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Notes and Comments

Now That the Smoke Has Cleared Away

How many votes Col. Drew lost on June 4 by having failed to get rid of the secret police appointed by another government will never be known, but Mr. Jolliffe showed himself as quite the politician too, in failing to bring the matter up in the legislature rather than to wait to spring the whole thing on the eve of an election as something sinister brought about by Col. Drew. In order that our readers may understand what the set-up really consists of we feel it might well be explained.

In the years 1939-41, when Mr. Mitchell Hepburn was conducting the affairs of the province of Ontario, there was almost certainly a real danger of sabotage of the industrial war effort and even the military effort of the Canadian nation. In addition to the fact that there had been no time to rid the country of German and Italian spies at the outbreak of the war, there was in Canada a substantial political party, now designated under another name and pursuing other policies, which aimed to serve the supposed interests of Russia by diminishing the effectiveness of the Canadian war effort in every possible way.

The proper organization, for combating this danger was obviously the national organization of the Royal Mounted Police. But it was the fashion in Ontario at that time, led by Mr. Hepburn and vigorously encouraged by Mr. Drew, to maintain that the national Government and its agency, the R.C.M.P., could not be relied upon to do this job properly. Mr. Hepburn consequently endowed the province of Ontario with various anti-sabotage agencies of its own, which functioned with great vigor and expansiveness, and often with an entire failure to discriminate between actual sabotage and the perfectly legitimate business of organizing the workers in war industries. There was indeed a period when a large part of Ontario appeared to think that organizing workers was itself a dangerous form of sabotage. We are quite prepared to believe that one of these provincial agencies has a file of sixteen thousand dossiers on Ontario citizens; we are prepared to believe that the dossier on Mr. Croll, which is alleged to exist, was prepared during Mr. Hepburn's premiership though the one on Mr. Hepburn himself seems unlikely to have been started earlier than Mr. Conant's term of office. The R.C.M.P. was equally busy at the same time in the same way, and in view of the circumstances it is not surprising to learn that the two forces did little in the way of collaboration.

By the end of 1941 the German spies had been pretty well rounded up, the United States was in the war and was being highly co-operative along the border, the pro-Russian party in Canada had become ardently favourable to the war effort, and it seems to us that there was an excellent case for disbanding the Ontario agency and saving the taxpayers a little money. (Some of the police themselves might even have been making a more direct contribution to the war effort in industry or the armed forces.) But it seems to be extraordinarily difficult to wind up a special force when once it has got going. Perhaps the disposal of the sixteen thousand dossiers presented something of a problem. Anyhow Mr. Conant never got around to winding them up, nor Mr. Nixon, nor Mr. Drew, and they are still there. What they are now doing to justify their salaries we find it hard to imagine.

Mr. Jolliffe, in an election broadcast, stated

that "It is quite clear that this secret police is deliberately designed by Drew to spy on all opposition to his government and thus try and keep himself in power." But the only use that Mr. Jolliffe suggests as having been made of the reports of this branch of the provincial police is that they were handed out to Mr. Sanderson, the Reliable Exterminators advertiser, and to Mr. Gladstone Murray, the propagandist for the capitalist system. We have read practically everything that Mr. Murray has issued in the last three years, and we can recall nothing that could by any possible chance have come from a police dossier; he deals with general principles and not with personalities. Mr. Sanderson is of course another matter. His allegations in the Globe and Mail and the Telegram against various CCF candidates were declared libellous by the courts, so that if the police provided the information on which these allegations were doing no good either to Mr. Sanderson or to any of the opponents of the CCF. Incidentally the election in which Mr. Sanderson intervened was not a provincial one but the Toronto municipal contest.

Any more or less secret police system exposes the government which maintains it to the charge of using it for party purposes. That charge can be and has been brought successive Dominion governments for the more secret activities of the R.C.M.P. This fact is in our opinion a very good reason why a wise government should keep down its secret police activities to the minimum, and avoid having any if it can. But to assume, on no better evidence than Mr. Sanderson, that a police system is being used to provide political ammunition against opponents is not a proper or dignified course for the leader of an Opposition.

One of the biggest problems facing Canada and Great Britain today is this: How can Britain impoverished and devastated by the most costly war in history, buy more goods from Canada, states The Financial Post which suggests this as a partial answer at least:

"There are at least a million Canadians who would like to make a trip to Great Britain. There are thousands of veterans from the first Great War and their families who would like to make that trip. There are thousands more veterans of this war who would like to go back for a peacetime visit. With prosperity in Canada these people and others could do so and each visitor would spend from \$500 to \$1,000 on British transportation and hotel services. Such visits would supply British importers with millions of Canadian dollars to purchase our wheat, bacon, fruit, aluminum, copper, lumber, paper and a host of other products. And the exchange would be made without the loss of a single dollar's worth of business to any Canadian factory."

Your Next Motor Car

Postwar automobiles will boast a dash light to signal tire deflation and a dash meter registering miles per gallon, it is predicted, which adds that trailers will be homier, better equipped, with possibly some new low-cost models.

Unfair Treatment for Towns and Villages

In Ontario we have county roads, and roads owned by the Toronto and York Road Commissions, we have township roads, and all of them are subsidized by the Ontario Dept. of Highways. In the case of township and county roads throughout the province the subsidy is 50 per cent on either new roads or maintenance of old roads, even to the oil or calcium used on them. Then we have roads in towns and villages which these municipalities are left to maintain without any government subsidy. Is this fair?

Why should not towns and villages receive a subsidy the same as townships, may be a fair question, and one that might well engage the attention of the association of mayors, and the reeve of Stouffville intends to bring the matter to their attention.

The most remote township roads receive 50 per cent of the cost of any work put on it by the municipality in which it is located, but a town or village with a very busy street must foot all its own cost thus creating a great discrimination.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for June 17 Golden Text—Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 1:8

The Lesson as a Whole

The church or assembly of God in the world is not an end in itself. It is the divinely raised up agency to bear witness to the nations that God has exalted the once crucified Jesus, Christ, and set Him forth as a Prince and a Saviour. (Acts 5:31) He Himself, before He left this scene to ascend to the Father, commissioned His disciples to go into all the world to teach all nations (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19)—separating those who accepted the message by baptizing them in or unto the name of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These separated ones, in their turn, were to become witnesses to others and so the great program of world evangelization was to be carried on until the witness had gone to all people. The Book of the Acts gives us the beginning of this work, in accordance with the instruction of the risen Lord. We see the Word going forth in Jerusalem, in Judaea, then in Samaria, and after that to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). The Book itself readily divides into two parts. In chapters 1 to 12 we have, pre-eminently, the ministry of the Apostle Peter who opened the doors of the Kingdom to the Jews, as in chapter 2, and to the Gentiles, as in chapter 10. The second part is, from chapter 13 to the end, where the ministry of Paul is the outstanding subject. From Jerusalem to Caesarea we see the testimony going forth in power, in part from Antioch in Syria to Rome, the imperial city, we see the work spreading, in part two. It is worthy of note that the twelve, at

first, largely confined their witness to the Jews, either in Palestine or beyond, whereas Paul's chief ministry, though always to the Jews first, was among the Gentiles. As time went on, however, we know from early church history, all had their share in the witness to the nations as well as to Israel.

Verse by Verse

Acts 5:29—"We ought to obey God rather than men." While Christians are to be subject to the powers that be, as good citizens of the countries in which they dwell, they have also a heavenly citizenship to maintain (Phil. 3:20) and are responsible, first of all, to God Himself, so that if earthly rulers demand of them that which is contrary to the Word of God and a good conscience, they are not to yield for a moment, but are to stand unflinchingly for that which they know to be right.

Verse 30—"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree." This is the initial message which it is given to the church to proclaim in no uncertain terms. The once crucified Jesus has been raised from the dead by omnipotent power.

Verse 31—"Him hath God exalted to give repentance... and forgiveness of sins." Repentance is produced in the soul when one realizes the truth of the Gospel proclamation and understands that it was his sins that put Christ on the cross. Faith sees Him there as the substitute for sinners, and recognizes Him now as the risen Saviour.

more than human oratory. It is eloquence touched by the divine Spirit.

Verse 33—"When they heard that, they were cut to the heart." Their own consciences witnessed to the truth of the apostle's words, but

they were determined to reject the testimony, so they sought how they might silence the messengers rather than accept the Christ they preached, and therefore they "took counsel to slay them." How incorrigibly evil is the heart of unrepentant, yet religious men!

Verse 34—"Then stood up Gamaliel, a doctor of the laws." This man was the tutor of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22:3), a rabbi of great reputation among the Jews of his day, and one whose memory is still revered because of his fair-mindedness and great learning.

Verse 35—"Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves... as touching these men." The counsel of Gamaliel was good, so far as it went. He warned them against hasty conclusions and unwise activity, but he failed to suggest the wisdom of a careful examination of the testimony borne by the apostles and a comparison of this with their own Scriptures, which might have resulted in their definite enlightenment, as in the case of the Jews at Berea in Macedonia, some years afterward (Acts 17:11).

Verse 38—"If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought." After reminding them of certain misguided zealots who had proved to be self-deceived or impostors not long before, Gamaliel suggested that time be allowed to prove whether there was anything worth considering in the new teaching. His advice failed to take into account the fact that if the teaching was evil, many might be misled thereby, and if it was true it demanded careful investigation.

Verse 39—"If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it." This was true, but a merely neutral attitude was not becoming in a matter of

this kind. Even the attempt to evade responsibility was in itself to take sides against the Gospel and the God who gave it.

Verse 40—"To him they agreed." So far as putting the apostles to death was concerned, the council agreed to heed the admonition of Gamaliel, but they treated them as dangerous culprits by beating them before they discharged them, and in addition they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus." This, of course, the apostles could not agree to.

Verse 42—"They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." So far from being deterred from continuing their testimony, the persecution they had endured and the shame they had suffered only added to the zeal of these Spirit-filled witnesses as they continued to testify to the saving power of the risen Christ.

The Heart of the Lesson

There can be no compromise between the church and the world, unless it be at the cost of unfaithfulness to Christ. They are absolutely intolerant of one another. The friendship of the world is enmity against God" (Jas. 4:4). Its business of the witnessing Church to uphold the banner of the cross and to proclaim that the One, who there died, rejected by the world, now sits as the Risen One on God's right hand, and that salvation for sinners is found in Him alone

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THREE DAYS



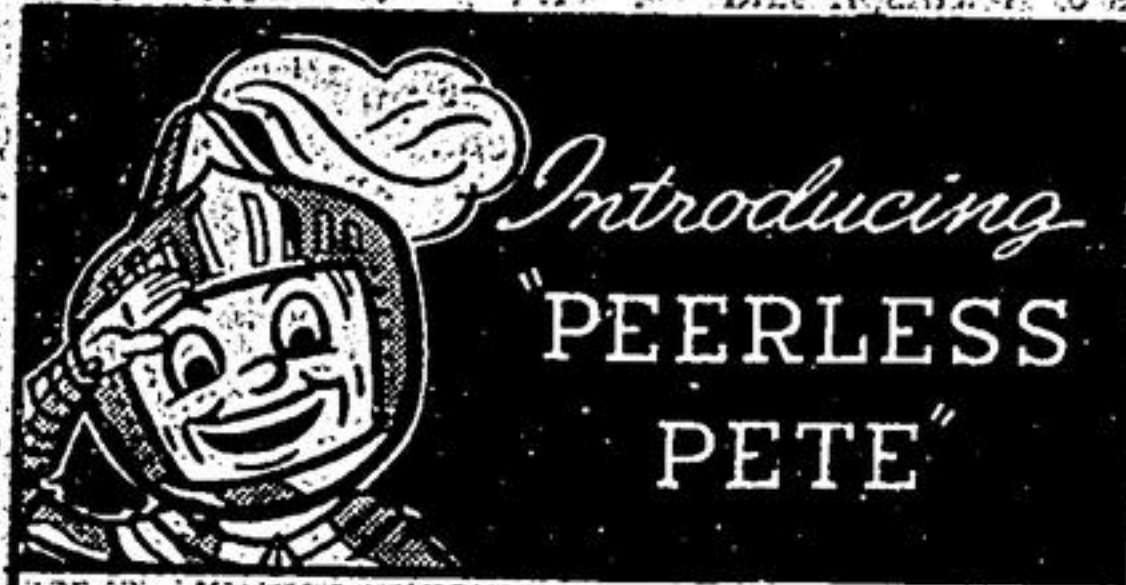
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