

THE DAILY MAIL

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FREDERICTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1936

Editor Has Blind Spot

The associate editor of a London newspaper achieved some notoriety recently by asserting that "the average Canadian" showed little British sentiment.

Not only native-born Canadians resented his statement, which unfortunately he made in the United States instead of here, but those born in the Old Country were astonished by the comment, for to them it often seems that Canada is more British than Britain.

In no part of the Empire was King George mourned more sincerely or more generally; in no part of the Empire is there greater devotion to and love for his successor, King Edward; in no part of the Empire was there a more generous and whole-hearted response to Britain's call in 1914; and the recent reunion of Canadian veterans at Vimy is sufficient answer to any charge of lack of loyalty on the part of "the average Canadian."

Apparently the editor concerned travelled from Montreal to Vancouver by train, stopping only a few hours at any point, and, after a brief stay at the Coast, returned East by way of the United States. He can have talked with only a small minority of average Canadians during his trip; but if he read the papers during that time he should have noticed more than a little British sentiment pervading them.

Of course, the populace of the towns through which his train passed did not turn out and sing "Rule, Britannia," as he went through; but, then, they didn't know he was coming, and possibly the citizenry wouldn't have done that for him even in rural England.

He may, possibly, have got into conversation with United States tourists during his stay on the train, or even at the Vancouver celebration, and naturally they would not impress him as being overcharged with loyalty to Britain; but he should have made sure he was conversing with average Canadians before he ventured on his criticism.

If he will return to this country and devote a little more time to his search for "British sentiment" he will have no difficulty in finding enough to satisfy even a British Tory Prime Minister, to say nothing of an associate editor of a Labor party newspaper.

Britain's Hands Tied

Great Britain's agreement "in principle" with the French plan of non-interference in Spain's civil war under ordinary circumstances would be the lead necessary to bring the other Powers into agreement. Unfortunately for Britain and Europe, the situation does not rest upon ordinary circumstances. National politics, material interest and unconcealed partisan distrust pervade the issue and obstruct any real leadership Britain might lend.

Manufactured or otherwise, there is in Italy an opinion that the French proposal "conceals an attempt to steal a march on Italy and help the Madrid Government" while restricting Italy with an agreement blocking aid to the rebels. It is a lame excuse for Mussolini's delay in replying to the French note and thus delaying the necessary conversations. The more logical explanation for this hesitation is that Italy stands to benefit from a rebel victory. Such a development would mean the establishment of a Fascist Government friendly to Italy across the Straits from Gibraltar, and placing one more obstacle in the way of Britain in the Mediterranean. Of added importance would be the completion of the Fascist ring around Leftist France and Belgium.

Whether or not the same reasoning dominates the German view, it must be admitted, in fairness to Germany, that her unsolicited offer to enter a conference that would establish the principle of non-intervention, provided it applies to "Soviet Russia also," strengthens the French and British stand. As a tactical manoeuvre it draws the outside element most troublesome to the Fascist mind into the programme. The diplomacy has other implications, however, in that it discounts the part Germany is alleged to have taken in aid of the rebels, and at the same time assures that the conversation, if held, will be a protracted one. In that case anything might happen or be arranged in Spain.

Another motive, whether or not it is shared by the two Fascist Powers, cannot be lost sight of. France is little more secure in her domestic affairs than was Spain six months ago. Already the Spanish crisis has drawn the extreme Right and Left into sharp disagreement. If encouraged, sooner or later the issue would crystallize into action, and the probability of civil war for France is not to be disregarded.

In fact, it would seem to be this probability which is creating the most alarm in Britain. The London Times used the neutrality question to steer straight for that danger in an editorial which warned: "Europe is full of tinder which a single spark of impetus or calculated partisanship may set ablaze. The civil war in Spain might easily become a civil war in Europe. (Britain's) immediate interest is that it shall not be allowed to involve a single country outside Spain."

Yet it is the partisan nature of the issue that has tied Britain's hands and restrains her from accepting or assuming leadership. The issue is between communism and fascism. In her own mind there is little if anything to choose between the two, yet to take the initiative and press forward in support of the arguments of one or the other would be to "show favoritism" and suggest personal motives. Any interference of that kind could definitely drive Europe into those two camps she has been at such pains to keep from forming, and Europe's next war would be but a question of time.

"How's About It?"

Now and then some bright mind will concoct a trick phrase that has a merited vogue and then passes on.

Now and then, however, some cluck will start a phrase that offends the ear, the taste and every sense of fitness. Not that it is necessarily a nasty phrase. Not at all.

The particular plaint we are making has to do with that, to us, boob phrase:

"How's about it?"

You'll hear people saying: "How's about a match?" How's about seeing me tomorrow?"

This department hoots at the suggestion that language must be made to serve grammar. But this department is just ornery enough to come out flat-footed against banalities that haven't a shred of sense or humor.

Having viewed with alarm this important question, we turn to some topic which does not cause us to break out with a rash.

"How's about it?"

Phooey!

SNAPSHOTS

The amusement committee of the Fredericton Exhibition should look "around home," where their support comes from, and where they earn their daily bread, before going to the United States to hire a band.

The Shrimers patrol and band are to have two big days at Woodstock. They expect to bring several hundred leading people with them—and we could have had them here.

No matter how much whitewash they put on the Whitehead affair at Devon it does not sound very good anyway you put it.

In all these writeups about weddings one never hears of the forgotten man, the bridegroom's father.

We were looking at a girl in slacks yesterday. It is a blessing that she could not see herself, "as others see her."

There seems to be a lot of books in some of our circulation libraries that could not be read aloud in mixed company. Now don't all rush onto Queen Street at once for the circulation libraries. Those who conduct the libraries say that these have the best sales.

Marysville tennis fans say, "We were not going to play tennis on Sunday anyway. We just wanted to preserve our rights and make the country safe for democracy."

Miss Rowan and George Cormier are helping to put Fredericton on the map, as far as the water part of the map goes. Fredericton water ducks can hold their own with most of them.

We have a letter addressed "Daley Male," which means us. It threatens to blow us up and murder us if we don't let the rubbie brigade alone. The sooner they start the blowing the more fun there will be. The fellow who wrote to the "Male" could not blow the froth off the beer which he blocks for. Watch us going up in the air.

NOMINATION DAY TODAY AT LE PAS

WINNIPEG, Aug. 11—Today is nomination day at Le Pas and Ruperts Land. The deferred election following the general Manitoba election will take place on August 31.

ABANDONED CAR

The Fredericton police picked up an abandoned automobile, license number, F-1173, last night. The car is registered in the name of a North Devon man. A quantity of beer was found in the car which was brought to the police station. No charge has been laid against anybody and the chief of police refused to give out any information in regard to the matter, although he probably was aware of what was going on.

IN CAMPBELLTON TODAY

J. C. Veness, of this city, officer in charge of the Maritime district of the Dominion Forest Service, is in Campbellton today on routine business connected with his office.

CONDITION IMPROVED

The condition of Mrs. Percy Meehan, who has been quite seriously ill at the Victoria Hospital this week, was reported improved this afternoon.

Smallest

(Continued from Page One)
partment or agriculture. The July 1 estimate—before the drought took its heaviest toll—was 2,244,834,000 bushels. The 1935 production was 2,291,629,000.

"Irrespective of weather conditions during the remainder of the season," the board reported, "there will be a shortage of grain that will necessitate rather heavy marketings of grain-consuming livestock and a reduction in the grain ration of livestock wintered."

"The shortage of feed grains will necessitate extensive readjustments of livestock numbers and of feeding practices. The greatest shortage of feed grains will be in corn, the total supply of which will be less than in 1934, and the greatest readjustments in numbers of livestock, will be in hogs, which are almost dependent upon corn supplies."

The crop board forecast total wheat production at 632,745,000 bushels, compared with 623,444,000 bushels harvested last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hursey, Mrs. Sokoloff, Miss Sokoloff, all of Sydney, N. S., are in town today the guests of the Queen Hotel.

DAILY FOREIGN NEWS COMMENT

ELIMINATION STRONG ANGLO-AMERICAN PACIFIC BASES ULTIMATE AIM JAPANESE POLICY.

Japan knows that without the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands as bases, the United States could not hope to wage a successful war against her. In this connection the Galapagos Islands, 800 miles from the mouth of the Panama Canal are a vital point. These islands are at present owned by Ecuador. In hostile hands they would effectively mask the Panama Canal from a strategic standpoint. It is rumored that Japan has been negotiating with Ecuador with a view to the purchase of the Galapagos Group.

From the standpoint of future security the elimination of the British bases at Hong Kong, Singapore, and the ultimate possession of Australia and New Zealand must be a dream, which every Japanese patriot would like to see realized. It is not only the tremendous possibilities of the two dominions to absorb surplus population, and furnish raw materials to Japanese manufacturers. As long as England possesses Hong Kong and Singapore, two great bases outside the fringe of Japanese islands Japan's Pacific domination is held in check. Much more is this true while in addition, England possesses in Australia and New Zealand, ideal bases capable of maintaining and feeding a major expeditionary force within a few days' sail of Japanese waters. From a purely tactical viewpoint, the elimination of these four key points would be infinitely desirable.

H. M. P.

New Civil

(Continued from Page One)
pendent during a visit to the Seville headquarters of General Francisco Franco, commander of the rebel forces in the south, after a 600 mile automobile trip by way of Portugal from the headquarters of the northern army at Burgos.

In the Atlantic seaport of Huelva, east of Ayamonte, and in all towns and villages between the Portuguese frontier and Seville, houses and offices likewise are decorated with the Republican colors. Nowhere is the Carlist red and yellow flag to be seen. This is in strange contrast to the spectacle in northern Spain where the Carlist colors are displayed all over and it would be suicide for any resident to hoist a Republican banner in his window.

Tricky Starfish

(Continued from Page One)
someone popped up with a dye that would not wash off.

"It was then discovered," explained Bailey, "that the colored starfish were appearing where none was supposed to be. We knew they were moving about."

With this major skirmish going against the starfish the scientists, under the direction of Victor L. Loosanoff, at Milford, Ct., are trying to find out how to exterminate them entirely.

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A TEACHER SPEAKS

To Editor The Daily Mail, City.

Dear Sir,—“Oh, Learning! What crimes are committed in thy name!” I wonder how many of us ever think of this! Not many, I'll wager; and, worst of all, seemingly never, by those who are responsible for our educational policy in this province of New Brunswick. A prominent educationist said not long ago to the writer: “The healthiest sign I see about this system is the fact that every thinking individual is disgusted with it; but, he continued, the thinking individuals from a small proportion of our public. They know changes are needed, but know not where we should begin.”

Our educative system cannot be rejuvenated and brought in line with the more progressive because it is as yet governed by hide-bound traditionalists, intellectual snobs and weak-kneed politicians.

In our High schools, teachers and pupils are striving—aimlessly and fruitlessly for a large number—toward the academic ideal—the mastery of the cultural studies. By these, I mean the best English, French and Latin literature, along with advanced mathematics and the social and physical sciences. Our academic High school course demands a fairly high type of mentality for successful work. Except in a few fortunate centres, all our elementary students must take this course on entering High school, if there be any High school at all. These studies are being miserably failed by an ever increasing number in our High schools, who drop here and there by the wayside. The crime is not that they drop out, and that is bad enough; they usually drop out with a sense of defeat and sometimes shame. Inferiority complex and a permanent prejudice against education is often the result, which attitudes may last for life.

It has been proven in the last few years that only from 15 to 20 per cent. of our students are mentally capable to take an academic education leading to the university. Yet many of our so-called educations have ignored this and are still doing so. Who are these people who dare to defy the demands of such significant educational findings? We shall see.

What of those students who manage to battle through to the graduation? After three years of hard study, nerves and general feeling of defeat, they squeeze through and receive the diploma, which stamps them as university material. Many of them say: “Thank God, that's over. I'll never have to do that again.” Has the aim of secondary education been fulfilled? Have these graduates integrated their personalities and decided what they want to do? Have they been permeated with the curiosity that should mark the graduate of the secondary institution? Have they been changed from pupils to students? Has passivity become a desire for activity? To all these the answer is no. They have been confused and defeated by a course which is too ample, too difficult and as barren of options as the examinations which culminate them.

Some of these graduates are forced to our college halls by the fond whims of their parents. Now our colleges are doing a degree business and the poor victim must set his course for the final acquisition of a degree. In many cases he has to drop out before completion of his course because he cannot do the work required of him. And adults are prone to attribute this to any other cause than lack of ability, and they simply cannot understand the lack of interest of the youth of today. Parents do not want to admit that their children are fitted for any occupation of a lower status, but the time is coming when they must. For the same reasons, many of our college graduates are dissatisfied with their choice of occupation. In reality, they have little choice, and many of them do not know what they want to do in life. They have never been given a chance to find out. After graduation, many of them find their way into other life pursuits, which they find congenial, and for which they ought to have been trained in the first place.

The futures of the majority are being sacrificed for the futures of the gifted minority, who are natively endowed to become our professional men. What shall we do to right this great wrong? It cannot be done by making minor changes here and there. We must first get the public to see where the trouble begins, and with public opinion behind us, to get down to fundamentals and overturn the whole system. We must establish vocational and trade schools throughout the country in which the 80 or 85 per cent. majority may be trained to become useful, happy workers and citizens, and not educationally defeated perverts. We must have our laborers, tradesmen and technicians. Let us train those who are fitted for these occupations; at least, let us not force them to attempt the mastery of

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an academic education, when their places lie on a lower occupational level than this would indicate.

Where shall we begin reform? Safe and secure behind the ramparts of vastly out-of-date custom, our university overloads, in all provinces, obstinately refuse to take High school products, which have not stood the dread test.

That is well and good, but should these feudal barons continue to dictate the courses which shall be given to all secondary school pupils?

They are smugly indifferent to changed conditions and we have still about the same curriculum as prescribed twenty years ago.

All our educational officials are paralyzed by the traditional demands of the universities. The system is controlled from the top down. That our authorities have seen the writing on the wall is shown by the weak-kneed regulation concerning High school entrance, passed in February. In the first place there was no need for passing such a pretence for wisdom. There never was anything in the school law to the effect that Grade 8 students must write High school entrance to enter High school. In the second place, it was probably the most ridiculous instance of passing the buck ever seen in this province.

Those who are sitting in the driver's seat are driving the old educational machine in its last days. They are stalling. Their places must soon be filled by younger educationists who have some enthusiasm and respect for recent educational findings, and a determination not to be bound longer by tradition and politics. Success to them!

Yours truly,
A TEACHER.
Fredericton, Aug. 10, 1936.

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