

THE DAILY MAIL

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1938

UNION JACK DEFENDS CANADA

THE Canadian House of Commons has spent hours and consumed pages in Hansard with its annual debate on a distinctive Canadian flag, and the British House of Commons is spending days debating the possibility of saving the Union Jack from being riddled with bullets. There are nationals in Europe as well as in Canada who would like to see the old flag disposed of effectively; it stands in the way of selfish ambitions, dictatorship and oppression.

Canada's Parliament could use its time to better advantage at this critical period. If there are no more important problems to deal with than a change of flag, why not get through with the Budget and supplementary estimates and go home? A new flag would not solve unemployment, the railway debt, the Western drought difficulty. It would serve as notice to the enemies of Britain that the senior Dominion is more concerned with getting rid of the Union Jack than helping the Mother Country with her difficulties.

If the House of Commons would unanimously adopt a motion to retain the Union Jack the effect on certain countries would strengthen Britain's position, and thus enhance Canada's security. For, whether or not some elements of the population like to believe it, all the defense this country has is that represented by the Union Jack. When we are able and willing to guard a distinctive flag against enemies it will be time enough to decide its color and design.

CHAMBERLAIN IS UPHELD

THE support accorded Prime Minister Chamberlain in the British House of Commons vote speaks louder than the criticisms which over-emphasized the Cabinet rift. Undoubtedly if it were a popular vote the verdict would be equally impressive, for Mr. Chamberlain is dealing with the destiny of the British Empire and the world, not with an election issue.

All the noise came from the Opposition. Few, whatever else they may believe, can accept the Labor Party's sudden support of the former Foreign Secretary as approval of his policy. His resignation gave it the opportunity to play politics with an issue that concerned the whole nation in an effort to destroy confidence. The so-called "deal" has not been discussed on its merits as national policy, because its terms are not yet known. Sufficient for the Labor Party that it involves a dictator, whose creed is the object of a personal hate.

If one goes back to the origin of the crisis, the Government's position is not one of choice. Mr. Eden and, more particularly, the factions which support him now are not entirely blameless for it. It was Labor foreign policy which left Britain helpless. The Rome-Berlin axis was the direct result of the blunder. What has the policy of the critics done to prevent it solidifying into the threat which Prime Minister Chamberlain is forced to meet now?

It is in much the same light that one must look at the charge that Britain has deserted temperamental France. Present British foreign policy proceeds from the premise that France is and, in the very nature of European developments, must continue to be an ally. But it was her fence-sitting at Geneva, in an effort to compromise principles with her Italian friendship, that destroyed the force of the sanctions program. It was against British advice that she signed the mutual-assistance treaty with Russia, and gave both dictators the opportunity of building communism into a border threat.

With her back-door manoeuvrings goes the instability of the French Government itself, which has made it almost impossible for Britain to rely upon France from one month to the next. A series of ill-assorted coalition Governments made up of political extremes leaves French policy in a constant state of compromise. And her eclipse in Central Europe and the inevitable effect upon her carefully laid alliances there leave her scant ground on which to build bold plans.

There is no assurance that Prime Minister Chamberlain's plan will achieve what, by implication, is his objective. But what past policy carried any such guarantee? Was there any guarantee with Versailles, with the League of Nations, with sanctions or non-intervention? True, there is no guarantee that Mussolini will honor the terms he makes, but that goes for the terms he has with Germany also. What is in the Prime Minister's favor is that the Rome-Berlin axis is the creation of incompatibles. Both are dictators. Both have some mutual points of view, on Versailles and on the League of Nations. But there is no mutuality in their outlook on Central Europe, beyond the point that both aim at being top man in that territory. On that alone the dissolution of the axis is worth a try, particularly if it can postpone a showdown until the democracies can see the wisdom of getting together.

RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

IN referring yesterday to the fact that Hon. Premier A. A. Dymally and A. J. Bordage, M.L.A., hold a record for continued service for men now in public life in this province, having represented their constituency for 21 years, it might be well to point out another record for men not now in public life. Hon. Dr. G. I. Taylor, of St. George, former Minister of Health, had when he retired from politics put in 27 years in continuous service in the House, whilst his colleague, Scott Guptill, was in the House for 24 years.

Snapshots

The only result of the bone-head action in St. John was to put the Fredericton hockey team in the dog house.

Who was the U. N. B. Senior that made the good toast at the breakfast party this morning? The girls say that he is a good chef.

Who were the two parties who walked out of a local cafe last evening without paying and were chased. They evidently became so interested in each other that they forgot to pay up.

The ladies of the Picardy Chapter I. O. D. E. can get up a good meal for a man and as caterers at public functions they cannot be trimmed. This was very well demonstrated last evening at the Governor's reception. The supper was well prepared and well served.

The new official director of the controlled press in Rumania is a Mr. Cucu. But aren't they all?

A youngster should have self-respect, but not enough to think himself so valuable that somebody should take care of him.

The gambler's cheerful losing does not prove him game. Losing money isn't painful if you didn't work for it.

Marriage is not always a failure. Like a Christmas cigar-lighter, it sometimes works so well that everybody is surprised.

Ontario Conservatives have decided that Conservative women are not to have equal representation with men at party conventions. It must be a sign of reviving morale when the party can afford to be fussy in such matters.

ONTARIO

(Continued from Page One) that. We want it right out in the open with newspapermen present when our books are produced. We have nothing to hide.

But we also want the probe to cover the other isms, Conservatism and Liberalism. They want to know where we got our money. Our books will show. We also want to know where they got theirs.

"Bennett says the Liberals have been trafficking on Canadian National Railways contracts, for election funds, I presume. What happens? Did you ever see such an Alphonse and Algy performance? It is 'After you, my dear R. B.' and 'After you, my dear W.L.M.' Each big party has a leader, and each leader is waiting for the other one to become specific.

"We want to know all about local contracts that have gone so much higher than estimates all over the country. One reason for our centralized organization is that we will better be able to prepare ourselves for what we want to do. If this Ottawa probe ever starts you will see the Liberals sneaking out information to us on things against the Conservatives, and vice versa. We don't mind a probe. Do they mind a probe of their affairs? We hear talk of fascism being alien-financed. That will be answered by proper proof. We are Canadian.

"But talking about Canadians, what do you think of the way our good Canadian political parties, the democrats handle things? I noticed the other day that a Trades and Labor Council, in Toronto, I think it was, condemned the Fascist movement in Canada and demanded a probe. The members of that council, I presume, vote Conservative or Liberal, for the democrats.

"All right. Now those gentlemen who adopted those resolutions belong to alien organizations themselves. They are members of trade unions which take orders from a foreign country—the United States. Here we are a nation. Mackenzie King is our head; he is Prime Minister, and, therefore, head of the Government.

"All over the land we have Canadians owing work allegiance to foreigners. Stop and think. A foreigner sitting in a foreign land—the United States—can pick up a telephone and order thousands of native Canadians to strike against native Canadian employers. Mackenzie King, head of the Canadian government, can't do that."

And with right arm upraised in significant Fascist salute, Mr. Arcand abruptly concluded the interview.

DIED

McDOWELL—At her residence, 146 Victoria Street, Truro, Nova Scotia, on February 24th, Mrs. Emma McDowell, widow of the late G. C. McDowell. Funeral Sunday, 2.30 p. m. from her late home. Interment will be made at Truro.

MURCH—Passed away February 24, 1938, at Bear Island, Mrs. John Murch. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon at two o'clock from the home, with services conducted by Rev. Mr. Killam and interment will be made at Queensbury.

THOUSANDS

(Continued from Page One) Premier Dymally. This bill a Fredericton bill, seeks leave to issue debentures.

The speeches delivered by F. A. McGrand member for Kings and E. W. Stairs member for York were short, to the point and contained much that made for the good of the province.

The Premier introduced the following resolutions in tribute to the late Dr. Roberts, Minister of Health:

RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly express its profound regret for the passing of the late Hon. W. F. Roberts, M.D., LL.D., who for many years represented the City of Saint John in this Legislature with honour to himself and his constituency.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this assembly record its deep appreciation for the distinguished service rendered by the late Dr. Roberts in the cause of public health, and,

FURTHER RESOLVED that the sympathy of the House be extended to the bereaved members of his family.

The resolution which I have just presented to this House seems altogether fitting and proper. We pause to pay tribute to the memory of one whose vacant chair today eloquently reminds us of the uncertainties of this life.

It may be coincidence, yet a fact, that it was just twenty-one years ago today that Dr. Roberts stepped over the threshold from private into public life. Of the forty-eight members then elected, twenty-two have passed to their reward. Of the remaining, some have stepped into another political sphere, some now adorn the Red Chamber; one Honourable member, Honourable W. E. Foster, occupies the dignified position of Speaker of the Senate of Canada, while yet another crowns the Judiciary of our Province as Chief Justice, His Lordship Mr. Justice Baxter; and yet another, Mr. Justice Tilley of the Admiralty Court of this Province.

Only two members occupy seats in this House today who entered in 1917 with Dr. Roberts, my friend and colleague from Kent, Mr. Bordage, and I. Dr. Roberts entered public life with a fixed determination to render a real service to the people and his native province. With a firm conviction that health is the greatest blessing of all our earthly possessions, he set about immediately to give a broader scope to the lofty ideals which had inspired and shaped his career as a private citizen and medical practitioner.

In the Session of 1918, he introduced and piloted through this Legislature our Public Health Act—Legislation which was the means of giving New Brunswick the place of honour in the vanguard of a great forward movement for the betterment of mankind. A year later had the proud distinction of taking the oath of office as the first Minister of Health in the British Empire.

The Health Act which he so ably administered for a period of ten years stands today as his monument in the minds and memories of the people of this Province. No man could desire more.

On that memorable occasion back in 1918 when he presented to this House his Public Health Bill, he fortified his position by bringing to the attention of his hearers words of world leaders. He quoted the immortal Pasteur: "It is within the power of man to make all infectious diseases disappear from the world." And again he quoted Benjamin Disraeli, one of England's great Prime Ministers of the Victorian age: "Public health is the foundation upon which rests the happiness of the people and the strength of the nation."

Those words were, as it were, lifted out of the dim past, but public health today, with renewed vigour, brings its blessings to mankind.

Quite recently Premier Chamberlain, speaking in support of the National Health Campaign, remarked that "nothing in recent history is more striking than the rapid development of the public health services which now place at the disposal of the people opportunities for instruction and facilities for treatment never dreamed of a century ago."

New Brunswick is richer, healthier and better because of the life and work of Honourable Dr. Roberts. His career was noble in the extreme, and characterized by a fine spirit of self-sacrifice.

As man, physician, member of this House and Minister of the Crown, as all those who have been his associates and colleagues well know, he was absolutely above reproach. We all join heartily in paying a due and proper mode of admiration to the character of the man who has gone from us, and whose eloquent voice is stilled forever. A man of integrity and balance, he was devoted to his Province and loyal to the Crown—an able and upright public servant, as well as a courteous Christian gentleman in the best acceptance of the term. By his death the government and Legislature have been deprived of the wise counsel of an outstanding member, and the Province has lost one of its noblest sons.

In tendering an expression of our sincere sympathy, to the grief-stricken widow and son of our departed colleague, no more appropriate words come to one's mind than those penned by the immortal Tennyson.

"We have lost him, he is gone; We know him now; all narrow jealousies are silent; And see him as he moved, How modest, kindly, all accomplished, wise;

No making his high place the lawless perch of winged ambition, nor a vantage ground For pleasure; but thro' all the trace of years Wearing the white flower of a blameless life;

For where is he who dares forehead shadow for an only son, A lovelier life, a more unstained than his."

HON. MR. SQUIRES
Hon. Mr. Squires, Leader of the Opposition, said:

In rising to second the Resolution of regret at the passing of the late Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Roberts, I am sure that I consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity upon the floors of this Legislative Assembly, as Leader of the Opposition of this Province, to express my feelings in regard to this man who I consider has rendered a great service to his own Province, as a pioneer in the Department whose object it was to promote the happiness and health of the people and whose name will go down as one of our truly great men.

In this work-a-day world of ours, where those who surpass in the development and extension of material things are accorded the acclaim of the people, sometimes we are apt to forget the people themselves and their happiness and their health. We hold human life itself only too cheap, and fail to recognize the higher worth of men whose unselfish aim is to promote the happiness and well-being and long lives of our people. Those to whose attention these things have been brought in the past, through great distress and trouble, can understand and appreciate very readily the true worth of a man whose aim in life was to save those who were near and dear to them. Such a man is the one in whose remembrance this Resolution is today before the House.

He was broad and tolerant in his views and outlook, kindly and sympathetic to those who knew him and were his friends, and unselfish in the great work which he had taken upon himself to accomplish. Personally, I knew him well, and had a high regard for his friendship and his sterling worth. He has passed from our midst. There are others to carry on his work but as a pioneer of a great service to his country, he can have no successors. May the progressiveness and the extension of his endeavours be a lasting tribute to what he has accomplished for our people.

I know that I, also, as well as the Premier, am speaking for our people in extending the greatest sympathy to the bereaved members of his family.

I also wish to express my profound regret for the passing of a young man, William M. Ryan, whose life was a struggle for attainment which he succeeded in reaching, only to be cut off in his prime.

I consider it a great privilege to follow the Premier in extending for our people the greatest sympathy for his bereaved family in this, their hour of trial and trouble.

I am sure it is fitting, in following the lead of the Premier of this Province, that I should have something to say, as Leader of the Opposition, in relation to the passing of a very distinguished citizen who at one time held the position that I now occupy upon the floors of this House, and I am also sure that it is very fitting that the Premier of our Province should express the very kindly sentiments that he has expressed today, in relation to the same citizen, who at one time held the position of the Premier of our Province.

It is a happy thing, I think, that there comes in the lives of our people and our parliament times when our political differences can be submerged in things that are truly of far greater moment.

As a statesman and a jurist, his standing was of the highest, and he was without reproach. As a servant of the people, his efforts have always been untiring as regards the promotion of what he considered as in their interests. No one at any time questioned his motives or his sincerity.

A people who is so fortunate as to have leadership such as his can only move on to desired happiness and

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Monte Carlo

prosperity. May his memory be a beacon light for those in control of our destinies to emulate.

A. J. BORDAGE

A. J. Bordage, M.L.A. for Kent, in concurring with the sentiments expressed by the Premier had the following to say:
Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased that an opportunity has been afforded me to associate myself with the sentiments expressed in the resolutions now before the House, and in the eloquent tributes paid to the late Minister of Health by the Hon. Premier and Hon. Leader of the Opposition. In this House last session only three remained of the forty-eight members returned at the general election of 1917—the Hon. Premier, Hon. Mr. Roberts and myself. The triangle was broken when the brilliant career of the Minister of Health was terminated by his death just a fortnight ago today.

Speaking for the Acadian members of this House, I can truthfully say that no Minister of the Crown or private member was held in greater esteem than he whose death we mourn today. We found him at all times sympathetic, friendly and courteous, and ready to give patient consideration to any requests we had to make. I can say without fear of successful contradiction that the Acadian people of this province have abundantly shared in the benefits which have resulted from the creation of a Department of Health, which will ever stand as Hon. Dr. Roberts' crowning achievement as a public man. I am proud to say that his efforts to improve health conditions in this province always had my hearty support.

It is scarcely necessary for me to say that the passing of Hon. Mr. Roberts is sincerely mourned by the 150,000 Acadians of this province, in common with their English speaking fellow citizens, and their heartfelt sympathy goes out to the widow and family in their great bereavement. May the Great Physician comfort and console them.

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prove health conditions in this province always had my hearty support.

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