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

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1940.

Our Dairy Stand-By

The successful annual meeting of the Dairymen's Association serves to remind us that dairying is the real stand-by of this Province. The late Professor Robertson on his periodic visits used to reiterate that Prince Edward Island could afford to abandon almost anything save and except dairy-farming. That is the secret of success for the tiller of the soil. It is all-embracing, from the fertilizing of the soil to the export of the finished article at the lowest freight cost. Prices may rise or fall, but the farmer who farms as Professor Robertson said every farmer should farm here, need never budget for a loss. The main desideration is that the farmer grow and produce his needs. He should not have to sell his hay or his oats or his turnips or any raw material—he should feed them, and then sell the finished article. There has been a tendency of late to depart from this sound advice, to specialize in one direction or another, and to advocate the importation of feeds to produce milk, bacon, etc. Those who so urge may have the best intentions, but they have not the real good—the salvation—of our farmers at heart. For rehabilitation, for the only worthwhile rehabilitation that will rebound to the credit of this province as farmers, is to farm along the lines laid down by Dr. Robertson.

It is refreshing, therefore, to find at the Dairymen's meeting this idea was uppermost in the minds of those participating in the discussions. Mr. E. C. Holm, DeSable, adversely criticized the resort to imported feed and maintained basic feed should be supplied from the farm. Similarly, Deputy Minister Shaw, himself a practical farmer, advised the farmers not to worry over the price of imported feed but to grow their own—"the outlook for clover is good and the outlook in other lines should make us optimistic." Grow to feed and the intelligent farmer will then be able to sit tight whether prices rise or fall. Mr. W. L. Brenton, Dairy Superintendent, was no less emphatic in his insistence upon farmers providing their own feed, although he did soften a little by implying there should be a percentage of imports. Nevertheless he gave credit to the real farmers who had prevented the production of butter falling to a greater extent than it had done. "The showing in our decrease in make," he said, "would be much worse *only for the practical farming policy of a small percentage of our farmers who saw to it that they had a goodly supply of home grown succulents."*

This is the proper and most profitable rehabilitation policy worth pursuing—making our farmers farmers in Professor Robertson's sense of the term.

Royal Commission Report

Elsewhere in today's columns appears an official summary of the leading recommendations of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, together with special articles compiled from the extended report by the Canadian Press. Originally headed by Chief Justice Rowell of Ontario, who presided when it sat here two years ago, the Commission visited every Province and took extensive evidence with the assistance of a huge staff of secretaries and officials. The complete report of its findings runs to several volumes. The summary, prepared with equal thoroughness, indicates the scope of the problems and the many diverse viewpoints which it was necessary to reconcile.

Chief among the recommendations is a proposal for the relief of the provinces of what is termed the deadweight cost of their debt services. It is pointed out that the burden taken up by the Dominion, if it were to assume this deadweight cost, would be less than the burden of which the provinces were relieved because, as maturities occurred, the debts could be refunded more advantageously by the Dominion than by the provinces. The Commission recommend that the Dominion assume all provincial debts and that each province pay over to the Dominion an annual sum equal to the interest which it now receives from its investments. The provinces would be expected to surrender their federal subsidies and certain taxation revenues. Prince Edward Island alone would give up subsidies more than equivalent to the deadweight cost of its debt, but it is proposed to make up this loss in other ways. The scheme provides for "national adjustment grants" which would be subject to readjustment by a specially appointed Board every five years. These grants would be tantamount to subsidies and would be fixed, presumably, on a basis of fiscal need.

For this Province it is recommended that an initial minimum grant of $750,000 be given, in addition to which we would retain revenues estimated at $680,000. This would provide a total revenue of $1,430,000 to cover an estimated expenditure of $1,170,000, leaving an estimated annual surplus of $260,000 to provide for expanding services. The estimate is on the basis of 1937 figures, but $153,000 is allowed for "deterioration in financial positions of provincial government before considering needs for a national adjustment grant", which presumably is intended to cover increased debt charges incurred since 1937. It is problematical whether this amount would be adequate in view of the Campbell Government's showing during the past two years. In any case, the allowance for expanding services is disappointingly small. In the brief presented to the Commission by Premier Campbell, it was insisted that an additional revenue of over $600,000 would be required to place our services on an adequate basis, apart from special needs such as assistance to the fisheries industry, highway construction, etc.

On the other hand, the assumption of the Province's indebtedness by the Dominion, with the opportunity of obtaining reconsideration of adjustment grants at five-year intervals, would seem to offer a solution to the problem of mounting debt charges which threaten to swallow up all our revenue at the pace we are now going. Five years ago the Commission's proposition would be less attractive than it is today, due to the fact that our debt since that time, under Liberal mismanagement, has practically doubled. The Premier has again this year budgeted for a large deficit, and confesses that he sees no way, short of additional taxation, of providing for increasing demands in health and educational services. Under the scheme proposed by the Commission, it is conceded that every province would be entitled to the normal standard of services prevailing throughout Canada.

The question of the personnel of the Board appointed to make the adjustment at five-year intervals is a very important one. The term of the sittings might conceivably coincide with an election campaign, in which case political pressure would be almost certain unless the Board was made a part of the Civil Service. Even so, great care would be required in appointing men who would not only be above partisanship, but who would be acceptable to all political parties.

Our per capita indebtedness, even with the huge increases incurred in recent years, is considerably below that of most of the provinces. On the other hand, our natural resources are few. Some means would have to be found of equalizing these factors under any scheme for pooling the debts of the provinces while allowing each to retain the natural resources they now enjoy.

Here a very grave question arises. Assuming that we started with a reasonably satisfactory adjustment grant and found the other provinces continuing to spend on a greater per capita scale, would not this be an incentive to more reckless spending on our own behalf? As the five year term for readjustment came around, each province would naturally want to put itself in a position where it could qualify for an increase on the basis of fiscal need. Provincial Governments would no longer be concerned with even the pretense of budget balancing. It would be necessary in that case for the Dominion Government to exercise greater control than it now does in matters of provincial financing. But here another difficulty arises, a constitutional one this time, involving the issue of provincial autonomy under the B.N.A. Act.

Doubtless when the report comes before Parliament these and other questions will be fully discussed. It behooves our federal representatives to acquaint themselves with every detail relevant to our position in the scheme, which involves many other supplementary recommendations.

Unfortunately the Commission does not seem to have been impressed by the arguments advanced on behalf of improved transportation service, which nevertheless will continue to be a live issue so far as this Province is concerned.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

President Roosevelt in his message to Congress yesterday did not mince matters—the U.S.A. and Canada are in as great danger of invasion today as any country in Europe, and should be prepared now with adequate defensive measures.

* * * *

Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, French statesman, died this date, 1838; betrayed his Church, betrayed Napoleon, restored the monarchy; as a man, always ready to sacrifice principle to expediency; as a diplomatist, able and unscrupulous.

* * * *

Parliament has resumed; this may probably be one of the most historic sessions in the seventy-odd years of its existence. The War and Federal-Provincial relations fall to be adequately dealt with.

* * *

It was Australia that suggested the British Government should include a Dominion representative, and Canada, in the person of Lord Beaverbrook, has been chosen for that honour and distinction. The old, historic families of Cavendish and Stanley, the heads of which are respectively the Duke of Devenshire and the Earl of Darby, have, for the first time almost, failed to have a representative in the Government, both the Duke and Lord Stanley as well as Hon. Oliver Stanley having been dropped by Prime Minister Churchill, who himself represents the ducal house of Marlborough.

* * * *

Assyro-Chaldeans in Soviet Russia have to choose between denying God or being condemned to death, imprisonment or exile, according to a refugee who recently told the following, under oath, to the Athra, a Beyrouth newspaper published in English and Arabic: "As we sat down on the school benches, the teacher would all of a sudden pick out one or more of us, and say, 'Kneel down, pray and ask God for bread.' We obeyed, and as there was no response, the teacher would turn to us and say, 'Now try Jesus Christ and all other saints and tell me if they will supply you with bread.' "At last he would say 'Now try Stalin,' and bread was forthcoming."

* * * *

Hitler professed at first to be seeking to unify in the Reich only people of German blood. He has since grabbed one non-German nation after another. He now declares that his aim is nothing less than the destruction of the British Empire. But if he should succeed in this tremendous project, who believes now that he would stop there? His whole character, his aims and methods and those of his followers mean that he would merely look around for new worlds to conquer and lay waste, as President Roosevelt plainly pointed out yesterday. The world must adjust itself to this possibility and take without a moment's loss of time every step necessary to avert it—the U.S.A. especially.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Canadian Amateur Hockey Assn. has clarified its official definition of an "amateur." Hitherto he has been described as one who never took "prizes in money." Henceforth he will be "one who has not or is not engaged in organized pro. hockey." That may take some of the 'shamateurism" out of it — but it's still Vera Vaguish. — Windsor Star.

The fact that the New York Central System operates the M.C.R. lines through St. Thomas brought the fatal wreck near Albany, N.Y., last Saturday, pretty close to home. Yet the Canada Division itself can still boast of never having killed a passenger on a moving train. Let us hope this recrod goes for all time.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

How far the Germans as a body are responsible for the war or its continuation is a moot point. Mr. Duff Cooper in a broadcast a few days ago indicated the entire German people. It is not likely he meant every individual German, but the German nation cannot escape the imputation, and it is not enough to deal with Hitler alone in this connection. Two centuries of history prove that the Germans are not averse to backing up Prussian domination. — Glace Bay Gazette.

When the motor cars in Oslo were requisitioned, about fifty chauffeurs flatly refused to drive the German troops in an attack on the Norwegians. Oslo papers published a touching appeal to the German command against the execution of such men, but they were ruthlessly shot. For the moment, the characteristically German military deed may have served the purpose of the invaders, but it must eventually recoil with dire consequences. — Ottawa Citizen.

Once upon a time two great circuses fought for leadership in that form of entertainment in the United States. The bigger of the two was owned by Phineas T. Barnum. The other, considerably smaller and much weaker financially, belonged to Cooper and Bailey, the ruling genius being a still very young Irish-American named Anthony Bailey. There were other tented shows, but they all had a wholesome respect for the big Barnum outfit and kept out of its way. That was a less polite era than the present, or, at any rate, one likes to suppose it was, and billposters of rival shows clashing in the same town generally fought it out. The knights of the paste-can and long-handled brush were doughty fellows who considered the billing of a rival show a personal insult to be wiped out by their own paste-brush, plus pugilistic powers. To the winners went the spoils, in other words the boardings barn walls and shop windows for the display of the lurid pictorial announcements. When a bill-posting crew struck a town already billed for another circus they nonchalantly plastered over the "dates" of their rivals, replacing them with their own, and buried the streets and avenues, and contiguous territory with great streamers and banners reading, "Wait for the big Show."

* * *

In young Jim Bailey however there was a strain of Celtic blood, and he deliberately and pluckily challenged the Barnum Circus, belligerently defying P. T. in his own territory. The sheer size of the latter's show, however, and lack of capital forced the smaller show back into the trenches very often. Then, one spring, in the Bailey circus menagerie, a baby elephant was born, and the smaller show went over the top. What Shirley Temple today is to the movie world, that baby elephant became to circus fans wherever it curled its tiny trunk. And what was gall and wormwood to Barnum, everywhere his circus went that baby elephant was sure to go — either immediately before him, or right after him. Folks, old and young, saved their pennies to see the little chap, billed and starred like a grand opera prima donna. The older showman found audiences daily growing smaller. Young Bailey, on the other hand, was packing them in with his playful young pachyderm, performing to "straw" houses twice a day. In circus argot, "straw" is the equivalent of the theatrical S.R.O. sign. After the ushers have packed the eager crowds as tight as sardines on the bleachers, canvasmen lay down straw in front of the seats, thus making a front row. It is Valhalla for the youngsters. Men of the circus make quick decisions; they have to. But weather, for instance, may hurt the box office of a theater, but only to a certain extent. A black, threatening cloud may, and not infrequently does, cause a circus owner to send home thousands of good dollars—often to the angry disappointment of uncomprehending crowds that seldom realize the circus man has struck his tents and pocketed a large loss rather than run the risk of hurting them. Again the circus man may find himself in a territory where floods or epidemics are keeping people home. The temptation to crawl on from day to day, pluckily fighting the elements, or other causes beyond his control in order to keep faith with his "dates" may be great. Generally it is wiser to leave that section. In such cases he may and does have to make a quick switch into another territory, which involves a super amount of work, worry, and expense.

* * *

In this instance Barnum made his quick decision. He sent a telegram to his younger rival offering him one hundred thousand dollars for the baby elephant. One hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money. It was more in those days It was a lot of money to young Bailey, on whose show were plastered a good many mortgages. He also made his quick decision. Instead of accepting the tempting financial offer he refused it. And he spent the money he didn't get from Barnum on a huge, forty-sheet poster. This pictured no clowns, no elephant. Instead, in great letters it bore a facsimile of Barnum's offer, with the added words: "This is what Barnum thinks of Copper and Bailey's baby elephant." Again Phineas T. Barnum made his quick decision. He offered young Jim Bailey a co-partnership in his own circus, and thereafter the peoples of two continents, from the Golden Gate to Caspian Sea, read in half a hundred languages the magic words. "The Greatest Show on Earth." flanked on either side by the portraits of two men. Thus must the name of James A. Bailey go down to posterity as the man who beat Barnum. — Christian Science Monitor.

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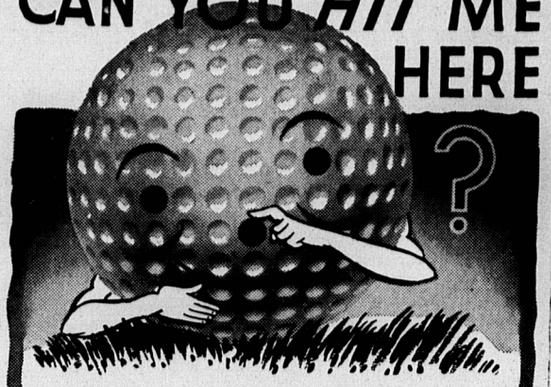

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A Loss To Public Life

(Sydney Post-Record)

The retirement of Hon. R. J. Manion from the leadership of the National Conservative party, although it accords with his known personal wishes, cannot but occasion general regret which will be shared not only by his political friends and supporters, but as well by all other Canadians who value high character, unselfish patriotism, and signal ability in public men who serve their country in Parliament. During his tenure of the leadership, Dr. Manion inspired new life in Canadian Conservatism, and made a record which stands unblemished and creditable in every respect. His resignation has clearly been dictated by strong personal reasons, because it was certainly the wish of his elected supporters, as it was unquestionably the desire of the party as a whole, that he should return at the earliest possible oportunity to Parliament, there to continue the work he had begun so admirably.

Dr. Manion is on every count, one of the best men that have sat in Parliament in recent years. A great Parliamentarian, an indomitable campaigner, a strong party man in the best sense of the term, he has always been one of the most popular and respected members of the House, since he first entered it as a supporter of Sir Robert Borden's Union Government in the closing months of the Great War, in which he had served overseas with gallantry and distinction. It is to be hoped that his relinquishment of the Conservative leadership does not imply his final and permanent retirement from public life, for there are all too few Canadians of his calibre and character in the arena of present-day Federal politics.

Trojan Moths

(Moncton Transcript)

It is interesting to recall that so long ago as March of last year, Prime Minister Churchill predicted that the Germans would be able to put as many as five thousand troops at any desired point in the war which was inevitable, by means of parachutes.

Even the new Prime Minister's imagination scarcely conceived the depths of infamy to which their use would carry the Nazis. The parachutists, the nefarious Trojan moths that fly by night, are not only heavily armed, which is legitimate enough, but drop down disguised in the uniform of a Belgian, a Netherlander, a French or a British soldier, a clergyman's frock or a woman's clothing to send information, disrupt communication, kill civilians or commit acts of sabotage behind the Allied lines.

The Belgian and Netherland soldiers frequently have saved these Trojan moths from the proper anger of civilians. Many have been taken prisoner. But there is a limit to this sort of thing in dealing with the wiles of Nazi savagery and the French have given orders that all German parachutists in disguise be shot at sight.

This has brought repercussions from Berlin, where it is demanded that German parachutists be treated with "all respect" and 'consideration." Berlin says that if the parachutists are shot, the Nazis will retaliate by shooting prisoners of war, ten for one.

Under long accepted international practices, the enemy soldier found behind the lines in disguise always has been liable to the death penalty. In all countries with even a veneer of civilization, the prisoner of war has been given protection, although the Japanese have on occasion shot down the Chinese, refusing to take them prisoners. Germany is one of signers of the Geneva convention, mutually giving protection to prisoners of war belonging to the countries signing the agreement. The Germans have misused the Polish prisoners of war, Poland not having entered the agreement, but they have shown a certain regard for British and French prisoners, if for no other reason, because they desired similar treatment for their own men, and we refuse to believe that the new German threat is more than a threat. If, however, the Berlin buccaneers wish to slough the last vestiges of civilization not much can be done about it—at present.

As Anthony Eden points out, these parachutists do not create so great a menace to Britain. An airplane carrying them would first have to break through the British aerial defences, with all the publicity which would attach to it. Mr. Eden is asking for volunteers, between the ages of seventeen and sixty-five, for a new defense organization against this menace. It will be a spare time job. The men will not be paid but they will be in uniform and will be armed.

The Poets' Corner.

DEATH BY WATER

(From "The Waste Land")

Phlebas the Ponenician, a fortnight dead,
Forgot the cry of gulls, and the deep sea swell
And the profit and loss.

A current under sea
Picked his bones in whispers. As he rose and fell
He passed the stages of his age and youth
Entering the whirlpool.

Gentile or Jew
O you who turn the wheel and look to windward,
Consider Phlebas, who was once handsome and tall as you.

—T. S. Eliot.

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