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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."
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More Liberal "Economy"

Attention was called the other day to the marked increase under the Campbell Government in those items of expenditure listed as "general government," including ministerial salaries, departmental offices, etc. The total of such expenditures increased from \$96,502 in 1934 to \$118,387 in 1938. This is where a good deal of the taxpayers' money goes, and still another share goes to paying the increasing costs for similar expenditures under the Mackenzie King Government. Government expenditures have been mounting at Ottawa since 1935 at the rate of 5 per cent a year. In 1935, total salaries and wages of the Dominion Government amounted to \$76,111,084. Restoration of salary cuts that year boosted the 1936 figure to \$82,998,104. The next year there was another jump to \$84,401,495. For the fiscal year 1938 there was an increase of 5.76 per cent, bringing it to \$89,263,481.

Both the King Government and the Campbell Government were pledged to economy in administrative expenditures. Like many other Liberal pledges, these have "gone with the wind."

A Lesson For Canada

Characteristic of the people in the Old Country is their refusal to be stampeded into an irrational state of mind, even by the serious events of last week. The Financial Post cites authority for the statement that business executives in England are going ahead quietly and deliberately with their every-day business and with expansion plans and programmes. While facing frankly the possibility of war and doing everything possible to prepare for such contingency, London is described as a place where there is "more optimism to the square inch than to the square yard in any other major capital."

Something of the same spirit, says the Post, is evident in the United States. The threat of war has brought no paralysis of capitalistic initiative as it did in 1914. The confidence pervading business sentiment in Great Britain and United States is of considerable importance to Canada, dependent as we are on business sentiment and activity in both those countries.

Mainland Opinion

"Premier Thane Campbell of Prince Edward Island," says the Sackville Post, has had the rather disagreeable task of announcing in the Legislature a deficit on current account last year of slightly under \$80,000. It is larger than he had budgeted for last year though there was a considerable increase in revenue. Along with the deficit there is also an increase in the provincial debt of \$1,249,857, bringing the total debt of the province to the near vicinity of \$9,000,000. This may not seem large when compared with the debts of the other provinces, but it has to be kept in mind that Prince Edward Island has a population of less than 90,000 people and that though the province is rich in agricultural resources and in the type of her citizenship, something more than this is needed to the easy carrying of such a load. An agricultural population has sufficient difficulties of its own to contend against without governments conducting their financing in a way to add to their difficulties."

"On The Eve Of An Election"

The words being Mr. Dunning's one of the most responsible members of the Ministry, what they tell, we must suppose, says the Ottawa Journal, is that there will be an election this Summer or at latest next Fall.

"Last year," the Journal recalls, "Mr. King said he could see no need of an election until 1940, added that none would be held until then unless the Government became doubtful over whether it retained the confidence of the country. Mr. Dunning's announcement would seem to say that some such doubt has now come to the Government.

"The doubt, if it exists, is understandable. From all corners of the country come evidence of discontent, of unrest, of protest. Mr. King used to say that third-party movements always came when Tory Governments were in office; that they were the direct consequence of Conservative maladministration. Mr. King has been in office for the past three years, and though he has had a commanding majority behind him in Parliament, enabling him to do as he pleases, we have now more third-party movements than ever before in our history. Indeed, there are so many new parties, with a fresh one coming to us nearly every week, only by a card-index system can one keep track of them. Whatever it is they tell, it is not that there is strong confidence in the country in Mr. King's administration."

Founder Of The Red Cross

While the Red Cross has grown and widened its scope until now it is one of the most beneficent and useful public societies in the world, the very name of its founder is well-nigh forgotten.

One of this year's books, "Dunant: The Story of the Red Cross," by Martin Gumpert, should go far to remedy this neglect. Henry Dunant was born in 1828 in Geneva, the Christian name of both parents being the well known Jean Jacques and Marie Antoinette. He grew up in a middle class environment during a period of industrial and commercial progress. Scion of a banking family, he was by no means a rich man when spending the years crusading for the creation of a military institution of healing after armies hurt and destroy the healthy bodies of fighting men. Indeed, he was a poor man for crusaders have no time to make money. Dunant was, we are told, prominent for a time, "a man whom kings invited," also an emperor—Napoleon III—and had his "image set up in the Paris exhibition as a symbol of humanity." Later he lived and died in obscure poverty.

To him the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross were meant to achieve more than healing and helping the wounded and injured in war. They were to be pioneering activities looking towards the abolition of war. The ultimate object was, in a word, good will between nations. It is well to have his memory revived in this year, 1939.

The present biographer tells how Dunant was reputed as being a revolutionist; and how that drove him more and more into obscurity although now and then he would be summoned before such important bodies as the National Society for the Progress of Social Science to give his views on certain aspects of themes related to the greatest healing society except that humane one of prevention.

Editorial Notes

Oliver Goldsmith died this date, 1774.

An Empire Movement investigator is now spending six months in Canada in order to be able to sell it to the Old Country as "the real life line of the British Commonwealth." In other words, to transfer the Capital from London to Ottawa.

A Conference is to take place between the Protestant and Catholic Committees of the Council of Education of Quebec in May to consider a resolution recommending the introduction of compulsory education in that province.

Mr. Hemming's timely letter on the Harbour Improvements deserves the attention of the powers-that-be. In order to have the work involved in the \$150,000 expenditure completed before the end of this financial year work must start forthwith. The following year will require all its time to take care of the additional \$200,000 or so vote.

Nothing could be accepted more as an "af-front" to Western Canada than passage of the Ottawa Government's legislation fixing a 60-cent minimum wheat price guarantee Mr. J. H. Wesson of Regina, president of the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture, told delegates to the Eastern Canada Conference on Marketing Farm Products at a banquet in the Windsor Hotel. "If the present bill becomes law it will receive 37 cents a bushel for his wheat, taking into consideration deductions for grading, elevator and freight charges."

The U. S. A. Senate has not only approved of the Army Bill passed by the House of Representatives but has increased the amount by \$13,339,938 than the amount the House voted, so it will have to be returned to the lower chamber for further consideration. As the Senate adopted it, approving without debate its own appropriations committee's amendments, the bill would provide \$513,188,172 for the War Department to spend during the fiscal year beginning on July 1. The sum would enable the army to buy 784 planes, in addition to 558 on order and 348 to be ordered under existing authorizations making a total possible increase of 1,690 in the air corps' strength of planes.

It is now pretty well assured that Parliament in Ottawa will sit until July even though the Easter recess is to be cut down to five days, April 4 to 11. The uproar in Quebec over conscription and Premier Hepburn's renewed attack on the King Administration over last week's statement by the Prime Minister have caused concern in Government circles here. In Quebec the federal leader has been scored for going too far in the direction of offering to help Britain in case of invasion, while in Queen's Park the criticism is that the King Government has not gone far enough. There was a strong pre-election tinge discernible in some of the measures listed by the Prime Minister as likely to be introduced later in the session. In some of them even the New Deal gospel may be detected, such as the measure to create a mortgage discount bank, and that to encourage co-operative marketing of various agricultural products.

In South Africa they still believe in Empire solidarity and defence. Vice-Premier General Jan Christian Smuts has pledged South Africa's determination to prepare against aggression "as far as our finances allow and as far as we can be assisted by Great Britain with the necessary weapons." "There are forms of defence that we cannot prepare in this country as things are today and will be for years," he said in a speech before the local section of the United Party. "The best and surest shield in this country for the independence of our people and the rights of this country will be the Royal Navy." "As far as our finances allow and as far as we can be assisted by Great Britain with the necessary weapons, we will move as fast as we can to put our house in order," he said. "But I am afraid that will not be enough. Other small nations like ourselves have gone under before. Another thing which is essential and which we have to do is keep in closest touch possible with our friends and our associates in the British Commonwealth of Nations."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Manifestly an honest, patient, hard-working people, those who have come to Canada have made good, during the long depression on farms which had not been profitable to the native born. Those who have been in business at home and abroad have impressed the world with their ability to solve the problems of delivery in business. Vanished Czechoslovakia, dead ere 21, has the sympathy of the civilized world, and that is all the civilized world feels able to spare.—Toronto Telegram.

The amazing performance staged by His Worship, Mayor Foudy, at the City Hall and the Champs de Mars yesterday must have astonished even his intimate friends. It certainly did astound the English-speaking population of Montreal. That a man occupying the position of chief magistrate of the Metropolis of this Dominion should take it upon himself not only to promise to defend the law, but should actually incite them to do so, is surely one of the most lamentable exhibitions ever given by any chief of capital in this country of what not to do.—Montreal Star.

A lawyer thus illustrates the language of the craft: "If a man were to give another an orange, he would simply say: 'Have an orange. But when the transaction is indicated to a lawyer to be put in writing, he adopts this form: I hereby give and convey to you, all and singular, my estate and interests, right, title, claim and advantages of and in said orange, together with all its rind, juice, pulp and pips and all rights and advantages therein, with full power to bite, cut, suck and otherwise to eat the same or give the same away with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp or pips, anything herebefore or hereinafter in any manner or kind whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding." "And then another lawyer comes along and takes it away from you!"—Exchange.

Thoreau maintained that the commonest and cheapest sounds, such as the beating of a drum, produce the same effect on fresh and healthy ears that the rarest music does. "I have lain awake at night many a time," he wrote, "to think of the beating of a drum, which I heard long before, as a frequenter of the opera might lie awake remembering the music he had heard." A child, says Thoreau, loves to strike on tin pan with a stick because its ears, being fresh and attentive, detect music in the sound. Clear and unprejudiced ears, he says, are not in the habit of inking cowbells. The enjoyment of such simple sounds is denied to most adults because their ears are dull and debauched, and as a result they are not in the habit of hearing the music of a healthy appetite than a confectioner's to a pampered and diseased one.—William Feather in Santa Fe Magazine.

It is evidence of Neville Chamberlain's trustful nature that he should have been so shocked over this latest development of Nazi and Fascist expansion. Let us recall that the openly declared policy of the militant states in Central Europe would go beyond Germany and Austria to include Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The Nazis were prepared to go, at almost any cost in human life, to obtain a strategic objective. It is surely clear that the British are not in the habit of inking cowbells. They are prepared to run the risk of war to capture new sources of economic power. They have introduced a more aggressive form of competition into economic war as it has been revived by every industrial nation since the last war.—Ottawa Citizen.

True, spokesmen of the Reich have promised to allow the Czechs to keep their culture; but spokesmen of the Reich are not liars in such respects, and the Czechs will be under no misapprehension as to the intention of the Germans to swallow them up culturally, as well as geographically.—Montreal Star.

The Niagara Falls Review, working laudably on the sitch in one of the largest cities in Ontario and municipalities get together this year on daylight saving time. Just why there has to be such an annual chase in the summer over one city or town starting it earlier than another; or one form of transportation operating on daylight schedule and another ignoring it, no one has yet made clear. And it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out some of the puzzles that it throws up.—Hamilton Spectator.

The people of neutral nations who have money invested in China have lost approximately \$800,000,000 since the present war broke out. The Chinese maritime customs survey estimates. One half of the loss was incurred by the British and \$200,000,000 by Americans. The loss is not only in the form of currency, but in mill and other properties. Add to this what China and Japan have spent on the struggle and the terrific cost in treasure and lives is brought home. The human race has never grown smart enough to avoid this kind of waste.—Exchange.

We think we are correct in saying that it is only in America as yet that a B. A. is given for proficiency in the culinary art. But diplomats of such low level in cooking should be coveted more than they are. In this matter the Cape Town Technical College leads the way. All that is needed is for the good work to go on, and we shall all not only enjoy good cooking but also know what good cooking is. For here is the rub. Hotel chefs are fairly unanimous in condemning the public in general. The "course and brutalized" taste of the public is responsible for the badly cooked and unappetizing food so often served. It is this more than anything else that keeps the cooking in restaurants (railway and hotels on such a low level. Nothing is being done, they insist, to train boys as chefs—or it may be added, as hotel-keepers—in the same way as they are being trained overseas. It is not to be felt and therefore both public and private cooking remains where it is.—Cape Argus, Capetown.

Mirror Of The Nation

By "Commoner"

OTTAWA—Dr. Manion's pronouncement last week on the question of Canada's position in regard to the danger of war has attracted wide attention. It is regarded as a landmark since the opening of Parliament. From indications reaching Ottawa it is apparent that it has provoked a very definite response throughout the country. While some differences of opinion are bound to prevail as to what Canada's position should be, the response to Dr. Manion's statement indicates that there comes close to accomplishing its purpose, which was that of making for unity of Canadian opinion and sentiment on the question of Canada's position. Dr. Manion had previously stated that he regarded such unity as the first necessity in the situation in order that Canada might make the strongest possible contribution to the efforts of the British Empire, and the other democracies, for the preservation of peace and against aggression.

The declaration by the Conservative Leader that Canada should take a definite stand with the British Empire and the other democratic nations, and that, in the event of war in Europe involving Great Britain, there could be no question of neutrality by this country, but that Canada's participation should be on a voluntary basis, seems to have met the insistent public demand for a clear-cut statement on the subject. This demand was directed, of course, to the Prime Minister, who, as long as he remains in office, is responsible for Canadian policy. Mr. Mackenzie King has continued his course of carefully avoiding any definite statement of policy and officially, therefore, the question "What is Canada prepared to do?" remains unanswered. In reply to the demand for an answer from the head of the Government, Mr. King has made statements from time to time in the House of Commons, but up to the present he has succeeded in avoiding any commitment as to his attitude.

While the Leader of the Opposition cannot speak for the country, it is stated in Conservative quarters in the Capital that the reaction to Dr. Manion's pronouncement indicates that he has spoken for the views of the people of Canada. It seems to be felt that Dr. Manion by his statement has performed an important national service in helping to clarify the situation and promote national unity. In a round Parliament the impression is increasing that the position of national leadership is rapidly passing out of the hands of the Prime Minister and those of the Leader of the Opposition.

It is a matter of widespread comment in Ottawa that the Conservative Leader's declaration that Canada's participation in a European war involving the Empire should be on a voluntary basis coincides exactly with the refusal of the Chamberlain Government to consent to conscription for Great Britain. The policy of the British Government and the attitude of the Conservative Party in Canada are based on the assumption that neither Great Britain nor Canada will send large expeditionary forces to the continent in the event of war. Dr. Manion, in making his declaration, stated that he had been advised by a high military authority that Great Britain did not contemplate that Canada would send large expeditionary forces as in the last war and it has frequently been stated that in England the participation of Great Britain in the event of war would be largely through highly mechanized units rather than through vast armies.

In his two hour statement to the Commons last week, Mr. Mackenzie King did not depart from his position of refusing to define the nature of his government. The effect of his statement was to make that attitude more indefinite still. Mr. King's statement on Thursday differed from his previous statements only in that he adopted the position taken by Dr. Manion on Monday and declared that should Canada be involved in a war along with the rest of the Empire participation should be on a voluntary basis and not on a conscription basis.

Continued attacks outside of Parliament on Hon. Ian Mackenzie and the Department of National Defence in connection with the awarding of armaments contracts have provoked a statement from Hon. Chas. Dunning, Minister of Finance, a remarkable statement that is being interpreted as a veiled threat by the Government against the freedom of the press. Objecting to statements in a leading Liberal newspaper regarding the purchase of defence aircraft by Mr. Mackenzie's department, Mr. Dunning told the House of Commons he was "wondering if it is not desirable that we take some rather strong measures with respect to such statements." The Minister of Finance didn't amplify his statement but it was immediately assumed that it would imply that he was considering possible measures for muzzling the press either by way of censorship or by action against publications and writers daring to criticize the government in connection with defence matters.

Ottawa comment on Mr. Dunning's words recall only one recent case in Canada of a suggestion from a government quarter that restriction should be placed on the press in peace time. In this case the move was made by one of the provincial governments and, although the rest of the country was not directly concerned a storm of protest developed from coast to coast. It is believed that there will be no such suggestion from Mr. Dunning's quarters. The attacks on Hon. Ian Mackenzie all stem from the disclosures brought about from royal commission inquiry regarding his course in the case of the Bren gun contract. The Minister's methods in this case led to a good deal of inquiry outside of Parliament as to the methods followed in connection with other armament contracts. The Government's displeasure at criticism of the Defence Minister is intensified by the fact that it comes so largely from quarters which hitherto have strongly supported it.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE CHARLOTTETOWN HARBOUR

Sir,—It would, I believe, be putting the matter mildly indeed to say that Prince Edward Islanders generally are more than pleased that the Dominion Government has decided to accede to the oft-repeated request that the Island be supplied with a harbour equipped with up-to-date accommodation for ocean going vessels, as was announced in your Saturday's edition. To the unemployed work of dredging the harbour and building an extension to the railway pier will mean a great deal, while to the longshoremen the additional stevedore service when large vessels make regular calls is more than welcome. These matters, however, are in themselves but incidentals, for the real objects at the back of the unprofitable access to British and foreign markets for the products of our farmers and fishermen and (2) to assist in bringing summer tourists to the Island.

It is no secret that when Mr. Dunning was in this City two and three years ago, he did not hesitate to express his misgivings as to the wisdom of expending so large a sum of money on improving the harbour. It was not that he did not admit the trading and tourist possibilities of the undertaking, but rather that in his opinion the money had not arrived when sufficient traffic—either passenger or freight—could be offered to large ocean vessels to warrant them making Charlottetown port of call. To the reply to Mr. Dunning was that until such time as an assurance could be given that direct ocean transportation would be forthcoming by a given date, it would not be practicable to take even the first steps towards the special preparation of exportable products and the securing of markets abroad, nor indeed of repairing for an enlarged influx of tourists.

Mr. Dunning has evidently admitted the force of this argument and, because of the continued insistence that at least one pier be built, he has evidently prevailed upon his fellow cabinet ministers to grant our request. But what does this mean? Does it not mean simply that the Dominion Government is today placing the full responsibility for the proper use of their promised outlay upon the shoulders of our Government and of our business men? And will any future requests that we may make if we fall to avail ourselves of the harbour facilities when they are handed over to us in the Spring of 1941.

(Continued on page 9, Col 8)

The Poet's Corner

IN NEWFOUNDLAND
 The ox moves by
 flailing a load of birch;
 His back could bear the sky,
 His shoulders lift a church.
 Chalk-white the load,
 With scars of sooty black;
 Along the icy road
 A curl of bark blows back.
 An old man sits
 Upon the creaking sleigh,
 And beats his worn red mitts
 To keep the frost away.
 —Lenore A. Pratt, Grand Falls, Nfld

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