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

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1946

The Red Ensign

Of the many proposals for Canada's new national flag, the Red Ensign with minor modifications, as recommended by the joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons promises to be the most widely acceptable.

This is in accord with long established custom. The *Winnipeg Free Press* recalls that on December 21, 1801, the Governor-General of that time, Lord Stanley, wrote the Colonial Office in London that "though the actual order has never been issued, the Canadian Government has encouraged by precept and example the use on public buildings throughout the provinces of the Red Ensign with the Canadian badge on the fly." Thus it was in use with Government approval long before that date. On February 2, 1802, authority was given by Admiralty warrant for the Red Ensign to be used on Canadian merchant vessels, thus giving recognition to it as a Canadian emblem.

"For decades," says the *Free Press*, "the Red Ensign was accepted as the Canadian flag and no questions were raised about it. But in 1904, for reasons which have never been set forth and acting solely on his own responsibility, Sir Joseph Pope, then under secretary of state, issued instructions that the Union Jack was to fly over all inter-departmental buildings.

"On January 26, 1924, the cabinet at Ottawa authorized the use of the Red Ensign on public buildings outside Canada. That made it official for foreign services.

"On July 22, 1943, the cabinet at Ottawa, authorized the use of the Red Ensign for use of the special commissioner for defense projects in the Northwest. That was another official sanction.

"In August, 1943, at the conference of Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt at Quebec, the Red Ensign was flown at the Citadel masthead as Canada's emblem, just as the Union Jack was flown as the British flag and the Stars and Stripes for the United States.

"In May, 1943, the Canadian cabinet authorized the use of the Red Ensign on the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings on VE day.

"And to complete the list of official approval, in October, 1943, the Canadian army was authorized to use the Red Ensign and the RCAF to use it in conjunction with their own flag, at all places and stations where Canadian forces were serving in association with the forces of other United Nations.

"Thus the Red Ensign has long been used as Canada's emblem, excepting for a brief period when Sir Joseph Pope deviated from the usual practice, and it has received official sanction many times."

(Sir Joseph, a grand old Prince Edward Islander, probably thought the Union Jack was good enough for loyal Canadians. At any rate he didn't deviate to the other extreme, and eliminate the emblem of British sovereignty altogether as some of Prime Minister King's supporters have been trying hard to do.)

For The Fallen

In Stonefall cemetery at Harrogate, writes a London correspondent, are the graves of a thousand airmen who shared the epic task of bombing Germany into defeat. These graves are those of gallant men who served with the famous No. 6 Bomber Command, and they came from all parts of the British Isles, from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and included a number of Fighting Frenchmen.

The Harrogate Victory branch of the British Legion has undertaken to see that none of these graves is forgotten, and has already obtained the addresses of the next-of-kin of the 650 Canadians and 73 Frenchmen who sleep there. Arrangements have been made for each grave to be adopted by some Harrogate resident.

The British Legion will see that poppy wreaths are placed on the graves each Christmas and flowers on any date chosen by the relatives. In Holland similar plans are being carried out by Dutch people at the huge British cemetery at Valkenswaard near Eindhoven. Hundreds of tulips bloom over the last resting places of our heroic dead.

Richer On Paper

In assessing the national economic conditions for the House of Commons, Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of Health and Welfare, asserted that not only were more people working today than ever before in peacetime, but that the level of earnings had reached new peaks. Obviously Mr. Claxton was not speaking of what is known as "take-home-pay." The Minister had gross figures in mind.

Disregarding the considerably lowered purchasing power of the dollar, due to inflation and to hidden tax rates on commodities, in the cold light of income tax rates can it be said that there is more left in the pay envelope today than in 1939? This would seem doubtful indeed, says the *Globe and Mail*. In 1939 a man with two children, earning $1,200 a year, paid no taxes. Nor did the man with a corresponding family, who earned $2,500. On $3,000 he paid $9 tax (including both Federal and Provincial). Today on $1,200 the tax is $14. From an income of $2,500 the man with two children pays $276 income tax. On $3,000 the tax is $403. In 1939 the "average wage earner" paid $140 in direct taxes; today he pays $228.

There is no doubt the average gross wage is higher, considerably higher. But what about the "take-home" net? The man on the street pays his way with what is left in his pay cheque after taxes, whatever Mr. Claxton and his fellow Ministers report as his gross pay.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

This day week we'll be into Old Home celebrations with all the accompanying attractions and distractions.

* * * *

Should the much needed rain come, it would be well if it fell at night, leaving us with sunshine during the day—until after Old Home Week anyway.

* * * *

The campers have had the best season so far experienced for years, and those already returned are brown as berries and full of vim.

* * * *

Wonder if it was our Dr. Grant who discovered that it was poison ivy and not chicken-pox that was the cause of the scare in the House of Commons at Ottawa last week.

* * * *

Why a Quebec-built Car Ferry not yet completed, far less delivered, should be selected as an emblem for Prince Edward Island on stamp designs has us guessing.

* * * *

The Budget having been disposed of, it will not take long for Parliament to clean up the rest of the business before it, though perhaps one or two of the controversial measures may have to be dropped from the agenda.

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It was unkind of the Russian envoys to leave the Peace Conference when Prime Minister Mackenzie King rose to speak, but then they blame him for the unsavoury espionage disclosures in which the Soviet Embassy here is involved.

* * * *

The first atomic bomb dropped this date 1945; all the world was electrified by the announcement of the discovery of atomic energy, as manifested by the Americans dropping an atomic bomb on Horoshima, Japan, at 20 minutes past midnight; scientists now tell us that one ounce of atomic explosive probably liberates more energy in a fraction of a second than can be drawn from Niagara Falls in a week.

* * * *

Mr. J. E. Matthews, M.P. who was born at Albany, and his wife, who was born at Carleton, are more in love with the Island than ever, after a ten years' absence in Brandon, Man., and Ottawa, Ont. Should we ever be in need of a member of the House to push our claims on the Government, we may count on Mr. Matthews who is heart and soul with us.

* * * *

The House of Lords has given third reading and passage to the National Insurance Bill which increases financial aid in case of unemployment and illness and enlarges old-age and other pensions. The bill, one of the most advanced of the Labor Government's social legislation program, now requires only the assent of the King to become law. It has been received with mixed feelings both inside and outside Parliament, but is hailed with delight by trades unionists and socialists.

* * * *

Steel strikers in Canada and U.S.A. are playing into the hands of Britain. Steel production in Britain during May was at the rate of 13,619,000 tons per year, the highest rate ever reached in this month. The figure for 1938 was 10,398,000 tons. This record achievement was disclosed by the British Iron and Steel Federation in its statistical survey published recently. The survey also shows that exports of iron and steel during the same month increased to 264,300 tons, an annual rate of 3,168,000 tons which is higher than the figure for any of the last eighteen years. The total exports of iron and steel for the first five months of this year were at the rate of over 2,520,000 tons a year, an increase of 28.6 per cent on the 1,959,400 tons recorded for 1938.

* * * *

Even yet the "Suckers List" is a profitable source for "get rich quick" share brokers. Three Montreal dealers recently sold $500,000 worth of shares of "Atom Manufacturing Company." This was revealed when the Crown asked Judge Rene Theberge, Montreal, to postpone until August 20 the preliminary inquiry of four persons accused including Romeo Viens, his wife, Mrs. Romeo Viens, Theo. Labrosse and Emmanuel Trepanier. They will be charged with fleecing Dr. Maxime Brisebois of $19,765, which, he claims, he invested in the mythical atomic-bomb producing company. When the case came up, Viens' name was called, the Crown stated that the man's whereabouts were still unknown and that the case could not proceed without him.

* * * *

Professor Orr of Edinburgh, known to many here, writes to *The Times*: "It may interest your readers to know that as early as August, 1944, Edinburgh linked up with the city of Caen, and that the Edinburgh-Caen Fellowship has succoured nearly 2,000 families in that stricken city. Since then a number of Scottish communities have done likewise, and now Inverness is linked with St. Valery-en-Caux, Glasgow with Brest, Perth with St.-Lo., Kirkcaldy with Dunkirk, Aberdeen with Rennes, Forfar with Royan, Dundee with Orleans, Stirling with Abbeville, Greenock with Veulette, and Hawick with St. Malo, while a joint Franco-Scottish fellowships committee is in process of formation. Scotland has felt that she has a special obligation in this matter, and sees in such action a happy reversal of her ancient role of partner with France against England. She hopes that the relationships established by these contacts, not only through relief work, but through scholastic and other personal exchanges as well, will be of permanent value and help to bring France and Britain closer together, both socially and politically."

Notes By The Way

The wise virgin will fill her lamp with oil and be ready when the bridegroom cometh, exactly as her great, great, very great grandmother did almost 2,000 years ago. The chances are that a husband will last considerably longer than a job, according to statistics gathered in a recent survey of employment agencies and industries which employ women in the United States. —Chatham News.

King George of Greece (George II of the Hellenes) was divorced by Queen Elizabeth in 1935 and has no children. He is fifty-five. He is waiting for the plebiscite on September 1 which will decide whether he is to return to Greece. Called "the loneliest man in London" he is seen only by two or three members of his staff, and seldom leaves his hotel. —London Daily Express.

Even in the larger communities far too often the disabled person is considered in terms of a particular disability rather than in terms of the whole man, with personality human emotions family relationship and social awareness. —Peter J Salmon, managing Director Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, N Y.

A new loom which has no shuttle but which lays the weft across the warp by a carrier moved to and fro by a special spring device has been developed by a United Kingdom firm. The head of the firm believes that the loom may lead to a revival of home weaving, because it can be installed in a spare room, can produce a wide variety of fabrics and is without the clatter made by the ordinary loom. It is claimed that one skilled operative and an assistant could "mind" 24 of these looms without difficulty. —Kitchener Record.

"Why should we stay open until 10 o'clock at night waiting for someone to post a love letter?" was the query propounded when small town postmasters met for the first time as an organization. No they are not advocating a union but the government may be asking for it, unless there is some redress in the service. One remark made is very true; the hours for postal service in the smaller communities were made for the horse and buggy days. In these times a 12 or 14 hour day is an anachronism. —St. Catharine's Standard.

It is a strange commentary on life that the people who are most worthy of admiration earn mere pittances compared with the people who furnish the masses with entertainment. Statesmen who guide the affairs of a nation in a troubled world, scientists who make valuable discoveries, physicians who develop drugs that save countless human lives attain fame and are poorly rewarded compared with the vast salaries paid to people who talk, sing and dance on the screen, and many of whom are hoisted up by lavish expenditures on artificial aids and by glib publicity agents. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

There is something infinitely pathetic about pictures of dead game photographed with the hunters who have killed it. All the grace and vitality which made the deer, elk or moose a thing of beauty and majesty have vanished. The animals are just so many carcasses, dumped in a heap or spread grotesquely over the front of a car. And there is little inspiring either, in the hunters who pose with their trophies. They lack that professional touch that a butcher, surveying a good side of beef, seems to hold. Few will find fault with men who hunt for the pot. But the human with his high powered rifle standing beside something that was graceful and is now just bulk furnishes its own commentary. Victoria Times.

There are a lot of telephone numbers listed in the directory these days where you can get much more for your nickel than a mere "hello" or "good evening" says The New York Times. Lately, more and more businesses, night clubs and institutions have found value in the use of the trick phase and unusual introduction to shock ears conditioned to receive more prosaic responses. One Walt Disney office answers with "Mickey Mouse". Then there is the animal cemetery office which answered, "Lay them to rest among the best" and the matrimonial bureau which surprised the caller with "We know the loveliest people". Even private residences have characteristic phone responses. There is the home of the Park avenue dweller where a call was responded to with: "The big shot is out; this is the maid talkin'." Whoever answers the phone at Father Divine's says "Peace". And a recent caller to Cardinal Spellman's home made the discovery that the cardinal's residence offered no exceptional greeting, but a rather unusual goodbye: "Blessing to you".

Fifteen years ago Jack Law went up to the River Murray, penniless and fed to the back teeth with city life. On the river bank he built himself a home of plaster and saplings, making it look like a white stone house. The local council decided to charge him five shillings a year to live there. He put in a system of ropes and buckets and a chute to draw up his water from the river. He also built a windmill, a weather recording device, a lighting system and a canoe to cross the river for supplies. Today he is fit and happy, he owes no one anything and admits that he "has a little bit tucked away." He lives by shooting rabbits and catching fish. Bells on his set lines tell him when he has a fish on, and the tinkle what sort of a fish it is. He does his own cooking, mending and housework. And his dog can climb trees after game —Australian News Letter.

More than three months ago the Sunday Chronicle pointed to the growing habit of secrecy and refusal to "divulge" and called on the Government to trust the people. The people have never been told the whole truth, or even the important facts and figures about the world situation and their own. What facts and figures have come out have either been wrung from reluctant Government spokesmen or gathered from other sources. The results have been a series of cruel shocks for the British people; darker bread, smaller loaves, fewer cakes, less fat, soap, cheese, dried egg. Our larder is emptier now than it was before the victory whose anniversary we so recently celebrated. The people have a right to be told far more than they are told about these matters. The more they are told, the harder they will work to overcome not only their own difficulties but also those of other countries. —London News Chronicle.

Conservation of Soil

(Royal Bank of Canada)

Immediate action is needed to preserve millions of acres of Canadian land from ruination by wind and water erosion, is the warning given in The Royal Bank of Canada Monthly Letter for August.

Within reach of everyone, east and west, there are evidences of irreparable loss of topsoil, and unless the world is to go in for soilless culture of crops it is time for a big effort using all the resources of modern science and ingenuity.

The article continues in part: "The population of the world has increased from 4o5 million around the year 1650 to somewhere about 2,200 million. That means, if everyone is to have three meals a day, an additional grain on farm land of 1,900,000,000,000 meals out of every year's crop of grains, vegetables, livestock fodder, and all the other things which contribute to human diet. Yet in 1941 there were more than 4 million acres of abandoned farms in the Prairie Provinces, an acreage which, at the long-time average yield of 15 6 bushels per acre might produce 62,400,000 bushels of wheat a year if the land had been saved.

"While the tragic history of a few decades has focussed attention on sections of the Canadian West, the need for preservation and restoration of crop-growing soil in eastern Canada is also pressing. The 'Garden Province' is being washed away, little by little. Workmen had to go through 90 feet of mud to reach a solid foundation for bridge piers at Charlottetown 'mud' which was once the fertile topsoil of crop-growing acres. In New Brunswick it is reported that one week of high water in the Saint John River carries down as much silt as would cover more than 3,000 acres to a depth of one inch. Ontario is exercised because not only are good agricultural lands being swept away, adding new devastation to the abandoned lands which should never have been opened to agriculture, but the rivers are being spoiled because silt injures the chances of breeding and feeding fish. Quebec has set aside a ten-year fund of ten million dollars to be spent on approved schemes of land utilization.

"Soil erosion has been called a 'creeping death' It is not only fatal to growth of plants but to the development of man. Concurrent with a farmer's realization that his farm is washing or blowing away, with consequent loss of growth and revenue, there comes loss of morale. A rural population of prosperous and contented farmers is an asset every country needs, but if morale is destroyed, and farmers become apathetic, the whole country suffers. Prosperity on individual farms brings with it benefit to neighbouring merchants, distant suppliers of farm machinery and factories all over the Dominion. These successful farmers contribute to the national income, and they provide exportable goods which increase Canada's world trade, with consequent raising of the standard of living throughout the country.

"Under conditions of low productivity, not only the farmer and his family are affected, but the whole community. A rural municipality, like any other, requires steady taxpayers. The whole countryside suffers, through lack of funds for education, road building, bridge construction, and many other necessary and desirable projects. If the tax-paying ability of those who live there is reduced.

"The level of employment in manufacturing is affected by the purchasing power of all people, and farm people make up 27 percent of Canada's population. If the living standard of 27 percent of a country's population is at a low level, from whatever cause, it is obvious that the standard of living will be depressed everywhere in the country.

"In one small area in Ontario there are 75 farm buildings classed as fair or poor, while 44 buildings have been abandoned or levelled, every one an unwritten story of hope, toil and disappointment. In some cases the land was good to start with, but it was farmed without foresight. The plow made it ready for carrying away by wind or water. Productivity declined. Income decreased. Sons and daughters went away to cities. A farm which housed, fed and clothed a big family only a few years ago supports no one, and is a menace to its neighbours. Once it deposited money in banks, bought machinery, was the mainstay of local retail business and a customer of the mail order houses. It helped feed cities. Today it buys nothing, pays no taxes, produces nothing to add to the national income or the welfare of the country, feeds no one."

After describing the causes and evidences of erosion, the article continues: "The problem is immediate. Two English scientists, G.V. Jacks and R.O. Whyte, joint authors of the book 'Vanishing Lands' have reported: 'As the result solely of human mismanagement, the soils upon which men have attempted to found new civilizations are disappearing washed away by water and blown away by wind. Today, destruction of the earth's thin living cover is proceeding at a rate and on a scale unparalleled in history, and when that thin cover—the soil—is gone, the fertile regions where it formerly lay will be uninhabitable deserts.' Does it, then, seem far-fetched when the Farm Equipment Dealer reports that about 14 percent of the land on this continent has already lost all of its crop-growing capacity? Or when Professor A.F. Coventry of the Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, says there are in the agricultural part of Ontario some 5 million acres, about one sixth of the whole, unfit for anything except trees, but lacking the trees? Soil drifted from one acre, to a depth of one inch is equivalent to the removal of about 700 pounds of nitrogen, 156 pounds of phosphorus, and 5,380 pounds of potash. This amount of phosphorus alone, says a pamphlet distributed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, is equal to that removed from the soil in the production of 485 bushels of wheat. Dr. Wyatt, of the University of Alberta, is quoted as saying it would take from $200 to $350 per acre in commercial fertilizer to restore these wasted minerals.

"How long can this go on. Scientists tell us that it takes nature about five hundred years to make one inch of good topsoil, but this precious source of food and living is being washed from beneath our feet or blown into the air at terrific rates. Look at China, where topsoil has become so precious in the washed-out sections that men have been known to slip from their homes during the night to steal soil by the handfuls from neighbours, so as to have enough to grow beans to fill their families.

"The millions of tons of Canada's fertile topsoil which have been washed into the ocean cannot be replaced, and certain natural processes of erosion cannot be completely stopped, though the losses can be reduced to moderate proportions. The Palliser triangle will not be safe until dust storms cease there, the land nailed down by the roots of grass and scientific mechanical usages. But there is still time, if Canadians take notice."

A report is given of the work done under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, and the letter concludes: "Intelligent, planned, organized attack is required. By sharing knowledge and experience might very well stem from the farmers' level and make itself felt in requests for advice and assistance and guidance of government departments. A committee of men and women intensely interested in the well-being of their farms can sit around a table and set forth what they hope for; then look to the experts for details of how it is to be done. Discussion between groups, in an unselfish spirit of for the good of all, will be effective in keeping down wastage due to misplaced effort or amateurish planning. Consultation between individuals, farmers' associations, universities, county councils, Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Agricultural Improvement Associations as to the best way of proceeding should go far toward building effective control programmes and co-ordinating them in a comprehensive plan that will benefit all."

The Poet's Corner

THE ORGANIST

He swept the keys of his great instrument,
And at the motion of his nimble hand,
All harmony seemed waiting his command.
Some notes like thunder crashed, and others went
Like bannered hosts to a grand tournament;
Some seemed to come from fanes where good men pray,
And some grew soft until they died away
Like lonely winds upon a lone shore spent.

He swept the keys again; it was as though
Notes from some human deep, dripping with tears,
Would fain articulate the world's dumb woe;
Then in crescendo ended, drowning fears,
And yet it was the soul's mood he expressed,
Life's changeless ebb and flow, tumult and rest.

—Alexander Louis Fraser.

Words And Blows

(The Times London)

The appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords is rarely exercised in criminal cases. Access to the Court of Criminal Appeal is comparatively easy and in capital cases it is invoked almost as a matter of course. But the law, which has a special care for speedy justice where questions of liberty or punishment are at issue, does not encourage the carrying of criminal cases further; only where the Attorney-General (or the Solicitor-General acting under a recent statute as his deputy) certifies that a point of law of exceptional public importance is involved may a convict appeal to the House of Lords. The appeal on which the House pronounced recently was only the fourth murder case that had come before it since the Act constituting the Court of Criminal Appeal was passed in 1897. But the very rarity of such occasions has established a custom that when a criminal appeal does reach the highest tribunal, the Lords should frame their judgments in terms of wide application, in order to give useful guidance to the courts below. On Thursday, accordingly, the House unanimously concurring in the reasoned opinion of Lord Simon extended its view considerably beyond the confines of the particular case before it. The appellant had killed his wife; he gave evidence that she had confessed herself unfaithful to him, but Mr. Justice Charles, ruling that even if this were true it did not reduce the offence to manslaughter, withheld this plea from the jury. The House of Lords sustained the trial Judge and the murderer was executed some time ago; it is the reasons for the judgment already given that were declared on Thursday.

Lord Simon observed at the end of his opinion that the fact that the law allows no latitude in awarding the punishment for murder has caused much thought to be expended in the search for grounds on which offenders for whom some sympathy might be felt could be convicted of the less heinous crime of manslaughter. Gross provocation, causing the victim to strike back in uncontrollable fury, has long been accepted as one of these grounds. The normal form of such provocation is physical assault; but the doctrine is also recognized to cover the very special case of a husband who finds his wife in the act of adultery. In the other hand it has been repeatedly held that "mere words" can never be sufficient provocation to reduce murder to manslaughter. The question referred to the Lords on the fiat of the Solicitor-General was whether there is not a quite distinct sense in which words might be provocative, not as an insult or threat, but as evidence of a fact, in this case adultery. The answer now given is that there is indeed such a distinction of meaning; but that even in the second sense "mere words" do not suffice to diminish the guilt of murder. Nothing short of occular discovery of the adulterous act will support the defence that custom allows. Not merely Lord Simon's supposition that Iago's calumnies were true, but even Desdemona's own confession, would have failed Othello in asking for a verdict of manslaughter instead of murder.

Thus a ruling is given which reinforces the law's defence of the sanctity of human life and is very timely to-day, when the war-time disruption of homes has made lamentably more frequent the circumstances in which these crimes of passion may occur. The judgment ends with two notable generalizations from, or extensions of the principles on which it is based. First, it is laid down that the modern principle of the equality of the sexes applies in these cases and an aggrieved wife who kills her husband or supplanter has just as much criminal responsibility as a husband and presumably also enjoys as much protection from the doctrine of provocation in circumstances where it applies. Secondly, the Lords refrain from declaring it inconceivable that there might be circumstances accompanying words without actual violence which might justify leaving to the jury the issue between murder and manslaughter. The evolution of society must be allowed to mould the application of common-law principles and one can imagine in these days at any rate words of a vile character which might be calculated to deprive a reasonable man of his customary self-control even more than would an act of physical violence. But on the other hand, as society advances, it ought to call for a higher measure of selfcontrol in all cases.

It Just Looks Easy

WRITERS AND WRITING
(Robert van Gelder)

Readers generally take it for granted that writers like to write. It is perhaps also generally assumed that after a little practice they find writing easy. The fact is that most writers find their work desperately difficult no matter how long they have been at it, and regard the whole literary process as one part pleasure and nine parts drudgery.

Doubtless a few special cases, including geniuses and college sophomores, enjoy the process; writers as a group have to drive themselves to it. As a group they have always been spiritual hypochondriacs, professional sufferers who manage (frequently) to make a living out of their suffering. No one knows this better than Robert van Gelder, editor of the New York Times Book Review who has interviewed dozens of authors during the past few years. About 90 of his interviews are now collected in Writers and Writing. Sample testimony:

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: "Writing is agony. I stay at my typewriter for eight hours every day when I'm working and keep as free as possible from all distractions for the rest of the day. I aim to do six pages a day but I'm satisfied with three. Often there are only a few lines to show."

J.P. Marquand call writing a "curse", says he "heartily dislikes it, always has and always expects to."

Ernest Hemingway: "Most of it is tough going." For Whom the Bell Tolls took 17 months of work on a daily 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. schedule.

H.G. Wells has to rewrite "four five, six or seven times" before his books take on "shape and form".

Thomas Mann: "My unvarying schedule —seven days each week" beginning after breakfast and ending at noon. His average daily output; a page of longhand.

Robert Nathan: "When I'm really working I keep at it eight to twelve hours a day, usually writing by hand. I cross out a lot, revise constantly. In impatience I turn to the typewriter and write rapidly, then cross it all out and try again by hand. The work never gets any easier."

W. Somerset Maugham: "I sit down with a fountain pen and paper and the story pours out. However lousy a section is I let it go. I write on to the end. Then the subconscious mind has done what it can. The rest is simply effort . . . polishing, rewriting the lousy parts . . . going over a chapter time and time again, until though you know it isn't right, it is the best you can do".

Sinclair Lewis: "Writing is just work— there's no secret. If you dictate or use a pen or type or write with your toes—it is still just work."

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