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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1941.

"Superlative Harmony"

Liberal members of Parliament held their first caucus yesterday and are reported to have devoted more than two hours almost entirely to discussion of the war effort. Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who presided, told the Canadian Press it had been a "very useful discussion" with members reporting on conditions in their own ridings for the first time since Parliament resumed on Feb. 7. He was also pleased to report that "superlative harmony reigned."

The caucus, then, must have been quite a relief from the grilling which Defense Minister Ralston and other Cabinet members received from the floor of the House last Friday by one of their own supporters, Mr. Pouliot. Mr. Pouliot comes from Quebec and he referred, among other things, to the "scandal" at St. Paul l'Ermite where government work scheduled to cost $5,000,000, will more likely cost $25,000,000 and where, at the expense of English and Canadian taxpayers, people were stealing materials while the foreman "closes his eyes." Speaking in general terms, Mr. Pouliot declared he had "never witnessed such backstage intrique as there is now in high quarters", and said he was "disgusted with the way in which intrigue is being carried on in the holy name of patriotism when we know that behind it is a group of scoundrels, of bucanneers, of racketeers, of pirates, who are trying to get hold of the wealth of Canada for their own purposes."

Mr. Pouliot couldn't have been in attendance at yesterday's "superlatively harmonious" party caucus!

Let us hope that our own Liberal representatives were, and that they took the opportunity—even at the risk of disturbing the harmony—of protesting against this Province being sidetracked any longer in the matter of war contracts and transportation improvements.

Mogadiscio Captured

On Tuesday the British authorities announced a lightning drive up the coast of Italian Somaliland to the port of Brava, which paced them within 110 miles of the capital, Mogadiscio. Yesterday Mogadiscio was captured and British forces were reported 60 miles up the Juba river in the interior. This give a striking illustration of the speed at which modern armies move. It is still more striking as evidence of the efficiency and co-ordination of the British land, air and naval forces, all of which participated in the battle. The fall of Mogadiscio is hailed as marking an important step in the conquest of Italian Somaliland, since the city is head of two railroads and the junction of a coastal highway with the principal highway from the interior.

Elsewhere in Italian East Africa—in Eritrea and Ethiopia—progress is reported in a sweeping pincer movement, such as proved so effective in Libya.

A long and grim struggle lies ahead. The submarine blitzkrieg promised by Hitler, his vast mechanized armies straddling Europe and his still numerically superior air force, are dangers not to be minimized. But the route of Mussolini's armies has been blow to Axis prestige more staggering than any Britain has taken in the war.

An Important Committee

One of Opposition Leader Hanson's suggestions which the King Government has wisely agreed to adopt is the setting up of a Parliamentary Committee on National Expenditures. The appointment of this important committee has not yet been made. In the meantime a correspondent in a mainland exchange points out that unless this is merely another gesture on Prime Minister King's part, there must be adequate representation of the Opposition.

One of the drawbacks of the present House of Commons is that the Liberal Party, which polled only 54 per cen tof the popular vote, and less than 50 per cent of the service men's vote, controls 184 of the 245 seats. If the customary practice is followed the Government will have ten out of fifteen members on the special committee which is to investigate Canada's war effort and expenditures, assuming the report that the committee is to have fifteen members is correct. This would permit of only three members representing the Conservative Party, and one each from the C.C.F. and Social Credit groups.

It is not to be expected that the ten Liberal members will bestir themselves to expose the shortcomings of the Government; consequently the task of ferreting out information will devolve upon the handful of Conservative and Leftist members. So, if the Government has any confidence in the record of its war administration, the Prime Minister will insist upon the appointment of sufficient members of the Opposition to ensure that the most complete and impartial investigation is made possible. The public will not be satisfied with less.

The Canadian committee, it is suggested, might well follow closely the lines of the select committee of the British House of Commons, which is composed of twenty-eight members, and is in turn subdivided into seven subcommittees, which delve into all matters affecting the Army, Navy, Air Force, Supply, etc., and has proved exceedingly useful in recommending constructive measures for the improvement of the war effort.

It may be necessary to hold some of the Canadian sittings behind closed doors; but in any case there should be absolute assurance that every opportunity is provided for full and impartial inquiry.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Wishing will not make it so, we must buy War Savings Certificates in order to end the war.

* * * *

The German administration of Paris is so far recognizing Lent in as much as it has ordered the city deprived of potato supplies for 40 days. The reason given—disorders in the central market due to clamor for provisions not readiiy procurable.

* * * *

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, English composer and professor of music at Oxford, born this date 1848; was director of the Royal College of Music; wrote "Prometheus Unbound", "Lotos Eaters", and numerous symphonies, suites, overtures, chamber music, national anthems and songs; also technical works, including "Style in Musical Art". He was first knighted and then, in 1902, given a baronetcy.

* * * *

The output of concentrated milk products in January amounted to 12,567,065 pounds being two per cent higher than in the previous month and 27 per cent higher than in January, 1940. Holdings of concentrated milk in cold storages, warehouses and dairy factories on February 1 totalled 12,973,181 pounds compared with 17,830,771 at the beginning of December and 13,864,958 on February 1, 1940.

* * * *

Prime Minister Churchill is gradually transferring to other responsible positions many of the members of the Government under his predecessor Mr. Chamberlain. The latest announcement is that Rt. Hon. Wm. Ormsby-Gore (Lord Harlech) formerly Colonial Secretary has been appointed British High Commissioner to South Africa. Previously Rt. Hon. Malcolm Macdonald, Secretary for the Dominions had been appointed High Commissioner to Canada, Viscount Halifax, President of Council, Ambassador to Washington, and Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary for Home Affairs, Ambassador to Spain.

* * * *

"The closure of Jamaican importers of the United States as a source of supply for all goods except those which are considered necessities and which cannot be obtained from the sterling area or from Canada and the impossibility of obtaining many articles from Britain by reason of war have substantially increased Canada's sales to the Colony." So states Mr. F. W. Fraser, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Kingston in a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce. "Another favourable factor is the elimination of almost all European countries from competition in Jamaica's import trade. Before the war considerable purchases were made from Germany, Belgium, France and Holland, but these, of course, have ceased, and so far as manufactured goods are concerned Great Britain and Canada are now almost the sole source of supply."

* * * *

People want to know why the price of tea and coffee should be the two principal items in the domestic budget to be higher than pre-war. Both have to be imported, and the same applies to sugar. In addition to taxation there is the freight. For instance, freight rates on north bound freight from east coast South American ports have been advanced effective April 1. The increases, which are general, range between 20 per cent and 25 per cent. On coffee the rate will be raised to $1.10 a bag from the 90 cent rate now in effect. The increase was decided upon by the two freight conferences covering the northbound run. These are the Brazil-United States freight conference and the River Plate-United States freight conference. Southbound rates will be maintained at the present levels through April, according to the River Plate and Brazil Conference which deals with freight rates on this run.

* * * *

Financial Minister Ilsley told the House of Commons that the total of Canadian bond issues since the outbreak of war was $1,506,045,164. In releasing figures showing effects of the war on Canada's finances, the Minister estimated that total volume of money in Canada likely is more than 20 per cent. above the pre-war level. The bond issues were classified as follows: public, $62,045,164; sold to chartered banks, $490,960,000; sold to Bank of Canada, $389,040,000. Bond redemptions by the Dominion since the war began totalled $576,301,644. In addition to the total of redemption given, the Government has arranged to purchase Grand Trunk Railway four per cent. perpetual consolidated debenture stock that the British Government had vested from owners in the United Kingdom. This stock was outstanding in the amount of $109,579,000 at current rate of exchange.

* * * *

There is a levelling down process going on all right in the Old Land. One of the 18 mannequins to display the British Fashions Collection at Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro in April is Miss Rosemary Chance, niece of Lord Willingdon who was the leader of the trade mission to South American countries. At the moment, Miss Chance is recovering from the effects of inoculation for the trip. She has just completed a six months' nursing course at St. Luke's Hospital, Chelsea, when she was asked to join the party of mannequins who are sailing for South America towards the end of next month. On St. George's Day 77 models, which are being executed in duplicate exclusively for South America by nine London designers, will be shown simulanteously in the capitals of Argentina and Brazil In each city officials from the Department of Overseas Trade with long experience in exhibitions will have a stage erected, arrange flowers and lighting, engage an orchestra and sellers of the special programs.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The up-building of Canada's Navy is essential to national defence. It should have been undertaken years ago. For neglect in that regard the people of Canada as well as their legislators must admit responsibility. The point is that, while the hour grows late, it is not too late The shipyards must become hives of industry, thronged with workers striving to make up for lost time. Canada thus has another big job on hand. She must do it with speed and efficiency. — Brantford Expositor.

The money sunk in treasury branches, and also in the "Social Credit" board, could buy Spitfires and munitions. Or it could furnish a reserve fund to rehabilitate Alberta boys returning from the war. If similar loose expenditure were eliminated from government program, Alberta people would be in better position to contribute to causes in which they believe, and from which results would come. — High River Times.

The Canadian Army is already with us, and now it has established its own Staff College in an English manor house, with Lieut General McNaughton at its head Here regimental officers will be trained to staff the greater army that is coming over in due time. Fifty students are already in residence, and during this year will follow a course similar to that at our Staff College at Camberley. The commandant is a colonel of the Royal Canadian Artillery and he is assisted by a staff of British and Canadian instructors. Nor is that all, for several hundred officers and men are seconded from their units to specialize in modern tactics at British military schools — Leeds Yorkshire Post.

The Prime Minister's reference to his hope of maintaining national unity, meaning a National Government, for three years after the war is very interesting Mr. Churchill, who, if I remember rightly, was one of the ministers who contemplated a coalition "centre" party in 1910, is with his absence of strong party affiliations, the ideal man to build such an administration round. One of the disasters of the peacemaking period in 1919 was the fact that political opinion in this country was hopelessly divided, as the result first of the splitting of the Liberal Party by the Maurice debate in 1917 and then by the khaki election in 1918, immediately after the armistice. If we cannot learn by that kind of mistake we can learn nothing.—London Spectator.

Lord Woolton has given short shift to the parasitic activities of speculators in foodstuffs who have been trying to exploit the nation's need for their own profit. His announcement that there would be restriction of imports was used by numbers of mushroom middleman and others as a signal to buy up stocks of various uncontrolled foods which they anticipated would be in short supply. He has now fixed the price at December 2 as the maximum on a long list of the articles principally affected. By this simple device he has not merely deprived the would-be profiteers of their expected profit on re-sale, but inflicted on them an actual loss, since they had, in most cases, bought at enhanced prices. It is perhaps needless to add that he has received the ready co-operation of the trades concerned, who are only too anxious to see an end made of these attempts to hold the public to ransom. — Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (London).

Buying war savings certificates or stamps is indirectly buying bullets or shells or some other kind of munitions or equipment and putting these in the hands of our fighting men on land, in the air or on the sea. Everyone of course understands this as a stated proposition. But it may be doubted that everyone really senses the fact behind the words. Else there would be more certificates and stamps sold; for who would not welcome the opportunity to go into a store and buy guns or shells and hand these over personally to soldiers, sailors or airmen? This is in effect what one does when he goes into a bank or a post office and buys a certificate or some savings stamps. There seems to be no connection between the money transaction and the delivery of the supplies where they are needed. But the connection is there, as everyone knows but may not feel. And since people are moved by feeling more than by mental processes, there is a good deal more satisfaction in thinking one is buying actual munitions for the troops than in thinking only of buying slips of variously colored and printed paper. — Edmonton Bulletin.

If the Italian people had an enthusiastic belief in Fascism and its leaders, if they were convinced of the inevitability and rightness of this war and their heart had been in it, it is unlikely that their army in Albania, with its vastly superior equipment, would have been so severely defeated by the Greeks, however brave the latter might be and well led. The militaristic spirit which Mussolini has been endeavoring to whip up by the stimulants of eloquence, tricks and easy victories, has from first to last been an artificial thing, whose growth in Italy has been forced on uncongenial soil. — London Spectator.

There is no question that certain branches of British farming have not been developed as they might have been and that, after the war, there will not be the same neglect of farming. The industry, however, is a many-sided one and in numerous ways it can be encouraged, without harm to the interests of the wheat producer in Canada or Australia. No one will ever suggest that European agriculture can be sacrificed, but it is suggested that it can be retained and even expanded, while at the same time being made complementary and not antithetical to the great wheat-producing industry overseas The general idea is that Europe should produce more of the perishable goods which have great food value and which, in the past, have not been within the means of the low-income groups. Certainly, there can be no continuance of the pre-war trend towards self-sufficiency, particularly in wheat supplies, which in itself is a major cause of war. The Nazis, we know, are planning to divide Europe into economic blocs and, were a Nazi victory conceivable, self-sufficiency within these blocs, with a consequent lowering of the standard of living, would necessarily follow. — G. P.

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

V

Sir,—Continuing comparisons begun previously, we will now compare the case of the man who was sick five years, then was compelled to give up the benefits of a public institution before his needy dependents could receive any assistance, with service No. 9 which was that the dependents of an enemy of the country may receive assistance while he is interned. Here one would ask: "what are the benefits of citizenship and loyalty?"

Surely it is clear without further comparisons that those who, due to illness, are unable to provide for themselves and dependents are not receiving Justice or similar consideration to other classes of citizens.

At present any assistance they receive is under the unemployment relief system and therefore considered as ordinary unemployed with the result that, when they seek adequate assistence, they are treated with indifference and even contempt.

This arrangement, designed to relieve a temporary emergency, is not satisfactory to meet the demands caused by prolonged illness which could not be classed as temporary, rather it becomes a state of life, must be considered as such and provided for accordingly.

Neither should it be a political issue, as circumstances make it a Christian one; Christian because our Lord made it part of his doctrine that the sick, also widows and children must be cared for. This situation affects all three.

Here I would have you recall the words of our Lord, Who, when refering to children, said: "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones . . . . . "

I maintain that the conditions outlined in these letters are such an offence, therefore we are not worthy to be even called Christians if we do not make every effort to have these conditions improved or corrected.

This would require a new policy as there is not any at present for this situation. I will suggest a plan to administer such a policy in a later issue.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HUMANITARIAN.

Inspirational

(Sydney Port-Record)

Finance Minister Ilsley told the House of Commons on Tuesday that nearly three billion dollars would be extracted next year from Canadian taxpayers by the Federal, Provinical, and Municipal Governments of the country. Then he added dramatically: "I pause now, so that these enormous figures may sink into the minds of the members of this House."

The question is, what was the intended? To discourage public support of Canada's war effort? Or just to "rub it in" for the subject-pleasure of a sadistic Minister of Taxation?

What inspirational leadership this country is getting from its war Administration!

Tokyo's Changed Tune

(Sydney Post Record)

The Anglo-American reaction to Tokyo's tentative offer to become a mediator in World War No. 2 is obviously not what Hitler and his Oriental ally anticipated when it was submitted to the British Foreign Office a couple of days ago. The official British response was that there could be no mediation nor any peace, treat considered till the Nazi regime and the totalitarian programme of aggression have been frustrated and crushed. The official response from Washington is equally definite against a negotiated peace, and is particularly critical of Japan as a volunteer mediator.

Foreign Minister Matsuoka, as quoted by Domei, the official Japanese news agency, seems very much upset over the defensive measures adopted by the British at Singapore, and by the Americans at Samoa and Guam. Large and powerful motorized Australian units, as well as a huge supply of tanks, munitions and aircraft, have been landed at Singapore, the Gibraltar of the Far East, and the British are now ready at that point for any emergency that may develope United States fleet concentrations have also been made in the vicinity of the Straits Settlements, and will co-operate with the aerial force of the navy based on Samoa and Guam.

Matsuoka resents these precautionary measures says that "while it may be true and not unnatural that Britain and America have made their preparations to meet any possible contingency, anyone can guess that these measures are being aimed at Japan and her actions."

This is an apt and shrewd inference. The strengthening of Singapore, and the concentration of American forces at the United States bases of Samoa and Guam, indubitably are being "aimed at Japan and her actions." It is also a safe guess that they will have the effect of modifying Japan's ambitions in the Pacific and in restricting her aggressive preparations against the French and Dutch East Indies. The moment Britain and the United States showed that they meant business, the Japs changed and lowered their tune.

Bromhall in The Shipping World (London)

Legend Of The Tomb

(New York Herald Tribune)

News of the death in England, at an advanced age, of Lady Westbury may help to demolish popular belief in a fatal destiny certain to pursue all who had a hand in opening the bomb of King Tut-ankhamen. The idea so preyed on the mind of Lady Westbury's husband that he ended his life ten years ago, saving that he "could stand no more horrors." His son had died unexpectedly the year before after doing a good deal of excavation near the royal place of burial.

The young Pharaoh rested undisturbed in his sarcophagus for thirty centuries, until an expedition led by Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter explored the vault and revealed to the world a collection of priceless objects of ancient art. Museums everywhere competed for a share in the treasure, most of which remains in Egypt.

Before long one or two prominent persons who had been active in unearthing the tomb, died, among them Lord Carnavon, who was bitten by a poisonous insect. As other tourists who had been in Egypt expired from various causes a legend arose that workers had found a curse inscribed in the sarcophagus threatening all who invaded the royal rest. Although Dr. James H. Breasted, the Egyptologist, who had spent two weeks in the tomb, said there was no curse, the idea appealed so strongly to an imaginative public that the supposed death roll mounted to nearly thirty. Some of the connections were tenuous in the extreme. One man died of gout at sixty-seven. Another, whose life ended in Switzerland, had never been in Egypt but said he might some day go there and make an X-ray of the mummy.

So much ingenuity was spent in keeping this desert fantasy alive that many persons believe it to this day. The fact that Lady Westbury lived to be eighty-four and that others who were supposed to have come within range of the dead Pharaoh's curse passed from such widely different causes as unrequited love, motor accident, assassination and "a mysterious malady" may make a slight dent in a cherished idol.

The Poets' Corner

"NONE ARE SO BLIND . . ."

Nothing prepared him, not the way the sun
Paled in the shortened day, nor the sly leaves
So indolently blowing down the air
Where once they bloomed on branches, nor the one
Peculiar rustle of the wind in eaves
Of every house he stopped in everywhere.
The end of ice, he said, is always thaw,
Portents for weak men, wisdom for the fool;
He looked and listened, mumbling of the law
Of seasons in the copybook of school.
Only if August came in deadly cold
With snow still falling and the icy pool,
Winter above the earth and thick below,
He'd dare believe what he had not been told,
He'd dare believe the things he did not know.

—John Ritchet in New York Times

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PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Department of Public Works and Highways

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Specifications and Tender Forms may be obtained from the Chief Engineer's Office, Department of Highways, Charlottetown.

A certified cheque for one thousand ($1,000.00) dollars must accompany each tender.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

L. B. MacMILLAN,
Deputy Minister of Public Works and Highways

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island,
February 10, 1941.

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