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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1950

A Well Run Institution

Next to an inherited good constitution the best thing in life is ordinary good health, free from anxiety and forebodings. This can be pretty well assured today through the medium of modern medical and surgical sciences, together with the facilities provided in the way of medicine, hospital accommodation and nursing.

The Directorate of an institution like a public hospital is no sinecure. The late Mr. S. A. MacLeod, one of the ablest and most diplomatic of the City's public spirited citizens, and for a long time chairman of Trustees of the P. E. I. Hospital, used to declare that the administration of that institution took more time and attention than his own flourishing business.

Government "Cushioners"

Government budgeting was once almost an exact science as well as an art. Deficits there were, of course, in Dominion and Provincial budgets as well as in those presented to the Mother of Parliaments, but the responsible minister would have been considered incompetent if actual revenue and expenditures, particularly the latter, varied at all materially from his forecast.

Today Government is a much more complicated affair and budgeting has so far fallen into decay that a finance minister is actually proud of surpluses greatly exceeding the official forecast. One of the factors in producing these surprises is the habit of Government employees "cushioning" their departmental estimates in an effort to provide for unforeseen needs.

The secretary of the Treasury Board at Ottawa, Mr. Robert Brice, recently gave the Commons Public Accounts Committee an insight into the practice and the problem of remedying it. In the interest of realism in public accounts, as well as to encourage economy, such "cushioning" should be done away with even if it is necessary to provide instead, recognized contingency funds to take care of such requirements.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ascension Day. Holy Thursday.

The Salvation Army Financial Campaign still on.

Owners of the proposed Federal building site who seem to be holding up construction can hardly be said to be acting as a dog in the manger. The point in dispute, it seems, is something other than hay.

Some 50,000 Federal civil servants throughout Canada will be rejoicing today at the prospect of immediately getting salary boosts from \$90 to \$120 per annum retroactive to April 1—no Fool's Day for them!

It seems that the Town Planning Act not only has teeth but they are to be used. If the problems had been squarely faced generations ago many of the worst headaches of civic administration would not exist.

It used to be considered that a large turnout of voters at an election boded ill for the party in power, but the Ontario by-elections show that in this day of numerous Government employees the opposite may be the case.

Cancellation of some train schedules for Souris does not seem very important at this time of year when highways offer such ready means of transport. If not restored later in the year, however, the loss of train facilities would be serious.

Spring-time fires, unlike many that plague communities later in the summer, are very largely man-made. This is depressing so far as it indicates widespread carelessness, but it also offers admirable scope for Safety First efforts.

Men and women of goodwill are responding wonderfully well to the appeal for funds for the flooded-out families in Manitoba, the proceeds of which will be used to re-establish them in their homes when they are able to get back there. The Red Cross and other agencies will provide for present needs; the fund which The Guardian is assisting to collect is to be donated to make good the losses sustained for which there was not, and could not be coverage by insurance.

The new name for the provinces by the sea, suggested by Newfoundland, viz., The Atlantic Provinces, should meet with general approval. The inclusion of the 10th province does complicate matters, for few for the next generation would think of the Ancient Colony as one of the Maritimes. The Atlantic Provinces is both true and descriptive, and no time should be lost in adopting it. It is not altogether new either. Not a few will recall that the Halifax Herald, then under the late Senator Dennis, used to publish a weekly edition called "The Atlantic Weekly Herald."

George Meredith, English novelist and poet, died this date 1909. The first of his great novels, "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel", appeared in 1859; then followed "Evan Harrington", "Adventures of Harry Richmond", "Beauchamp's Career", "The Egoist", "Diana of the Crossways", "One of our Conquerors", "The Amazing Marriage." His poems include: "Poems and Lyrics of the Joy of the Earth", "Ballads and Poems of Tragic Life", "Jump to Glory June", "Selected Poems", "A Reading of Life", "Short Stories." Meredith is an acknowledged master of the art of fiction, especially great as a psychologist; his poetry also has won a place not less assured, and the great sequence of sixteen line poems, "Modern Love" stands alone of its kind.

The reorganization of the Children's Aid Society on a voluntary basis deserves hearty support. It had a long record of successful work to its credit, and ran on the rocks simply because it gave up its voluntary constitution, and became an organization as an adjunct of the School Board to enforce school attendance and receive Government financial hand-outs. Latterly there was little personal efforts to keep the organization operating purely on Christian charitable lines—it had drifted into the hands of "officials" without the personal backing and support of men and women anxious and willing to be of service to those little ones whose lives are cast in perilous circumstances. Good luck to those who would bring about a revival along the original lines of the Society's constitution. Cold charity is more or less anathema.

Still they come. Yesterday the Minister of Veterans Affairs received a delegation of the National Council of the Remembrance Association who presented him with the following resolution adopted at their annual meeting in Toronto in January: "Resolved that Section 33 of the Pension Act be amended in such manner as to provide for the payment of pensions of \$75.00 per month to all single parents and of \$125.00 per month to all married parents of deceased members of the forces provided always that such parents are in a dependent condition within the meaning of the Act, and Further Resolved that the dependency of such parents shall be determined by the sworn declarations of the parents themselves and supported by sworn declarations of two reputable responsible parties having personal knowledge of the circumstances of such parents."

A Brother Needs Our Helping Hand



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)
PREPAID POSTAGE
From a letter to Lieutenant Governor Dundas on the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State, Downing Street, London, 30th Nov. 1859.

"I have communicated to the Postmaster General your predecessor's despatch of the 14th May, reporting the failure of his endeavors to procure the concurrence of the Government of Prince Edward Island in the establishment of the system of compulsory prepayment of postage on letters passing between this country and the colony. As Prince Edward Island is the only one of the North American Colonies between which and the United Kingdom prepayment is not in operation, Her Majesty's Government are anxious that this exception from the common rule should cease; and it will, therefore, be desirable that you should invite the Legislature to reconsider the subject..."

False Values Denounced

(Ottawa Journal)
A book by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police entitled "Law and Order in Canadian Democracy" had this to say about children and movies: "Much has been said regarding the bad influence on juveniles of movies featuring crime and violence and of 'sonics' having the same theme. But of real evidence for or against this contention there appears to be little." It is interesting to find confirmation of this point of view in the report to the British Government of a committee which has been studying the cinema and its probable effect on young minds. The majority of the committee took the ground that "gangster" films "do less harm to children than is generally supposed" and make no lasting impression on them. The committee did, however, find plenty wrong with the movies. It was critical of some "terrifying" animated cartoons and described as "deplorable" the "horror technique" in certain serials shown at children's matinees. But its main criticism was on more general grounds.

Valediction For Soup

(The Times, London)
One of the minor disadvantages about passing from the darker half-year to the brighter is that one must bid temporary farewell to a real thick soup. Though the small preliminary bowls which appear in restaurants and at banquets will continue to be served and are well-meaning appetizers, only in domestic soup is the true quality of greatness apprehended. "It is the nature of all greatness not to be exact," Burke tells us; and certainly there should be nothing exact, in quantity, definition, or consistency about the finest specimens of soup that in winter reject the home. Every self-respecting family has no doubt its own tradition in this vital matter. Those who plume themselves upon a rarefied taste may write him down a vulgarian who looks with misgiving on the julienne; yet the denser the mixture the more exciting, and when it comes with an alab, so that the ladle stands almost upright, when one knows that the piping tureen is not being drained to supply one pleated spoon but is ardent with desire to disgorge its further riches, soup surely has the value of half a meal. It surpasses alike the dish of herbs and the stalled ox. It is taken in perfection at the kitchen fireside after a hot bath late at night, when the cauldron of the secret, black, and midnight hags, the conglomeration of delicacies which newspapers sometimes relate as found in the stomach of an ostrich; the fierce ingredients of the White Knight's pudding, which began with blotting paper; all these but paler at mixtures in comparison with the real soup. In colour it should suggest a sea suffused by all the dyes of the ocean. Amid isles of potato and submerged reefs of barley will be cruising chopped carrot, scooped onion, convoys of peas — a whole navy in the gravy, to transform the line in Bette Davis's song. To take bread separately is gross insult to an honest broth, which contains at least the stay as well as the juice of sustenance. Soup trains the virtue of restraint, for the greedy burn their tongues. It affords puzzles in ingenuity if not in the art of the cook. "We are convinced," said the report, "that the regular portrayal of false values is more pervasive and dangerous than the depiction of crime or impropriety." And, explaining its case, the committee declared there was "a sort of continual preaching from Hollywood that the only thing that matters is to be smarter than your neighbor." There was regret expressed over the lack of films suitable for children laying emphasis on spiritual values, and films depicting happy marriage and contented families. Thus we have the official stamp of a government committee on an impression of the movies that is common, we are sure, to countless parents. Their children, they feel, look upon the presentation of a gang's violent exploits as something as remote from life as Jack who was a Giant-Killer. But the perils of the movies, to what the British committee calls "false values", to the scheme of life as translated by Hollywood for its box-office appeal, can have insidious and dangerous effects on character. A film need not be "bad" in the literal sense, as showing crime or immorality, to have an unwholesome influence on the impressionable mind.

The Poet's Corner

A MAY MORNING
Mid the squander'd colour
idling as I lay
Reading the Odyssey
in my rock-garden
I espied the cluster'd
tufts of Cheddar pink
Burgeoning with promise
of their scented bloom
All the modish motley
of their bloom to-be
Thrust up in narrow buds
on their slender stalks
Thronging springing urgent
hasting (so I thought)
As if they feared to be
too late for summer—
Like schoolgirls overlept
waken'd by the bell
Leaping from bed to don
their muslin dresses
On a May morning!
Then felt I like to one
indulging in sin
(Whereof Nature is oft
a blind accomplice)
Because my aged bones
so enjoyed the sun
There as I lay along
idling with my thoughts
Reading an old poet
while the busy world
Toll'd, moild, fust'd and scurr'd
worry'd bought and sold
Plotted, stole and quarrel'd
fought and God knows what
I had forgotten Homer
dallying with my thoughts
Till I fell to making
these little verses
Communing with the flowers
in my rock-garden
On a May morning.
—Robert Bridges.

A New Information Service

(Arthur Blakely in Gazette)
OTTAWA, May 10 — Members of Parliament who thought that they'd heard almost everything during the course of the long, rambling pipeline debate, found last night that it had been given a new twist. The new angle was furnished unwittingly by Trade Minister C.D. Howe, perhaps the most pipeline-interested member of the Cabinet, at the end of a T.C.A. flight to Vancouver. When he arrived in that city yesterday morning the irascible Mr. Howe, who has turned a deaf ear to incessant pleas for all-Canadian pipeline route, found himself face to face with the same old irritating problem. Vancouver newsmen asked him for information on splash and noise are to be avoided. It sharpens the discrimination of the palate in detecting various flavours; while any novice may be certain about the tomato, expert attention and long experience are needed to notice the celery. Neither food nor drink, soup partakes of and is above both; thus bearing out the philosophic contention that truths contained in apparent opposites are reconciled in a higher unity. Considered as a term in philosophy, soup is perhaps the Formal Cause of Aristotle, the Absolute of Hegel, or the Life Force of Bergson; the alchemist, the elixir, the quintessence. It is also readily digestible, which those conceptions sometimes are not.

Notes By The Way

Presence of six Canadian admirals, two retired and four active, at graduation ceremonies at Royal Roads, must have made many Canadians sit up. This is a small country, as far as population is concerned. Our navy excellent as far as it goes, is small also. It's so small our admirals never go to sea. We haven't any flagships. Our admirals hold shore jobs, or are retired far earlier in life than most men, so that commanders and commodores may in turn be advanced in rank and retire as admirals. We seem to be fast headed for a navy of admirals. The question naturally arises—does the Canadian navy need so many admirals? Surely the naval establishment at Esquimalt, small as it is, is an establishment in small men and ships—each function quite adequately with a commander or commodore in charge. —Vancouver News-Herald.

It is now being suggested that farmers that the old custom of fall plowing is one that might better be discarded. Agriculture experts claim that erosion, with consequent loss of valuable topsoil can be prevented by planting a winter cover crop which is plowed up in the spring. This cover crop not only conserves the soil during heavy rains, but also prevents it from being carried away by high winds. Like those experienced in this district last week-end. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Bloomville is an Ohio village with a population of 750, many of whom are reported having fun with the unusual situation which exists there at the moment. There's no law in Bloomville. Somehow or other the village ordinances got lost, perhaps when old papers were cleaned out of village records. And the mayor figures that nobody can give a summons for violating a law of which no written record exists. As a result, motorists are considering themselves lucky for being able to park next to a fire-plug or on the wrong side of the street and in general to make disrespectful gestures at the local constabulary.

The marked reduction in mortality since the turn of the century has benefited both sexes, but the gains have been much more pronounced for women than for men. Among the women, moreover, the married have done better than the unmarried. Thus, at ages 20 and over, the death rate for married women has been cut in half—from 16 per 1,000 in 1900 to 8 per 1,000 in 1948 — whereas for the unmarried the rate dropped two-fifths. For men, the decline was less than one-third among both the married and unmarried. —Metropolitan Life Bulletin.

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