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A STURDY DEMAGOGUE

Of few men in Canadian public life have such colorful anecdotes been related as of the late "Honest John" Oliver, Liberal Premier of British Columbia from 1918 to 1927.

The seed of John Oliver's political faith was sown by the newspapers he read in early youth. His father came from England with an aversion to that Conservatism which he regarded as the inalienable creed of the upper classes.

One of the burning issues of that day was the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway to link the Dominion from shore to shore. Sir John Macdonald and his followers favoured the scheme.

A newspaper man asked John, after he became Premier, what had been his impressions of his first session in Parliament. "I used to look round and wonder why men of any ability had ever sent me there," was his reply.

Sixty years of age before he entered an executive position in the Government, the habit of doing everything for himself persisted with "Honest John" to the end.

adding machines in the building that would have done the work nearly in a fourth of the time. When he was framing a Redistribution Bill he would take a paint brush and colours to draw flamboyant maps, when just across the hall were expert map makers, who, under his directions, could have done it better and saved much valuable time.

When in Opposition, his attacks upon Premier McBride were particularly vociferous. One of the latter's followers reminded him that he should not be so personal, as the Premier had shown that he was not wanting in the milk of human kindness.

When John wandered into the realm of second-hand classical quotations he was not so fortunate. McBride had been protesting his innocence of some of John's numerous accusations and countercharging with considerable vehemence. "The Honourable the Premier," said John in reply, "makes a great show of waving his arms and thumping his desk, but he is like the lady who protested too much and brought suspicion on herself."

"Honest John's" wittiest and most effective antagonist in repartee was the late W. J. Bowser, who knew his weaknesses, and was fond of twitting him. John was not unmindful of public applause, and his eyes sometimes wandered around the galleries as he spoke.

An amusing story in which Mr. Bowser scored is told relative to the election campaign of 1920. Premier Oliver had occasion to stay for supper at a log roadhouse. After the meal he volunteered to help the hostess wash the dishes, and in wiping a jug let it fall and break into fragments. It was of a particular pattern, highly prized, and the accident elicited apologies from "Honest John," who departed somewhat crestfallen.

Bowser could irritate John as no one else could, and there was a suspicion that he often did so purposefully, knowing that when his opponent's wrath was roused he was apt to explode with statements that made an easy target for attack.

honourable friend that I keep it where it ought to be—in the seat of my chair." "Then," retorted Bowser, "I hope you'll be able to incubate some useful legislation!"

But it was not often that "Honest John" was flooded in debate. Here are some specimens of his oratorical style:

Replying to some remarks of a fluent opponent: "The member for Nanymer talks a whole lot about things he knows nothing about. If he would only talk about the things he knows, we should very seldom hear him on the floor of this House."

"The man on the top of the stack," he said on one occasion, "has the widest view, but he gets all the wind and the flying ants."

He never liked the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and said of it once in the Legislature: "I am not going to become the foster-father of this illegitimate offspring of two unnatural parents. It was a waif left on my doorstep. It was conceived in the sin of political necessity; it was begotten in the iniquity of a half-million dollar campaign fund. I refuse to be the godfather of any such foundling."

He was angered at certain preachers who had condemned the Government's liquor control policy. "I would like," he said, "to take a club to some of these men who get up in their pulpits and tell people they shouldn't touch politics because they are too dirty. There are not nearly as many crooked people in politics as there are among others who want them to be crooked."

He told the House that he agreed with Dr. Tolmie that they "wanted stable legislation, not horse-stable, or cow-stable, but legislation with stability."

To a delegation of unemployed, winter of 1921-22: "It is not the business of the Government to maintain the people. It is the business of the people to maintain the Government." Prices of farm produce were falling, and there were complaints from those who had bought land at high prices, with Government assistance, that unless they received further help they must abandon their farms.

An unauthenticated, but characteristic, newspaper story is told that in one of his Ottawa trips Premier Oliver was discussing the Doukhobor situation with Premier Mackenzie King. "I understand," said the Dominion Premier, "that they are in the habit of parading 'in puris naturalibus.'" "Worse than that," said John. "They go around without a stitch on."

His character being attacked by R. T. Elliot, a Liberal lawyer of Vancouver, Oliver took the case into court, much to the disapproval of his colleagues. He sued for \$50,000 and was awarded twenty-five cents; "which apparently," adds his biographer, "meant that while the jury did not consider him guilty of any dishonesty they thought the matter not worth bringing to court."

If, unable to defend a position, he could show that the other side had done something worse, "Honest John" felt that he had scored a genuine triumph. It was part of the old belief that if you could mix your own dark dye with a blacker dye from the other fellow's vat you could draw forth your political garments white as the driven snow.

His strength lay in his analytical keenness. He loved probing into details, and scrutinizing every Order in Council brought before him with such care that it was seldom that he failed to detect some error. On one occasion, however, this habit went astray. An Order came in appointing a University professor to undertake some Government educational work. It read, among other things: "Professor A. —, D. Litt, and D. Lett." After a minute's scrutiny the Premier rang for his secretary. "Look here," he said, "I thought we were only appointing one man and here you've got three." The secretary explained that "D. Litt" and "D. Lett." were abbreviations for the professor's degrees.

The Premier lay back in his chair and laughed till he shook like a jelly. "Ho, ho! That's a good one on me, that is," he said. It was one of his strong points that he could laugh hilariously at himself. Perhaps that accounts for a good deal in the career of "Honest John," and the perennial popularity he enjoyed

Notes By The Way

Britain will make a "token payment" of \$7,500,000 on her war debts to the United States, on December 15, and the United States will not regard this as a default. There is no sign that the American Congress has yet learned what it took Europe fourteen years to learn in the matter of reparations, namely, that such debts can be collected in goods or not at all.

It may be well to note that while Mr. Ferguson and the British Board of Trade were exercising their respective rights to disagree, the Canadian Tariff Board was giving a decision affording to British interests rights to which they are entitled under the Ottawa agreement, and that, almost simultaneously, the Canadian Government was making a considerable concession to the British cotton trade.

The press of Canada in its comment on the British Columbia elections expresses great satisfaction that the real struggle in coming elections is still to be between the old parties, and that the socialists, under whatever name they may masquerade, will have no opportunity to put their theories into effect.

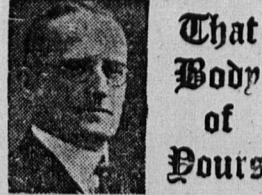
Apparently Canadian trade gained slightly more in one month than United States trade lost in two months. This is an indication not only that Canada is leading in recovery, but also, when judged in relation with other trends in the Dominion, that she is achieving a balanced recovery.

It is quite likely that men not lacking in intelligence who note what the N.R.A. manifesto says about finance, control of business, national planning, State monopoly of external trade, and the eradication of capitalism, may feel themselves justified in drawing from it

did not so readily accept this reasoning.

A shrewd analysis of the Premier's shortcomings as well as his virtues is given by the author. "He had," we read, "the microscopic rather than the telescopic mind, and his habit of seeing things bit by bit often prevented him from seeing them whole. He had wide visions at times, but work on their realization involved so much detail that the picture became inevitably blurred."

There were three cherry trees once Grew in a garden all shady; And there for delight of so glad some a sight, Walked a most beautiful lady, Dreamed a most beautiful lady.



By James W. Barton, M.D. A WEEK'S FOOD

You may be the food provider of the family or you may be the one who has to expend the money that is allowed for the purchase of the weekly food supply.

The Nutrition Committee of the Health Service of the Federated Agencies of Montreal have published a minimum Food Budget to maintain health for families of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 persons respectively.

1. Milk:—One quart of milk per day for every child under sixteen. One pint for each other member of the family.

2. Vegetables and Fruits:—Six pounds of vegetables per person weekly including three pounds of potatoes, some cabbage, one-half can tomatoes and one-half pound dried beans, peas, or fruit.

3. Bread and Cereals:—Four to five pounds of bread and cereals per week including some whole wheat bread and some whole grain cereal.

4. Fats and Sugars:—One-half to three-fourths of a pound of fat and three-fourths of a pound of sugar per week.

5. Eggs and Meat:—Three eggs per week for each child under six years, one pound of meat or fish and a little cheese per person per week.

6. Sundries:—Seasonings, cocoa, tea and coffee, small amounts.

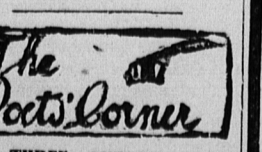
7. Cod-liver oil:—All children under two years of age need cod liver oil in proper dosage, that is a few drops in infancy up to two teaspoons twice a day from four months to two years.

While many physicians will approve of the above quantities of food, there are many, including myself, who would advise a larger quantity of meat, eggs and fish, particularly for teen age children.

However it is a good general guide and should be of help to those who have to apportion out the food.

There are few stories of romantic adventure more truly satisfying than the one which tells about French penetration of the Great Lakes region. Those old names like Nicolet, Duluth, Marquette, La Salle, Joliet, Hennepin, Cadillac, and so on have a glamour about them that time can not dim.

There were three cherry trees once Grew in a garden all shady; And there for delight of so glad some a sight, Walked a most beautiful lady, Dreamed a most beautiful lady.



THE THREE CHERRY TREES

Birds in those branches did sing, Blackbird and thrush and linnet, But she walking there was by far the most fair— Lovelier than all else within it, Blackbird and thrush and linnet.

The Huberdashery Overcoats 1-2 Price 35 last year's overcoats including Barrymores, Herringbones, Tweeds, Blues, etc., to clear HALF PRICE. Those overcoats are all high grade coats, Guards, plain and belted models. Only one or two of each kind left. Regular value \$28 to \$38. While they last HALF the marked price. Henderson & Cudmore MEN'S WEAR

The Inns Of Court (Montreal Gazette) Lincoln's Inn appears to have taken its name from students of the law who migrated from a hostel called after Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, to their present home, which was formerly the town house of the Bishops of Chichester, writes Colonel R. J. Blackham in Wig and Gown.



WORTH SAVING FOR To the traveller, Canada offers endless variety and the person who saves in order to explore it has a worthwhile objective. The most effective method of saving money is to follow a definite plan of deposits in a Savings Account at regular intervals. THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

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