

THE REGISTER

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JOHN S. SCOTT, Owner and Editor. G. R. T. AYLING, Assistant Editor.
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PATIENCE BETTER THAN PESSIMISM

With present conditions apparently as propitious as could be wished, there is a general feeling that with continued good luck the Annapolis Valley will turn out a good, if not exceptionally large apple crop, this year. That, at least, is the hope that all orchardists are now nursing. But they are also speculating, at the same time, as to how, where and to whom they—or, rather, their Marketing Board—will sell the crop, if it turns out to be in keeping with the promise of present conditions. A census of the Valley would no doubt show that the great majority of apple growers would consider their presently-complicated marketing problem solved for all time, if Nova Scotia apples were again assured of free access to the British market, in which as much as 90 per cent of the annual crop was sold in the pre-war years that are now commonly referred to as "normal times".

Because wishes are fathers to thoughts, it is natural to assume that those "normal times" will return. It is a delusion. Peaceful and satisfactory conditions may come again, but the future conditions cannot be the same as were the old. It is therefore essential to the solving of the future problem of marketing Nova Scotia apples, that thinking on that problem be based on the realities of the present and on the contingencies that can be foreseen or conceived. The Valley and its orcharding industry are involved in complicated world conditions, and will of necessity be affected by world developments.

One aspect of the British market immediately suggests that it should be very easy to sell a large quantity of Valley apples there, this year. There is evidence that the British populace who consumed Valley apples in pre-war years are still anxious to procure them. This fact is assuredly, if not conclusively, indicated by the following excerpt from a letter received by The Register, this week, from London:

"The British public are extremely eager to obtain your apples. We have lived on such a meagre and unvaried diet it is possible that the health of the people in this country will suffer beyond measure, unless we have a quick and varied diet especially during the coming winter. It is to be hoped that those in authority controlling the apple industry will put forth their best endeavours and service, to induce your government to assist in forwarding a foodstuff in apples, which is of great food value, so beneficial to human lives."

From another letter, also arriving this week from Britain, is this excerpt:

"Great Britain wants N. S. apples, much in preference to B. C. or U.S.A. The British consumer likes your varieties; the fruit usually has a fresher appearance, but above all this, you can put a barrel of apples on the market very much cheaper than any other exporting country."

The foregoing expressions are in line with many others with which Valley apple growers are familiar, and there can be no doubt that as far as desire is concerned, the British market is still open to Valley apples. Why, then, cannot the produce of Valley orchards be readily sold in Great Britain, this year? The answer, of course, is fairly well known: The Labour Socialist Government of Great Britain has taken over, and has throttled free enterprise.

The remedy for that paralysis of free enterprise is being prescribed—by exponents of free enterprise who want a remedy, of course. The remedy is to throttle the Labour Socialist Government. And, again, the wish being father to the thought, it is being predicted that the present government of Great Britain will be swept out of office in the near future—at the next general election, at the latest. That sort of talk is very agreeable to a good many Valley apple growers who would like to regain the British market without loss of time. But, if the proposed remedy is to be applied, the British people will have to apply it. That needs to be remembered, over here.

It is to be considered, however, that the British Labour Socialist Government, and the British people who elected such a Government, are involved in a world-wide struggle between two antithetic principles—human freedom and arbitrary authority. In this country, in this province, in this Valley, we are also involved in the same struggle, although there is no overwhelming evidence of consciousness in Government circles or among the people of that fact.

The present British Government, as a body, is by no means committed to a policy of exercising arbitrary authority and power. Nor is there any apparent reason for assuming that the people of Britain are in the least disposed to accept unadulterated totalitarianism. The Government and the people appear to be seeking the best means of promoting the common welfare and of maintaining the prestige and integrity of the British Empire, or the British Commonwealth of nations—whichever phrase one prefers.

Recent events and recent pronouncements by British Government spokesmen have clearly shown that Britain is still a bulwark against the spread of totalitarianism. That is a manifestation of the British spirit, which is essentially the spirit of human freedom. There is an old saying that the British always "muddle through". It is an incorrect way of expressing the truth that the British have always been empiricists, having even been consciously guided by a definite philosophy of empiricism—of learning through experience, and by the process of trial and error.

It is quite within the realm of possibility that the British Government of the present, having already encountered some trouble in attempting to implement pre-election promises, may conclude in the not-distant future, that there is still a good deal of virtue in private enterprise, even in the apple business. The spirit of private enterprise is not dead in Britain. It is somewhat hamstrung, perhaps, but possibly it will recover from that disability. In the meantime, exercise of a little patience on this side of the Atlantic will harm nobody.

Also, in the meantime, the people of this Valley and the people of Canada might be profitably employed in thinking more seriously than they have been doing about the direction in which they are headed, politically and economically. We ought to be asking ourselves whether we want to experiment with socialism, or develop democracy. We are doing neither the one nor the other. But, in failing to strengthen the spirit of democracy we are drifting towards socialism. We are accepting socialism, every day, without protest, while we tolerate two so-called major political parties, neither of which appears to be alive to the threat of totalitarianism that is working underground, all the time, and even showing its head, here and there.

Letter To The Editor

FORESIGHT AND DECISION

Editor The Register.

Sir,—Now that the Apple Blossom Festival is merely a pleasant memory, our good friends from Kentville, who received 99% of the advertising, and about 100% of the revenue, will forgive a few comments from a humble observer.

First, the arrangements indicated foresight and decision. Everyone agrees that the ten Princesses were the sweetest, most beautiful, and most suitable candidates that could have been found anywhere in the province. All could have been Queens.

Opinions on the judges' decisions on floats are something less than enthusiastic. Some are even caustic. Apparently such qualities as balance and beauty, symmetry and originality were not deciding factors.

In conclusion, what a lucky coincidence that Kentville's Princess should be chosen Queen! Lucky, because the Shiretown apparently had not

provided a float for a Kentville Princess. One cannot believe that Kentville's 60th Anniversary atrocity was intended for a Princess. Easier to believe that some people are psychic!

As I said before, the arrangements and indicated foresight and decision, especially foresight.

A. S. WATTERS.

Berwick, June 3, 1946.

The public has forgotten about atomic power in a pursuit of new automobiles and butter and an escape from reality. That's the opinion of Dr. F. H. Sexton, President of the Nova Scotia Technical College. "The implications of atomic fission for the purposes of both war and peace are by far the most important that confront humanity today," he told college graduates at the annual convocation, "but they seem to have drifted quietly into the backs of the minds of the public, while the scarcity of butter, the dearth of automobiles, horse races and baseball scores seem to be our main concern."

About Town AND ELSEWHERE

It is in the cards that the number of members in the House of Commons is to be increased from 245 to 255. That will mean another \$80,000 a year that the taxpayers will have to dig up, and they may well ask themselves, "Is it worth it?"

So far, this session, the most that the members of the House have done is to waste time over two rather insignificant items of legislation. One is the effort to change the term "Dominion Day" to "Canada Day". The other is the matter of a Canadian flag. Both these may be weighty matters. The Dominion may go to smash and scatteration if they are not settled. But the average Canadian doesn't think so, and he is disgusted with Parliament for wasting so much time over them. Take the case of Dominion Day. For some 78 years we have been calling it that. It has been Dominion Day, and we have celebrated it as such on the first of July. It is true that we have celebrated in our own way. One citizen of this Valley shows his enthusiasm for it by flying his flag at half-mast. But the fact remains that on an insult. He would do that if it were called "Canada Day" or "Confederation Day" or any term that Parliament might invent. Dominion Day seems an appropriate term because it is the anniversary of Canada's birth as a dominion. And Canada is still a dominion. Giving a new name to the anniversary of its birth won't change that fact. It will be time enough to spend a month or so of Parliament's time in inventing a new term for the First of July when Canada becomes something other than a Dominion. That time may come. Perhaps we shall be merely known as Canada. Or may be we'll simply become a state of the American Union, and celebrate the Fourth instead of the First of July. Until that time comes, we need waste no time in grappling with the question of a new name for the anniversary of our birth as a nation.

The matter of a distinctive Canadian flag seems also abortive and futile. We wonder why in the world we should pay men \$6,000 a session, to spend such a large part of their time in wrestling with such a problem. It may be all right for Quebec to have a flag of her own. Quebec wants one. But Quebec also wants an independent Canada, and a Catholic Canada. But our own flag is a good enough flag for us. It means something to us, so why spend so much time in trying to devise a purely Canadian flag?

After all, Canadian unity should not depend so much on a flag, or a term, but upon something in the hearts of the Canadian people. If I am a Canadian citizen, it means that I am just as much a citizen of Quebec, Ontario, or British Columbia as I am of Nova Scotia. I may not be of French origin, nor speak the French language, but I should regard the man who is and does, as a fellow-citizen and treat him as such, even though I may not have a very good understanding of his speech. Canada is a great country—great just because she is made up of so many different provinces and races, each contributing its part to her greatness. I should be proud of her, and of being one of her citizens. That is the basis of Canadian unity.

I know, now, where part of the fee I pay for a radio license goes, and I don't relish it any too well. The federal government sponsors and pays for the radio program, "George's Wife". It's all right for George to have a wife. I'm not objecting to that. I have a wife, myself, and couldn't very well get along without her. But what sort of rube is against the grain in paying over \$6,000 a week, to hear the adventures of George's wife put on the air. The thing isn't worth it. It's a waste of money. Let George and his wife hold their conversations and have their experiences in private. They're not worth \$6,000 a week, especially when the Canadian taxpayer's money pays the shot.

—The Man About Town.

Rationing System

People Show Restraint As Bread Curb Looms

Plan for new restriction taken calmly—Full success of 'share and share alike' system stands as one of great achievements of any government, reflecting public unity and confidence in war and peace.

By Mary Hornaday

LONDON, June 4.—The Ministry of Food's announcement that it is preparing a bread rationing plan for possible use about the end of July has been received quietly and without any four-boarding rush by the British people—who are eating worse on the whole now than at the war's peak.

This calmness is attributed to the fact that the size of the proposed rations has not been announced, plus the confidence of the average citizen in the Government's proven ability to divide equally the basic supplies between all-size pocketbooks. The average Briton's chief complaint continues to be not about the bulk of his food, but the fact that he has "had the same tastes in his mouth for the last six years."

Stories frequently appear in Lord Beaverbrook's newspapers trying to make the British people feel they are not getting enough to eat to maintain health, and are not in as fortuitous a food position as people on the Continent. But the fact is that despite the hardships entailed both by the world food shortage and Britain's special financial difficulties, British success in maintaining "share and share alike" rationing still remains one of the outstanding accomplishments of any government in the world today.

Public confidence had been built up by the Government's always having had market supplies of food available to comply with the public rations available. But now the British are worried about the possible consequences of lending a second 200,000 tons of wheat to hungry Europe. The wheat stocks on hand now will be enough only to last three or four weeks, compared with wartime supplies of two to three months.

Aside from the grayish loaf resulting from the 90 per cent extraction rate, the biggest consumer kicks recently have been on fats and dried eggs. With six ounces of butter and margarine a week plus one ounce of cooking fat, the housewife has to wait six weeks before she can make any kind of cake.

The meat ration remains at 1 1/2 lb. worth a week—about enough for two meals. In addition, there is a bacon ration of about two or three rashers. A boon to the housewife who entertains is the increased supply of fish since the end of the war.

Dried eggs are scheduled to come back on June 23 but will be on a basis of firm rationing instead of the storekeeper's judgment. They will take the place of

in Advance. SINGLE COPIES FIVE CENTS

SLEEPING SICKNESS Baffles Science

N. Y. Health Commissioner Has No Fear of Epidemic, Says Malady Not Contagious.

NEW YORK, Thursday Feb 10.—In this city about to follow the example of London now nodding in the throes of "sleepy head", deadly lethargic encephalitis, which still baffles science?

According to a statement issued today by Dr. Royal S. Copeland, health commissioner, New York may go its way with no fear of the drowsiness which few ever shake off, despite the fact that sixty six cases are under treatment here at present. In New York State the disease, which physicians say will not become an epidemic, was responsible for the death of Hornell of Barber Eldridge, forty five, who has lain in a coma for two months. At least six more cases are reported at Hornell.

Dr. Copeland's statement explains that the great danger of the disease lies in its complete mystery. Neither what causes it nor what cure has yet been discovered; the only sure bit of knowledge is that it differs from the "sleeping sickness" of Africa, by the site of the lesion.

MALADY NOT CONTAGIOUS

However, the many cases following influenza epidemics indicate it relates to that infection, Dr. Copeland said. He continued: "Report of the department shows at this time a year ago we had 149 cases under treatment. There was a gradual decrease to October. In 1935 565 cases, or 50 per cent,

sickness is curable, for a number of cases in which the next two months of those March 1920, and sixty deaths reported last

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