THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1944

King-Ralston Correspondence

Most significant item in the Mackenzie King-Ralston correspondence tabled in Parliament was Colonel Ralston's reply to the Prime Minister's assurance that he was prepared to follow the policy of overseas use of conscripted men if it becomes necessary. Colonel Ralston's answer was that he and Mr. King differed on the meaning of the word "necessary." The Prime Minister, said Colonel Ralston, believes that conscripted men should be used only if it is necessary to win the war. His, Colonel Ralston's belief, is that they should be used if it is necessary to keep our army reinforced.

What red-blooded Canadian isn't prepared to admit that Ralston is right, King wrong? If that indeed be the issue and Mr. King's late Minister of Defence says it is—then it is high time that Mr. Graw's vote of non-confidence was put to the House. Whichever way Parliament votes, there can be little question as to what public reaction in eight of the nine provinces of Canada will be. Mr. King knows that. He knows that the game of playing Quebec against the rest of Canada — a game in which he had had twenty-five years' practice and in which he is admittedly an unexcelled master—is just about finished. The people of Canada have had about enough. Our soldiers overseas have had more than enough. It is time for this man, whom Colonel Ralston accuses of having a deliberately misleading policy on the vital question of overseas reinforcements, should step down and give place to a better man.

Christianity's Alternative

There are still among us, unfortunately, not a few who nurse a sort of sympathy for German philosophy and would that our Christianity were "broader and deeper" to meet the new concepts of social progress. To these may be commended the following letters from Professor Ince Jones, Northampton, known to not a few Islanders who have enjoyed his hospitality:

Nearly thirty years have passed since I read Nietzsche's works and I have none of them to hand, but here are some actual quotations from my notes on his books:—

"Christianity is a slave morality invented by the weak to bolster up the weak. Chastity is unnatural; scruples are folly. Man should live as he likes or not live at all.

Dead are all gods, now we will that Supermen live.

Sin is a Jewish institution, it is the moral interpretation of physiological depression.

Remorse is indecent. Pity is ignoble. Christian altruism is the collective egotism of the feeble. A good conscience is so like a good digestion as often to be mistaken for it. The sublime is the mantle of the ugly. Every triumph of an ideal has been a retrogressive movement. Good men never speak the truth. The New Testament is the gospel of a completely ignoble type of man. Christianity is a mean life and the most fatal and seductive lie that has ever yet existed. It is the morality of a paltry people — it allows men to emasculate themselves. It is the triumph of castration. Poverty, humility and chastity are dangerous and slanderous ideals, poisons. Sympathy is one of our modern vices."

This was the teaching which inspired Hitler to say, "We shall breed a new race trained to hardness, cruelty, violence, supermen, leading masses. On them we shall found a Reich that will last for a thousand years." Most of us in this country believe in Christianity as the best way of life and many of us still believe in it as the supreme, revealed religion. To read Nietzsche certainly provokes thought, but it should lead us, (1) to realize the hideous character of this antithesis to the old beliefs, and (2) to aim at supermen nobler than those of Nietzsche. An earlier philosopher than he said, speaking of false prophets, "By your fruits ye shall know them." The fruits of Nietzsche's philosophy are to be seen in Lidice, Lublin and Rotterdam; in temporary triumph followed by disaster, destruction, disgrace and misery. Nietzsche ended as an incurable lunatic and his disciple, Hitler, may share his fate.

Saving Precious Limbs

Two young Canadian surgeons on the Western Front are credited with devising a method to reduce the number of amputations. They are Major W. T. Mustard, of Toronto, and Captain Ken Wilson, of Ottawa. They have saved the shell-shattered legs of two soldiers in their early attempts and they are confident that the same results can be obtained in most cases where the injured limb has not been too severely damaged.

Injuries of this nature are usually accompanied with severed arteries, and what often made amputation inevitable was the interrupted blood flow below the tied-up artery. That part of a mangled limb soon went cold and became lifeless. Glass tubing had been experimented with as an artificial union to join the severed arteries and restore circulation, but the results are said not to have been encouraging.

Major Mustard and Captain Wilson believed in this procedure, however, and were confident that it would prove effective if improved types of glass tubing were employed. They developed these, but were handicapped by the lack of a certain drug which prevented clotting of the blood. Finally they were provided with the drug and the operations are reported to have been successful. Two badly wounded men have their legs which would otherwise have had to be amputated.

The crippled veterans of this war are already believed to reach an appalling total, and for them this discovery has come too late. But it is possible that, as a result of this new technique, many others will emerge from this conflict whole and sound instead of being amputation cases.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister King still considers himself indispensable.

* * * *

The Minister of Defence for Air having resigned, it does not necessarily follow that his assistant, the Hon. Cyrus MacMillan, will do likewise.

* * * *

Whatever else may follow from the present meeting of Parliament, the beginning of the end has been reached for the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, Prime Minister.

* * * *

It may be recalled that as recently as last week the press announced that the new Defence Minister, General McNaughton, had found he could not provide reinforcements without a measure of conscription for overseas service. Prime Minister King immediately issued a statement to the effect that the report was absolutely without foundation. Yet the fact was as stated in the press. What reliance can the brave soldiers at the front, or the honest-to-goodness people at home, place on the word of such a Machiavellian politician?

* * * *

John Gibson Lockhart, Scottish author, died this date 1854; his main claim to literary distinction is his *Life Of Scott;* he was the son-in-law of Sir Walter and compiled his biography; was for a time editor of the *Quarterly Review,* and published in addition *Peter's Letters to His Kinsfolk,* lives of Burns and Napoleon and several novels, the best known being *Adam Blair.* In a letter to Carlyle on the death of Sir Walter, he wrote the following verse:

It is an old belief
That on some solemn shore,
Beyond the sphere of grief,
Dear friends shall meet once more.

* * * *

It is no more than a simple coincidence that the report of the sale of 1,250,000 bushels of seed oats to the United Kingdom and the report that the British agricultural representatives were beginning an Empire tour should have fallen on the same day. Nevertheless, the two together serve to emphasize one point about as strongly as it is possible to do. There is no immediate likelihood, and probably none for some considerable time to come, that the British will depart from the present policy of attempting to get as close as possible to self-sufficiency in the islands on the agricultural front. If this policy is deliberately extended into the peace era it will, most emphatically, complicate the food export market picture for the Canadian agriculturist

* * * *

An old Land Mark has been removed by the death in Winnipeg of Col. Ings. He always took a deep, intelligent interest in the affairs of the Province, especially in the rising generation. A keen soldier, he was allied all his life with our volunteer forces, in which he rose to command the Regiment we sent to the front in the last war. It may be recalled that on that occasion the Colonel was selected because of difference of opinion as to whom the command should be given. Col. Campbell was appointed C.O. of the 105th Battalion and Col. Beer C.O. of the 104th Battalion. The powers-that-be decided, wisely, it must be admitted, that this Province was not in a position to supply re-inforcements to make good estimated losses, so the 104th and 105th were combined, Colonels Campbell and Beer reverted to lower rank, and Major Ings, as he then was, of the Light Horse was promoted C. O.

* * * *

Rev. Laurence Sterne, Irish clergyman and novelist, died Saturday's date 1768; educated at Cambridge, took holy orders and obtained livings of Sutton and Stillington; suddenly rose to fame by publication in 1760 of the first volume of *Tristram Shandy;* eight other volumes of the same whimsical novel followed at intervals until his death; in addition he issued a volume of *Sermons* and *A Sentimental Journey;* he mingled genuine humour with clownish eccentricity; his Uncle Toby, Corporal Trim, and Widow Wadman are immortal characters of fiction: "The brave only know how to forgive. A coward never forgives; it is not in his nature. . . . The Accusing Spirit which flew up to Heaven's Chancery with the oath, blushed as he gave it in; and the Recording Angel, as he wrote it down, dropped a tear upon the word, and blotted it out forever."

* * * *

The British are not abandoning air training with the demobilization of the Empire Air Training Scheme which had this country as its centre. Canadian youths planning a civil aviation career will be able to study at an $11,000,000 British air college — a technical university of flying in all its aspects — if present government plans go through. Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister of Aircraft Production, told the Commons last month that the Government has accepted the recommendations of an inter-departmental committee which studied the advisability of setting up such a school. The committee's report, submitted to Parliament, suggests the proposed college should provide high-grade engineering, technical and scientific training in aeronautics for selected students to fit them for leadership in the aircraft industry, civil aviation, the armed services and education and research fields. Besides the $11,000,000 endowment considered necessary at the start, operation of the college would cost about $1,000,000 a year, it estimated.

Notes By The Way

A Danish farmer now grows a vegetable called pomato-totato, a combination of tomato and potato, according to the Berlin radio. German scientific influence has not done Denmark any good.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

In Paris a soldier standing on the running board of a speeding car rescued a girl from the back of a runaway horse. And still there are those who say the movies are not educational.—(Winnipeg Tribune.

"Jupiter will reach Aphelion in December," says a Vancouver astronomer, "but Venus and Mars are not co-operating as well, Saturn, although near its perihelion, is nearly ninety degrees out of phase with Jupiter." Tsk, tsk! No national unity up there, either.—Windsor Star.

—Army bakers have taken their first prisoner. A Japanese captured at Toem on the north coast of Dutch New Guinea, said the aroma from the U. S. Army quartermaster bakery was so overpowering that he had to give himself up.—Australian News Letter.

A Belgian who was instrumental in making use of Wehrmacht facilities for resistance purposes was once impelled to ask one of the corrupt officials: "You are a Nazi and believe in Hitler. Will you tell me how you reconcile that with your—you'll pardon me—somewhat questionable activities on the black market?" The Nazi who had just accepted several thousand francs to deliver what he was informed were cases of textiles to France, replied: "There is nothing wrong in it. Didn't the Fuehrer himself once write that we Nazis must make the most of life? That is all that I am doing."—London News Chronicle.

The coal miners of the Vorkuta Basin in the Arctic recently sent 10,00 tons of coal as a gift to Leningrad. For the past three years the Vorkuta miners have sent the Neva city all coal mined in excess of their planned output. The Vorkuta Basin, in the extreme north of the Urals, covered with ice and snow for eight months of the year, also supplies fuel for the entire north of the European USSR. Its output in the past few years has increased by 250 per cent.—Soviets Information Bulletin.

A Scottish padre who has returned from Burma states that the 42nd Highlanders, better known as "The Black Watch", charged into battle against the Japs while their pipers played "Heilan' Laddie" and that the men gave the Hampden roar." The Japs were routed from their positions, and fled in complete disorder. A combination of Highland pipers and "the Hampden roar" is enough to strike terror into any troops and demoralize them. Everybody knows what the pipes sound like, but the meaning of "the Hampden roar" is not so familiar. It derives its name from the international soccer game at Hampden Park New Glasgow. On that occasion there is an attendance in peacetime of about 150,000 people, about 90 per cent of them being Scots, all eager to see the Scottish team beat the English. When the Scottish team swarms toward the English goal and tries to score—or, better still, does score— the crowd sets up such a roar as is never heard on any other ground in the country. It is this that is known as "the Hampden roar" and it has demoralized English players many a time, they having no such vocal encouragement. Having regard for the fighting qualities of the Black Watch, we have no doubt that their pipes and their roar demoralized the Japs on that occasion.—(Stratford Beacon Herald.)

Wedding bells ring out more often in Canada in June than in any other month of the year. Just why there is a preference for entering wedded bliss in June is difficult to say, but it is possible that we have inherited the Roman superstition of luck in that month, says the Kitchener Record. In olde England the bride was careful to choose an evening in June with a growing moon and a full tide, both of which were considered lucky. Whatever may be the reason or reasons, June definitely is the most popular month for weddings. The year 1942 will serve to illustrate: Of the 127,000 wedding ceremonies performed in Canada in that year, no fewer than 12 per cent were celebrated in the month of the roses. August was chosen the next greatest number, followed by September and October. December January, February and March do not appear to be as popular with brides as the other months of the year, with March, the Lenten month, the least popular. In only two provinces did brides differ in their choice of June as the most popular wedding month in 1942. These two provinces were Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the month chosen was November, June was second choice for brides in Saskatchewan, but it was placed third in Alberta. Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario brides were unanimous in their choice of September as the second most popular month in which to wed.—

We moved into our new home, this week, and are much disturbed both mentally and physically. Such confusion we havent experienced before, wails the editor of the Creemore Star. We never realized we had accumulated so much in the line of junk and household effects. Our new home is smaller than the one left and the furniture needs a lot of squeezing to get it to fit. The trouble with furniture is it just won't be squeezed. Our better half was O.C. and we a humble private. We had to take a lot of orders. It was a long hard struggle, but at last we were actually out of one house and into an other. The trouble was the carpenters and the decorators were making alterations and some of the rooms were not ready. Our front room at present looks like the result of a cyclone. Our present problem is to find what we want for immediate use. This morning we couldn't find our shaving kit. The O.C. lost a strip of milk tickets. We slept last night in an old shirt because we couldn't find the box in which our pajamas were packed for transit. And to complicate matters we developed a head cold that left us groggy. "The show must go on" is a theatre slogan, and likewise the paper must go to press. Our machine operator is waiting for copy and our thoughts are all mixed up between mislaid night apparel, a new lock for the front door and many other problems. If this issue seems off flavor, dear reader, please be considerate. If you know anything about moving, we know you will.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

"MY TROUBLE"

Sir,—I read with a great deal of interest the articles on education by Mrs. Frank, Mr. MacLure and others; and I thought that I would write you about the injustices in the cases of a great number of students who are compelled to take up such subjects as Mathematics, Latin, French etc., that are no use to them for their future career in life, and the teacher, in order to make a grand showing of his or her ability is ready to sacrifice forty-eight pupils out of fifty for the two ambitious ones who want to enter Prince of Wales.

In my case, I happened to be one of the two who aspired to enter Prince of Wales High School. After studying hard all hours of the night preparing for the examination I found myself proficient in all except Mathematics. I might have entered Prince of Wales, hoping to make up for the subject that I failed in (Mathematics), but interviewing one of the faculty of the college, I was not given any encouragement. Will someone tell me what I could benefit by Mathematics as a mother, nurse or stenographer? Is it necessary to have a knowledge of Mathematics to milk a cow?

My humble opinion is, since Prince of Wales is a High School, that pupils who are ambitious to enter for further study should be permitted to do so on the recommendation of their teacher without an examination for a year's trial to see what that pupil is best fitted for. This at least would encourge the student to passing tenth grade instead of becoming discouraged at the seventh or eighth grade.

I entirely agree with Mrs. Frank that a great number of subjects taught in our schools to-day are unnecessary.

I am, Sir, etc.
"A FORMER PUPIL"

THE COST OF PRODUCING OATS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Sir,—In order to decide whether or not it is advisable to grow grain in Prince Edward Island rather than to import same from the West, five major points have to be considered.

1. The net producing dollars and cents cost per bushel to the Island farmer.
2. The quality from a feeding standpoint and the moisture content of Island grown grain.
3. The extent to which grain growing robs the soil of its fertility.
4. The question of whether land devoted to grain growing could be utilised to better advantage if employed as pasture or in the cultivation of more profitable crops.
5. The need for straw to be used as stable litter.

1. The cost of producing one bushel of Oats

In recent years I have asked probably 150 Island farmers what it costs them to produce a bushel of oats, but not in a single instance have I been given even an approximate figure. The farmers no doubt felt that, as they required the grain to feed their animals, they had no alternative but to grow it no matter how high the cost. Many of them also felt that they could ill afford to spend their hard earned dollars on imported grain. They will, I believe, change their minds when all the facts of the case have been placed clearly before them.

Shortly after the last war the Dominion Government, in order to assist the farmers of Canadda to determine which of their crops were the more profitable, decided to issue a book entitled "Cost of Producing Farm Crops in Eastern Canada," known as Bulletin No 168. The authors of this book went into the different questions of cost elaborately and, in order to have reliable figures, they requested six Canadian Experimental Farms, one in each of the Maritime Provinces, two in Quebec and one at Ottawa, to grow for a number of consecutive years one acre of each of the main crops such as hay, grain, silage, roots, etc., and to keep an accurate record of the several items of cost in each case. These experiments covered a period of eight years, from 1923 to 1930 inclusive, and the book was not finally published until 1934. Although each of the experimental farms worked independently of one another, the resulting figures were remarkably alike, all of them being within 10% of the average. The basis upon which they all worked was to divide the total cost of growing one acre of each product by the number of tons or bushels harvested at the end of each growing season. The following are the published figures regarding the cost of one acre of oats as recorded by the Charlottetown Experimental Farm.

Use of land	$3.00
Share of manure	5.68
Seed	3.35
Machinery	2.85
Twine	.44
Manual labour at 22 cents per hour	5.50
Horse labour at 10 cents per hour	3.63
Threshing at 4 cents per bus.	2.42
Total cost per acre	27.07

From what I can learn some at least in the Dominion Department of Agriculture feel that the figures given in this book are now due for revision. Personally I am not prepared to take the responsibility of criticising any of the items except the cost per hour of manual labour and of horse labour. I also feel that an insufficient allowance has been made for overhead expenses.

In the above it will be noticed that manual labour on the farm has been placed at 22c per hour and horse labour at 10c, figured upon the actual number of hours that the horse works outside the stable. The basis upon which manual labour was priced was that of the rate paid for hired help, including board and lodging. Now, it is well known that the bulk of farm work in Prince Edward Island is performed by the farmers themselves and their sons. The above price for manual labour is therefore misleading in so far as this province is concerned, nor is it believable that a good horse can be fed, cared for and properly housed for so small a figure as 10c per hour of his actual working time.

I understand that both of the above figures were given to the several experimental farms by the Ottawa government who felt it advisable to have all the provinces in Eastern Canada placed on the same basis. Personally I can imagine no better method of encouraging farmers' sons to seek new vocations in life than to tell them that, when they succeed to the ownership of the family homestead, they will be expected to keep a wife and family and maintain a decent position in the community on an income of 22c per hour, a rate lower than that paid in the cities and towns of the province to the least skilled labourers and only from ½ to 1/6th of the price paid to skilled artisans.

In my next week's letter I shall offer an amended schedule of the cost of growing oats.

I am, Sir, etc.
H. K. S. HEMMING

THE VOICE OF A STUDENT

Sir,—I have read with great interest the arguments put forth by Mrs. Frank, Mr. MacLure and Dr. Johnston, in this column at intervals during the past two weeks, and finally it looks as if a few of our more enlightened inhabitants of Prince Edward Island are at last awakening to the fact that drastic changes are needed in our present educational system. Now in reading over the letters of Mr. MacLure and Dr. Johnston, I find that I cannot wholly agree with them in their views on the subject of Latin, and here I may say that I am speaking for a number of other students, too. Now I do not want to give the impression of wanting Latin abolished altogether, as I think it is an excellent subject for university students who have an interest in it, or who are going to need it on a small scale for their future livelihood. But I do feel that we are getting altogether too much of it in First and Second Years at Prince of Wales College, and not nearly enough of practical and cultural subjects, which are of greater importance to the students of Prince Edward Island.

I have studied Latin for the past five years, and I can truthfully say that as yet I have not received any great benefit from it, nor can I see any direct benefit from it in the future. It seems to me that Latin is of no great necessity to anyone, not even to such people as doctors, nurses, and biologists, because, after all, a doctor does not have to know how to write a sentence illustrating the Ablative Absolute or the Accusative and Infinitive to write out a prescription. All the Latin he needs to know might be contained in a booklet such as the ones published by the Canadian Legion Educational Services for service personnel. Now if this is all the Latin a doctor, a nurse, and a biologist needs—and after all they are really the only people who need to bring this dead language back to life, why do we students of grades eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve, have to spend on an average of four to five periods a week on this subject when we may never see any benefit from it?

Although Latin is a slight aid in helping us to understand a little better the meanings of some of our English words, I agree with Mrs. Frank in saying that a dictionary has been proven a much simpler and a more efficient way of doing so. If students of Prince Edward Island, especially those from the country, are spending hard-earned money on this subject, they expect to get a little more than the ability to rhyme off porta, portas, portat, portamus, portatis, portant.

I sometimes wonder if the Board of Education ever thinks that we students might have any views on the problems of education in Prince Edward Island, and if they ever think of putting on the curriculum subjects which would be more valuable to the students; or whether they intend to go on as they have been for the past twenty-five or thirty years. If they have not, I would kindly suggest that they do so, because we have views, and we do want changes in the curriculum. Of all the students who take First and Second Year courses, at Prince of Wales College, there is on an average less than one-third of them who ever plan to go on for university work. Now what happens to the other two-thirds of the students? They either become farmers, housewives, or business people, and I am sure that more practical and cultural subjects such as Sociology, Economics, Home Economics, Manual Training, Physical Education, Music and a little more English, perhaps on the line of play-acting, would be more profitable to the average student than learning so much Latin.

Let us deal with some of these practical subjects for a few moments. First take Sociology. This subject is taught extensively throughout the High Schools of Western Canada and United States—but do we get any in Prince Edward Island? No we do not; and then people talk about a democratic country. Yes, We learn about the governments of the Greeks, and the governments of the Romans, but we never seem to get around to learning about our own forms of government. If students such as the ones I mentioned before, who do not plan to go on to university, are expected to play their part in our democratic country—how are they to do so? Certainly not by learning Latin. Let us look at the income taxes for a moment. This is something everyone is expected to understand. But are we taught that in our High Schools of Prince Edward Island? No! I doubt if there are fifteen students in First and Second year's put together, who if confronted with an income tax paper, would have any idea how to start at it. Surely you wide-awake citizens can see plainly that a knowledge of Sociology and Economics are two important factors in the life of the people. Should we as future citizens of Prince Edward Island be deprived of training in these subjects?

Let us turn to Home Economics and Manual Training. These are two very important factors which affect the life of the average family. Again neither one is taught in Prince of Wales College. I can remember having a few classes in Domestic Science, when I was in grade six or seven—but what good does Domestic Science do for girls of that age? Very few of them are thinking about how to keep house when they are ten and eleven years old. Now is the time for us to be having our Domestic Science classes, when we are old enough to take a real interest in them. The same applies to the boys with reference to Manual Training.

I should like to say a word about Music and English based on the line I mentioned above. These are two subjects in which all students should become interested, and I am sure they would if they were given an opportunity. Again these are two subjects which are lacking on our curriculm. I had more Music in school than I have had since I started to Prince of Wales College. True there is a Glee Club—but can you see over five hundred students joining this club?

Now with reference to English along the line of play - acting. This is one subject which could be taught in Prince of Wales College extensively, and if carried out properly, it could become a great benefit to the students; but of course it is let slide the same as are a great many other subjects.

Lastly I should like to say a word about Physical Training. Does the Board of Education feel that this subject is not important to the college life of a student? Every other college in Canada has a well-equipped gymnasium, with an excellent instructor, but we have to use our auditorium, which has chairs on both sides, the glass doors opening into the corridor on one end and the stage on the other. At the present time we have not even an instructor, and no prospects of getting one.

I have brought to your attention a few of the many needs of the students of Prince of Wales College, and I hope that in the near future we shall not be forced to sit through four or five periods of Latin a week, and at the same time be deprived of these other more necessary subjects.

I am, Sir, etc.,
MARION W. PUNCHER
Second Year Student,
Prince of Wales College, Nov. 24, 1944

GERMAN TORTURE DRUG

LONDON — (CP) — Put on exhibition here was a German torture drug — "pervutin" — which permits the Germans to continue torture without the victim being able to gain even temporary respite by unconsciousness.

The Poets' Corner

PURITAN SONNET

Down to the Puritan marrow of my bones
There's something in this richness that I hate.
I love the look, austere, immaculate,
Of landscapes drawn in pearly monotones.
There's something in my very blood that owns
Bare hills, cold silver on a sky of slate.
A thread of water, churned to milky spate
Streaming through slanted pastures fenced with stones.

I love those skies, thin blue or snowy gray,
Those fields sparse-planted, rendering meagre sheaves:
That spring, briefer than apple-blossom's breath,
Summer, so much too beautiful to stay,
Swift autumn, like a bonfire of leaves,
And sleepy winter, like the sleep of death.

—Eleanor Wylie.

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