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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1940.
The Parliamentary Session

The Dominion Parliament, now about to adjourn, has been one of exceptional interest in view of Canada's participation in the war instigated by Nazi Germany.

In war legislation the National Resources Mobilization Act was the most far-reaching. It empowers the Government to use all material and human resources of Canada for prosecution of the war; it requires every Canadian to place his property, his person and his services at the disposal of the Government if and when required.

Other war measures include an Act providing the death penalty for certain acts of treachery, a resolution declaring a state of war with Italy, a war appropriations bill totalling \$700,000,000, and bills creating new departments for war service.

Among items of domestic legislation the Unemployment Insurance Act occasioned the most discussion. As a preliminary to the bill the Commons and Senate passed an address asking the British Parliament to amend the British North America Act adding unemployment insurance to the subjects over which Parliament has jurisdiction.

The bill amending the Wheat Board Act, passed here in the session, continued the guarantee to the producer of 70 cents a bushel for No. 1 northern wheat, and imposed a 15-cents a bushel "processing" tax on wheat used for domestic consumption.

The monetary demands of war caused a record budget. A war appropriation of \$700,000,000 was passed early in the session and the non-war estimate aggregated just over \$450,000,000. The budget provides for higher taxes on incomes and profits exemption. It also imposes a national defense tax and additional tax levies on tobacco, matches and automobiles. A special import tax of 10 per cent is imposed on all goods entering Canada from non-Empire countries.

At the beginning of the session Hon. R. B. Hanson was chosen leader of the Opposition by his fellow Conservatives, succeeding Hon. R. J. Manton who was defeated personally in the Dominion election last March. Subsequently there were many Cabinet changes. Hon. W. D. Euler was appointed to the Senate and was succeeded as Minister of Trade and Commerce by Hon. J. A. MacKinnon. The death of Hon. Norman Rogers in an airplane crash deprived the Department of National Defense of its chief early in June. Hon. J. L. Ralston delivered the budget as Minister of Finance and then succeeded Mr. Rogers in the Defense ministry. He was relieved in the Finance department by Hon. J. L. Isley who in turn was succeeded as Minister of National Revenue by Hon. Colin Gibson, Hamilton West. Hon. C. G. Power moved from the Post Office department to take the new portfolio of National Defense for Air, and was succeeded by Hon. W. P. Mulock of North York. Another new department, that of Naval Affairs, was filled by the appointment of Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Premier of Nova Scotia. A Department of National War Services was set up by an Act rushed through both Houses and before it was passed Hon. J. G. Gardiner was designated to head it. Mr. Gardiner also retains the portfolio of Agriculture. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply, turned over the Transport Department to Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, Minister of Public Works.

Persistent demands for a National Government representative of all parties in the House were rejected by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who maintained that he had tried to secure the services of some outstanding men outside of Parliament and had failed. Mr. King subsequently invited representatives of the Opposition parties to "sit in" with the war committee of the Cabinet, but this offer was rejected as a subterfuge, which would place the Opposition members in the position of having responsibility without power.

In all some 115 bills, including 62 divorce bills, were passed during the session which enters its 60th sitting today. During that time a Canadian Press correspondent estimates that some 2,000,000 words were spoken in the House of Commons and recorded in Hansard. These figures compare with approximately 3,000,000 words for the 72 days of sittings in 1939.

Why This Contrast?

From Ontario comes press despatches dealing with reports of acute shortage of labor and the statement that the Ontario Government is about to consider the problem and possible postponing of the opening of schools until October 1 in order that older children may be at liberty for employment. The Frederickton Gleaner notes in this connection that while labor is at a premium in Ontario, the New Brunswick Government is considering an application from Saint John for continuation of provincial aid in relief of unemployment. It may be added other Maritime

centres are, and have been, obliged to continue unemployment relief. The war effort undoubtedly has placed many unemployed or partially unemployed in active labour; enlistment has also absorbed a number, but there remains, apparently, a larger proportion of unemployed in the Maritime Provinces than in any other part of Canada.

The Gleaner cites the announcement of an Eastern Canadian Command to include the Maritimes and Newfoundland as evidence that the Atlantic Coast is Canada's front line, and is so important that consolidation of defense forces and their command is imperative in these parts. "Such being the case," it asks, "why are those industries which are recognized as being the essence of armed effort, given hardly passing attention in these coastal provinces? Why are such expenditures made hundreds of miles away and the area recognized as the first area of defense neglected?"

The concentration of industry in the Central Provinces no doubt accounts for the excessive proportion of war contracts and war employment which those provinces are obtaining. But the stated aim of the Government is to harness all Canada's manpower and resources, and the people of the Maritime Provinces surely have a right to expect that industry and employment which may be encouraged by war expenditure will receive recognition here as well as elsewhere.

Even in Prince Edward Island, which is largely agricultural, are there not industries which could usefully be employed in turning out war material of some kind? The work on the buildings under the Air Training Plan is giving a considerable amount of employment to carpenters and laborers at the present time; but this work must be completed within a few weeks, and after that, what are the prospects for employment in Charlottetown? There should be no reason, from now until the end of the war, for a single able-bodied man in this country going without employment.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The holiday-makers are here all right, and at most seaside hotels, accommodation is at a premium.

A double car ferry service is necessary to accommodate traffic on Saturday and Mondays, but our laissez-faire Government do not see it.

In a bulletin in its membership the National Council of American Importers assured traders that "pertinent representations" against the proposed "purchase tax" of 12 to 33 1/3 per cent on the wholesale selling prices of goods in England are being made in London in behalf of American importers. The effect of the proposed law would be to raise the landed cost of English goods sent to the United States to "such a degree as to make importation impossible," the bulletin asserted.

In the closing days of the House of Commons, Mr. O'Neill, Liberal, declared that if incomes as low as \$600 and \$700 were taxed, difficulty would be found in obtaining the necessities of life. The Kamloops railroad suggested that additional taxation might well be obtained by cutting salaries of members of parliament and civil servants getting more than \$3,500. The O'Neill speech, which included demand for effective use of the national credit to avoid collapse of the system, featured a session taken up by backbenchers, whose views, unfortunately, though pertinent and timely, went unreported in the Press.

Napoleon sent to St. Helena this date, 1815. Unhampered by tradition, unmoved by moral or religious influences, he was, as nearly as it is possible to be, sheer intellect stalking through the world, bringing all problems straight to the touchstone of his ardent brain. He established new methods and standards of warfare, reduced campaigns and battles—so far as it is possible to do so—to mathematical problems; but while doing so he never lost sight of the element of uncertainty, the personal element, and the need for intuition—the "divine" element in warfare as he called it. It was only at Waterloo—after his bolt was shot—that any obvious wandering of his powers was perceptible. He was only 46 when his career came to a close.

Isn't it a crying shame, and a serious reflection on Island powers—that be, that owing to their laxity and didn't-care-a-d—attitude, we are losing the patronage of the 400 car tourists who cross the Straits of Canso daily? Nearly a million dollars has been spent by the Government in preparation for the service, and everything was ready for the inauguration, when the Government suddenly commandeered the Prince Nova for war purposes having already taken possession of its predecessor Charles A. Dunning. There must be something rotten in the State of Denmark or elsewhere when a newly converted river boat, the last nail driven, ready for the specific service for which she had been acquired, is seized on behalf of the Government, and ripped to pieces to make it fit for a purpose foreign to that for which she was built and subsequently converted.

It is almost a pity the authorities should play up to Mayor Houde of Montreal. His Workshop was practically down and out due to the Quebec Government depriving him and his Council of administrative powers, and substituting a Commissioner to run the City. There is a civic election in November, and His Worship, no doubt, was in search of a "platform" on which to appeal to the electorate. As the Major has always depended upon "the man in the street" for support, what better cry could he raise than that of anti-conscription in a City where the Liberals for generations have cultivated and benefited by such a policy? The Defence of the Realm Act and the Treachery Act today make such a policy illegal, and the shrewd, popularity-seeking Mr. Houde no doubt hoped that by making himself a "martyr" on behalf of the "Antis," he would more than offset the unpopularity earned by the increased taxation his financial administration involved.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Hackensack, N. J.: If an unborn child is hurt in an accident the injury applies to the mother and the child is not entitled to damages. Such was the ruling of Judge John C. Barbour of Circuit Court in a suit brought by Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Ryan, Brooklyn, N. Y. Their son Edward was born with a facial paralysis two months after a bus crash. (Newsweek)

Is a cannon a musical instrument? The question is pertinent since proposals to use a cannon in Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" at the Dell concerts have given rise to a musical canon. The cannon was "played" by a member of Local 77. The "1812" was scored for cannon as Respighi's "Pines of Rome" is scored for a phonograph and "Ballet Mechanique" for sheets of steel. "Till Eulenspiegel" and "Watchman's Rattle." — Philadelphia Record.

In three Ontario municipalities which lost thousands of dollars through the manipulation of accounts by dishonest officials, the council has disclosed that the council assisted in the defalcations by refraining from having the auditors' reports printed and published as had been the custom. This misdeed of economy in one village resulted in a shortage of \$4,000 in 1939 and what will probably be a similar period of years. — Renfrew Mercury.

The fate of the European-owned islands in the Caribbean will of course come up for discussion either officially or unofficially at the Pan American Conference in Havana. Cuba has already suggested that the independence of the twenty-one American republics be proclaimed over them in the event of a complete German victory. Elsewhere it has been suggested that their independence be recognized and guaranteed by the American republics. The suggestion has also been made that they be bought by the United States in the near future—just as the Danish West Indies were bought in 1917, so as to make sure that they would not serve as a German base. The wide-spread nature of these proposals makes plain the importance and the importance of this problem. Americans, North, South and Central are determined that the British and the United States should not fall into German hands, but they are by no means unanimous as to the best way of achieving this objective. Opinions in the final analysis will be the determining factor, which means if the British navy is defeated, the navy of the United States. But it is clear that the Latin-American republics are as anxious as we are to see the use of force avoided. Their reasons for this are different from ours. They desire to avoid resort to force because such action would be inevitable, war with Germany. The Latin-American nations wish to see resort to force avoided because they are afraid of the world economic crisis which would ensue if they were to resort to force. The record of their valor will be forever engraved upon the monuments of democracy and human rights.

I am, Sir, etc. PETER A. REILLY, 32 Westland Avenue, Boston, Mass.

"TO HIM THAT HATH" Sir.—The portion of your editorial in this morning's paper (Aug. 6) under the heading "To Him That Hath" dealing with the Wood Islands-Caribou Ferry is something that requires more than passing attention. As you state, the work on the terminal was completed. The boats were secured for the service, the first one was taken over by the Federal Government, and has since been moored at a dock in Halifax serving a purpose that could just as well have been filled by any other ferry. The second boat was secured and about ready for work orders were given to suspend work on the docks at Caribou although the contractors had material on the ground and it had to be paid for by the Government, and only about 100 men in labor remained for its completion. Orders were also given to the shipyard at Dartmouth that work on the boat be stopped and when these matters were eventually adjusted and work on docks completed, and the boat about ready to take up the work of the Government requisitioned the second boat. Your editorial states that she is to be used as a mine sweeper. Not much wonder you use the word "absurd."

The war is perhaps to be won by ferry boats, but if so, why is the one lying idle at the dock at Borden in service? If the Sankaty or the Prince Nova is so essential to war work, why was it not known until practically the last day's work on her was completed and the fifty-odd thousand dollars expended on fitting her for a ferry saved, because the first thing done after taking over by the Government was to strip off and destroy the fittings installed. The theory advanced that the service could not be started this year on account of the cost is also absurd. The service substituted is costing 50 per cent more per month that is six thousand dollars subsidy per month for the substitute service, against four thousand for the Wood Islands-Caribou Ferry. Instead of giving a service that would be of real benefit to both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, we are paying for something that is of no use to either. But it pleases certain Nova Scotia politicians, apparently, to have a lot of influence, and the rest of us are of little importance, and can do as we like about it, but must accept the dicta of those in charge. I am, Sir, etc.

ISLANDER. mumm number of people at a minimum of cost. Whether the Scottish Anderson has secured one yet for his own use we know not. We can only hope that he has. — Peterborough Examiner.

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Queen Victoria's Words

(Toronto Telegram) "Please understand, there is no one depressed in this house and we are not interested in the possibility of defeat. They do not exist." These words of Queen Victoria when the South African war was not going so well and there were Jeremiahs in the land have been reprinted and are being hung in many British homes these days. They epitomize the spirit of the Motherland today and if they were well learned in this country they would be a better tonic for Canadian nerves than continual speculation upon whether or not the Germans can invade Britain. Private information arriving from Great Britain is that they can not. The British people do not even entertain the idea. There are more jitters and nervousness in New York and Washington than in London. In the United States the wildest rumors are given credence and most of them are started by Nazi sympathizers. They are part of the German propaganda machine. On the other hand the British know what is being done to meet an attempted invasion and they have confidence in themselves. They have no time to listen to the idle chatter which is the mother of rumor. The British have more reason for confidence now than at any time since the war broke out. They are no longer depending upon some weak-kneed neutral or half-hearted, treason-infested ally. They are now on their own. Their commanders give their own orders. No longer are they at the mercy of some treacherous Leopold or some spiteful Patain who may open the dyke and let the invader in which they have participated shows the British come out on top of the enemy. Their light cruisers sank the Graf Spee. The A. F. bombers are over Germany crippling her Krumpfs and Dornier plants. Her Spitfires daily attack swarms of German planes. The stand of the Rifle Brigade at Cabes against German divisions evoked in heroism the greatest events in British military history. The story of that night has yet to be adequately told.

Does anyone suppose that Britons will less heroically defend their arms less expertly in defending their homeland than they have in fights in far-off corners? When the battle of Britain is won, as it will be, they will rally forth and the battle of Germany will begin. That day will come. The fore-runner of a law announced by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, that plans will be sent in the United States to produce new planes a month for the British. The German machine has already been switched to its utmost to fight.

Figures Tell A Story

(Stratford Beacon-Herald) Statistics are usually quiet data except to people who are interested in particular matters, with which they relate. The Commercial Intelligence Journal, issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce, contains a mass of statistics, and a recent issue interested us very much, not because of the figures themselves, but because of the story according to Frederick Rued, Chief Canadian Trade Commissioner in the United Kingdom. Statistics of exports since the war began, and numerous increases in various areas, may cause interest to the per cent, complete with only last year's figures as a basis, and a higher. As this news item regarding the fact that trade was completely shut on a number of countries with which Canada has been in peacetime in trade, and that three-quarters of a billion dollars worth of goods entered or left British ports in 1939, it is interesting to note that the story which the story is that all this was accomplished in the month of the war, after, according to the German reports, nearly 4,000,000 tons of British shipping had been destroyed by U-boats, magnetic and other mines, by aerial raids and other ways, besides which so many naval vessels had been reported sunk or otherwise put out of action that, if these reports were anywhere near true, the British navy was so attenuated that it could not protect shipping.

Twin Fawns

(Canadian Resources Bulletin) Two antelope does, each with twin fawns, were observed recently at Nemiskam National Park in Alberta, the home of Canada's antelope herds. While the occurrence of twin fawns is not unusual among antelope, because of the timidity of these animals it is rarely observed. Reports of the park warden service also indicate that the antelope are arriving and a large number of fawns has increased the size of the herds. Efforts of the Dominion Government to conserve the antelope in its native habitat in Canada are now centered at Nemiskam National Park, where an area of eight and a half square miles is fenced. The antelope or pronghorn once ranged the North American continent from the province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta south to Mexico in numbers estimated in the millions. In Canada it was found as

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Soil microbiology has taught us that the soil, in addition to its chemical and physical properties, has those of a living organism, that it is teeming with bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and smaller numbers of many other forms. J. M. Swaine, Director, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture. Recent research on the physiology of soil organisms as changing our whole view on the nature of soil fertility and the processes which underlie it.

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