

“FASCIST MENACE” IN QUEBEC IS DISCUSSED BY MONTREAL STAR

Probably More Individual Freedom in Quebec Than in Any Other Place in America

Did you know that a “Revolution is in progress in Quebec? Did you know that Fascism is raising its horrid crest above the helpless people of this peaceful and highly democratic Province? Did you know that we are fast joining the select company of the world's Dictatorships? Did you know that there is a “Shadow Over Canada,” reaching a total eclipse in Quebec? You didn't?

This can only be because you do not read the New York and Toronto press. If you want to know what is going on under your very nose, you must keep up with these voracious and restrained chroniclers of events in ‘darkest Quebec.’ They send special agents to visit our cities and probe deeply into political developments and sociological trends of which the folk who merely live in Quebec and mingle daily with their fellow citizens know nothing whatever. It is the old saying that, to learn home news, you must go abroad.

Some of the things that these probers have discovered are simply astounding. For example, the New York Post had a man up here who learned that there is grave danger that “pro-Franco, pro-Mussolini Fascists” might seize the lower St. Lawrence valley and hold it for a few weeks’ during which time they would supply a coalition of European dictatorship Powers with an air base for attacks on American metropolitan areas from Chicago to New York, from Atlanta to Boston! Doesn't that make your flesh creep? How can we possibly expect New York, and other points west and south, to sleep of nights when this brooding menace hangs over them?

But as if this were not terrifying enough, the writer goes on to point out that “it would be quite as easy to bomb New Jersey and Long Island school children—not to mention New York Harbor and Wall Street—from the Montreal and Quebec Military air dromes as it has proved to bomb Valencia playgrounds and Barcelona apartment houses from Majorca.” Just how our local Fascists are to get possession of our ‘military air dromes’ is not explained. If our militia has gone Fascist, the militia at all events have never heard of it. But this would not give pause to the super-heated imaginations that conceived the whole fantastic scenario.

There is lots more of the same sort. The C.C.F. are pictured—shades of the sainted Reverend Woodsworth!—as likely, if they came into power in the Dominion and met a protest from Quebec against “the establishment of a godless Socialism,” to begin shooting priests, raping nuns and burning churches and convents, precisely as the Bolshevik loyalists have been doing for two years in Spain! This prospect, we are told, is what causes Fascism to spring up here. “Men of red blood” would dislike such conduct. They would, indeed. Included in the ‘Fascists’ who would fight to the death against any such reversion to barbarism would be every member of the C.C.F. party, in Parliament and out of it.

SHERIFF SALE

The following property will be sold at Public Auction in front of the County Court House at Fredericton, N. B., at 12 o'clock noon, SATURDAY, MARCH 5th, A. D., 1938, to satisfy execution issued out of the Supreme Court, King's Bench Division. Property of J. Herbert Hay and H. Donald Hay, doing business under the firm name and style of J. H. Hay & Son.

ALL that certain piece or parcel of land situate at Skiff Lake in the Parish of Canterbury in the County of York in the Province of New Brunswick and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stake standing on the bank or shore of said Skiff Lake at the southwesterly corner of a lot of land conveyed by Arthur Ingraham and wife to the said Murray P. Durling by deed dated the 25th day of August, A. D., 1921, and registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds for the said County of York in Book 181 of records on pages 367 and 368, thence in an easterly direction along the said bank or shore of the said lake a rectangular distance of sixty feet to another stake standing on the said bank or shore, thence in a northerly direction parallel to the western side line of the said lot deeded to the said Murray P. Durling, nine rods to the rear line of the said lot thence in a westerly direction along the said rear line sixty feet more or less to the northwestern corner of the said lot, thence southerly along the westerly line of the said lot nine rods more or less to the place of beginning, with all buildings situated thereon and the contents of same.

C. N. GOODSPEED, High Sheriff of York County, Fredericton, N. B., January 27, 1938.

If only one sensation-seeking journal printed such appalling nonsense as the above, Quebec could well afford to indulge in its characteristic shrug of the shoulders and go quietly as usual about its business. But this sort of attack has become epidemic. Some of the writers pay a little more attention to probabilities and so do not obligingly furnish their own antidote with the poison, but this only renders them the more damaging. They might possibly find morons who know nothing of Canada and less of Quebec to credit some of their silly insinuations.

It is a pity that more of our neighbours, both Canadian and American, do not visit Quebec. This Province is not only the most firmly democratic community on this Continent, but there is probably more individual freedom in Quebec than anywhere else between the Rio Grande and the Arctic Circle. And for a perfectly logical reason. Quebec is inhabited by two different peoples. We are a double community. These two peoples are each so strong that their rights and even their sentiments are carefully considered and watchfully respected by each other. The result is that there is no such despotism of the majority as obtains all too often in homogeneous communities where there is no opposition to the majority's conscience strong enough to make itself feared.

Take one point. Suppose that Westminster could make the Sabbath laws for Quebec. We would all be like Toronto. This is not to say that Toronto, the Good, is wrong or that it is right. It is only to say that there is more individual freedom where there is such a conflict in conviction. A no man's land is created where the single citizen does what he likes.

Of course, there is a French and Catholic majority in Quebec—just as there is an English and Protestant majority in Ontario. Each majority occasionally does things under some strong pressure of conviction that that minority does not like. Perhaps oftener, it does things with whose objections the minority agrees but by methods with which it most emphatically disagrees. Thus, to take a much discussed instance, the English minority in Quebec has little patience with the pathetic folly of Communism and no patience at all with its association at times with irreligion and force.

But this same religious and law-abiding English minority would never have thought of adopting the ‘padlock law.’ That is not the English way. The consequence is that the English population of this vast Continent are easily persuaded that despotism must be rampant in Quebec when so despotic a measure as the ‘padlock law’ is in force. Of course, we who live here know that it means nothing whatever to the liberties of practically all our people. It is just a Latin way of doing what the English would do, but do differently. Still, even Quebec might think of its whole North American reputation occasionally, and not put weapons into the hands of its detractors.—Montreal Star.

Irresponsible Chatter On World Situation Lamented by Hull

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—State Secretary Hull said today there was so much irresponsible talking about foreign affairs going on that it was enough to give the world the jitters.

This was part of his comment on the declaration of Prof. Gilbert Murray in England that Great Britain would help the United States in case of war with Japan.

He said there was no way to keep persons from talking about foreign affairs. Everybody, he said, is trying to talk at once, and most of them do not know what they are talking about.

Professor Murray Explains LONDON, Feb. 19.—Informed of Secretary of State Hull's reference in Washington today about people who comment on foreign affairs without knowing what they are talking about, Prof. Gilbert Murray, of Oxford, against whom the shaft apparently was directed, denied that he had said there was a secret military agreement between Britain and the United States.

Professor Murray explained he had gone no further than to say that Britain had given secret assurance to the United States of her support in any ‘direct action’ in the Far East, regardless of the consequences.

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“THIRD DEGREE” METHODS USED ON VON SCHUSCHNIGG

Austrian Chancellor Shown Plans For German Invasion Before Receiving Hitler's Ultimatum, Say Reports Reaching London

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Circumstantial accounts are reaching London of the ‘third degree’ tactics to which Austria's Chancellor, Dr. Kurt von Schuschnigg, was subjected at Berchtesgaden before he succumbed to Hitler's pressure for Nazi dictation of the Austrian Government.

The Fuehrer, according to the Daily Telegraph, became ‘excited and uncontrollably emotional’ and accused his fellow Chancellor of tyrannizing over the Austrian Nazis and their ‘natural German sentiments.’ Hitler is said to have threatened to march into Austria to rescue the ‘down-trodden German population.’

According to the Evening Standard, when von Schuschnigg arrived at Hitler's chalet he was left alone for some time—long enough to enable him to study in detail a number of documents laid out on a table. These documents were plans for a German invasion of Austria.

Von Schuschnigg's journey to see Hitler was the most ‘significant and grim diplomatic event in Europe since Dr. von Schuschnigg's host ordered the assassination of his predecessor,’ says The Week. This lively weekly described the Austrian Chancellor's third degree as follows:

“He was first shown into an ante-room where he was actually confronted by some well known members of the illegal Nazi party of Austria who had turned out to tell him exactly what they thought of him. Well coached in their part in this ‘cracking process,’ they talked with vehemence and brutality to the helpless Chancellor. It is not hard to imagine the nervous result of such an experience.

“At the next stage in the performance it was not Hitler but four German generals who took the lead. (In fact, for a part of his stay Hitler was not even present but was conferring with Joachim von Ribbentrop in an adjoining room). Without the slightest disguise or dissimulation or any faint pretence of diplomatic correctness, the generals put it up to von Schuschnigg as a military proposition

“They mentioned the strength of the German division ready to move into Austria, they referred to the Austrian army and the slenderness of its chances of putting up the slightest resistance to invasion if Ger-

many were ‘compelled’ to invade as an alternative to assuming control without invasion.

“Characteristically, then the ultimatum under direct threat of invasion was offered, not by Hitler himself but by his generals—a procedure probably without parallel in history, pre-war or post war, of the relations of independent European states with one another.

“Then came Hitler—hours of him. In indirect terms but in language unmistakable he said that unless his demands involving control of Austrian iron ore for the Krupp factories were acceded to he ‘could not any longer guarantee the complete independence of Austria.’

“Dr. von Schuschnigg returned shattered to Vienna, and with their customary good cheer the British editorial and political writers on Saturday night, Sunday night and Monday morning sat down to write of ‘Schuschnigg's Triumph’ and ‘Hitler's Moderation.’

POLICE TROUBLES

The Town Council held up the annual appointment of the Police force. These boys in blue and Sam Browne belts gave Mayor Mason many a headache last year and he's not sure that he wants the experience a return of the inaction. The Mayor is the boss. The citizens have put their faith in him for another two years. During the past years he endeavoured to get the force to co-operate but in some instances it would seem as if he failed. He hates to do anything drastic “but what am I going to do?” One way out of the difficulty, though it might not meet with unanimous approval, would be to put the R.C.M.P. on the job, reserving the working members of the present force for tax collections. We are not advocating the change, but it's a way out, and the R.C.M.P. might be able to solve some of the thefts and assaults that have ‘buffaloed’ our town detectives.

A mayor devoting his time to the town's interests should not be embarrassed by a police force in which he has little faith.—Eastern Chronicle.

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