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

MONDAY JULY 28, 1947

Living Conditions In Russia

The most persistent legend about the Soviet regime is that it has given the Russian people a high standard of living. The absurdity of this claim is revealed in a study of living standards in Russia prepared by the Labor Department in Washington with its special knowledge of present-day conditions in the Soviet Union.

Since the end of the European war, the report declares, the price of food in the Soviet Union has risen 166 per cent, on the average, but wages have gone up only 25 per cent. These figures are based on official food prices in Moscow. Unrationed black bread has gone up 240 per cent, sugar 196 per cent, milk 220 per cent, beef 114 per cent and butter 136 per cent.

The report uses an interesting comparison between the weekly purchasing power of a Russian worker (average salary 120 rubles) and a factory worker in the United States (average salary \$50).

On these two average weekly salaries, a Soviet worker can buy 23 loaves of bread, a United States workman at least 390 loaves. The Russian would exhaust his money in buying 17 pounds of sugar. The American can buy more than 500 pounds. Sixteen quarts of milk are a week's salary in Moscow. In the United States the wage earner can get more than 275 quarts. A Russian worker can buy less than ten pounds of meat with all his salary; this, of course, is only a fraction of what can be had by the American. So it is with butter, eggs, fruit, and a thousand other things.

The living standard in the United States and Canada is the highest in the world. That of Russia is inferior to the countries of eastern Europe. Before the war, the average well-paid Russian had a living standard below that of Canadians on relief. Since the damage done by the Nazi invasion, standards in Russia have fallen with bleak regularity. The dictatorship is severe but people are hungry. Perhaps that is why Russia has a dictatorship. At any rate it seems preposterous to say that Russia has chosen economic security in preference to individual freedom. The Russian people have neither security nor freedom.

Agriculture In Britain

It was the Romans who taught the Britons how to farm their fertile valleys, using the plow and oxen. It remained for the Saxons, however, to establish villages, and from this emerged the Manorial System with its three-field plan, under which the tenants had a number of strips in each of three communal fields, a system which remained until the 14th century when the need for enclosing land for sheep-raising, due to the expanding wool trade, began the movement which led to the modern field system. These fields were either owned outright by freeholders or farmed by tenants paying a money rent.

Thus reads the first chapter in the evolution of British farming, as told in an attractively illustrated booklet published by the United Kingdom Information Office, Ottawa. The story is one of epic achievement, related in the tersest language.

The enclosure of the land in Britain made possible a further development in arable farming which took place about 1720. The earth was improved by the use of various forms of lime and by the adoption of a four-course rotation of wheat, turnips, barley, clover, a system of farming encouraged by the great landowners of the time, designed to keep the soil permanently fertile. Britain took its place as the most successful farming country in the world.

British inventions came to the farmer's aid with Jethro Tull's corn drill in 1701, James Smith's reaper in 1815, and Patrick Bell's reaper in 1828. There followed chaff-cutters, steam cultivators, steam plows, binders, scarifiers, etc. At the same time, livestock was improved. Robert Bakewell (1725-95), by the most careful methods, changed the large-boned, coarse, slow-maturing sheep of his era into the well-fleshed animal which he called "the New Leicester, whose blood runs in many of the famous sheep today. The annual sheepshearings were the forerunners of our modern agricultural shows. Improvements in breeds of swine, cattle and other livestock were introduced.

Ironically, the Industrial Revolution—which prompted so many inventions to benefit the farmer—was also responsible in some part for the decline of agriculture towards the end of the nineteenth century. By then food could be brought from abroad more cheaply than it could be grown at home. Between 1867 and 1913 the arable acreage of Britain fell from 17,000,000 to 14,500,000 acres, but the demand for more milk and meat for the new urban centres was responsible for increased numbers of livestock.

Thus, with the coming of World War I and the ensuing U-Boat campaign Britain faced a serious food shortage. The farmers were appealed to and responded by increasing the arable acreage by nearly one and a half million acres in two years, from 1916 to 1918.

The period between the two wars was necessarily one of adjustment. Grain prices fell owing to the large world production and reduced industrial demand, and British farmers had to adopt themselves as best they could to the new situation. In 1924 subsidies were introduced by the British Government and from that year they were paid on sugar, from 1932 on wheat, from 1934 on milk and cattle, and from 1938 on oats and barley. Successful marketing schemes were

also introduced for hops, milk, bacon, pigs and potatoes.

Of further help to the farmer was the passing of the Land Drainage Act in 1930 which created boards to control the use of water over areas of as much as 2 1/2 million acres at a time. By the end of 1942 schemes costing the equivalent of sixty-four million dollars had been approved under this Act. During this period Sir George Stapledon's experiments produced improved strains of grasses. It was he who advocated "ley" farming, whereby pastures were renewed every few years by plowing and re-seeding. With the production of new grasses and careful livestock breeding Britain became the "stud" farm of the world.

By 1939 agriculture was still Britain's largest industry, occupying 70 per cent of the land area of England and Wales, and providing employment, directly or indirectly, for over one million people. Yet despite this fact, Britain was producing less than one-third of the food she consumed. Moreover, British agriculture was unbalanced. While arable farming had sunk to 12,000,000 acres (the lowest in history) the number of dairy cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry had never been higher. In order to feed this livestock Britain had to import between seven and eight million tons of feeding stuffs annually.

The report goes on to review Britain's tremendous efforts agriculturally during the recent war and post-war years, which are the most epic part of the whole narrative, though too familiar for detailed reference here. The story ends, characteristically, on a note of firm confidence in the future of the British farmer, based on the knowledge that "the best machines and technical advice are at his service and that his rightful place in the life of the country is firmly established."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Someone should tell the American Colonel Blimp, who is behind the building of 42,000 lb. bombs, that the atom has been split.

Mr. Eden finds it distressing for Britain and the U. S. A. to be sending supplies to rehabilitate Germany, while Russia continues to take reparations from that country.

France as well as Holland is having difficulty with her colonial empire. There is open revolt in Indo-China, and Emir Abd-el Krim, the "Lion of Morocco" is appealing for independence for Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Oil and gasoline are to be under the Public Utilities Board, but what for nobody seems to know, except to see that we obtain a fair share of imports. There is no wartime order-in-council or legislation that would authorize any province to interfere with the flow of commerce and distribution of imports.

Montreal is continuing its high handed policy of cancelling hotel and tavern licenses and seizing stocks of liquor. Such executive action is a long way from the "rule of law and not of men." Magna Carta once guaranteed that subjects should not suffer in person or property except by judgment of their peers. Now in Montreal it is by judgment of officials.

How speedily the interests of trade wipe out patriotic and other sentiments. Already Ottawa is sending a delegation of lumbermen to Japan, who are to be accompanied by officials. While the delegation is not primarily a trade mission, the announcement, made by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, said that the visit to the far east would "emphasize Canada's interest in and facilitate the revival of trade with that part of the world."

Old artillerymen will be interested to learn that the military detention barracks on McNab's Island in Halifax Harbor are to be moved shortly to the former military hospital, Elkins Barracks, at Eastern Passage, Halifax. An announcement said the move was being made "in the interests of economy, improvement of service, and the morale and welfare of the staff. At present, water transport, R. C. A. S. C., makes four trips daily from Halifax to the island, using two boats retained by the army for the purpose."

United Kingdom financial returns for the first quarter of the financial year, which were released July 1st, show an \$880,000,000 excess of revenue over expenditure. This compares with a deficit of \$1,092,000 in the corresponding period of last year. The Budget estimate provided for a surplus of \$1,078,400,000 for the whole of the 1947-48 financial year (April 1st to March 31st) so that the excess achieved in the first three months leaves a balance only of roughly \$200,000,000 to be collected throughout the rest of the year for the realization of this estimate.

Richard Corbet, humorous poet, successively Bishop of Oxford and Norwich, died this date, 1635; born in the reign of Elizabeth, his wit and eloquence recommended him to the favour of James, and his advancement in the Church was commensurate with his abilities. Benevolent, generous, and spirited in his public character—amiable and affectionate in private life—he deservedly enjoyed the patronage of the great, the applause and estimation of the good. The following lines, found written on the fly-leaf of a volume of Corbet's poems, convey an excellent idea of his general character:

If flowing wit, if verses writ with ease, If learning void of pedantry can please; If much good humour joined to solid sense, And mirth accompanied with innocence, Can give a poet a just right to fame, Then Corbet may immortal honour claim; For he these virtues had, and in his lines Poetic and heroic spirit shines; Tough bright, yet solid, pleasant but not rude With wit and wisdom equally imbued, Be silent, Muse, thy praises are too faint, Thou wast a power, the prodigy to paint, At once a poet, prelate and a saint.

Notes By The Way

When Prince Albert had the title, "Prince Consort" his wife, Victoria, was Queen. That precedent may well rule in the present case of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is, of course, a purely honorary rank. A king's wife is queen, but the husband of a queen is not necessarily a king. —Ottawa Journal.

Those square milk bottles now growing in popularity in the Southern United States are not likely to catch on north of the border, according to Canadian Grocer. Reason given has nothing to do with things as they are in a warm climate—it is said to be doubtful if the shoulders of square bottles could be made strong enough to resist the pressure caused by winter doorstep freezing. —Canadian Grocer.

Why bathtubs have reclining backs has now attracted the attention of the demon researchers. They are trying to find out why the things are just the way they are. One end slanted and the other one perpendicular. Personally, we never thought there was any question about it. The slopping end is obviously for those people who like to lie in a bathtub in a warm bath. There are such fortunate folk, we are told. As for us, we have never had the time. Bathing is a means of washing, and is to be accomplished as quickly as possible. The reclining back is probably a dash for the office. And, having done without it so long, we doubt whether we could enjoy lying back and dozing in the tub. But for them, it makes it, there's that reclining backrest. —Windsor Star.

After peering at the throats of 1,026 patients, Drs. Paul H. Hollinger, Albert H. Andrews, Jr., and George S. Anson, of the University of Illinois College of Medicine announced, according to Newsweek, that hardware items, chiefly nails, and other metal objects led the list of foreign objects removed. "Then came safety pins, coins and nuts."

It has been announced that weather bureau experts in a certain locality will no longer be paid a fee for the privilege of working nights. And there is a certain rough justice in that. The locality in question is the Arctic, where the nights are six months long. —Chicago Journal of Commerce.

Canada has just issued a postage stamp to commemorate the new "legal" Canadian citizenship of Canadians. The blue colored four-cent stamp depicts a man standing on the globe with hand upraised to the name of Canada. Below is the word "Citizen" in English and French. The new stamp made its first appearance on Dominion Day at post-offices across Canada, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of Confederation. The stamp will carry letters and mail to corners of the world and, let us hope, will emphasize in a dignified manner the fact that a Canadian is a citizen of a nation that has won a place of importance among the countries of the world. —Edmonton Journal.

Meatless days persist in spite of the fact that meat rationing is a thing of the past. What a pity! This regulation is at least doubtful. It has been suggested that the real reason for retaining meatless days in restaurants is the same as that for retaining the prohibition on the sale of ready-silken bread—government inertia. —Winnipeg Tribune.

An Oxford don who died a few years ago had a large and valuable collection of books, which he lent widely to his friends. The books were always faithfully and promptly returned. The reason was that whenever he lent a book he not only recorded it in a list but exacted from the borrower a monetary deposit equal to the published price. This was returned when the book came back, which it never failed to do. —Manchester Guardian.

Beauty is free. It is in the perpetual possession of all who can see or feel. It is present by day and by night, in the near and in the most remote corner of the universe. It needs only to be recognized, to be possessed, and carried as a memory in the heart. Beauty is not to be plucked or gathered, like a flower that withers when detached from the stalk. It is part of the universe, and yet in the domain of everyone. —Victoria Colonist.

The higher the temperature goes, and the more humid it becomes, the less work you can do. It isn't a mere matter of comfort, as so many people imagine. It isn't just a question of forgetting about the weather and getting down to work. It is a matter of just what the body will stand without a more or less serious collapse. You can drive just so far, and your body will do the best it can for you by cooling you off by evaporating perspiration. But, when perspiration begins to decline, you had better slow down. You've had your warning.

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28th Chief Of Clan MacLeod

Flora, Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, of Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, (now visiting Nova Scotia for the 9th. annual Gaelic Mod at St. John's, July 30-Aug. 1), heard 28th. Chief of her Clan on the death of her father Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod, K.C.B. on August 20, 1938.

At that time a report was prepared by a committee appointed by the Council of the Clan MacLeod Society, Edinburgh, with regard to the office of Chief of the Society. Some excerpts from this report follow:

The Clan Arms (without encircling upon any question of precedence) consists of two main branches, viz: "Sìol Tormod" (MacLeods of Dunvegan) and "Sìol Torquill" (MacLeods of Lewis). The Chiefs of the MacLeods of Dunvegan under the particular name of the Chief for the time being, are variously described in the Privy Council Records and Acts of Scots Parliament, and other documents, as "of Dunvegan," "of Harris," "Glenelg," "Laird of Dunvegan," "Laird of MacLeod," "of that ilk."

The Chief of the MacLeods of Dunvegan is commonly known, according to Highland custom and usage, as "MacLeod of MacLeod," or "MacLeod."

There is ample evidence of Arms borne by the Chiefs of the MacLeods of Dunvegan for centuries before, but the first matriculation of the Arms of the Clan MacLeod of MacLeod, or "MacLeod," was in 1753 by the 19th Chief (in corrected order, the 22nd Chief), the Arms thus matriculated being designated as the Arms of "Norman MacLeod, of that ilk."

There is record in the repositories at Dunvegan Castle of the Arms in 1784 of General Norman MacLeod of MacLeod, the 23rd Chief, of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, being the Arms of the Clan MacLeod of MacLeod. These Arms were the Arms borne by Norman Magnus, the 26th Chief, who was immediately preceding Chief of the Clan Society, and were matriculated in the Arms of the Clan MacLeod of MacLeod, in the Lord Lyon in 1928, being the Arms of "Norman Magnus MacLeod of MacLeod, Esquire, in the Island of Skye." These Arms, on his death in 1929, succeeded by his next brother, his brother Sir Reginald, the 27th Chief, and the late Chief of the Clan Society, Flora, Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, is the heiress and successor of Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod, K.C.B., the 27th Chief of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, and the late Chief of the Clan Society.

The Rev. Canon Roderick Charles MacLeod of MacLeod, who was the youngest son of the late Chief of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, and the brother of the 26th and 27th Chiefs, died in 1934. Canon MacLeod survived his brother, Norman Magnus, the 26th Chief, but predeceased his brother Sir Reginald, the 27th Chief, and he would have been the succeeding Chief of the MacLeods of Dunvegan had he survived the late Chief. The only son of Canon MacLeod, and who was the male representative in the next generation, of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, viz. Lieutenant Ian Breac MacLeod, Royal Highlanders (Black Watch)—was killed in 1915 in World War I.

The committee expressed itself as being aware, and fully sensible of, the claims of the male representative in Australia of the "MacLeods of Talisker" to be the male representative of the "MacLeods of Dunvegan," as originating from the 16th Chief, from 1595 to 1626 of the MacLeods of Dunvegan (Sir Roderick MacLeod of Dunvegan, alias Harris) in the time of King James VI, but the title "MacLeod of MacLeod" appears to pertain to ownership of the Lands of MacLeod, embracing the Lands and Castle of Dunvegan, and right of the Family Arms of the MacLeods of Dunvegan under the description "of MacLeod," and the matter of what is now the male representation, and in whose person, of the MacLeods of Dunvegan, through descent from a former ancestor of the "MacLeods of Dunvegan" and the "MacLeods of Talisker" does not appear to arise in the present connection.

The following description of the burial of the present Chief's father, Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod, appeared in 1938 in the "Oban Times": "MacLeod's Tables were wreathed in soft mist that rose and fell on the light morning air, and the moors of Skye were purple with heather in all the glory of its bloom, when the remains of MacLeod XXVII, Chief of the Clan, were laid to rest in the burying grounds at Kilmuir, beside the blue waters of Loch Dunvegan. MacLeod was the last male representative in the direct line of a family who have lived in their strong castle of Dunvegan from the time when the Isle of Skye was Norwegian territory.

"At noon, in clear bright sunshine, a service was held outside the Castle, and before the mourners set out for the burial ground, a mile and a half distant, Mr. Gordon Gordon of Upper Dunvegan played on the pipes for special request the Lament of Rory Mor, a MacCrimmon composition which is believed to date from the seven-



IN 1887 the Empire celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In the same year the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company was incorporated by an Act of the Parliament of Canada.

The company was born in an age of peace and growing prosperity. The world was then on the threshold of great technical and scientific achievement but no one visualized the turbulent times of war and economic stress which lay ahead. The sixty years which have elapsed have witnessed severely testing times for any life insurance institution but, in its Diamond Jubilee Year, the Manufacturers Life looks back upon an unbroken record of growth and increasing financial strength.

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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.

RETURNED ISLANDER'S VIEWS

Sir—I would like to express my appreciation on my trip back to the Island after an absence of thirty years. It also has been the first visit of my wife. We certainly have enjoyed the beautiful beaches, and your scenery is unsurpassed by anything we have yet seen. One thing I have missed are your beautiful trees from the roadsides.

I have enjoyed the letters which appear in your daily paper regarding that unique convention at Bradablane. I too attended that meeting as a spectator, and this I can say: I could not understand why it was called, as it was all cut and dried beforehand.

Certainly enjoyed Mr. McDonald's letter and was proud to think we have a few men who could not be bribed.

Now I think your Premier should look into this matter and anyone found guilty of improper practices should get a dishonourable discharge from politics, similar to a deserter from the Army. I am, Sir, etc.

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The Poet's Corner

Who turns a furrow of good black loam, The sun in his eyes or the rain in his hair, Driving the plowshare straight to the turning, In the language of earth is making a prayer.

Who scatters grain in the long true furrow, And shuts it away from the friendly skies, Leaving it there in the weather's keeping, Proclaims his faith, and he prophesies.

—Yezta Gillespie in New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

With the growth of agricultural interests in the Province at the turn of the last century, the need for separate administrations arose. A Department of Agriculture was formed in 1907, the culmination of the efforts of many administrators and citizens. The Hon. Benjamin Rogers was the first Commissioner of Agriculture. Under his administration, assisted by the Dominion live stock commissioner, Mr. F. W. Hoagson, the Farmers' Institute system took place at the old agricultural societies. Prof. E. J. MacMillan, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, was the first superintendent of the system. In August 1904, Prof. MacMillan was succeeded by Prof. J. C. Reader. Hon. Mr. Rogers resigned in September of the same year, and was succeeded by Hon. S. E. Reid, under whose administration the work of the Department was continued.

In February, 1908, a Farmers' Institute staff consisting of nine men was organized. The members were first sent for a three weeks' course at the Agricultural College at Trent, N. S. On their return they agreed to undertake the practice of the four-year system of cultivation, the keeping of milk records and some co-operative experimental work with corn and oats. Besides this they agreed to assist in the educational work when called upon by the Department. In April of the same year, a series of semi-annual Institutes conventions was begun. In December, 1908, the first short course in live stock judging was held in the Province, under the direction of some of the best experts in the Dominion. The first crop bulletin was published in 1902, the data being supplied by the secretaries of the Farmers' Institutes. In the same year model orchards were established at Lower Montague, Morell, Springfield, Kensington and Alberton. The next year four more orchards were planted under Government supervision, the object being to demonstrate the possibilities of horticulture and the best methods of attaining success.

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