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THURSDAY, MARCH 14th, 1940.

SINCERITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

The candidature of Col. W. P. Mulock, Liberal candidate in North York is attracting widespread support in all parts of the constituency and as election day draws near it becomes more and more evident that the great majority of electors would have been satisfied to have tendered him re-election by acclamation. Since first elected to Parliament in 1934 the North York member has given his entire time to public life and his record of devoted service to his constituents and his country has been so outstanding that his supporters are not confined to any one party but include thousands of all party affiliations who recognize that real worth and sincerity in public life deserve endorsement.

During his terms as representative of this riding Col. Mulock has been always ready to lend every assistance to his constituents, and give his support to every worthwhile cause in every community. We say without fear of successful contradiction and in all fairness to many of North York's former distinguished parliamentary representatives, that never in history has this riding had a more sincere and hard-working member of Parliament than Bill Mulock. As it has been our privilege to be closely associated with him during his terms of office we wish to pay this tribute to his record of service. On every occasion we appealed to him on behalf of this constituency he cheerfully, willingly and effectively gave of his time and effort on behalf of the people of North York. The success of his efforts on behalf of this riding has established without doubt that North York never had a more active and influential advocate in Parliament than Bill Mulock.

Electors who desire the highest type of representation in Parliament and who want devoted service from their elected representative must forget partisanship and endorse genuine merit and service in political candidates. This is the reason Col. W. P. Mulock should be returned on March 26th with the largest majority ever accorded a candidate in this constituency.

Col. Mulock is not the "wandering-minstrel" type of political candidate. The Mulock name is known and honored in this County and for three generations there is a background of public service and loyalty to British ideals and British institutions which should be most reassuring to the elector seriously considering his duty at this critical time in our country's history. In Canada's war Parliament men of the sincerity, loyalty and character of Col. W. P. Mulock are needed as never before, and the electors of North York should give him an over-whelming vote of endorsement on March 26th.



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60 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

AMAZING BIRDS

(By Farley Mowat)

If Mr. Robert Ripley of 'Believe It or Not' fame ever runs out of startling material to place before a public that nothing can startle, he may buy a bird book and take a new lease on life. The startling and interesting information that abounds in bird lore is seldom heard of, mainly because it is common place to the ornithologist, and undiscovered to the average reader. This article is written with no more serious intent than to draw the veil from a few of the amazing facts that are found in an assembly of the thirteen thousand birds which inhabit every corner of the globe, perhaps it will enable you to see a new side in the rather technical and scientific study of birds.

To start with let us consider the size of birds. In the South American Andes there is a bird, the Condor, with a wing spread of 15 feet, well over 5 times the spread of our largest hawks. And in the same region is found a hummingbird with a wing spread of just over two and a half inches. It would take almost 100 of these little birds to span the wing spread of one Condor. And in order to fly these small birds beat their wings at the rate of a mile a minute while the Condor can stay aloft for days without moving a wing, riding the thermal currents and air waves. Here is a complete analogy in birds. But in the matter of flight and wings, other birds are as interesting. For instance the common chimney swift is one of the fastest living animals. Timed with a stop watch over a two mile course, chimney swifts returning to their nests reached an average speed of over 200 miles an hour.

Compare this handful of feathers and flesh to modern aeroplanes driven by hundreds of horsepower of powerful machinery. But while the swift holds the speed record in horizontal flight the famous Duck Hawk or Peregrine Falcon of medieval falconry has attained speeds of between five and six miles a minute in vertical dives on its prey. The duck hawk does not grasp its prey but hits it with tightly bunched feet at a speed almost half that of a bullet. Ducks hit in flight have been seen to burst in a cloud of feathers as though struck by a high explosive bullet. Vieing with the duck hawk and swift for speed records is the hummingbird. In tests made by comparing the wing vibrations of a hovering hummingbird with a violin string it has been found that these tiny and apparently weak birds can move their wings at a rate of 600 strokes a second, 36000 times a minute. This is one of the hardest facts to believe and comprehend in all bird life when you consider that a duck in flight beats its wings only about 10 times a second.

The anatomy of birds has many strange facts connected with it. For instance the great white pelican with a weight of over 25 lbs. has a skeleton weighing only 24 ounces to support its vast weight and powerful wings. Also of interest is the fact that in the neck of a common house sparrow there are twice as many vertebrae as in the neck of a giraffe, an animal who is nearly all neck. Less spectacular but just as interesting is the speed with which a bird lives. Its body heat is very high, 115 degrees in some birds, its heart beats very rapidly, its breathing, its motions and its voice are all speeded up to several times the speed of human functions. Naturally with such rapid metabolism a bird must refuel often. It has been estimated that an adult robin after leaving the nest consumes 14 feet of earthworms a day, about 80 medium sized worms, weighing almost the bird's weight, to keep it alive for the period of one day. Young crows in the nest consume at least half their own weight in food per day, but for potential energy the miniature house wren holds all records. One bird, banded for observation purposes, was observed to feed its 5 young 1,217 times in one day, averaging 10 plant lice per trip. Take a look at the next house when you see with renewed respect and rejoice that the wrens in your garden mean 12,000 less plant lice per day in your prize plants.

Those who have hunted wild fowl know with chagrin the unusual acuteness of a bird's vision. It is a well known fact that a vulture flying at a height of several thousand feet can detect the motion of a mouse in the grass below. The reason for this unusual eye sight is that while a man has only one point of focus in his eye, birds have as many as three spots where images register. The owls have added even another addition to the unusual fac-

ulty of bird sight, their eyes being built with iris that contract from half an inch in size to about the size of a pin prick. Contrary to public belief Owls can see in day light by the use of this unique apparatus, in fact Owls in daylight can see better than can man.

Feathers too make an interesting study. A very zealous scientist in the United States recently counted the feathers on 70 different kinds of birds. A pigeon has somewhere around 3000 feathers, but the feathers themselves are really composed of minute feathers within a feather. Each feather is a composite, the quill gives of two rows of barbs which together form the vane. Each of these barbs has two rows of barbules which connect with each other by rows of barbicles. The almost inconceivable intricacy of this feather arrangement is made understandable to a degree by considering that on one primary feather of a pigeon there are 1,200 barbs, that one barb on the narrow part of the vane has roughly 550 barbules, regarding this as two thirds of the size of the average barb there are approximately 990,000 barbules on one feather, multiply this by the number of barbicles and the figures become astronomical. To make the feather more interesting it should be noted that the feather as an organism attains its maximum value only after it is dead.

Nesting habits of birds are often unusual. For example the Bonapartes gull, member of a family that usually nests on rocky ledges or sand pits, has changed its mode of living until now it uses the abandoned nests of robins and other birds set in trees far from water. The burrowing Owl of the West uses the deserted burrows of prairie dogs and lays its eggs underground, the cowbird makes no nest but lays its eggs in other birds' nests to be taken care of, Coots build floating nests anchored to reed beds, and a species of Chinese swallow builds a nest of its own gelatinous saliva.

There are a few of the everyday facts in a bird's life that are of unusual interest, but any bird book is a continual source of more amazing information. The person who accepts birds as a hobby has accepted a study as intriguing and fascinating as any study in the world.

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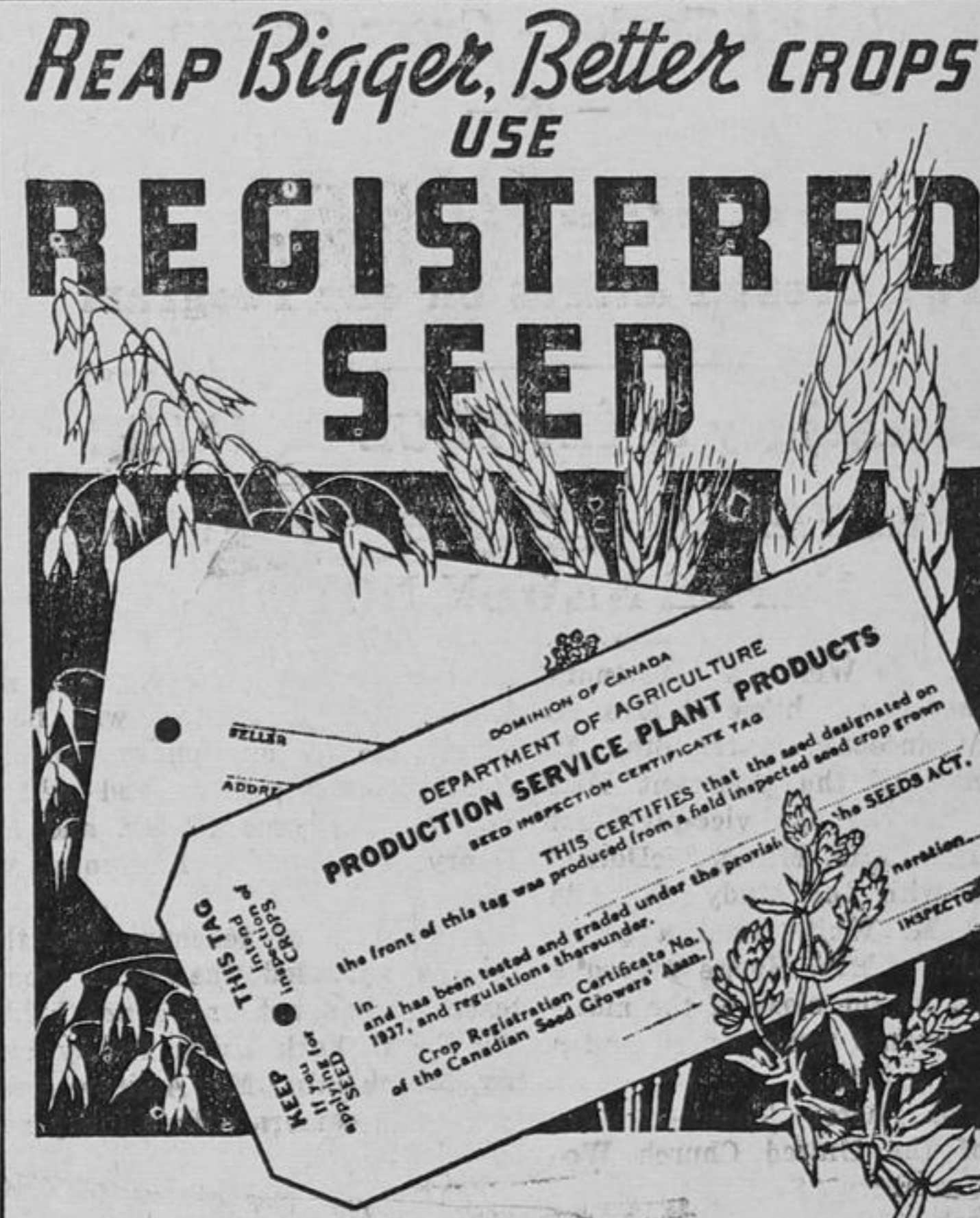
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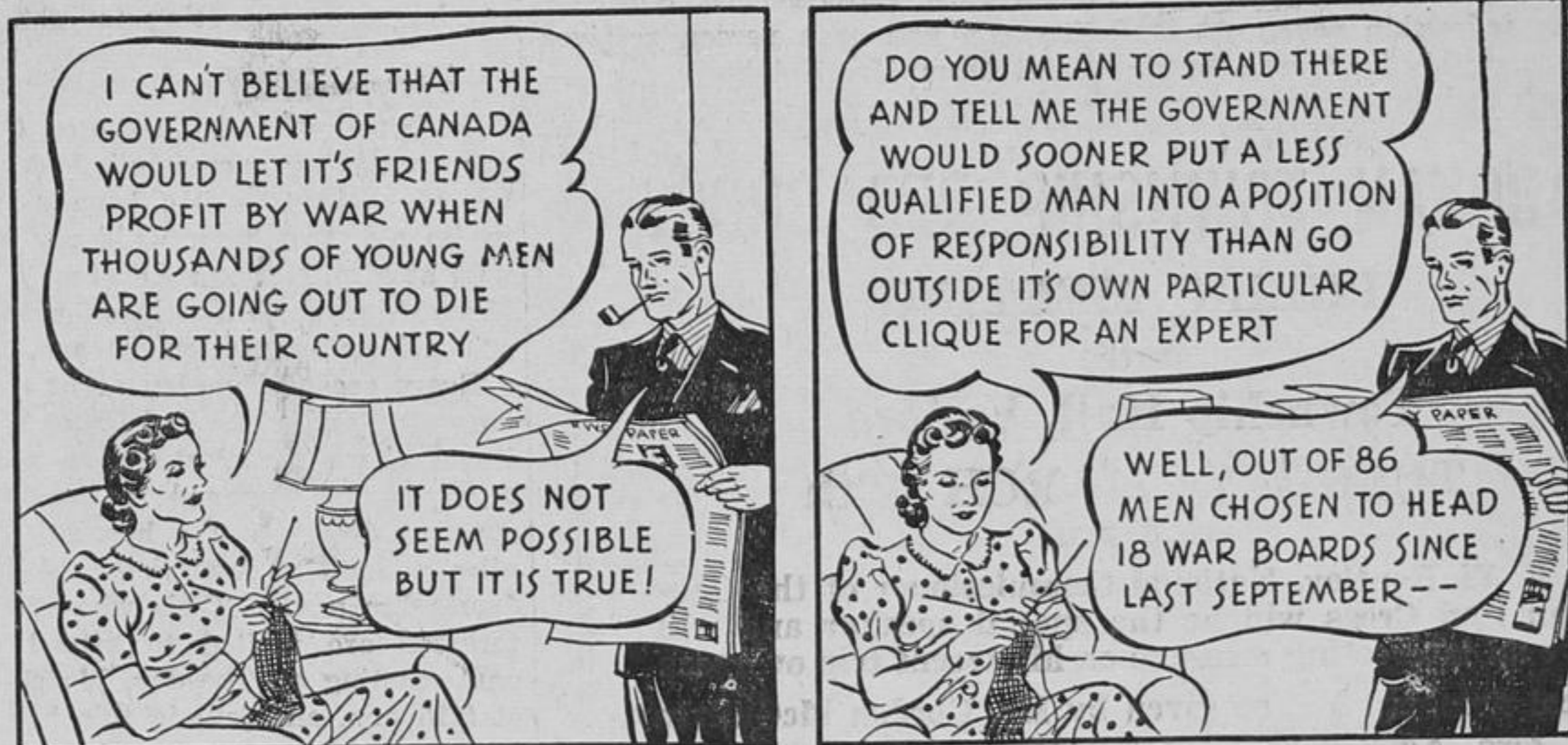
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