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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1943.

Car Ferry Plans

Let us hope, as Premier Campbell intimated in the Legislature the other day, that the Dominion Government is actually making some substantial progress in the way of preparing for construction of a new car ferry steamer. As Dr. MacMillan pointed out, however, the statement made in the House of Commons by Hon Mr. Michaud does not warrant undue optimism in this regard. It is open to different interpretations and may simply mean that overtures have been made to certain departmental engineers to be in readiness to prepare the plans. If the Government had been at all concerned about our problem, the plans would have been prepared long ago.

It appears from correspondence tabled in the Legislature that there was no thought of doing this until it became necessary to placate aroused public opinion in this Province. For example, in a letter to Hon. Mr. Ralson on Feb. 20 last. Premier Campbell refers to the strong agitation by the press and by the Charlottetown Board of Trade, "largerly supported." he adds, by the people of the mainland, as evidenced by strong editorials appearing in several mainland papers. He goes on to say that the Dominion should now "re-explore all possibilities of having a new car ferry steamer constructed either in Canada or in the United States," and adds: "Whether such construction turns out to be practicable or not at the moment, I would urge that the Dominion Government should immediately, and without any delay whatever, proceed to prepare plans and specifications for a suitable new ferry . . . *The mere fact of preparing plans would go a certain distance to alleviate the anxieties of our citizens*, while the readiness of such plans would be an important step forward in the case of emergency."

Accordingly we find Hon. Mr. Ralston, on Feb. 25, writing his cabinet colleagues Mr. Michaud, Minister of Transport and Mr. Howe Minister of Munitions and Supply, to this effect: "The matter of the Prince Edward Island ferry is becoming increasingly acute. I know that it is difficult at a time like this to consider vessel construction, except what is absolutely necessary for war purposes. At the same time I think it would give Prince Edward Island citizens some heart if it were known that the Dominion Government was having prepared the necessary plans and specifications and in the course of such preparation were exploring fully the possibilities of construction in Canada and United States. *The mere fact of preparing plans would go some distance towards alleviating the anxiety of Prince Edward Island residents*, and convey to them that there is no disposition on the part of the Government to mark time, but that the matter will be forwarded just as early as possible."

Col. Ralston enclosed for his colleagues' information "clippings which will show you how concerned the people of the Province are", and says he feels they are entitled to the very best that can be done: "(a) to reassure them; (b) to avoid a catastrophe; (c) to have the plans put in hand and every possible step taken so that plans may be commenced as early as i is humanly possible."

In the lengthy correspondence tabled at the request of the Opposition on Tuesday, there is nothing to show that the King Government has budged one iota from its attitude, expressed in January, 1942 by Prime Minister King in a letter to Premier Campbell, that "it is not possible to justify the diversion of wartime industry to the construction of a second ferry steamer as a project of wartime importance and necessity." That is where missionary work is needed at Ottawa and where our own federal representatives appear to have failed lamentably. That is why it is absolutely necessary that a strong delegation, headed preferably by the leader of the Government of this Province, be sent to Ottawa immediately.

Mr. Chalout Rebuked

A resolution was introduced in the Quebec Legislature, and carried by a snap division, protesting against conscription. It was supported in a vitriolic speech by Mr. Rene Chalout, and it is well to note he did not get off with it, for here is the reply of Hon. Mr. Casgrain, Attorney General who served as a lieutenant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-18:

"A mobilization law for service in Canada was imposed after the fall of France. Prime Minister King like others could not picture France's fall. I ask my honorable friend if we have conscription for overseas? Has anyone been sent overseas against his will?"

Mr. Chalout replied that "thousands and thousands have been forced to go overseas under disguised means."

"Canada is so much in danger," Mr. Casgrain said, "that submarines are coming up the St. Lawrence. Some said that when the first torpedoing occurred that it was propaganda to allow the imposition of conscription. When it was shown that it was not camouflage or propaganda they about-faced and said that the government wasn't protecting Canada."

Turning to Mr. Chalout, the Attorney-General said that "instead of sowing patriotism in the hearts of our youths, you are sowing defeatism. You are destroying the spirit of sacrifice, the spirit of patriotism, you are putting it in the heads of youths that they will never be called on to fight."

Mr. Casgrain added: "It is unfortunate to see a man like our honorable friend making a campaign such as he is now. If I had his intelligence and culture I would use it for a better cause than he is using it for today.

"Some profit by the misfortunes of others to gain their end. Some, under the pretext of defending the rights of their fellowmen, attempt to make political capital.

"I ask my honorable friend if after some of his meetings how many would enlist even to defend their own country? I feel sorry for the youths following some who are trying to lead them today.

"He who loves France so much, let him use his intelligence and his culture to make people understand that they must love one another and if not love, then they must collaborate one and all."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

On and after April 1, the smallest package of cigarettes made for sale in Canada will contain 18. Plugs and twist tobacco will be available only in weights of one ounce or multiples thereof, and new brands of tobacco products are not to be offered.

* * * *

Only about 1,000 British girls have been sent overseas, but new contingents are being continually posted. Meanwhile at home thousands are being trained for the "Big Show" and waiting eagerly for the moment to help the fighting men behind the lines.

* * * *

Readers in New London district will note that a Boy Scout demonstration is to be given Monday evening by the newly organized troop under the direction of Scoutmaster the Rev. Herbert M. Buntain, B.A. This will be well worth witnessing, and the troop and its organizer deserve the encouragement and hearty support of the community.

* * * *

A telegram protesting the New Brunswick Legislature's projected change from Atlantic to Eastern Daylight time was sent to Premier McNair Monday evening by the Sussex branch of the New Brunswick Fish and Game Protective Association. The message was sent after a resolution deploring any change was passed by the society at its annual meeting.

* * * *

"Extension," the National Catholic monthly, for the current month contains a uniquely sad picture, that of five brothers, Albert, Madison Frances, Joseph and George Sullivan, all of whom were lost when the ship upon which they served in the Pacific went down with all hands as the result of enemy action—surely a record sacrifice for one family to make that others may be free.

* * * *

The Federal Government estimates about 14,000,000 gallons of industrial alcohol will be manufactured from wheat in Canada during 1943. This output will require about 7,000,000 bushels of wheat. Sales of industrial alcohol manufactured in Canada during 1942 amounted to 5,450,000 gallons, of which about 1,400,000 gallons was made from 700,000 bushels of wheat. Thirteen Canadian companies are engaged in production of industrial alcohol from wheat.

* * * *

The British War Office is taking no chances in the production of war equipment. The Government announces it is taking over shares of Short Brothers, Ltd., builders of Sunderland flying boats and Stirling bombers, under defence regulations. The Ministry of Aircraft Production had expressed concern over operation of the Short plant and only last week appointed a controller "to safeguard production and strengthen the management."

* * * *

James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan, British general, died this date, 1868; of an overbearing temper, but of undoubted courage, he led the famous charge of the "Light Brigade" at Balaclava, two-thirds of which were slain; Tennyson immortalized the action in his famous poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade", published on Dec. 9, 1854:

All in the Valley of Death,
Rode the Six Hundred...
Some one had blundered...
Their's not to make reply
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do or die...
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered...
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell...
All the world wondered.

* * * *

This session, says an Ottawa correspondent, there have been murmurings in corridors about the income tax deduction from the sessional indemnity, and more particularly the latest ruling that expenses incurred in attendance at Parliament are not deductible from the income tax payable. It has been argued that $3,200 is not enough to adequately compensate legislators for the time they spend in Ottawa and the business they lose at home in consequence of that attendance on parliamentary business. A suggestion has been made, and not by a legislator, that to pay the members $400 by the month throughout the year, and not on a sessional basis and abolish the franking and other privileges, would be better for all concerned. The other privileges include rail transportation for the wives and families of dependents of legislators. They have no statutory right to this transportation for others than themselves but they have no difficulty in getting a form which when filled out produces the required extra rail tickets. Not long ago the railways had to cancel for a considerable period the passes given by them to the wives and families of their own employees to ease the burden on their passenger carrying facilities but the same restriction was not applied to legislators.

Notes By The Way

Even so, it's to be hoped cabinet members at Ottawa are not so extravagant with public money as they are with platitudinous language. —Toronto Telegram.

Moisture, or rather its absence, is one of the most perplexing problems with which tobacco smokers are confronted. But there's a remedy —so it seems. Just insert a slip of apple in the package or pouch and presto! Full flavor and rich moistness are restored! —Halifax Chronicle

The service man on leave is to be allowed to travel light in future. If he wishes it —as no doubt he will—he can leave behind in camp or barracks the burden of arms and equipment which is so bothersome in train compartments and corridors. The war office has given the instruction that the soldier going on holiday should not be required to carry "arms and equipment other than that which he may voluntarily care to take with him." —Glasgow Herald.

At intervals new, or newly popular, words appear in the public vocabulary, to be at once given overtime duty. The newest is Gremlin, used to denote an enemy worker of a kind. An effort to determine the derivation of the word indicates that it is a mixture of Grimm, Elf and Goblin, while another, which carries more conviction, is that it is due to the fact that gremlins were originally gob ins that came out of Fremlin's beer bottles; or alternatively that the blend was Graham's Lager and Fremlin's beer. Another is that the words is derifed from the Old English verb greme, to vex.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

"Why is it," asks the St Louis Star-Times, "that the average person can distinctly hear a clock tick across the room, yet can't hear the radio from a distance of eight feet if it isn't turned up to hog-calling volume?" Why, we don't know, but we do know that is one of the reasons, if not the main one, why one rarely hears nowadays, particularly where youth is concerned, a softly modulated voice in ordinary conversation. Why youthful conversation is carried on in a piercing shriek that clearly penetrates the brick fronts of office buildings on main streets, when school is going in or coming out. Have you ever noticed it?—Seaforth Expositor.

From Norton-on-Tees comes this delightful story concerning the arithmetic lesson in a Yorkshire village school. The teacher had just explained subtraction to the class, and emphasized that the numbers must be of the same denomination. As the scholars looked quite blank at this remark, he added: "You can't take six potatoes from 10 turnips, or 15 sheep from 20 cows." Some of the children pondered this explanation deeply, and then up spoke a farm lad with great emphasis: "You hev ter tak 15 sheep fra 20 cows if t'sheep are yours and they've gotton inter somebody's cow pasture," he declared. Emboldened by this remark, another boy put up his hand and said: "And, please sir, can't you take 10 apples from two trees?" By this time the teacher decided the whole subject was drifting out of control, and the lesson ended. —Leeds Yorkshire Post.

It was after Dunkerque that the British rolled up their sleeves, dropped quarrels between management and employees, and started to produce, so that when the Germans came over later in the year in a ferocious aerial assault, the country had made preparations to meet them. It was then that American lend-lease came into play, and our arsenals poured out weapons that the British so sorely needed. The unpreparedness of the democracies for war almost brought victory to the Nazis. When, in May 1940, we started to prepare as a measure of precaution, we had to start practically from scratch. Britain went into the war so unprepared as to be almost criminal. If there is one thing that we must learn from the tragic experience of the past, it is that the democracies never again, so long as a threat of aggression exists, be caught so miserably unfitted to conduct war. —Providence Journal.

War has split up the most famous team of horses in Britain, the Windsor Greys, which in peacetime drew the King's carriage at State functions. When war broke out, the horses were moved to Windsor, and as the need for gasoline economy grew, and the demand for food production increased, they were put to work on the Royal Farms on the Windsor Castle estate— away from all ceremony. Some of the team of eighteen were already middle-aged when war broke out, and have since died; for the time being they will not be replaced. Before the war, the Greys were most popular with visitors to Windsor Castle, who ignored the line of Royal cars drawn up in the yard of the Mews, but concentrated on the horses in their tiled loose-boxes. However dignified the horses might look, it was found that they were usually willing to relax when offered sugar! —Montreal Star.

The value of dogs in war is being more widely understood throughout the fighting services, not least by the Air Force. The War Office has two considerable training schools; but the Air Force, through the Ministry of Aircraft Production, has to issue a public appeal, and it boasts a more catholic taste. Collies, airedales, alsatians, or their cross-breds, bull terriers and certain classes of mastiffs are all welcomed. Now there seems to me to be some confusion in thought, as witnessed by this list. If dogs are wanted as watch-dogs to give the alarm, the noisy dog is more useful than the fierce dog; and among the noisiest are terriers of most breeds, except airedales. These terriers, on the other hand, are among the best of police dogs, because they are quiet and have very acute ears. The best dog for carrying messages should be the Westmorland sheepdog (perhaps of that curious breed which often has eyes of different color). It would be wise if a central breeding, as well as training, centre were established on behalf of the fighting services, so that any unit could indent for just the sort of dog that its needs suggested. Since good dogs vastly excel man in the senses of smell and hearing, one dog may be the equivalent of several men in any night work; and for carrying messages they are much less conspicuous and more rapid.—London Spectator.

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 50 SCRIPT REGULATION

Sir,—When the temperance Federation entered the Legislative Chambers in a body on Tuesday last, it insisted that the Legislature heed the people's plebiscite request for a 50 "script" limit a month for each doctor. A few reflections might now be in the public interest, since the question will be coming before the Assembly in a few days.

At the special session of the Federation, earlier, all available seating space was occupied in the "Y" meeting room. The gathering was widely representative of rural Prince Edward Island with a sprinkling of Clergymen, including a number of City Clergy, and a few Charlottetown people. Unanimity of opinion on the 50 prescription limit was apparent from the beginning, and there was much questioning as to the attitude of the Government and of the Legislature as a whole. Repeatedly, tribute was paid to the large number of doctors, who are conscientiously abiding by the spirit of the law, and who possess, as always, the esteem and confidence of the public which they serve so well. The proposed limitation was directed exclusively against those who were engaged in a "racket". The issuing of 25 or 30 scripts a day, held the law up to ridicule and could not be tolerated.

President J. H. MacFarlane, led the Federation in its interview with the Legislature. The speeches were short, pointed, and had punch. They began with words of commendation. Reference was made to the improvement in law enforcement, and to the improvements which could be anticipated as a result of the amendments to the Act, forecasted in the speech from the throne. The Federation, however, was holding the entire Legislature in general, as well as the Government in particular responsible for the enactment of a limitation on scripts. Speakers took opportunity to mention the relative unimportance of beverage alcohol in modern medical practice, to urge upon the Government the more effective enforcement of the Prohibition Act, and to remind the members that it was the people who had placed them in positions of responsibility. Among the speakers was Mr. Roy Campbell, whose name did not appear in the published report.

The Premier's reply has been reported.

Since the Federation has arranged for the introduction of the whole matter to the House, temperance people will do well to interview their M. L. A's. over the week-end, or write them before they vote, and call their attention to the pertinent facts.

As every modern doctor and most enlightened laymen know other newer and better narcotic drugs have supplanted beverage alcohol almost entirely. The proposed limitation is therefore timely and absolutely necessary; the more so when the anti-social effects of this narcotic are considered in the lives of the moderate drinker, the alcoholic, and of the growing boys who observe them.

Failure of the Legislature to heed the expressed will of the people would provide the kind of condition which has often made Hitler chortle with pleasure. It would be a break-down of democratic procedures. Tuesday's meeting, however, was distinctly heartening, since it revealed once more that vital power inherent in democracy, the keenness of thinking people to seek unselfishly the common good and to demand reform where reform is needed.

I am Sir, etc.
R. E. Shaw, Sec'y.
P. E. I. Temperance Federation.

Evasion Is Not Clarity

(Globe and Mail)

Prime Minister King on Friday showed signs of considerable disturbance over the message of Mr. Chester Bloom, the Washington correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press and the Toronto Telegram, in which the latter described the mystification felt in Washington about Canada's foreign policy and the difficulties created for British and American statesmen. When Mr. Graydon, drawing his attention to this despatch, sought some enlightenment, Mr. King resurrected the long and labored exposition of policy which he offered to the House of Commons on May 24, 1938. It was in a mass of verbiage, but the gist of it was that Canada's policy was one of peace and friendliness, and of trying to look after her own interests and to understand the position of other Goverments. It was the sum of countless daily dealings with other countries and the general resultant of an effort to act decently about every issue as it arose, and a hope of receiving the same treatment from others. It would eschew any inclination to organize or join in crusades in other continents, and it would keep a sense of perspective.

* * * *

Such was the foreign policy prescribed for Canada by Mr. King and sedulously carried out until the outbreak of the war. The keystones of its arch were "no commitments" and "wait and see", and it proved a jerry-built structure which collapsed under the sudden impact of grim events. Its basic objective was an isolationism which proved completely impracticable. Yet here is Mr. King, apparently as deaf to the teachings of experience as the Bourbons, producing this policy of paralyzing indecision and cloudy generalities in the fourth year of a war when there should be decison and specification.

As for the Balfour Declaration, it is in the same category as King Charles' head in discussing the use to be made of our position. There must be few Canadians who do not want Canada to conduct her policies on the basis of full equality of status with Britain and the other Dominions. But what many of them deplore is Mr. Kings unwillingness to pay serious attention to that part of the declaration which says that the units of Commonwealth are to be "freely associated" with one another. "Associated" is a very specific word, and to most people it would imply close co-operation and co-ordination of policy. But Mr. King evidently regards the words as a piece of polite phraseology incorporated in the declaration by way of padding. Mr. Churchill in his great speech on Sunday declared that three great political societies, the British Commonwealth, the United States and Russia must take the lead in the reconstruction of this battered world. What this country is anxious to know is whether Mr. King proposes that in this task of political and economic cultivation Canada should work as a co-operative member of a British Commonwealth team or plow a lonely furrow. Mr. Churchill did not hesitate to commit his country to vigorous co-operation in the building of a new international order.

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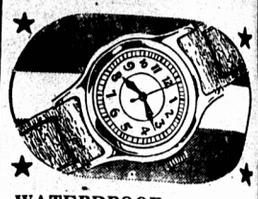

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