THE
[CH]ARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1944

N. B. Power Plans

Premier McNair has neither denied nor confirmed the allegation by the leader of the opposition in New Brunswick that the government was planning to take over privately owned electric power companies and, by combining their facilities with those of the New Brunswick Power Commission, create one big system for the province. If the idea had not occurred to Mr. McNair before, says the Moncton Transcript (Liberal), he may be taking time to think it over.

The purpose of the plan, it is said in the despatch reporting Mr. Mackay's statement, would be to give lower power rates to consumers and to tie in the province-wide power facilities with the proposed Petitcodiac tidal power development. Consumers never have shown any objection to reductions in the price of electricity or anything else. The old question of private versus public ownership, however, would be raised. Those who oppose any extension of public ownership would be inclined to disapprove. Whether or not the prospects of savings they would enjoy under the plan would overcome their objections is another question. First, in order to win popular approval, it would have to be demonstrated that there would be a saving. Elimination of federal taxes would be an item. There would be some reduction in overhead by combining all the producer units in one organization. To determine whether government operation would be sufficiently economical to preserve these savings, the record of the provincial commission would have to be studied.

Meanwhile, however, although these speculations may be of some interest they remain purely academic until the statement promised by Premier McNair is given to the public.

Gas Attacks Unlikely

According to Drew Middleton, London correspondent of the New York Times, the reasonable opinion of Allied leaders is that the Germans will not employ gas as a war weapon, either on the field, or dropped from planes.

One of the first things the British Government did after the declaration of war was to furnish every man, woman and child in the country with a gas mask, believing that the Hun would be true to his record of the last war. As time went on and the Nazis did not drop gas bombs on London, the people gradually left off carrying their masks to work or whenever they went out, and now nobody carries them at all. They believe that if the Germans had intended to use gas he would have done it long before now.

We may be sure that it is not from humanitarian reasons that the enemy has refrained. If sufficient precautions are observed there is little to fear from gas in almost any form. Some types will kill, but they quickly evaporate. Others hang about for a few days, but their effects are not deadly.

The real reason for this abstension, however, is that the Germans know that the Allies possess a secret gas far more deadly than anything their scientists have knowledge of, and that when the first gas bomb or cylinder is let loose among Allied civilians or soldiers, the Allies will retort in the most awful fashion. Shortly before the end of the last war the United States had produced "Lewisite," a gas so deadly that the factory in Ohio where it was made under the direction of Professor Lewis, the inventor, was quarantined for miles on either side lest any of the fumes escape, and shortly after the war, rather than risk keeping the stuff indefinitely in drums the entire output was taken out to sea, weighed and dumped to the bottom.

The Allies have vast quantities of deadly gas in storage but they will only use it if provoked.

More Butter Produced

Creamery butter production in May moved up to 33,918,942 pounds. This represents an increase of approximately 1 3-4 million pounds or 5.3 per cent over that produced in the same month of the preceding year. All provinces except Nova Scotia and Ontario shared in this advance. This reverses the trend reported in the preceding month when a decline of 13.6 per cent was registered and is due to the fact that the season was more advanced, providing more luscious pasture than in May, 1943, when the weather was inclined to be rather cold and backward. The accumulative production of creamery butter during the January-May period amounted to 89,662,220 pounds or 6.5 per cent less than that reported a year ago.

A marked improvement in the butter supply situation in May, coupled with periodical cuts in the ration, offers more favourable prospects of building up reserve stocks, so much needed during the winter period, than was the case a month ago.

Mr. Crerar's History

One member of the King Government from whom little is heard these days is Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources. Yet Mr. Crerar was a powerful political influence in his day. The Ottawa Journal recalls that it was in June, 1919—just twenty-five years ago, that Mr. Crerar decided to quit the Union Government to lead an agrarian uprising, to be the leader and prophet of a Progressive party which, in his own words, would "take us to the upland, where the air is pure and sweet." It was a day of surging hopes, of rosy dreams.

And Mr. Crerar, though he never reached the uplands, to[illegible]g way. He took them to the point where, in 1921, they reached Ottawa with more than 60 seats in the House of Commons; a compact, militant group which, given purpose and direction, might have altered greatly the story of our politics. The Progressive party in those days was far more formidable than the CCF party of today.

Why did it vanish? The answer, suggests the Journal, was in Mr. Crerar's temperament. An amiable, kindly, moderate man, at heart a conservative, he was not of the mould of the fighting chieftain. The Whiggish Liberalism of Mr. Mackenzie King appealed to him far more than the radical dreams of the prairie wheat-growers. And while Mr. King used all his genius for blandishment, Mr. Crerar, anxious to become a statesman while it was still necessary that he remain an agitator, moved closer to the camp which was really his spiritual home. A day came when his party, now mostly tired radicals, their rosy dawn turned to a drab grey, fell to grinding corn in the camp of the Philistines.

Mr. Crerar, had he possessed the temperament of the true radical, could have exerted pressure from without or bored from within. He did neither. The label of "Liberal", the post of minister, the pomp of power, the telling to himself that, after all, more could be got by peace and expediency—these things were more of his nature. It all brought him in time to full membership in the Liberal hierarchy. The Progressive party became a memory.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our "Million Acre Farm" produced nearly two million ($1,990,000) worth of poultry and eggs last year, as against a million-and-a-half the previous year.

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Surprisingly little interest was evinced, outside the province itself in the Saskatchewan election. This was due largely to the war developments which put all other happenings in the shade.

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General De Gaulle denies having broken an agreement, re sending Free French officers to France for the invasion, as he, or his government, had signed no such agreement. Evidently someone has blundered.

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The Periodical Press Association in a brief to the Government points out that the commercial revenue of the CBC had increased from $355,919 in 1938 to some $2,800,000 in the current year, and that the time had now come to abolish the licence fee to private set owners.

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Maj.-Gen. Howard Kennedy, quartermaster-general of the Canadian Army, speaking at a post-war conference said lumber and paper would continue to dominate the forest industries for many years to come. In addition, there would be much development of by-products of the paper and lumber industries—alcohol, turpentine, vanilla and probably road materials.

* * * *

Here is a curious and enlightening commentary on German propaganda. A Tass News Agency despatch from Zurich, Switzerland, to Moscow quoted "neutral arrivals from Germany" as saying that books, pamphlets and pictures of the "Atlantic Wall" have disappeared from German bookshops and newsstands since the Allied invasion of Normandy. "They were reported to have been withdrawn from circulation on instructions of the propaganda ministry," they said.

* * * *

John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, died this date 1722; had distinguished military and political career under King James, William of Orange, and Queen Anne, his most brilliant victories being at Blenheim, (1704) Ramillies (1706) and Oudenarde (1708); Marlborough is the ancestor of Winston Churchill who has inherited his fighting and political qualities, and who has written a biography of the Great Duke.

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Some of 111 employers attending a meeting of the Ottawa Employment Committee criticized the continuance of Reserve Army camps during a period in which the manpower situation would reach its critical peak, and opposed the "draining" of essential workers into the home defence army. The employers, in an open forum discussion, criticized also "young scalawags with no interest in their work who received good wages, gave a minimum of work in return and thought of nothing but having a good time," and said industrial plants were "full" of these young men and women, mostly between the ages of 18 and 23.

* * * *

Canada's biggest problem will be to control a boom, and not unemployment, in the years immediately after the war, Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Federal Minister of Labour, told a Washington press conference last week. "All countries must be prosperous or we will all be in the ashcan as we were in 1930," he said. "The great accumulation of savings, the backlog of public and private construction, and the necessity of catching up on civilian production will provide plenty of employment in Canada for years after the war is over."

* * * *

Finance Minister Isley punctured the Quebec criticism of Canada's war aid to Britain by declaring it was an exaggeration to describe Britain as an extraordinarily rich and powerful country and Canada as a very small and poor country. Britain had, to a greater extent than any other country, disposed of its foreign investments to carry on the war. Canada, while its population was small, was a country of great actual and potential resources. More important, Canada was removed from the scene of the conflict and in a position to undertake production on a great scale. It was unthinkable that Canada should produce less than was possible. Economically, the suggestion made by opponents of the bill that Canada take sterling in payment for war supplies or carry a debt on the books was unsound. Such debts could only be paid in the end by accepting goods, by either a vast increase in imports, a sharp decrease in exports, or both. That would [illegible] disruptive of the whole Canadian economy.

Notes By The Way

Longfellow termed snowflakes "the poem of the air" and Thomas Hood referred to snow as "the beautiful". The explanation may be that neither poet had to do much shovelling, suggests the Montreal Gazette, with back-breaking realism.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The persistent refusal of Norwegians to sit beside Germans or quislings on street cars informing the public that it is prohibited to stand as long as there are any seats left occupied. People who do not obey will not only be put off at the next stop, but will be punished, to boot. The responsibility for seeing to it that the public obeys the new rule is left to the conductor, and if he fails to do his duty, he too will be punished. So say the warnings. — From News From Norway.

Notice posted on a mess hall bulletin board on Guadalcanal, signed by a chief of a Polynesian tribe: American soldiers are requested to please be a little more careful in their choice of language, especially when natives are assisting them in their unloading of ships, trucks, and in erecting abodes. American missionaries spent many years among us and taught us the words we shouldn't use. Every day, however, American soldiers use those words and the good work your missionaries did is being undermined by your careless profanity.—American Legion Monthly.

Arrangements to relay services from St. Mary's Church, Chatham, to an adjoining hall where those who wish can sit and smoke as they listen might have seemed a trifling concession to some church-goers of the past who claimed the right to enjoy a pipe even inside the church. In some English country churches smoking used to be so customary that pipe-racks, and even spittoons, were provided, and in Wales, as late as the middle of last century, the start of the sermon was [illegible] as a general signal for [illegible] members of the congregation to [illegible]. Readers of "The Heart of Midlothian" will remember an important personage who through the whole of the sermon smoked tobacco borrowed from other worshippers. — Manchester Guardian.

Armed with air-rifles, shanghais, bows and arrows and pieces of rock, a volunteer gang kept watch for sharks at [illegible] Beach, Sydney, during the school holidays. Explained the leader [illegible]: "We gave ourselves the job to help Tim, the beach inspector. We patrol the point, and when we see sharks we yell and blitz them with our ammo." Piped up [illegible], the smallest: "I spotted two grey nurses off the reef this morning, one eight feet long and the other ten feet. They were making straight for the mob of surfers. We went after them and gave them everything we had. We must have scared 'em, because they turned out to sea again." Added Brian [illegible]: "We have not killed any yet, but we must have saved hundreds of lives—a thousand, anyhow." — Australian News-Letter.

The average length of life of the American people in 1942 corresponding to the mortality conditions then current, was 64.82 years, the highest on record to date. This new figure represents a gain of more than 16½ years since the beginning of the century, when the average length of life was only [illegible] years. In the white population, the average length of life of males increased by 15½ years since 1900, while the gain for females was somewhat greater—namely, 17½ years. Even at age 40 the average after-lifetime increased by 2½ years for white males and 4 2/3 years for white females. As compared with white persons in 1942, colored persons of each sex had an average length of life shorter by about 10 years.—Metropolitan Life Bulletin.

The British Columbia legislature's standing committee on agriculture last week urged the government to provide bulldozers and other equipment for land-clearing, the farmer to pay the cost of operation. Nothing takes the heart out of a pioneer farmer more completely than the necessity of clearing his land of stumps. The work involved is enormous, particularly in the coast area and there is so little to show for it. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of men have undertaken with high hopes the job of hewing out farms for themselves and building homes and have given up in the end, utterly discouraged and perhaps half-starved into the bargain. Abandoned homesteads on which a vast amount of hard work has been done are to be found all over the coast area.—Vancouver Province.

Mayor LaGuardia of New York once said that were it not for less than one per cent of the population of that city there would be no necessity for a police force. In other words, lawlessness and dishonesty, in all of their forms, great or small, are practised by an infinitesimal fraction of any community, with the vast majority law-abiding, sociable and hard-working. People, reading the newspapers, with their daily recital of misdemeanors, are apt to become convinced that crime and dishonesty are widespread. What they forget is that such things appear in the newspapers because they are exceptional things; the exceptions that make news. The commonplace decencies of life, honesty, industry, thrift, are not news simply because they are the normal things; things taken for granted like sunshine and fresh air. It is a truth that the cynics, plus those who "view with alarm," should try to keep in mind.—Ottawa Journal.

The National Dairymen's Association adds its appeal to that of the Food Ministry for quick return of all milk bottles. The average "life" expectation of a milk bottle is tragically low. It may go over the doorstep top anything between 26 and 80 times but the average is not more than 40 before it is lost or broken. Some notion of the immense number of milk bottles in service may be deduced from the fact that even the extra milk allowance now granted means an addition of five million bottles for London alone and something like fifteen million more for the whole country. Amongst the many causes of wartime casualty to milk bottles may be mentioned getting knocked over in the black-out, left about on doorsteps owing to the housewife being absent on war work, damage by actual air raids, and removal to shelters where they are apt to be lost. But even in peacetime the milk bottle morality was alarming. Quite a legion of these useful domestic utensils are improvised as bulb pots, grave vases, tiddler aquariums, jam jars, petrol holders and other unlawful things, including even, inverted in cement, as ornamental garden paths. — From London Letter.

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.

MR. KICKHAM REPLIES

Sir,—On the back page of your Sat., June 10, 1944 edition you carried a Canadian Press news story from Moncton, New Brunswick, dated June 8th, with the headline "Says Liquor Dealers Behind Attempt To Change P.E.I. Law." The last two paragraphs of this news story are as follows:

"Miss C. Rosamond Duff, Ontario field secretary, who toured the province of Prince Edward Island prior to the convention, related much of what she had seen in Canada's only prohibition province."

"She asserted that the liquor dealers there had attempted to railroad legislation through which would have undone much of the work of the temperance people. But the latter had not been sleeping and had risen and united to such an extent that the move had been foiled."

I would like to publish through the medium of your newspaper the fact that I brought this measure before the Legislative Assembly of this Province as a private member, considering that I was acting in the best interests of the people of this province. I wish to state that I am not employed, nor have I been employed, nor do I expect to be employed by any liquor dealers. Miss Duff's statement, therefore, as quoted above is a misstatement of fact, and in this connection I am enclosing a letter which I have today mailed to her.

I would like to make a personal comment. If this Canadian Press report is a complete report of Miss Duff's statement before the National Convention of the W.C.T.U., then I may say that in my opinion Miss Duff did not look very far or very hard. No doubt she came to this province during the winter months and wore dark coloured glasses to protect her eyes from snow-blindness.

I am Sir, etc.,
T. J. KICKHAM.

(ENCLOSURE)
June 10, 19[illegible]

(Registered)
Miss C. Rosamond Duff
Ontario Field Secretary, W.C.T.U.
32 Clarence Street
London, Ontario.

Dear Madam:

The Charlottetown Guardian, June 10 issue, carried a Canadian Press dispatch, a clipping of which I am enclosing to you.

You are reported by the Canadian Press as stating in effect that the liquor dealers in this province had attempted to railroad the legislation through the Provincial Legislative Assembly in connection with the Prohibition Act.

I am the private member of this House who brought forward this proposed amendment to the Prohibition Act. I am not, have not been, nor expect to be employed by the liquor interests or any liquor dealers.

I would therefore ask you to make a retraction of your statement through the Canadian Press immediately, failing which, I will consult a Solicitor with regard to future action.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) T. J. KICKHAM
Member Legislative Assembly
Prince Edward Island.

THE CAUSEWAY, ETC.

Sir—When sending you that letter on the Causeway, etc., a few weeks ago, I did not expect to be back again so soon, especially as I had my doubts whether you would accept so long a letter, although I never had any reason to doubt your friendship. But I realized what are the demands upon your space, and remembered how newspapers were even reducing their size, in answer to the Government's continued appeals to conserve paper. I made the letter short as I could, but the subjects took in so much territory that thoughts and ideas, kept crowding in continually so that it became with me more a question, not so much what to put in, but what to leave out, and still do any thing like justice to the subject, and so a rather extended letter was the result. But I wish to thank you now for accepting it, and the good set up you gave it. The typographical errors, for a hurried daily newspaper, were very few; one line was dropped near the end, when speaking of the possible attitude of Newfoundland, but those errors were mechanical rather than editorial, and were so self-evident that perhaps I should not mention them at all.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Hemming for the kind things he said about that letter. An experienced and doughty letter-writer himself, and to me almost a total personal stranger, it is high praise indeed. He realizes, no doubt, that it seems to be the fate of all such letter writers, in this country at least such as the late J.C. Underhay, to be regarded as a "Voice of one crying in the wilderness," but that has never stopped them, and I don't suppose ever will.

What prompts me to write further now is to correct a wrong impression, inadvertent I know, which might arise regarding my "final suggestion" as dealt with by Mr. Hemming under the heading, "Should P.E.I. Secede", in your issue of May 27. No doubt in an effort to curtail his letter, in giving my suggestion he fails to mention the context, in which I stated there as plainly as I knew how to make it, "I prefer the British connection." A reader not seeing my original letter, and unable to find a copy of the paper containing it, not because of any extra demand for that number at all, but simply because you print now but few extra copies over and above your immediate requirements might very easily, and perhaps justifiably, accuse me of disloyalty. I do not feel hurt in the matter at all; I know the oversight is not intentional, but as I do not expect to be writing on this subject for quite a while again, I wish to make my position absolutely clear. Mr. Hemming himself is doubtless very familiar with that primary rule in all good writing, "Write so as not only to be understood, but that you cannot be misunderstood." My suggestion about seceding, without quoting its context at the same time, might very easily be misunderstood.

Just here I am reminded of having attended a lecture some years ago about the beginning of the Sinn Fein movement, by Shemus McManus, the prominent Irish author, on "Irish Folk-lore." As a preface to his subject, he mentioned how Irish history might then be roughly divided into three great sections, viz. "the heathen era, the Christian era,—and the De-Valera era"! I do not wish to be bracketed in that category. But De-Valera, of Spanish-American extraction as he is, although Premier of Eire undoubtedly seems to have "method in his madness," and knows his history of Ireland, and seems to know his people there as well as shown by the latest election returns, just now coming in, and which seem to confirm him more strongly than ever as Premier. I do not wish to defend his attitude, at all, as given us by the censor, but frankly speaking, find it hard to understand it. So high an authority, as MacLean's Magazine, published in ultra-loyal Toronto, and which generally speaks plainly, not fearing to call a spade a spade, not long ago published an article on this man, and describe him as not only thoroughly loyal to Britain himself, but under his government more Irishmen than ever are enlisting in the British army, and giving their lives in increasing numbers for all that the army stands for. Besides, to put it on no higher than selfish, utilitarian grounds he must see that Britain is now especially, but as it always was Eire's best market for agricultural products, while her sons and daughters by the hundred find employment in England's war-plants, scattered, as they are, all over that harrassed country. I admit that his attitude on sea-bases has caused some inconvenience in Britain's U-boat campaign, but they are doing fairly well without his help, and when we get the whole story I sometimes wonder to myself it Britain really has not some secret understanding with him, by which the neutrality of Eire protects England and Wales on the west, and so leaving it only necessary to watch the enemy on the south and east. But time alone must supply the answer to that question.

In his letter of May 27th, Mr. Hemming speaks of Saint John and Halifax being "the necessary ocean terminals of the two Canadian railway systems." He must know, but simply forgets to state, that although speakers at the Confederation Chamber at Charlottetown repeatedly held out the bait and, as I said in my first letter, repeated them soon afterward at Quebec, promises of how in Confederation, only join it, Nova Scotia was then to become "one long wharf" for the handling of Canadian shipping. If he had lived in Halifax for some years, as I did, he would vividly remember that although longshoremen there could not get regular employment, shipping was by-passed—I use an up-to-date term — by-passed, to Portland, Maine, and continued there for several years. Not that alone, but the running rights of the C.P.R., over C.N.R. rails to Halifax, for passenger traffic, and then considered superior in every way, was cancelled, and so deprived Halifax of that much also, although of corresponding benefit to Saint John. And Ottawa at that time had literally millions to sink on the Canadian National Steamships experiments, while we had to get along with the old "Stanley" and "Minto", stuck in the ice for weeks at a time, and when the use of dynamite was required to move them, and so keep up the pretence of continuous communication, all the while that millions were readily available to compete with the long-established United Fruit boats, running from the West Indies to New York, simply because some magnates in St. James Street, Montreal, wanted cheaper bananas, or some others there wanted cheaper sugar, although the refineries on the Atlantic seaboard then were hardly self sustaining. And while we in Prince Edward Island were forced to hold our old ice-boats ready as a "Stand-by", the same authorities at Ottawa, while still ignoring their written contract with this Province had no difficulty in finding more millions for the purchase of the Central Vermont Railway through the White Mountains into Boston, from Montreal, mainly because some wealthy, but thirsty, American desired quick transit in those days from prohibition America to the oasis of "Government sale" Quebec province. Later on, when some of those ventures did not prove as profitable as expected, they tried to make a scape-goat of Sir Henry Thornton. But in this they had poor success. Sir Henry once a budding engineer on the maintenance of way of the Long Island Railway, proved his ability in transporting troops from England to the mainland of Europe in the last war, and there got his knighthood in recognition of his ability, before ever coming to Canada, and none here know his true character better than the thousands of Railway men who served under him. Ask them.

Personally, I remember him as possessing one of the quickest, keenest minds that I ever came in contact with. It was in company with my good friend, the late Nelson Rattenbury, director then for this Island for the Canadian National Railways, that I first met him, on one of his early visits to this province. Our interview was supposed to occupy fifteen minutes, but Sir Henry, of his own accord, entirely, prolonged it to forty-five minutes, and might have made it even longer, only that a delegation from Fort Augustus had an appointment to see him about the location of the then proposed branch railway. They kept banging on the door of his private car, and had to be let in. What I saw him about does not matter now, but I still believe that if it had been left to Sir Henry Thornton alone, Prince Edward Island would long ago have had the terms of "continuous communication" fulfilled to the letter.

He was also blamed, towards the close of his career, for desiring to tunnel Mount Royal, and for digging a "hole" for a central station in Montreal, already, they contended, well supplied with stations. But only last fall your paper, and others, was filled with descriptions of the opening of a new million-dollar central station, upon the very spot prepared under direction of Sir Henry Thornton, and even today, in the midst of war, they are talking of two other tunnels, also under Mont Royal, one running due north and south, and the other, at half its length, crossing it at right angles, and, of course, running east and west. They evidently do not figure on transportation by air to meet their requirements then, but

(Continued on page 6, Col. 3)

A SALUTE TO OUR DADS!

FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 18th.

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