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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950

"The Beaver"

Today Lord Beaverbrook "celebrates" his 71st birthday although the chances are that celebration will be notable by its absence. "The Beaver" has had a remarkable career. Born William Maxwell Aitken, at Newcastle, N. B., he worked his way through law school by selling papers, entered business in Halifax and became a stockbroker in Montreal in 1907. In 1910 he amalgamated all the Canadian cement-mills, making about five million dollars in the process.

He then went to England, entered Parliament and became private secretary to A. Bonar Law. Early in World War I he was at the front in the capacity of the Canadian Government's "eye witness". He had been knighted in June 1911 and was made a baronet in 1916 and a peer in 1917. He continued to hold important posts under Lloyd George. Beaverbrook is probably chiefly known for his proprietorship of the London Daily Express and the Evening Standard as well as for the policy of "Empire Free Trade" which he advocated in 1929 and for an enthusiasm for the British Empire which he was ready to champion at any time over any question. As Minister of Supply 1941-2 he put in hand a programme for greatly increased production of Spitfires, Hurricanes and Whitley bombers, all of which types proved their worth long into the war.

Lord Beaverbrook was Minister of Information in 1918, and Minister for aircraft production in 1940-41; Minister of Supply 1942; head of British Mission to Moscow, 1941; Lord Privy Seal 1945; has published several books on Canada, and endowed several Canadian institutions, including the University of New Brunswick.

Real Cause Of Floods

The U. S. has spent large sums annually in its endeavor to control the annual floods along the Ohio and Mississippi and some of its other major streams. Some good may have been accomplished by these costly artificial devices, says the Ottawa Journal, but floods still cause billions of dollars damage along the whole Mississippi basin. It is almost an annual catastrophe.

Modern conservation engineers now hold almost unanimously that unless the source of flooding is controlled and remedied it is almost useless to erect costly artificial barriers. They claim that improper use of the land, breaking too much natural grass on poor soil for cropping, bad agricultural practices, denuding the hills and wastelands of forest cover, provide the real cause of flood conditions. Such practices cause poor soil to erode and to flow into the streams and rivers, so they silt up, become shallow and hold less water. Heavy rains, often only moderate rainfall, run off the baked and hard soil into the streams and rivers instead of penetrating deep into the earth where it would do some good.

That is the modern theory but because it affects many people over wide areas it becomes very difficult to put real conservation ideas into practice. The present Manitoba catastrophe got its start deep in the agricultural and forest areas of the northern U.S. states. To carry out really effective and modern control would require the co-operation of many governments, possibly millions of people. Even with the example of what has taken place in Manitoba it is not going to be easy.

Austerity Benefits

We have heard a great deal of the hardships imposed on the British due to austerity food restrictions, which may have all been true. But there is another side.

Evidence that the health of school children is being favourably maintained is given in the report for 1949 of the Department of Health for Scotland and the Scottish Health Services Council.

It reveals that 13-year-old schoolboys in Glasgow last year were two inches taller and 7 1/2 lbs. heavier than boys of that age in 1932.

Schoolgirls of the same age were 1 1/2 inches taller and 7 1/2 lbs. heavier.

The report states that the great improvement in the nation's health over the last ten years, despite the fact that five of them were years of war, has exceeded the most optimistic expectations.

Several new health records were made in Scotland during 1949.

The infantile mortality rate was further reduced to 41.4 per 1,000 live births, the lowest figure ever recorded.

Maternal mortality also fell to the new

low figure of 1.3 per 1,000 births, compared with 1.5 in 1948, and 3.6 in 1941-45.

The general death-rate at 12.3 per 1,000 was also a new record, and there was a further decrease in the number of deaths from infectious diseases.

Respiratory tuberculosis, however, remained a major problem. The death-rate showed about a 10 per cent drop compared with the high figures of the past two years, but had not yet fallen to the pre-war level, and the number of new cases notified showed a further rise.

On the other hand, non-respiratory tuberculosis is showing a substantial and rapid fall, both in notifications and in deaths; so much so, that the total death-rate in 1949 for all forms of tuberculosis, both respiratory, is the lowest ever recorded in Scotland.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Before long city property owners will be interviewed by fieldmen representing the City Council, wanting to know a lot of particulars in order to base recommendations for an improved, up-to-date valuation roll for taxation and other purposes.

A Toronto doctor, speaking of hypertension, high blood pressure, notes that all patients need "confidence and hope because anxiety and fear could raise the blood pressure higher." Old fashioned expressions about the state of one's heart must have some basis in medical fact.

It was mentioned in this column the other day that Mr. Justice Tweedy could lay claim to a "bishopric" on his promotion to the chairmanship of the P. E. I. United Church Presbytery. But we have already a "bishop" in Judge Palmer of the Probate Court, the seal of which is a Bishop's mitre.

Lobster fishermen in most parts of the Province report a satisfactory catch thus far in the season. At Rustico an average of 10,000 lbs per boat has been landed with prices approximately 24 cents for market lobsters and 18 cents for canners. West Prince fishermen are reported to have averaged about 4,000 lbs.

To be ready to fight another expected grasshopper plague this summer, the Saskatchewan government has ordered enough poison to provide spray and bait for a million acres of land. A new chemical, aldrin, which is more toxic than chlordane, will be used. Cost of bait this year will be 30 cents per acre, compared to 70 cents last year with chlordane.

Our college students and graduates will be now free to turn their attention to openings for summer occupation or permanencies. It is a time of grave anxiety for both students and parents, for on the decision may depend the future happiness and success or otherwise of the adolescents. Happy are they to have already an objective in view, and are able to take the first practical step in its attainment.

All the Provinces but Ontario and Quebec have legislation requesting the Dominion Government to assume general police authority in addition to their duties of arresting offenders against Federal statutes such as Excise and Indian Acts. British Columbia has not yet reached an actual agreement as yet but any upset is most unlikely.

There is no Church or Political alignment in Charity for Charity's sake, as witness the names of subscribers in our columns to the Manitoba Relief Fund. It is backed by members of the various churches, as well as by The Patriot which sent a substantial contribution to help to build up the Island's contribution to the Fund, and in addition, in its editorial columns asked others to go and do likewise.

It will be interesting to our leaders to learn that highway construction to cost an estimated \$5,758,000 is planned in Saskatchewan this year. It is planned to blacktop 150.5 miles (including 37.5 miles on the Trans-Canada highway), gravel 536.2 miles and grade 403.7 miles (including 90 miles on the Trans-Canada highway). Details of all the Trans-Canada Highway to be undertaken have been published.

The report of the investigator into welfare conditions submitted to the recent meeting of the Children's Aid Society is causing considerable discussion among those interested. It is felt that while the report discloses a great deal of what is wrong in our midst, yet wonder is expressed how so much could have been ascertained first hand in a four days' visit by the investigator. The report will have to be carefully scanned by those concerned, especially by the Government, and where there are faults they should be remedied without undue delay.

The Poet's Corner

WAYFARER OF EARTH

Up, Heart of mine, Thou wayfarer of earth! Of seed divine, Be mindful of thy birth. Though the flesh faint Through long-endured constraint Of nights and days, Lift up thy praise To life, that set thee in such strenuous ways. And left thee not To drowse and rot In some thick-perfumed and luxurious plot.

Strong, strong is earth With vigour for thy feet To make thy wayfaring Tireless and fleet. And good is earth— But earth not all thy good, O thou with seed of suns And star-fire in thy blood

And though thou feel The slow clog of the hour Leaden upon thy heel, Put forth thy powers. The unpremeditated bliss. The haste of storm, The hush of dew, Thine, thine the free Exalt of star and tree. The relentless run Of wind and sun. The vagrance of the sea

—Sir Chas. G. D. Roberts.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE TIMES' REBUKED

"An article has recently appeared in the London Times, purporting to be an exposition of the 'State of affairs in Prince Edward Island.' It is much to be regretted that a journal, usually so well and correctly informed on colonial affairs, should have been so lamentably duped by its informant, as to indulge in assertions, and found arguments thereon, totally at variance with fact; nay, some of them so preposterously absurd, as to furnish their own contradiction.

"The source from whence the Times has obtained its information, is not a matter of question. There is, we believe, but one man who has ever been connected with this Island, who possesses at once both the weakness and the wickedness to pen similar statements to those which have misled the Times; that man is the ex-Governor of the Colony, Sir Henry Vere Huntley, who in thus endeavouring to fulfill his threat of turning the Island upside down, and benefit of power, is determined at any rate to wreak his vengeance upon those who unseated him, by words, since he no longer can do so by deeds.

"To those who know Sir Henry, who are aware of his vindictive and malignant disposition, it will not be a matter of surprise, that he should amuse his leisure hours to indulge in his old propensity for scurrilous scribbling. But that a leading London Journal should, without inquiry or investigation, endorse his absurdities, and give them to the public as an editorial opinion, is certainly something to be wondered at."

—The Islander, March 3, 1848.

Canada's Inland Navy

Canadians who think the world's greatest navies have always been ocean-going had better take another look at their history books. For Lake Ontario, a thousand miles from the sea, during the War of 1812 actually boasted a battleship of the line and frigates more powerful than any then afloat!

This interesting fact is revealed in a study prepared by Ronald L. Way for the Canadian Geographical Society on Old Fort Henry at Kingston, Ontario. The story was published in the April issue of the Society's magazine, the Canadian Geographical Journal. Mr. Way, who supervised the restoration of Fort Henry and a number of other historical sites including Fort George and Fort Erie, and who has been Director of Fort Henry, graphically relates how this came about.

President Madison's ill-fated declaration of war, on June 18th, 1812, against Great Britain, found both sides equally unprepared. The naval operations of the Great Lakes. The rapidity of the St. Lawrence prevented the ascent to Lake Ontario of the vessels of the regular navies of both belligerents, and so their crews were marched up "by sparing handfuls" to man such craft as could be bought or built to float guns.

Early in the struggle cutters, sloops and schooners engaged in peaceful pursuits of commerce, were hastily converted to service. But even the largest, and the less formidable, the salt-water vessels, classed at that time as sloops of war—a rating below that of frigate. "Yet, before the end of the conflict," Mr. Way says, "Lake Ontario floated frigates more powerful than any on the ocean, and boasted a battleship of the line rivaling Nelson's 'Victory'."

A powerful striking force made up His Majesty's navy based at Kingston when peace was signed. These ranged in size from the battleship "St. Lawrence", a three-decker of 320 tons, which carried a crew of 1,000 and 102 guns to the little schooner "Beresford", 187 tons, carrying a crew of 70 and 12 guns. Others in the fleet included the "Princess Regent", the "Princess Charlotte", the "Royal George", "The Wolfe", and the "Earl of Meath". Almost all of these were built at Kingston in the Royal Naval Dockyard, present site of the Royal Military College. "If the mere names of such ships... do not arouse in our hearts a thrill of pride, the fault lies not with their gallant crews who fought

Maybe Kill Two Birds With One Stone



Occupation of Germany

—The Reason

By W. N. Ewer
The declaration on Germany issued by Acheson, Bevin and Schuman at the end of their London meeting is a more important document than its carefully guarded language at first suggests. This is no criticism of the drafting. Words have to be carefully chosen on such an occasion and it is wiser to say too little than too much. This is a statement of policy. The three Ministers declare their intentions. But they wisely do not bind themselves in any way. The policy may have to be changed, or at least adapted, since the circumstances may change. And, in this particular case, there is the additional factor that the new policy can only be carried out with the cooperation of the German Govern-

ment and the German people themselves, as the declaration itself is careful to stress.

But the intention is plain enough. It can unfortunately only be applied in practice to Western Germany, since, in the words of the declaration, the people of the Eastern zone are still forbidden by the Soviet Government to "re-join their fellow countrymen in a democratic and united Germany."

But for the West Germans, the prospect is now opened by the restoration of the sovereignty of their country. The aim was laid down last year in the Washington agreement and repeated in the Petersberg protocol. It is that Germany—provided that she remains democratic and peacefully minded—re-enters progressively the community of free peoples of Europe.

Now there is an addition. "The Western powers desire to see the pace of the progress towards this end as rapid as possible." The change is important. But more important still is the change which is suggested in the character of Allied military occupation. The "occupation regime" is to continue. The intention is that the German people shall have "sovereignty to the maximum extent compatible with the basis of the occupation regime." That regime they must continue to accept. But they are told the new reason for its continuance. It is "imposed on the Germans and the Allies by consequence of the division of Germany and of the international situation."

That is fundamental. The Western armies are no longer to be regarded as being in Germany to hold Germany in subjection but because the "international situation" makes it essential that they shall be there. And that is the inescapable fact. West German rearmament is excluded, at any rate, for the present; and, in any case, it would take some time. And, meanwhile, it is out of the question that Western Germany should be left defenceless. For the East German Communists hardly trouble to conceal the fact that they would, if the opportunity served, try to conquer the West by force. And already they have in Berlin, schafften the nucleus of a military force, organized, trained and equipped by the Russians. A defenceless Western Germany would be a temptation to the Soviet Government to adventure which would almost certainly start a new war.

Therefore, for the sake of general peace, the "regime of occupation" must continue. But if the West and its implications, if they continue to develop a really democratic system and a desire for peace and friendly association" with the free democracies, then there is no reason why they should not very rapidly secure full sovereign self-government, subject only to such restrictions as are necessitated by the fact of the presence of the Allied troops.

It is a bold and imaginative programme. Whether it can be carried out into effect must, as the declaration says, "depend only upon the efforts of the German people themselves and of their Government."

Another outstanding event

The Age-Old Story

With There is the Fountain of life in Thy light shall we see light.

which immediately concerns Germany and her neighbours is, of course, the production of the "Schuman Plan." It is a scheme upon which it is so far difficult to pronounce even provisional judgment. The objects, as Acheson, Bevin and Schuman at once recognized, are admirable. But the outline of the plan itself, contained in M. Schuman's statement to his news conference on May 9th, is only a bare outline and no more is yet available.

One unfortunate feature of the first public communique is the tendency in some quarters to call for immediate and enthusiastic approval and to condemn as obstructive any suggestion that careful study and close examination must precede even a tentative acceptance of the plan itself. The British Government, in particular, has been sharply criticized for its alleged lack of enthusiasm for the plan. Now that is absurd. This is no matter for enthusiastic approvals or unconsidered emotional judgments. The subject is a complex one and the possible economic consequences tremendous. Hasty judgment or hasty commitment

would be utterly irresponsible. Nor was the British Government in the least slow in practical response. Within a few hours, Mr. Attlee had asked the Treasury, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence for their preliminary observations. Mr. Monnet, the French Commissioner for Planning who is understood to be the real author of the scheme, was invited to London to discuss it with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and High British experts. There has been and there will be no lack either of energy or of seriousness in the work of examination. There may be—in fact there are—other ideas for achieving similar purposes. They, too, have to be compared with and considered in relation to the French plan. And only then will it be possible for responsible men to pass judgment. The very magnitude and importance of the French proposal make care imperative. And any responsible Government whose country's vital interests are so deeply involved would be guilty of criminal rashness if it were to do anything but reserve judgment upon a proposal of which even its most essential features are still not fully known.

Notes By The Way

"The children now love luxury: They have bad manners, contempt for authority, they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize over their teachers." This modern sounding criticism of youth was said by Socrates more than 2,000 years ago. Peterborough Examiner.

These are two things I have learnt: that knowledge is a means to an end, not an end in itself. That time, like money, must not be hoarded and calculated and spent only according to schedule. We must learn when to be extravagant, when to be careless with time, when the best way of spending the minutes is simply to waste some of them. In the end that is the surest way of getting the fullest return on the little store of time that we have. —C. V. Wedgwood on BBC Broadcast.

Patrons of the Pink Horse, a pub in old London, were alarmed one day this week when their bar turned a delicious purple, outside a woman's dress went suddenly mauve and the complexion of a baby in a near-by pram took on a bluish tint. Policemen hurried around and told everybody to be calm; it was due to a barrel of harmless vegetable dye powder that had fallen off a truck, burst, and spread its coloring contents through the atmosphere. Just the same, the pub had better be called the Pink Elephant from now on, or, maybe, the Purple Python. —Brantford Expositor

North-flowing rivers always cause trouble for farmers along the route. The south end melts before the north end and ice jams develop backing up the water and flooding the land. That has been happening along the Red River since the early days of the Red River Settlement. Such international streams come under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission, a moribund body that has been inactive for some years. As rivers go, the Red may not amount to much. But its capacity for expensive mischief certainly brings it up for attention by the Joint Commission. There must be some place along its course through North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba where its water could be impounded at flood stage and released later in the year. Or perhaps the solution is to plant trees that will hold back the water in the spring. —Farm and Ranch Review

Good news for Hudson Bay route supporters was Mr. Peter Dalgleish's announcement in Regina last week that hull insurance rates on ships using the route have been cut by one-third from 1949 rates. Tons cut, coupled with the 26 per cent decrease which went into effect last year, means that 1950 rates for the B. Y. are just half what they were two years ago. This year's figures show that a ship coming to Montreal in August will pay a premium of around \$1,200. The same ship, if coming to Churchill will pay about \$3,000. Churchill rates are still nearly three times as high as the St. Lawrence rates. But in 1948 they were six times as high. —Regina Leader-Post.

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