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

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1950

The Reefer Car Imbroglio

One of the minor mysteries of the reefer car imbroglio is the purport of a letter which appears to have been written by an official of the Provincial Government to the Minister or Deputy Minister of Transport at Ottawa on March 10, two days after complaint had been made by the Conservative member for Queen's in the House of Commons that there was a serious shortage of reefer cars in this Province.

Excerpts from this letter were quoted by the Federal Minister to show that Mr. McLure's statements were unfounded, and that in fact there was no shortage at all, a statement which the railway authorities also were making at that time.

A Provincial Minister's statement in the Legislature on the same day as this letter was written, on a question of privilege in reply to Mr. McLure's complaint in Parliament as published in The Guardian, was also interpreted in this light by some members of the House. Subsequently the Provincial Minister stated he had merely risen to report that his department had received no complaints of any shortage, and to give the number of cars supplied to date compared with last year. He emphasized that he had not stated there was no reefer car shortage at that time, nor had his official so stated either to him or in his letter to the Federal Minister on March 10. The official himself has also been insistent on this point, carrying the controversy into the non-political seclusion of a Board of Trade meeting and complaining that his letter had not been fully quoted by the Federal Minister.

Premier Jones, however, on information presumably supplied by the same official, insisted in the Legislature the other day that there was in fact no shortage of cars until the "middle" of March, in direct contradiction to a telegram sent to the Federal Minister on March 10 by the P. E. I. Potato and Turnip Marketing Association advising him that the shortage had by then reached a condition of urgency.

If it were not for the seriousness of the situation, one might say with Mr. Hughes that it was all a "Comedy of Errors", with the authors, like Shakespeare, appearing in the dual role of actors and playwrights.

Why an official of the Provincial Government—not the Minister or even a Deputy Minister—should be writing to Ottawa at all on a subject of live controversy on the floor of Parliament is difficult to understand. Evidently his letter was written at this time for some particular purpose. But what? It didn't say that there was no car shortage, and apparently it didn't give any indication that there was. Yet this was the whole point at issue, raised two days before by Mr. McLure, on which the Federal Minister had undertaken to have a "survey" made.

Was it in reply to a rush order for ammunition to use in defense of the railway on the floor of the House against Mr. McLure that the Provincial Government official's letter was written? That is the obvious interpretation and explanation, in view of the manner in which it backfired and the striking coincidence of the date on which it was concocted.

What the Opposition should have demanded in the Legislature of course, and from the first, was the tabling of all correspondence — telegrams as well as letters, and the substance of telephone calls if any —exchanged between the two Governments or any of their officials on this subject. That would have settled the matter, and cleared the way for a more open approach to the problem by all concerned.

Indian Education

The education of Indians in Labrador is being left in the hands of the Newfoundland Government with the Federal Government footing the bills as well as those for relief and social services. Col. D. M. MacKay, director of the Indian Affairs Branch has explained to a Senate committee that Indians in Newfoundland have the same citizenship status and privileges as white Canadians, and that the Government does not propose the "retrograde step" of bringing them under paternal Federal legislation. The decision is a wise and just one, as is the proposal to grant full citizenship rights to Indians in the other provinces. The existing situation is certainly not one of which this country can be proud. That the descendants of original inhabitants should be treated as being children all their lives shows small regard for their capacity to run their own lives and operates to make it almost impossible for these people to develop their natural abilities. It would seem, according to Col. MacKay's statements, that the position is worse in the Maritimes than the other Provinces. At least in the rest of the country it is not the policy of the Government to segregate the children in the schools. How such a policy came to be adopted in the Maritimes is not very clear, but the sooner it is reversed the better. Probably no better solution could be found for this particular problem than assimilating the younger generation into the general Provincial school system although it is a Federal obligation to provide ways and means.

Peace Treaties

There is much thought being given just now to the drawing up of a peace treaty for Japan. It is nearly five years since hostilities ended, yet the Western powers and Russia have not succeeded in writing treaties for that country or for Germany. Perhaps it is not possible in this modern world to sit around a conference table and put on paper anything that would remotely resemble the complicated inter-relationships of modern states. There is food for thought in a comment by Associated Press News Analyst J. M. Roberts, Jr. "Peace treaties," he writes, "like declarations of war, seem to me to be a little outdated and unworkable in a world which is subject to constantly changing cold war pressures. Letting peace evolve, step by step, as it becomes a fact, seems a little more realistic. It's what Dean Acheson says must happen with Russia."

We live in a pragmatic age, and perhaps attempts to make life conform to any particular theory, or formula, are so out of line with present trends as to be simply unworkable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"All Fools" Day.

* * *

Tomorrow, Palm Sunday.

* * *

Tomorrow, sixth Sunday in Lent

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Seven more days till Easter.

* * *

Royal Air Force formed this date, 1918.

* * *

In Ottawa they know today a good deal more about us, our railway troubles, and our far-famed oysters than they did when the present session of Parliament opened.

* * *

The havoc wrought by winter on streets and roads is becoming apparent. Spring brings hope and promise to many, but to the street or highway authority it must be dark with foreboding.

* * *

The devaluation of sterling is doing it. A firm in Lincolnshire, England, has consigned $215,000 worth of road rollers to reach Canada in time for the opening of the road construction season in April.

* * *

Gaetano Donigeti, Italian composer, died this date 1848; was a very rapid and prolific opera writer; produced over sixty operas, some of which rank among the best of the Italian style, the most successful being "Lucia di Lammermoor", "The Daughter of the Regiment," and "La Favorita". His bi-centenary will be celebrated both in England and on the continent this year.

* * *

Industry and Resources Minister Cullen deserves congratulations on his Town Planning Act, which regulates building in the Royalty of Charlottetown. Whether the precise provisions are the best possible ones or not, they will at least bring some order to the expansion of the suburbs, pending their organization either within the city or as an independent municipality.

* * *

In expropriating property, individual "bargaining deals" are against Government policy. So Deputy Public Works Minister E. P. Murphy recently told a Senate committee. The policy is to file a general expropriation order on the property needed and take it all at once, it having been found that an attempt to deal with the individual owners meant each wanting to know what the others were doing before making a deal, and, "the price keeps climbing all the time."

* * *

It will be admitted that an old age pension of $60 in addition to any income from savings and investments (that is the "means test") would prove a strong attraction to those who love leisure for leisure's sake, irrespective of who pays the score. Mr. Ross Thatcher, C.C.F., put it mildly when he said that implementation of his own party's full old-age pension program would cost around $800,000,000 a year, "a staggering burden on a (Federal) budget already bursting at the seams." As our basic industry is agriculture farmers would have to pay about 75 per cent higher income tax to help to pay the bill.

Notes By The Way —

Almost every municipality breaks out in a rash of "tree" names, and Sudbury was no exception in this regard. We have our Pine, Ash, Spruce, etc., but we also have streets named after early settlers and surveyors, although there is probably not one in 100 of our population who can tell you the story of people associated with street names. — Sudbury Star.

A lady in Moose Jaw says that the male members of the human family are becoming less and less courteous to the female members. She's probably right. Yet haven't many of the females brought it on themselves by assuming the male characteristics and asserting "equality?" It is our guess they chose the wrong word. They should have claimed "superiority" or pandered to man's vanity by praying his protection for their "inferiority." A man just can't throw his coat in the mud for an equal!—Ottawa Journal.

There seems a natural reticence on the part of folks on the land to admit ever having made a dollar. According to a recent survey, however, the farmer isn't doing too badly at all. In fact, his cash income has the average buckaroo in town backed right off the map. — Lindsay Watchman - Warder.

One of the Belgians who will be most relieved when the King's position is clarified will be his brother, Prince Charles; as Regent, the Prince has not had a very comfortable time. Before the war he was to most Belgians a gay young man known with mingled affection and disapproval as "our Prince of Wales." Since he became the sole tenant of the Royal Palace, he has done his best to pursue a discreet policy of non-interference in public affairs. He has always refused to comment on the royal crisis, and scarcely appears in public. He has even postponed 'till after the plebiscite the announcement of his engagement to Princess Marie Louise of Orleans and Braganza. But, as one of his aides recently said, "in his position whatever he could do would be called wrong, and now they say he has been wrong for doing nothing." The two brothers have never been very close to each other and the regency has driven them further apart, since Leopold apparently felt that his brother should not have taken his throne even temporarily. When the King's daughter went to Belgium to vote for her father in the plebiscite, she did not call on her uncle. And Prince Charles did not vote himself. — London Observer.

ada "a vast espionage network," and "Tens of thousands" of Canadians have been excluded from entering the United States "because of their activities on behalf of peace." That is wholly grotesque, but it may be swallowed by the suspicious Russians.

We have had Mr. Endicott speaking in Ottawa, and some good people may have been fooled by his smooth propaganda. There is no excuse for anybody being fooled in the future. The fact that he could penetrate the Iron Curtain, and his reception in Moscow as an honored guest, remove any possible doubt about his sympathies.

The Poet's Corner

SHALL NOT BE MOCKED

(Dedicated to Surety)

How fearful, and how wonderful, is man the creature made;
With brain to think, and soul to cleave, and hand to ambuscade,
The sciences and arts to ease, the ways of death and life;
In peaceful progress to pursue, or to destroy in strife —
What nature has prepared for him, within this life mundane,
Placed here for all, that we might live, secure upon this plane.

But in the lust of man there lurks the wickedness of Cain,
Who slew his brother in the field, when jealousy o'ercame
The better instincts of his life, that had been placed within,
The virtue of creativeness, that lost itself in sin;
When jealous rage and angered hate impelled the slayer's hand,
To cast a curse upon himself,—marked with a murder brand

That show the Cainful cruelty,—and Abel victims slain,
On battlefields across the earth, of death and bombed terrain,
That bears the mark of cross and plaque, upon the sacred mound,
Of victims of each holocaust, who sleep in hallowed ground,—
That was created in that Day, when God stretched forth His Hand,
To make the astral spheres rotate, and His earth to abound,

In plenishment much multiplied, in ways devoid of sin,
To recreate and utilize, what has been made by Him—
To use for betterment of life,—to heighten man's career,
By giving surety to all, and banishing their fear—
Throughout the earth from pole to pole, in every sea and strand,
So freedom's flag can wave unfurled, in every native land,

Without the fury of the bomb, or rocket from the sky,
That proves the evil in mankind, and causes it to die—
In infancy, and in old age—in childhood and in prime,—
As victims of man's cruelty, in war's destructive crime—
Against the creatures of this earth, that were destined to dwell,
In happiness upon this plane, without the fears of hell—

To cast its shadows in the sky, of war's black gathering clouds,
Like mantles of impending doom, in death's foreboding shrouds—
That would envelop all mankind, within mortiferous folds—
If hydrogen and atom bombs, destroy whate'er earth holds;
Then, should this planet be a void, with death in birth and womb—
Where sounds of life could not be heard, within its silent tomb

But God shall not be mocked by man,—nor shall His Footstool fade,
By any fiendish act of man, through bombs that he has made—
For once he planned his 'bigger barns', to hold his power and might,
But God demanded that the soul, return to Him,—that night;
So shall the footstool of the Lord, be ever safe and free
From fools who would exchange their soul for acts of cruelty.

—Peter A. Reilly.

March 27, 1950.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MR. COOPER'S MISSION

"Correspondence connected with the delegation of Mr. Cooper, Speaker of the House of Assembly, to England, is extracted from the Gazette of Tuesday last, in which it was pblished by authority. A letter, we understand, has been received from Mr. Cooper, addressed to the Committee of Correspondence, in which he expresses his determination to remain in England for the winter, for the purpose of bringing the matter with which he is entrusted (the settlement of the Land Question) before Parliament, seeing that no expectation exists of obtaining redress from any other source. In that case an interim Speaker will have to be appointed, and speculation is already busy, as to who the individual will be who may be selected to fill that distinguished situation.

"As to the ultima ratio, the appeal to Parliament, we cannot say that we are very sanguine as to the result. Had the Ministry, indeed, been with us, we might have entertained hopes; but in appealing to such a body as the House of Commons is composed of in a question affecting land, with all the weight of Government against us, backed by the powerful influence of the proprietors, we have fearful odds to encounter."

—Colonial Herald, Nov. 30, 1839.

The Age-Old Story

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.

INDUSTRIAL PROCESS

The manufacture of coke from coal has been carried on since the 17th century.

Welcome Visitor

(Ottawa Journal)

Moscow must think well of Rev. James Endicott of Toronto, or he never would have been given a visa to admit him to Russia. Moscow does not welcome strangers, and even working newspaper writers who want to visit Russia more often than not are refused permission. But Mr. Endicott, chairman of the Canadian Peace Congress, seems to have had no trouble at all, which is a significant fact.

Mr. Endicott enlightened the Moscow reporters by telling them that "everybody who works for peace in Canada is listed as subversive." This must mean that in Endicott's opinion the great majority of Canadians want war—and we know how much truth there is to that. Canadians are for peace, to a man and to a woman, but not for the sort of peace the Communists and their fellow - travellers would impose upon the world.

The accuracy of this former clergyman's observations on Russia henceforth may be judged by the nonsense he has been giving Moscow about Canada. Washington's FBI, he declares, maintains in Can-

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