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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1940.

The Real Mr. King

Premier King's excuse for withholding from Hon. Dr. Manion the contents of the Throne Speech until it was actually being delivered by the Governor General in the Senate chamber was a gratuitous insult to the leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. The declaration of an immediate election was a document which, he said, had to be kept "very very secret," and he implied that Dr. Manion could not be trusted to preserve secrecy if he had been extended the usual courtesy of an advance copy. He suggested (to quote Dr. Manion's own scathing comment) "that if he had given me a copy of the Speech I would have blathered it all over the street."

And the same Mr. King, who was so solicitous about preserving secrecy from all but his cabinet colleagues, confessed that he had discussed the matter with the general electoral officer, an official outside of Parliament altogether! A quite unnecessary action, too, because the Prime Minister could have obtained all the information he sought from the Election Act.

This incident throws a more revealing light on Mr. King's mentality and attitude towards the public than all his eloquent speeches about democracy and the supremacy of Parliament.

90 Per Cent Are Critical

Only a few days ago the Liberal press was declaring that Premier King "takes the dignified position that the House of Commons is the place to discuss the Government's war policy." Now that Parliament has been dissolved without any chance given of discussing this or any other issue, what can be said for the dignity of Mr. King's position? More important than Mr. King's loss of dignity, however, is the challenge which such action involves.

As for the criticism which led to the Government's refusal to face Parliament before obtaining a fresh mandate, the Sydney Post-Record (Independent) estimates that it expresses the opinion of fully 90 per cent of the people of Canada. Our Sydney contemporary says:

"Canada has been nominally at war with Germany for over 4 months. There is no question that the vast majority of Canadians are eagerly desirous of seeing this Dominion's war effort prosecuted intensively, efficiently, and in such a manner as to reflect credit not only on Canada, but on the whole Empire. But the disheartening fact is that, measured by the King Government's record since last September, our war effort has fallen far below the standards the people demand and have a right to expect. The men who have joined the colors have not been decently equipped, and in thousands of cases their dependents have not been paid a dollar of separation allowance to this day. The effect this callous indifference and neglect, — to state the case mildly, — is likely to produce on enlistments across Canada in the months to come, can easily be pictured. Without uniforms or even woven clothing, without military equipment of any proper kind, housed hastily in uncomfortable and often unhygienic quarters, the majority of those who responded first and right loyally to the call for volunteers, have lived for the past three or four months as no Canadian soldiers, nor on actual service in the arena of war, should be compelled to live.

"That Mitchell Hepburn and George Drew forgot their political difference, and united in condemning the King Government's 'war work' is not at all surprising. Nor is it any answer to the vote of censure the Ontario House passed upon the King Government to say that Hepburn hates King, that Drew is simply playing politics, that the matter in question does not fall within the purview of a Provincial Legislature. Admitting all this, the predominantly important fact remains the Hepburn resolution said what 90 per cent of the people of Canada are saying, that it consequently met with instantaneous public approval for its content, regardless of the political or personal motives that inspired it."

The Post-Record adds bluntly:
 "The plain truth is that the Government at Ottawa, considered as a 'war cabinet', does not, in its personnel, its political outlook, its policies or methods, represent a sizable fraction of the people of Canada. None but incurable partisans continue to defend it or even to apologize for it, while nearly everyone condemns it. Such is the background of fundamental fact which was behind the action of the Ontario Legislature, and which gives that action its chief significance."

Princess Louise And Alberta
 Commenting on the death recently of Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, *Canada's Weekly* recalled the beautiful mountain lake in the Rockies which was named after Her Royal Highness. A correspondent adds the further interesting fact that the Province of Alberta also takes its name from her—she was Louise Caroline Alberta.

Towards the end of the Governor-Generalship of her husband, then the Marquis of Lorne, the North-West Territories were divided into four districts for postal purposes and one of these was named after the Princess. When the present Province was formed in 1905 this was the name given to it. The following sonnet addressed to his wife appears in "Memories of Canada and Scotland," by the Marquis of Lorne:—

In token of the love which thou hast shown

For this wide land of freedom I have named
 A Province vast and for its beauty famed
 By thy dear name to be hereafter known
 Alberta shall it be! Her fountains thrown
 From Alps unto three oceans to all men
 Shall vaunt her loveliness e'en now; and
 when.
 Each little hamlet to a city grown
 And numberless as blades of prairie grass
 On the thick leaves in distant forest bowers,
 Great peoples hear the giant currents pass,
 Still shall the waters, bringing wealth and
 power
 Spread the loved name—the land of Silver
 Springs
 Worthy the daughter of our English Kings.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The most sensational disclosure of the Parliament now dissolved, was Mackenzie King's fear of disclosures.

"Lewis Carroll", born this date, 1832. "The rule is, jam tomorrow and jam yesterday — but never jam today."

Now all those fat jobs waiting to be filled must wait till the result of the election is known — and even then successful candidates are likely to be on "the outs."

No wonder the Prime Minister arranged that he and other members of the Government, as well as the Governor-General, should appear at the opening of Parliament in funeral garb. They were to be present at the obsequies.

These sudden "steal" elections, a la Macdonald in Nova Scotia, Campbell in P. E. I., and now King in Dominion, are beginning to pall upon the electorate—as Duplessis found in Quebec.

Can you beat Prime Minister King's cynicisms and disregard for honest public opinion? He rewarded the King Pin of the Montreal Customs Scandal with a senatorship, and now the Centre Pin of the Bren Gun Scandal with an appointment as military attache to the Canadian Legation at Paris.

Ontario Liberals have formed two camps with separate organizations and organizers. The Ontario Provincial Liberal Association is backing the Hepburn Government, while the Ontario Federal Liberals are backing the Mackenzie King outfit.

Stamp clubs and philatelists throughout the world feel that the British Government should issue a special stamp series to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the appearance of the first stamp on May 6, 1940. Philatelists agree that a special series, which the British Government planned but then cancelled because of the war, should be issued despite hostilities.

Says the Montreal Gazette: "It is not without significance that the Minister of Finance in preparing to launch his first domestic war loan called in the assistance of previous ministers and others, without regard to party affiliations, and that the loan was a tremendous success. If the course pursued by Colonel Ralston as a means of ensuring the success of a single war enterprise was sound, and undoubtedly it was sound, it seems obvious that the same course would produce equally satisfactory results if made to embrace the whole of the country's war effort. There is no difference in principle between a Union Government and a union war loan committee."

The mystery of the missing consignment of New Testaments given by the British and Foreign Bible Society of Canada to the First Division of the Canadian Active Service Force before its departure for England has been solved. The Testaments—about 7,000 of them—were found by members of the Seaford Highlanders when they opened crates believed to contain Army equipment. The consignment had become mixed up en route with units of baggage stored away for later attention. The task of distributing the Testaments through the Divisional Chaplains began promptly. Every man with the Division will receive a copy to carry in his knapsack. Each copy will bear the name of the officer, or man, his Unit, and the name of the Chaplain presenting it. Another consignment of 5,000 New Testaments is due at an early date.

The production of milk in the Dominion in 1938 was estimated at approximately 15,344 billion pounds, a gain of about 1-2 million pounds over the revised figure for 1937 and about 2-3-4 billion over the 1930 estimate. The advance recorded in 1938 was reflected in the milk production per cow which moved up to 4,071 pounds from the 1930 figure of 3,578. The consumption of fresh milk together with cream expressed as milk, reached a total of 4.3 billion pounds or 3.3 billion pints in 1938. This represented a daily consumption for the whole of Canada of 0.82 pints per person. It is important to observe that the milk producers supplying their own homes consumed 1.17 pints per person per day while those required to purchase their supply averaged only 0.70 pints per day.

"For the second time," Sir Edward Grigg, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Information said in an address to French journalists in London, "France and Britain find themselves united in a struggle against Germany. I say Germany advisedly, for Hitler is Germany, just as Frederick the Great, Bismarck and William Hohenzollern were Germany. We must have done with it. If not, in 20 years there will be another Hitler and Europe will be done to death. We shall soon have 2,000,000 more men under the colors. We are determined to beat the Germans completely. That is our first task. The second is to support the manoeuvres of the neutrals calmly and wisely. Finland has demonstrated by her bravery what a heroic people can do. It is to be hoped that this example will be emulated by the Low Countries. There should be no neutrals in the crusade we are waging today in defence of Christian civilization."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The best war story so far concerns the young pilot, who, returning late from a raid, said he thought each pamphlet had to be pushed through the letter-box. — Men Only, London.

In controversial moments My doggoes rather fine — I always see both points of view: The one that's wrong, and mine! — Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, Pa.

A member of the public complained about the condition of a parcel received badly battered and minus the case which it had originally contained. The postman concerned affirmed that he had delivered the parcel as he had received it, and did not see any case, and did not like cake, anyway! The Sub-Postmaster forwarded the postman's report to the Head Office with the comment: "I have no reason to doubt this man's veracity." — Medley, London.

A ship's gunner, home on leave, was sitting with his cat by the fire. His wife had to go and visit some relations, and warned him to keep an eye on the cat. She was afraid that it might go out and get into mischief. She went out. The gunner fell asleep. Two hours passed. She entered the room, took one look at her husband and screamed: "Fire!" The husband leapt to attention, tore open the door of the oven, and, in the excitement, slammed the door, and cried: "Number One gun ready!" — Courier, London.

Not so long ago, Heletz took time off to co-operate with the department of Harvard University in an effort to determine the relative values of the hand-made Guarnerius and Stradivarius violins and those made today by modern industrial methods. At the end of the tests, to which Mr. Heletz devoted many hours, Harvard University announced that a modern \$200 fiddle produced steel was of a quality similar to that of a violin made by one of the best old Italian craftsmen. To Heletz that was wonderful news. He felt it had been well worth his while to co-operate in the tests, for the results removed another mental obstacle from violin students who might have been thinking that the quality of their violins was a handicap in their work.—Giles Edgerton on Jascha Heletz in Arts and Decoration, London.

When he was a young man, Lord Eldon was "junior" to Mr. Dunning, in a lawsuit heard in London. Mr. Dunning opened, and Lord Eldon became more and more astonished as his lawyer drew out his powerful arguments against his opponent. At last he attracted his attention and whispered to him that he was speaking for the wrong party. "Why didn't you tell me sooner?" snorted Dunning, "I was recovering his composure, and continuing his speech: 'What I have said so far, gentlemen, is that the law is all that can be said to be opposing me. How slight is their case, now propose to show you... And this he did, completely demolishing the arguments he had previously put forward!—Belfast Telegraph.

The farthing is by no means the smallest coin. If you find yourself in a tight place, a small boy shouts to the Greek for "a small penny, mister," the smallest sum you can enrich him with is one tenth of a farthing, or rather less than one fifth of a penny. In India you can spend a penny in two or three days. In the Straits Settlements they have a coin worth one hundredth part of 7d. But these cash values must seem wealth to the artless natives of Angola (Portuguese West Africa), who you can reward, if you have the nerve, with half a centavo, or one ninth of the penny.—"H. H. B." in the Daily Express, London.

The Shubert brother, great theater impresario, grew to his present status with the benefit of tremendous theater sense, but little formal education. There is the tale of an actor in a Shubert drama who read a line beginning, "I am Omar Khayyam." "You don't know anything," Mr. Lee Shubert is supposed to have told him "Khayyam." "I am Omar of Khayyam," the submissive actor intoned. Later one of the more literate Shubert subordinates apologized to Mr. Lee of his error. Next time the actor said, "I am Omar of Khayyam." Mr. Lee stopped him "Let's cut out the 'of'." "The act's a little too long already." — A. J. Liebling in The New Yorker, New York.

I attended an amazing meeting of job-hunters the other evening. About 75 men and women were there, of every age, training and background you can imagine. An unusual-looking job as delivery boy... a fifty-five-year-old executive looking for anything... a middle-aged mother who wants to be a practical nurse. Jobless men and women were getting together, to keep their heads above water, to keep off relief, you'd expect them to be a discouraged, helpless lot, wouldn't you? You'd expect them to be grasping at straws, or grumbling about their "uk But they weren't. They were going about their business as soberly and efficiently as if they were directors at the annual meeting of a prosperous corporation. They analyzed one another's problems, and planned campaigns for selling themselves into new jobs. They were acting as one another's employment counselors—and they were getting results! Who were they? The members of a remarkable organization known as the Man Marketing Clinic, which has been meeting in a borrowed hall in New York every Monday evening since October, 1935. But on the principle of self-help, the clinic is a flat-out answer to the old problem of how to land a job or move on to a better one. There are no fees or charges. A job-hunter can make use of the services of the clinic without even telling his name or where he is there.—William A. H. Birnie in The American Magazine, New York.

The flat-fish, such as the plaice, the sole, the turbot and the halibut, do not acquire their flattened shape and one-sided coloring until they sink up to that time they are tiny symmetrical fish like the young cod. But when they sink down they lie upon their sides and

Premier King's "Readiness" Regulations

(Judith Robinson in Globe and Mail)

It appears that a lot of us have been wronging the Government at Ottawa. We have been saying that it made no effort any place to prepare in time against the coming of war. It did, in one place. Not in the air, obviously. Not among the unemployed youth, certainly. Not in the National Harbors Board, it is said.

But one place it did prepare. One place it started to get ready for war one year and six months before war came. In the place where war could enable a Government to encroach most swiftly and completely upon the freedom of the citizen, the Liberal Government at Ottawa began to prepare its wartime encroachments eighteen months ahead of time.

The Committee on Emergency Legislation was commissioned by Liberal Prime Minister Mackenzie King to begin to draft the Defence of Canada Regulations—including Regulations 21, 39 and 39a—on March 14, 1938. Not 1939. Nineteen thirty-eight.

An American reporter named Stanley Thompson noted the fact in a recent visit to Ottawa and set it down in a story about Canada at War that he wrote for the New York Post. Other interesting things were in the story.

Let's get the dates straight on the Government of Canada's great Pre-War Effort first: The committee which prepared the Defence of Canada Regulations was appointed on March 14, 1938. The title page of the bound copy of the regulations reveals this interesting fact.

That was exactly one day after Adolf Hitler rode triumphantly into Austria.

It was exactly seventeen days before W. L. Mackenzie King, then and now Prime Minister of Canada, said in Parliament:

"The idea that every twenty years this country, which has done all it can to run itself, should feel called upon to save a continent that cannot run itself, seems a nightmare and



THE POET'S CORNER

How large that thrush looks on the
 one thorn-tree!
 A swarm of such three little months
 ago.
 Had hidden in the leaves and let
 none know
 Save by the outbreak of their min-
 iature wings
 A white flake here and there — a
 snow-lily
 Of last night's frost — our naked
 flower-bed, hold;
 And for a rose-flower on the dark-
 ening mould
 The hungry redbreast gleams. No
 bloom to be,
 The current-huddlers to its ice-
 bound edge:
 Nipped in their bath, the stark reeds
 are one by one
 Flash each his clinging diamond in
 the sun:
 "Neath winds which for this Winter's
 shall curb great king-masts to
 the ocean's edge
 And leave memorial forest-kings
 o'erthrown."
 — D. G. Rossetti.

flatten out. The plaice, the sole and the halibut lie on their left sides. The turbot lies upon his right side. Then the lower eye, since it would be of no use buried in the sand, he travels round to the upper side of the head, taking his blood vessels and nerves with it, and there from his position on the side of the head alongside the eye, it directs its proud unkninking stare upwards. Both eyes, elevated upon knobs so that the fish can bury itself almost entirely save for its eyes, stand together on the same side of the head and the fish swims always on one side.—P. D. Ommanney in "North Cape," (Longmans)

9. Mrs. Jolly Says:

"Buying"
 automobile insurance isn't a bit complicated when you deal with the agent of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford. He shows you clearly and plainly just what you're buying, and just where you'll stand if you get into any difficulty. That's why I always turn my insurance problems over to the National Fire agent.
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PUBLIC FORUM
 This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

SERIOUS TRAFFIC DANGER
 Sir,—As a resident of this city I am astounded at the number of children, mostly of tender years, who have been allowed to skate, coast and romp about on the recent icy streets.

A motorist has a serious time manipulating his automobile on congested thoroughfares, owing to the fact that numbers of slovens and horse-drawn sleighs are sitting or lying on the back, youngsters who, without a moment's warning, jump off one by one, slip around on the icy street and practically cause the motorist to lose control of his car owing to the nervous tension thus created.

From countless lawns which slope towards the pavement, our precious wee ones come dashing down on their unsteady sleighs. A timely honk of the horn causes the least callous of them merely to serve his sleigh to one side or the other, barely out of the path of danger.

Surely some one cares whether the next generation has strong limbs and uncrippled bodies. How some of these toys escape serious injury is a matter of amazement to the writer.

We all agree that children have a right to play, outside as well as indoors. Play they must if they are to grow up healthy and robust. But when they are allowed to carry out their innocent sports on the public streets of a busy city, I think their little lives are left dangling on too fine a thread.

Possibly these children cannot perceive the dangers that lie about them; surely it is the duty of those who love them to see that their play hours are spent in safety.

I am, Sir, etc.
OBSERVER.

Final Date for Receiving Fishermen's Deficiency Claim Certificates
 All Claims for Deficiency Payments must be received in the offices of the Salt Fish Board, Halifax, N.S. not later than February 15, 1940. Claims received after the above date cannot be considered. Such claims may be made in respect of fish caught in 1939 the first sales of which have been made between the dates of April 1, 1939 and February 15, 1940, providing these claims reach the office in accordance with the above.

It must be noted that there has been no change in policy with regard to kinds of fish which are benefited, nor as to the manner in which the forms are to be filled out.

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