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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1946

An Island Floral Emblem

The proposal to select a floral emblem for Prince Edward Island, suggested recently in "The Educational Horizon" and indorsed by "Agricola" in Saturday's Guardian, is certainly one worthy of consideration. As "Agricola" points out, such emblems have been in vogue elsewhere for a long time classic examples being the Rose, Thistle and Shamrock of the United Kingdom and the Leek representing Wales. Six of the nine Canadian Provinces, through their Legislatures, have already chosen floral emblems. The Mayflower was chosen by Nova Scotia in 1901; the Anemone by Manitoba in 1906; the Trillium by Ontario in 1927, the Wild Rose by Alberta in 1930, the Violet by New Brunswick in 1937, the Prairie Lily by Saskatchewan in 1942.

The Educational Horizon makes two suggestions with regard to a Prince Edward Island choice: the Marsh Marigold or the Orchis (Cypripedium). "Agricola" adds the March Cinquefoil and the Corydalis to the list. Doubtless there will be many other suggestions if the idea is developed.

It is noted that in some of the other provinces the floral emblems were selected by vote of the Women's Institutes, or by Horticultural Societies. Here, too, is a good idea. The Women's Institutes may be expected to take a special interest in the subject, and there is no doubt that they would be quite competent to make a satisfactory choice.

In any case, it is to be hoped that this very interesting suggestion will be followed up.

Canada's Torch

Some day a five-foot torch, brightly painted and sent from Canada in the darkest days of the war as a symbol of Canadian devotion to the cause of freedom, will stand in a place of honor in the Churchill Museum.

The torch—with a painted flame—which was flown across Canada and was the centrepiece in Victory Loan ceremonies in different cities, was presented to Winston Churchill in the garden at 10 Downing Street by Veterans Affairs Minister Mackenzie on July 1, 1941.

Mr. Mackenzie said in presenting the torch that it represented Canadians' will-to-win, their devotion and deathless resolution in fighting the war. The British Prime Minister received it with words of appreciation.

The torch was placed among Mr. Churchill's possessions at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's residence. Only a few weeks ago it was removed to his Hyde Park district home along with illustrated addresses and numerous other gifts presented while he held the highest British government office.

Members of his staff said the torch was among his treasured possessions. Mr. Churchill eventually would group all his gifts in a small museum.

British Honduras Boundary

London commentators call attention to the double significance of the United Kingdom Government's suggestion to the Guatemalan Government that the eighty-seven year old British Honduras boundary dispute should be submitted to the adjudication of the International Court of Justice which is to be set up as the principal judicial organ of U. N. O.

The history of the Anglo-Guatemalan Treaty dispute is a picturesque story. The first English settlement in the neighborhood of Belize River on which stands the Belize capital of the Crown Colony of British Honduras dates back to about 1638. The name Belize is traced to a Spanish corruption of Wallace. Lieut. Peter Wallace, a famous buccaneer, was the first Englishman to settle on Belize River. The Crown Colony of British Honduras grew partly out of the settlement of British colonists, many of them buccaneers, in defiance of Spanish sovereignty over Central America, and partly out of trading concessions granted by Spaint to British settlers.

Amid the maze of wars waged and treaties concluded between England and Spain from 1779 to 1814 it is not easy to define the precise moment at which British sovereignty over the colony became juridically effective. Suffice it to say the British Colony was in existence long before Guatemala came into being as a result of her declaration of independence in 1821.

In 1859 the Anglo-Guatemalan Treaty was concluded and ratified delimiting the frontier between Guatemala and British Honduras. Under Article Seven of that Treaty the two parties undertook jointly to construct a means of communication between the capital of Guatemala and the fittest point on the Atlantic coast near Belize. This Article has never been implemented despite persistent efforts by the United Kingdom Government which offered to fulfil its share of mutual obligations thereunder. Again and again the United Kingdom Government offered to pay fifty thousand pounds towards the construction of a road or railway, but these offers were one and all rejected by the Guatemalan Government as it rejected in 1940 the two British proposals to refer the dispute to arbitration.

For these reasons the United Kingdom Government cannot agree that it is solely or even mainly to blame for the failure to implement Article Seven, or in any case that the failure to implement Article Seven would render the Treaty of 1859 null and void. Nor does the United Kingdom Government consider that even if the Treaty were void there would be any reason why any part of the territory of British Honduras should belong to Guatemala.

Nevertheless the United Kingdom Government declares in a note to the Guatemalan Government date January 15 its willingness to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice and to abide by the court's decision.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Queen Victoria died this date 1901.

* * * *

More zero weather this month than for many years past—not exactly suited to shipping potatoes.

* * * *

Several British whaling expeditions are to be equipped with Radar apparatus and means are to be provided for taking bearings on whales both on and below the water.

* * * *

Old St. Andrew's at Mt. Stewart, now burned to the ground, will be missed by many, for it was one of the best known "sign posts" in the history of the province, with which was associated the memorial to the first Catholic settlers.

* * * *

The Right Hon. E. J Williams, British Minister of Information, is shortly leaving the United Kingdom on a brief visit to Canada in the course of which he proposes to acquaint himself with the working of the United Kingdom Information Office at Ottawa. Before returning to England, he hopes also to spend a few days in the United States.

* * * *

Magnesia is now being manufactured from sea water in a plant in Cumberland, in the north of England. Before the war the United Kingdom imported all her magnesia from abroad. From magnesia is extracted magnesium, the world's lightest metal, much used in Britain's aircraft industry in the war, and with manifold uses in peacetime.

* * * *

Australia, which got ahead of Canada in the United Nations Organization in London, announces that to permit resumption of normal trade with the United Kingdom and other sterling countries 650 categories of goods have been exempted from import licensing requirements and 150 removed from the prohibited list and placed under administrative licensing control.

* * * *

New York will henceforth be the world cenre, if, as he French Cabinet have been told, Hyde Park be chosen as the permanent home of the United Nations Organization, which would also mean, of course, that we here would be practically next door neighbours, and could cultivate acquaintanceship with the huge personnel with a view to developing our summer colony.

* * * *

Rorke's Drift, this date 1879; in the first week of the year war broke out between the Zulus and the British, and before reinforcement's could be sent, the Zulus gained headway; at Rorke's Drift on the Buffalo River, Natal, a heroic defence of the British Hospital was made by the remnant of the 24th Regiment, defeated at Isandula, against 4,000 Zulus; in July, the tables were turned, and the Zulus were defeated at Ulundi; but the British refused to annex the country which was subsequently taken by the Boers; as a British colony later it was merged in the Union of South Africa.

* * * *

According to the Ottawa correspondent of the *Gazette* what appeared four months ago to be a "take it or leave it" attitude on the part of the Federal government with reference to their proposed taxation policy, seems to have been greatly modified as a result of the November meetings of the coordinating committee, and while some here are still insistent that continued occupation by the Dominion of tax field is the foundation of the Federal financial proposals it is believed that rather than completely upset the coming conference certain concessions will be made. At the meeting of the economic committee between December 4 and 14 the committee examined the financial proposals in the light of the budgets and other materials submitted by the various provinces. The health insurance, old age pensions and unemployment assistance proposals of the Dominion were also examined and discussed. Altogether the economic committee had 26 meetings and 80 representatives of the Dominion and Provincial governments participated. The co-ordinating committee will meet on January 28 and the representatives of each government are now returning to report to their respective premiers on the clarification of detail at the technical level which has been achieved.

* * * *

A letter from Mr. H. K. D. Heming, Montreal, appears in the *Gazette* as follows: "Sir,—In keeping with current thought that war memorials should take practical form, I submit to your readers the suggestion that the deeds of Canada's soldiers could not be more fittingly commemorated than by permanently marking the road they blazed to victory. This road exists in Europe as the *'Maple Leaf'*, up from the Normandy beaches to Germany, and by renaming highways across England and Prince Edward Island and the Trans-Canada Highway as "Maple Leaf", "East" and "West" the long trail could be traced back to its real origin in every Province of Canada. An essential feature would be the use throughout of the handsome 'Army' scarlet and black markers with their gold maple leaves, and worded signs in white on a black ground. This would add the necessary distinctive touch and would give every veteran a thrill of remembrance when once more following the 'Maple Leaf'. To complete the chain the Canadian trans-Atlantic convoy route could be renamed the 'Maple Leaf' route. Why build memorials visible only in Ottawa when this project would provide in every Province a symbolic reminder of the thousands who followed the long road into the unknown in the cause of freedom."

Notes By The Way

Full of unscheduled thrills is this job of freeing the oppressed, as when Korea stands up to deliver a liberty-or-death in the lifeboat.—Winnipeg Tribune.

When they put their shoulders to the wheel in South America, you never can tell how many revolutions it will make. —Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

A Brantford woman of 106 says that her favorite reading is detective stories. She should be carefully watched for any tendency toward juvenile delinquency. —Peterborough Examiner.

The Spanish Government charges that "Communists" have been responsible for a "campaign of defamation" against Spain. This is sheer nonsense, including the use of the word, "Communist." Spain, or rather the Franco Government, has defamed itself.—Brantford Expositor.

Ex-G.I. Art Mooney, the Hotel Lincoln bandleader, The Christian Century, Chicago, relates has found a practical use for his good conduct medal. He lets his little nephew wear it when he's a good boy, but takes it away from him when his Mom reports that he refused to eat his spinach, cereal, etc.

Many people seem to think post-office workers and letter carriers are mind readers, possessed of extraordinary powers. One letter that was particularly amusing was addressed to a person, believed to live near St. Thomas on one of the rural routes. In the left-hand corner of the envelope was written this illuminating directive: "Lives out a piece in the country." Another letter was addressed to a woman and after her name appeared to have been sent on a "wing and a prayer" for this appeared written at the bottom of the envelope: "Somewhere in St. Thomas I believe."—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The government's decision to build ten new factories in South Wales to be let to manufacturers employing a high proportion of ex-miners suffering from silicosis is an important step in the link-up of medical services with industrial rehabilitation. Light work and a steady income which allows a reasonable diet can do much to arrest the progress of the disease. Last year there were 277 deaths from silicosis in coal mining alone. If all miners contracting it can be taken out of the mines at an early stage and given other suitable work, the annual toll would be considerably reduced. — London Economist.

Among the characteristics of the present age, the virtue of reverence is not conspicuous. It is indeed an irreverent age. On every side one hears in ordinary conversation the name of the Deity lightly used. Persons who would be offended if they were classed as non-Christians commonly use the name of the Almighty as they use slang words and phrases. It is a vicious habit which, when contracted in early youth, is hard to get rid of. To the reverent mind, even to persons of refined taste though not of religious bent, such blasphemous talk is repellent and nauseous. —Guelph Mercury.

We are not too happy about the latest bulletin from the brave new world, division of electronics and slot machines. The first part of the story is intriguing. An American manufacturer of slot machines has perfected an electronic device for dispensing hot dogs with the aid of electronics. When you drop a dime in the slot you will get not five salted peanuts but a tastily cooked hot dog, complete with mustard or relish, encased in a roll and wrapped in cellophane. It will drop from the pot piping hot. That's the first verse. The second takes a good deal of the gloss off it. It so happens that the same new science is to have other uses. One of them is to fix blowouts in automobile tires. Instead of the old system of vulcanizing the tires with patches, high frequency waves will generate heat inside the tire walls which will vulcanize the hole from the inside. But if electronics will vulcanize tires, what guarantee have we that it will not, with the same high frequency waves, also vulcanize our beloved hot dogs?—Winnipeg Free Press.

There is a distinct different between a national anthem and a patriotic song: "The Marseillaise" and "God Save the King" belong to the former category. "The Maple Leaf" and "O Canada" to the latter. Nor is it important to distinguish between English, Irish, Scottish and French in any patriotic song for Canada, or any other British community of many races. "Ye Mariners of England" was written by a Scotsman; "Scots Wha Hae' wi' Wallace Bled" is sung as lustily by Welshmen, Irishmen or Englishmen as by Scotsmen. "There'll Always Be an England" has been sung with deep feeling by millions of people who never saw England. Patriotic songs may relate to national emotional phases, historical events, heroic exploits, the traditions of all or any racial cross-sections of a country's population. In a country such as Canada every song of the kind connected with any phase of the country's life past or present, should meet with a response in every gathering of the right type of Canadians. The popularity of "The Maple Leaf" and "O Canada" despite their faults and seeming "sectionalism," is a wholesome sign of the "esprit de corps" of a young and great nation of many kindreds. —Sydney Post-Record.

The year 1946 will see the adaptation to civilian use of many devices developed by our scientists and engineers during the war which will add to the world's comfort and convenience. One of the most interesting of all is an automobile telephone, over which motorists on the highways may communicate directly with any telephone in the country, says The Salem, Ore., Capital-Journal. Devised by the Bell telephone system, this service will be put to a practical test on several main highway routes in the mid-West and East within the next few months. One of these routes will be between Chicago and St. Louis. When the necessary installations are made it will be possible for any auto carrying the equipment to make an receive calls to or from any point along the route. The new calls will be handled by mobile service telephone operators. The conversations will travel part of the way by telephone wire and part of the way by radio. If a caller in Chicago wants to talk to the occupant of a certain automobile somewhere between Chicago and St. Louis, he will first reach "Long Distance," ask for the service operator, and give her the call number of the vehicle. She will route the call over telephone wires to one of the transmitting-receiving stations along the highway and then send the signal on to the vehicle by radio. The car occupant will receive an audible and visual signal indicating that he is wanted. He will then pick up his dashboard telephone and answer. Under his fingers, as he holds the telephone handset, will be a "push-to-talk" button which will permit him to switch from listening to talking.

Prospects Of Trade

(Royal Bank of Canada)

After recounting how standards of living have advanced since primitive times, the Monthly Letter of The Royal Bank of Canada for January tells how impossible it would be to return to the subsistence economy of early Canada and how imperative it is to keep advancing. "This continent is regarded from Europe and Asia as the home of a luxurious mode of life" the article continues, "Science has flourished here, nd it has been applied to practical purposes on a scale never before known. "Problems have arisen with the advances. Supposing that the advent of the machine as a substitute for hand work makes it possible for one man to produce the necessities for four men, then there are only three courses which may be followed: all four men may continue producing, but working only a quarter as many hours; the displaced three may turn to new work, producing more and better goods; or the three may do nothing. All of these have been tried since the steam engine ushered in the new system. The first may mean higher prices and lower incomes; the third, even if it were practicable, would be demoralizing for those with nothing to do. Out of the second there comes progress and a higher standard of of living for all four.

"Even the humblest improvement cannot be achieved by such simple devices as those inaugurated by the dictatorships, like ordering employers to pay higher wages without increasing prices, or by forcibly withdrawing money, bonds and goods from one section and handing them to another. Those who attempt to plan and manage improvements must know how changes will affect all the economy.

"In describing and measuring standards of living, family income is more significant than individual income, in the opinion of the bank article, because a standard of living is a family matter, including as it does the kind of things customarily enjoyed by families in that class. Some will be looked upon as necessities others as comforts, and still others as luxuries. The standard will rise as there is improvement in the quality of necessities, or increase in the quantity of comforts and luxuries which add to the contentment of the family, and insofar as the family succeeds in realizing its attempted standard of living, it is happy, but when it tries to reach a standard beyond its capabilities, life for members of the family becomes increasingly unstable.

"Most people think of the standard of living as being based solely upon income, but there is need to differentiate between money income, which is the amount received in wages, salary or from other sources, and real income, which is the sum of the things a family can buy with its money. This is conditioned by fluctuations in prices and in the supply of goods available

"It is interesting to look back over the course of wage income. The wage index in certain main groups of industries rose from 38.1 in 1901 to 107 in 1920, then fell to 85.1 in 1933, and by 1944 it had risen to a new high record in these 44 years, 137.5. No figures are available for manufacturing industries at the turn of the century, but in 1911 the index stood at 45.0, and in 1944 it was 141.1.

* * *

"Unfortunately, the cost of living index cannot be given for 1900, but there is a significant enough comparison between 1913 and 1945. Whereas in this period the general average wage rate index has increased 99.4 points, the cost of living index, covering the basic needs of a family, has risen only 40 points.

"To enable families to keep track of the trends in prices and to budget their incomes, most countries have set up cost of living indexes. Canada's index is a measure of the month-to-month change in the cost of living of the average wage-earner's household. It attempts to record a fixed standard of living, and does not take account of higher expenses due to better living or wider spending."

After outlining the system used in compiling the index, the article presents figures for representative years, on the base 1935-39 equals 100:

Ottawa's Responsibility

(Globe and Mail)

Official Ottawa is disclaiming any responsibility for commutation to life imprisonment in Canada of the sentence of death before a firing squad passed on Maj.-Gen. Kurt Meyer by a Canadian military court for the murder of Canadian prisoners of war. Defense Minister Abbott is quoted as saying he is quite satisfied to "accept the judgment of our senior officers at Canadian military headquarters in London."

Unfortunately Mr. Abbott's statement conflicts with a Canadian Press report that Maj.-Gen. Chris Vokes, Commander of the Canadian Occupation Army, "personally" made the decision. This, however, does not alter the situation. On the contrary, it emphasizes the fact that Mr. Abbott's statement is woefully lacking when it comes to a clear declaration as to who was the final authority in the case.

The Minister's words leave the implication that Ottawa was consulted. This being so, whether the recommendation came from London or from Gen. Vokes, the Government must take responsibility for the decision, and Canadians are entitled to a plain statement to this effect. This is required not only in fairness to those who feel sentiment has been allowed to prevail instead of justice (not to mention those homes left fatherless because of Meyer), but also to military authorities overseas who at the moment are in the position of being made the scapegoats.

Commutation of the sentence and its condition of imprisonment in Canada is a decision which only Ottawa could finally make. If the decision is not altered, Meyer is to be brought to Canada and placed in a penal institution. But our penal institutions are under civil jurisdiction, and it becomes rather ridiculous, apart from the matter of justice, when an overseas military authority can foist on to a Canadian civil administration a murderer of gallant Canadians.

JAMAICAN ASSAYER

Platinum was probably brought to Europe for the first time in 1741 from Cartagena, Colombia, by a Jamaican assayer.

HID WORK FROM JAPS

CANBERRA Australia —(C P)— Murray Griffin Austin, official war artist, lost all his work when Singapore fell, so he started again in captivity. Forty oils and 150 sepia drawings were built into the hut walls, in one instance a whole case of them, and the Japanese never found them. They will be shown now in the Commonwealth.

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A GOOD GUESS

In 1550 a book was published by a Portuguese navigater, Antonio Galvao, demonstrating that a canal could be cut at Panama.