

THE DAILY MAIL
Published Every Afternoon (except Sunday) at 327-829 Queen Street, Fredericton.
THE MAIL PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Subscription Price: \$4 per Year by Carrier; \$3 per year by Mail
TELEPHONE 67

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1935
THE BAMBOO FLUTE
OF HUANG-TI

Progress and poetry have collided in China—and progress, alas, wins. China is establishing a uniform system of weights and measures. The efficiency boys say it “brings order out of chaos.” Maybe it does, but it substitutes the caliper for the birdlike note of a bamboo flute. The Chinese rarely have been much concerned about isometric precision. Dynasty after dynasty changed weights and measures to suit the emperor’s whim. It all dates back to 2700 B.C., when Huang-Ti established a standard that would just charm you even if you were short-weighted in the process. You may recall that bamboo has knots. Well, the distance between two knots of a cylinder of bamboo owned by Huang-Ti, when used as a whistle which produced a certain note that pleased Huang-Ti, was chosen as a standard of length. The bamboo cylinder was then divided into pieces which served as minor linear measure. Each little length was a Chinese inch. Each inch was further divided to approximately the breadth of a grain of rice. The bulk of 1200 grains multiplied by 100 made a Chinese liter. Sixteen times after the weight of 1200 grains made a Chinese pound. But the Occident is now “modernizing” the Orient and the Chinese will be taught how to measure so accurately that they can make bullets and shells and bombs with which more efficiently to kill one another at great distances.

THE AIRPLANE CHANGES WAR
As a defense against enemy air raids, the Manchester Guardian seriously suggests a need for moving, not merely naval and military arsenals, but also essential industries, from the southern and eastern coasts of England to localities in the north and west, away from the Continent or Europe. Another “obvious step,” it says, is the “duplication” of power houses and power distribution networks in the more vulnerable parts of the island as an insurance against the destruction of such vital facilities by enemy bombers. The Guardian rightly puts no faith in soothing promises by the British Government that the threat of enemy air raids may be met, either by anti-aircraft artillery or by the projected enlargement of the British air force. It feels that the only real protection of England in war-time assault from the skies is to scatter the more important targets and, where possible, to remove them beyond the easy reach of the raiders. In the modern military airplane Europe has found a weapon that nullifies all the customary methods and strategies of defense. We have no difficulty in sympathizing with the Guardian’s bewilderment over how to give effect to its own suggestions in that regard, which, it confesses, “run clean against the modern tendencies in an industrial community organized on a peace-time basis.” If the Guardian is right, prudent European governments henceforth must dictate the location of power plants, factories and other industrial facilities, not with a view to economic efficiency, but primarily to afford maximum security from air attack. But, even if that were politically practicable, it would not be tenable as national policy, for the nation which thus sacrificed efficiency would lose out anyhow in the world-wide competition for economic survival. It seems evident the true solution is to abolish military aviation by treaty. But, since that in turn is realistically impracticable as long as commercial airplanes exist, Europe apparently must live in fear until war itself is abolished.

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SNAPSHOTS
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It’s up to the R.C.M.P. to treat all papers alike in the way of news, and it is up to the Attorney General’s department or whoever else looks after these people to see that they do this. There is too much Hitler stuff up there.
*** * ***
It beats the devil what a big bluff some people can put over on the public.
*** * ***
By the way, why are the Mounted Police so long in getting after the man who murdered Dempsey near Jacquet River on May 28? Is there any reason why there is no arrest? People up there have been talking about this case for some time. The public are entitled to know about the matter.
*** * ***
The man at the Board of Trade who criticized newspapers for publishing letters without the writer’s name being published had better stick to his pills and liniments. He knows nothing about newspaper rules.
*** * ***
The National Government representative, Mr. Smith, delivered a fine address but the audience only amounted to twenty-five.
*** * ***
The red and white hydrants look very pretty. Those who painted them deserve a Jubilee medal.
*** * ***
University Avenue has a fine crop of burdocks as a side ornament—except the block next to the C.N.R. Station near the city engineer’s home. This is carefully and neatly looked after.

Kingsclear News
KINGSCLEAR, August 1 — The weather for the last fortnight has been perfect weather for haying operations. The farmers have nearly finished haying. A number of the men of this place are employed on the road at Lower Kingsclear. Jack Pincombe of Fredericton, is spending the week with his aunt, Mrs. R. Grey. Mrs. Cromwell of St. John, is the guest of Mrs. Walter Gallagher. Mrs. N. Burden was visiting Mrs. John Bamford on Sunday. Miss Fannie Fox spent a few days in St. John and New Maryland quite recently. Reid Good, son of Frank Good, of Fredericton, is spending his vacation with his grandmother Mrs. Charles Good. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kilburn and family also Randolph Kilburn motored to Brockway on Sunday and spent the day visiting Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Young and Mr. and Mrs. Davis. Lorna King has returned home after spending a few weeks with Mrs. Burgoyne, New Market. The Feast of St. Ann was celebrated at St. Ann’s church on Friday, a large number attended the services. James Dunphy was calling on friends in this place on Sunday.

Era of Prosperity
“With the return of a Liberal administration to office and the adoption of Liberal policies, carried out on broad and generous lines, and with more concern for human relations, than for the methods of big business, and of high finance, and of high pressure salesmanship, there is no reason why this period of depression should not be followed by a new era of prosperity; and why the unrest and discontent, which have brought these third parties into being, and to which they owe their existence, should not also disappear.”
Balance of Power
“They have not constituted themselves a party, with any real sense of obligation or responsibility. In this irresponsible position, they have sought to hold a so-called balance of power. Indeed, this is exactly what is put forward by many as the end at which a third party should aim; a measure of power, with no measure of responsibility. But that is not, by any means the worst feature. If members of third parties remained a group or groups, championing definite principles and policies, the situation might not be so difficult for a government to handle. They tend, however, to become, not so much a group or even groups of known mind and purpose, but an aggregation with as many minds and purposes as there are individuals.”

MacKenzie King Raps Third Parties, National Gov’t

(Continued from Page One)
ments? Are you prepared to take chances on policies which, over a period of another five years will mean bankruptcy for yourself and the country, more in the way of unemployment, and further prolonged depression? These are questions you do well to ask yourselves, with respect, not only to a government which long since has lost the confidence of the electorate in all parts of Canada, and is now, shamefacedly, appealing to you for a renewal of your confidence; but also with respect to what is being promised and proposed by untried and newly created political parties.”
The Liberal leader then spoke of political parties, claiming there was nothing sinister or wrong about them, as some people whispered. A political party was a means to an end, a means whereby men and women of like political thought could accomplish their objects.
“Even Mr. Woodsworth and Mr. Stevens,” the Liberal leader continued “who seek to create a prejudice in your minds against what they speak of as the two old political parties, parties, have found it necessary, in order to further the aims they have in view, to organize political parties of their own.
“Are their aims any the less genuine because they are being championed by a political party? Would these parties be any the less worthy of support, if, in addition to their names, they had great traditions, and had fought from generation to generation for the ends they profess to be seeking to serve? You will do well, especially where there is a tendency to tear up everything by the roots, and to get aboard the last carry-all that comes along, to see that the vehicle to which, for the next five years, you intend to trust your individual fortunes, and the political and economic life of our country, is made of something more substantial than the banners planned to its sides, and the volume of sound its musicians are capable of producing.”

Individual Liberty
“I ask you to think of what, under such circumstances, will become of individual liberty. If, on the other hand, the existing Tory bureaucracy and Tory Senate, are to be made amenable to public opinion, and Liberal measures, by whatever name they may be called, are to have a chance at all, it will only be by the return of a House of Commons which is overwhelmingly Liberal.
“This brings me to the most important of all the questions, which I should like my fellow-countrymen to ask themselves. This question can be expressed in a single word. It is a very difficult word, but it is a very old one, and one that is full of significance. That word is “Whither”. Whither are we tending in Canada today? That question should make its appeal to all who have their homes in this country, and who value freedom, and free institutions. It is a word which, above all, should appeal to the youth of our land who are facing a future all too unknown and uncertain.”
Mr. King recalled the years of the (Continued on Page Five)

Need Majority
“I want to say to my fellow-countrymen, very earnestly, that the times through which we are passing are of such a nature that no government, except it be a government enjoying the most complete confidence of the people of Canada, can hope to meet the needs of the present, or be equal to the grave situations by which, in any month or year, Canada may be confronted as a result of conditions at home and abroad. Stability and an unmistakable majority are more essential than ever.”
“And what has come in the stead of parliamentary methods? Hitlerism in Germany, Fascism in Italy, Communism in Russia, and in all, the death of democracy. Is that what we wish to see happen in Canada? If not you will do well to ask yourselves the question, whither have we been tending in the past five years, and whither are we likely to tend, if some of the doctrines being advocated by more than one of the parties appealing to you today, are given countenance in our land?
“For my part, I propose to stand or fall upholding, in all things, the parliamentary method of government. I propose to test all policies and all proposals by the simple method of asking, whither they tend if they tend in the direction of monopoly, if they mean more in the way of compulsion, and, above all, if they are not susceptible of the parliamentary method and thereby imply dictatorship, I shall feel that the presumption is overwhelmingly against them.”

NO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
“That is why, amongst other changes which are being advocated today, I am opposed to the movement in favor of a so-called national government, either as desirable at the moment or as something to be effected in the course of the next Parliament. Rightly understood, I believe national government to be but another form of dictatorship, the most subtle of all, perhaps, because its name and its pretensions are so plausible.
“I don’t doubt the sincerity of many of those who are its advocates, but, with all due respect to those who are not advocating it, as undoubtedly some are, from ulterior motives, I do doubt their understanding of government, and of the value of freedom of discussion, of argument, and reason, and persuasion, as being of the very essence of our parliamentary system.
“Traced to its source — the source that is financing the present movement—it will I believe, be found that the demand for national government is a last desperate effort on the part of certain persons, enjoying privileges denied to others, to deal with the railways, the tariffs, and taxation, in a manner which will serve to further their own special interests.
“Under the guise of submerging partisanship and gaining political unity for public service, it would seek to do, by a combination of parties, things for which no single party would dare to ask public approval. In plain English, national government, if established at this time, would sacrifice democracy to serve the ends of plutocracy.”

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
“I ask you to think of what, under such circumstances, will become of individual liberty. If, on the other hand, the existing Tory bureaucracy and Tory Senate, are to be made amenable to public opinion, and Liberal measures, by whatever name they may be called, are to have a chance at all, it will only be by the return of a House of Commons which is overwhelmingly Liberal.
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