

The Maritime Broadcaster

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 14, 1936

CROSSING THE RUBICON

"CROSSING the Rubicon" is an expression often heard and some people may wonder just what it means. The Rubicon was a very small, insignificant stream which in Roman times formed the boundary between the Province of Gaul (now modern France) of which Julius Caesar was the governor, and his native Italy of which Imperial Rome was the centre.

Caesar, greatly daring, resolved to cross the Rubicon with his legions to seize power in Rome, knowing full well that by that act he laid himself open to the charge of treason.

Another great captain, we read of, who had to cross an arm of the sea, burned his boats behind him so that, even if he would, he could not return. Not only did he cross his Rubicon, but he made sure that whatever fate was in store for him, there was to be no turning back. What he started he must finish.

So "crossing the Rubicon" and "burning your boats" have become symbolic, the one of a decisive step, the other of a grim determination to succeed or perish in the attempt.

To say that New Brunswick, today, is facing such grim alternatives would no doubt be considered by some as needless alarm, but this Province has the choice of two courses. If the people generally are content with their present economic life and are quite willing to see it gradually decline, with the primary and secondary producers unable to find markets and the young manhood of the country roaming idly about without hope of gainful employment then this Province will gradually sink into decay. But if the people will look for a future of promise and face the necessity of making decisions then a prosperous Province is assured. Where the will is, the way will open.

Members of the Provincial Legislature have the future largely in their hands. May they have the courage to venture forth like Moses of old and bring the people of this Province out of the wilderness of despair into their rightful heritage and place under the British flag within the Confederation known as the Dominion of Canada, if that is at all possible, or outside that Confederation as the circumstances warrant.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

COMMENTING upon the financial statement of New Brunswick, issued last week, Hon. C. T. Richard, provincial secretary-treasurer, pointed out that the condition of the finances of the province could in no way be attributed to the present administration, which was elected in June. He terms the condition of the finances "a sad mess." Continuing he said: "We are facing a hard crisis but we expect to get over the top and we want to balance our budget. We cannot do it this year but with the help of everyone we can do it next year. We expect every man, woman and child to help us. We must forget party politics now. There is no need of Liberals and Conservatives now that the election is over."

This is a frank statement, but really no new thought. Have not the people of this province been presented similar statements by newly-elected representatives in the past, both Liberal and Conservative? Have they not each in turn before election condemned the most of those in office and after election deplored the mess they found in the financial situation?

Mr. Richard says he wants to balance the budget. That is what the people want him to do. The balanced budget was one of the slogans of the last provincial election campaign. But if the budget cannot be balanced in 1936, how can it be balanced in 1937 or 1938?

The present is the time for action and the budget can be balanced only in one way and that is by spending less than is collected. To place more tax burdens upon the people should not be considered. Then to balance the budget expenditures must be cut and cut they should be if the people cannot afford to pay.

Mr. Richard's attention might be drawn to the money which the federal government is collecting from the people of this province in direct income tax (which by the way is unconstitutional). If this were diverted to the provincial treasury the budget would be balanced without curtailing any of the present services.

Mr. Richard calls upon every one to help, but he does not say how.

Might we suggest that he point out to the people that they can help by purchasing New Brunswick products whenever possible and that the producers help by putting out the highest class of products. By keeping more of our money at home, the better it will be for the provincial finances and make a balanced budget a reality.

POEMS THAT LIVE

AND SO I SING

When life was but a simple thing,
Small tasks to do, sweet lips to kiss,

O, it was then I learned to sing,
To voice youth's bliss!

When every dawning brought delight
And every dusk was set with stars,

O, then my song essayed that flight
No barrier mars!

But as time went, the great world flung
Its shadow over stars and dawn,

And from the measures that I sung
Some joy was gone.

Yet, as through deepening shade I move,
With life no more a simple thing,

Still there is toil and there is love,
And so I sing!

Haytassel Says



"Wall, I suppose yew aint intrested in farmin but yew shud be end yew shud tell the farmers sumthings thet mite be to thair advantage." This was how Josh Haytassel introduced himself in the office of the Maritime Broadcaster this week. "I hev bin farmin sum end I jist kum to the conclusion thet if the farmers wud pay mor at-tenshun to wot they put on the market the better it wud be fer them. I wuz jist thinkin thet if a farmer cud jist put himself in the place uv a buyer fer a little while he wud larn a lot.

"The spile is kumin on end soon they will be a lot uv garden truck offered fer sail. Wot the farmer wants to do is to look at every carrot end every turnip and every pertater end decide if he wud pay the top price if he wuz buyin. I no a lot uv them wud not buy the stuff they offer fer sail. They hev got into the habit uv tryin to git rid uv thair stuff insted uv sellin it.

"Things hev got to luk gud these days in order to attract the buyers. The farmer hez got to be a perducer, a packer end a salesman. He must be up end doin awl the tyme end he must be tryin awl the tyme to make his stuff jist a little better than the other feller's. I think it wud be a gud thing if every farmer put his name on everything he offered fer sail. Then he wud be trying to keep up to the standard thet his name stood fer. Then peepul who buy wud no thet when they see a name they noed on a package they wud be sure thet wot it contained wuz the best thet cud be got, or if it wuzn't they wud no wot names to avoid.



MR. B. WISE

B. WISE says:

Since you never heard a grouch referred to as having a wonderful personality, is it not true that this so-called personality is nothing more than the outward showing of the inner man?

"The farmer uv Neu Brunswick hez himself to blame fer a lot uv his trouble. First uv awl he must produce high-grade guds and then he must work with other farmers in a co-operative way to bring about conditions thet will help the sail uv his guds. Say fer instance, if the farmers up the Washdemoik awl joined together end marked thair guds with the name "Washdemoak" end saw to it thet the brand ment that the best produce was available under thet name, they wud soon see an improvement in thair conditshun. Maybe the agriculture department uv the Province cud do sumthin about it, but the farmers cud help themselves. So thet is thet.

"S'long, I'll be secin yew."

CLIPPINGS

EDWARD VIII, A LABOR VIEW

(London Daily Herald)

His devotion to duty, his tact and quick understanding, his sympathy with the people over whom he is called upon to reign, have already been tested and proved. And he is—perhaps the greatest asset of all—a very human person. The man will never be lost in the King. He has been, and will remain (for it is fundamental in his nature), not above but of the people. He has a deep-rooted hatred of shams and false dignities. He has mingled freely and simply on a footing of equal manhood with all classes. He has seen and talked with the workers in their factories and in their homes. And never has he condescended or patronized. He has been a friendly visitor, a man moving among his fellow-men. His courage is proverbial.

SCIENCE AND RITUAL

(Manchester Guardian)

Time plays its own strange jests with the body-politic. When these Proclamation ceremonies might be a desperately needed precaution against public disorder it would be weeks or more before the news of them reached some parts of the new king's realm. Now, when they can hardly be more than a splendidly dramatized aspect of constitutional theory, the voice of the herald can be heard in Australia as soon as his words are uttered. And as that dramatized aspect of the Constitution also happens to supply, in the view of most people, a singularly moving ritual in

WINGS OVER ASIA

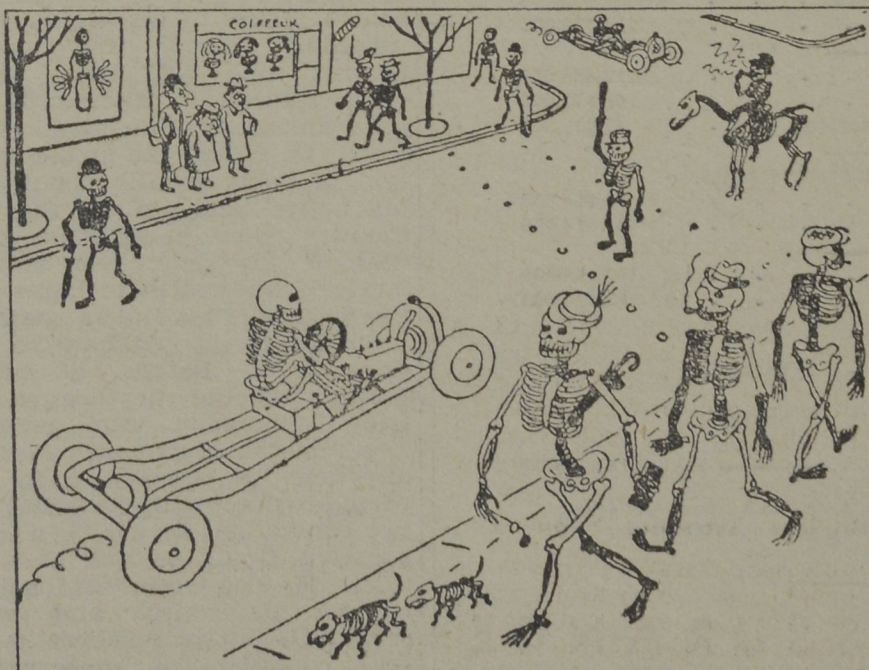
(Boston Christian Science Monitor)

Recent successful flights of the China Clipper to and from Manila constitute a spectacular illustration of a general tendency to cover the vast distances of Asia with the speediest existing means of transportation. Asia is unmistakably taking to the air. Batavia, in the Netherlands Indies, Singapore, and Saigon, in French Indo-China, are the Oriental termini of Dutch, British and French skyways that start respectively in Amsterdam, London and Paris. The advantages and conveniences of extensive aeroplane service in a continent that has lagged far behind Europe and America in railway and motor development are obvious. There is also a note of warning in the increasing frequency with which the beat of aeroplane wings is heard over Asia. In the present atmosphere of doubt and suspicion the sight of the peaceful commercial aeroplane conjures up thoughts of what the sinister bomber might do in wartime. In this extension of aviation in Asia, as in so many other things, it will be for human intelligence and good will to make the progress of science and invention work out as a blessing, not as a curse.

THE EMPIRE-MIRACLE

(Le Soleil, Quebec)

In British politics ideas and terms are subordinated to conventions. Often custom replaces the text of the law. The King is the hostage of the Constitution. It is said that he reigns but does not govern. That is a profound error. He is less free than the least of his subjects, but he foresees and provides for them. He is the cleverest and the most experienced of plots, although he never puts his hand to the wheel. He has the supreme command on land, on sea and in the air, but he gives orders to no one. And the King can do no wrong. And this living monarchical principle animates an agglomeration of Empires, of kingdoms, of free states, of feudalities, of protectorates, of colonies and of unorganized territories. More than 450,000,000 human beings, divided among themselves by blood, color, language, religion, political systems, geography, economic interest and tradition—one quarter of humanity calls on the moral, political and Imperial force which the English Crown represents. . . . What explanation can be given to so many tangible contradictions unless it be that mind is stronger than matter? Let us admire this miracle of the British Empire, above all at this moment when in a hundred different languages and in temples which have nothing in common the British world prays to God to give His Majesty Edward VIII a reign of peace and glory.



Minister: "Well, the taxpayers are getting a little thinner."
—Echo de Paris, France.