THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Pre ident, Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice President, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
Secretary, Lieut.-Col D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O.
Editor and Managin Director. J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
A soriate Editor. Frank Walker.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1940.

No Longer A Luxury

It is expected that new taxation will be imposed by Canada's new Parliament to meet the cost of the war effort.

One obvious source of taxation will be the automobile. In fact, enterprising motor car salesmen are doing a substantial volume of early spring business by admonishing would-be purchasers to buy their new cars now, before the new taxes descend.

The motor industry, says the Financial Post, is eager and willing to make whatever sacrifices may be necessary to win the war. But its spokesmen resent the use of the term "luxury" in relation to their product.

In the last war such a term may have been justified. But today, it is argued, the motor car has become an "essential factor in transportation by all sections of the Canadian public."

Admittedly some automobiles are still luxuries. But so are many items of clothing, food, shelter and other kinds of staple merchandise that are no less luxuries.

To talk of automotive transportation as a luxury, may imply an element of stigma not justified by the facts.

Spring To Poland

For the first time in many years, says an exchange, the people of Poland look upon the advent of spring with feelings of apprehension. The thought of the thaw evokes no welcoming response in their hearts.

The reason is that Poland is still suffering from the sledge-harmer blows of the wicked Nazi war machine. Not only were buildings smashed by bombs, not only was general economic life severely crippled, but important social services were also ruthlessly swept out of existence. Medical supplies were depleted, health equipment was damaged, sanitary apparatus was blasted to bits. This damage was bad enough. On top of it is the general lowering of living standards and consequent lowering of disease resistance.

And now comes the pay-off. Spring and thaws and the release of germ-laden surface waters which may spread contagious far and wide. If by some black misfortune an epidemic (cholera, typhoid, bubonic plague) should break out in the Nazi-destroyed areas of Poland, it would sweep across that unfortune area like a prairie fire and make inroads into neighboring countries of the most frightful kind.

No wonder Poles view the advent of spring with apprehension: no wonder Nazi health officials are belatedly taking steps to prevent an outbreak of disease in their crudely looted Polish territory. The next month or six weeks may tell a grim story.

Sweden's Assistance

Although Sweden, for reasons satisfactory to herself, though contrary to the best interests of freedom, democracy and world peace, refused the Allies permission to go to the aid of Finland, she did give of her treasure to her hard-pressed neighbour. A dispatch from Stockholm estimates that her aid to Finland, in money and in supplies, has amounted to the remarkable total of $125,000,000. This total is growing with every day that passes. It is growing with every hour as the Swedish food trucks roll in a steady stream over the Finnish border. It already amounts to $20 a head for every man, woman and child in Sweden—the equivalent, per capita, of a gift of more than $22,000,000 from the people of Canada. In the presence of this superb generosity we do well to take our hats off to the Swedes.

A Good Simile

"They are fighting like Old Harry" was the way an American war correspondent described the Finns in action. The simile is a good one, as Old Harri, to give him his correct name, was Norseman leader when whole valleys in Great Britain's Lakeland still recognized a Norseman King. Nature was Old Harri's ally too. King John and his army were encamped at Carlisle after reverses at the hands of Old Harri's hardy shepherds. Old Harri went with his councillors under a flag of truce to negotiate peace. They arrived at a royal banquet. They were called in and their eyes were put out as sport for the guests. When the English army advanced the next day they carried the body of Old Harri, crucified on a cross, as a standard before them. But when they came to the shores of the lake where the Norsemen were awaiting them, the mysterious "helm wind" which still ruffles the placid surface of Cumberland lakes on a calm day, came suddenly down from a clear sky, churned the English soldiery, who believed it was Nature's answer to their sacrilege. At any rate that is the legend in Lakeland.

Where Were The Cartoonists?

An odd thing in the election campaign, noted by the Ottawa Journal, was the eclipse of the cartoonist. Time was, twenty or thirty years ago, when the cartoonist made a difference in an election, added to its interest, certainly to its gaiety. Two or three of our bigger newspapers had their artists, but their work was hardly distinguished; certainly failed to attract more than local interest. The most that can be said for them is that they were better than the cartoonists employed by the parties for their posters and party "literature."

The curious thing is that while the cartoonist seems to have gone out in Canada, and also in the United States, he has more than held his own in England. Today Strube and Low, the best of the British lot, are all but national institutions. More than mere cartoonists, they are daily commentators upon the national world scene, shrewd in their judgments, sometimes devastating in their satire.

And as in England, so in France, in Italy and Germany. Anyone who ever looks at the foreign press, or who sees the reproductions in British and United States newspapers of German and French cartoons, cannot fail to be struck by their extraordinary sharpness and power.

Why it should be different in Canada and the United States, is hard to say. Perhaps our pen and ink artists are content (and more prosperous) with the comic strip.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

All Fools Day. It is the part of a fool to say "I should not have thought it." The impenetrable stupidity of Prince George, son-in-law of James II served its turn, says Macaulay. It was his habit, when any news was told him to exclaim "Est-el possible?" "It is possible?"

* * * *

Unique is the fact that McGill University will be represented in Parliament by three of its professors. They are Dr. Cyrus MacMillan, Moison professor of English Literature; Brooke Claxton, K.C., and D. C. Abbott, K.C., lecturers in law at McGill, who captured two Conservative strongholds in Montreal.

* * * *

Hon. C. A. Dunning has been elected to the Canadian Board of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., Ltd., and also to the Head Office Board of the Liverpool-Manitoba Assurance Co., the Globe Indemnity Co. of Canada, and the National Liverpool Insurance Company. To him that hath shall be given.

* * * *

More than 60 per cent of marriages in Eire are made matches and are much more successful than love unions, remarked Judge O'Connor when hearing a breach of promise case at Cork, the other day. The defendant had urged that no heart balm should be given as the engagement had been arranged. The judge in awarding damages to the plaintiff said he would not have been inclined to do this had it not been for a blackguardly letter written by the defendant.

* * * *

The soldiers' vote will not be released until the totals from the four voting districts — United Kingdom, Halifax, Ottawa and Edmonton—are added together. Chief Electoral Officer Jules Castonguay expects to have the figures available for every riding between midnight Monday and 3 a.m. Tuesday morning. The soldiers votes go for the candidates in the riding in which they last resided.

* * * *

Says the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette: A cabinet shuffle is expected but it may not be attempted until the middle of next month. A Ministry of Air and a Ministry of Supply are believed almost certain with Transport Minister C. D. Howe being the likely choice for the latter. It is possible that Col. C. W. G. Gibson, newly elected Hamilton member, may be taken into the Ministry in some war post. Dr. Cyrus MacMillan of Prince Edward Island may also be utilized.

* * * *

The total value of imports of farm implements into Canada rose from $17,234,000 in 1937 to $20,320,000 in 1938; while exports and re-exports declined from $10,000,000 to $7,954,000. The estimated apparent consumption advanced from $26,195,000 to $33,665,000; while the total sales at wholesale prices rose from $30,775,000 to $36,336,000. The United States led in 1938 as a source of imports at $19,196,000; while the leading markets for Canadian exports of these products were Great Britain $1,132,000, Argentina $2,076,000 and the United States $2,444,000.

* * * *

Can you beat this? The very day after the election, the principal Protestant Chaplain of the Canadian Active Service Corps, Bishop Wells of Caribou, announced the absolute necessity for conscription. Speaking at Ottawa to the Women's Club he said "when the smoke of election has faded away, the leaders will be in a position to say that we must have a national registration of every man and woman for the position they can best serve. It would be fatal to take away all the loyal men and allow the trash, who have accumulated from coast to coast, some of whom place Russia before the country that has made them its citizens, to remain at home and reap the benefits." There was a scurrying of newspaper correspondents and others to see how this compared with the attitude of the Prime Minister, and, lo, they found in no speech or announcement had Mr. Mackenzie King declared he was opposed to conscription, though plenty to indicate that his opponent at one time favoured it.

* * * *

Growing potatoes from eyes rather than from sets has been introduced into Manitoba farms by the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon, Manitoba. On the Farm, 1,476 lots of 50 eyes each were prepared and sent to members of the agricultural improvement associations, and reports from 236 members indicate that 97 per cent of the eyes produced plants. The average yield from each lot of 50 eyes was 65 lb. of tubers. The highest yield reported was 203 lb. The eyes were removed by a potato baller, and each eye piece weighed about one-half ounce. The eyes were coated with finely ground magnesium limestone to prevent drying out and placed in special waxed cartons. The variety used was Certified Irish Cobbler from a Prince Edward Island strain, selected for its shallow eyes. In general, comments of the growers were of a favorable nature indicating that the eyes yielded as well as potatoes cut in the usual manner. In some cases the yield was greater. Although definite conclusions cannot be drawn from one year's results, states the superintendent of the Farm, this method may be found useful in the distribution of special strains of potatoes.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If the German threat to torpedo any neutral ships, which submit to British contraband control regulations, can be taken at face value the situation may be extremely serious. The Germans include American shipping in the statement. Ships of American registry are barred from the combat zones around the British Isles. But they are allowed by our regulations to sail to and from Mediterranean ports. They thus become subject to British contraband control at Gibraltar. It is impossible for shipping passing in and out of the Mediterranean by the Atlantic outlet, to avoid putting into Gibraltar for examination of cargo by the British authorities. This contraband control process is said to be legal by international law. It is claimed, however, that the strict methods used, such as seizure of mail to neutral countries, are violations of international law and against which our state department has vigorously protested. But the German threat is based on the claimed right to sink any ships which submit to the control. Presumably, or at least as interpreted in Washington the German plan is to sink ships without warning. If so, the sinking of such neutral ships could be classed as close to an act of war against the nation which owned the ships. Germany has not the slightest right to act in this high handed fashion. It is true that the Germans might sink or seize a neutral ship which, after examination, was found to have more than 50 per cent of her cargo in contraband goods destined for enemy countries, but the captors must assume the safety of the crew — Boston Post.

The job of managing this country grows harder every year. For one thing, the number of people who have to be managed keeps on increasing. It has become the fashion to speak of our population as more or less stagnant because immigrants no longer enter at the 1913 rate of 400,000 a year. Yet today there are 50 percent. more Canadians than at the start of the last war. In that respect Mr. King's job has been 50 percent. more difficult than was Sir Robert Borden's. Laurier's white plume is a snowy mountain peak of our history. His 1896 Cabinet of all the talents remains a model for current ministries. Yet there were less than five million people in Canada when the Liberals then took office. And the budget was about the same size as the one which now worries Mayor Ralph Day of Toronto. It is no reflection upon statesmen of other days that they operated with fewer taxpayers. It is certainly no reflection upon them that they spent less money. Macdonald and Laurier and the others faced grave problems in the Canada of their times. But no easy comparison can be made with the problems of this Canada in this year of 1940.—The Printed Word.

In some ways we Americans are a prosaic and tradition-bound people. Vanilla is still our most popular ice cream. When the waitress rattles off a varied enticing list of pies, most of us say "Make mine apple." Yet a lot of us continue to buy gadgets from door-to-door canvassers which go to pieces in 10 days. We're the kind of people who play safe when ordering meals, who face the gates in elevators, yet risk our lives in dashing across a crowded street against the red light. The man who wears galoshes when it snows is often the man who turns on the electric light after he gets in the bathtub. We're conformists in getting a conventional kick out of Charlie McCarthy on the radio and nonconformists in getting an illegal kick out of "stepping her up" to 70 on the highway. If we brought the same caution to driving that we bring to picking a spring fedora, we'd stand a good chance of living longer. — Minneapolis Star-Journal.

All Britain asks of neutrals is that they see clearly who are their friends and who are their enemies among the nations at war. In Greece a spokesman of the government warns the world that his nation will fight rather than submit to aggression. From Norway comes denunciation of Germany's murderous sea war as "a violation of solemn treaties." In Denmark a newspaper dares to demand the right of the Danish people to live in peace and in accordance with the rules of international law. "Those who die on their way to Britain have only themselves to thank for it." That is Goebbels' insulting epitaph on the Danish sailors murdered in the North Sea. It is a lesson in how to make enemies and keep them. From the moment she set out on her campaign for world conquest, Germany has shown cynical disregard for what other nations think of her. For what would world opinion matter to Germany if Germany won the war?—Sunday Chronicle.

A young fellow from a Western Ontario city wrote a day or so ago saying he wanted a position on the Examiner staff. He explained he is 17 years of age and feels it is time he was making a start. "There doesn't seem to be much chance where I am, and I'd have to begin work at very low wages. I can see plenty of families here where men are working and they just about break even, and that is why I want to get away." He did write a very good and enthusiastic letter, and he also touched on something very large indeed when he mentioned the number of families which were just about breaking even. The trouble is that this young fellow has not seen much of the world; he does not appreciate the plain fact that the great majority of people in this world are relatively poor, or that millions of them live close to poverty... So our young friend who is 17 is somewhat depressed because there are families in his community who do not seem to be doing much better than breaking even should become aware that the world is full of such families. The number of those who can sit back and take it easy is very small indeed. — Peterborough Examiner.

Mount Etna Again

(Washington Star)

Reports from Rome to the effect that Mount Etna again is active may be of little significance, yet there are many Americans who, having visited the scene, will be interested to hear of the new series of eruptions. The loftiest volcano in Europe is an unforgettable feature of the Mediterranean picture. It looms above the coasts of Sicily ten thousand feet, and commonly emits a column of dark and acrid smoke from its summit. The truncated cone, however, is by no means the only crater. Rather, there are innumerable openings from which steaming lava has descended to the shores of the Middle Sea.

The ancient Greeks knew Etna as the forge of Vulcan or of the Cyclops. Within the mountain, it once was believed, the Titan called Enceladus struggled for his freedom. A tradition tells that Empedocles, physician, poet and philosopher, cast himself into the highest pit to create the impression that he was a god. The volcano allegedly expelled one of his bronze sandals to solve the mystery of his disappearance. Pindlar and Aeschylus wrote of eruptions in 475 B. C. The disturbance of 396 is said to have prevented Himilco from marching on Syracuse. Perhaps the most famous of all explosions was that of 1669 A.D., when Catania was overwhelmed.

But Etna is not an especially dangerous volcano. It stands in one of the most densely populated non-industrial areas of the world, and ceaselessly threatens the entire island with destruction, yet its bark appears to be more annoying than its bite. True, its record includes at least one catcylsm in which sixty thousand people are supposed to have perished, and it always is possible that it may break out in another such rampage. Native Sicilians, though, are not fearful of such a disaster. Instead, they cultivate a certain curious but understandable pride in their "fiery monster" which annually brings profit to them. They appreciate its beauty also, and their enthusiasm is shared by tourists from the United States, who, climbing the majestic hill and looking down into its flaming center, never forget the spectacle. Parenthetically, it may be mentioned that it is an experience worthy of remembrance to pick violets on the slope—delicate and fragile flowers defying death with a courage which human creatures need in a time when the whole earth is a volcano.

The Cleanly Pig

(New York Sun)

The Institute of American Meat Packers studies the origin, preparation and distribution of roasts, cutlets, chops, sausages and other good things. Recently it has once again bent its attention to the pig, reading and co-ordinating the facts and theories educed and discussed by authorities on that useful member of the animal kingdom—the same authorities who have established it as a fact that by nature the pig is a cleanly fellow whose habits become subject to criticism only when shortsighted man so circumstances him that he can not exercise successfully his innate passion for neatness. The institute now has penetrated the mind of the pig.

It is declared by T. H. Zeller, senior animal husbandman, and N. R. Ellis, senior chemist, in the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, that there is apparently a distinct difference in the mental attitude of a pig fed by hand by its owner and that of one self-fed away from human society. According to the latest Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture.

A self-fed pig seems to be more satisfied, seldom grunting or squealing, whereas the pig that is hand-fed is usually squealing for feed at various intervals between feedings.

The self-fed pig eats more daintily and oftener than the hand-fed pig, and is assumed to be a more efficient pork producer than the pig handicapped by hand feeding. His sense of self-sufficiency, his gratification derived from the independence, his exercise of power establish a serenity of mind that promotes assimilation. Man, proud Man, is not too arrogant to take lessons from the buzzy bee, the pertinacious ant, the sagacious elephant; he might find something worth considering in that interesting fellow creature of whose tail George Herbert said you can never make a good shaft.

The Poets' Corner

FROM "FRIENDS IN PARADISE"

They are all gone into the world of light!
And I alone sit lingering here;
Their very memory is fair and bright,
And my sad thoughts doth clear.

It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast,
Like stars upon some gloomy grove,
Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest,
After the sun's remove.

I see them walking in an air of glory
Whose light doth trample on my days:
My days which are at best both dull and hoary,
Mere glimmering and decays. . . .

Dear, beauteous Death! the jewel of the just,
Shining nowhere but in the dark;
What mysteries do lie beyond thy dust,
Could man outlook that mark!

He that hath found some fledged bird's nest may know
At first sight if the bird be flown;
By what fair well or grove he sings in now,
That is to him unknown.

And yet, as angels in some brighter dreams
Call to the soul when man doth sleep:
So some strange thoughts transcend our wonted themes,
And into glory peep . . .

—Henry Vaughan, 1622-95.

"Beastly Things" On Newsstands

(Vancouver Province)

There has arrived in this office, for the instruction of the editor, a bundle of about a dozen monthly magazines, regularly published in the United States and regularly sold, seemingly without official let or hindrance, on a great many of the newsstands of this city which pass for respectable businesses.

There is no doubt at all that these magazines are horrible things that can conceivably work a great mischief in the impressionable minds of school children.

It is also apparently no secret that school children, principally schoolboys from 12 to 14 years old, are the readers of these magazines.

There is no good reason that any decent man can give why the authorities should not prevent the sale of these beastly things by any means within the lawful resources of the law officers of the Crown.

You will have no difficulty in recognizing this stuff, if you happen not to know what it looks like. These prints are recognizable by their covers, which are almost invariably alike in a highly-colored suggestion of an illeterate's feast of sex and crime.

If you are really in doubt, you may ask for them by their trade name of "Horror Mag". The news agent will almost certainly know what you mean. If he is candid he will admit that generally he depends on customers—if you are adult—very much younger than you.

It is at a glance obviously true of these magazines that "sex and sadism is the basis of their appeal". Even if they are not by legal definition obscene (and that is something very difficult to prove at law), the unconcealed commodities which are their bid for custom are lewdness and crime. They are at least dreadful trash, very mischievous stuff for the secret reading of children.

It is no surprise to hear that a number of cities in the United States, aroused by the protests of parent-teacher associations and the like, have dealt radically with the evil of the unrestricted and open sale of these magazines. They have proceeded by police action against the news dealers and obtained convictions and (what is often even more effective) publicity for the people who traffic in this stuff.

Also, in our case, the customs and the postoffice have powers of interdiction at the border.

There is no arguable question of freedom of the press here. This is a simple case of preventing the exploitation of childhood for the profit of a conscienceless scum of the publishing trade and the way to clean up this thing is to get rough and clean it up.

BAYLEY RESIGNS

LONDON—(CPJ— P. E. G. Bayley, London editor and manager of the Australian Associated Press, has resigned on account of ill-health and will be succeeded by R. Irvine Douglas.

METAL FOR HITLER

BERLIN —(OP) —To keep war factories going full tilt, Goering has decreed that all Germans give Adolf Hitler "a gift of old metal" on his birthday, April 20.

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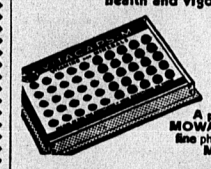

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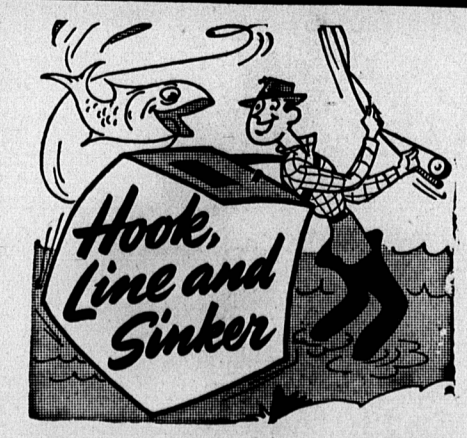
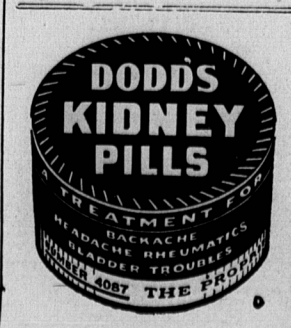
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