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CONFEDERATION CONTRACT

AMENDMENTS to the constitution of the Dominion of Canada with a royal commission to investigate and make recommendations are being strongly urged by the Financial Post, a Toronto publication. In its issue of December 26, the Post makes statements which show a tragic lack of knowledge of the constitutional set-up of confederation, culminating in the following ridiculous remark: "If the British Government were to refuse to amend the B.N.A. Act along the lines that might be suggested in the report of the proposed commission because of opposition from some of the Provinces, then the Federal Government could go to the country on the issue and finally determine the views of the people on the proper way of amending the constitution."

The Financial Post does not seem to know that Canada is a confederation (not a country) which was established by certain independent countries or units of the British Empire for particular objects; that a constitution of a confederation cannot be amended except by the unanimous consent of the countries that are members of the confederation; that a commission appointed by the Federal Government would have no authority other than in an advisory capacity to the government that appointed it and would not be recognized by the British Government.

If the Federal Government did appeal to the electorate on what the Financial Post calls the proper way to amend the constitution it would make itself ridiculous. Even if the Federal Government did make such an appeal to the electorate and was returned, any bill it might introduce could be killed by the Senate; and further, if the Federal Parliament did pass such a bill it still would require the unanimous consent of the Provincial Legislatures.

May we suggest to the Financial Post that it have its staff study the constitution as it now stands with a view of having it applied in letter and spirit by the Federal Parliament before it condemns a constitution about which it apparently knows very little.—Saint John Citizen.

TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE

THE Japanese civilian populace now understands better how it feels to be bombed by military planes. Chinese bombs inflicted heavy damage to Japanese territory.

No praise for the performance accrues to the Chinese military aviation. In the main, it is a matter of small importance that Japan started the game of bombing non-combatants. Whether by the Chinese or Japanese, the bombing of civilian populations is outrageous.

Perhaps, if we must have war, the niceties cannot be observed. It may be a good thing that we have airplanes with which to carry war to the heart of government. Oldsters behind the lines may hesitate about sending the young to war when the realization comes that war can be brought to the war-makers.

The Chinese bombardment of Japanese territory will further aggravate the Japanese civilian population into demanding that the Japanese government come to terms with China. If so, the Japanese victims of the Chinese bombing will not have died in vain.

POLITICS ADD TO CONFUSION

IF the British people are as bewildered by the unexpected turn of events as reported in some despatches, it is a reason why Canadians and others as interested should not swallow all they are told. Much of the fuss made is political. The manifesto of the British Labor Party, on its face, is an effort to gain party kudos from Eden's resignation. Lloyd George's denunciatory speech would have been strange politically in any other tone. Mr. Winston Churchill can usually be counted on to put up a fight. The section of the press "agin the Government" has its job cut out.

These things are easily understood, and, while it is not to be charged that all political opposition is insincere, the opportunity seized upon to make party capital of a Cabinet dissension leads to excesses which have to be recognized for an appraisal of the situation.

An extreme instance of propaganda has appeared in the Communist Daily Worker of London. Under a gorgeous front-page display it publishes a report that a well-known journalist had delivered an ultimatum to Premier Chamberlain from Mussolini demanding immediate negotiations, threatening otherwise a war against the Western democracies by the German-Italian-Japanese triangle. What makes it important is the fact, according to a cable to the New York Times, that the report was inspired "by circles connected with the defeated group of politicians." Obviously "news" like this can be fully discounted, but in the range between authentic information and wild propaganda are much to confuse and little to clarify.

Although in the long run the British people show a sane point of view, immediate circumstances are favorable for agitation. Mr. Eden had become something of an idol, and not without reason. He brought fresh vigor into the Foreign Office, devoted himself slavishly to the policy of collective security through Geneva in accordance with Britain's official and popular hope for accomplishment, strove ardently to maintain his country's prestige. Undoubtedly his energy and tenacity gained him a following to which his personal qualities added. Withholding of Italy's message until after his resignation enabled Lloyd George to give him the role of martyr. Yet it is well known that British policy does not rest with an individual Cabinet Minister. The majority did not agree with him, and since he could not consistently change his convictions to suit circumstances his only course was to resign. It is to his credit that when the break came he urged his friends in the House to support the Government.

With this background, the Labor Party introduced a non-confidence motion, which was overwhelmingly defeated, and demanded an election. In the current confusion this party's chances of success at the polls would be good, and its program, pacifist at any price not long ago, would be a fighting one. Canadians, as well as the people of Britain, have reason for gratitude that there is to be an opportunity for things to settle down before an election is held.

In attempting to size up the situation from this distance we believe it essential to trust the National Government, giving the political plays only the attention they deserve. Nothing has developed to indicate that the British bulldog has lost its independence or sense of responsibility. If by some mischance the tenets of democracy are sacrificed to appease the European bullies, the storm of protest will be unmistakable. The world democracies, and especially the United States, could provide assurance against this by extending their support to the British Cabinet Ministers at this critical period.

Snapshots

There seems to be an increase in this city in the houses of an immoral character. From talk about the city the thing is getting to be a scandal. Is there ever a check-up made on these places of iniquity, some of which are said to be within a stone's throw of the police station? Some of the goings on in one such is viewed with interest at nights by some young people from a darkened room across the street. The view may be interesting and exciting but it is not very elevating.

• • •

If you remember these questions you look younger with your hat on: "Anybody gotta buttonhook?" "Where's my shaving mug?" "Did you trim those lamp wicks yet, Ella?"

• • •

Mussolini's reputed demands upon Britain fall modestly short of the surrender of the Crown Jewels.

• • •

New York despatch says the Callender quintuplets are calling their parents "Ma" and "Pa." Well, what's the matter with that?

• • •

We can't speak, of course, for the sales department, but the editorial staff of this publication is deeply shocked by the pernicious propaganda carried forth in this poem by some unknown poet:

The horse and mule live 30 years
And nothing know of wines and beers;
The goat and sheep at 20 die
And never taste of Scotch and Rye;
The cow drinks water by the ton;
And at 18 is mostly done;
The dog at 15 cashes in
Without the aid of Rum and Gin;
The cat in milk and water soaks
And then in 12 short years it croaks;
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen
Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at ten;
All animals are strictly dry.
They sinless live and swiftly die;
But Sinful, Gintul, Rum-Soaked men
Survive for three score years and ten!
Now, Arthur! You tell one.

• • •

The action of the Imperial Tobacco Company in dividing its profits amongst its employees is one of the things that prevents Communism. The Imperial Tobacco Co. has a record of using its employees right.

THREE

(Continued from Page One)

gained promotion to head of the New York F.B.I. through his work on the Lindbergh and Mattson kidnappings, said the arrests came just in time to prevent the sell-out of Panama Canal Zone, Atlantic seaboard defence and Navy shipyard secrets.

As agents sifted evidence taken from the suspects, it was not immediately known whether the arrests prevented the transmission of secret designs of two supermodern navy aircraft carriers now under construction in New York and at Newport News, Va.

In addition to Fraulein Hoffman, a native of Dresden, Germany, the federal agents locked up Gunther Gustave Rumrich, 27, a former United States Army sergeant once stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, and Erich Glaser, a United States Army private stationed at Mitchell Field.

Glaser was born in Leipzig, Germany. Rumrich was born in the United States but was educated in Germany and lived there many years. Asked if Germany was the unnamed "European power" involved in the alleged plot, United States Attorney Hardy replied:

"You'll have to draw your own inference."

(Cable despatches from Moscow today said Soviet authorities there were "greatly interested" in another angle of the case—the asserted attempt by Rumrich to obtain American passports for the purpose of aiding German spies to enter Russia).

Government agents said Rumrich attempted to impersonate State Secretary Hull in a telephone conversation with the local passport bureau, in which he preemptorily demanded 50 passports be sent to him at a mid-town hotel.

Quickly arrested, "Mr. Weston" stubbornly maintained silence for three days, refusing to disclose his identity, until Vetterli confronted him with a code key and coded letters seized from Fraulein Hoffman when the S. S. Europa docked.

Then "Mr. Weston" admitted he was Rumrich. Vetterli said the ex-Army sergeant made a complete confession of his role in the international plot.

Rumrich, who assertedly deserted from the infantry at Fort Missoula, Montana, was in the Army for five years, including a tour of duty in the Canal Zone. Later, he served with the 16th Infantry on Governor's Island, New York, the headquarters directing the coastal defence of the United States' richest territory—the port of New York and the great textile and chemical-producing backstretches of New Jersey and Delaware.

Fraulein Hoffman, employed as a hair-dresser and manicurist on the North German Lloyd liner Europa, was said by Vetterli to have acted as a "carrier" for coded letters and as pay-off agent of the spy ring.

Woven in the military secrets-passport thefts was a melo-dramatic plot to lure Col. H. W. T. Elgin, commander of Fort Totten and the 62nd Coast Artillery, to a New York hotel to gain possession of certain secrets and documents—and then kill him.

The plot was set for Jan. 29 or Feb. 1, but never materialized. Vetterli said Rumrich admitted the plot was formulated in Germany and that the same source subsequently ordered him to drop it.

Rumrich received \$50 a month for his work, it was disclosed, and when arrested he had a crudely-drawn reproduction of a tank and a plane.

Vetterli said the Hoffman woman's code letters included one offering \$1,000 for information on the construction of the aircraft carriers Enterprise and Yorktown.

QUICK

(Continued from Page One)

which was a curious outgrowth of the conference between Hitler and von Schuschnigg also encouraged Socialists and Communists who were making demonstrations in some villages.

Authorities appeared calm and expressed confidence that the some 15,000 troops now on hand in the province would be adequate for any emergency.

Sixteen tanks tonight rolled into this city—populated mostly by Austrian Nazis—reinforcing army artillery and aerial squadrons that encircled the city and prevented, at least temporarily, an Austrian Nazi march on Vienna.

Bombers and pursuit planes flew overhead. Machine gun detachments guarded roads into the city, 90 miles southwest of Vienna.

Orderly crowds watched the tanks arrive though there had been scenes of wild enthusiasm before the Austrian Nazi leaders temporarily abandoned their plans to seize control of Graz, capital of Styria Province and march to Vienna.

Austrian Nazi leaders said a two-day armistice had been arranged with the government at Vienna during which they would negotiate for more freedom of action.

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Our Mail Bag

THE UNIVERSITY DEFICIT

Editor, The Daily Mail, City.

Dear Sir:

Your Editorial of Saturday last regarding the University deficit contains the right idea insofar as this institution is concerned with a business manager. There is an absolute need of a business head who will conduct the business of the University on a business basis. Business men on the senate like Percy Burchill should appreciate this fact. You can not expect lawyers to appreciate it because many smart lawyers are amongst our poorest business men. We want a business head who will see that goods and supplies for the University of New Brunswick are purchased by tender, and that the graduates and those who would take an interest in their Alma Mater and who might be induced to contribute financially towards its welfare, would be placed in a position to know "what it is all about."

It appears from your paper that there is a report printed and that this report deals with the finances. This report is never seen save by a very few including the Senate which for the most part includes some very estimable old gentlemen retired from the busy world. They lend a dignity to the institution, but linked up with them should be some up to the minute business men and a registrar or burser, or call him what you will, who is an experienced business man who would give his full time to the job and who knows how to do it and lets other things alone.

You suggest that old graduates and other friends connected with the University come to its financial aid. There would be more chance of their doing this if the institution were placed on a business basis, and the public taken into the confidence of those in charge.

The President of the University is a scholar and a gentleman and devotes his time to the academic end of the college. He cannot possibly be expected to look after the business department also. In fact he does not profess to do so. It is a separate job and a big one if rightly performed. It cannot be carried out by two young ladies or any number of young ladies no matter how nice they may be. But by an up-to-date business man with experience in big business. When such a man is secured pay him a good salary and he will pay his way.

Then your other suggestion regarding people coming to the financial aid of the college may receive consideration of our wealthy graduates. But probably not until then.

—A Well Wisher of U.N.B.
Fredericton, Feb. 25, 1938.

B. C. FISHERMEN

(Continued from Page One)

The British Columbia Fishermen's Protective Association, which practically controls the gill netting on the Fraser in so far as white fishermen are concerned, and which has consistently backed Tom Reid (Lib., New Westminster) in his efforts to exclude Japanese from the fishing industry, favors solving the situation by systematically cutting the license quota to Japanese as urged in Reid's resolution in the House of Commons.

Faced with the announcement that the resolution will not be pressed, a spokesman said today that only those entitled to vote should be granted gill-net licenses to fish in British Columbia.

This is the only effective weapon which can be employed, he said. It would not be discrimination against any one race, but would affect all those who do not hold a franchise in the Province.

Many fishermen feel that a Royal Commission should be appointed to look into the situation, as it is felt the question cannot properly be dealt with until the fullest investigation is made.

"Japanese absolutely control the fresh fish industry," said Fred Roley, Secretary of the Protective Association, adding that this represents about one-third of the whole industry.

"Last year they operated five fish salteries on the Fraser, and it is only a matter of time until they will be entirely in control of the industry."

"The situation was somewhat relieved last year when regulations were instituted which permitted only one boat puller or loader on each gill-net boat."

Previously, he explained, there were three or four boat pullers to each boat.

Four hundred Japanese were last year granted licenses to gill net on the river, but actually there were about 700 fishing, as, he said, they were augmented by about 250 Japanese with boat haulers' licenses and 87 Japanese Great War veterans who have been given licenses.

The boat puller, it is contended,

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NEWS :-- COMEDY

HERE WED. & THURS.!

Leslie HOWARD & Joan BLONDELL

—IN—

"STAND-IN"

A FARM PROBLEM

(Continued from Page One)

production of farm goods. The contrary, however is the case, as all who have had experience well know that the marginal profit of farm produce is the very smallest of all businesses that one can name, so small in fact, that if one does not receive a certain price for potatoes, a certain reasonable price for butter, for eggs, etc., there is no profit, whatsoever, even on the current cost entailed in producing these farm articles.

"Now the sums \$440 plus \$370 plus \$200 plus 160, etc., would be very easily eaten up in these ways:

"No one man could possibly care for all these animals and farm sufficient hay, grain and vegetables to feed them. He would need a helper all the year round, and a second helper during the busy seasons; neither could one housewife perform the ordinary household duties (which are much heavier than in the City on account of the many great inconveniences), and at the same time care for the milk, butter, churn, make butter prints (which is a very considerable item in itself) wash and scald pans, separators, crocks, churns without a helper. Think of the huge slice taken from the sales for the paying of help. Neither can it be said that the farmer may have sons and daughters sufficiently grown to supply the needed help. Perhaps he has, but the failure to remunerate the grown sons and daughters has been a serious mistake in the past. They have left the farm in consequence. One perhaps, has remained, receiving little or no pay. He has reached the age of forty or perhaps fifty, before his parents die and leave him the farm. He is then too old to marry, has lost ambition and courage as well. This too has happened in more cases than one. His parents neglected to leave him the farm outright. His prosperous city brothers and sisters or their families demand their share, and the poor lad must leave the farm impoverished.

"Fertilizer is needed. The cost of this necessity every year to the try hard farmer is staggering. One good farmer told me recently that between the cost of help and fertilizer there was little left for anything else, and the everything elses are many and heavy.

"To house all these animals and their feed would require several commodious buildings. Consider the cost of repairs. They should be insured and the insurance rates in the country are very high.

"Though a farm may be fairly well equipped with machinery, nearly every year another one is needed, or if not another machine, a new part or several new parts, repairs for the harness, and all the necessary equipment. The list of new parts and repairs is endless, similar indeed to the care necessitated for the automobile, only there are many more machines on the farm than one.

"Subtract all these expenses from the figures quoted and you have the farmer's profit, if it is anything at all it is negligible.

"Consider any business, a store for instance, with the turnover that the figures total, from the profits on which sum, salaries must be paid and all over-head expenses. Could it long exist? The case of the farmer is parallel, because farming is essentially a business, a business which requires much more capital than imagined (which most farmers have not), a business which requires more than the average intelligence because of the small marginal profit, a business, moreover, which entails heavy, unimaginable expenses.

"The foregoing are some of the difficulties and expenses of the farmer, and he himself has not yet begun to live. There are other expenses and difficulties and many of them.

"With many, many thanks, and most sincerely,

"A sympathetic friend of the farmer."