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OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

Remembrance Day was fittingly marked by impressive services throughout North York and all Canada, and the ceremonies this year seemed to take on a new significance as we face the problems of the post-war era. Nothing could more challenge us to great achievement in the building of a better Canada than attendance at these memorial services. The aging faces of vets of World War I, and the hopeful yet serious countenance of those just back from World War II told a story all their own as they stood at the cenotaph Sunday to pay tribute to their comrades who did not return. Our task is to join with them in building the better Canada they fought for, and for which their comrades died.

The National Liberal Federation is meeting here in Ottawa this week, and delegates from all over Canada will attend. During the war as far as the Liberal Party was concerned there was a black-out of political activity. Now with hostilities ended the National Liberal Federation plans continued activity in political education. At the banquet here Wednesday evening, William Mulock, Jr., son of Hon. W. P. Mulock, will preside as President of the Young Liberals of Canada.

The following resolution dealing with the adoption of a National Flag is now before the House:

"That in the opinion of this house, it is expedient that Canada possess a distinctive national flag and that a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons be appointed to consider and report upon a suitable design for such a flag;

That standing order 65 of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said committee have power to send for persons, papers and records to aid in the discharge of its functions; and

That a message be sent to the Senate to inform their honours that the House of Commons has appointed this committee and to request their honours to appoint members of the Senate to act thereon with the members of the House of Commons as a joint committee of both houses."

In an eloquent speech supporting the resolution Hon. Ian Mackenzie spoke for the government. We quote extracts from the Veterans' Affairs Minister's speech ably presenting the issue:

"There have been suggestions by some persons that this is not an important matter, and that it should not be brought forward at this time. With this I emphatically disagree. In the life of every nation symbols are important, and perhaps the most important of these is a national flag. We need only to think of the vast affection and loyalty that has attached to the union jack in Britain and throughout the commonwealth, and I yield to no one in this house in my admiration for that great symbol of empire. In the same way, for our neighbours to the south the stars and stripes have been an inspiration to national unity and national endeavour. We in Canada have shared the union jack, and we shall always honour it as the symbol of much that

is best and most precious in our heritage; but we have had nothing that has been peculiarly and indisputably our own, that would symbolize Canada—all of Canada and everyone in Canada. There should be something that all can see and look to with pride, as the symbol of this great nation of ours, to which affection and loyalty can attach, and which can become the sign of the unity and purpose that will make Canada great.

In advocating that Canada have a flag of its own, we are not suggesting that a narrow nationalism become our goal. Far from it. We are not turning our backs on the British commonwealth; far from it. We are not drawing away from the new international community of the united nations; far from it. It is the firm intention of the government, and of everyone in Canada, that we shall continue to play our part in the British commonwealth, an association of nations that has been an example to the world. It is equally our intention that Canada shall be a strong and unselfish voice, and a courageous and active member in the united nations; that is our hope for future peace. All of that is our purpose. In our laudable longing to have a national flag we are only seeking to give to the spirit of Canada, to the enthusiasm of our people and to the sacrifice of our men in two terrible wars, the symbolism that all other nations have joined to create a force in their national life, the symbolism of a national flag."

I agree that Canada should have a national flag, and we believe the Union Jack should form a part of it as a symbol of our association with the British Commonwealth of Nations. I hope the House will not make a political football of the issue, and that it may be decided upon quickly and without any needless waste of time through endless discussion.

A new war has been declared in Canada in the interest of peace: the Department of Justice is going to clean up on gun-toting. Provision has been made making it a most serious offence to carry concealed weapons, ordering a new census of revolvers with a re-registration of them, and confiscating small arms unless a private citizen can satisfy the Department he has a vital need for such weapons.

As a matter of fact, a special committee of the Cabinet has been working on the problem of amending the Criminal Code so as to handle the situation. The Government regards the matter as one of urgency.

Many problems, economic and social, demand the full attention and energy of the country. The Government will not tolerate having that energy diverted by thugs and hoodlums armed with revolvers. The recent shooting in Ottawa of a detective who was trying to apprehend three men who were tampering with parked automobiles has brought this whole question very sharply to the fore.

On November 26, the Co-ordinating Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction meets in the Capital. It is fully expected here that the provincial leaders will indicate general acceptance of the far-reaching proposals made by the Dominion Government last August.

It is certain that the great majority of Canadian taxpayers favor the Dominion Government's proposals in principle, and the provincial leaders are not blind to this straw flying in the wind.

Even the critics of the Government proposals admit they represent a fair, indeed generous, settlement of the financial and jurisdictional problems as they exist between the provinces and the Dominion.

General agreement by the Big Ten will, therefore, be a sign on the horizon of tomorrow, indicating Canada can stride in that direction confidently.

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EDGELEY

This community was saddened by the death of Mrs. Walter Anderson who passed away early Monday at the home of her son, Ross, of Elia.

Up until recent years, when her health began to fail, Mrs. Anderson was very actively engaged in church activities, being president of the Women's Association for several years. Being gifted with musical talent, she and the late Mr. Anderson were active members of the choir and when her family was young their home was the scene of many a pleasant gathering.

Mrs. Anderson is survived by four children, namely, Ross of Elia, Gordon at home, Hazel, Mrs. Clare Britnell of Hamilton, and Chester overseas, and six grandchildren.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock at her late residence, Edgeley, where she has lived for quite a number of years. Interment in Maple cemetery.

The Women's Institute meeting took place at the home of Mrs. Elmer Stong last Thursday afternoon with a splendid attendance. Mrs. Gordon Miller of Nashville spoke and used as her subject "Township School Area". Mrs. Miller spoke eloquently on this subject and her listeners could not help but feel that this subject meant much to her. Her enthusiasm was contagious and I am sure her audience felt that the township school area was the very thing we needed for our children. Many things that were not understood before were cleared up and I am sure that when we have the opportunity to vote on the idea, the result will be different. Certainly Mrs. Espey, the citizenship convenor, is to be congratulated on the success of her meeting. The meeting was closed by a dainty lunch served by the ladies. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Edgar Phillips.

The ladies of the Institute are preparing a "Tweedsmuir Book" and if anyone has any interesting information regarding the history of Edgeley or its people the same could be sent to Mrs. Paul Snider, president or the secretary, Mrs. C. S. Stong, and it would be very much appreciated.

Mr. Eldon Fierheller has purchased the farm formerly known as the Watson farm on the fifth and he and Mrs. Fierheller and family will take possession in the Spring.

On Sunday evening, November 18, the Edgeley Young People will hold a candlelight service and an installation of officers. This service which is taken mostly by the Young People will take place at 7.30 o'clock in Edgeley United Church. We urge all parents and friends of the Young People to attend this service. Your youth is your future community. Show your youth that you stand fully behind them, and have a positive desire for their welfare. Come to the service.

To all youth of Edgeley and surrounding community we say: "This organization was created especially for you. Don't forget to be present at your service!"

Quite a number from a distance including Rev. Mr. McCrimmon and Mrs. McCrimmon, a former pastor, attended the funeral of the late Mrs. Anderson last Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. John Stanley and Miss Jean were guests at tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Broadbelt on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lund motored to Credit Forks on Sunday and called on Miss Culp, who moved there from this vicinity quite recently.

Miss Edith Jackson of Bradford spent the week-end at the home of Mrs. Andrew Snider.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Stong on Sunday for tea were Mr. and Mrs. William Price, Kenneth and Bobby and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stong and Evelyn.

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