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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1946

Recalling The Past

A link with the historic past has been severed by the death in Nelson, B.C., of Mrs. F. H. Peters, widow of a former Premier of Prince Edward Island and last surviving daughter of Colonel the Hon. John Hamilton Gray, C.M.G., one of our distinguished Fathers of Confederation.

Colonel Gray was born and educated in Charlottetown, and as a young man served as a cavalry officer with the British Army in India and South Africa. He returned to Prince Edward Island about 1850, and two years later was elected to represent the Fourth District of Queen's in the Island Assembly. From 1863 to 1865 he was Premier of the Island and President of the Executive Council, and in these capacities took a leading part in the Confederation negotiations. He was chairman of the historic Conference in Charlottetown in 1864, and was a delegate to the Quebec Conference which followed. On the rejection of the Quebec Resolutions by the Prince Edward Island Legislature, he retired from political life and devoted himself to military duties.

On the bronze plaque in our Confederation Chamber may be seen a likeness of Colonel Gray in the fourth, from left to right, of the five figures in classical attire which adorn the left side of the tablet. He is depicted as holding the Fasces, ancient symbol of unity and strength, comprising four staves bound together representing the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario—the first partners of Confederation. The other figures represent Sir John Macdonald, Sir George Cartier, Sir Leonard Tilley and Sir Charles Tupper.

In 1867 Colonel Gray was appointed Adjutant General of the Militia on the Island, and in 1873 became Deputy Adjutant General of the Militia of District No. 10 for the Dominion. He died in 1887 at Inkerman, in the Royalty—so called by Colonel Gray after the famous battle of the Crimean War.

It was at Inkerman that Mrs. Peters was born. Her elder sister, Mrs. Artemas Lord, will be better remembered here as she lived most of her long life in Prince Edward Island, dying on Dec. 31, 1941 after participating as guest of honour in the celebration, July 10, 1939, of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, of which she had vivid recollections from her childhood days.

Mrs. Peters' husband, the Hon. Frederick H. Peters, was Premier and Attorney General of Prince Edward Island from 1891 to 1897. In the latter year he resigned and removed with his family to British Columbia, where he practised law until his death in 1919. He was a son of Hon. James Horsfield Peters and Mary, daughter of Sir Samuel Cunard, founder of the North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from which originated the famous Cunard line of steamships. Premier Peters finished his legal education at the Inner Temple, London, before being called to the bar of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia in 1876. He represented Charlottetown in the Legislature. His marriage to Mrs. Peters took place in 1888.

A son of Premier Peters and Mrs. Peters, born in Charlottetown before their departure for the West, was the late Capt. Preston Thornton Peters, V.C., D.S.O., whose Royal Navy ship forced the boom of Oran during the North African landings, Nov. 8, 1942.

Descendants of the Gray and Peters families include Mrs. Wilfred C. Wright, of Souris, who is a daughter of the late Mrs. Lord above mentioned, and Mrs. Victor Saunders and Mrs. J. R. Paton, of Charlottetown, who are nieces of the late Premier Frederick Peters and daughters of the late Hon. Arthur Peters, also a Premier and Attorney General of Prince Edward Island, 1901 to 1908.

Regional Business Survey

The current Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia examines economic conditions in Canada from the regional point of view, with special attention to the circumstances arising in particular areas and centres in consequence of the changeover to peace.

War industry was heavily concentrated in the two Central Provinces, and to a lesser extent in British Columbia and Nova Scotia and the Review points out, readjustment difficulties are obviously more widespread in these provinces. In the Prairie Provinces, where war manufacturing was of comparatively minor importance, there has been little perceptible decline in employment from the wartime peak. Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, on the other hand, show a common downward trend, the sharper decline in the last three resulting from the fact that a much larger percentage of war employment was in industries like shipbuilding, aircraft and munitions, which have little peacetime usefulness.

The real core of the changeover problem is, of course, says the Review, the impact on specific local areas. In centres with a well-established and widely diversified industry, where many war plants could be converted and where the absorptive capacity of the civilian branches of manufacturing and of such industries

as construction, transportation and trade was high, readjustment difficulties have been at a minimum. On the other hand, in places where employment had been abnormally inflated by the rapid growth of war industries with limited peacetime possibilities, the changeover has been much more keenly felt.

Despite acute local problems, however, the readjustment to peace has so far been less difficult than anticipated because of the generally favourable economic environment. Income payments, it is pointed out, have been well maintained, and the level of expenditure—both for consumption and investment—is high. Employment in manufacturing, though 20 per cent below the wartime peak at May 1, was no less than 66 per cent above the 1939 average. One of the most buoyant factors in the economy is the high level of activity in the primary industries. Mining and forestry are very active, and though farm income has receded somewhat from the high point of 1944, it is far larger than in even the best peacetime years. Indeed, the whole level of economic activity has been much higher than pre-war.

Turning to its regional survey on business, the Review finds that the curtailment of war-generated activity has been sharply felt in the Maritime Provinces. Port and rail activity have inevitably declined, much of the war manufacturing was not adaptable to reconversion, and coastal cities have not the diversification to permit ready absorption of war workers and veterans. Nevertheless, considering the scale of the changeover, economic conditions are reasonably good. Retail and wholesale sales are still rising, a large volume of tourist trade is expected, and the primary industries are operating at a high level.

EDITORIAL NOTES

And now good-bye July for another year.

Tourists are being assured by the action of the City Council that they will both have beds to sleep on and at least three meals a day during Old Home Week.

Because fuel is so scarce as to become alarming, forest fires ensue to wipe out the needful. Verily, to him that hath shall be given, and to him that hath not shall be taken away that which he thinks he hath.

Hitler's personal standard, the silken, black swastika surrounded by golden eagles, which the Fuehrer boasted would one day fly over Buckingham Palace, is now in London. It adorns a wall at the "Germany Under Control" Exhibition in Oxford Street, together with Doenitz's personal standard, a gaudy emblem of black crosses encircling a golden eagle.

According to Dr. Dickson, of the Federal Dept. of Agriculture, who has been on an inspection tour of the Province, accompanied by Dr. J. A. Clark, Supt. of the Experimental Station here, we have every reason to pat ourselves on the back over the harvest prospects, all of which please—except the lack of moisture, which is vile.

It cannot be claimed that warning has not been given about the coming scarcity of coal. What are our powers-that-be doing about it? Unless we get our winter's supplies delivered on the island by October, there will be practically a shut out, for neither railway nor ferries will then be able to handle our imports as well as our exports. Are the Governments, Federally as well as Provincially, asleep at the switch?

Dr. Evatt of Australia has stolen a march on Prime Minister Mackenzie King by springing to the front as the leader of the small nations at the Peace Conference. All along it has been Mr. King's ambition to lead the small nations of the world, and pit his diplomatic strength against that of the Big Four. But while he was dreaming of his prospective visit to Germany, Australia, in the person of Dr. Evatt, stole the limelight as the small nations' champion.

Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce (Rep., Conn.) in a speech referred to an earlier suggestion by Rep. Walter H. Judd (Rep., Minn.) that radioactive elements might be used to "transmute the species." If the atomic energy commission decided to transmute the female of the species, Mrs. Luce said, "they would make them all Lana Turners." As for the males, she believed the commission might hit upon a creature with "a very large head, one eye, an ear bent permanently to receive a telephone call, one hand with only a thumb and forefinger so it can sign cheques and documents, no legs, and a very large bottom to sit in a swivel chair." In short, she concluded, it might turn all the men into "New Deal Bureaucrats."

Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, died this date 1556; "a Spanish soldier and hidalgo with hot Biscayan blood", he was, in 1521, assisting in the defence of Pampeluna against the French, when a cannon ball fractured his right leg and a splinter injured his left. He was carried to the neighbouring castle of Loyola, and in the weary months in which he lay stretched upon his couch, he tried to while away the time in reading *The Lives of the Saints*. He was only thirty; he had a strong and vehement will; he had led a wild and vicious life; and had burned for military glory. As it was evident that for him henceforth the part of the soldier was barred, the question arose why not be a saint and rival St. Francis and St. Dominic? He decided to try. After a visit to Jerusalem he returned to Spain and resumed his neglected education, working his way through a full university course, then proceeded to Paris where he made acquaintance of Xavier, Faber, Lainez, Bobadilla, and Rodriguez, five students whom he inspired with his own devout fervour, and they jointly took the vow to devote their lives to the care of Christians and the conversion of infidels. Such, on August 15, 1534, was the beginning of the famous Society of Jesus.

Notes By The Way

Troubles are usually the brooms and shovels that smooth the road to a good man's fortune, of which he little dreams; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger. —Bass.

Why must so many young people these days think that they cannot have a good time unless they have drink and dancing as if there were nothing else worth doing to enjoy the passing hours? —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

"The ancient practice of allowing land to lie fallow for a season is now exploded and a succession of different crops found preferable, the case is similar with regard to the understanding which is more relieved by change of study than by total inactivity." —Cluwer.

It has been hinted that Rev. Martin Niemöller intends to visit Canada later this Summer, and the hint has aroused considerable protest from returned servicemen. We join them in protesting against the visit of a man who has no good purpose here. —Kingsway Wing-Standard.

Canadians are reminded that most of them must drive their old cars for some time yet, but the average age of cars in service is 10 years and it should not be necessary to mention the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning in driving in these circumstances. —Ottawa Journal.

The suggestion has been made up at Gueph that a woman overseer be appointed for each bar room in the province to oversee the behavior of women and their escorts. Any person who set out to promote the sale of drinks to women who proceeded to enter a bar room or anywhere else would quickly be in a peck of trouble. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Less fanaticism on the part of the opponents of drinking would make work on prohibition more effective. There is nothing wrong in a drink; there is only wrong in the excessive use of it. The question of drink is not an inherent wrong. If there is too much drinking, it is for lack of education in the use of it. The drinker who made a grim vice to be indulged in with conscience looking over his shoulder is a man who is in every slip. —Winnipeg Free Press.

The work of felling the avenue of Elm trees between the gates of Windsor Castle to the Copper Horse is nearly completed. The avenue, which is three miles long, was planted by a monarch who called it the Long Walk. It contained some of the finest elms in England. Elm disease, which is now so prevalent in England, necessitated the felling of the trees, which are being replaced by plane trees. Here the British tree which will be removed to allow room for development to the other. —Ottawa Evening News.

One of the things which makes it hard to understand why Canada turned down the American request to establish a weather centre far into the Arctic is the fact that the Russians might irritate the Americans. So what after the spy disclosures? After all the ground is ours to do with as we want and it was Russian agents spying on us and not vice versa. There is no reason why we could not have a weather centre in the Arctic and advised the Russians to take a jump in the Volga if they didn't like it. —New Glasgow News.

Recent years have witnessed a marked decline in the mortality rate from cancer in the general population of the United States. A little more than a decade ago the annual death toll from the disease was 18,000; by 1942 the latest year for which data are available the number in a much larger population had been cut to 8,000. However, there are definite indications that deaths from the disease have been further reduced since the early 1930s. The death rate of the early 1930s prevailed currently, the disease would now take about 20,000 lives a year. —Metropolitan Life Bulletin.

The British sailor has, it appears a strong disposition to wear his hat on the wrong side. It is a tendency regarded with so much disfavour by the Admiralty that it has introduced an oval hat which is claimed to make the feat practically impossible. It is of course obvious that if the British hat is to measure up to Gilbert's famous conception of him if

His nose should flame and his brow should furl
 His beard should heave and his heart should gurgle.
 And his fist be ever ready for a knock-out blow.

He is bound to smell the effect if he wears his hat like a hat. Nevertheless, one can sympathize with this desire to carry the hat off. Even those whose noses are not so limited to a "pull round the pier" will know how tightly the hat must be affixed for a life on the ocean wave if it is not to be written off as gone with the wind. And reflecting that this is the constant ordeal of the sailor, the headgear ashore a natural end to inappropriate symbol of the holiday mood. One may wonder, however, that in this fashion it does not present an appearance that is altogether shipshape; but whether the oval hat will ride on an even keel, or merely list recklessly to port or starboard, remains to be seen. —Christian Science Monitor.

The war may be over, but the world's food situation is more acute today than it has been at any time in the past six years, and Victory gardeners, who may have toyed with thoughts of dropping their cultivated patches of food this year, should look to the facts of the matter. The plainest of those facts is that the Victory Gardens of the war years are every bit as important in 1946 as they were in 1945 or 1944. Throughout the world there are millions of hungry mouths begging for crumbs. On this continent of plenty, our granaries, usually spilling over with surpluses from one year to the next, have been tapped so heavily that reserves are close to the danger line. Should crops be below normal in the great producing belt, we will not only be forced to curtail our exports drastically, but face the prospect of a winter rationing at home. A. William J. Tawney, president of the Community Garden

The American Loan And World Trade

(By an Economic Correspondent United Kingdom Information Office)

Some of those who have followed the United States Congress Debate on the Anglo-American Loan Agreement may have formed the impression that great credit was a unanimous act on the part of the United States from which Britain and Britain alone will profitably. The loan will prove equally beneficial to both participants. Far more important, it has a world significance in that it will provide the means of raising the living standards of all territories, from North America to Burma, from China to India and Australia.

The widespread assumption in the U.S.A. that the loan to Britain will be a one-sided bargain was due to the fact that the advantages accruing to the latter country, being more immediate, were therefore more obvious. One of these obvious advantages will be the relaxation, if only to a limited degree, of the rigid austerity measures which have been in force since the war—more than in the war itself. Such relaxation as is brought about by the loan will bring some variety to the monotonous British diet, will however encroach on only a small part of the American credit. Before doing with the use; to which Britain will put the bulk of these \$3,750,000,000 it is worthwhile reviewing the right of imports of foodstuffs to the British request for the American loan.

These conditions may be summed up as "The British war effort". In order to purchase arms and war materials in the overseas markets, Britain sold no less than more than 600,000 (\$4,472,000,000) of her foreign investments. Nearly all these investments, in the form of dollars securities held in the United Kingdom were used to finance purchases of munitions and the construction of aircraft in the U.S.A. before the operation of lend-lease. Britain's vital export trade was cut to one third of its prewar volume. The result was a severe shortage of space for the transport of raw materials from abroad and to free factories and workers for the manufacture of these materials into armaments.

Before the war, Britain's prosperity was largely due to her ability to import more than she exported, the balance being paid by "invisible" exports, chiefly in the form of revenue from overseas investments and shipping. Today the position is very different. With revenue from capital investments reduced from £280,000,000 in 1938 to only £97,000,000 in 1946, Britain must now export far more than she imports. Her present target is a seventy-five per cent increase on the prewar volume. To reach this target, existing factories must be re-equipped for civilian production, new factories must be built and industry supplied with vast quantities of raw materials. Here the American loan will play its main role; in financing the purchase of machine tools, factory equipment and materials.

The American loan will not solve Britain's export problem—but it will help to speed the development of her export trade and eventually also the expansion of her imports. This brings us to the first great benefit which the world will derive from the Anglo-American Loan Agreement.

An expanding British import trade is requisite for world peace. It is the greatest single buyer among all the nations. No less than thirty-one different countries sold more goods to Britain than they did to any other territory.

The granting of the United States loan will mean an immediate resumption of Britain's former large-scale purchases League of Greater Montreal, put it in an address to the organization last week. He stated that the loan will have a surplus next autumn than more drastic rationing in 1947. Get ready to dig! —Montreal Star.

Legislators casting about for new sources of tax revenue during the war seem strangely enough to have overlooked a promising proposal once offered to England and the world by the *Wall Street Journal*. "I propose," said the satirical Swift, "that a tax be levied on female beauty." "But could we make the women that play a listener limited. 'Ah, yes' replies the woman, 'let every woman be permitted to assess her own charms—then she'll be generous enough'."

The British Government has appointed a royal commission to inquire into and study the causes of the declining birth rate in Great Britain today has 2,000,000 less children under 14 years of age than she had after the last war. The Toronto Star reports that the reproduction rate in England and Wales dropped from 1.33 to 0.78 since 1929. It estimated that by 1950 Great Britain will have more voters over 45 than under 45, and that within a relatively short time women will be dominated by middle-aged and elderly people. This creates a serious problem in respect to the country's defence as well as its industrial and cultural progress. British women have been discussing the matter and a number of opinions have been taken in feminist circles recently. One of them, conducted by Ann Scott-James of Picture Post, indicates that the problem might be solved within one generation by a government which boldly set into operation social measures to remove fear of insecurity from the average woman's mind. Young women today are unwilling to increase addition of their families if by the standard of living will be lowered.

throughout the world. A large part of it will in fact be spent in the U.S.A. and can be seen as an important advantage which that country in particular will gain from the Agreement. But the main significance of the credit is that it will be available for expenditure all over the world and will contribute by this fact to the general expansion of trade from which America is also bound to gain.

In 1940, the year preceding America's entry into the war, the United States labour force totalled forty-five millions. There were nearly eight millions unemployed. During the war the gross national product of the U.S.A. rose by one hundred percent. By 1944, the labour force was fifty-four and a half millions strong. Today the United States is faced with the task of handling this surplus productive capacity—or of reverting to prewar conditions of mass unemployment. In restoring the loan to Britain, the American House of Representatives has taken a practical step towards the solution of this urgent problem.

Armed with her dollar credit, Britain will be able to help expand world trade in two ways. The first and most direct way lies in the re-building of her own export trade and later in a parallel increase in her imports—imports which will enable overseas sellers to buy the goods they need from Britain and other markets. The second lies in Britain's disposal of her Sterling balances. Of Britain's present overseas liabilities of about three thousand five hundred million pounds, nearly three thousand millions have been contracted in countries of the Sterling area.

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The Poets Corner

"WHEN LAST SEEN"

When last seen the earth was wearing
 A high steel tower and a milling crowd,
 Her short-wave skirt was wide and flaring,
 Searchlight stripes were veiled in cloud.

She had a book with a billboard cover,
 Radio sets dripped from each ear,
 Her white metal parasol seemed to hover
 In and out of the stratosphere.

All was trim, though an odd-looking spot
 Or a burn on her sleeve needed tending soon;
 She was often seen drinking her sulfa hot,
 And they said she was carrying on with the moon.

Her newest purchase was a car to drive
 So fast that her permanent came unsecured,
 The model, Uranium 235,
 Was really something out of this world.

Chorus by Mars and Jupiter
 What's become of the earth tonight,
 She used to be here, but she's not in sight,
 She couldn't be lost, and yet she might—
 A nice little star, but not very bright.

—Hortense Flexner in the Atlantic Monthly.

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