THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 31, 1943

At The Year's End

At the threshold of another year it is heartening to take with us the Christmas Day message of His Majesty King George, voicing confidence in the fact that in every freedom-loving nation there is springing up, "out of the comradeship of sacrifice," the power to restore and build anew on firmer foundations. It is well also to be reminded, in His Majesty's words, that "while we have bright visions of the future, we have no easy dreams of the days that lie close at hand." If we are to avoid disappointments resulting inevitably from wishful thinking, we must bear this warning in mind.

The customary local year-end reviews appearing in The Guardian at this time are for the most part highly encouraging. The agricultural and fishery industries, upon which chiefly our provincial revenues depend, have been successful despite shortage of labour and other wartime handicaps. This success is doubly gratifying, inasmuch as food production is indispensable to victory in the war. Our farmers and fishermen have been unsparing in their efforts. Many of them have carried on for both themselves and their sons, brothers, or other relatives who are in the fighting forces or working in munition plants on the mainland. It is not easy for old men, boys and women to do the work of able-bodied men around a farm as well as their own innumerable chores, but this is what happened on thousands of farms throughout the Island this year, with results which, in production figures, are little short of amazing.

Perhaps one reason for this achievement was the continuance of our old-time provincial and county fairs, fox shows and other competitive gatherings. At the outbreak of the war there was some doubt as to whether it would be possible or advisable to carry on these activities; but their value in maintaining and improving quality standards has been fully demonstrated.

While to casual visitors the Island would seem to have been standing still during the year, we have been moving nevertheless. Our progress should be greatly accelerated after the war, with increased facilities for production and—let us hope—much better means of transportation.

Politically, the year has seen a new Premier, Hon. J. Walter Jones, take office in succession to the present Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell; also the return, though with a reduced majority, of the Liberal party to power in the Province.

Many well known citizens passed away during the year, among them Mr. E. J. Galliant, director of Postal Service; Capt. J. C. MacDonald, Cardigan; Dr. J. M. Nicholson; Rev. John Sterling, Kensington; Mr. Neil R. Durant, Town Clerk of Summerside; Mr. Ira W. Douglas, of the Dominion Department of Agriculture; Mr. Angus A. MacLean, K.C.; Major James S. Walker; Mr. Philip Rossiter; Dr. Judson, Grand View; Mr. William O. Davey, retired CNR conductor; Mr. R. Claude Holman, Summerside; Mr. H. R. Hilson; Mrs. J. E. B. McCready; Rev. M. J. Smith, Kinkora; Maj. J. J. Leightizer; Lt.-Col. A. E. Peake; Mr. Frank MacDonald of the Registry Office; Mr. W. C. Stewart; Mr. Herbert N. Murphy, principal of Queen Square School; Mr. G. W. Ritchie; Rev. P. J. Hogan; Mr. H. L. Worthy; Mr. J. Frank MacDonald, car ferry purser; Mr. Justice Saunders; Mrs. D. A. MacKinnon; Mr. Vivian Smallwood; Dr. E. A. Bell, Cape Traverse; Coun. J. E. Sterns; Mr. D. N. MacKay, Springfield; Senator Creelman McArthur, Summerside. The list could be very greatly extended, and yet be incomplete.

During the year, too, many gallant sons of Prince Edward Island gave their lives overseas, making the supreme sacrifice for King and Country. To their loved ones who feel so keenly their loss at this time, and to all whose lives have been saddened during the year by the shadow of death, at home or abroad, The Guardian tenders respectful sympathy.

May the New Year be brighter and better for all of us; and may God bless us every one.

National Parks

According to official Government computation, more than forty-two million dollars have been spent on the development and maintenance of Canada's national parks since the first site was appropriated for the purpose in 1885. This figure takes no account of the value of the land, which, of course, is very great indeed. "The people of Canada have an enormous investment in their national parks as well as a personal and sentimental interest which cannot be measured in dollars and cents," the National Parks Bureau points out in a statment giving an account of the work done on the parks in the past year.

Notwithstanding war conditions and the restrictions of travel, more than 126,500 persons visited Banff National Park in the twelve months ended March 31, 1943, the figures for most of the other parks also "holding up surprisingly well." Of these visitors 25 or 30 per cent were men and women from the armed forces, including many from Great Britain, the other dominions and the United States. This is a pleasant and effective way of making Canada known to people of other countries. Before the war as many as a million persons visited the parks in the course of the year, and it is confidently anticipated that when peace comes the number will be greater than ever. The first national park was a comparatively small area, of ten square miles, round the hot mineral springs at Banff, Alberta; that modest beginning has grown to prodigious proportions, more than 20,000 square miles of national playgrounds, of diversified character, being now available for the enjoyment of the public.

The latest addition promises to be upwards of ten thousand square miles, near the Alaska Highway, which the Yukon Territories Council has set aside for examination as a national park project. It has been suggested that further development of this kind would be suitable for inclusion in post-war reconstruction programs; whether such expansion takes place or not, Canadians have reason to be proud and gratified at the extent, the beauty and resources of these vast natural recreational areas.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

1st Marquess Cornwallis, British General, born this date 1738; with his surrender of Yorktown in 1781, the American War of Independence ended.

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The girls of the NAAFI — the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes — are selling savings stamps to the troops across canteen counters at the rate of 4,000,000 a year. This high average has been helped by the recently introduced scheme whereby customers in NAAFI grocery shops are invited to spend their discount — which is at the rate of 10 per cent — in savings stamps.

* * * *

That Germany is in a position to pay large annual reparations is evident from the following: According to Hitler's own statement, in the period of 1933-38 Germany spent 90 billion marks for armaments, or an average of 15 billion marks per annum. Since there will of course be no such expenditure for armaments, these sums can be applied to the payment of reparations.

* * * *

Girls in the United Kingdom are being employed on yet another unusual occupation—turning jam jars into silk. The glass is melted down and transformed into a silk-like fabric which provides heat insulation for ships, hospitals, aircraft and factories. Sailors and airmen much appreciate the extra warmth provided when the fine threads are sewn into their blankets.

* * * *

The Scottish Nuffield Provident Society has been formed as a non profit-making association with primary object of enabling middle-class people, who may not be eligible for free medical and hospital care, to insure for grants-in-aid towards the cost of hospital treatment, consultancy and other services, excluding general practitioner services. Membership is open to anyone under 60, without income limit, living or working in Scotland. Annual contribution is about $12 for a member without dependents.

* * * *

Looking ahead. Plans have been prepared for feeding Europe and getting farms in liberated countries into production at the earliest possible moment after the war, Sir John Russell, chairman of the Agricultural Committee for Post-War Inter-Allied Aid, told an Edinburgh audience last week. All the farming regions have been carefully marked out and the probable requirements of each country studied.

* * * *

Not all politicians die rich, at least, not all Conservative ones. Because the estate is insolvent, provision for distribution of assets of the estate of Senator William Henry Sharpe, who died April 19, 1942, cannot be carried out, was revealed in an application for probate filed in the Surrogate Court clerk's office, Ottawa. Total value of the estate at the time of the Senator's death was $55,144.13.

* * * *

One of the things that impresses the layman about the new "wonder drug," penicillin, says the Brooklyn Eagle, is the apparent ease with which it can be produced. This is brought sharply home with the news that the drug is being made in ever larger quantities at St. John's University by work and research made possibly by three nuns studying in the university graduate school. The world should be thankful for anything done to make easier the production of new instruments against death and suffering. Part of that process is due to the patient work of just such laboratory students as Sisters Immaculate Jean Agnes and Anthilia, who teach in the Brooklyn Catholic high schools.

* * * *

The retirement due to ill-health of General McNaughton at the age of fifty-six reminds us once more of the expression that "this is a young man's war." Fifty-six per cent of all army combat generals are less than 50 years old and in the separate air forces those under 50 number 64 per cent of the total. The average division commander overseas is 52 years old, whereas he was 55 in World War 1. Peacetime figures are far different, of course, for then an officer becomes a general only after years of slow and painful waiting for disability, death and resignations to force vacancies in the upper ranks. Wartime, with its ruthless clearing out of the unfit and its demands for a youthful mental outlook and youthful physical toughness, forces a different story.

* * * *

According to the report of the Bank of Montreal wholesale and retail trade continues at high levels in the Maritimes. There is an active demand for all goods, with stocks turning over rapidly. Collections are good. Christmas shopping commenced earlier than usual and sales are expected to exceed those of last year, despite shortage in many lines of merchandise. Lumbering operations are progressing normally under favourable weather conditions, but the shortage of experienced labour continues. Stocks of lumber and pulpwood are light and there has been no slackening in the demand for wood products of all kinds. Fresh fish is in strong demand at good prices; landings in November were lower than a year ago, due to unfavourable weather. Stocks of dried fish are low. Prices for pickled fish are at profitable levels and the demand is brisk. Manufacturing plants generally continue to operate at capacity. Coal output in Cape Breton in November was up somewhat from the previous month, but lower than in the same month last year. A heavy demand for potatoes continues. Dehydration plants are operating at capacity.

Notes By The Way

Lord Bennett is quoted as saying the British Empire is no accident, that she has survived because of "real miracles," and that "we have a divine mission to rule the world." Just wait till The Chicago Tribune hears about this! —Ottawa Citizen.

A 900-watt, 120-inch mercury searchlight of more than 7,500,000 candlepower has been developed by General Electric engineers for shipboard or land use. The searchlight is four times as powerful as the conventional incandescent searchlight of the same size. Such heat is created by the mercury arc that the lamp must be cooled by air forced in through a rubber hose. —Exchange.

"Davy Jones" has been identified —so has his famous "locker." Davy Jones, according to an authority quoted in the monthly journal of the Port of London Authority, was "as famous a pirate around Bombay and Ceylon as ever Morgan or Blackbeard was in the West Indies later on. In 1621 Jones was dismissed by the East India Company for insubordination. Seizing a Malabar coasting vessel with some kindred spirits he put to sea. Early on he plundered a treasure ship belonging to the Mogul emperor and caused not a little diplomatic turmoil. Very soon no European ship was left alone; some beat him off, some escaped by their heels, some he captured. These latter were sunk —their crews being sent to their "sea-locker" to shut their mouths. After nearly a score of years Jones was wrecked off the Java coast and his captors, discovering his identity, burned him to death over a slow fire, as not a few of their seafaring contemporaries had been sent with their ships to "Davy Jones' Locker."—Exchange.

The rejoicing over the bombing of Berlin by the people of the Balkans is neatly illustrated by a story from Belgrade. When the news of the Berlin bombings reached that city an old Serb with a deep hatred of Nazism and all it stands for walked through the streets in the rain. His face and hands were turned to the sky as he shouted: "More! More" On being stopped by the police, he said that he was praying for more rain, but actually he was praying for more bombings of Berlin His petitions are being answered. —Kitchener Record.

The magnitude of the task of keeping a steady stream of supplies rolling to the moving Russian front during what has been virtually a five-month non-stop offensive is almost beyond comprehension Russia has upwards of 300 divisions engaged in the operations on the seven sectors of the 1,500 miles of active front We know that it took 120,000 motor trucks constantly on the go to keep the Eighth Army's 10 divisions supplied during the long drive from El Alamein to Bizerte. These trucks needed 2,000 new tires daily On this basis of calculation, Russia's 300 active divisions would need 2,000,000 three-ton trucks to keep them supplied, and if they wore out tires at the rate the Eighth Army did, they would require 80,000 new ones each and every day —Edmonton Journal.

The terrible Russian winter and snows served as an alibi for the Nazis' earlier eastern front setbacks. Now it's up to little Joe Goebbels to think up some new ones —and fast One may expect to hear any minute, therefore, that Russia's summer, heat and dust were just too much for the gallant defenders of Orel and Belgored. What Berlin's champion explainer is going to need pretty soon is an alibi that can be stretched to cover all the seasons. —Los Angeles Times

A piece of toast was always added to liquor for delicacy in ancient times From this grew the custom of drinking toasts But the real trouble started when some person invented the custom of making replies to these toasts —Chatham News.

The Mulhauser Tagblatt of October 24 contains a strange leading article entitled "Masks and Faces," writes our special correspondent on the German frontier It runs: "'Haven't you noticed,' asks our enemy, how the peoples all around you are beginning gradually to show their true faces? Don't you see how, even in Alsace, the mask assumed in true middle-class respectability sits very loosely on people's faces, ready to be torn off at any moment to display the countenance of scorn and hatred behind? The proud days of 1940 are gone, because all Europe is now at great pains to show you a friendly face only in order to keep out of the way of the kicks of your divisions But today these states know that they have nothing more to fear from you.'" After reference to Portugal and Sweden, the writer adds: "'Friendly, smiling masks are falling: the true faces of peoples are being unveiled Things have turned out differently from what you expected . . .'" The article containing the foregoing passage bears the signature of Kicherer, who pretends to be citing what their enemies are saying jeeringly to the German people, but as every reader understands, Kicherer is actually saying aloud what everybody is saying secretly behind the Nazis backs — London Times

Many youngsters at school know more than adults about aircraft. When the ordinary man in the street sees an aeroplane overhead it is still something to gaze at with wonder but it is just an aeroplane or an 'airplane"; he has no special name for it To the observant school boy, however, it is a certain make of aircraft— an Anson, Mosquito, Hurricane, Harvard, Liberator or Lancaster — something with individually in the air —Ottawa Citizen.

GOOD ON BOTH COUNTS

PRESTON, England — (CP) — Joseph Procter has been experimenting with poultry for nine years to produce a new bird that would be a perfect layer and also a good table bird. He claims to have it in the Red Wyandotte which laid an egg every day for 87 days in a laying trial.

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.

SLOT MACHINE MENACE

Sir, — Would you be kind enough to allow me a little space in your newspaper. Some time ago I wrote a letter to the Editor, Summerside Pioneer (which was published) in regard to the slot machine, and pin ball machine racket here in Summerside.

I was in hopes that letter would bring action and results, but am very sorry to say it has not. The letter was in regard to 'teen aged boys loitering around pool rooms, playing slot machines, pool, smoking cigarettes, using profane language, and everything that is of no benefit to young lads growing up.

On my first visit to this poolroom, what did I find? Several young newsboys (my own son included) of the ages of 11 to 14 playing a pin ball machine for money, while in a small room two other young chaps, ages 12 to 15, were playing a slot machine. I understand they lost over five dollars that day. Now these slot machines are not operated like the ordinary ones.

The attendant in charge has a pocket full of dimes, and when the player is "lucky" enough to get a pay, the attendant pays the player, as the pay channels or outlets of these machines are filled with putty — to make it lawful.

On the face of these machines is printed "For Amusement Only". What a costly passtime that is! On my second visit to this pool room, I was shocked to find not only the old machine there, but several new ones.

I believe it would be a good idea for our R. C. M. Police to have a good look around when visiting these places for draft dodgers. They will be surprised at what they see.

I hope the Attorney General of our fair Island reads this letter and starts a clean-up of such places of vice and dirt, as our town Police and R. C. M. Police seem to have their hands tied. If any one doubts these statements let him or her visit the pool rooms, I need not mention this particular place as it is well known to all

I want to see action and want it at once I am a tax payer of this town and demand an early investigation.

I am, Sir, etc.

WORRIED FATHER

Summerside, Dec. 27.

Newfoundland's Future

(Bruce Hutchison in the Winnipeg Free Press)

Ottawa: In the early sixteen hundreds Sir David Kirke captured Champlain's little village of Quebec for England. It was given back to France by Charles I, and, as his share of the deal, Kirke was given Newfoundland as a personal estate. He thereupon made a great strategic discovery—Newfoundland, he said, must always control the Gulf of St. Lawrence and hence the safety of Canada. It has taken us 300 years to realize that Kirke was right.

Newfoundland, thrusting like a sensitive nose into the Atlantic, has become in this war one of the vital bastions of the United Nations. It has been fortified by Canada and the United States because they could not afford, at any cost, to have the enemy take it. The trans-Atlantic convoy routes and air services all depend on Newfoundland and its territory of Labrador.

Today one of the most interesting questions before Canada is the future of Newfoundland. What is going to happen to it after the war? Is it to remain a British colony without responsible government? Is it to become, as before, a British self-governing dominion? Or—as seems most logical when you look at the map—is it to become the tenth province of Canada? And whatever Newfoundland elects to become, what happens to the Canadian and American bases within Newfoundland which are essential to protect this continent?

* * * *

These are no longer vague, academic questions. They are being strenuously debated in Newfoundland. They are being explored in Ottawa. The United States is taking a deep interest in them. After the war the future of Kirke's strategic island, which must always dominate America's Atlantic defences, will be settled one way or the other.

Canada's policy is to let Newfoundland decide. In a considered statement last summer Premier King said the Newfoundland people would determine their future but, if they elected to join Canada, then Canada would consider the union with greatest sympathy. The door is open, the invitation pretty clear, but up to now Newfoundland has shown no disposition to accept it. Canada, up to this war, had treated Newfoundland as a poor relation, and it is no wonder that the Newfoundlaiders are not attracted to us. The traditional election song of Newfoundland ends in these words: "Come here at your peril, Canadian wolf."

The fact is that Newfoundlanders do not know themselves what they want, but they unite in agreeing that they do not want their present status as a British colony, without self-government or the elements of democracy, ruled by a commission. Britain has laid down the policy that after the war Newfoundland can choose its own future, now that it has become financially self-supporting. There is no way of foreseeing what this future will be, but at least the Newfoundlanders are more friendly to

(Continued on page 6, Col. 6)

The Poet's Corner

IN AN OLD BARN

Tons upon tons the brown-green fragrant hay
O'erbrims the mows beyond the time-warped eaves,
Up to the rafters where the spider weaves,
Though few flies wander his secluded way.
Through a high chink one lonely golden ray,
Wherein the dust is dancing, slants unstirred.
In the dry hush some rustlings light are heard,
Of winter-hidden mice at furtive play.

Far down, the cattle in their shadowed stalls,
Nose-deep in clover fodder's meadowy scent,
Forget the snows that whelm their pasture streams.
The frost that bites the world beyond their walls.
Warm housed, they dream of summer, well content
In day-long contemplation of their dreams.

—Charles G. D. Roberts.

COULDN'T SLEEP COULDN'T WORK

What a relief to settle down to a real night's rest, and awake fully refreshed, ready for the day's duties. I was tortured by frightful nights—tossing, turning — never comfortable. Half awake days —over-tired, driving body and mind to work when they needed rest. "Try Dodd's Kidney Pills," said a friend — "it may be your kidneys". I'm glad I followed his advice as now I'm sleeping like a top—thanks to !!!

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Greetings

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MEN'S WEAR

"From Everything which has Happened in the Past
We may draw Encouragement for the Future."
—Churchill.

Churchill's words, seasoned with prudence, spiced with courage, apply not only to our Commonwealth's steadfast course through "this present unpleasantness" but also to our progress through the strains and stresses of the peace which is to follow it.

Already upon the horizon, now lighted by a red dawn, we see strange shapes appearing — old forces in new forms and power demanding to be adjusted to national and international life. But we in the British Commonwealth of Nations need not be dismayed. We are fortunate in that we can draw upon deep reserves of experience in adjusting the dynamics of individual initiative to furtherance of the common weal. True we face troubled seas; but we do so in a stout ship well balanced with sound common sense and manned by men of wisdom and good will.

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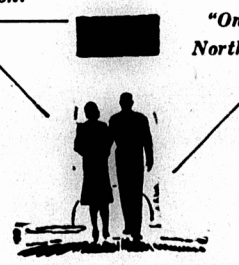

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