

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1943

Dr. McMillan's Speech

In the Legislature last week Hon. Dr. MacMillan, leader of the Opposition, took time well spent in going thoroughly over the whole question of our fiscal relations with Ottawa.

The briefs of numerous Provincial Governments, including the Jones administration, were reviewed by Dr. MacMillan; and it was strange to note the stolid, almost bored, manner in which his remarks were received from the Government benches.

It was, indeed, a thankless task on which the Opposition leader embarked, but a very necessary one to be performed from time to time. With more and more control passing into the hands of bureaucrats, our rights and privileges as a Province are in danger of being wiped out altogether.

Our Public Works

Hon. George H. Barbour, Minister of Public Works, was not slow in taking up the challenge of his Premier over his excess of \$415,000, and admitted quite candidly that it was that policy which elected Mr. Jones' Government by such a sweeping majority.

"If one potato crop is worth \$10,000,000 our \$12,000,000 debt is not so very serious. Go around the stores here on any business day and see the number of trucks and cars parked on the streets; or go to Summerside, Souris, Montague or any of our smaller towns. Is the Government, through the Department of Public Works not bound to give these people the very best roads they can give them?" asked Mr. Barbour.

Mr. Barbour went on to cite estimated land value in the Province at \$34,000,000; buildings \$9,000,000; machinery \$5,000,000; stock \$13,500,000; invested in cars \$7,571,000; in trucks and other vehicles \$273,000, making a total of some \$73,000,000. This was the investment the farmers had in this Province. What was a debt of \$12,000,000 in view of these figures? he asked.

"If we as a Government are not able to give service, we have no right to be here; and I maintain that that is the reason the Jones Government was re-elected, because that service was given."

Of course this is all very well as post-election talk but it does not justify the Minister in spending \$415,000 more than his estimates provided for, though everyone admits that it is first class "machine" tactics for which his Premier gave him due credit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Spring began Saturday all right.

It sends a sort of shiver through one's system reading about Maritime Commanding Officers being called into conference at Halifax—brings the apparent approach of hostilities practically right to one's door-step. Yet "Be Prepared" must be our slogan.

Complaints are being received about the flooded condition of the roads, but there is nothing much can be done about it. The sun and equinoctial gales will have to do their bit.

The Legislature will have concluded a record session when it rises Thursday, and earned a Canadian-U.S.A. wide reputation as well for Labour legislation.

Was it the poet or weatherman who said, "The Spring wind pass'd through the town, through the housetops, casements and eaves." Anyway, whichever it was, knew his onions.

The U. N. seem to have a bear by the tail in Palestine. Military forces will be needed in that unhappy country either to enforce partition or to carry on a trusteeship government.

There has been much heated discussion in this Province about Time in its relation to Daylight Saving, and yet nobody has a very clear idea of its nature. We measure it, use it, and all too often waste it, but whether we pass through it or it through us or something else again seems wrapped in mystery.

Like the Mother of Parliaments our Legislature is opened with prayer. The Rt. Hon. Sir Norman Brickett, P.C., quotes a schoolboy essay on the subject: "Parliament is opened with prayer. The Chaplain looks upon the assembled members and then he prays for his country."

More exchanges of students, teachers and theatrical companies will be arranged as a result of a new cultural agreement between Britain and France. The two countries will accept each other's university degrees. Adjustments in scholarships between the two countries will also be considered in order to offer equivalent opportunities to United Kingdom and French students.

Heartfelt sympathy goes out to the relatives and friends of the unfortunate victims of the plane crash at Truro. It seems inexplicable how such a disaster should occur just as the plane had reached its destination, but there it is, and no amount of regret or column of explanations will bring the deceased back to their loved ones.

Sir Anthony Van Dyck, Flemish portrait and historical painter, born this date 1599; was chief royal court painter; also painted for James I and Charles I of England; his influence on the English school of painting was great and lasting; his style is in the main that of Rubens, but more restrained and refined. His portraits which resemble those of Titian include Philip le Roy, Duquesnoy, Mary Louise of Tassis, James I, Charles I, Sir George Villiers, also his wife, Lady Mary Ruthven; among his religious paintings are the Crucifixion, St. Sebastian, The Mystic Marriage of Joseph, and The Elevation of the Cross.

The executive of the local Federation of Agriculture has its hands full, and will have no sorrow to seek, in acting as representatives of farmers harassed by Income Tax officialdom. The law puts the onus on the officials in question of collecting income tax from all and sundry, farmers included, and for that purpose are provided with authority which presumes that all farmers are dishonest until they prove to official satisfaction that they are innocent and honourable. It is a most humiliating position for both farmers and officials, but then, it is the law, whether or not said "law be a hass." It can kick, and the farmer has no comeback. Perhaps next election will give the farmers their opportunity for revenge.

When Winston Churchill's wedding gift of books to Princess Elizabeth was reported, (six volumes of his "World Crisis") the Ottawa Journal was prompted to make the following editorial comment: An odd choice? Not to those who happily have come to know that of all possessions there is little to surpass good books. Indeed, if we had the power of determining the things that should enter into education of young people, we should place high on our list some technique to instil into them a love of books. Education consists of many things. We doubt greatly whether it can be genuine without a love of good books, without reverence-for, and enjoyment of, the best that has been written and spoken. One of the greatest of our living educationists wrote recently that true education consists of teaching our minds to know the best and our affections to love the highest. Without love of reading, which springs from reverence for learning—a quality that can be taught—such education is not possible. People there are who say they have no time for reading. They are the people, we venture to say, who waste most of their time. It is men like Winston Churchill, their hours consumed with great problems and issues, who find time for reading. Morley, in one of his lectures—"The Glory of Words"—pointed out that in 15 minutes one might read any of the world's greatest poems, or a passage by Gibbon or Newman, or the noblest lines of Shakespeare, or of any of the classics; and he added: "Multiply that by 365 days, and think of the treasures you may lay up by the end of a year!" And good books today, when libraries are scattered throughout the land, are within the reach of all; there is no home, no matter how humble, which need be barred from what they mean. It was the late Martin Burrell, who long contributed The Journal's "Life and Literature", who wrote of books: "They will help you in victory, console you in defeat, and be your truest friends and companions when you yield to the conquering years." Winston Churchill, with his gift of books to Elizabeth, may have helped to teach many a lesson they need to learn.

-Notes By The Way-

Barbara Ann Scott, a great athlete, a world's champion twice over, an Olympic champion, a fine lady and a little blonde girl as cute as a forget-me-not. — Wesley Hicks in Toronto Star.

A Samoan prince is said to prefer serving out his enlistment as a private in the United States army to going home and ruling over 30,000 of his people as a chieftain. He must have a good standing with the sergeant. — Montreal Times.

Artificial blood plasma made from the action of bacteria on sugar is now being made in England. This plasma, known as Dextron, is at present, undergoing exhaustive tests at the Lister Institute in London, and the final results will not be known for at least six to nine months. It is believed, however, that it may prove to be safer than natural blood for transfusion. Besides being cheap and easy to make, the new synthetic solution will have the advantage of simple storage: it can be kept in powder form until wanted, when it needs only to be quickly mixed and heated. — UK Information Office.

What surprises us about the recent chiding Moscow has given Soviet composers for failing to follow the party line in their scores is not the imposition of censorship upon musicians, but the fact that the Kremlin knew that censorship was necessary. Musicians, composers and plain, ordinary listeners have been arguing for years and centuries over what even the best known musical classics "mean"—and few have been able to agree yet. But the advance of Soviet art has evidently overcome this ancient obstacle to progress. The Kremlin, bending its ear over a couple of compass and brace of pom-poms, knows exactly what they signify—and that's that. — Windsor Star.

Two glamor girls boarded a crowded street car, and one of them whispered to the other: "Watch me embarrass a seat from a male passenger." Pushing her way through straphangers she turned all of her charms upon a gentleman who looked substantial and embarrassed. "My dear, Mr. Brown," she gushed loudly, "fancy meeting you on the street car. Am I glad to see you! Why, you're almost a stranger! My, but I'm tired." The sedate gentleman looked up at the girl, whom he had never before seen and as he rose said pleasantly, "Sit down, Beulah, my girl. It isn't often that I see you out on a washday. No wonder you're tired. I'll get you a seat. My wife is going to the District Attorney's office to see whether she can get your husband out of jail!" — Phoenix Flame.

A middle-aged businessman we know, a gentle and impeccable soul, is the proud owner of a fur hat. Having to go to Chicago during the cold spell, he took it with him. On a gusty, bitter day he was walking along the street searching for a tax when he suddenly a cab swerved to the curb. The driver yelled, "Get in, Canada! Getting in, our friend asked how he knew he was from Canada. "By the hat, bud," said the driver. "By the hat." Just then the cab was halted by a traffic light. The door was flung open and a neat-looking blonde hopped in. Momentarily started to find another passenger occupying the seat, she explained she was in a hurry to get to the railway depot. The driver, an obliging chap, asked our man if he'd mind; said it wouldn't take him much out of his way. Canada said he didn't mind. The girl thanked him and added, "That's some hat! Where are you from?" He said "Toronto." She sighed and said, "Ah, good old Toronto! I played in Toronto two weeks ago. I played in Montreal, too. I like Montreal, but I like Toronto better. The audiences there are much more appreciative. Our man nearly swooned with delight. "Where did you play in Toronto?" he asked. "At the Casino," she said. "I do a sort of strip-tease." — Toronto Financial Post.

Cordell Hull, in his memoirs, makes an interesting comment on the extent to which statesmen share important secrets with their wives. Gladstone, it will be recalled, had a kind of code. Ordinary matters might be discussed by members of the cabinet with their wives. Yet when the correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone was published in 1936 it was made clear that there had been no secrets between them. "Her discretion as to public secrets, of which she knew all, was really extraordinary; she was willing, if necessary, to allow herself in conversation to appear almost a fool in order to conceal the fact of her knowledge." Mr. Hull writes as follows: "Some public men, often by mutual understanding, refrain from disclosing the secrets of their political and public affairs to their wives, who remain content to pursue their own courses relating to society and to the duties of rearing a family. I kept Mrs. Hull constantly informed, however, regarding any and all questions and persons having any importance to me. She scrupulously guarded every secret. I never knew her to make a single mistake in conversations with diplomats and statesmen abroad or at home." — Winnipeg Free Press.

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times) JUDGMENT BY WEIGHT

The Catacombs of subterranean Rome are a priceless mine of testimony to early Christian life and belief and a storehouse of memories of the age of the persecutions. Not the least moving survivals in these underground cities of the departed are the countless memorial slabs of life and marble, whose inscriptions, "decked with the dove, the shepherd, and the palm and many another simple emblem, bear witness to triumphant faith.

One such tablet, which at once arrests the attention of the passer-by, contains neither record of the buried dust within, nor word of challenge to death or hope of resurrection. Only a pair of scales, whose roughly chiselled outlines are more eloquent than words, scales of judgment.

This primitive Roman symbol has its modern counterpart in a statement of doctrine which speaks of "life - - - poised on the edge of judgment." Outside and earlier than Christian tradition are the ancient Egyptian dream of Osiris, the divine judgment, with scales set before him, the heart of a man in one scale and an image of the goddess of truth and justice in the other, and Plato's conception of Minos, who "naked with very soul contemplates the very soul of each in turn immediately after death, alone, without a kinship beside him, all the trappings of his life left behind on earth."

The Question Of Devaluation

(Monthly REVIEW of the Bank of Nova Scotia) "On a comparative basis, the Canadian dollar appears to be one of the strong currencies," says the Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia in the first of two numbers. "The Question of Devaluation." The Review, which discussed the general problem of determining suitable exchange rates under present unsettled conditions, notes that prices in Canada are low in relation to most other countries and that Canada's ability to compete in export markets is great.

While Canada has an obvious U.S. dollar problem, she is not in the position of having a deficit in her total international transactions, as are most war-damaged countries and some others as well. Though inflation is a constant topic of conversation, Canada is one of the few countries with a budget surplus and a money supply which has practically ceased to rise. As compared with pre-war the increase in Canada's money supply is one of the smaller in the world. The expansion in this country's production is one of the greatest in the world. And while Canada's exchange reserves have been sharply reduced, an appreciable reserve still remains; and the exchange saving program appears to be reasonably effective in checking the U.S. dollar drain.

The Review emphasizes that one of the major considerations in appraising existing rates of exchange is the outlook for European recovery. Although there is a possibility of a recovery of production in most western European countries, it has not gone far enough to meet the urgent needs for subsistence and reconstruction and to provide a volume of exports sufficient to pay for needed imports. Despite rigorous controls essential imports, and despite sustained efforts to increase exports, almost every country in western Europe has a substantial deficit in its current transactions with the rest of the world. And because the trading countries of western Europe are unable to purchase freely, many other countries find themselves with a dollar problem, Canada among them.

The existence of a substantial deficit of U.S. dollars is not, says the Review, sufficient reason in itself for devaluation. Acceptance of such a view would mean that most countries would devalue their currencies right away. Moreover, since there is no good reason to believe that devaluation, even of severe proportions, would bridge the U.S. dollar gaps in the accounts of most European countries, the original argument for devaluation would remain and, if still accepted, would lead to further reductions in exchange rates with no logical end in sight.

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