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

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1945

A Great Opportunity

The *Winnipeg Free Press* refers to the current situation today as the fishermen's opportunity. The meat shortage has demanded a substitute in the menu of American and Canadian households and the result has been increasing demands for fish.

Quick to take advantage of this opportunity, it points out, the New England fishing industry has rapidly expanded, large investments in steel beam trawlers having been made to extend the operations, for the belief is that the people, having acquired the habit, will continue to use more fish than before. This also applies in Canada with two meatless days per week.

Here is an opportunity for Prince Edward Island, and the Maritime Provinces in general, to capitalize on their unexcelled fishery resources. This is a matter important enough to receive the attention of the Dominion-Provincial Conference delegates when they resume their meeting at Ottawa.

In his address at the opening session of the Conference, Premier Jones pointed out that the fishing industry in this Province lacks frozen bait and cold storage facilities, while better methods of fishing further out to sea "should have been encouraged." Why, after six years of war, in which meat was scarce and fishery products at a premium, should this have to be said? Who was responsible? What leadership has the Federal Department of Fisheries shown in this matter? Surely, in view of the great importance of this basic industry, a revamping of the whole department at Ottawa should be undertaken.

Danish Bacon Again

Mr. Christmas Moeller, Danish Foreign Minister, has been very active recently in London, and according to London newspapers hopes to take back with him to Denmark an agreement whereby Britain will purchase "most of Denmark's surplus bacon, eggs and butter."

This will come as no surprise to the Canadian hog-raiser, dairy farmer or poultryman, although in view of pre-victory food-shortage reports from Europe it would seem strange for Denmark to have food surpluses so soon after its liberation.

For nearly five years now the Canadian swine-breeder has provided bacon for export to the United Kingdom in an endeavor to gain a foothold in the British market. Whether he has succeeded will be evident in the course of the next year or so.

There is no sentiment in business, whether that business be food, clothing or manufactures. It would be unreasonable to expect Britain to continue bacon purchases from Canada if she can get the same commodity cheaper from Denmark.

It is easy to understand the British viewpoint in food purchases. The *London Daily Express*, writing of the agreement with Denmark, says: "This means that Britain would get comparatively fresh butter, bacon and eggs, as before the war, instead of food kept in stores for many weeks."

The fact that Canadian farmers, wholesalers and exporters are well aware of these world food conditions and the special conditions of the British market probably explains the drop in hog production which has been general in 1945 — and the underlying reasons for meat-rationing here.

The Allies And The Emperor

The Japs would seem to be stalling in implementing their acceptance of the Allied surrender terms, which is not surprising in view of what we know of Japanese treachery in the war. On the other hand, it is worth remembering that this whole affair is something unique in history. Seldom if ever has a great nation been forced to accept unconditional surrender without a hostile foot on its shores and its principal armed forces not even in contact with those of the enemy. And the Japanese are being required to execute, not only a military but a national surrender. The Emperor Hirohito, regarded as a deity by his subjects, will be required to take his instructions from the Supreme Allied Commander. Never before has the head of a state been put in just this position, and this emphasizes the difficult nature of the problem to be dealt with.

There is a good deal to be said in favor of leaving the Emperor on the throne, and it is quite possible that, even if the Japanese Government had said nothing about it in their surrender offer, the Allies would still have left him there. He forms at least a nucleus for the nation — an authority with which the outside nations can deal, a representative of the nation, and one who can speak in the nation's name.

There are decided advantages in having such a representative and spokesman. With such a nucleus, the nation is organized; without it, there is chaos. In the case of Japan, the Allied military chiefs, speaking in the name of the Emperor, will be instantly obeyed. Without this authority they might have to use coercion, which would be unpleasant and difficult.

At the same time, it is possible, as the *London Times* points out, that the Japanese military clique, who have been at the bottom of all Japan's aggression and mischief, may be hoping that through the preservation of the throne they can save from the wreckage all that is really important to them and so be in a position, some day, to build up once more Japan's ambitions to make herself ruler of the world.

The idea that Japan can be turned into a democracy on the constitutional monarchy plan in one generation or even in two or three is little short of fantastic. Japan has in her constitution some of the forms of democracy. But they are quite artificial and meaningless. In name the Emperor is absolute, but his absolutism is conditioned by the will of the army, the navy, big businesses and the great families. The people of Japan have no say at all and there is not much evidence that they have any desire for a say.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

There is still no room in the inns.

* * * *

Tokyo seems loath to sign its own national death warrant.

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Not a few officers and men of our volunteer forces have decided to follow the Navy, Army or Air Force as their profession, and will not return to civil life yet awhile. It will be the part of wisdom for the Government to encourage as many as possible to remain in uniform as a nucleus for a permanent defence force.

* * * *

Old age pensioners in Saskatchewan and their dependents, and recipients of mother's allowances who receive free dental services, may now go directly to the dentist of their choice. Formerly, persons eligible for the health services went to their physicians, who might refer them to a dentist if necessary. In the new regulations, the dentist will obtain authorization from the public health department for work which needs to be done.

* * * *

Penicillin made in jam jars has saved the reason of numerous patients at the Rubery Hill mental hospital in Birmingham, England, says superintendent C. T. Graves. All cases in the hospital are being treated with home-made penicillin and cures are reported every month, Dr. Graves told the annual meeting of the Mental Hospitals Association. He said some might scoff at the theory of the efficiency of penicillin in treatment of mental disorders, but intramuscular injections had instantly pulled around a woman whose mental condition arose from puerperal sepsis following child-birth.

* * * *

The uranium output of the Great Bear Lake areas exceeds the combined production of the rest of the world and while the Eldorado mine operations have been shrouded in secrecy since the war, a former prospector this year turned exporter, believes there is plenty of the elment somewhere in the Arctic circle around the 66th parallel. News of the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima drew worldwide attention to uranium and its chief source of supply, but to the prospector this was a familiar subject for he was trying to promote uranium discoveries years ago. The cessation of hostilities with Japan will not affect the value and application of uranium, of which radium is a derivative.

* * * *

Says Dr. Richard Monahan on return once more to Sharbot Lake: "People in Glengarry voted for King through ignorance, apathy, fear, backwardness, prejudice, fanaticism or pure cussedness and were whisked to the polls by a 'well-oiled' machine," while his opponents had to find their own way to the polling booths as they had no machine to come to their aid. Compulsory voting, as in Australia, he added, would break the back of the King machine and would put elections in Canada on a much higher plane. This, he writes "would dispel the monopoly, intimidation, patronage, spoilation, bribery and backsheesh connected with the political machine." After all, the adventurous medico-politician had grounds for being sore at the electorate which chose the Prime Minister in preference to himself.

* * * *

St. Bernard, "the last of the Fathers", died this date 1158; the saintly vigour of his life, his eloquence as a preacher, and his courage in attacking civil and ecclesiastical wrong doers, gradually raised him into European fame, and letters and visitors from far and near drifted to the Abbey of Clairvaux which he founded; the force of his influence became principally manifest in 1130, when, on the death of Pope Honorius II, two Popes--Innocent II and Anacletus II—each claimed to be the true and only Vicar of Christ; the rulers of Europe were at a loss to decide between the rivals; Louis VI of France convened a council to consider the question, to which Bernard was invited; the assembly waited with awe for his opinion, believing that the Holy Spirit would speak through his mouth; he declared for Innocent, and the council at once broke up well satisfied.

* * * *

Even in Quebec they have moonshiners doing a thriving business in competition with government monopoly and high prices. Two brothers of Brownsburg were fined $200 each with an alternative of three months in jail when they were found guilty on a charge of being in possession of and transporting alcoholic liquor illegally. Judge Millar ordered their automobile as well as 11 gallons of "moonshine" alcohol, confiscated. Court appearance was sequel to a wild chase through a dozen villages and two counties of Western Quebec province by Inspector Leopold Cyr of the Quebec Liquor Police. Inspector Cyr finally caught up with them at Cheneville, Que., and upon testing the alcohol found it to be 90 per cent overproof. Counsel for the defendants objected to the seizure of the car, valued at $1,500, on the grounds that the Crown had not proven the authorization of Inspector Cyr. Judge Millar rejected this contention, saying the authorization was understood as part of the officer's duty.

Notes By The Way

A necktie with a gravy stain is a mark of distinction in the United States these days—especially if it is a beef gravy. — Guelph Mercury

When they had the chance the Germans chose guns in preference to butter. Now they want the butter from us. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Scotland has been asked to give up its oatmeal porridge to help feed Europe. Another thing a Scott will refuse to surrender is his wee drop or twa and his right eye. —Detroit Free Press.

Shortly after a flying tomcat was reported in England, stories of winged rabbits came out of Oklahoma. A few years back people were so unimaginative they could think of nothing more exciting than sea serpents. — Windsor Star.

Armchair strategists claim Hitler made his big mistake when he invaded Russia. He made his biggest mistake when he believed that Great Britain would never come into the war until her territory was invaded.—Chatham News.

British people look hopefully forward to the autumn when, it is hoped, they may expect a reduction in taxation and the same thing is true here with many people hopeful of some relief from the present imposts of many kinds. Niagara Falls Review.

Loved and hated, fought for and schemed against, extolled and maligned, held up before the world now as the symbol of enduring greatness and now as the battered, disintegrating remnant of an effete political organism, the British Commonwealth of Nations still gives lessons to those who would learn the secret of ordered freedom among co-equal nations. — Montreal Gazette.

"It will be said that I am animated by hatred of Great Britain," Prime Minister Eamon de Valera declared the other day in Eire's Parliament. "It is not true. I have often realized that if some other country had been our neighbor, our history would have been the same or worse." To outsiders in the Anglo-Irish quarrel that may sound like faint praise. But it is probably the closest thing to a compliment the British have ever heard from Mr. De Valera—or ever will.—Kansas City Star.

One thousand Belgians are to be enrolled in the 2nd Tactical Air Force for police duties in the British zone of occupied Germany. They will be enlisted in the Belgian Army by the Minister of National Defence and placed under the command of the 2nd T.A.F. Bearing the name of Belgian Auxiliary Air Police, members of this force will be under the supervision and command of the officer commanding the RAF police unit to which they are attached, but the command will be exercised, as far as possible, through their own officers. They will have the same powers as the other members of the Allied forces.—News From Belgium.

Air Ministry scientists and navigation experts are studying the valuable data on the true position of the north magnetic pole which was brought back by the crew of the RAF Lancaster bomber Aries recently, says the British Information Service. The polar flight of the Aries was organized at the Empire Air Navigation School at Shawbury, Shropshire. The E.A.N.S. is really a navigators' university — only fully qualified navigators are accepted for the intensive course which lasts 13 weeks. Students include Americans, Frenchmen and Poles. Bomber navigators in training at the school were being equipped with a new technique for the war in the Far East, one vastly different from that employed over Germany.

City Council's confusion is this: It thinks houses without basements are good houses. They are not. No matter how much money is spent on the walls, roof, decorating, etc., if the house hasn't got a basement it is not a modern house and not good enough for permanent housing of any family. All the rationalizing in the world by aldermen or Wartime Housing officials is just so much wind when put to test. That test is simply the opinion of the housewife. She is the person who has to live in the house probably twice as many hours in the year as the husband. It is she who has to live with the children indoors on a rainy day. It is she who has to do the weekly washing and find a place for it to dry on wet or frosty days. The basement to her is the difference between convenience and dreary, nauseating inconvenience. — Calgary Albertan.

Our correspondent, Tania Long, writing from Berlin, which she knew intimately before the war, does not quite endorse the usual picture of the German capital as one vast ruin, says The New York Times. She says that the central portion of the city, around the Potsdammer Platz and Wilhelmstrasse, is a sad sight, but not far away are large sections of the town as free from damage as Westchester or Forest Hills. Inasmuch as the central part of any modern city is usually the abode of wealth and fashion, this report by Tania Long bears out other reports of the comparatively small amount of destruction in the southwestern working class districts of Berlin now occupied by our American forces. Berlin in this respect would differ radically from London, where the worst fury of the London blitz fell upon the working class districts in the East End.

"The sun must not set upon mine anger"; much less will I let the sun set upon the anger of God towards me, or sleep in an unrepented sin. Every night's sleep is a nunc dimittis; then the Lord lets his servant depart in peace. Thy lying down is a valediction, a parting, a taking leave (shall I say so?) a shaking hands with God—let these hands be clean. Enter into thy grave, thy metaphorical, thy quotidian grave, thy bed, as thou entered'st into the church at first, by water, by baptism; re-baptize thyself every night in Job's "snow water", in holy tears that may cool inardinate lusts of thy heart. Sleep with clean hands, either kept clean all day by integrity or washed at night by repentance; and whensoever thou wakest, though all Job's messengers thunder about thee, and all Job's friends multiply misinterpretations against thee, yet Job's protestations shall be thy protestations, what end soever God have in this proceeding. "It is not for any injustice in my hands."—John Donne in "Eighty Sermons".

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

GRANDSTAND LINE

Sir,— Your editorial of the 18th. lauding Col. MacKinnon and his associates was very timely and deserving. They have done a grand job and everything points to even better times to come. However without wishing to detract from their glory, there is a criticism I would like to make and one which is being made generally by those attending the fair. This is regarding the crude and inadequate arrangements for selling tickets to the grandstand performance.

The crowd gathers early at the small booth, with no semblance of an orderly line-up, but pushing from all directions. As the crowd increases, the pushing increases until the result is a seething, pushing, jam of humanity, and one would have to be a Commando to make much headway or come through without feeling that he or she had been subjected to some of the tortures perpetrated in the Japanese and German prison camps. To make matters worse, after one has emerged victorious from this whirlpool of struggling humans, he reaches the grandstand only to find that....there is standing room only.

The following solution is offered: Have the ticket selling start early, instead of a few minutes before the performance. Have an arrangement similar to the theatres, where the crowd must line up and only one person at a time is at the wicket. Have special police to see that order is kept and that "chiselers" are not allowed by reason of size and nerve to push ahead of those who are in their proper places. Sell no more tickets than the capacity of the grandstand, and when the capacity is reached...in fairness to the people announce....standing room only.

I feel sure that the management must be anxious to meet the wishes of the thousands who have made their success possible and we also feel that if Col. MacKinnon and his associates had to go through this ticket-buying "hot-oven", they would remedy the situation without delay.

I am, Sir, etc.
ONE WHO WAS CAUGHT IN THE JAM.

Russia's Revenge

(Ottawa Journal)

It was noted in the despatches the other day that exactly 40 years had elapsed since negotiations were opened at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for ending the Russo-Japanese war of 1904 and 1905. That war the Japs won handily; now the Soviet regime has avenged the humiliations inflicted by Tokyo on the czarist regime it succeeded.

The Japanese began that war too with a characteristic bit of treachery repeated at Pearl Harbor with modern variations. On Feb. 8, 1904—two days before the declaration of war—the main battle fleet of Japan under Togo made a surprise attack on the Russian fleet in Port Arthur and inflicted serious losses, later in the day engaged coast batteries.

It was a curious sort of war. Japan, just emerging from long feudal sleep, was anxious for a quick and spectacular victory over a great power as a means of establishing her own prestige in the world. Her army was highly trained and well armed, her fleet efficient, and the little yellow men were cocky and confident. The Russian forces, on the other hand, were badly armed, poorly equipped, led mostly by incompetents. Czarist Russia even then was shot full of graft and corruption, the armed forces were in the hands of court favorites—the great Russian bear went into battle hamstrung and blinded by its own worthless rulers.

The outcome was, of course, catastrophic for Russia and a blow to white prestige in the Far East. The eager and ambitious Japs with superior arms and more intelligent leadership walked through the brave but lumbering forces of the Czar, and Japan in the Treaty of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, laid the foundation of the empire she is now losing. Russia had to give up half of Sakhalin island, surrender her lease of the Kwantung peninsula and Port Arthur, evacuate Manchuria and recognize Japan's sphere of influence in Korea.

That is the background of the natural elation the Soviet Union feels today as the tables are turned. Time has brought its revenge.

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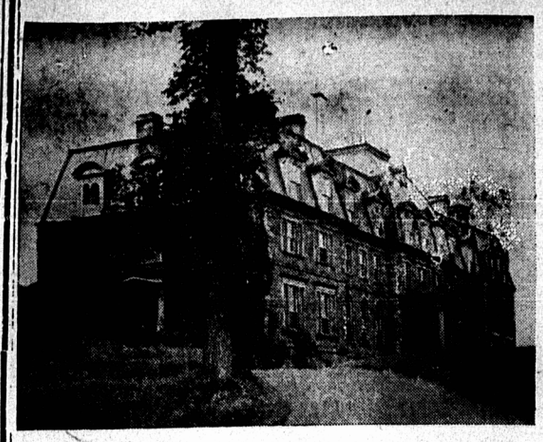

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The Poets' Corner

THE KINGS ARE PASSING DEATHWARD

The kings are passing deathward in the dark
Of days that had been splendid where they went;
Their crowns are captive and their courts are stark
Of purples that are ruinous, and rent.
For all that they have seen of monstrous things:
The shattered pomp, the split and shaken throne,
They cannot quite forget the pride of Kings:
Gravely they pass, majestic and alone.

With thunder on their brows, and faces set
Toward the eternal night of shapeless shapes,
They walk in awful splendor regal yet,
Wearing their crimes like richly kingly capes
Curse them or taunt, they will not hear or see;
The Kings are passing deathward let them be.

—David Morton

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