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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1941.

Premier King's Opportunity

Prime Minister Mackenzie King is general chairman of the Dominion-Provincial conference which opens today for discussion of the Rowell-Sirois Commission recommendations. One of the regrettable features of the Commission's report is that it turns down the claim of this Province for improved transportation service in accord with the terms on which we entered Confederation. Our people cannot accept this finding of the Commission and it is to be hoped, when this and other questions affecting Maritime claims come up for discussion at the conference, that Mr. King will recall the solemn assurance which he himself gave in a speech delivered in Saint John on Sept. 21, 1925. On that occasion he said: "We hear that the people of the Maritimes want certain rights which were theirs when they came into Confederation. I for one do not belong to the Maritimes. I belong to another part of the Dominion, but I for one will take the position that there is an obligation on other parts of Canada to see that any obligation under which the people of the Maritimes came into the Confederation is duly and justly and honorably discharged. There is no desire not to act fairly with the Maritimes in regard to any obligation of Confederation. The desire is rather to live up to the full letter of the obligation. . . . If you are simply asking for justice, my wish and the wish of the Government is to give you the fullest recognition."

We are still waiting for the implementation of some of the recommendations of the Duncan Commission which subsequently met and reported on Maritime claims. Prime Minister King has now an excellent opportunity of calling this subject to the attention of the conference on the Sirois report in his opening speech as chairman. Since the conference has to deal with the broad issue of Dominion-Provincial relations, no more opportune occasion could be taken.

Whose Fight?

A recent motion picture film belonging to the series "Canada Carries On" deals with English children coming to Canada. Prepared under the auspices of the Dominion Government, the commentary ends with the words: "Send us your children, England. We will take care of them, keeping them safe and happy while you carry on your fight."

Upon which statement the Ottawa Journal is moved to comment: "Your fight?" Surely the clever young men who got out this film made a slip here. Or did they merely express, perhaps unconsciously, an all-too-prevalent state of mind in this country? The state of mind which seems to imagine that England is carrying on her fight, not Canada's. "We speak—as our neighbors to the South speak—of sending 'aid to Britain'. Yet if we reflect at all we must realize that we are sending aid for ourselves, with Britain merely the battleground. Incidentally, perhaps, because of the area of the conflict, we aid Britain, but twenty times more Britain is aiding us; enduring and suffering as perhaps no nation has ever endured or suffered before to keep desolation from our shores.

"It is well that we keep that truth in mind, guarding against thought that this war is between England and Germany, and that we here in Canada are merely aiding Britain. This is our war; ours to the full measure that it is England's, demanding from us the same measure of sacrifice, and of willingness to sacrifice. If thus far the actual battle has been kept from our shores, that is but our good fortune—plus England's valour and might."

The Sirois Report

Premier Campbell and his cabinet colleagues have gone to the Ottawa conference on the Sirois report, keeping their own counsel. In the only speech in which he discussed the report, the Premier was tactfully vague as to whether or not he approved of the major provisions. The other Maritime Premiers have been almost equally reticent; so that so far as official direction is concerned, the people of the Maritime Provinces are very much in the dark as to what their elected representatives propose doing at Ottawa. In the meantime, however, two strong Liberal newspapers in Nova Scotia, the Halifax Chronicle and the Eastern (New Glasgow) Chronicle, have come out in criticism. The Halifax Liberal paper says: "The Rowell-Sirois report suggests that the province surrender more autonomy and revenue while retaining responsibility for the payment of its services as well as for grave economic problems which may arise. As compensation, Nova Scotia is to be at the mercy of a Federal Grants Commission, appointed by the Dominion Government. The possibilities are apparent. If that commission unwisely rejects an application to meet economic difficulties or even emergencies in this province, Nova Scotia will be hard put to it to help herself, for her autonomy will be so crippled that she will have little power left. And if the opportunity to live and do business is still further reduced, this province will be in a sorry state indeed. Nor is it unduly pessimistic to foresee unwise decisions from a Federal Grants Commission. Such a commission will be the creation of a government. It will entail

considerations. If a government in Nova Scotia is at loggerheads with the government which created the Federal Grants Commission, difficulties are only too possible. . . . The people of Nova Scotia need more, not less, autonomy. Without the basic opportunity to live and do business, they can enjoy only temporary relief from handouts or rather palliatives."

The Eastern Chronicle warns its representatives to use caution with respect to the program proposed by the report. "They may be buying a pig in a bag," it says, "and Nova Scotia made one of those purchases many years ago to her lasting sorrow. Once bitten, twice shy, should apply in this case. The Commission's findings can well rest until they have been thoroughly digested. A stiff propaganda" (from Ottawa?) "has been set in motion to induce the provinces to bite at the bait. It may be prudent to let the bait dangle until more peaceful times prevail."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The weather never did please everybody, but the present sample is more pleasing to skiers than any body else.

Charlottetown and other parts of the Province will join in the world-wide memorial service to be held for Chief Scout Lord Baden-Powell next Sunday.

Australia has offered Great Britain another Air Squadron for duty in the Middle East to work in cooperation with the army. This is a happy sequel to the success of the Australians in Libya.

A Hollywood actress is being sued for \$150,000 for inducing her husband, a band conductor, to break his contract. It seems she threatened to divorce him unless he came home and stayed with her—contract or no contract.

Factory cheese production in December 1,753,500 pounds in comparison with 5,950,133 in the previous month and 2,928,133 in December, 1939. Production during the year 1940 amounted to 140,092,912 as compared with 122,771,828 in 1939, an increase of 14.1 per cent.

According to preliminary figures the Canadian production of creamery butter amounted to 12,192,243 pounds in December compared with 15,001,167 in November and 11,901,177 in December, 1939. Output during the year 1940 aggregated 264,095,795 pounds as compared with 267,368,127 in 1939, a decline of 1.2 per cent.

The Executive Council of the Permanent Committee on French Survival have decided at a meeting in Ottawa to enlarge the scope of its French-language instruction classes in Prince Edward Island, and extend the scheme to many French-Canadian districts in Nova Scotia.

Pierre Loti, French Naval Captain and novelist, born this date, 1850. His most popular novel "Le Roman d'un Spahi", a powerful study of a soldier in Africa. His books are lacking in much that goes to make good fiction, but as an impressionist, he is eminently successful. Pierre Loti was admitted to the French Academy in 1891.

The situation in the Pacific is becoming more alarming for our United States cousins. The exodus of Americans from the Orient in response to State Department advice has brought all but 1,200 out of Japan. Those remaining are prepared to leave quickly in event of a serious emergency. More than 8,000 Americans were in Japan when the States Department three months ago issued precautionary advice to nationals in the Far East to come home.

According to our evening contemporary "non-committal" is the attitude of Premier Campbell on the Sirois Report. It looks as though we are on the eve of losing our precious birthright. Already as a Province we sold our right to a seat in the Government to a Nova Scotian for two airports, which we were entitled to anyway without losing our identity in the Federal Government. Penny wise and pound foolish is a poor policy for any party or Government to pursue.

Mr. Alfred Noyes, the world famous poet, now in Canada, told a Montreal audience that if civilization was to be saved, it would be saved by the recognition of the true principles of ethics and the moral law "which was based only in religion." He believed the only people in the world today who stood on firm ground in a quaking world were those who still adhered to the "philosophy of Christendom." No fifth columnist was as dangerous as the popular writer who spread anti-ethical doctrine, said Mr. Noyes. These men invariably talked of a new world order. "Hitler does, so does Mr. H. G. Wells and he is just as bad as Hitler." These anti-ethical popular writers, he held, had been doing the work of destroyers for more than a quarter of a century and their victims were perfectly innocent people whom they intimidated into thinking that they must keep up to date. While human affections had played a great part in the literature of the past, Mr. Noyes said that they existed not at all in the works of these writers who said they were drawing nearer to life. "They are really drawing nearer to death and the things that are happening in Central Europe." These so-called modernists had ruled that music in poetry should be eliminated, he continued, saying that its use was artificial. Mr. Noyes held that the music of poetry was, in reality, related to the real nature of the universe itself because it was in "metrical composition." He cited the tides, the stars and the rhythmic beating of the human heart. During the whole 2,000-year-old history of literature and art, the great spiritual principles have been the primary concern, he said, but the "pseudo realists" had thrown aside these principles in favor of a "harsh imitation of purely superficial aspects of the world." These writers exhibited an "unscientific analysis which took pleasure in pulling things to pieces, just as a child dissects an insect."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Yet the fact that the Duce has blundered into a situation from which there is no issue save submission to the Italian people is a certain fact in the whole situation. Through Mr. Churchill's many know better than most men how to clothe it in brilliant and burning phrase, it is already speaking so loudly for itself that the fascist response dares not even to hint at it in order to combat it.—New York Herald Tribune.

There will be those who will say again that the President has gone too far; that public opinion will not be behind him in this radical step. This is the "Bag Bag" which will be ahead of him. There are plenty of indications that he is continuing his deliberate policy of letting public opinion go ahead of him, that what he has done now is exactly what the bulk of the American people have been wanting him to do for months past.—Windward Star.

It's a town in Egypt. The Record spells it "Babuque." The New York Times spells it "Bag Bag." The Camden Courier-P- st and New York World-Telegram spell it "Bag Bag." The Baltimore Morning Sun spells it "Buu Bui." And the Baltimore Evening Sun, a paper of good liberal traditions, spells the difference and spells it "Bubug."—Philadelphia Record.

If we face the facts we shall realize we are in a situation that protects our young men from the danger of battle and the rest of us from hardships that would be ours if we were to go to war. That bulwark at the moment, the British Empire, or the British Army or the British Air Force, or even the British Navy which has guarded our shores so long with us, it is the bodies of British civilians, exposed of their own free choice to mutilation and death. It is these men and women, in nightly peril, who give us our security as we now enjoy and make our "isolation" possible.—New York Times.

The solution to Newfoundland's economic problem will come only from the application of the best brains we can bring to bear upon it. It will come only from united mind and co-ordinated effort and from the determination that we in Newfoundland will use the capacity we assuredly have to build a stronger economic structure. The question is one which transcends the mere issue of personal profit. Our national existence is involved. For far too long we have been content to be a country on the dole, and we do not want to see that condition perpetuated. The standard of living of our people here is one of the lowest in the world, and we are not happy and content. It is for the right to these things that we have gone to war.—Daily News (St. John's, Nfld.).

The fact of the matter seems to be that Japan has been given a free hand by the decision of the League which has begun to take shape for her "new order" plans in the East even the fact that she has been able to gain a foothold on India-China was not much to be encouraged here to make any other step forward to help her European partners by creating a new world order. The lines to the showdown which the Italians have put on in the Mediterranean. N-n-plussed by the growing strength being reinforced against her, Mr. Mucka has not taken the line of trying to disarm suspicion against herself. "We do not propose harming anybody." Mr. Mucka has not been so candid in his statement: "We are just a peaceful, law-abiding race and we do not care a tuppenny damn about the President of the United States or what happens in Europe. We just want to be good friends with everybody—yes, even with our Chinese brothers!"—Hong Kong Press.

What has been the best selling book in Canada during the past three months? Guess what? You think that not one of them would score with the right answer. Because Canada's best selling book has been the Sirois Report. It has sold up to a million words in three volumes. A first edition print of 3000 sets (at \$1 per set) has been sold. The second edition print of 3000 sets is on its last legs. Two months ago The Journal, more skeptical than factual, suggested that no member of the cabinet could have read this report. Immediately one of the most important of Mr. King's ministerial captives informed us that he had not only read it but had "found it as interesting as a novel." The reader made us humbly curious. Now our curiosity is discovering for us that Canadians are interested in more than Mr. Charles McCarthy. The Sirois Report is not advertised; it is not found on news stands or at book shops. Yet thousands of our people are reading it; talking the trouble to send a dollar to the King's Printer here at Ottawa to get it. The thousands include business men, professional men, farmers, workers.—Ottawa Journal.

That Londoners should demand reprisals for the unprovoked and unprovoked injury done to them, that they demand retribution is right and human. Their demand is, more often than not, discussed in terms of reprisals, as though it showed a lack of moral sense, whereas not to feel a pass onate desire shows a lack of moral sense, and a very grave lack. There is only one case against reprisals— they must not be undertaken if to do so is to diminish the number and the force of the blows which are needed to break the power of Germany. If reprisals were to prolong the war by diverting men and machines from operations needed to ensure rapid and decisive victory, then reprisals are not to be in the light of the attack on German stores of petrol, on refineries, on munitions, dockyards must, of course, go on. But by retaliating and waging terrorist war, Hitler has made the civilian "morale" a military object. It is true that he delights in cruelty and in every kind of abomination and that his associates are evil creatures—there is none that doeth good, "not one." But in waging terrorist war he is not only doing evil for its own sake, he is trying to kill, wound and terrify, and ruin the men, women, and children of England as a means of winning the war. If he breaks the spirit of the English he will certainly have won the war. It is equally true that if the spirit of the Germans is broken, Germany will have lost the war. If reprisals

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The CharloTTetown Guardian does not accept responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

THE FARMER'S PROBLEM

Sir,—It must have been with a feeling of relief that Premier Campbell was able to announce the shelving of the Sheep and Swine Marketing Scheme.

The reason given is a certain amount of opposition that has developed, but I did not notice any reason given for the opposition referred to, and the fact that the shelving is only temporary speaks well for the scheme. However, our thanks are due the members of the executive council whose sympathy was for the scheme.

The same article refers to delegation soon to go to Ottawa to press for cheaper feeds from the western provinces. Why, sir, does our government keep harping about cheaper feed from the western provinces? Why bother about something we know we are not going to get, and if we do succeed we will only be p to ensnare further (if that is possible) the people of this province who grow grain for sale. I know well that the sheep and swine fall for 27 cents a bushel. Can slave labor beat that? And everyone knows there are lots of good potatoes well for the scheme. However, our Premier's boast that "P. E. Island will not default."

All this is adding force to the kick that will be sent us in the New Brunswick lumber woods, where so many of our farmers have already gone, and from whence we may be sent home, to save this province from defaulting in its interest payments, and thereby make here last Premier's boast that "P. E. Island will not default."

I am, sir, etc. W. B. McLELLAN. Alma, P.E.I.

The Poets' Corner

AIRMEN FROM OVERSEAS

Who are these that come from the ends of the earth, who come out of the south in the gory of Spring? They are airmen from overseas, with purpose in the eyes, with a smile on the mouth.

These are they who have left the familiar faces, sights, sounds and scents of familiar land. Taking to sea for security promised afloat. Sweetness of home and the future hope had planned.

A lodestar has drawn them; Britain standing alone Clear in the darkness, not to be overcome. Though the huge masses of hates are hurled against her—Wherever the spirit of freedom breathes, is Home.

Soon are they joined with incomparable comrades, Britain's flower and Britain's pride, Against all odds, despising the boastful Terror.

On joyous wings in the ways of the wind they ride, From afar they battle for our ancient island Soaring and pouncing, masters of the skies. They are heard in the night by the lands betrayed and captive, And a throbbing of hope to their thunder-throb replies.

To dare incredible things, from the ends of ocean, They are coming and coming, over the perilous seas. How shall we hail them? Truly there are no words. And no song worthy of these.

HINDERS CANCER FIGHT

LONDON.—(CP)—Britain's campaign against cancer has been impeded by the war, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons said here.

—Laurence Binyon, in the London Times, will help to defeat her. It would be wickered as well as foolish to refrain from taking them now that the "morale" has been made into a military objective by the Germans.—The Nineteenth Century.

Use Minard's for sprains.

Mussolini Calendar

(Winnipeg Free Press) Extracts taken from the speeches and writings of Mussolini by the London Times show that the Duce of Italy need not fear comparison with his predominant partner, the Fuehrer of Germany, in the despicable technique of treachery. A few of the extracts are quoted here. They are among the texts that might go with a Mussolini Calendar, as a daily reminder of the thoughts of the man who stabs his friends in the back.

GREECE

Mussolini invaded Greece on October 28, last, but on June 10 he said: "I solemnly declare that Italy does not intend to drag other peoples who are her neighbors by sea and by land into the conflict. Let Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Egypt and Greece take note of these words of mine."

Twenty-six days after Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, Mussolini expressed his satisfaction that "the Polish question had been liquidated." But during the diplomatic offensive that preceded the Abyssinian war he said, on September 19, 1935: "I congratulate you (the Poles) on the attitude shown by Colonel Beck, your Foreign Minister, throughout this conflict. In his conversations with Baron Aloisi he has manifested real friendship and good will towards Italy and understanding of our needs. I in turn assure Poland that her situation is well understood in Italy and that there is a solid basis for friendship between the two nations."

Four days after Germany invaded Austria on March 12, 1938, Mussolini said: "Italy has never given, either directly or indirectly, any guarantee to protect Austrian independence." Four years before that, at the second quinquennial assembly of the Fascist regime, Mussolini said: "Immediately after the war Italy instituted a policy of friendship towards Austria with the object of defending her integrity and independence. For a long time Italy was alone, but other countries have now awakened. Austria knows she can count on Italy to the end."

On Good Friday, April 7, 1939, Mussolini invaded Albania. Yet just three weeks previously he declared: "Italy's policy in Albania is quite clear and absolutely straight forward. Its sole object is to preserve and to respect the independent status of this small country, which for centuries has lived in friendship with us."

Italy invaded Abyssinia on October 3, 1935. Seven years before that invasion Mussolini told the Italian Senate: "With Abyssinia—especially since Ras Tafari's visit to Italy our relations have become particularly friendly. The Pact of Friendship, the first which Abyssinia will have signed with any European Power, will no doubt set a seal on this new and happy state of affairs."

Italy declared war on the Allies on June 10, 1940, when the collapse of France was imminent and that of Britain was thought to be near. Then, on November 18, 1940, Mussolini told the Italian Senate: "I asked permission for direct Italian participation in the battle against Britain and Italian airplanes and submarines were sent to the Mediterranean. Yet the Mussolini which coveted the sadistic privilege of attacking the people of Britain from the air told the Italian Senate two years previously that: 'In saying that the friendship between Great Britain and Italy is traditional, one is not repeating a commonplace but expressing a reality. The friendship between the two peoples is profound. By this I mean that they have never been divided in the past, that they have worked together for peace.'

The promise, the good faith, of the Fascists are as rotten as are

"TIRED" ALL THE TIME She felt miserable—dragg—low in vitality—twee spirits. She hadn't thought of her kidneys, until a friend suggested Dodd's Kidney Pills. At once she took Dodd's. The "washed out" feeling was soon replaced by clear headed energy and restful sleep. Headache, backache, lassitude and other signs of faulty kidneys disappeared. Dodd's Kidney Pills

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British Aircraft Carrier ("The Navy" London) When the war began Great Britain possessed six aircraft carriers with six more building. Two of these carriers, the Courageous and the Glorious, have been lost. The carriers existing at the outbreak of war were: H.M.S. Ark Royal, 22,000 tons. Completed 1938. Normal complement 72 aircraft. Length 800 ft. Designed speed 30 7/8 knots. H.M.S. Courageous, 22,500 tons. Completed 1938. Normal complement 48 aircraft. Length 735 ft. Designed speed 30 knots. (Sunk by enemy action on September 19, 1939.) H.M.S. Eagle, 22,600 tons. Completed 1924. Normal complement 31 aircraft. Length 667 ft. Designed speed 24 knots. H.M.S. Furious, 22,450 tons. First completed 1918. Normal complement 33 aircraft. Length 786 ft. H.M.S. Glorious, 22,500 tons. Completed 1930. Normal complement 48 aircraft. Length 786 ft. Designed speed 31 knots. (Sunk by enemy action early in June, 1940.) H.M.S. Hermes, 10,850 tons. Completed 1924. Normal complement 15 aircraft. Length 598 ft. Designed speed 25 knots. There is also H.M.S. Albattross, of 4,800 tons, which has accommodation for 9 seaplanes or amphibians. It formed part of the Royal Australian Navy, but was transferred to Great Britain in 1939. The six aircraft carriers built during the start of the war were the Illustrious, the Victorious, the Formidable, the Indefatigable, the Implacable, and the Intrepid, all similar to the Ark Royal in general design, although slightly bigger. All were due for completion in 1940. Aircraft carriers in their first year have proved vulnerable as many supposed they would. Their huge flight decks, which cannot be heavily armored, their great bulk made necessary by the hangars for aircraft under the deck, and their need to operate away from the main fleet, make them a mark for the bombers, the submarines, and the surface craft of the enemy. The aircraft carrier would show to its best advantage operating in a

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