

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JULY 24, 1950

An Elder Statesman Passes

No Commonwealth statesman held office so long, and few have exerted such an influence on their times or been so closely identified with their country in world affairs, as the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, whose unexpected death took place on Saturday, Prince Edward Islanders have always been particularly interested in Mr. King's career, as it was Prince County which provided him, as newly chosen leader of the Liberal Party in 1919, with a seat in the House of Commons, which he held until the general elections of 1921 gave him his first chance to become Prime Minister.

At forty-seven, he was the youngest man to fill that high office since Confederation; and except for one five year period under Conservative rule he retained it successfully against all comers until his voluntary retirement two years ago. This achievement marked him not only as a favorite of political fortune, but as a genius in discerning the trend of public opinion and in guiding his party accordingly.

His own formula for success was deceptively simple: "Avoid mistakes." He frequently warned his colleagues that "It's the results that count, not the figure you cut while you're getting there." This philosophy he expanded somewhat to an interviewer on his retirement. "Politics," he said, "is like preventive medicine. You keep the disease from developing. The important thing is not what action you take to make desirable events happen, but the action you take to keep undesirable ones from happening. There is a force in human affairs that keeps them going toward good ends if nothing interferes. The political job is to prevent such interference. That is unspectacular, but it succeeds."

During his terms of office Canada moved into the limelight in world history, and Mr. King was regarded as the embodiment of his country. He travelled far and wide, moving with ease among world rulers and statesmen, with many of whom he was on intimate personal terms. He had known Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt as young men, and during the last World War was the confidant, and intermediary between these great leaders. With their successors, Mr. Truman and Mr. Atlee, he was in on the secret of the plan for use of the atomic bomb from the beginning, and helped to draft the joint policy of the three countries in retaining the secret until such time as the Security Council of the United Nations was established.

For all his prominence in world affairs, Mr. King never lost the common touch. He cared little for the trappings of office, detested ostentation, and avoided even social functions whenever he could. On rare occasions, however, he would go to a small party and enjoy himself, as was the case in 1945 when he turned up at the 35th wedding anniversary of his barber. His favorite exercise was walking, his favorite diversions reading poetry and philosophy. It was characteristic of him that during the 1944 conscription crisis he sent to the Parliamentary Library for David Grayson's "Adventures in Contentment."

It private life he was an exemplary citizen, kindly, courteous and conscientious. He was loyal to the church of his choice, and a regular attendant. He interested himself in the welfare of the younger people of his acquaintance, and was a charming and considerate host.

On his retirement it was hoped that Mr. King would have many years of well-earned leisure for the completion of his memoirs on which he had been working for many years. He has passed, however, in the fullness of years and honours, having rounded out a public career unprecedented in our annals, and left an impress which time will not efface on the history of this Dominion, and in the memories of her citizens.

Studying Farmers' Problems

An unusual course of instruction will be held this summer at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. For the first time in the country's history a class of rural clergymen of all denominations will receive instruction in soil conservation, field crop, livestock and other practical farm topics.

The initiation of such a course is a forward step indeed in promoting closer harmony between farmer and non-farmer; but, asks an exchange, should it stop there? About 6,000,000 of Canada's total population live in rural areas. That's a large portion of the nation's people; yet few urban residents completely understand the multi-

tude of problems a farmer must face every day. Few appreciate the dawn-to-dusk chores he must perform and the risks and uncertainties involved in producing and marketing farm commodities.

People employed in industry and commerce owe it to themselves to learn more about the activities of their country cousins. While they may find it difficult to find time to attend a special agricultural course there are many other ways by which they can acquire such knowledge. Local civic groups can sponsor field days on near-by farms. Closer attention can be paid to farm news in the local newspaper. A week-end trip to a farm would open new vistas to urban eyes. This applies particularly in a Province such as Prince Edward Island where, if we are not all farmers, we are at least dependent very largely on what the farmer earns and spends.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Another two-weeks Air Cadet camp starts today in Summerside. The Island welcomes some 60 boys from Saint John.

Summerside is going to be a still more important military centre as the training ground for international air forces.

We are still looking in vain for that Federal Building. Can it be that it has been pigeon-holed with our Senator and Lieut.-Governor appointments?

Mr. W. R. Shaw's account of his visit to Europe in Saturday's issue was intensely interesting and informative and will be appreciated by all who are concerned about the future of our main industry.

The favourite pastime of our youths today is recruiting, especially in the choice of which arm in the service to join. Gainful employment and training are assured for a period of at least two years.

Commonwealth officials meet today in Ceylon to discuss detailed plans for the aid to Southeast Asia proposed at Sydney last May. Final decisions will not be taken before the conference in London next September.

Haying time is here, and with it the realization that perhaps we have been missing a lot in publicising tourist attractions. Almost everyone likes to ride in the hay, and some might even be induced to do a bit of haymaking.

The additional 10 days added to the beginning of the usual 67-day navigational season of Churchill, Man., should be a boon to the development of that port, and to communications with the Prairie Provinces generally.

Distinguished visitors here next week will be the President of International Rotary, Mr. Arthur Lagaux, of Quebec City, and Mrs. Lagaux, who will be guests at a banquet in The Charlottetown on Wednesday, sponsored by both Charlottetown and Summerside Clubs and their Rotary Anns.

By the way, what has become of Federal projects—Naval Headquarters here and Military Armouries? Somebody locally must be responsible, and naturally we must look to the Provincial government, whose primary business it is to look after all our interests, both Federal and Provincial.

Through the demise of Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prince Edward Island lost the most distinguished representative it ever returned to Ottawa. It did so all the more meritoriously in that, though Leader of the Liberal Party he had been rejected by his Ontario constituency and was without a seat in the House.

Alexandre Dumas, French novelist and dramatist, born this date 1802. His first play, "Henri III, et Sa Cour", initiated the French Romantic drama. It is however as the author of his romances Dumas attained world-wide fame. The three books of the D'Artagnan cycle "The Three Musketeers", "Twenty Years After" and "Viscompte de Bragelonne", with three of the Valor's cycle are alone sufficient for a splendid and lasting reputation. His masterpiece, however, is "Monte Cristo".

General regret is felt by Maritime newspaper men, and also newspaper men farther afield at the death of Mr. Donald M. Ross, known popularly as "Scoop Ross", editor of the Amherst News. He was first and foremost a sports writer, and for long conducted one of the best sport pages in the Maritimes. He later became editor and manager of the News, and kept it well in the front as a news paper and advertising medium. He was comparatively young, in his fifties, but he put in a tremendous amount of energy, ability and aggressiveness in the years he spent in his profession. He will be greatly missed both in Amherst and wherever newspaper men foregather in periodic conventions.

When A Dog Misbehaves His Owner Goes Into The Doghouse



The International Path From 14th July 1789

By Emile Tersen

Long before the decisive events of 1789 took place in France, important revolutions had marked the end of the XVIII century and the period of the XVIII century; to mention only the most outstanding there was the revolution of 1688 in England and that of 1766 in America.

But both of them (as Burke was to point out in his famous book on the French Revolution) were of a local and temporary nature which naturally limited their scope. The English Revolution was the natural outcome of a century old conflict between a rather unyielding monarchy—that of the Stuarts—and the merchant world allied with the most enlightened elements of the nobility. The American Revolution was the result of a struggle between a badly informed home country and an overseas population falsely reputed to be "savage" (the meaning attached to the word being that of an inferior value, an inferior culture and an inferior conscience). To justify themselves both had formulated principles and little by little these were to make inroads into men's minds and take on a wider meaning.

But in neither of these two revolutions—nor in any other until 1789—was any episode to stand out sufficiently and spontaneously enough to pierce, with an astonishing speed, the hearts and minds of men of very different countries. Yet it was precisely these characters which stood out on the day of the 14th of July 1789.

Though it was a parisian riot, which modern critical history has taken upon itself to analyse (sometimes spitefully) and to classify its cause and its various episodes, the first of time of the French revolutionary days nevertheless took on from the very beginning a universal character. "It was a brilliant flash of lightning in the sky, wrote Michelet in the Preface to his "History of the French Revolution." The world trembled at it. Europe was wild with excitement at the fall of the Bastille; people fell in each other's arms. "In public. They were unforgettable days!" And in that statement there is not, as one might be tempted to think, a lyrical outburst, a romantic looking back.

It is of course easily understandable that in the countries adjoining France—Belgium—Switzerland and German, enlightened minds should have been deeply moved from the very start. For in those already existed. It is understandable too that America, a new-off country but which had already shaken off some of its chains should have saluted in a brotherly fashion France which by its first act became "the country of freedom."

But it is much more difficult to explain the case of Tsarist Russia, rightly reputed to be a model of autocracy. Yet the Count de Segur, then the French Ambassador in that country, tells us in his memoirs (volume III) that at St. Petersburg people of every class spoke to each other saying: "Have you heard the good news? The Bastille has fallen" and the fact that he adds that it was "a madness in which he could hardly believe although he had witnessed it" does not change the reality of the facts.

One is astounded too by the attitude of the country which was considered as the implacable enemy of the French Revolution: England (and in 1793 French opinion was to ratify this idea by joining Pitt and Coburg together in a common hatred). And yet the very classical University of Cambridge was to give as an essay subject to its students the Fall of the Bastille; and yet, the following year, the anniversary of the incident was celebrated by a banquet under the chairmanship of Lord Stanhope. And above all English writers were to write in admirable terms in honour of what Jaures was to call "The wonderful human touch of the Revolution." Let us listen to the poet Wordsworth:

"Suddenly the terrible Bastille, with all its horrid cells and towers, fell to the ground overthrown by a violent indignation and mid cries which drowned the noise of its fall! Out of its ruins was raised, or seemed to be raised a golden palace, the destined seat of rightful law, with a gentle and brotherly authority . . . Let all

The Age-Old Story

The Lord is high unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as he of a contrite spirit.

the nations be glad; in all lands let those who are capable of joy be joyful. Henceforth all that we lack can be found in the hands of others, and all enriched by a common wealth which is shared among them, will find with a single glad heart their common heritage."

Let us listen to the ploughman poet, Robert Burns: "Have you heard of the tree of France? I do not know its name; around it all the patriots dance, Europe recognises its fame, it stands where once the Bastille stood, a prison set up by kings, when the infernal heritage of superstition held France in thrall. On this tree there grows a fruit which everyone must recognize the virtue; it raises man above the level of an animal. Through it man becomes once more himself. If ever the peasant tastes it he becomes greater than the lord; and he shares with the beggar a little of all he has."

So, under very different skies the fall of the old state prison awoke a belief in a new world. It little mattered that in point of fact the Bastille was not a prison for the people, and that, at the time of its fall it only held a small number of prisoners who were moreover not very important; nor that the material side of life there (at least in its later period) was more comfortable than people had thought. For the Bastille was nevertheless — and quite rightly — the symbol of arbitrary arrest, of hidden authority, in short, of the pleasure of power, and in every country, whether it was the Spanish Montjuich, the Imperial Spielberg, or the Peter and Paul fortress at St. Petersburg, Bastilles were legion; and all of them, were more or less linked together. When one of them fell into dust, when on its former site a public ball was held with the sign "You may dance here", all the others were shaken, all the others showed signs of cracking. And on this point it must be admitted, in spite of the unlikelihood of certain political prospects and in spite of the zeal of careful erudition, popular opinion was right: for it can no longer be denied that the 14th of July 1789 opened a new era not only in French history but in the history of the whole of mankind.

We know that things were not as simple and not as easy as some hopeful souls had thought in 1789. We know that some Bastilles were only destroyed stone by stone, and that some were rebuilt or repaired. We know that the Revolution, like Saturn "was to devour its own children". But that only means that the mystic conception of Freedom had to be followed by the application and the organization of Freedom, difficult tasks.

Yet the 14th of July 1789 was the first blow struck in the great battle against privilege of which Victor Hugo speaks somewhere. And it is easy to understand that the anniversary of this day, which has become a national holiday, should have always been, wherever France has friends, a universal holiday. France had not meant to work for herself alone but for all.

At the end of his fine play on the 14th of July, Romain puts these words in the mouth of Hoche, one of the most unsullied heroes of the French Revolution: "We shall build an immortal triumph for freedom." Daughters of the people of Paris your clear eyes shine for the peoples in slavery . . . We shall lead your chariot towards the brotherhood of mankind. We shall all be brothers, all free!"

It is no accident that men's spontaneous enthusiasm, the lyrical outpourings of poets and the grandiloquence of writers should agree on the same point. All of them realized that the spirit of freedom and brotherhood, which through the efforts of philosophers had slowly ripened, then ceased to be merely a way of thought. On the 14th of July 1789 in a dramatic incident, it entered into the reality of life. It became a force of history. And the belief — or what some prefer to call the legend — which has grown up from it, is one of the factors which has built up the modern world.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POSTAGE GRIEVANCES

Free carriage of newspapers through the mails was regarded as a matter of public convenience in Colonial days, as is evidenced by the following excerpt from the report of a special committee of the Legislative Assembly in 1943:

"The Postmaster (at Charlottetown) has received late instructions from the Deputy Postmaster General in Halifax, to exact postage on all newspapers forwarded from this Island to the neighbouring Provinces, which your committee look upon as a tax imposed, not for the purpose of revenue to defray the charge of transmission (which could alone justify such a demand) but for the private emolument of a subordinate individual in that department, and which your committee consider to be an application totally unauthorized by law."

The committee further recommended "that the postage hitherto exacted on newspapers inland should be discontinued, as they consider that every facility ought to be afforded for the transmission of general information by such periodicals, particularly as newspapers are now transmitted to and from the United Kingdom to all parts of the British Empire free of postage; and further, as such an arrangement would not cause any diminution of the revenue at all commensurate with the advantages that would be thereby conferred on the public by such an arrangement."

The committee, which comprised Mr. Torvald, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Longworth, Mr. Wightman, Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Mr. MacLean, also reported: "It appears to have been the practice heretofore to allow the transmission of the printed votes and other Parliamentary documents to be forwarded or interchanged, free of postage; but by the present regulations, the charges made on such documents amount to on the Journals of the Legislature of this Colony, forwarded to the Government of Nova Scotia last year, has been rated at upwards of \$14; and they now remain, in consequence, in the Post Office there, unclaimed; and the Postmaster of this Island is instructed not to forward the public documents of this Island, of any nature or description, even by the Inland Mails (the expense of which is exclusively borne by this Colony) without charging the full rates of postage thereon; which regulations your committee cannot for a moment suppose to be in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, and only require a proper representation to induce Her Majesty's Government to interfere, and remove the grievance complained of."

These grey stones have rung with mirth and lordly carousal; Here proud zings mingled poetry and ruddy wine. All hath pass'd long ago; nought but this ruin abideth, Sadly in eyeless trance gazing upon the river. Wouldst thou know who here visit-eth, dwell-eth and singeth also, Ask the swallow flying from sunny-walled Italy.

—Robert Bridges.

The Poets Corner FROM THE CHINESE

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Notes By The Way

Scientists say there's no hydrogen in the hydrogen bomb. Also, there's no horse in horseradish. — London Free Press.

A scientist says it is possible to cultivate a sense of humor. But in some cases the result is harrowing. — Sault Daily Star.

The hand of inflation is plain in stories from the West, where it's now called a two-million-dollar — Sault Daily Star.

There are supposed to be more bulging waistlines in North America than ever before. How about the number of fatheads? — Lethbridge Herald.

Henry Cotton, that great master of golf, has designed a new set of clubs which aroused considerable interest at the British Open Golf Championship at Troon. Already, Mr. Cotton says, orders are pouring in from Canada. Mr. Cotton himself made, as well as designed, the first set, which consists of four wooden clubs and irons numbering 2 to 10.

Are we permitted to make the kind of profit that the Government makes on the sale of liquor? Is the bread man? Or the milk man? Or the man who makes your butter? Or the man who sells your groceries, or shows you movies? If we were allowed to charge Government rates for this paper it would cost you 20 cents a copy, and if the press were government-owned that is very likely what it would cost. — Peterborough Examiner.

Few men have the extreme satisfaction of knowing that thousands of young men and women have directly benefited as a result of their labors. One of the fortunate few is Walter S. Woods, retiring deputy minister of veterans' affairs. Canadians are proud of the way this country is treating servicemen and women, and are thankful that a man of Mr. Wood's caliber was called on to map out a program of aid. He will always be known as the friend of the veteran. — Winnipeg Tribune.

The Schuman Proposal A Great Gesture

(By P. O. Lapie)

Since the Armistice of May 1945, a gesture has been expected from France to Germany. This gesture has been made almost five years to the day after Hitler's defeat. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs has made a proposal: the pooling together of the basic iron and coal industries of the two countries.

M. Schuman made the proposal in a unilateral declaration on May 9th, 1950 on the eve of the London talks. The matter was discussed there. But the interest raised by the subject extends far beyond ministerial walls. International opinion has taken the matter up and will give its decision on it.

As early as the break-up of the London conference of 1947, because of the obstinacy of the U.S.S.R. over the peace treaty with Germany, enlightened minds both French and foreign said: "It is up to France now, she should deal directly with Germany."

But then neither the time nor the means were favourable and did not in fact exist. The time was difficult because the war was still too close; Germany was still without a government, and one might say, after being shaken by Hitlerism and the defeat, without public opinion. And would French opinion, so close to the occupation and the Nazi terror, have been ready for such a step? Today, on the other hand, it may be hoped that a public conscience is being recreated in Germany, with the help of a democratic Parliament and government.

The field marshals' appointment by General Sir Thomas A. Blamey, the Australian who commanded Allied land forces in the Southwest Pacific from 1942 to 1945, is a reminder that Canadians are ineligible for this promotion. Canada's peacetime army establishment calls for lieutenant-generals, but that's about as far as a soldier here can go. During the last war Canada had two full generals (McNaughton and Crerar), but nothing higher. Any Canadian private who contemplates making use of the field marshals' baton he carries in his pack would therefore do well to reconsider his choice of a career. — Ottawa Citizen.

In this age of total war the defence of our homes and factories and the protection of our civilian population is as much a part of victory as winning military battles. The government almost certainly has a mass of information concerning the dangers facing our civilian population in the event of another war. It has also, we hope, prepared plans to meet these dangers. But the possession of this information and these plans by the government is not preparation. We shall not be prepared for civil defence until the people are told what the dangers are and organized to meet them. The government should take these steps now. — Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

There are people who feel that because Communism is violently opposed to the Christian church and because it persecutes ministers of that body whenever they oppose it, the Christian world should go to war against the Communist countries. But has the cause of Christianity ever, at any time in history, been advanced by a punitive and crusading war? Going to war in Christ's name has never been a satisfactory way of advancing Christ's cause, nor are we likely to make Christians of Communists by demanding that they choose between conversion or the atom bomb. — Peterborough Examiner.

But the means remained to be found. It was built up over the past year. The setting up of a Council of Europe meant for many farseeing Frenchmen, not only an undoubted economic necessity of general policy; but also and above all the possibility of giving a hearing to a Franco-German agreement. No one suspected that the Strasbourg Assembly and its Commissions would so quickly become a birth-place for ideas.

Now it is no secret that the economic commission of the European Assembly voted, last December, at the instigation of M. Andre Philip, a steel plan. It is there that is to be found the technical origin of the Schuman proposal. It was there that the careful studies started which, carried out in secret, have led to the French plan today being something much more than a mere gesture which is in itself significant.

Now the real job must be taken in hand and its execution begun. The proposal has been made: other European countries can and must support it. France's proposal to Germany is not merely to share between two nations the major riches of Europe. It aims at a mutual share-out of the basic raw materials among European countries, so that their exploitation may be directed towards peaceful aims.

Within this operation France should find herself reassured, and Germany find satisfaction at her return into the framework of European economy. It is no exaggeration to say that peace depends on the negotiations which are about to be opened. The final yes or no will mean life or death for Europe.

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