The Maritime Broadcaster

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OLD AGE FACTS

THE QUESTION of old age pensions is very important particularly in view of present-day conditions. There is still some debate on the age at which a person should receive the old age pension. Some advocate 60, some 65 and some 70 years as the retiring age. All of this has brought to light some startling figures.

It is estimated in England that approximately three per cent. of the population have reached the age of 70 years. Taking an average group of 100 men, who were recorded at the age of 25 years it was found that ten years later, five had died, 10 were wealthy, 10 were well-to-do, 40 were living on their earnings and 35 showed no material improvement. At the age of 45 years, 16 had died, only one was wealthy, three well-to-do, 65 lived on their earnings and 15 were no longer self-supporting. At the age of 55 years, 20 had died, one was wealthy, three were still well-to do, 46 lived on their earnings and 30 were not self-supporting. At the age of 65 years, 36 had died, one was wealthy, four were well-to-do, only five lived on their earnings and 54 were not self-supporting.

In the United States it is said that more than 80 per cent. of the men aged 65 years or more are either in institutions for the indigent or are burdens on their children or depndent upon the whims of others for their daily bread.

BEWARE OF THE GREEKS BEARING GIFTS

ONTARIO canners are showing an interest in New Brunswick again. They suggest that they might be induced to establish a canning factory in the vicinity of Woodstock, if sufficient inducement is offered. The Ontario canners are interested more in keeping canneries away from New Brunswick than they are in starting them. In the past, experience with these gentlemen has been that they will come into a community, get concessions and induce local capital to invest. They start a factory but under such conditions that it cannot hope to progress. Then when the project has become a flop the promoters have that as an example of why New Brunswick cannot operate canning factories.

If the people of Woodstock want a canning factory they better promote and run it themselves. No doubt the Government of the Province will come out with some scheme of assistance for local canneries, and Woodstock better wait for something along that line rather than putting their heads into the Ontario noose. It must be remembered that locally canned goods must go into competition with similar goods put up in Ontario and in order to offset this, the Provincial Government might see its way clear to put on an educational campaign for New Brunswick products, which would include canned goods.

New Brunswick, in times past, has seen too much of these "Greeks bearing gifts" and it is time the people got wise to these schemes of exploitation, which lead nowhere excepting to the advantage of the big shots in Ontario or Montreal.

THE ST. LAWRENCE

SOME ONE in Ottawa would have us believe that the ice-breaking operations, which are carried on in the St. Lawrence River, in the spring and fall, were carried on to prevent floods. We, of the Maritimes, would be made to believe that the ice-breakers were being used to prevent floods and not to prolong the navigaiton period of the St. Lawrence so that Montreal can take away from Maritime ports the business which belongs to them.

It might be asked if this ice-breaking is a federal matter and if so why is the Province of Quebec being given protection against floods when the other Provinces must look after themselves?

The people of the Dominion are paying for the ice-breaking in the St. Lawrence. It might be drawn to the attention of the federal authorities that the Saint John river in New Brunswick also floods wide areas in the spring but nothing is ever heard of federal government ice-breakers being utilized for breaking up the river ice to prevent the floods.

Whoever gave out the statement that the ice-breaking in the St. Lawrence was merely to prevent flooding is not fooling anyone in the Maritimes or elsewhere in Canada. The fact is that the ice-breaking in the St. Lawrence, both spring and fall, is carried out to open up the river so that ocean-going craft can get to Montreal with freight and passengers and thus take the business from ports in the Maritimes. But it should be remembered that money collected in the Maritimes is used for the purpose of opening the St. Lawrence and the three Maritime Provinces should protest against this expensive habit.

POEMS THAT LIVE

THESE LINES

Then take these lines, since I have nothing more,
And make fine as your desire could form;
Read in them meanings from your deeper lore,
Make what is pale and cold glow vital, warm.
So must the sun give lustre where it shines,
Give scarlet to the poppy, gold to wheat,
Put purer emerald into grass and vines
With its twin heritage of light and heat.

These lines, whose virtue is that truth gleams through,
Will have more worth when you have glanced at them,
As water in a glass of ruby hue
Takes on the shade and sparkle of a gem.
Then let them be what you would have them be,
Since you are as the sun in heaven to me!

Haytassel Says . . .

"I see by the papers thet the nex war is to be fot in Messapotamia end thet maibee awl the nashuns will be involved but it wuznt jist maid clere how it wuz to be arranged." This was the remark of Mr. Josh Haytassel when he visited the office of "The Maritime Broadcaster this week.

"I gess thet idee hez sumthin to it, if it cud be dun. The nashuns thet want to fite cud appoint champeens to meet in a special areena. It cud be sumthin like the ole-tyme jousts or olympic sports end with proper stands fere spectators, they mite be enuff money maid frum admisshuns to pay fer the expense uv them fellers engaged. Jist think wot thet wud meen. Awl the damage wud be dun away with. Sum uv the champeens mite be hurt or even killed but they cud be prov'shun maid fer their families end if they only got hurt they cud be looked after fer the rest uv thair lives. The hole thing shud not cost more then one gud-sized battle end maybee the results wud be jist ez lastin.

"I wish yew wud commend thet plan to the Legue uv Nashuns er woever is runnin things in Urope. It is a thot thet hez a lot uv gud feetures. Make Messapotamia the battleground uv the wurld, end hev all futuer wars thair. Properly conducted they shud be big drawin cards end a lot uv money cud be maid out uv em. Sey thet Stalin hed sum difrance with Hitler, they cud arrange fer a fite in the Messapotamia ereena end enny uv their follerers thet wanted to fite cud go with em end the thing cud awl be settled under a committee uv the Legue uv Nashuns, who cud name the referees end thair cud be reel decishuns. Then the movie rite shud be wurth sumthin end them thet cudnt git away to Messapotamia cud see the fites rite in thair home-town theatres end it wud be a gud money maker fer the movie peepul. End to maik it mor intrestin they cud hev a corus end awl the fixins thet wud maik fer a reel pictshur. Wall thair yew hev my opynon end it dont cost yew a cent. I wisht yew wud send it to the Legue uv Nashuns end see if they kin do ennythin with it. I gess thet will be awl. I'm goin bac to the Washademoak befor they katch me end put me over in Fareville with sum uv the uther nuts, fer I see by the paper thet they is a lot mor uv us crasy then we think. S long. I'll be seein yew."

B. WISE *says:*

MR. B. WISE

It does not always follow that the person you are looking upon as being your best friend considers you his or her friend, and therefore the secrets you trust them with are repeated to their best friends, who pass them along to their best friends until they become public property.

CLIPPINGS

PROVINCES AND DOMINION

(Winnipeg Free Press)

It is highly desirable that as the result of the exchange of views between the Dominion and the Provinces there shall be friendly agreement to transfer the machinery by which the constitution of Canada can be revised from Westminster (where it is only operative when Canada presses the button) to Canada, where the real power lies now as in the past. But if a sufficient number of Provinces prove intransigent to the point of making it appear to the Dominion Government undesirable to proceed (which is not to be expected) the result, it might be pointed out, will not be a strengthening of the rights of the Provinces. In the event of nothing being done and things remaining as they are, it may well prove to be the case that the historian of the future, noting the event, will say that by their refusal to co-operate the Provinces lost the opportunity to obtain a right of consultation in regard to the amendment of the national constitution. This may well prove the last chance of the Provinces to recure a real right to participate in the remaking from time to time of our Constitution to replace the claimed power of intervention to the point of veto which is entirely mythical, having no basis either in law or in the facts of history. They should play a part in any revision of the Constitution, and this the Dominion is offering them; if this is rejected, the opportunity may never come again.

IN THE LONG RUN

(Hamilton Spectator)

The truth will out, and the people of Ontario will learn before long through the urgency of their increased power requirements how, far from delivering the Province from the so-called Quebec "power barons," the Hepburn Government has completely played into their hands. The Government is crowing over the savings it has made through its self-legalized welshing and "chiselling." These savings, like paper profits made in the stock market during the boom days, will disappear overnight when the present hand-to-mouth power supply is exhausted and the Hydro has to go back, hat in hand, to the Quebec companies and take what they offer to build steam plants.

THE RECIPROCITY MEASURE

(Campbellton Tribune)

The Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, which Prime Minister Mackenzie King concluded immediately on taking over the reins of office has been receiving considerable attention in the House of Commons. Mr. Bennett called it a bad bargain notwithstanding that several of the sections in the pact had been suggested by him when he was dreaming over the executing of it.

The treaty has been heartily received by the great bulk of the Canadian people. There are few contentious sections in it. It is much more favorable to Canada than was the treaty of 1854. That undertaking provided for a free exchange of the products of the sea, the fields, the forest and the mine. To Canadian farmers, lumbermen and miners it was beneficial; but to the Maritime Provinces it refused the only boon at that time worth having for the exchange of our fisheries—the admission of provincial ships to the United States coasting trade. It was to remain in force for ten years. It was terminated by the Americans after 11 years had passed. Their object was to force Canada into their Union. In this they failed.

The present treaty is based on mutual advantage, and on friendship. Annexation is no longer talked of. The Republic has come to the conclusion that we cannot be swerved from our allegiance to the British Crown and Empire, and that it will enlarge its trade by opening its markets to us on the basis of a common interest.

OFF THE SHELF AGAIN!

PEACE (to Madame League)—"Do be careful, sister! That stuff is terribly inflammable!" —News of the World.

LIFE'S SCRAPBOOK

"It is much easier to be critical than to be correct."—Disraeli.

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"By persistent labor man attains to all excellence."—Demosthenes.

* * *

"We win by tenderness; we conquer by forgiveness."—F. W. Robertson.

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"It is our ignorance of God, the divine Principle which produces apparent discord and the right understanding of Him restores harmony."—Mary Baker Eddy.