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**BACK AGAIN IN THE JUNGLE**

The League of Nations has been abandoned by its greatest champion. Prime Minister Chamberlain has scuttled the ship which a few short months ago was declared to be the hope and centre of British foreign policy. We are back in the jungle where might is the only right. The dreams of a world in which the nations would band together to protect each other against aggressors has been given up. Collective security has proved a sham and a delusion, says Mr. Chamberlain, a realist in politics, and Britain must perforce make the best of a world in which strong nations with wills to prey upon weaker peoples must be restrained by combinations of other powers. Peace is to be purchased by peace-loving countries making themselves strong enough to impose it upon war makers. Fear, rather than goodwill, is to be the motive restraining would-be aggressors.

Idealists who had hoped much from the League of Nations cannot but be depressed at the turn of events. All is not lost, however. Although its sun is in eclipse for the present the League did function for a number of years and did settle many disputes and prevent a number of wars.

The League had two great weaknesses at the outset. Tied up so closely with the ill-fated Treaty of Versailles, and designed by Clemenceau and Lloyd George to perpetuate the mistakes of that treaty, it could never have the whole-hearted support of Germany. Its greatest weakness, however, was the failure of the United States to become a member, despite the fact that the great American president, Woodrow Wilson, was the father of the League. Born into a war weary world it appeared to open the door to a millennium where all men would "brothers be and that," and Wilson was enthusiastically hailed as a modern saviour of mankind. When he came back unto his own, however, they received him not, and he died of a broken heart.

The failure of the League to remedy the errors of Versailles, and its refusal to take strong action when Japan invaded Manchuria, paved the way for its ultimate failure. When Mussolini embarked upon the conquest of Ethiopia the League, under the leadership of Great Britain, imposed economic sanctions upon Italy. France gave only half-hearted support, and some other nation members of the League actually increased their trade with Italy, thus making sanctions ineffective. Then the members of the League feared to take strong action to restrain foreign intervention in Spain, and Japan has laughed at all League efforts to protect China in the present war.

We still believe in a league of nations, though it may have to be re-born under other auspices. The day will come when mankind will recognize the folly of piling up armaments and making wars, and will turn to some form of collective security based on right rather than might.

**WAR AND PEACE**

War is a crime which involves all other crimes. — Brougham.

But the real and last victories are those of peace and not of war. — Emerson.

If Christian nations were nations of Christians there would be no wars. — Soame Jenyns.

There never was a good war or a bad peace. — Benjamin Franklin.

Misery and ruin to thousands are in the blast that announces the destructive demon war. — Burns.

Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it. — Thomas Jefferson.

The mad wickedness of war. — Virgil.

Peace is the happy, natural state of man; war his corruption, his disgrace. — Thompson.

There is no such thing as inevitable war. If war comes it will be from failure of human wisdom. — Bonar Law.

Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet and they who take such appeal are sure to lose their cases and pay the cost. — Lincoln.

The ballot is stronger than the bullet. — Lincoln.

There is such a thing as nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right. — Woodrow Wilson.

**PEOPLE KEEP THEIR PROMISES**

One of the most important things that the growing practice of buying goods on instalments has taught the world is that 99 people out of 100 keep their promises. That is important because, before credit began to be extended to practically everybody, the markets for almost every kind of goods were limited to those who had saved up cash enough to pay for them "on the nail," or who had property assets which could be attached if they failed to keep their promises to pay.

The widespread distribution of all sorts of commodities in America, things which used to be considered luxuries only for the rich and are still so considered in other countries, is due to the recognition by business men and bankers of the essential honesty of most people. Over a period of many years it has been demonstrated that ordinary people of average incomes will pay their debts — keep their promises — sooner or later. To be sure, there are laws to compel people to keep their promises, but in practical experience these are seldom invoked.

Our whole economic structure is based on promises, in the final analysis. A man takes a job on the employer's promise to pay him a certain sum at given intervals. He puts his wages in a bank and gets the banker's promise to return it to him when he wants it. The bank lends the money to someone else who promises to repay it at a certain time. One buys an insurance policy or a bond. What he gets is a promise. When the time comes for the promise to be kept, the fulfilment of it is usually in the form of another promise — a piece of paper on which one of the chartered banks of Canada promises to pay a certain sum on demand.

The economic system breaks down when too large a proportion of people who have made promises find themselves unable to make good. Even then, the distress is only temporary. The whole history of our system is that, in the long run, most promises are kept.

**Yukon Woman Member Has Had Colourful Career**

(By Gordon Graydon)

"We don't want no skirt to be our Member of Parliament," was the none-too-encouraging reception one of the Yukon miners gave to Mrs. Martha Louise Black when she sought his support in 1935. Her reply was couched in the language of the great mining country, which she knows so well. It wasn't exactly in the terms a cultured lady addresses a gentleman, so I won't repeat it here. But she won her point and, incidentally, his help in the campaign. Many others in the great expanse of Canadian territory, known as the Yukon, must have followed suit for this "man's country" joined with Grey-Bruce in Ontario to send the second woman so far as to sit in the House of Commons.

Mrs. George Black possesses a most engaging and charming personality. The records here indicate that she is 72 years of age. She has the fresh clear outlook of one, thirty years her junior. I could not avoid thinking, as I talked with her recently, how closely her life history, since the end of last century, coincided with the development of her prized and beloved Yukon. She is part of it. It is part of her. Yukon and the Blacks are synonymous terms.

Mrs. Black was born in Chicago. She had a Southern mother and a Down-East Yankee father — to say nothing of a twin sister. Although her family were protestants, she went to St. Mary's College, which was one of the Indiana educational institutions of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. She was a lively youngster, full of tricks and "devilment". Climbing trees and riding horseback were just two of this future female parliamentarian's early "stunts". But tomboy girls are always popular and so was Martha Louise Monger.

Her first husband was William A. Purdy, Paymaster of an American railroad, whose father was President of the Company. They had three boys, all of whom later saw service in the Great War. When the Klondike gold rush came, Mr. Purdy and another American organized a company to prospect for gold in the Yukon. They were followed to this Northern Hinterland by Mrs. Purdy in 1899. She left Seattle by steamer, accompanied by friends, landed at Dyea, walked 42 miles over mountain and valley to the Yukon river. "I could have laid down and died," said Mrs. Black. It was a pretty tiresome trip for a woman. A boat was constructed on the Yukon river and the party finally landed at Dawson City. In the Spring of the next year, a son Lyman was born. Not a doctor or a nurse was in attendance. There were none in this new settlement which boasted then of only tents, cabins and makeshift buildings of all descriptions. The day after the child was born, a doctor did arrive and he found a fine, bouncing baby boy. The mother and child went back to Kansas a year later.

In 1904, after divorcing her first husband, this lady Member of Parliament, married George Black, a lawyer practicing in Dawson City. The Blacks lived in the Yukon from then until the war broke out. In the meantime, Lyman, the youngest boy was adopted by George Black and he bore his name until he met tragic death a year ago in an automobile accident in Eastern Ontario.

George and Mrs. Black were both overseas during the war. Mrs. Black went on the same boat as many volunteers from the Yukon and was she popular with them? Yes. In her scrap-book reposes, this little ditty by the Yukon soldiers of the second contingent:

"We have stolen Mrs. Black  
 And will not bring her back  
 'Til the Germans quit and when the Allies win,  
 'Til we nail our Union Jack on the Kaiser's chimney stack  
 And we toast the Yukon daughters in Berlin."

She is proud of the words of this parody as it brings back memories very dear to her.

When the war was over, Mr. and Mrs. Black went to Vancouver for a short time and in 1921 they answered the call of the North once again. A Dominion election was in the offing. George was selected by the Conservatives to run. He was elected in this contest and at each successive election until 1935, when his wife, the present Member, took his place and was successful as an Independent Conservative candidate. Mr. Black was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1930 until he took ill in 1934. His wife's entry into politics was occasioned by his illness. He is now quite recovered and is practicing law in Vancouver.

In at least one campaign George Black was faced with Robert Lowe

**'SLATS' DIARY**

(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: The S. S. teacher tot us about Jacobs ladder & the angels walking up and down same. Then he sed do any littel boy or girl want to ast me a queschen on the subjec. Jake wanted to no why the angels w a l k e d when they had wings & then the teacher sed What 1 of us wants to anser the queschen. So I diddnt find out why.

Monday: The teacher in school ast the class to find out what is a Missnomer & to gixe a xample of same. I found it are some thing not named rite & sed to her a butey shoppe are 1 of them becoss I seen a lotta dames coming out of them that look offle ugly. Then she sed that will be enuff from you Slats.

Tuesday: As I walked home with Jane from school I sed to her it are a pity that bewtifle girls haft to be so dum. She sed the resen are that they haft to be bewtifle so the boys will love them & dum so they will love the boys. Guess she had me there. But I laft it off.

Wednesday: Are schools B. B. team played its first game of the sesen yesterday p. m. & the teacher give us 2 \$ \$ & sed to spend it for bats & gloves or eney thing that would help win the game. We give it to the empire. And we won. Esey.

Thursday: Are famby has had quite a few viseters recent witch I suppose the folling inesdent resulted from. As Pa started to the offis this a. m. Ma ast him what would he love to have for dinner & he sed Eney thing but Company. Then he went out & it seamed to me like he was in a hurry. Some what eney how.

Friday: Are room at school got a new clock to take up books by & let out by today. The teacher sed it will run 8 days without winding & Blisters wanted to no how long it will run if you do wind it. Lookt to me like a fare queschen. But the teacher sed it were silley & she otto lick Blisters. But he drewed the laff.

Saturday: The wether was warm & sun shiney today & Pa put me to work in the yd. & garden. I sed to him I bleevd the fish would bite & he sed not to do no worrieing & that they wont bite me. If I keepped on at my work. So I dissided that the worms I dug up was so much wasted ennergey as Napoleum sed.

The Arthur Horticultural Society, with some eighteen years of good work to its credit, has disbanded. The Society was not behind in its finances, says the Enterprise-News, as there was over forty cents on hand when all expenses were paid.

A few years ago one would have ridiculed the idea of a buggy in a museum. But time marches on, and in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington such a vehicle is on displty.

The smallest package imaginable is the fellow wrapped up in himself.

as his opponent. "Bob" Lowe was a Peel county boy and a brother of W. J. Lowe, who has been prominent in public affairs in that country for many years. I was pleased to hear Mrs. Black say recently, "You could not help liking Bob Lowe. There never was a man in the Yukon more highly respected than he." A reputation of that kind is well worth having, and I know the many friends he had in Peel will be glad to hear what the wife of one of his political opponents had to say about him.

Mrs. Black has made "good" in the House of Commons. She is a fluent speaker and takes a prominent part in the main debates of the House. I know of no member who is more popular than this representative from the Yukon. She is a "hale fellow well met" with a brilliant sense of humour and happy in disposition, despite the fact that during the last twelve months she has lost two of her sons. It has taken a heavy toll of her but courage and fortitude are not lacking in the character of this woman from the Yukon. She has seen hardship and grief before and like the great woman she is, she carries on the battle of public and private purpose with common sense. She may not sit in the next parliament because George Black is fit again and will likely take his place in the front line of political battles once more. He has had a substitute for three years whom he will find hard, himself, to replace in the esteem of political friend and foe alike.

Next week: "Joe" Thorson, M.P., Rhodes Scholar of Icelandic origin, Liberal Member for Selkirk, Manitoba.

**Seven Premiers Have Been From the Bar**

(By F.D.R. in Brantford Expositor)

The fact that Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, former Premier of the Dominion, has now decided, for physical reasons, to resign from the leadership of the Conservative Party, brings to mind the circumstances that since Confederation, Canada has only had eleven First Ministers.

During this period of seventy-one years, Great Britain has had twelve; Disraeli, Gladstone, Salisbury, Rosebery, Balfour, Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, MacDonald, Baldwin, Chamberlain. As for France the count has just been almost lost.

Sir John Macdonald, the first man to occupy such office, held the reins of power for a total period of some seventeen years, closely followed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier with about fifteen years and now Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, present Premier, with 12 years to his credit.

The long terms of these three account for the small total number, but after Sir John's death there was quite a quick succession.

Sir John Abbott held the post for a little over a year. Sir John Thompson, who followed, had been in office for only a trifle over two years when he succumbed to heart failure while on a trip to England. He had been sworn in at Windsor Castle as a member of the Queen's Privy Council and while seated at luncheon there, he complained of severe pain and expired within a few minutes.

A British warship brought his body back to Canada and Queen Victoria, who was greatly shocked over the incident, manifested her deep sympathy. He was fifty years old at the time.

His successor was Sir Mackenzie Bowell, whose term only lasted for sixteen months. In 1896, he was followed by Sir Charles Tupper, then seventy-five years of age. He entered an ensuing campaign with remarkable vigor but was defeated by Laurier, so that his total occupancy of the position only lasted a little over two months.

He was the son of a Nova Scotian Minister, a doctor by profession, and

in early life became a prominent politician. He took a leading part in Confederation and had the credit of bringing his province into the scheme despite the contrary efforts of Joseph Howe, a forceful and prominent figure in the Nova Scotia of those days. Sir Charles in very late life, took up residence in England and died there at the age of ninety-four.

Thus from 1891 to 1896, a period of five years, there were four premiers as compared with two in the first twenty-four years after Confederation. During the last named era Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Liberal leader, had defeated Sir John in 1873. Mackenzie was a Scotchman and migrated to Canada when twenty years of age, first following his trade as a mason and builder and later becoming editor of a Reform newspaper, the Lambton Shield.

After Laurier's lengthy regime, there came Sir Robert Laird Borden, who first of all headed a Conservative ministry for six years and next a Union Government for three. Upon his resignation, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen succeeded, holding office for only a little over four months, and then came Mackenzie King.

He had nearly five years of power when Meighen again succeeded this time for slightly over three months as King once more entered upon another four year term.

At the end of that time, he was defeated by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, but in October of 1935, he turned the tables on his old time opponent and still holds office.

Nationally the Premiers have been one Englishman, Bowell; two Scotchmen, Macdonald and Mackenzie; eight native-born Canadians, Abbott, Thompson, Tupper, Laurier, Borden, Meighen, King, Bennett.

Of the eleven, seven have been lawyers, Macdonald, Abbott, Thompson, Laurier, Borden, Meighen, Bennett, while Bowell was a newspaper man owner of the Belleville Intelligence. Only two, Macdonald and Thompson, passed away while still holding office.

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