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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1942

Rumor And Col. Ralston

Is Prince County about to lose its distinguished representative in the House of Commons? This is what has been rumored at Ottawa, but it is discounted by a statement issued by Defence Minister Ralston himself. It seems that a dinner had been tendered him at Ottawa on Monday evening, and according to the Ottawa Journal this tribute was believed to foreshadow Col. Ralston's retirement from the cabinet to accept the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Should Col. Ralston be offered and accept the judicial post, he would succeed Sir Lyman Duff, present Chief Justice of Canada who celebrated his 77th birthday in October and is said by his associates of the Court to have considered retirement for some time. But Col. Ralston says he has never been offered the post, and in any case would not accept while there was a war job to be done.

There is, of course, no question as to his legal qualifications. After his retirement from politics in 1935 Col. Ralston devoted himself with such success to his law practice that in five years he became one of Montreal's leading corporation lawyers. During that period he also handled several outstanding government assignments. He was counsel to the Royal Commission inquiring into the grain industry and counsel for the Government in the inquiry conducted by Mr. Justice Davis of the Supreme Court of Canada, into the Bren gun contract.

When he returned to politics for the second time and was sworn in as Finance Minister on Sept. 7, 1930, he had no seat in the House of Commons. The war budget, it will be recalled, was presented at a special emergency session which opened on that date, by Revenue Minister J. L. Ilsley. Early in January, 1940, Col. Ralston became Liberal candidate in a by-election necessitated by the death of Mr. A. E. MacLean, M.P., for Prince. He received an acclamation and was re-elected there in the Dominion elections of March 26, 1940. Col. Ralston has therefore been representing Prince County for thirty-four months.

Should there be any foundation for the rumor that he is to receive an offer of the Chief Justiceship—and this is not denied—there would appear to be little doubt that the offer would be engineered by the Prime Minister himself in an endeavour to restore a measure of harmony in the Cabinet. It is generally conceded that Col. Ralston and Mr. King do not see eye to eye in the matter of conscription enforcement, and that the former is *persona non grata* with the Quebec representatives. It would be no reflection on anybody or anything in promoting Col. Ralston to the exalted office of Chief Justice of Canada, and it would provide the opportunity for Mr. King to select a more congenial colleague in the Ministry of Defense.

If Col. Ralston should be persuaded in this matter against his present will, who would the new Minister likely be? As it is Prince Edward Island's place in the Government, what more natural than that Dr. Cyrus MacMillan should be chosen? He has all the qualifications for the office, and his record in Parliament proves him to be the last man one would imagine likely to give his Chief any trouble or prove unpopular in Quebec. Anyway, as a former Minister from this Province, Dr. Cyrus has the first claim to the portfolio.

That Free Union

The Ottawa correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. Percy J. Philip, speaking at an Empire Club luncheon in Toronto put the would-be Sir Galahads—who have made it their self-imposed mission to rescue the British dominions from a fictitious thraldom—effectively in their place. Citizens of the Empire, he said, "are not going to let people talk us out of that free union, of that mighty co-operative power for good." These reckless knight-errants should first make sure that the dominions want to be "rescued." Rescued from what? Rescued from freedom? For what more free than the self-governing British dominions, bound by no ties other than those of filial loyalty and of mutual trust and understanding, silken bonds which, if they so choose—but they don't—they are entirely free to sever at any time, of their own volition, without any "prodding" from the outside?

The history of this war is an inspiring demonstration of the firm solidarity of the Empire, which, it might have been supposed, would convince the most sceptical onlooker. Of their own accord the dominions took their stand by the side of the Mother Country the moment she was threatened. What better testimony could be asked for than that of the spontaneous, grateful, devoted sentiments animating the free peoples of the world-wide Commonwealth of Nations? When Premier Churchill gave his promise to respect that sentiment to the full in post-war settlements he was but keeping faith with the dominions.

Canada, or any other member of the great British family of nations, wants no misplaced sympathy or guidance from critics of a so-called imperialistic system which they obviously are quite incapable of understanding. It is, indeed, unique in character, difficult of definition, even illogical in some aspects, perhaps, but it operates smoothly and successfully and to the satisfaction of its component elements, and that is the best proof of its merits.

Nazi Ferocity Intensified

It is hard to be shocked any longer by the tale of Nazi atrocities, but the Polish government in exile has just issued a statement which, if true, is surely the worst ever recorded of any nation or government. It is to the effect that Heinrich Himmler, Nazi Gestapo chief, has ordered the exterminiation of one half of the Jewish population of Poland by the end of the year and that 250,000 were killed through September under this program. Only 40,000 Jews are to remain in the Warsaw Ghetto—only thoroughly skilled workers to be employed in the German war industry. The most convincing proof of the dwindling numbers in the Ghetto lies in the fact that for September, 1942, 130,000 ration cards were printed; for October, the number issued was only 40,000.

The statement said that those marked for extermination at any time are segregated, taken to a cemetery and shot. The remainder are loaded into freight cars, 150 to a car intended for 40. The floor of the car is sprinkled with a thick layer of lime or chlorine-sprinkled water. The doors of the cars are sealed. Sometimes the train starts immediately. Other times it waits on a siding for days. The people are packed so tightly that those who die of suffocation remain in the crowd side by side with those still living. Half of the people arrive dead at the destination. Those surviving are sent to special camps at Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor. Once there they are mass-murdered.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

After all the expenditure on their Selective Service system, the Government now announce that they must rely once more on employers to put it into effect.

* * * *

India's representatives on the British War Cabinet, the Jam Sahib of Nahawanagar and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, will visit Canada shortly. Sir Ramaswami, who holds a position on the Viceroy's council comparable to the British post of president of the Board of Trade will attend the Pacific Relations Council and the Jam Sahib will come to Canada when Sir Ramaswami returns "to tell Canadians what India is doing in this war."

* * * *

Orders recently went forward from the Prices Board, Industries Control Board, and the Transport Department of the Dominion to the effect that deliveries of Christmas trees by truck or rail will be "drastically curtailed" to conserve manpower, gasoline, rubber and railway facilities. The Timber Controller states that the restriction on delivery would mean that very few Christmas trees will be on sale in Canadian towns and cities this year.

* * * *

Resolutions now being studied by the pre-convention resolutions and policy committee of the Conservative Party demonstrate "resentment over government by order-in-council." The committee is expected to unite these resolutions into one joint resolution which will be presented to the convention. Hon. R. B. Hanson, House of Commons opposition leader, probably will participate in the debate on this resolution and reiterate protests he has made in the House on several occasions against government by order-in-council.

* * * *

Catherine of Braganza, Queen-consort of Charles II of England, died this date, 1705; was the daughter of John IV of Portugal, and it was through her Britain obtained its first lien on India, her father having in 1661 settled upon her at her marriage the district of Bombay; in 1668 the East India Company obtained control from the British Crown, adding other districts until in 1819 Governor Elphinstone appeared on the scene, and in six years had the whole area converted into a province of India; Queen Catherine remained loyal and devoted to Charles despite his infidelities and harsh treatment, and after his death continued to reside in England until 1692 when she returned to Portugal.

* * * *

Judging by a report from Mr. L. M. Cosgrave, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Sydney, the dairying industry in Australia has been stimulated by the war in the southwest Pacific. "During the first two years of warfare," Mr. Cosgrave stated, "production of dairy products such as milk, butter, cheese and eggs, was to a considerable extent determined by the United Kingdom wartime contracts. With the extension of the war into the southwest Pacific, and the greatly increased requirements of the armed services, including those of the United States, the dairying industry has of necessity shown marked changes in many directions. Exports by countries of destination are for security reasons not available for publication."

* * * *

There may be more truth than poetry in the report that the son of the British Secretary of State for India (Mr. L. S. Amery), has turned traitor. Evidently it is the outcome of faulty upbringing and subsequent bad company. When a youth theatrical and fast London life were his choice, and while only 20 years of age tried to marry Una Evelyn Wing, an actress. His father objected, and prohibited the marriage in England, but the couple ran off to the continent and were married later in Athens. In recent years he tried unsuccessfully to promote several film companies. One company went bankrupt. Later he was reported to have tried to float a $40,000 company, spending $12,000 in lavish entertainment in Berlin, Vienna, Paris and St. Moritz in an effort to land contracts. Now he has graduated fit company for Lord Haw-Haw in attempting to sell his country out to Hitler in sheer chagrine

NOTES BY THE WAY

The long awaited revival of the Campbellton Board of Trade seems to have begun, and unexpected enthusiasm in the matter has been aroused in merchants and business men in town. The value of such a Board can hardly be exaggerated, and particularly now when the exigencies of war make them necessary, new laws governing business and taxes can best be explained through a local Board of Trade —Campbellton Tribune.

Southern Alberta Indians are subscribers to the war loan. We saw a list of subscriptions from half a dozen Indians the other day, and the amount they subscribed would put many of their better off white brothers to shame. —Lethbridge Herald.

More appeals are being made to the Canadian public to use less pork. Great numbers of Canadians haven't eaten pork in weeks, but if the government lets it be sold, certainly it will be bought. —Ottawa Journal.

Food is important, so Goering was put up to make the promises about Germany's winter supply, Nobody would have believed Hitler.—Toronto Telegram.

German generals have issued a booklet telling the German people that Hitler has been personally directing and organizing the different campaigns. The message is subtle in its implications. It paves the way for the generals to pin the blame for any defeat on Hitler, himself. Ever since the German advance in Russia failed to progress as anticipated, the German High Command has been emphasizing the role Hitler has been playing in the war. In phrases that seem to flatter the Fuehrer, the generals have been building up a strong case against him.—Clarke, In Windsor Star.

New York veterinarians say that meat rationing and shortage of canned dog foods probably will prove a blessing in disguise to family pets. Most dogs —especially those that live in cities and lead sedentary lives —would enjoy better health on about half the meat their owners have been giving them, according to the experts. We suggest that quite a few overstuffed human beings might discover that the same rule applies to them.—New York World-Telegram.

A sign of the times is to be noted in Australia, where a bill authorizing a referendum on constitutional reform was introduced by Attorney-General Dr. Evatt in the House of Representatives at Canberra on Oct 1. While the changes proposed in this bill do not specifically affect the jurisdiction of the states, the net result would be greatly to increase the power of the central or national government in post-war years. The Australian government evidently is looking forward to the task which all national governments will have to face when the war is ended. —Winnipeg Free Press.

One reason why landlords are not inclined to rent homes to people with children is that some parents have no consideration for the property of others and are careless of the destructive habits of their children. Indeed, some tenant's reason the house doesn't belong to them and, it is all right for children to destroy it. Niagara Falls Review.

Tennyson did not dislike being compared with other poets, with one exception.—Longfellow. There is a story, told by the Rev. W. H. Brookfield, that once when he was present with Tennyson at a club dinner, the poet displayed considerable contempt for polite customs even to putting his feet on the table before the guests had risen. Remonstrances were ignored and Tennyson's host appealed to Brookfield, who said: "Alfred, do take your legs down. They've mistaking you for Longfellow." The legs came down with a run! —Manchester Guardian.

A report on the health of two of New York's liveliest residents makes pleasant reading. In Animal Kingdom the condition of the two giant pandas at the Zoo is called excellent by Leonard J. Goss, Zoo veterinarian. Pandee, the male, weighed 153 pounds, and Pandah, the female, 148 pounds at the latest weighing-in. It is probably masculine propaganda, but the keeper of the pandas, unnamed for his own protection, says that the male is easier to get along with and that the female is meaner and trickier. If the health of the pandas is good a minority of visitors to the Zoo cannot be thanked for it. Among the things thrown into the animals' inclosure have been peanuts, popcorn, rubber balls, handkerchiefs, wood, cellophane, marbles, buttons, ice cream sticks and bottle tops. The pandas have more sense than the visitors who contributed this miscellany, for they left these objects severely alone and confined themselves to the scientific diet prepared for them.—New York Sun.

The restriction upon the manufacture of hats reminds me (writes "G. C.") of a comment I once heard from a staunch member of the "No Hot Brigade" about man's deep concern over protecting his head. "In the first place," he said, "God gave man hair to protect his pate. Not satisfied with that, man invented the hat to protect his hair, and followed this up by inventing the umbrella to protect his hat. And in spite of this armament, what does he do when it rains? Stands in a shop doorway!"—Manchester Guardian.

After two years of service in Malta, Major Francis Gerard, a British army officer, says: "There are degrees of courage, and the rarest and purest form is that of fortitude —courage which endures, which faces terror, discomfort, pain and loss day after day, week after week, year after year—courage which goes on through sleeplessness, fatigue, disorganization and hunger." Malta is the valiant example. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The fantastic war-time earnings of children— a question which crops up nearly every day —is a great and growing evil. It is not only corrupting the tastes, outlook, and future of boys and girls just out of school, but is undermining the stability of family life. Nobody has the right to cast stones at these children. If a boy is paid more than his father ever earned in his life, what is he to do? Refuse to take "the rate for the job"? And if such unwonted affluence goes to his head, who is to blame him for lack-

The Mite Of Empire

(New York Times)

Yesterday the British announced "that R.A.F. fighters had shot down six big Italian troop-carrying planes flying north, probably from Tunisia, and filled with German troops." Since Italy has become the beast of burden for the Germans, this carriage of its masters is inevitable. The bearers of the rod are used to being flogged, but it seems cruel to mention Tunisia in connection with their punishment. All North Africa was Roman once. In what is now Tunisia, near Tunis its capital, lived the deadliest and most dangerous enemy of Rome.

Has the new Roman Emperor Mussolini forgotten Carthage and the three Punic Wars? In the last of them, the great city with its walls fifty feet high and twenty miles in circumference was plundered and burned. The site was dedicated to the gods beneath the earth, made forbidden ground on which no man might dwell. Tunisia, the distant successor of this infernal region, has often been the subject of vocal annexation by the subjects of the new Roman Emperior. Yet there is something ominous in this Carthaginian business.

The Phoenician name of Carthage was Karthhadach, the New City, Naples. Its founder Elissa, daughter of a Tyrian king, fled from the tyranny of her brother Pygmalion to start a new settlement. Her better-known name, Dido, means "the fugitive." She was the niece of Jezebel and a cousin of Athaliah, non-Aryan names for which the Emperor Mus has a borrowed hatred. gentleman friend Aeeneas was an exile from Troy, a runaway who ran away from and not with the lady. Here we have a series of precursors that promise no good luck to the restorer of the Roman Empire whose Ethiopian Empire is one with Tyre and Sidon.

The Greeks gave to the mother country of the Carthaginians the name of Phoenike, Land of the Red Men, a dark prophecy of 1942. Dido finally went up in smoke and flame, another somber significance for Mus. Last and worst of all. Dido was identified with "Astarte, Queen of Heaven with crescent horns.' She is mythical, like the new Roman Empire. Carthage-Tunis is bad medicine.

The Poets' Corner

FROM THE SOMME

(1916)

In other days I sang of simple things,
Of Summer dawn, and summer noon and night,
The dewy grass, the dew-wet fairy rings,
The lark's long golden flight.

Deep in the forest I made melody
While squirrels cracked their hazel nuts on high,
Or I would cross the wet sand to the sea
And sing to sea and sky.

When came the silvery silence of the night
I stole to casements over scented lawns,
And softly sang of love and love's delight
To mute white marble fauns.

Oft in the tavern parlour I would sing
Of morning sun upon the mountain vine,
And, calling for a chorus, sweep the string
In praise of good red wine.

I played with all the toys the gods provide,
I sang my songs and made glad holiday.
Now I have cast my broken toys aside
And flung my lute away.

A singer once, I now am fain to weep,
Within my soul I feel strange music swell,
Vast chants of tragedy too deep—too deep
For any poor lips to tell.

—Sgt. Leslie Coulson
(Killed in action Oct. 1916)

ing the balance of maturity? He may want parental direction, for the father may work in the Services and the mother on war work, at the behest of the community. It is therefore the duty of the community to care for this boy and the many like him. —London Daily Mail.

PICTOU, N. S., Nov. 22—Crushed between the freight shed and the car of a train here, Clyde H. Henderson, 26, of New Harbor, N.S., died of his injuries in hospital last week.

He has been employed as a brakeman in the Pictou railway yards for several months. He and his wife, a native of Cornwall, P.E.I., had been living at Pictou Landing since their marriage in June.

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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 DEHYDRATION MISFIRE

Sir,—Your issue of this date hints that the need of 20 feet of land is the reason that the dehydration plant has not been located in Charlottetown.

Why not, if you have the information, give the public full particulars.

Our City Council and our Board of Trade, both of which can be depended on to make a big noise over matters of much less importance have been strangely silent while this plant which would have meant so much to our City and surrounding districts has been established elsewhere. Why not tell us all you know.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A CITIZEN

(We did give all available particulars in our Saturday's issue—Ed. G.)

Naval Warfare In A New Phase

(New York Herald Tribune)

With so many details about the action in the Solomons still missing, it is probably idle to talk about its "lessons". But one cannot miss certain striking aspects of the engagement. It marked the first announced appearance of American battleships in action in the Pacific (they may also have been present on Oct. 26th, but the fact was not stated); it was largely a gun duel, while the aircraft carrier was conspicuous by her total absence from the Japanese side and apparently from the American side as well.

"Our faith in the battleship" says Admiral Nimitz, "has been justified." The statement should probably not be made to carry more weight than was intended, for land based aircraft also played an important part. But as the battle wagons opened up, "swinging from the floor", to use another of the admiral's phrases, one can well believe that Admiral Hasley thanked his stars that he had them.

Indeed, we here seem to see naval war, which has undergone so many dramatic transformations, entering still another phase.

In the Pacific the process, which was easy to anticipate, whereby the overwhelmingly powerful yet highly vunerable carriers would kill each other off, leaving the field to the gunnery ships, seems to have gone far toward completion. The Oct. 26 action was the last example so far of rival fleets slugging at each other with their aircraft while standing far out of range or sight of one another; and there may not be another such action until the new carriers and carrier conversions are available.

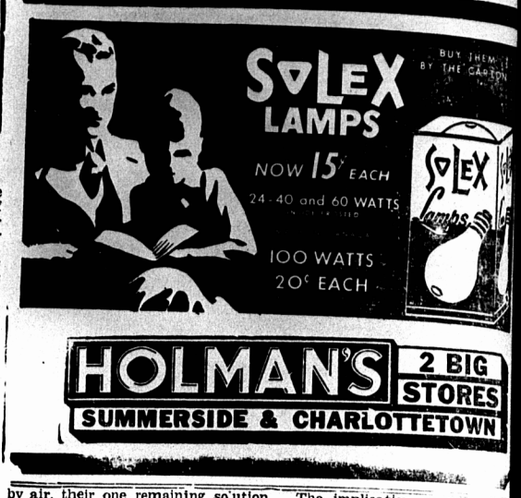
But meanwhile is is not the classic fleet action which has been restored, for the problem of land-based aircraft—which may normally be expected to be present near almost any likely battleground—remains to make that sort of full-dress, daylight battle a difficult business.

The answer so far seems to be the night action. Macassar Strait, the Java Sea, the disastrous affair in which we lost four cruisers off Guadalcanal, and now this victory of the Solomons were all night actions.

Originally the Japanese seemed considerably more adept at the art than we. Evidently they are so no longer. Where Jellicoe probably lost many of the fruits of Jutland because a night battle was too unfamiliar a business for him to risk one, the present-day gunnery ship is being forced to make darkness its proper element. To retake Guadalcanal, the Japanese had to get men and guns—which meant surface ships—to the island; they could not do so unless they could knock out the air power on Henderson Field; failing to accomplish this by air, their one remaining solution was to send in the terrific firepower of ship-borne artillery under cover of night to blast the field to ruins.

They would probably have succeeded had we also not had ship-borne artillery, including the heavy calibres of the battleships, to meet them.

The implication would appear to be that war follows no set theoretical patterns; resolute and combative leaders will use every ingenious combination of weapons, and can be defeated only with a full armory of similar weapons and full co-operation between them, whether they be ship-borne guns or air-borne bombs and torpedoes.



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