

The Porcupine Advance

TWO PHONES—26 and 2020
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BASIC ENGLISH

A lot of people these days are talking about "basic English," and whenever you find a lot of people talking about anything you are sure to find some newspapers writing about it, whatever it may be. Donald Gordon of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board hasn't rationed talk or writing yet, though some departments of the Government have gone quite a way along that line. In the meantime, however, talking or writing about basic English is just as lawful as having cuffs on your trousers or two pairs of pants to your suit.

Basic English is being hailed as a plan whereby the aforesaid basic English may become a sort of world language. It is claimed that English is one of the easiest languages in the world to learn, though the claimants do not prove anything of the sort in their own right. Starting with the idea that English is basically much easier to learn than French or Russian or Chinese or Hindustani, the claimants proceed to prove to themselves that all that is needed is to simplify the language and then anybody could learn it all any Wednesday half-holiday. Instead of having 38,000 words, like a dictionary, the ordinary man would be expected to get along with some 800, just as he was expected to get along with a single pair of pants until this week when the law was changed. In the language of the day, the idea is to ration words, without coupons. There would be just so many nouns and no more, after the plan of the meat ration. In the same way that a fellow to-day can have only so many cups of tea in a month, so under basic English he would have only about so many verbs with which to water his thoughts. Adjectives, like sugar, would be measured out with miserly hand, and adverbs would be as scarce as gasoline. Deponent sayeth not whether it would be a crime or not for neighbours to swap a word or two for which they had no use for a couple of others to sweeten conversation.

This basic English idea has been given a lot of free publicity in the past few weeks. There are several reasons for this, apart from any merits. Premier Churchill was supposed to say a word in its favour, and that set off a lot of folks. These same people would likely go completely wild over the idea, if someone suggested it would mean a second front in Europe. It is a wonder (or is it?) that no one has risen up to cry out loudly that basic English should be adopted at once, because the English-speaking world has fought so bravely against Hitler and all his works.

Of course, what has upset so many people in favour of basic English is that old idea that it is new. From sad knowledge and bitter experience The Advance can state positively that there is nothing new about this so-called basic English proposition. Already, there are altogether too many people who can only speak basic English, and not too fluently at that. There have been bankers who appeared to be restricted to only one word, and that is "No!" and politicians who knew only two, "Yes! Yes!" There have been reporters who have known far less than 800 words, and those not the right ones. If the plan is to help out these lads, there would also have to be something done about basic spelling.

Instead of being new, basic English has been in use literally for centuries all over the world. Literally thousands of people in all parts of the globe have made themselves more or less understood through its use. They didn't call it basic English. It was known generally as Pigeon English. A local Irishman assures The Advance that it was called Pigeon English because it was the native tongue of the English Sparrow. But that seems like a basic Irish insult, or something. No doubt, the Charlady of Judith Robinson's News would call "basic English" something like "bersek English." And sometimes the Charlady hits it off very nicely, thank you.

In behalf of basic English it is argued that foreigners would be able to learn this simplified language with very little effort and in remarkably short time. Thus, in practically no time at all, the whole world would soon know basic English and the tower of Babel would have no more place in the thought than it would have in basic English. That may be the fact. The trouble would be that it would be impossible to describe in basic English the difficulty that English people would have in translating their thoughts into basic English. For example, the famous words of Prime Minister Churchill would be translated into basic English:—"I have nothing to offer you but blood, work, face water and eye wash."

The present English language, rich in its descriptive powers and strength, developed from the basic English idea that obtained centuries ago. If the centuries of growth are to be cut away from the roots of the English language, it will not be long before British ingenuity will be building up more language to express ideas, and The Advance is sure The Ottawa Journal will not like that because

it will mean new words worse than "hospitalize" and "Affrontibility."

The Advance is not necessarily against basic English, but this paper would at least like to see it tried out in government directives and bulletins from the bureaus before it is too hastily adopted. It would be interesting for example, to see a circular to the rationing boards in basic English, on basic paper and in a basic envelope.

BACK UP DONALD GORDON

Newspapers have strange requests at times. There was one this week. A lady enquired for asbestos paper stout enough to withhold scorching, but thin enough to use for a six-page letter. The letter was to be a reply to a request from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for the public reaction to the board's ruling that friends or neighbours could not share each other's rations. This ruling is one of the apparently unnecessary and irritating bureaucratic restrictions that have added to the difficulties of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. If all the heads of all the ration boards in Canada send in their true opinions of this sort of regulation, the mails will be carrying a lot of inflammable material to Ottawa this week. And next week is Fire Prevention Week all over the continent. The public reaction to the bureaucratic type of rulings is definitely unfavourable. People are ready to sacrifice if it will help the war effort, but they have a congenital disinclination to wearing hair shirts simply to please some absent-minded individual with an easy chair in a bureau. The public idea is that the purpose of rationing is to provide for the equitable division of rationed goods, but that it is not the business of the bureau to tell the individual how he or she shall dispose of their lawful share of sugar, honey, gasoline or pork chops. People will cheerfully go without their accustomed tea, for instance, but will resent the suggestion that to give part of their sugar ration to their own baby or the neighbour's baby or even the neighbour is any form of crime. The public naturally resents the implication that the bureau is not only telling them what they may have and how much but also who is to consume it. The public feels that the individual is entitled to the tea or coffee or meat or honey on his or her ration card, and that all this has been arranged so that none go without. If one member of a family goes without some article simply that another may have the item, that appears to be a personal problem only. It would be most deplorable if the Wartime Prices and Trade Board worked against sacrifice and sharing with each other. Of course everyone recognizes the danger of black markets developing from any laxity in the use of coupons. For the proper enforcement of the rationing laws the sympathy of the public is essential and well worth seeking. At the outset the Wartime Prices and Trade Board had this sympathy and co-operation, and they can have it again. But for this desired end, it is essential that the people feel that the observance of regulations is helpful and not merely restrictions to satisfy some bureaucrat. Mr. Donald Gordon started with the very apparent intention of preventing inflation. It is doubtful if he received much support from the government. But he did have the people behind him at first, and it looks as if they will again line up in honest support of his department. Two of the irksome regulations in regard to men's clothing have been rescinded this week. No longer is it a crime to have two pairs of pants or cuffs on the trousers. These restrictions caused more dissatisfaction and irritation than was desirable, because the people felt them unnecessary and useless. It was believed that the only advantage was to some manufacturers and that there was no saving of cloth or anything else, but rather the reverse. A somewhat similar view is held in reference to the swapping of rationed goods in families or between neighbours. It is honestly believed that no injustice or inequality results. It appears that Mr. Gordon is anxious to know the mind and will of the people and to govern himself accordingly. His recent attitude seems to prove that he is only anxious to accomplish what he set out to do, and that he does not wish in any way to burden the public or establish any dictatorial bureaucracy. Because of this, there should be very general and generous support of Mr. Gordon and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. In the main, the bureau has been doing a really remarkable work. Let all rally behind Mr. Donald Gordon. That will be to the real benefit of all.

WILL THERE BE AN ELECTION?

Is there to be an election this year for the Dominion House? One man's guess is as good as another. Even Premier King does not know. He is guessing too. He is trying to guess whether there is any possible scheme by which he can spring an election with hope of any advantage to his part of a party. There have been many signs that an election may be in the early offing. The conference of Liberal party workers in Ottawa last week was one sign. The suggestion that \$3.00 a month be paid for every child in the Dominion was another possible sign. Returning a pair of pants to a lot of men in the Dominion and repealing the law that made it a crime to have cuffs on pants might be considered as other signs. Possibly, the biggest sign of all is that Premier King refuses to say whether there will be an election this year or not, or even to state definitely whether or not he ever said there would not be one this year. Of course, there should not be an election this year.

Indeed, those responsible for suggesting that there may be one should be charged with working against the coming war loan campaign. It is an odd fact that just before the last war loan or two there has always been some political skulduggery that made it harder for the campaign workers to do their part. Possibly the Premier intends to threaten an election if the war loan is not oversubscribed.

Why should there always be this trickery about elections? It is the people's business, and it is a complete denial of democracy when the time and conditions of an election are jockeyed about as at present. Premier King is an expert in this snap election game, but Barnum's saving about fooling all the people all the time still hold good. There was a great lesson for all concerned in the recent provincial elections in Ontario in that regard.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Still stands the motto of the King:

"Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshaken. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

The "Orderly Sergeant," writing in The Legionary, suggests that the original name of Hitler was "Shekelgrabber."

Everybody up in this neck of the woods knows

Judge's Summing Up at Cochrane in Recent Murder Case

Concluding Part of Trial of Wilfred Desroches.

Last week The Advance published the excellent detailed report of The Cochrane Northland Post in reviewing the trial of Wilfred Desroches for the murder of Mrs. Alfreda April at Driftwood on July 1st. In view of the interest taken locally in this particularly brutal crime, the detailed report appeared to be justified. Last week The Cochrane Northland Post pointed out that the concluding sessions of the court trying Desroches were not reported in its previous issue, beyond the announcement of the verdict and the sentence. The Cochrane Northland Post in its last week's issue deals with the judge's summing up and other features of this concluding session of the court, and this report is given herewith in The Advance to complete the record:

Masterly Address by Judge
"In a masterly two-hour address in which he held the scales with inflexible impartiality, speaking neither for nor against the prisoner. Mr. Justice Chevrier charged the jury on Friday morning as the Desroches trial neared its end.

"Both his opening and closing remarks were designed to impress upon the jury the solemn obligations towards society and towards the accused involved in their task. The power to decide the guilt or innocence of the accused rested solely in their hands, it was pointed out, while the power to interpret the law and to apply it rested with the judge alone. It would be just as much a great miscarriage of justice willingly to let a guilty person go free as to wrong an innocent person.

"Explaining the Criminal Code definitions of murder, His Lordship emphasized that in murder their must be intent, and "As I saw it, the defence does not deny that the accused shot the deceased, but without admitting it, claims that, if he did it, he was insane, or was so much under the influence of liquor his reason was dethroned and he was rendered incapable of forming the intent to kill."

"The defence need not prove conclusively that the accused was insane, in the same manner that the Crown was required to prove its case, the judge explained, but need only establish to the jury's satisfaction that the accused was insane or drunk, and that this condition existed at the time the action was committed, not necessarily now.

"Our law does not recognize the defence of irresistible impulse, His Lordship stated. However, if the jury should find that the accused was very insane, but was drunk—too drunk to form an intent—if he committed the crime, it would be manslaughter, not murder. A person is not not excused from crime by reason of drunkenness, but if in such a state the category of the crime might be reduced from a greater to a lesser one. If the jury found that the mind of an accused person was so obscured by drink that his reason was dethroned, and he was incapable of forming intent, then the charge might be reduced to manslaughter. Drink might stir a man up to violent passion without dethroning his reason, and in that case he was not excused, or if a state of intoxication were wilfully produced to fortify the intent to shoot, he was not excused, as the intent was there. The question was when the gun was obtained, when the accused went to the April house, had he formed the intent to shoot?"

"He had allowed Desroches' statement to be admitted as evidence, His Lordship explained; the question as to whether or not the statement was voluntary was one of law, and he had decided that it should be placed before the jury. But that was not conclusive. While the jury could not reject the confession as incompetent, they were the sole judges of its truth. Supposing the jury were to regard the statement as not containing the truth in whole or part, they would in any case have to analyze the circumstantial evidence, and the judge defined this type of evidence.

how Porquis Junction got its name through evolution. Porquis is the junction of the Porcupine and Iroquois Falls branches of the T. & N. O. Railway. The first part of Porcupine was taken and the "quis" of Iroquois was added and there you were—Heaven help you, if you were! There were simple folks who thought, until the last week or two that Toronto was named in something the same way. First, there would be "Tory Ontario." Only a step from that to "Tory Ont" and naturally on to "Toryonto." Of course, a lot of folks up here wondered why people from Toronto itself always called it "Taranto." In the last few weeks, everything is plain. All the Taranto newspapers have been full of how the Canadians captured Taranto, in Southern Italy. The chances are that Taranto, Ontario, was named in honour of Taranto, Italy, which the Canadians have captured. How they came to call it Taranto so many years before the event is for Taranto, Canada, to explain, and Taranto can explain everything. Having taken Taranto, Italy, the Canadians might try and see if they can recapture Taranto, Ontario.

Judge Allan Fraser of the Juvenile Court at Ottawa, paid indirect compliment to schools and teachers the other day. He commented on the comparatively small number of cases in his court, and said:—"With school open again, the boys tend to keep out of trouble." The influence of the schools and the example of the teachers are valuable indeed in building better citizenship. They help good homes and replace to some extent the homes that are not so good.

Objections, Raised, Withdrawn
"The jury retired at 11:37 a.m. Mr. Dean Kester for the defence then argued that the judge should have instructed the jury more emphatically that it was not necessary for the defence to produce expert evidence. "Mr. C. L. Snyder, for the Crown, contended that His Lordship had made this point plain, but then outlined five points which he thought the charge should have covered: 1, that the doctrine of reasonable doubt (to which the accused was entitled) applied not only to the charge of murder, but to a reduced charge; 2, that the psychiatrist's evidence showed that Desroches, had thought of turning back, knowing he was in a stolen car, but had finally decided he didn't care; 3, that April had testified he had known the accused for years, and the latter appeared normal in the morning; 4, that in connection with the suggestion of drunkenness the Crown considered the detailed nature of the statement made by the accused of capital importance; and 5, the verdict must be based on the evidence alone, and the defence had produced no evidence of insanity.

"After short arguments had been presented on both sides and the judge was on the point of recalling the jury, both counsel withdrew their objections.

GUILTY
"The jury returned at 3:07 p.m. and the foreman announced the verdict of guilty. At the request of the defence the jury was polled, each juror rising when called and stating that he found the accused guilty as charged. The jury was then discharged, and at the suggestion of the Crown, in view of the heavy task they had performed, His Lordship informed them that they need not return on Monday for further duty unless they wished to do so.

"After a short recess the judge returned, and asked the counsel and prisoner in turn if they had anything to say. They had not, Desroches' rather indistinct "no" being the first word he had uttered in nearly four days in court. Sentence of hanging on November 30th was then passed.

"The prisoner was taken by car on Saturday to Haileybury, where the execution will take place barring some unforeseen developments. It would be the sixth execution at Haileybury since the district gaol was opened there in 1925.

"Desroches showed reluctance to re-enter the gaol, but otherwise according to reports throughout the trip and in the death cell since then he has retained his former attitude compounded of indifference and self-possession."

Bill—Did any one of your family ever make a brilliant marriage?
Arthur—Only my wife—Exchange

Community Fag Fund Sends S.O.S. for More Fags for Overseas

Recent Broadcast Helped but More Donations Needed and Welcome.

The Timmins Legion Community Fag Fund sends out an S.O.S. for more donations. "Send over smokes!" is the call from the boys overseas. The Christmas shipment will be on its way soon. The Community Fag Fund cordially invites you to share in this community enterprise by making your contribution now.

Mr. Jack Brady recently conducted an original broadcast from the Legion hall on behalf of the Fag Fund. The following donations are a direct result of this broadcast:—

Stanley S. Saxton	5.00
John Reddington	5.00
R. J. Ennis	5.00
Mascioli Con. Coy.	25.00
H. J. O'Neill	5.00
Dr. E. A. F. Day	5.00
John Knox Jr.	5.00
P. Bardessona	5.00
R. P. Kinkel	5.00
Chas. E. Cook	10.00
E. H. Walker	10.00
M. L. Urquhart	5.00
W. Hogarth Jr.	1.00
J. Beattie	25.00
A. L. Sharp	5.00
Dr. McClinton	5.00

Total 126.00

In this week's mailbag the Community Fag Fund received letters from the following:—

Rfn. C. Tippet, Capt. T. D. Wallace, L.A.C. D. M. Roy, Spr. W. Stephens, Tpr. C. H. Dyer, Sgt. R. W. Smith, Pte. N. R. Woollocks, Gnr. G. Keeney, Gnr. H. R. Foster, Gnr. R. P. Shaw, Cpl. V. W. Thompson, L-Cpl. E. Belitt, Pte. V. Lepine, Tpr. L. Chenier, Spr. B. McClesney, Pte. N. J. Groulx, Sgt. G. Gillgrass, L.A.C. L. A. Robinson, Sgt. P. F. Murray, Pte. C. Stevens, Capt. T. G. Smith.

Donations may be sent to any of the following officers or members of the Community Fag Fund:— T. W. Tod, chairman H. M. Moore, secretary-treasurer, Box 250, Timmins; Committee members — J. D. Brady, R. Hardy, R. Russell, W. Tierie.

DIAMONDS

WATCHES

C. A. REMUS

Third Ave. at Cedar Street
TIMMINS
JEWELLER — OPTOMETRIST

THE BATTLE OF, BY AND for the GUNS!



Without firearms, the victory cannot be won. Our men must face with equal or superior weapons the modern armed foe. And our men must have all they need. So the battle for guns—great and small automatic guns—grows in intensity, as the battle of and by guns rages hotter and fiercer.

Bofors anti-aircraft guns, Vickers machine guns, heavy anti-tank guns, trench mortars, light artillery, heavy field pieces, coastal defence cannon. What an inspiring battle for guns our men and women workers are fighting!

Canadian workers in scores of factories are toiling day and night to produce these weapons. Great quantities are coming off the assembly lines—Lee-Enfield rifles, Bren guns,



Six thousand men and women of the Bank of Montreal at hundreds of branches are co-operating closely in rendering to war-workers, war industries and our Government the special banking needs of war-time.

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