

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1941.

Why Import Furs?

The King Government, having decided that importation of furs from the United States should be stopped—in order to husband United States exchange for war purposes—has now decided to permit the importation of \$2,000,000 worth. This action prompts the following comment in the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal):

"What kind of policy is this? Are United States furs a luxury or a necessity? Most Canadians will be ready to believe that they can keep warm in Canadian furs for the duration of the war. Why should the Government relax a restriction that is obviously a sensible one?"

"Note the 'unofficial' reasons given, if you please. (1) Canada exports more fur than it imports. Hence there are 'fur dollars' available for purchases of United States furs.

"This is an absurd reason. The very reason why the restriction was imposed was to create just such favorable balances. Pleasure travel by Canadians in the United States was stopped for that very reason and in spite of protests. But 'pleasure travel' dollars are to be conserved and not 'fur' dollars. Why? (2) The Department proposes to give 'close attention' to the effect of war control on our fur export business."

"The odd way the Department chooses of doing this is to remove the war control. Also absurd.

"It is fairly obvious that the excellent and sensible restriction on fur imports was removed because of pressure on the Government. It would be interesting to know by whom and for what reasons.

"Doubtless the pressure was applied by some group that is all in favor of war control, so long as the war control does not hit it.

"This is a curious and singularly ineffective way of being in favor of the war effort and the Government has made a very stupid blunder in permitting the importation of \$2,000,000 of luxuries at a time when its whole policy is directed to cutting them down."

Unemployment Insurance

Plans are afoot to bring the Unemployment Insurance Act into force in Canada on July 1. The act will affect about half a million employees in Canada and will involve the collection of weekly or monthly sums from employers and employees throughout the country. The Dominion Government will also make contributions.

The head of the commission which will have charge of unemployment insurance was the late Dr. Joseph Sirois, chairman of the Sirois Commission whose report on Dominion-provincial relations was turned down at last week's Ottawa conference. It is likely that a new chair man will be appointed very shortly. The executive director is Dr. Alton Peables, a native of British Columbia.

The Unemployment Insurance Act is unique in Canadian legislation in that the way for it had to be cleared by a special amendment to the British North America Act, enlarging the powers of the Dominion Parliament.

The Bren Gun Contract

Commenting on the cancellation of the notorious Bren gun contract, the Financial Post says: Considering that it had virtually staked its very political life upon the original contract, the Government showed some courage in abandoning it. Yet it could do little else, for the original deal it made was one of the most costly and blundering transactions in the whole history of Canadian government buying.

achievement with some pride. And they will weigh its significance against the abuse and bad temper of those who spoke of the exposure as a "dastardly betrayal of Canada"; who called the critics men who had "sold out Canada and the defenses of the Empire"; who claimed that those who exposed their incompetence had "hounded and humiliated" and "dangerously hampered" the work of the department.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ras Mengasha is the name of the commander who is organizing Haile Selassie's forces in Ethiopia.

The street crossings badly need attention; it is not enough the ploughs should clear the streets for auto traffic, the crossings must be made passable for the average taxpayer who needs must walk.

What about the Greek Help Fund? This province has fallen down badly on the job. Half-a-million is the sum aimed at for the Dominion, and all the provinces are contributing generously with the exception of this province, which so far has paid in only \$140.

The latest emanation from the United States is a peace move, sponsored by Senator Wheeler of Wyoming. It is a peace move, particularly for bathtub use. He has compiled a list of ten best songs for the bathroom following.

Prime Minister King can blame no one but himself for the failure of the Federal-Provincial Conference. With the exception of Premier Aberhart who is a radical, and Premier Bracken, a coalitionist, all the Premiers are Liberal, and it was Mr. King's claim that if the country returned provincial legislatures in sympathy with the Federal Government all would be well and Canada would go ahead in strength and unity.

Although Premiers Hepburn and Aberhart left for home immediately after the abortive Federal-Provincial Conference, a number of other Premiers stayed over to interview the Minister of Labour and other portfolio holders. Various problems affecting social services and labor matters were discussed. A meeting was behind closed doors, but Mr. McLarty planned to issue a statement on it later.

In Chicago the markets are rising. Choice hog on the livestock market brought \$8.25 a hundred pounds, an increase of 15 cents, the highest price paid since Sept. 10, 1939, soon after the outbreak of the war in Europe.

Mayfair has more or less moved out of its luxurious country residence in London. The "Mayfair" has its traditions of elegance. London's exclusive dressmaking salons are almost as busy as they were in peacetime, while the "Mayfair" has its own to the even tenor of their lives. Tweeds and woens are much in favor. Both Molyneux and Hartnell are doing a big business in their latest creation. Molyneux stresses belted woolen jersey jumper blouses. These are worn with skirts cut lightly on the bias. Some go under tops, and some are completed by straight, hip-length jackets.

A Barred Rock hen raised on the poultry farm of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Day has won the current Dominion egg-laying contest with a total of 339 eggs averaging 27.1 ounces to the dozen, it was disclosed recently in performance records received from Ottawa. The contest ended October 30 last year and left the Day hen, known as No. X13351, the best egg layer in Canada during 1940. She still fell short however of the world and Canadian record of 357 eggs established by No. Drone Drone 10-H at the Dominion experimental farm at Agassiz, B.C., in 1930. No Drone Drone's record was equalled three years later by Dereen 5-L, a Leghorn which became known as "Dauntless Dereen." Experimental Farm officials said the 357-egg record still stands as far as they know.

Some people see German troops crossing Bulgaria and attacking Greece almost any day. Others think the attack cannot come until Spring because of Winter in the mountains. Some are not so sure about a German move in the Balkans. But about one thing all must agree. It is now getting on toward a year and a half of war in Europe. If the German assault is delivered by the end of the present month it will be seventeen months since Hitler fell upon Poland. If it is to be a Spring campaign it will be twenty months. The slow agony of the World War endured for something more than four years. Hitler's Blitzkrieg is beginning to take on comparable dimensions in time as well as in space. In April, 1915, the British landed at Gallipoli. One can only wonder if the historic name will appear again in the despatches of April, 1941.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The supplies of petrol necessary to keep tanks and aeroplanes in action convey an idea of the magnitude of the consumption in the conduct of the war. A light tank consumes one gallon per mile, while the rate for heavy tanks is five gallons per mile. It has been estimated that for each hour of flight an aeroplane of the type commonly employed in warfare consumes fifty gallons of petrol. When hundreds of these weapons are brought into action and are in flight for many hours, considerable quantities of gallons of petrol must be required to keep up these continuous large-scale operations. — Irish Independent (Dublin).

If Eamon de Valera had hoped to win any sympathy with his Christmas broadcast, he was surely barking up the wrong tree. The first version of it in the Columbia broadcasting system, contained this amazing statement: The overshadowing anxiety at the moment of the broadcast was today's possibility of inclement which would force our people once more to battle against Britain and the Empire. In the second version, told the Eire Premier that he had committed a terrible faux pas, however, because an official text of the speech, re-broadcast from Dublin, omitted the words "against Britain and the Empire," and replaced them with "desperately for their liberty." — Montreal Star.

Bathtub Ballads

(St. Thomas Times-Journal) Nelson Eddy is quite a singer, and he is probably right in saying that one thing the world needs plenty of is good songs, particularly for bathtub use. He has compiled a list of ten best songs for the bathroom following. "The Road to Mandalay," "Sweet Adeline," "I am the Captain of the Pinafore," "Vesti la Giubba" from Verdi's opera, "Pagliacci," or "Figaro" from Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," the second verse of "The Star Spangled Banner," (for Canadians we would suggest the second verse of "God Save the King") "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," and "I'll See You Again" from "Bitter Sweet," which is, however, a "blip" for his next picture.

That isn't a bad list, but for the average man, it is not so good. It is not familiar enough, although the sob in the voice that comes in the last line would be handy for the man who got soap in his eyes. However, whether the bath is in a hurry or had plenty of leisure, for the man who has to catch an 8.50 bus or a train, or who knows it is a lineup outside his bathroom door, the tempo would have to be pretty fast. The "Figaro" number, which is sung at breathless speed would suit, but that, too, is not within the compass of most men, and we would suggest as substitute a la, la, la, la hum in tarantella time, or Dena's "Funiculi, Funicula," a bit of which make for rapid soaping and rubbing of the more accessible parts of the body. For the leisurely bather, or for dealing with the spot where the shower blades and the small of the back, "Drink to Me Only" is admirable.

For a good vigorous rub, however, we cast a vote for "There'll Always Be An English" sung with appropriate fervor. Bathtub vocalism must be a difficult achievement in Germany and Italy these days. For one thing the Axis people haven't had to encourage them to lively and cheerful singing. And another insuperable handicap is that each resident is expected to take of soap per month for all ablution purposes.

A huge reservoir of airplane gasoline for the war effort is being spread a serious fire over Rumanian oil fields near Ploesti.

The Poet's Corner

TO THE FOUR COURTS, PLEASE The driver rubbed at his netty chin with a huge, loose forefinger, and looked at his watch.

And his wobbly, violet lips sucked in And puffed out again and hung down slack: One fawn above through his lopsided smile, In his little nouched eye flickered years of guile.

And the horse, poor beast, it was ribbed and forked, And its ears hung down, and its eyes were wide and staring, And its knees were knuckly, and as we talked It swayed the stiff neck that could scarce hold Its big, skinny head up—then I stepped in.

God help the horse and the driver And the people and beasts who have never a friend, For the driver easily might have been you, And the horse be me by a different end, And nobody knows how their days will cease, And the poet, when they're old, have little of peace.

—James Stephens.

prevail already in Italy. The vigor with which the forthright Church-ill challenge is being met is a tribute to the influence it may wield amongst those with whom it was addressed. — Montreal Gazette.

HOW TO COMBAT Rheumatic Pains

Rheumatic pains are often caused by uric acid in the blood. This acid impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Treat rheumatic pains by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 109

Dodd's Kidney Pills

Senator Hughes And Ire Bases

(Letter to The Ottawa Journal) Sir,—I agree heartily with the main idea expressed in Dr. Manion's letter in your issue of the 4th instant, though differing from him in some minor respects. For instance, I would cordially invite every man and woman of Irish descent in Canada, regardless of creed, to join in the suggested movement, because we all love our country and agree in many other things as well. Of course, everybody would know that the large majority of those taking part in the movement were of the Catholic faith, but I would not emphasize that point.

My method of procedure would be as follows: Immediately after the Senate reconvenes on March 4, I would suggest that the members of both Houses of Parliament of Irish descent meet and pass a joint unanimous resolution appealing to the Government and people of Eire to help us (not Great Britain alone) in every possible way they could. I would respectfully suggest that in our opinion, the best way that help could be given would be by throwing open the ports and harbors of their country to the British Government, to be used as they deemed proper, for the duration of the titanic struggle in which we are all engaged, for God and humanity.

I would ask the members of Irish descent in the several Provincial Legislatures to take similar action, and I would ask every man and woman of Irish descent in every city, town and village of Canada to take part in the movement, at or about the time the Members of Parliament acted.

In asking the Members of Parliament should act first in order to make the movement nationwide and official. And, of course, I would ask our brethren in the United States to help in every way they seemed proper to themselves. Possibly they might consider our procedure suitable to their circumstances. In the meantime I would suggest that every person in Canada of Irish descent, who felt so disposed, would write to the newspapers on behalf of the movement. This would surely help to mobilize public opinion.

Some may think the procedure I have suggested would be too slow, but I don't think effective steps could be taken to make the movement a success it ought to be in less than two months, and in any event, I believe the Members of Parliament should be given the opportunity to take the lead.

In asking the Government and people of Eire to act as suggested, we must not be unmindful of the fact that we are asking them to take the risk of being bombed and shelled by the Axis. But when did the people of Ireland refuse to face personal danger when they thought duty and honor called? Never, so far as I know, and I hope they never will.

In making our appeal to the Government and people of Eire we could, and I think we should, assure them that when victory would crown our united efforts we would gladly co-operate with them in every honorable effort they would make to achieve what must be dear to the hearts of more than 90 per cent of the race, namely the unity of government and political contentment of the home land.

I am enclosing this letter from a very sick bed and it may well be the last one I will write, but I cannot help writing it, and I respectfully ask every newspaper in the Dominion that approves to publish it. (Senator) J. J. HUGHES, Souris, Prince Edward Island, January 9, 1941.

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Invasion Anyway

(Halifax Chronicle) One of the reasons which prompted provincial governments to be wary of the Rowell-Sirois report was the invasion of provincial rights which it would produce. A curious statement by the minister of finance yesterday indicates that the Dominion government contemplates an invasion of provincial autonomy and revenues anyway, in an effort to gather more money for war purposes.

Doom was already written on the conference when Mr. Isley spoke. His remarks sounded like a desperate attempt to prevent the inevitable. Although he assured the delegates that he had no desire to threaten his assurance had a hollow ring. For Mr. Isley drew a dire picture of the awful consequences which would visit the provinces unless they approved the Rowell-Sirois recommendations.

In effect, he said: "Do as we say or take the consequences." That was an unhappy approach and merely increased the opposition to the report.

Mr. Isley told the provinces that the Dominion government may have to seek money in a way which will curtail the receipts of the provincial governments. He indicated that the Dominion, to raise money for the war effort, would invade provincial tax fields, increase the income tax, ration gasoline, end railway payments, leave provinces with debt difficulties to find their own solution.

At one stroke, he changed the whole complexion of the conference. The conference on the Rowell-Sirois report had been represented as an effort to help the war effort and to help the provinces out of their financial difficulties. Mr. Isley's statement indicated that the scheme was merely to raise more money for the federal treasury; that if the federal government failed to get the money one way, it would get it another.

The suggestion of rationing gasoline was especially significant. Premier Pattullo asked if the minister could guarantee that gasoline would not be rationed. If the report were adopted, Mr. Isley said there would be compensations.

But delegates recalled that another federal scheme plan the two chief tax sources left to the provinces would be gasoline and liquor. With gasoline rationed, under the plan, liquor would be the sole important tax source remaining.

Nobody wants to see a province living on liquor taxes and federal handouts. Prince Edward Island, which has a prohibition law, presumably would exist almost entirely on handouts from the federal treasury.

All in all, Mr. Isley's statement served merely to annoy and alarm the delegates and to promote disunity. They appreciate the need for

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money to prosecute the war, and their fields are prepared to operate 100 per cent. None of them, however, likes to have a club over his head.

As to raising money for the war effort, many people confidently believe that the Dominion government could find a good deal of money by searching its own resources. When unprecedented sums are being expended, the creeps in the usual human way, there should be even more care and efficiency in control. A more policy of thrift in the war effort, avoiding waste in purchasing administration, would place some money at the disposal of the Dominion Government. Certainly, this would be a good start.

The public would bear their burden more cheerfully if they were convinced that waste, either through favoritism or stupidity, were removed from the war effort.

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