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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1947

Canning Firm to Buy From Our Farmers

Representatives of the Matthews-Wells Co. Ltd., of Guelph, Ontario, are in Charlottetown arranging for the purchase of cucumbers next fall, and for strawberries, raspberries, cranberries and other fruits and vegetables the following year.

Mr. Matthews stated that his company is in a position to handle large quantities, and that he is hoping to build up a reliable source of supply in Prince Edward Island. If his company is assured of a steady flow of the desired produce, they plan to erect a receiving plant in this Province.

At the present time members of the company are interviewing farmers who are willing to contract for the growing of the required crops. Further information may be obtained from their advertisement in this issue.

This announcement will give the greatest satisfaction and encouragement to Mr. H. K. S. Hemming who has been advocating such production of our resources along these lines for a number of years past. It is for our farming community now to seize the opportunity which this enterprising firm presents.

Bar Association Defended

The Canadian Bar Association has been under criticism in some quarters for allegedly failing to protest against the methods used in the recent espionage investigation on the ground that they constituted a challenge to civil liberties. This criticism is rebutted in a letter in a Vancouver exchange by no less an authority than Hon. W. B. Farris, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The writer refers to the convention of the Bar Association held in Winnipeg last August, when the pros and cons of this issue were freely debated. The debate was closed by Senator Haig of Winnipeg, an outstanding lawyer who is also Conservative leader in the Senate, and who was in Ottawa during the period of the espionage events. His address, says Chief Justice Farris, was recognized as a masterful defense of the action taken, and following this address a vote was taken defeating the motion condemning the espionage investigation.

"It was the feeling of the majority of lawyers there present, after hearing the argument on each side of the question," writes Chief Justice Farris, "that the investigations were justified from a legal standpoint as well as in the interests of the country. I am expressing no opinion as to whether their finding was right or not, but I am pointing out that the Canadian Bar Association did not hesitate to deal with the matter and act in accordance with the majority viewpoint.

"The real danger to our freedom," he continues, "is the continuous insertion in our statutes from time to time of little amendments here and there which the public know little about, and seem to care about less, but which if allowed to go unchecked might ultimately destroy our freedom."

The writer goes on to explain that the Canadian Bar Association has in every Province a civil liberties committee carefully checking provincial statutes for any encroachments on civil liberties. The Association has also a national committee which together with the provincial committees watches Dominion legislation and regulations, and is almost continuously in touch with Ottawa, either opposing certain legislation or suggesting amendments thereto.

This is something of which few laymen are aware. Why is it that the Bar Association has been hiding its light under a bushel in this manner?

The Wheat Situation

Wheat remains the big problem in Canadian farm marketing, according to the space given this subject in the year-end commercial and financial review published by the *Montreal Gazette*. The drawback is still in effect whereby the price of wheat is held at 77 3-8 cents to maintain the price of flour going into domestic consumer channels. Against this the initial guaranteed price to farmers was $1.25 a bushel most of the year. Late in November, however, a retroactive increase in the initial payment of ten cents to $1.35 a bushel, effective with the beginning of the 1945-46 crop, was announced. Wheat for export to the United Kingdom is being sold at $1.55 under the four-year agreement. Export sales to other countries brought varying prices at much higher levels. One of the latest such sales on record was $2.40 a bushel. The producer, naturally, contends he should get the highest price all the way round but, for the record, it should be stated that western interests have repeatedly asserted that even $2.40, or a somewhat higher figure, is still far below what wheat should bring under existing conditions in a free world market.

Announcement of the four-year wheat pact with the United Kingdom was one of the year's foremost developments. Under this, Canada will sell to Great Britain 600 million bushels of wheat at a fixed price of $1.55 for the first two years, at minimum prices of $1.25 for the third and $1 for the fourth years, respectively. This agreement was both applauded and denounced. It received commendation because it will have the effect of guaranteeing a market and placing a floor price under prices at a period when the latter may be expected to decline, perhaps sharply. It was attacked because of contentions, already referred to, that it does not recognize a free world price and that it will preclude re-establishment of free markets and re-opening of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange for the duration of the pact.

Second official estimate of the 1946 Canadian wheat crop was cut to 418.8 million bushels, from the initial figure of 440.6 millions, but was still 36.8 per cent greater than the 1945 outturn of 305.9 millions and may prove to be the largest production since the bumper 556.1 million bushel crop of 1942.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

It will probably be two or three weeks before Mr. Justice Tweedy is sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court Bench, as it will take time for the necessary preliminaries at Ottawa to be ready for the ceremony.

* * * *

Lieut. A. B. Cosh seems to be forging ahead in the Royal Canadian Navy, his chosen profession, and is to be congratulated upon being appointed staff officer at H. M. C. S. Provost at London, an important naval centre in Ontario.

* * * *

Hope ice conditions will change for the better soon at Borden, as it is far too early in the season for the Car Ferry to experience delays or hold-ups. The Provincial Government should keep its weather eye on the Railway, and the Railway on the Car Ferry.

* * * *

A few of the prominent industrialists of Sorel when Mayor Rene Peloquin chatted over a new radio telephone linking Sorel and Joliette: S. W. Major, manager Bell Telephone Co., which operates the service; T. Aussant, mayor of St. Joseph de Sorel; Jean Champoux, Paul Laferiere, Raymond Dube, Philippe L. Hurteau, Gerard Cournoyer, M.P.; J. C. A. Purcotte, H. H. Sheppard, Edouard Simard, and Dr. J. W. Robidoux, M.L.A.

* * * *

The successful pelt show in Summerside reflects credit on the promoters and organizers, who attracted no fewer than 1,150 pelts to compete for the honours. The outstanding prize winners, Mr. Ernest Mill, Kensington, the McLure and MacKinnon Ranch, Charlottetown, Mr. George A. Callbeck, Summerside, and Mr. Donald O. Stewart, Summerside, are to be congratulated on their success, but all the prize winners and exhibitors will gain immeasureably when marketing as the outcome of their enterprise.

* * * *

Senate appointments usually go to those who have been valuable in the party work, and often go to members of the House of Commons, but this time House members will probably have to wait a while, for the number of safe Liberal seats outside Quebec Province at the present time is mighty small. So the two Ontario vacancies the two in Nova Scotia and three in British Columbia must await a new outbreak of political confidence in the East Block, says an Ottawa correspondent.

* * * *

The old order changeth, but all things do not become new in connection with the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association. Congratulations to the new stockholders and officers, and all will wish them a happy and prosperous regime. Mr. H. J. Kennedy in the driver's seat will be a worthy successor to Col. D. A. MacKinnon, who will always be at his beck and call in an advisory capacity. As Secretary-Treasurer, the other key position, Commander Buntain appears to be the right man in the right place.

* * * *

Carl Linnaeus, Swedish botanist, born this date 1707; trained as a doctor of medicine, he devoted much of his time to the study of botany, and before settling down to practice in his native land travelled extensively in Lapland, Holland, France and England; subsequently he was appointed professor of medicine and botany in Upsala University where he made a remarkable classification of plants founded on the characters of the stamens. The work was translated and published in various European languages, and in England the Linnean Society was founded by royal charter in 1788. Its first president was Sir J. E. Smith, who also purchased and presented to the Society, the books, MSS. and botanical collections of Linnaeus.

* * * *

Even Communists of Russia find some of their number prefer the easy way to wealth. A 71-year-old Moscow street beggar—a former monk—was discovered to have amassed a personal fortune of 260,000 rubles, equal to $150,000. Press reports said Vasily Yefremovitch Vasiliev, formerly from a monastery on Lake Ladoga, had aroused suspicion by begging in the capital's Yelokhov Square. Upon investigation it was discovered that from 1930 revolution until 1940 Vahiliev was a collective farmer and had a home fruit garden in a village near Vologda but "was not satisfied with this", and went to Moscow to beg in 1940. It is not mentioned how much of his fortune was amassed before he was released from the monastery, and how much since he started business in Moscow.

* * * *

Here is an instance of religious good fellowship due, no doubt, to the new spirit being engendered by leaders in all denominations. Recognition of his good deeds was accorded Ben Obront, of 5383 Hutchinson street, Montreal, over the week-end when he received an Apostolic Benediction and certificate from the Vatican. The Holy Father bestowed the benediction at the request of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, a local order of nuns, whom he assisted at their Rigaud, Que., institution. He is the first Canadian Jew to be so honored. The nun informed him she had told the Pope he was Jewish but that he insisted that the benediction and scroll which bears the Papal seal and the signature of the Apostolic chaplain of the Vatican be accepted as a token of sympathy with the sufferings of Jews throughout the world. His own rabbi had urged him to respect and treasure the document, Mr. Obront said.

Notes By The Way

About understanding the Russians— which we are urged to do: is it O.K. if we don't fathom those soldier chorus groups that stand about hollering songs to a flea? — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Asked to dance in New York, the Duke of Windsor admits that he has forgotten how to fox-trot. That isn't all he has had to forget. — Windsor Star.

There will be plenty of glass for the building industry next year, we are told. The next thing to consider is whether or not there will be sufficient windows to put it in. Brockville Recorder and Times.

An actor declares that stage jokes are more refined today than they were 40 years ago. Well, constant handling for 40 years will wear the rough edges off almost anything. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

The cigarette is one of the main causes of fires, and certainly every cigarette fire could be prevented by just a little ordinary care. It's care. It's not a matter that the law can do much about. —Ottawa Journal.

A married woman keeps herself supplied with two or more handbags so that she will have at least one to leave at home with her money in it when she goes out shopping with her husband. —Kitchener Record.

Canada is the only country in the world that bans importation and manufacture of butter substitutes. As we have said on previous occasions, the whole world is "out of step" but us. Canada alone turns thumbs down on margarine. The ban is written into the statutes of the country (quite unconstitutionally, many contend), and every effort to raise it meets with the determined opposition of those who are not producing, or cannot produce, sufficient butter to meet Canadian needs. —Halifax Herald.

In times like these, it is the church's duty and privilege to offer guidance and inspiration to a generation bereft of anchor or chart. Men are soul-hungry in a materialistic age, and baffled in the presence of forces they cannot control. They are the victims of social wrongs and unrebuked selfishness. They have forgotten their destiny. Political forums will not fill their need, and the sound of much talking will not feed their souls; neither will extreme opinions induce them to come in. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

Because here as in no other part of the world is the individual given a right to his soul, to fulfillment of his own hopes and determination of his own destiny. He is not so sick as to call blindly on an abstract leadership; he is his own leader. He alone can create leadership knowing that the only security is courage and the only future is in the land that is cultivated today. Hard work and self-reliance are not out-dated. They are still a first call on us. So that the victory that was achieved at such terrible cost gave the most priceless of all things to us — an opportunity. The rest is up to us. "Faith without works is dead." —Hamilton Spectator.

One of the most important questions of our times is whether the people of the United States will realize the responsibilities placed upon them by their matchless power before disaster overtakes the world community. The United States must show good-will to all nations, befriend backward people everywhere and set an example in international trust and co-operation, or the war system will continue to curse humanity and threaten the world with extermination. Never in the history of civilization has the destiny of so many people been in the hands of a single nation. —Toronto Star.

More than a century ago Russia sounded a number of European countries as to the desirability of intervening in Spain. "Great Britain" replied Castlereagh "would only consent to intervene in cases where the peace of Europe is threatened; events in Spain do not threaten the peace of Europe." Spain no more threatens the peace of Europe now than she did then, and Castlereagh's maxim has lost none of its soundness as a basis of policy. Franco's government is the domestic concern of the Spanish people; the job of dealing with it is theirs, not ours, whatever we many think of it. There are far more pressing problems in Europe to be solved than the question of Franco and his government, problems to the solution of which the removal of Franco would contribute not one iota. —Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (London).

Many people who have heard their own recorded voices with horror will sympathize with this recent letter, written by a clergyman to The Times of London: "I have recently had the experience of having a part of a sermon recorded by the B.B.C. This gave me the opportunity of hearing the voice that my congregation hears Sunday by Sunday. I would never have recognized it as my own. All sorts of queer solecisms and odd pronunciations fell upon my astonished ears, and the experience was both interesting and humiliating. I shall do my best to correct the more obvious faults. Would it not be an excellent thing for every clergyman to hear one of his own sermons? So many of us have acquired pulpit drones and other tricks of speech that the man in the pew finds distracting and offensive. My suggestion is that every diocese should possess a recording apparatus and every licenced clergyman should be compeled to listen to one of his own sermons once a year."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

NOT A MATTER FOR CO-OPERATION

Sir,— May I ask why it is necessary that Nova Scotia should be held up as an example to be followed in the Dominion-Provincial taxation agreements? They have persistently refused to co-operate with the Dominion authorities. New Brunswick at first agreed, in fact was the first to announce its decision but now Premier McNair thinks British Columbia and Prince Edward Island were given better terms and so he wants to revoke his intention to conclude his original agreement, and because of this our afternoon paper says Macdonald and McNair "are two able men," that they "have lots of guts". I despise that expression. It always is most repulsive when read in a public newspaper. What are we coming to — back to the days of "Rochford's Daily"?

Our Premier and his Provincial Treasurer, referred to as the "Jones and Hughes faction", are accused of keeping things secret. That is not true. The terms of our agreement have appeared in the Press. This Province is to receive a minimum of two million dollars and other incidentals that may bring that total amount up to $2,400,000. Surely our Premier and his colleagues are entitled to some credit for making so satisfactory an agrement; but no, they are asked by the Patriot to "chuck our agreement out and go after a better one." That is simply retaliation because a so-called friend was given a "kick in the pants". Let us have a little fair play.

I am, Sir, etc.
J.F.W.

Charlottetown.

AT THE CROSSROADS

Sir,—Now a new year has started its journey down the hill of time, and like so many other thousands of years will end in the valley of Eternity. As men we stand at the crossroads, and wonder what to expect, the sorrow and pain of many war years more before us. The world seems to be flooded with free money. Business cries for higher prices for merchandise while the educated brains of men of science work night and day to find ways and weapons to fight a new war. Racing as it seems against time we must find quicker ways to slaughter the youth of the world before they even mature into mankind. The old style of war is out of date; what human science seems to strive for is a weapon that can destroy the entire human race in a few moments or less. Nations race against nations for this terrible weapon in a supreme effort to be the first to have it. They want to try it out and bring misery and suffering at a greater rate and then finally end man's existence. Human brotherhood and all we fought for seems to be forgotten as we stand at the crossroads and see the world today.

The time has come to wipe the slate clean and start a new slogan of brotherhood, friendship with God as the head; men to clasp hands in a human chain around the world, singing the joy of friendship.

Now we stand at the crossroads in a new year staring into a crazed world while groups of so-called leaders scoff and slur each other at conferences. We have them here, we have them the world over, running around the world while we pay the bills. Now if from the crossroads we can find a way to turn to the right and spend our money and time, our education, science and still to bring food to the starving, clothes to the naked, shelter to the homeless—and everyone to turn to God, seek the figure of a suffering Saviour hanging from a cross shaped like the crossroads where we stand—then we can save this crazed world from further misery and suffering and bring a human chain of hands clasped in friendship around it. Then and only then will this human race live standing at the crossroads. We must act now.

I am, Sir, etc.
W. A. O'Brien.

Charlottetown.

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Canada's Trade Triangle

(New York Journal of Commerce)

The larger part of Canada's foreign trade before the war was conducted with the United States and Great Britain. Commerce between the Dominion and the United States resulted in a heavy import surplus, which was balanced by a large excess of Canadian exports to the United Kingdom. When sterling could be converted readily into dollars, this triangular trade relationship created no problems.

Since the end of the war, Canada's imports from the United States have been particularly heavy, as a result of severe shortages of durable goods and raw materials following the close of hostilities. At the same time, Canadian exports to Great Britain have been very large. And, as James A. MacKinnon, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, stated recently, under prevailing conditions Canada no longer obtains free exchange from an export surplus to Great Britain that she can use to settle her accounts with the United States.

Two solutions to this problem are discussed by Mr. MacKinnon. First, Canada should step up imports from Great Britain and Western Europe so as more nearly to balance her trade with that part of the world and so reduce required imports from the United States. The other solution would be an increase in the volume of international trade generally which would permit elimination of foreign exchange controls so that a large import surplus in Canadian trade with the United States would no longer constitute a problem.

When world trade conditions enable Great Britain to balance her international payments and make sterling freely convertible into dollars, Canada could again pay for an important surplus from the United States with exchange derived from an export surplus to Britain. The reduction of trade barriers and elimination of foreign exchange controls sought by the United States would make this possible. However, economic reconstruction will have to progress a good deal further before this can be attained.

The Poet's Corner

A JANUARY MORNING

The glittering roofs are still with frost; each worn
Black chimney builds into the quiet sky
Its curling pile to crumble silently.
Far out to westward, on the edge of morn,
The slender misty city towers upborne
Glimmer faint rose against the pallid blue;
And yonder on those northern hills, the hue
Of amethyst, hang fleeces dull as horn.
And here behind me comes the woodmen's sleighs
With shouts and clamorous squeakings; might and main
Up the steep slope the horses stamp and strain,
Urged on by hoarse-tongued drivers — cheeks ablaze,
Iced beards, and frozen eyelids — team by team,
With frost-fringed flanks, and nostrils jetting steam.

—Archibald Lampman.

Old Charlottetown

(And P.E.I.)

WINTER MAIL SERVICE

Mr. Smith the courier it may be recollected left with the mail on the 28th ult., on the 30th he arrived in Pictou and was detained there until the 6th inst. waiting for the Halifax mail. On the 8th he attempted to get over with his large boat but was prevented by the ice, and obliged to return and immediately set about building an ice boat which was completed on Saturday last the 15th inst. Left Pictou on Sunday morning, the ice very good, and met with no obstacles for the first eight miles. At six in the evening arrived at Wood Islands and reached town by half past three on Monday. —P. E. I. Register, January, 1825.

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