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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1936

The Illusory Freedom

Until last week the press, and consequently the public of several remaining democracies have been the victims of an illusory state of mind. Until Friday, April 3, the democratic press had believed itself free. But down through the decades of its "freedom", even today before the courts of the United States, it has been defending an illusion.

The authority for this is no less a protagonist of freedom and individual liberty than Dr. Karl Boemer, newly appointed Professor of Foreign Press Matters, the latest of the queer assortment of chairs created for the University of Berlin.

Dr. Boemer revealed the great illusion in his first lecture. Freedom of the press in Anglo-Saxon countries and in France, he said, was dead. In a great moment of detached impartiality he admitted it had been dead in Germany also. This fact was the reason, the need, for his appointment and the newly designed German press law. Between them true freedom—the first objective of honest journalism—would return, in fact was already returning to Germany.

Herr Doctor did not define his own, or his Government's interpretation of freedom. He did not, or at least the fully censored reports of his lecture that escaped the German frontiers did not, detail the steps of this great emancipation. It was coincidence, perhaps, or may be at the direction of the doctor himself, that the disillusioned readers of the disillusioned Anglo-Saxon press received an illustration of how the new press law operates.

On the same day of the Boemer lecture a branch of the Reich Press Chamber issued the following order to all newspapers and periodicals:

"We request our members to bring to the notice of their editorial and writing departments the following instruction and assure its unconditional observance: The name of Dr. Hugo Eckener will no longer be mentioned in newspapers and periodicals. No pictures or articles about him shall be printed. We learn the reason for this is the very strange stand assumed by Dr. Eckener."

Dr. Eckener's very strange stand was that he was an engineer, not a politician, and for that reason could not exhort the German masses who followed the propaganda flight of the new Zeppelin, von Hindenburg, to vote Hitler in last Monday's plebiscite. This literary execution of Dr. Eckener makes even clearer than the details of the law itself could do how the new freedom is to function. In fact, it gives quite a novel interpretation of the term "free".

By it "the German press has become an instrument of the people." By it "newspapers and editors" are afforded "an opportunity of doing their duty with responsibility to the State." The functions, therefore, are much the same as the Anglo-Saxon illusion was designed to accomplish. And with all deference to Dr. Boemer it is quite possible that the Anglo-Saxon press will continue to practice the illusion. Anglo-Saxon stupidity will demand this.

What Gain Italy?

Daily the evidence from Ethiopia indicates victory for Italy and consequently peace on Italy's terms. On Friday the war correspondents of the New York Times cabled from Addis Ababa that the Ethiopians themselves admit defeat is in sight. Week-end operations on the northern front made this opinion unanimous in Europe. After all it is Europe's interest, for with victory for the Italians Europe must decide where Mussolini now intends to go; what use he can make of his "colonial expedition."

Certainly few observers believe that he has any immediate plans for extensive colonization of the conquered territory. How then will he justify the heavy expenditures in life and money at home? What is it that Italy expects to gain? While Mussolini is one of the most candid statesmen in Europe, deceptively so at times, he is not altogether foolish. He gives play to candor when his plans permit it and when candor is diplomatic.

From his own point of view—there will be many outside Italy to share it—the first gain will be his victory over the League of Nations and League weapons. No one can deny that the League failed, and failed miserably. A second gain would be that he has established a colonial right to challenge British supremacy in the Mediterranean and to demand equality there. A third is the increased prestige victory in Ethiopia and in defiance of the League of Nations will give him. And the last, and by far the most important, of the obvious gains are the opportunities he now has to manoeuvre for control over the Balkans, the ultimate objective of Mussolini's foreign policy.

How this will develop is not to be guessed at. There have been too many twists in the road since Il Duce began to cultivate Albania, to negotiate accords with Yugoslavia, Austria and Hungary, for conclusions to be reached easily or safely. Germany was once part of the scheme. But Hitler came to power and Austrian independence and Italy's Balkan ambitions severed relations. This may not be so today. It may not be mere coincidence that Chancellor Hitler relieved League pressure on Italy at the psychological moment and a month later that Italy returned the favor by marching troops into the Lake Tana regions in Northern Ethiopia to remind Great Britain that she was still not a party to the Locarno negotiations.

The only conclusion, therefore, is that the Italo-Ethiopian war will perhaps serve Mussolini better in Europe than it will in Africa, although his full program there may not be disclosed. His Balkan ambitions are the same as they ever were, only today he is in a better position to bargain with his neighbors.

SNAPSHOTS

The members smoked a pipe a piece at the Legislature yesterday.

They smoked "rose Bud" as one member called it.

The C.N.R. will not pay cartage charges from this city to South Devon on freight being shipped over its road.

When will the C.P.R. Bridge be started? And what arrangements are being made to allow the river boats to land at the wharf here? The Saint John boat had to turn around yesterday and go down to Victoria Mills. We have had lots of time to provide a clear passage. Some one is falling down on the job. It is a wonder that the steamboat people, who are entitled to a clear passage, stand the delay.

So the C.N.R. is going to cut off the "Whooper" on April 26th. Soon we will have to use the bus altogether.

There is no use in the railway people throwing the bull about the buses and taking off their trains at the same time.

Our Mail Bag

THE NEW HIGHWAY

The Editor:

I feel it necessary to reply to Mr. Geo. E. Armstrong's letter in the issue of your paper dated April 9th, as he has misrepresented some facts and overlooked others in connection with my knowledge of the country through which the new road is being cut.

Mr. Armstrong states that he only employed me as a guide for a few days of one season. Apparently his memory of this is as vague as it is in connection with the nature of the country, as I guided one of his sports by the name of George Schaeffer for two different seasons in, still-hunting time that is we were travelling all the time over the hardwood ridges in different directions through Mr. Armstrong's territory. He goes on to say that the only other time he ever knew or heard of me being in the Wapske country was a trip I made to his camp with Asa Marsten. I wish to state that I was employed for several years as a game warden by the Provincial Government and in the course of my duties made several trips through Mr. Armstrong's territory and surrounding country accompanied sometimes by Asa Marsten and sometimes by George Gough, during close season.

Mr. Armstrong's hunting-grounds consisted of a block of ground about ten or twelve miles square reached by a tote-road up the Wapske stream with his home camp located in about the center of the block. Since Mr. Armstrong in his letter of March 9th

come effective only if the Supreme Court of Canada found that the Dominion was incompetent to pass legislation adopted last year along this line.

It was pointed out that the amendment to a bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, which was presented to the committee last night by Hon. J. B. McNair, attorney general, provided that the board could prohibit commercial practices which it found unfair or unreasonable and prescribe marketing conditions to correct wasteful and demoralizing competition, only with the approval of the governor-in-council.

Both Mr. McNair and Premier Dwyer assured the committee that approval would not be given unless the supreme court found against the Dominion legislation.

The bill, as amended was recommended to the House without discussion.

Amendments proposed by the attorney general in compliance with suggestions made during discussion of the measure provided that the chairman of the public utilities board, instead of being a full time officer as intended in the original bill, may be required to devote all his time to the duties of his office. Thus it is left to the discretion of the governor-in-council to decide whether or not he should be a full time official.

Another amendment presented by Mr. McNair provides that members of the board, other than the chairman and secretary, will be paid such salary on per diem allowance and expenses as the governor-in-council may determine. The original intention was to pay them only per diem allowances and expenses.

An amendment to the Schools Act stood over at a previous sitting of the committee for further amendment, was recommended after the premier inserted an additional provision that temporary loans for current expenses, which it was proposed to permit the boards of school trustees to make upon authorization of the Board of Education must not be for a longer period than one year.

\$135,000,000 Deficit For Past Year

(Continued from page One)

probable that the actual deficit for the fiscal year will be not less than \$135,000,000 when special expenditures for unemployment relief, public works projects and the railway deficit are taken into consideration. Unemployment will account for more than \$80,000,000.

It Pays to Advertise in The Daily Mail.

LEGISLATIVE PIPE DREAMS

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Melville: Smoke this when viewing the rocky swamps of the new road.

Mr. Young: A few puffs of this and the Caraquet Coast will be fishless.

Mr. Lawson: Give General Hill a whiff of this when he is campaigning in the next election.

Mr. McDonald (Westmorland): Smoke this pipe; it will keep you awake when Chairman of meetings.

Hon. Mr. Bridges: The enclosed would go well with your discarded tricorne "lid."

J. A. Doucet of Gloucester, the Government whip, "replenished" as they say at pink teas, and passed around the tobacco. Good old Rose Bud.

stated that he spent four or five months each year for 22 years on this small block of land his memory should be more clear in regard to it than his statements would indicate. Would it be possible that in the number of years which have elapsed since that time he has had visions of rocks and boulders while putting gasoline in government trucks loaded with gravel for the roads around Perth.

Mr. Armstrong further states that Seymour Trafton laid out the old tote road to Clearwater and accuses me of trying to steal the credit. I stated that I was foreman in charge of the job. This road was planned in Fraser's office from plans and my knowledge of the country and I sent Mr. Trafton and Lem Hatheway, both expert woodsmen and with a thorough knowledge of the country, in to do the actual cutting of a section of the road about 12 miles in length on the back end, joining up with a road which was already cut on this end. He says also that all my cruising and travelling in connection with my duties as woods foreman for Fraser Companies, was done on the Tobique and headwaters. I would like to say in reply that I had charge of five lumber camps on Clearwater which cut in the vicinity of four million feet of lumber each year for several years. The supplies for these operations were taken in from here over practically the same route that the new road follows and during this time I made a good many trips from here to Clearwater over this road, which should give me some knowledge of what I am trying to point out, namely that it is a good level route for a road with only one small bridge of any consequence between here and Clearwater, following the divide between Wapske and Gulguc waters, and passing through the center of the best stands in hardwood in this locality.

In regard to Mr. Armstrong's many trails of which he speaks, I only know of one which makes contact with the new road.

In regard to the fishing, I was referring to the fishing in the many lakes north of the road, which can be easily reached from the new road, and while there may not have been any fish in Mr. Armstrong's mud-ponds and bogs I can state from actual experience that these lakes are full of fine trout.

Mr. Armstrong's opinion of my knowledge of woodcraft seems very small. I would refer him in this connection to my employers Fraser Cos., Ltd., who were well satisfied with my work during the time I was employed by them, and who kept coming to me for advice and information when I was flat on my back in bed at the age of 68 after having worn myself out travelling through the woods with a pack on my back and sleeping under a tree wherever night overtook me.

In closing, I might venture an opinion that if the new road had been surveyed from Perth to Quarryville instead of from Plaster Rock, Mr. Armstrong would have found no grounds for criticism.

Signed,
NORMAN WRIGHT,
Plaster Rock, N. B.,
April 13th, 1936.

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