

The Russell Leader

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A CENTURY OF PEACE ALONG UNGUARDED FRONTIER.

Prescott, Ontario, on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, a town of historic importance in the annals of Eastern Ontario, and one of long association with military activities of the country, will this year hold a unique celebration in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Windmill.

This battle, fought in the fall of 1838, when rebel forces from the United States, led by a Polish exile by name of Nicholas von Schultz invaded the Fort Town which lies just opposite Ogdensburg, N.Y., is a bright page in the book of Canadian history, as it marked the last step in a long struggle to create a democratic form of Government in the then virile British colonial possession, and led to the eventual overthrow of rule by Class and the Family Compact.

While the invasion was repulsed by hastily summoned militiamen from all counties of Eastern Ontario, and was confined in its fighting to the immediate vicinity of the Windmill, near Prescott, its consequences and causes emphasized in the minds of the powers of the day that Lord Durham's recommendations were fully justified and that unless a greater measure of responsible government was extended the hardy pioneers of the New World that Great Britain would soon lose all rights and interests in its dearly-bought possession.

Military and government officials from all parts of Canada and the United States are expected to gather in Prescott in July next to commemorate the Battle of the Windmill in what has been designated "The St. Lawrence International Peace Centennial."

The commemoration is of more than local importance for it cements international amity and goodwill over a mythical line following the approximate course of the 49th parallel which does not need a lot of fixed bayonets for its preservation as is the case in so many countries of Europe. A recently published picture of Italian and German soldiers greeting each other across a barbed-strung gate in the Brenner Pass, with loaded guns and gleaming bayonets after Herr Hitler's successful coup in Austria, is a fitting paradox of the friendly and peaceful spirit which exists along the St. Lawrence River front.

All citizens of Canada and the United States should humbly thank the Power which has made their life on the North American continent possible and should join in wishing success to an event which promises to commemorate that peaceful life in a fitting manner.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOUNGER GENERATION?

In man's zeal to correct one evil or maladjustment he often over-reaches himself and creates another as bad or worse than the first. Such is the halting, stumbling course of social evolution. The youth control amendment and the various miscalled child labor laws, for instance, prevent boys from being taught trades during the formative years from 14 to 18—the only period when many of them can be fitted, psychologically, into mechanical vocations. And yet industry must have trained mechanics, and young men must have jobs.

"What Shall We Do With Them?" asks Lui F. Hellman in a recent issue of Nation's Business. Mr. Hellman runs a small machine shop. He is also the father of a boy, therefore the problem appeals to him in a dual aspect—where the good mechanics are to come from in the future and what fathers are to do with their sons who come out of school and college without knowing anything about how to work and learn practical things. His suggestion is:

Permit factories and industries to take these boys into their organizations under the old-time apprentice system, paying them a small income and permit those industries to deduct the cost as non-taxable income or surplus.

It is reported that a grocer in a town not very far away, had a lot of explaining to do last week. A lady walked into his store and asked for "spuds." The grocer handed her a package of cigarettes. The lady happened to be a devout W.C.T.U. member and we understand that the groceryman is not sure whether his explanation was all right or whether he lost a customer.

VALUE OF THE PRESS EMPHASIZED BY STRIKES.

In Quebec City recently a strike of the union printers prevented publication of two daily newspapers. The incident inspires renewed interest in the remarks of the Vancouver Sun to the effect that one of North America's favorite sports is criticizing the newspapers, but little consideration is given to the question as to what people would do if there were no newspapers. Here are some of the results experienced in Quebec: Business turnover dropped sharply because stores could not advertise.

Sporting events had to be cancelled because they could not be fully announced.

People got married and divorced, and had babies, and no one knew about it except their immediate relatives.

Keys, dogs and pocketbooks stayed lost because there were no "lost and found" columns.

Absurd and exaggerated rumors were rife because there were no newspapers to publish the correct information.

Only the high spots of the news were broadcast and details were lacking.

Before the papers resumed publication, residents found out what a tremendous amount of service, both paid for and gratuitous, newspapers really give.

From a pulpit of a city church came the exhortation Easter Sunday to be loyal to whatever church listeners claimed as their own, and thus to set an example to the rest of the community. The preacher implored listeners to forget the radio, and to seek to remedy the faults of their churches from within rather than to neglect or ignore those churches altogether. The thought shows the trend today—a spiritual war against unbelief, in which Christian doctrine is not militant against other creeds. It is a healthy trend, and one which commands the respect of any man or woman who thinks.

So many complaints are heard that the daily task is "the same old thing, over and over." That is a horrible attitude to take towards the day's work. As long as one looks at a job as "just something to do" then that one will always feel dissatisfied with life. Perhaps it is hum-drum, but there is always something different even with a hum-drum job, for no two days are ever the same. You'll find a brighter outlook on the daily task pays big dividends.

BEAVERBROOK AND EUROPE AND A LINE FROM HISTORY.

A cynic view of the European situation as it affects Great Britain is contained in a despatch cabled by Lord Beaverbrook, owner of the London Daily Express, to a New Brunswick newspaper. He said:

"There will be no war in Europe this year or next year for that matter, and if we keep the peace for two years we probably can escape war for a long time. For national animosities are reconciled quickly. History proves it.

"Conditions for war do not exist among European nations. The French will not fight. They are a nation of pacifists. The Germans cannot fight. Their army would in present conditions be crushed by the French alone. Italy is only a second rate power. She must play a subordinate part either to Germany or Britain. The Russians dare not make war on Germany.

"As far as Britain is concerned, we have no intention of fighting at all and besides we give a hostage to our enemies in London which can be bombed at the will of foreign powers."

One of the most significant observations is this: "For national animosities are reconciled quickly. History proves it."

Amid the flood of comment, criticism and forecast, we think Lord Beaverbrook's observations worthy of consideration.

Is the time approaching when tenants will not be permitted to vote at municipal elections? This question came to mind after reading a report of a meeting of the Ontario Property Owners' Assoc. in Toronto, at which a resolution was passed barring voters who do not pay municipal taxes. The question has been kept to the fore for years, by the taxpayers whose claim has been that, "They pay the shot, and they alone should have the say." Before such restricted voting should be adopted, every angle on the matter needs careful consideration. At the present time a tenant may qualify for municipal office if he resides in a house with an assessed value of \$300. This being the case why choke off a tenant from voting in municipal elections. As it is now he can not vote on money bylaws. If it were decided to allow only taxpayers to vote in municipal matters, what about provincial and federal government elections. The only qualification one needs to exercise the franchise in the latter instance, is to be 21 years of age—yet the taxpayers are those who pay the governments' expenses. The time is not yet ripe in Canada to pass legislation permitting property owners as the only persons eligible to manage municipal affairs.

It has been often said that money will do a lot for people. Quite right! But not as much as people will do for money.

MAKING CANADA

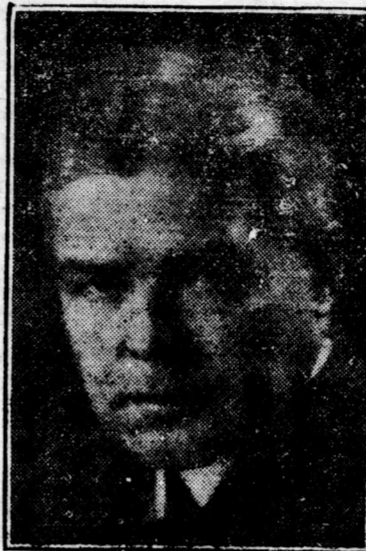
A BETTER PLACE IN Which To Live and Work

A Series of Letters From Distinguished Canadians on Vital Problems Which Affect the Future Welfare of Canada.

LETTER NO. 4

Dear Sir:

I have always felt that the "Weeklies" of this country are a far more influential and important section of the Canadian "Press" than our people understand. They carry in to the homes of their readers intimate local news that has a direct interest and their influence is accordingly great. That is one reason why I believe that the railways perform a useful service to the country in helping to make it possible for the editors and publishers of the weekly newspapers to travel across the country once a year to meet in convention and exchange ideas on public questions. I believe it highly desirable that your membership should visit various parts of the country from year to year, and thus become acquainted with the problems which our widely varying communities have before them.



You ask me what endeavour I would recommend to your editors to help make Canada a better place in which to live and work. It is a tremendous question and I am sure it is one upon which every one of four intelligent and patriotically inclined membership will have definite ideas.

Canada is faced with many problems. We have met and passed more of them than we can remember during the last quarter century. Those ahead are just as serious, but if we meet them with courage and a determination to consider only the welfare of the country at large, they will prove no more insuperable than did those which form high points in our past history.

Some of our problems are economic and perhaps these are the more serious. They mostly have found their basis in world-wide conditions and to some extent in limitations imposed by geographical situation, and there are those which are the direct result of public extravagance and a general disregard of the ordinary laws of economics in those days when we were more prosperous than we have lately been.

There are problems ahead, also, which seem to arise out of racial differences and from the fact that in various parts of this country we have communities who find it difficult to think along the lines of those of us who live in other areas.

In my humble opinion, the editors of the weekly newspapers would do well to devote study and space to such national problems as these I have indicated. I know of no better help to arriving at sound constructive decisions than may be found in the exchange of ideas which will be a natural result of your meeting together in convention. I have an idea that many of these problems would not exist were all Canadians even reasonably well informed on the points of view held by their fellow-citizens in other parts of the country.

Undoubtedly some of the difficulties that confront us are the result of bad leadership to which we have given undue confidence. Some of these self-constituted leaders have been educated by self-interest and others by belief in economic theories more remarkable for their novelty and widely heralded by thoroughly undependable promises of relief than they were for the soundness of their economic bases. The need is for sound leadership in facing national problems, and I would suggest that as these problems move forward to their solution it would be well if those who discuss them in editorial columns should look towards sound dependable leaders whose proposals for dealing with our problems are founded upon time-tested and proven fundamentals; and having found such leaders, they should be given whole-hearted support even when political expediency would seem to point in other directions.

I greatly fear that you will consider this letter unnecessarily long, but, I hope, not without interest. The offer of advice on other peoples' business is usually a thankless task, but you have asked me or my ideas on these matters and I am glad to comply. Furthermore, we all see difficulties ahead for this country, and I believe you and your colleagues can do much to help meet them. I am convinced, also, that insofar as you do so you will strengthen the position of your own newspapers in the communities in

TELEPHONE TALKS IN THE WATSON FAMILY

One Ring that Led to Another...



JACK ROBERTS and Sally have been "friends" for some time. But Jack took Sally by surprise (she really hadn't expected a ring this spring) and in this case one ring naturally led to another. Sally just has to call Mother who is visiting out-of-town. "We're to be married right away," she says happily. And Sally will call some of her out-of-town friends as well, who will appreciate having the news "first". Wouldn't you?



Reductions in telephone rates—local and long distance—in 1932, '36 and '37 have effected savings to telephone users in Ontario and Quebec of nearly one million dollars yearly.

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Spectator

Ottawa, April 19th.—There is a great calm about the parliament building these days. The Easter recess is still on, and the halls of parliament are silent. In a week, however, the mills will be grinding again. There has been a tendency for a number of papers to cavil at the small amount of finished legislation that has as yet been ground by the legislative mill. This does not mean, however, that there is little in process of legislation on a wide variety of subjects will be placed on the statute books before the session comes to an end. This parliament will, however, probably be judged by its restraint as well as by its achievements in the form of actual legislation.

Let us glance an instant at the economic and political conditions which form the background to the parliament's operations. There has been a recession in business from the high water mark in September and October of last year. The slackening of business has been much less pronounced than the slump in the United States. This has been the subject of comment in United States papers, the moral being that Canada is suffering less than her great neighbor because Canada has avoided pump priming and other colossal economic experiments. After the reopening of parliament the Minister of Labor will announce the specific measures which the government will adopt in its campaign against unemployment. We have been told that these measures will aim at the encouragement and assistance of industrial activities and the development and conservation of our natural resources. While business in Canada, on account of the effect in this country of conditions in the United States will watch with anxiety the efforts of the Washington government to solve its difficulties in railway and other fields, we have at least been spared the bitterness of the drastic recession that has fallen to the lot of industry in the United States. If we have a good crop in the West and moisture conditions at seeding time are certainly favorable, Canadian business will be greatly helped.

In foreign politics the threatening situation in Europe, which fortunately just now is temporarily at least less menacing, has given this country a defence policy which is being carried out with less opposition this year than last. Of course there will likely be a lively discussion when defence estimates come up after recess. An important feature of the domestic political background is the persistent need of the creation of a national spirit which parliament is patiently seeking to foster. This is going to be a long process, the allaying of sectionalism but no one can doubt that the object is thoroughly worthwhile. It is confidently expected that the work of the Rowell Commission on Dominion Provincial Relations, by showing how governmental responsibilities and taxation powers may be equitably divided, may help to remove grounds of differences between the provinces and the Dominion.

In the meantime the unemployment which they live.

With all good wishes for the success of your Convention, and for yourself, I remain,

Yours very truly,
E. W. BEATTY,
President, Canadian Pacific Railroad Company.

ment insurance amendment seems likely to remain in abeyance. New Brunswick's answer, to the Dominion query, that the government of that province would prefer not to agree until the Rowell Commission brings in its report on the general division of powers, puts another spoke in the wheel of an early unemployment insurance measure.

A high light of the balance of the session will be the trade pact with the United States, under negotiation at Washington. Making a trade treaty with the United States wedded for so long to a policy of high tariffs is not child's play. One may easily imagine the flood of warnings of dire disaster from all parts of the country that must have been pouring into Washington. But the pact on which high hopes are built will come in due course. Whether it can be come in time to have its tariff changes incorporated in the budget is more of a question. There have been rumors that the Anglo-American pact will be completed before our treaty with the United States.

A feature of the post-recess session will be the budget of Mr. Dunning. When it will be introduced is not certain. That may depend on when the trade pact with the United States is signed. The provisions of the budget are of course most carefully guarded. Some questions being asked are: will there be reductions on arm implement tariffs asked by Western members? and will there be any reduction in sales and excise taxes so ably advocated by R. J. Deachman of Huron County? With business not holding the 1937 levels thus far at least, there seems little likelihood of any important cut in taxes.

The electoral reform bills, curtailing and giving publicity to election contributions and expenses, and dealing with methods of electing members to parliament, the transport bill creating a Transport Board and controlling inland shipping and air traffic, loan shark legislation, a bill based on the report of the grain commission, unemployment relief measures, debates or estimates, discussion of the railway problem in senate committee, are a few of the important matters which will engage the energies of the members of parliament before the heat of summer will bring their activities for the session to an end.

THE GAME OF LIFE

We sit in a game which men call life
And fate is the dealer there;
And oft with a feeling of anger and fire
We call the play unfair.
There are times when luck seems
Only to frown

Whenever we lead or dare,
And we're ready to throw our cards
All down
And finish the game right there!

Yet this is the time we must play
The game,
And play it strong and straight;
For the turn will come; and what a
shame

If we haven't the nerve to wait.
We must play with a smile and a
manner bold
No matter how down we feel.

We must play the game as best we
know,
Though the deal be fair or ill;
We must play, tho' the stakes be
high or low,

For the turn must come—and will
For it's only a test when luck re-
tards

A player's winning spell;
The secret of life's not in holding
good cards
But in playing a poor hand well.