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A GOOD NEIGHBOUR PASSES

In the death on Thursday last of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the United States loses one of its outstanding presidents—one who will rank on history's page with Washington and Lincoln. The world loses a notable statesman, at a time when noble leadership is so greatly needed. Canada loses that treasure, "A Good Neighbour." Happy families are the greatest joy on earth, and perhaps, next to them should be placed "Good Neighbours." Good Neighbours are not so scarce as some cynics would suggest, but the thoughtful realize that in the good neighbour they have a friend to be cherished. Probably, no other president of the United States ever enjoyed so large a share of the friendship of the people of Canada as did Franklin D. Roosevelt. In his talks to his own people, commencing with the familiar words, "My Friends," he seemed to include his neighbour, Canada, and Canadians listened to him eagerly and thoughtfully. The friendliness that seemed to be part of his talent, was warmly reciprocated by Canada. His death is keenly felt by the average man and woman in Canada as a personal loss—the loss of a "Good Neighbour." From his frequent visits to Canada he seemed to have come to an understanding and an appreciation of this country and its people that proved him truly to be the Good Neighbour. It will be remembered that during the recent trying years there were many times when no one but a Good Neighbour could have withheld criticism or advice. Others in his nation did not restrain the barb or the sneer or the cutting comment on conditions and circumstances. But President Roosevelt appeared to look beneath the surface—to see the people of Canada as they really are, with their faith, their loyalty, their hopes, their ambitions. He was the Good Neighbour. He coveted nothing from Canada but its friendship and goodwill. He was content that Canada should be its own self, loyal to the Empire of which it is a part, and seeking to work out its own destiny in its own way. He was the Good Neighbour, and as such Canadians will remember him with affection and regard.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the thirty-second president of the United States. He held that high honour more years than any other man in history. Coming from one of the oldest and most prominent families in the United States, and wealthy in his own right, he was the champion of the poor. He attained world prominence over many difficulties. In a democracy, distinction does not fall so easily to men of money and family as some imagine. The very things that seem of advantage prove to be handicaps instead. There is the danger that the family name or the family wealth will overshadow the individual. F. D. Roosevelt was himself too big a man to be dwarfed by these things. He went from one honour to another in his own land, and his broad outlook, his courage and his leadership made him an outstanding figure in this world of war.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had physical disability to overcome as well as the handicap of wealth and name. While at his summer home at Campobello, New Brunswick, in August, 1921, he was stricken with infantile paralysis, which left him with his legs paralyzed. It took rare courage for a noted tennis player and a talented swimmer to meet such a situation. He faced and fought his disability and conquered so far as possible in such a case. He discarded crutches for a cane and steel braces. Active in mind and full of energy, he was unable to follow his will completely but through his general health suffered to some extent he triumphed in remarkable way over his physical handicap. It is a sidelight on his character that when he found the healing waters of Warm Springs, Georgia, were beneficial to him, he established a Foundation there, for the helping of those similarly affected and who were without funds to obtain treatment. The President's Fund to provide treatment for children and others falling victims to infantile paralysis, and the fact that his own contribution to this Fund was always a notable one, is another proof that instead of self-pity Franklin Delano Roosevelt had generous sympathy for other sufferers.

As a world statesman F. D. R. will go down in history as a great figure. But the title that he himself would value the most, he has won by a noble life, keen understanding and thoughtful sympathy. On his gravestone might well be deeply carved the words, "He was a Good Neighbour."

BABY STUFF AGAIN

A gentleman (or as the case may be) signing himself as "Dell Watt", writes to The Powassan News to slam whang The Advance because this newspaper dared to criticize Mackenzie King's

open election bribe—the baby bonus. "Dell Watt" appears to be turned around in the matter. It might be that the name is turned too. Perhaps that should be "Watt Dell!"

By some legerdemain or other this gentleman from Commanda suggests that The Advance would starve illegitimate children to death. The whole record of The Advance is against any such notion. For thirty years The Advance has emphasized the fact that there are no such things as illegitimate children, though there are numbers of illegitimate parents. And The Advance is all in favour of feeding the children, but in some cases would be quite ready to starve the illegitimate parents. That is one grievance against the so-called baby bonus. It will feed and encourage illegitimate parents.

The whole letter of Dell Watt shows that he swallows the baby bonus bill, diapers and all, simply because it comes from the part of a party of a party at Ottawa, the part of a party of a party that is on the way to depart. Indeed, so much of the letter is taken up with unjustified abuse of Hon. R. B. Bennett that it would appear that the comment on the baby bonus is only used as an excuse to publish partisan propaganda. Hon. R. B. Bennett did not advocate a high tariff on everything that the poor man wanted to buy. The part of a party of a party at Ottawa to-day has the same tariff wall and on top of it has packed such an array of sales tax, income tax, radio tax and other onerous taxes that if the ordinary man to-day is asked who he is working for, he is in truth bound to say, he's working for the part of a party of a party at Ottawa.

To return to the matter of the baby bonus, however, there are several reasons why it is unsound, unjust and unfair. In the first place it is a crime against the home and the child by putting a premium on children after the manner of Hitler and Mussolini. Dr. Charlotte Whitton, who has spent a lifetime working for social betterment and particularly for the benefit of children, points out that though there are some 39 countries with forms of so-called baby bonus legislation, there are no civilized or Christian countries that have similar legislation in this regard to that of Canada's bigger diaper bill. In the case of the civilized lands the payments are restricted to the families where the children would otherwise suffer. This restriction takes the plan from the position of being a bonus for any old kind of children. Dr. Whitton knows from personal experience to give money as a bonus for children means simply that the parents get both the children and the money. Hitler and Mussolini knew what they wanted. Their bonuses were not to help the children but to get the children. Surely, this is not what Canada wants!

The Advance recognizes that there are some children in need of greater care than they are receiving. But they are not in the families of those who would spend the baby bonus on the babies. They are in the families of those who do not spend their money on the children. The remedy does not lie in baby bonuses, but rather in improved earning power of honest and industrious people. One way to improve this earning power would be to reduce the direct and indirect taxes. It should be remembered that despite what Dell Watt may say it is not the government, but the people themselves who pay for baby bonuses or anything else. It seems a foregone conclusion that poor people will not be able to support their families, or at least, not be able to fully support them, if on top of that support they have also to support one more army of officials and underlings that are apparently inseparable from any part of a party of a party scheme. What Canada needs is not more babies from those who desire a bonus for their babies. Rather, it is better babies—babies, well cared for and loved. Standards of living should be improved, instead of being crucified by taxes too great to be borne. Under the part of a party of a party scheme, part of the baby bonus goes to the army of red tape artists, and the rest of it to the wrong kind of parents whether they need it or not. Canadians may be trusted to support their families in the best possible way without government supervisors and interference. Proper wages in every province, not baby bonuses, is the right way to assure care for the children.

In his letter, Dell Watt (or should it be Watt Dell?) says that The Advance ignores the fact that people of high income have been receiving this children's allowance for quite some time in the form of exemption from their income tax. The Advance did not overlook that point, except to note what the Commanda writer is not fair enough to mention—that people who have any real income at all have been receiving an exemption on their income tax for their children. Anyone not getting enough income, to qualify for this exemption is not getting enough income. That is the whole point of the matter. There should be such minimum wages that all should have enough to live decently and bring up decent families. That cannot be accomplished by any baby bonus scheme which will eat up half the money spent in the cost of red tape and hangers-on. The scheme itself will have a tendency to keep wages down. All the partisan froth in the world will not alter the fact that the whole scheme in Canada is no more than a political bribe in which the really poor youngsters will not share.

MUSIC ON THE AIR

Lovers of music, lovers of radio, and lovers of their fellow men and women, and particularly

lovers of youth, must be worried over the type of synthetic music that appears to be most common and popular on radio programmes. It takes a morbid imagination to class it as music. It might better be described as sound with the distemper. It lacks in harmony and any inspiration it may have is injurious to those who train themselves to listen to it. With a whole world-full of music it seems a pity that any riot of hideous sounds should be allowed to capture the popular fancy. It is perfectly true that some time is given to what is termed classical music. Some of this is beyond the enjoyment of many, though it is astonishing how quickly people form an interest and affection for good music, whether it is termed classical or not, if they take the time to listen to it occasionally. There is, however, a lighter type of music, that strictly speaking is classical, but in the general mind, would go under the heading of popular music, because its vivacity, its harmony and its interest makes general appeal. The so-called popular music has little of this appeal. It is neurotic, nerve-wracking, disturbing. Would it not be possible for radio to attempt to displace this cheap discord with something of light but reasonable kind that would capture the popular fancy. It seems a pity that in Canada we should go to the jungles and the savages for music, so-called, when there is such a plenitude of the real thing ready to hand. If radio would give leadership to a movement in this direction it would be doing a service indeed to suffering humanity.

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."

Conservatives to Hold Convention Wednesday, April 25

Meeting to Nominate a Candidate for the Provincial Election

The fact that the Dominion election has been called by Premier King for June 11th, the same day as the Provincial elections in Ontario, is a piece of political trickery that should spur all to additional effort to win both contests. Premier King waited until Premier Drew had announced the date of the Provincial elections before he made the announcement of the Dominion contest. No doubt, Premier King realized that the Provincial victory for the Progressive-Conservatives would have had a bad effect in other provinces on the Dominion result. He figured that if Premier Drew swept Ontario, as he will do, then other provinces would be inclined to follow suit. In the hopes of avoiding this, Premier King has called the Dominion election for the same date as the Ontario one. Whether this apparently smart political trick will work as planned remains to be seen. There is a limit to the way that mere trickery will work. In the meantime the holding of the two elections on the same date will work much inconvenience to the general public, though Premier King will not care anything about that. There will also be increased expense involved in the matter with confusion also in regard to the duplication of polling places, etc.

As said before, however, this snarp political trick should have the effect of spurring special effort to the winning for the people of both elections. Accordingly there should be special interest in the meeting of the convention to name a candidate to contest this riding in the interests of the Progressive-Conservative party in the Provincial election. This convention will be held at Matheson on Wednesday of next week, April 25. All interested in honest and up-to-date administration of the affairs of the province should make a special note of that convention at Matheson on April 25. Several are mentioned as possible candidates. Among them are Dr. Neelands who proved an ideal candidate in the last provincial contest and who would no doubt poll a much larg-

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."

Stalin is respected. Churchill is admired. But President Roosevelt was beloved.

Recently Dr. Graham B. Lane, Medical Health Officer of the Porcupine Medical Health Unit, addressed the Timmins High School teachers on the subject of venereal disease. He painted a rather dark picture of the prevalence of syphilis to-day, and this tempted one teacher present to comment:—"So this is syphilization?"

No man in public life in Canada ever had such phenomenal luck as Premier Mackenzie King appears to enjoy. "He can get away with pretty nearly anything" is a common comment. It does seem, though that he was crowding his luck when he chose Friday the thirteenth to announce that he had decided to hold the Dominion general election on the same day that Premier Drew had announced for the Ontario provincial elections. When Premier Drew advanced the date of the provincial elections by a week, so as to avoid the cost, inconvenience, confusion and disfranchisement of forty thousand people through both elections being held on the one day it appeared as if Friday the thirteenth was not after all, Premier King's lucky day. In any event, it may be said that if the Premier's luck holds in the coming election, the people's luck is surely out.

In the coming elections Ontario and Canada have the chance to say whether they want parliamentary government, or something else.

THE EVIDENCE

Airman—They tell me that AC2 Jones has a right good voice. Is he cultivating it?

S.P.—I can't say about the cultivating, but I know he irrigates it frequently.—Globe and Mail.

Sense and Nonsense—The Kaiser was a smarter man than Hitler. He got out of the war while he could save his hide.

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