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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, OCT. 17, 1950

Is The Federal Government Touchy?

Last week-end, declares a news despatch, Mr. St. Laurent commented at Kingston, Ont., that "provided the Korean incident is successfully terminated before too long a time has elapsed, the special force would be available for service as part of a deterrent force in Europe" if this were found desirable.

If this should be done, the men serving in the brigade would be the first Canadian troops to be sent to Europe since the last Canadian troops there were, to use words made famous by Mr. St. Laurent in 1947, "kicked out."

It was on the night of March 3, of that year that Mr. St. Laurent, then secretary of state for external affairs told a frankly incredulous House of Commons the story of Canada's withdrawal of her occupation forces from Germany.

After with the passion of indignation, Mr. St. Laurent declared vehemently: "The occupation force in Germany was withdrawn because we were kicked out. We were told by the great powers that there would be three (occupation) zones; that there would be a fourth if France wanted one, but there were not to be any others..." Hansard recorded his words as "left out", but that wasn't how they sounded.

A few days later, the late W. L. Mackenzie King, then Prime Minister, poured soothing oil on the troubled waters of international relations by telling quite a different story of Canada's withdrawal of her occupation troops.

But it seemed evident that Canada, through her government — or at least a part of it — was hurt and irritated by some real or fancied slight meted out by the great powers in relation to the role of Canadian troops in Europe.

If the Canadian Special Service Force should, by being too late for Korea, land in Europe, the great powers had better be careful. The Canadian Government is touchy enough about this force, because the Korean war couldn't wait, without some new slight occurring to its already ruffled feelings.

A Scrap Of Newsprint

If Britain's Labour Government should fall it will probably be due in no small measure to its cancellation of newsprint supplies from Canadian mills earlier this year. Instead of being able to turn to the Scandinavian countries for supplies that are not a drain on her dollar reserves, the United Kingdom is faced with dwindling supplies and the prospect of continued, or even tightened, restrictions on the size of newspapers and also on their circulation.

That Britain should today have slimmer newspapers than European, and even late enemy countries, is a sad commentary on the wisdom of state trading. Where error of judgment by private firms and individuals would have resulted only in loss to themselves, the misjudging of future market movements by the planning officials has penalized the press and readers of the whole nation.

It is common knowledge, although apt to be forgotten, that while it may be easy to find a hundred men who can operate a small business, there are far fewer capable of handling a large one, and when it comes to operating on the gigantic scale of an entire industry it is almost impossible to find anyone capable of exercising the necessary intelligent management.

Education Costs

A survey carried out by the United States Chamber of Commerce shows that a decade ago, the average yearly expenditure for educating a child was \$88. In 1949 it was \$206. New York now leads the field with \$312 per child and Mississippi trails with \$73.

It is a common assumption that if more is spent in a particular year than in one of its predecessors, an advance has been recorded from an educational standpoint. This of course ignores changes in the value of money. On its face an increase from \$88 to \$206 is an improvement of the order of 134 per cent. In fact the Chamber calculates that the real gain is about 37 per cent, given the decline in the purchasing power of the dollar. This is of course a very substantial achievement.

Arguments are sometimes based upon the percentage which school expenditure bears to national income. These may be seriously misleading. It appears for ex-

ample that during this great period of expansion national income outstripped school expenditures with the result that the percentage actually dropped from 2.55 to 2.27.

How fallacious such arguments may become is clear from the state by state breakdown. Traditionally the New England States have been famous for their educational facilities while certain of the southern states have been prize exhibits of educational neglect. Yet Massachusetts ranked in the percentage scale well below Mississippi; in fact it was at the bottom of the list. State income was sufficiently high that educational needs could be met by expenditures amounting to only 1.64 per cent of that income. Close rivals were Rhode Island and New York, though the latter, as previously noted, spent more per child than any other state in the Union.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Feast of St. Etheldred.

Harrington is not exactly going to the dogs but they are getting together none the less.

A strike administration is likely to please everybody except the parties directly affected.

Northern Ireland has begun the building up of a comprehensive system of civil defence so as to be ready with Great Britain to meet any emergency.

It becomes an expensive luxury when hunters go chasing geese and become lost. No fewer than 12 planes are engaged in a hunt for hunters in Alberta lost with their plane, while goose shooting.

Premier Duplessis has forecast measures to regulate truck loads over his Province's highways. We do not often see here the giant trucks to which he objects. The space limitation of the two ferries effectively controls the growth of the highway monsters.

A reduced potato yield this year would not be unmixed misfortune. Any general experience along these lines will certainly bring about a sharp upturn in price accentuated rather than otherwise by early low prices.

John Foster Dulles' warning that failure of the U. N. to provide for joint military action to check aggression despite the veto power might mean the growth of outside military alliances, is most timely. The world simply cannot afford to be without one form of security or the other in these troublous times.

Sir Philip Sidney, English soldier, poet and courtier died this date 1586. He was in France during the massacre of St. Bartholomew which left a lasting impression upon him. He travelled throughout Europe in the diplomatic service; enjoyed high favour; interested in literary and political questions, he was appointed Governor of Flushing; was mortally wounded at Zutphen, and behaved with a chivalry which has impressed itself on history. His works include: "Apology for Poetry", "Arcadia", and "Astrophel and Stella."

To him that hath shall be given war contracts. The Sorel Company which built the Car Ferry Abegweit on cost plus basis is in luck again with regard to war contracts. The Trade Department announces that the United States Navy has placed orders in Canada for \$10,000,000 worth of three-inch, 50-calibre naval guns. The contract has been placed by the Canadian Commercial Corporation on behalf of the U. S. Navy with Sorel Industries Limited, Sorel, Que. This order will be in addition to a similar one placed with the Sorel company on behalf of the Canadian Navy. The Canadian order is valued at \$2,100,000.

It is now claimed that the late Prime Minister Mackenzie King was a spiritualist and sat in with "reputable" mediums for guidance. According to the Psychic News, London, England, the Duchess of Hamilton and Mr. King had two common interests, the welfare of animals and spiritualism. His method of obtaining guidance was to consult several mediums whom he had found trustworthy, and then — bearing in mind that messages can be slightly colored in passing through the purest channels — to distil from their combined information the essence he felt to be really true and helpful. He presented Queen Victoria's gold medal to Etta Wriedt, the American, as the medium whose work was most worthy of recognition. The medal, it is alleged, was given by Queen Victoria to Mr. W. T. Stead, but it is not stated how it came into Mr. King's possession. All this may in part account for the late Prime Minister's pro-Americanism, but how does it co-ordinate with his allegedly stern, unbending rugged Presbyterianism?

A 'Read' By Any Other Name—

THE PLAN TO BUILD A ROAD TO SUMMERSIDE APPROXIMATING THE STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY.

Summerside, Charlottetown, Borden, Wood Is.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

THEY NOT TRANS-CANADA IN NAME, BUT SERVE THE PURPOSE JUST THE SAME.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)
UNWANTED VOLUNTEERS

At a public meeting held in the Town Hall on March 25, 1882, for the purpose of establishing a Volunteer Company in Charlottetown, the following persons expressed themselves favourable to the project, and enrolled their names accordingly:

James B. Pollard, William Hoar, G. P. Tanton, James J. Rice, Alex. McKenzie, S. Cooper, James Long, Jonathan Ryder, Charles Bell, Robert Taylor, George Kitson, Alex. McDonald, Alex. Coombs, B. Pollard, N. McLean, Henry, Galloway, P. Duchemin, James J. Bevan, W. Bevan, W. Harper, T. Mann, John Burrows, George Foyster, John Stumblis, W. Fennel, John McNeill, H. Bulpitt, D. McKinnon, John Willis, D. Bethune, John Gillen, James McLeod, George Pethick, Charles Crawford, George Hicks, James Hicks, P. Quinn, N. Campbell, John Crockett, Job Bevan, J. J. Williams, G. Crockett, B. Williams, Nathan Wright, H. Waller, J. J. Hazelwood, H. Stove, R. Bell, J. Bell, J. Weir, H. Sellick, Daniel A. McPhee.

At a subsequent meeting the company was duly formed and the following communication was forwarded to Sir Alexander Bannerman, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief:

"May it please your Excellency: "We, the undersigned inhabitants of Charlottetown, regarding with intense interest the present startling aspect of European affairs, calculated, as your Excellency suspect, seriously to affect the best interests of Prince Edward Island, as a British Colony, approach your Excellency, as the representative of her most gracious Majesty, to pledge our loyalty and attachment to her Majesty's person and throne, and as an earnest of our loyal intention we have determined, if such a step should meet with your Excellency's approval, to enrol ourselves as a Volunteer Dress Company, so that we may become more effective and efficient in the discharge of those duties, which as militia we ought to be acquainted with, for the preservation of British Sovereignty in this Colony, as well as for the personal safety of ourselves and fellow colonists."

"With this object we have made the following selection as commissioned officers, praying your Excellency's confirmation of their appointments: Robert Hutchinson, Esq., Captain; Mr. Neil Rankin, Mr. James Rice, Lieutenants; Mr. Charles Bell, Ensign.

"The Company further request your Excellency to establish them under the name of the Charlottetown Rifle Company."

But his Excellency did not approve of this show of military ardour. "While thanking you for your patriotic offer of your services," he replied, "I cannot accept them. I have at present no authority to do so. As liable to serve in the militia I may inform you, that by statute the Governor is authorized, when he deems it expedient, to order and direct the officer in command of any Regiment of militia within this Island to receive volunteers from the several companies of his Regiment, to the number of fifty at least, for the purpose of training, and such commanding officer shall then enroll such volunteers, etc., and require them to assemble for muster and training not exceeding twenty days in any one year."

"The day is far distant, I hope, when the Sovereignty of this, or any other British Colony, will be in danger; but should that day ever arrive I feel confident that not fifty, but thousands of the loyal inhabitants of this Island will volunteer to defend the rights of their Sovereign and the integrity of the Empire."

The Age-Old Story

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

MONTREAL, Oct. 16 (CP) — More than 2,500 McGill University students today volunteered to donate blood to the Red Cross Society. The blood donor clinic has been set up on the university grounds.

The Poet's Corner

OCTOBER

There is a beautiful spirit breathing now
 Its mellow richness on the clustered trees,
 And, from a beaker full of richest dyes,
 Pouring new glory on the autumn woods,
 And dipping in warm light the pillared clouds,
 Morn on the mountain, like a summer bird,
 Lifts up her purple wing, and in the vales
 The gentle wind, a sweet and passionate wooer,
 Kisses the blushing leaf, and stirs up life
 Within the solemn woods, of ash deep-crimsoned,
 And silver beech, and maple yellow-leaved,
 Where autumn, like a faint old man sits down
 By the wayside a-weary. Through the trees
 The golden robin roves. The purple finch
 That on wild cherry and red cedar feeds,
 A winter bird, comes with its plaintive whistle,
 And pecks by the witch-hazel, whilst aloud
 From cottage roofs the warbling blue-bird sings,
 And merrily, with oft-repeated stroke,
 Sounds from the threshing-floor the busy flail.

—H. W. Longfellow.

Potato Growers' Problems

(St. John Telegraph-Journal)
 Growing potatoes is the biggest gamble in agriculture, because no other farm product is subject to such tremendous fluctuations in price. Unlike wheat, potatoes cannot be held in storage until the market improves. And the yield per acre varies so greatly from year to year that there is no way of knowing, at planting time, whether there will be a surplus or a shortage. The same acreage which will yield far too many potatoes in a season when the weather is favorable may not yield enough to meet requirements when the weather is unfavorable.

At present, potato growers of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island appear to be in a serious position. Their trouble is that potato crops have been abundant throughout Canada and the United States, with the result that the supply exceeds the demand. This could knock the bottom out of prices and lead to disastrous financial losses.

It is to be hoped that the Federal Government will lose no time formulating a price support policy that will provide potato farmers with badly-needed protection a guaranteed price is the obvious answer. This price should be just high enough to enable the more efficient producers to recover their crop investment, but not high enough to provide easy profits and to encourage inefficient producers to stay in business.

The floor price set in recent years in the United States has been outstandingly high, and has cost the taxpayers of that country staggering sums. In addition, it has resulted in the planting of potatoes in regions where they were not grown commercially before. This threatens to undermine the industry in sections like Maine

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Notes By The Way —

Now that several American airlines have installed cocktail bar facilities in their passenger aircraft new complications have arisen in administration. Pilots and bar attendants have to pay heed to an involved set of regulations for various states, as it has been established that the airlines must obey the liquor regulations of the states over which they are flying. For instance, on a westbound flight from New York City, drinks cannot be served until the aircraft passes into New Jersey, a matter of only a few minutes. But then the drinking air passenger must "hoist" his cocktail or highball in a hurry before the plane reaches Pennsylvania, another no-airsale state. And so it goes. There are other things for the bar attendant to watch, too, as well as state boundaries. Sundays and election days have to be considered as well as the hours-of-sale regulations in some states. Over North Dakota and the State of Washington drinks cannot be served to Indian passengers. — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Canadians who venture to drive a motor car in Britain for the first time must be impressed by the courtesy of the British driver, whether it is of passenger, car, bicycle, bus or truck. You start with some very natural trepidation, because the roads are strange, narrow and Idaho, which have specialized in potato-growing for decades. The mistakes made in the United States have been so glaring that Canada can, and obviously will, avoid them.

Most branches of agriculture in this country have received federal aid, and our potato growers are certainly entitled to soundly-planned assistance. It may be remembered that during the Second World War, when potatoes were scarce, the price ceiling over potatoes in Canada was lower than the price floor under potatoes in the U. S.

Price ceilings deprived growers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island of tens of millions of dollars in profits, but they accepted the situation without complaint. The government should remember this as it studies their petition for price supports.

Two men from The Netherlands, visiting Fort William and Port Arthur, spoke English fluently. One of them delivered a ten-minute speech without benefit of preparation or of notes, and held the deep interest of his listeners. The men Leen Van Dijk and Jan de Vael, are engaged in film work in their home country and are spending a few weeks in Canada under a fellowship from UNESCO to study film work in this country. Neither had been in an English language country before. Their accent, their large vocabulary, their knowledge of grammar is a very great compliment to the efficiency of the teaching in The Netherlands. How many graduates of high schools in Canada could do as well with French or German on the strength of their study of these languages in Canadian classrooms? — Fort William Times-Journal.

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