has not allowed a liquor store in Kings County and Kings County has a surplus every year. Liquor did not do that.

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TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS Sir,—Suely no one can seriously entertain the idea that a qualified, experienced and mature teacher is of no more value in a community than a qualified though inexperienced and immature person. Teachers who know are much the same as other individuals who react generally as do persons in other professions. It might even be that there are no more failures in proportion among teachers than in any other profession. A conscientious teacher must certainly do no more with experience! As a matter of fact, it is a pity that there have been known to become more tolerant and mellow with years of experience, and might conceivably save our people from that very acute, narrow-mindedness which "Fair Play" so much dreads. I am, Sir, etc. OBSERVER

The Poets' Corner FROM THE PASTOR OF PLEASURE O mortal folk you may behold and see How I lie here, sometime a mighty knight The end of love and all prosperities Is death at last, throw his course After the day there cometh the dark night For though the days be never so long At last the bells ringeth to even-song. —Stephen Hawes (1474-1500)