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

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1950

The One Party Attitude

Evidently the headquarters of the Conservative Party are worrying over the prospect of being snowed under by the dominant Liberals. According to Canadian Press Mr. J. M. James (L—Durham) stirred the Commons to transient tumult in taking exception to a quoted statement by Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C. (PC—Nanaimo) that "certain members of the Liberal Party are calling today for elimination of all opposition."

The climax came when the Speaker, Ross Macdonald, said the Opposition has the privilege to make that sort of statement any time it sees fit. Mr. James brought the "very serious matter" up as a question of privilege, quoting a report in the Kingston Whig-Standard. The report was of a speech by Gen. Pearkes for whom, he said, "I have the greatest respect but I regret that he has fallen from grace and adopted an attitude."

At this point Mr. George Drew, Progressive Conservative Leader, took exception and the House began to stir. Mr. James, continuing, said the heading of the story said "Canada nears one-party state is charge of Gen. Pearkes here." He quoted the General as saying "certain members of the Liberal Party are calling today for elimination of all opposition..."

Mr. Macdonald said he doubted from what he had heard that any question of House privilege was involved. He suggested Mr. James show the article to him personally if he still thought so.

It is not very evident whether there is anything in this "fear of elimination" or not, but it is quite certain that so far as the rank-and-file are concerned there will always be an opposition. To maintain it as a body politic, it must be properly organized and led. There can be no doubt but that the Government forces are gaining by the ineptitude of Conservative leadership, and the elimination of strong-minded and determined party men from opposition counsels.

A University Education

Principal James, acting as discussion leader at the March meeting of the Macdonald College branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada which was considering Education in a Professional School of a University, laid down three co-joined and inter-related aims of a university education:

A university ought to qualify its graduates to play a useful role in the community and, incidentally, earn a living;

A university ought to make its graduates so qualified as to become better citizens in the community in which they live—the development of civilization is the development of communities in the aggregate;

And a university ought to help a man learn how to enjoy his leisure time—at all times the graduate should be able to keep himself from becoming bored.

Dr. James said present motivation had brought about a high degree of specialization. Apparently in the process something had been lost and there resulted graduates of professional schools who were educated in the traditional sense.

Spiritual Values

"What is needed in Canada today is a public conscience more widely awakened to the spiritual needs of our children, so that they may issue from schools more richly equipped with those transcendent qualities of Christian character that alone can truly exalt our nation," Mr. Robert A. Speirs, headmaster of Selwyn House School, told the annual meeting of the Quebec Religious Education Council, Montreal.

"Unquestionably the Sunday School has done a magnificent job down through the years," Mr. Speirs said, "but the sad fact remains that there are multitudes of young people without church or Sunday School connection to whom the rich heritage of

Judaeo-Christian culture will most likely remain a closed book.

He said a promising start had been made in Quebec with the introduction of Scripture study as part of the English literature course in Protestant high schools. But, Mr. Speirs continued, the scripture teaching question should be worthy of the most careful joint consideration of representatives of the Federation of Home and School Associations and of the teachers' associations, since the absence of unified basic philosophy of religious education in schools, must eventually militate against the schools' success as essentially character-building institutions. Rev. Edwin J. White, a Charlottetonian, is president of the Council.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Eleven more days till Easter.

If nothing more came out of this session of the Legislature than the proposal to make the Island a disease free area for Bang's, the effort of our legislators would not have been wasted.

Budget Day in the House of Commons. When Finance Minister Abbott delivers his budget speech tonight it seems generally assumed that tax reductions, if any, will be insignificant compared with pre-election slashes.

England declared war with Russia this date 1854—resulting in the Crimean War in defence of Turkey and certain Balkan States—a war, which Lord Salisbury later declared in which "we backed the wrong horse."

Lieut. Governor Sir Leonard Outerbridge contends that Canada joined Newfoundland last April 1st, rather than vice versa. The point was no doubt amusingly made but it seems to fall into the classification of the old question about the chicken and the egg.

Premier Angus L. Macdonald was outspoken about the unfairness of his Province's treatment by Ottawa, but there was certainly no loose talk about "secession". There are, of course, a few die-hards but any realistic approach requires such ideas to be relegated to oblivion.

The annual reports of the Labourers' Protective Union of Charlottetown indicate a very healthy state of affairs in that union. The agricultural character of this Province militates against the development of trade unionism generally, but the city workers seem to be going ahead satisfactorily.

The Royal Mail liner, the "Andes", was presented at Southampton recently with a plaque from the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, to commemorate her maiden voyage in December, 1939, when she took 900 officers and men of the regiment from Halifax to Scotland. They were the first Canadian troops to land in Britain for the Second World War.

The Conservative Party in New Brunswick is unfortunate. Its Provincial Leader, immediately after a visit from Hon. Mr. Macdonnell, Ottawa, declared it was his intention to retire as leader in the New Brunswick Legislature after eleven years in that capacity. Mr. MacKay gave no reason for his decision, and, as he is still only sixty-two, it cannot be on account of old age. Perhaps the present anti-sales tax agitation may tend to make him reconsider his decision.

Venerable Queen Mary is not a self-advertiser. She did not announce eight years ago she had started carpet making on her own. She waited till the work was all but completed and then announced she intended to give it as a royal keepsake to Buckingham Palace. It was then somebody conceived the brilliant idea of having the royal masterpiece exhibited, the proceeds to go for charitable purposes, but the carpet itself to be donated to a public institution where it might be seen by all who choose to visit such institution.

Senator MacIntyre has been championing the cause of the Indians in the Senate. At the same time in the House the subject was under discussion on a new bill of rights for the Indians introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Mr. Harris. Mr. William Bryce, C.C.F., Selkirk, declared the Indian population had for years been dropping about 1,000 a year. But now as a result of improved hospitals and health treatment the population was increasing. A country could not have a growing population continue as wards of the Government. Such a population had to be given its place in the economy of the country. Mr. Douglas Harkness (PC—Calgary West) suggested that welfare payments to indigent Indians be increased from \$8.50 to at least \$15 a month. Mr. Harris said the matter was one which could be discussed later on his main estimates.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

AIRLIFT AT KENSINGTON

Sir, — I was very much impressed when reading in the Forum column on March 25 a letter signed "Enthusiastic Reader of the Guardian, Montague". My first ambition was to establish what occupation he pursued; evidently he is not a sports writer as, like the Premier, he does not approve of hockey; he is not a farmer as he says prices are still good. He apparently doesn't know anything about cost of production. Could he be one of those who are making fortunes on dealing in farm produce, and wishing to keep the farmers ignorant of the fact that they are among the greatest builders of this Province and have certain rights and must fight for them as never before. One clue he gives us, he is a great admirer and close disciple of the Premier's. This must be a great consolation to the Premier as I am quite confident he won't find them among the farm population. He does not forget to point out that the Premier took over the meat packing plant and allowed us to sell all our pig; I would like to point out to this correspondent that the taking over of the plant was timed very nicely to coincide with the Provincial elections, and no one received more benefits financially or other wise than did the Liberal Party and some of their candidates.

This Montague writer tells us Premier Jones promises us nothing and gives us plenty. This is partially true. He established a liquor business in this Province that has grown into a two million dollar industry, providing a half million dollars revenue for his government. This may be good business for his government, but not for the young people of this Province and certainly not in the sight of God. He (the Premier), has increased our provincial debt year after year and this year the increase is well over one million dollars. In addition our permanent roads in Prince George, but St. George never saw the sky over England. Neither did St. Andrew ever see the sky over Scotland, or St. David the sky over Wales.

But Patrick, at the age of fifteen, was taken in slavery to Ireland, and served as a shepherd in serfdom for six years. Finally he escaped, and went to France. There he told his uncle, St. Martin of Tours, about Ireland and its people and how he had come to love and admire them. He told him what wonderful opportunities there would be for missionary work among the pagan people of Ireland, who worshipped the sun and various idols.

I am, Sir, etc. CLAYTON SMITH, FreeTown, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) CITY GAS WORKS

The directors of the Charlottetown Gas Company, in their first annual report dated May 1, 1954, expressed pleasure "in having it in their power to congratulate the proprietors on the completion of the works which were entrusted to their management less than twelve months ago, and to announce that the Company are now prepared to supply the inhabitants with gas."

The directors stated that they first met the engineer, Alexander McAusland, on June 1, 1853, on his arrival from Newfoundland, and arrangements were then entered into for construction of the plant. Previous to this they had contracted with Laidlaw and Son, of Glasgow, for the whole of the fixed apparatus and machinery necessary. On June 6 the directors instructed Mr. McAusland to proceed by the first steamer to Britain to inspect the apparatus.

The directors in the meantime engaged the services of Mr. Gainsford as master of works and secretary, pro tem, and he immediately set to work with the necessary operations of well digging, excavating the ground for the tank and foundations of the chimneys, etc. After inviting estimates, the directors contracted with the Messrs. Roper for the whole of the wooden buildings, and with Mr. Watts for the stone and brick work, which was completed by both parties before the winter set in.

Difficulty was encountered in constructing the tank, both from the scarcity of suitable timber and from heavy springs which were struck before getting to the necessary depth of excavation. The apparatus and machinery only arrived at the end of September, and it was some time in October before the whole could be removed to the premises; but not a day was lost in beginning to lay the main pipes in the streets, commencing at the works in the east end of the town along Sydney to Prince Street. A 256 yards of pipe were laid before the frost set in, leaving upwards of 200 yards to be laid in the spring.

Along with the apparatus from Glasgow, the engineer judiciously imported two mechanics, one an engineer, the other a gas fitter. The latter, at the time of the directors' report, had completed installation of service pipes, burners, etc., in upwards of sixty houses.

When the machinery arrived it was found that many articles had not been shipped, but were sent afterwards, some by way of Picquet and Halifax, while many articles which should have come in a finished state were sent out in the rough, and had to be finished here under many disadvantages, resulting in a delay of some months in lighting the town.

The Time: One Year Later



Senator Quinn And St. Patrick's Day

(Senator Felix P. Quinn, Bedford, N. S., as reported in Hansard, March 17th)

Hon. Felix P. Quinn: Honourable Senators, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with may I remind the house that today is the 17th of March. Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. Quinn: It is the festival of that glorious apostle, St. Patrick, and Irishmen throughout the world are venerating their patron saint with love and adoration. The Englishman has his St. George, but St. George never saw the sky over England. Neither did St. Andrew ever see the sky over Scotland, or St. David the sky over Wales.

But Patrick, at the age of fifteen, was taken in slavery to Ireland, and served as a shepherd in serfdom for six years. Finally he escaped, and went to France. There he told his uncle, St. Martin of Tours, about Ireland and its people and how he had come to love and admire them. He told him what wonderful opportunities there would be for missionary work among the pagan people of Ireland, who worshipped the sun and various idols.

St. Martin educated Patrick, who eventually was ordained to the priesthood and sent to Rome, where he had an audience with the Pope and told him of Ireland and its people. He said that if he were given a commission as a missionary he would go among the Irish people and devote his life to their conversion. He was granted this commission and consecrated a bishop, and with a band of missionaries he returned to Ireland.

The story is told that St. Patrick reached Ireland on the eve of the grand festival of the Druids, and that when the Druids met on the hills of Tara to venerate their heathen gods, Patrick arrived on the opposite hill with his little band of missionaries. Arising at daybreak the next morning his first thoughts were of Almighty God, and he went on his bended knees and asked God for his blessing on the mission work which he had undertaken.

In the cold of the morning he lighted a fire. This was against the order that no fire was to be lit on that day until he himself had set the torch. Patrick knew nothing of this, and his fire was observed in Tara. Immediately the king sent his soldiers to seize the man who had dared to break the law, and Patrick was brought before the king and the arch-Druid, and was asked to explain his conduct. He then told them of the Christian God in Heaven, and with his wonderful oratory he impressed the assembled gathering.

But he could not make them understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity until, looking down at his feet, he saw a trefoil, a three-leaved shamrock, and he stooped and plucked it from the ground and held it aloft to illustrate the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.

Thus he showed them how nature itself could explain how there could be three in one. Then he was asked to explain the other mysteries of his religion, which he did so well that he converted the whole nation to Christianity, and that is why the Irishmen today venerate his memory.

Because of that Irishmen and Irishwomen too throughout the world today wear on their bosoms with pride the little shamrock, the emblem of their nation and of their patron saint. Because of seven centuries of persecution and suffering, Irishmen have been scattered all over the world. But go where you will, in any part of this universe, you will find Irishmen, every one of them just as much imbued with the love and veneration of the land of his forefathers as are those who were born on its sacred soil.

"I'd be ashamed of myself." That bit illustrates the love of the Irishman and his descendants for the Emerald Isle.

Well might they love it. You will find no divorce courts there. If our friends of the divorce committee were sitting in Ireland and depending on fees from divorce cases, they would starve to death. And you will find there no birth control, no mercy killing—euthanasia—no communism, and the few snakes and loads that there were were banished by St. Patrick centuries ago. So I say we have reason to be proud of our native land. Go where you will, you will find an Irishman looking back on the green isle, thinking of Kathleen Mavourneen, Aileen Allannah, Colleen Bawn, and Sweet Belle Mahone.

"Wait for me at Heaven's gate, Sweet Belle Malone." Others will look back and think of the lakes of Killarney: "Where angels fold their wings and rest. In that Eden of the blest, Beauty's home, Killarney." Others will think of farther south and sing of the Bells of Shandon.

"That sound so grand on The pleasant waters Of the river Lee." Others will sing of the London derry Air, and still others will sing of the mountains of Mourne, of Galway Bay, and of Lough Neagh's Banks:

"Where the fisherman strays When the clear cold eves decline; He sees the round towers of other days In the waves beneath him shining."

"Thus will memory oft in dreams sublime Catch a glimpse of the days that are over, And, sighing, look through the waves of time For the long-faded glories they cover."

Others, more vigorous, will sing of the heroic Brian the Brave, and of Malachi: "Who wore the collar of gold Which he won from the proud invader, When her kings, with standards of green unfurled, Led the red branch knights to danger."

Still others will sing of the beautiful vale of Avoca: "There is not in the wide world A valley so sweet, As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet; Oh! the last rays of feeling, and life must depart, Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart."

"Yet it was not that nature had shed o'er the scene Her purest of crystal and brightest of green; 'Twas not her soft magic of streamlet or hill, Oh! no,—it was something more exquisite still."

"'Twas the friends, the beloved of my bosom, were near, Who made every dear scene of enchantment more dear, And who felt how the best charms of nature improve, When we see them reflected from looks that we love."

"Sweet vale of Avoca how calm could I rest, In thy bosom of shade, with the friends I love best, Where the storms that we feel in this cold world should cease. And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace." Several persons have asked me to sing, and if I may be permitted—

Notes By The Way

A Vancouver man who over-slept and was two hours late for court has been given harsh punishment. Judge Harry J. Sullivan of New Westminster County Court fined him \$50 and sentenced him to thirty days in jail for contempt of court. — Vancouver News-Herald.

Our guess is that at least sixty per cent of men don't bother wearing garters, except perhaps to formal dances or important business meetings. The rest of the time they let their socks and the criticisms fall where they may. — Lethbridge Herald.

Girls looking for a permanent Valentine were advised to investigate the possibilities of the engineering profession. "Engineers have the best hearts for marriage," said Dr. James Bender, director of the National Institute for Human Relations. He warned, however, that most of them are a bit shy, might need some prodding. — Wall Street Journal.

Experience has shown that attempts to enforce restrictive regulations on a community which go beyond what the community considers fair and just are self-defeating. Furthermore they tend to bring all law into disrespect and law cannot be maintained by police power alone. It must be backed by public opinion. By trying to bring the Sunday observance regulations in line with public opinion on the matter the Ontario Legislature should help preserve respect for law generally. It should try to provide majorities with what they consider their rights, while at the same time protecting substantial minorities from interference in the free exercise of their religious observance. — London Free Press.

Then they dotted it with silver to make its lakes so grand. And when they had it finished, sure they called it Ireland." Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. Quinn: Let me conclude: "Here is my country though broken thou art. There is a lustre within me that ne'er will decay; A spirit that shines through each suffering part, And now smiles at all pain on St. Patrick's Day." Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

The Age-Old Story Be strong; let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded. Sunder me from my bones, O sword of God, Till they stand stark and strange as do the trees; That I whose heart goes up with the soaring woods May marvel as much as these. Sunder me from my blood that in the dark I hear that red ancestral river run, Like branching buried floods that find the sea But never see the sun. Give me miraculous eyes to see my eyes, Those rolling rivers made alive in me, Terrible crystal more incredible Than all the things they see. Sunder me from my soul, that I may see The slugs like streaming wounds, the life's brave beat; Till I shall save myself, as I would save A stranger in the street. —G. K. Chesterton.

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