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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11, 1948

True To Form

Prime Minister King's genius for making ambiguous statements was evident even in his farewell speech at the convention proceedings last week. After making it clear that he would not be appearing in Parliament as leader of the Government at its next session — six months hence — he went on to say:

"Once a new leader of the party has been chosen, it is my intention to confer with him as to the time at which, all the circumstances considered, I should seek from His Excellency acceptance of my resignation as Prime Minister. . . . I am sure you will agree with me that, at a time like the present, this is not a step to be taken without due consideration of many factors of international as well as national significance."

Commenting on this statement, the Ottawa *Journal* remarks:

"Is Mr. King telling us here that under certain international or national situations that might arise he would become indispensable, that the man who succeeds him as Liberal party leader perhaps could not be trusted or relied upon to meet the situation? If he isn't telling us that, if he isn't preparing the ground for his retaining the Prime Ministership for an indefinite period—the international situation can always be called 'grave'—then what is he talking about?

"If Mr. King's Government were defeated tomorrow, what would follow? Mr. King, within a period of two or three weeks, and regardless of the international or national situation, would give up his Prime Ministership, hand it over to the leader of the victorious party. If such action would be possible under that circumstance, why won't it be possible when tomorrow Mr. King is no longer his party's leader? To hand over the Prime Ministership to the leader of one's own party can't be more difficult than to hand it over to the leader of another party?

"If the answer be, as it seems to be, that Mr. King, disregarding these facts, is determined to hold on to the Prime Ministership, to keep it at his whim and will, using it a while longer as a sort of bonus for past services, then we thing Mr. King is wrong.

"Let us pay him honor, let us thank him for his services; but let us not admit that any man in this country who no longer leads a majority in Parliament, who does not in fact lead any party at all, has any right to be Prime Minister for any period longer than is necessary for the normal procedure of resigning. Leadership of the party in office and the Prime Ministership are, and must remain, indivisible; and this is no time to be creating precedents of power without responsibility. We still hope that Mr. King, on reflection, will take leave of the Prime Ministership when and as he should take leave of it."

Perhaps our Ottawa contemporary is unduly worried about Mr. King's intentions. It may be that he plans to do precisely what *The Journal* says he should do, and has had no other intentions. But a lifetime of cautious sidestepping has incapacitated him for making blunt, direct statements of any kind. It is too much to expect of even a great actor that he should step into another role in the very act of making his exit from the stage.

Premier Drew's Example

While in Britain a few weeks ago, Premier Drew of Ontario sought to give a fillip to the hitherto restricted movement of British industrial operations in Canada, in particular to his own province of Ontario. He advanced the proposal that many such ventures could be financed by advance of the necessary dollars by Canadian insurance companies with interest in Britain. The acceptability of this suggestion, with collateral security being provided for such dollar loans by sterling assets of British parent firms, was endorsed in official British pronouncements on the subject. Premier Drew would thus seem to have chosen a propitious moment to take constructive action which promises to initiate a welcome expansion of Canadian industrial activity and perhaps also of export sales, especially in the U. S. Similarly he and his government led the way in instituting the substantial and continuing movement of British immigrants to this country. In both cases benefit is accruing not only to Ontario but to Canada as a whole.

War On Traffic Accidents

The state of Connecticut has four times won the highway traffic safety award of the U.S. National Safety Council since 1940, and in 1947 reduced its traffic death rate to 4.3 per 100 million vehicle miles, which is half the national rate and a U.S. record since automobiles became major killers on the highways.

The methods by which this state has made such a good showing might well be investigated by traffic officials here in Canada. It is a matter of interest and importance to every Province.

Having established that 20 per cent of vehicle operators are responsible for nearly all their traffic accidents, Connecticut traffic officials have set up a system that enables them to keep a close check on dangerous drivers. In a word, they have devised an accident prevention system which enables them to attack the traffic accident problem at its roots.

The basis of their system for spotting bad drivers is a "point system devised by Dr. Herbert J. Stack of New York University. Every licensed driver in Connecticut has a report card on file with the department of motor vehicles. Law infringements result in demerit marks being placed on the individual driver's card to show the seriousness and number of accidents in which he has been involved.

When chronically bad drivers are uncovered, appropriate action is taken, first in the form of friendly warnings and corrective suggestions where these can be useful. But dangerous drivers, who cannot be corrected, have their licences suspended or even cancelled.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Today a civic half-holiday.

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The Governor-General in residence here.

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Business is at a discount these days—being Old Home Week.

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It need not necessarily be flying fish that's to be handled at the old R. A. F. airport.

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Island riflemen are distinguishing themselves as usual at the Connaught ranges in Ottawa.

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Where there's a will there's a way, hence the transference of the occupants of Maple Hills to homes elsewhere has been accomplished without undue inconvenience to anybody.

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Islanders at home or working elsewhere, here on vacation, young and old, are taking part if at all possible, in Old Home Week celebrations.

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Britain's Labour Government is reported to be preparing to nationalize what directly interests every Briton—food. If they succeed in keeping happy the knife and fork wielders then Socialism is really there to stay.

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Reports that seven ships are currently doing the work of the Nascopie in supplying Arctic outposts indicate that either the Nascopie was remarkably more efficient than the ships replacing her or that the North is at last being really opened up.

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The contrasting values of peace and war are sharply illustrated in the "Death Railway" of Siam which was built by the Japanese at a cost of 75,000 lives but which the Siamese government now cannot afford to put in efficient running condition.

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It was a magnificent and memorable opening of our Provincial Exhibition with His Excellency the Governor-General performing the ceremony. The Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association has had a long and noteworthy history and enjoys the record in Canada of never having failed to carry on, even in the stress of two world wars. No other Provincial Exhibition Association can make the same claim.

Toronto Sundays may not be quite so dull to those who care to hire a boat, horse or automobile. The General Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance has stated that such hiring is not considered to be prohibited. Commercial recreation is banned under the Lord's Day Act.

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Evidently no one wants to shoulder the responsibility of converting the Market Building basement into a bus terminal. At least the date for receiving tenders was allowed to pass without any response being made. Perhaps "J. F. W.'s" protest had something to do with the boycott.

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Parliamentary Commissions have long been recognized as a Government's means of shelving an inconvenient problem in administration. The Mackenzie King government has gone one better, it has made the Court of Justice "the goat", saddling it with the responsibility of denying or delaying the will of the people as expressed in Parliament.

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Prime Minister King uttered a fundamental truth last week that will probably soon be forgotten in the quest for votes. "The most effective means of promoting social security are the preservation and extension of freedom." It should be kept in mind by all that once the individual loses the rights of free speech, freedom of association and the protection of the law and the courts, any particular social measure might as well not exist so far as he is concerned.

* * * *

Sir John Young, 1st Baron Lisgar, Governor-General, arrived in Canada, this date 1869. He remained only a year, resigning in June 1870. His period of office coincided with the Riel Rebellion; and he acquired a reputation for ability and sound judgment at a time when viceroyalty meant much more politically and administratively than it does in the present day. Before becoming Governor-General he had represented County Cavan in the British House of Commons in the Conservative interest, and a member of the Peel administration, and later as Secretary for Ireland in the Aberdeen Ministry.

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There are to be, alas, no more "$64 questions" over radio in the United States, and presumably here as well. Federal Communications Commission of the U. S. A. announces it proposes to crack down on radio cash prizes which appear to involve a lottery or to depend "upon lot or chance." The action, the Commission said in a statement is promoted by "the growing number of 'money' programs on the radio." The crack-down will apply not only to cash awards but to any other thing of value. That takes in the familiar mink coat, trip around the world, deep-freeze locker full of food and family helicopter, as well as minor temptations in the way of groceries and other provisions.

Rebecca West Reports

(Ottawa Journal)

Rebecca West, back to the form which made her pieces on the Joyce and Avery trials perhaps the finest journalism of our time, wrote a memorable report (published in Monday's Evening Journal) on the final session of Henry Wallace's convention. One of the accusations levelled against Wallace is that he once belonged to an Oriental cult and wrote letters to an Indian mystic named Guru. Wrote Miss West:

"If I were an American I should not worry whether Henry Wallace wrote the Guru letters, but I should be terribly worried because most of the people at the Wallace convention looked as if they might have written them.

"This convention .... was as unappetizing an assembly as I have ever seen in America, and I feel no compunction at making that statement because I will own I have seen its like in Europe."

Her teeth thus in her subject, Miss West went on to demolish a fallacy all too prevalent in our day: The fallacy that because some movement or group is compounded largely of youth it must necessarily be good. Thus:

"Why do we pretend that youth is always a beautiful thing? There are lots of horrible young people, just as there are lots of horrible middle-aged people and lots of horrible old people.

"At this Wallace convention there were quite a number of young people who were quite horrible indeed .... embryo Babbits, having their fling before they settled down to safe and narrow lives, stupid young people, too stupid to understand how the world is run and that the present system, for all its faults, took a great deal of patient and intelligent effort, and who therefore wrote off the whole of the past with a sneer; and who are so smug that they saw their own sneering as idealism .... others who wore on their faces the signs of a more serious maladjustment .... girls with the restless look that comes of profound insecurity, of consciousness that neither their physical nor mental resources were adequate and that they must create a personality somehow—by revolt if nothing else turned up ..... boys with the sullen eyes and the drooped chin which mean a brain just good enough to grasp the complexities of life and to realize that it would never be able to master them."

Answering her own question as to why she lays stress on these "unfortunate boys and girls," Miss West says it is because these are the materials of communism. Wallace himself is no Communist, but—

"Among the people who looked as if they might have written the Guru letters and these sad boys and girls were a number of people who would not have written the Guru letters and were not boys and girls but tough and expert men and women. They were the Communists who were running this movement ..... The whole Wallace convention was Communist, and it was not straight communism, it was Communist humbug.

"I do not believe they want Henry Wallace in the White House at all. They merely use his candidacy to collect the disaffected into a negotiable group .....They do not want racial equality, they want to make the Negroes a discontented minority, with an unconstructive discontent which will lead them nowhere — and to foment race riots which would cause civil disorder here and discredit the United States abroad. They do not want people. They want war with Russia in which they could count on a nice crop of smug and self-satisfied traitors who would sabotage American efforts at self-defence."

This is not merely good writing; it is clear, cool thought — the finding of one who, having observed communism in Europe, understands its techniques, and knows it for the vile thing it is. And what Rebecca West reports of this Henry Wallace convention is not merely for Americans; it is for us as well. For here too we have our so-called "intellectuals," our stupid young people who think that history began yesterday, and our fellow-travellers who have not the courage of Communists but who, because of their incompetence to understand or face life's complexities, are the easy prey of Communists, who collect them into a "negotiable group." Here, too, we have the people we call "well-intentioned," those who can be used by slogans against "fascism," who have a smattering of history and minds muddled by what they call "economics," and who imagine that change means progress.

Miss West's piece warns us usefully on what Communists can do with them.

A Story Did It

(Wall Street Journal)

The advocates of a bill to increase the pay of senators from $7,500 to $10,000 a year were thrown into a state of near-panic when the late Senator Borah arose and spoke feelingly against the proposed salary hike, concluding with the ringing declaration that he would not accept the increase if it was enacted.

Into the breach the advocates of more-money-in-the-senatorial-pay-envelope thrust their official story-teller, Senator "Cotton Tom" Heflin of Alabama, with a prayer that he would relate some parable which would help to overcome Senator Borah's opposition to their pet measure.

One day, said Senator Heflin, "Private" John Allen returned weary and worn from an exhausting fishing trip. Meeting his doctor at the railroad station, he said, "Doc, you know what a rank prohibitionist my wife is. I need a drink, but I haven't a drop in my grip. Won't you send a bottle up to my house and instruct her to give it to me as medicine?"

The doctor agreed. In a little while he phoned Mrs. Allen and told her he was sending up a quart of whiskey, and that she should prepare a nice mint julep and make her husband take it.

Private Allen lay weak and worn to a frazzle. In the next room he heard the clink of ice in glass. Presently his wife came in with a tall, frosty glass and begged him to drink. John refused, his wife insisted. Finally, with a great show of reluctance, he took the proffered drink.

"When did the doctor say to give me another mint julep?" Allen asked.

"In two hours" his wife replied

"Well" said the weary fisherman, sighing happily "if I am asleep, wake me; and if I won't take it, make me!"

With a mutter of "what's the use?" Senator Borah surrendered, permitting the advocates of salary increase to "make him take it."

The Poet's Corner

FROM: THE LEECHGATHERER

There was a roaring in the wind all night;
The rain came heavily and fell in floods;
But now the sun is rising calm and bright;
The birds are singing in the distant woods;
Over his own sweet voice the Stock-dove broods;
The Jay makes answer as the Magpie chatters;
And all the air is filled with pleasant noise of waters.

All things that love the sun are out of doors;
The sky rejoices in the morning's birth;
The grass is bright with raindrops; —on the moors
The hare is running races in her mirth;
And with her feet she from the splashy earth
Raises a mist; that glittering in the sun.
Runs with her, all the way, wherever she doth run.

—William Wordsworth.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CIVIC AMUSEMENTS

"The amusements of Charlottetown, although not so extensive, are much the same as in Quebec and Halifax. During winter, assemblies are held once a month or oftener. There is an amateur theatre. Pinic parties are common in summer and winter. Dinner parties were at one time usual, but have not been so for some time past. The principal gentlemen in Charlottetown generally dine together at one of the hotels, on the anniversaries of the titular saints of the three kingdoms, as well as during the sittings of the Colonial Legislature and of the Supreme Court. Skating, fishing and shooting are other sources of pleasure. A public subscription library, on a liberal and respectable footing, affords a variety of entertaining and standard works. Almost every householder keeps a horse, and driving during winter is a favourite amusement of all classes."

—From an account of Prince Edward Island, by John MacGregor, 1829.

CONVICTED 100 TIMES

LUTON, Bedfordshire, England —(CP)— George Elliott, 49, was convicted for the 100th time here when he appeared in court on a charge of theft. He was sentenced to three months in jail.

DECLARE DIVIDEND

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 —(CP)— The International Paper Company today declared a regular quarterly dividend of $1 a share on the cumulative $4 preferred stock and $1 a share on the common stock. Both dividends are payable Sept. 30, 1948, to holders of record at the close of business Sept. 1, 1948.

THE OLYMPIC WAY

WEMBLEY, England — (CP)— Participants in the Olympic games can parade along a fine new avenue called The Olympic Way, specially constructed for the occasion. The road, 60 feet wide, leads straight from the Wembley Underground station to the entrance of the Empire Stadium.

- Notes By The Way -

Mr. Truman will demand that the Republications either put up or shut up in the matter of stemming inflation. But no matter who shuts up, it'll be us folks who have to put up. — Halifax Chronicle.

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Igor Stravinsky is suing the Leeds Music Company for $250,000 charging its "Summer Moon" adaptation from his "Firebird Suite" has no true musical merit. If every bit of popular music published is required to have truemusical merit heaven help the music houses.—Windsor Star.

With baby-sitters so scarce, it's difficult to understand why a Chicago theif pursues such a profession as burglary. When caught, he admitted burglarizing 25 homes in a month, in one of which he had to rock the baby back to sleep before looting the place. Baby-sitting is usually a night job, too — Windsor Star.

We should buy British goods whenever we possibly can. No one needs to weigh on sentimental ties, or get mixed up in irrelevant political emotions. Buying goods made in the Old Country is straight inescapable logic. We sell them far more than they sell us and Canadian dollars are not easy for Britons to get. The only way we can help them have more of our things is to buy more of their's. Foreign trade is nothing more or less than that—Hamilton Spectator.

The eleven-foot-long gilt grasshopper, which told pre-war City men the wind direction, is shortly to be restored to its position high on London Royal Exchange. Legendary crest of Sir Thomas Gresham—who built the first Exchange in 1566 — the insect was taken down and crated in the early days of the war. Having survived two disastrous fires, 1666 and 1838, and being the only relic of the original building, this appears to have been a wise decision. — London Daily Mail.

The day when Churchill will be recognized as a major Canadian port is rapidly approaching as it should in the interests of Canada's expanding world trade. Already a ship carrying 721 tons of cargo for Western Canada is en route to Churchill and others will be coming. They will carry grain back to Britain. Before the season closes the Hudson Bay Route Association is aiming for a new record of 10,000,000 bushels of wheat to be shipped through the port—Regina Leader-Post.

It is no cause of amazement that too many weddings are marred by automobile accidents. Speeding through city traffic, blowing horns the meanwhile, is not conducive to safety. The principal wish of a newly married couple must surely be for a long and happy married life. They should be the first to object, and probably most of them do, to the antics of silly people who endanger their lives just when they are on the threshold of their greatest happiness. — Windsor Star.

Canadian children are growing taller. Dr. Douglas V. Hutton, Ottawa child health specialist, who is at present surveying Vancouver children, is authority for the statement. The increase in average stature had been so great in recent years that private schools in Eastern Canada have had to discard beds installed 15 years ago and replace them with longer beds. Dr. Hutton says. Even a casual survey over London Royal Exchange. Legendary crest of Sir Thomas Gresham—who built the first Exchange in 1566 — the insect was taken down and crated in the early days of the war. Having survived two disastrous fires, 1666 and 1838, and being the only relic of the original building, this appears to have been a wise decision. — London Daily Mail.

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