THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16,

Nuremberg And After

Brigadier-General J. H. Morgan, K.C., writing for the *Quarterly Review* under the above heading has some very critical things to say about the trials. Having first examined and found unimpeachable in law the count of "War Crimes," of which all but three of the defendants were, indeed, convicted, the learned author goes on to show the weakness of the other counts in the Nuremberg Indictment.

Count Four, "Crimes Against Humanity," was previously to 1946 unknown to international law and the "particulars" under this heading included offences committed by the German Government in Germany before the war and upon its own subjects. This is impossible to reconcile with national or international law, yet as the "Charter" of the Tribunal (Article 5) expressly laid it down that "crimes against humanity committed against any civil population before or during the war were to be within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal," the Court had no option but to admit evidence of them and to pass judgment upon them. It is, of course, an extreme example of ex-post facto legislation and the draftsmen have much to answer for.

The writer goes on to criticize the phrase "Aggressive War" which the Nuremberg Tribunal held to have been made a crime by the Pact of Paris (Kellogg-Briand Treaty) but which that Pact merely condemned in general terms in its preamble without actually outlawing such aggressive war in terms. Even that doubtful prohibition was avoided by the expedient of "undeclared war" and practically repudiated in the terms of the U. K.'s declaration of war and the U. S. Proclamation of Neutrality. In the words of Professor H. A. Smith, "It may safely be said that no lawyer would have dared to say in 1939 that the rulers of a state could be punished as criminals for preparing an aggressive war." The nations of the world, begetters of the Pact, left Abyssinia, China and Finland to their fate and did not even break off diplomatic relations with the aggressors. The Pact was already dead, and, indeed, in an advanced state of decomposition, years before it was dug up in Nuremberg.

The Count of "Conspiracy" is paradoxical in that a military tribunal deriving its jurisdiction from the fact of war is invested to try the accused for alleged offences committed in time of peace, extending back to six years before the outbreak of war. The jurisdiction, under the laws and usages of war, of a military court is a jurisdiction confined to "alien enemies." Yet at the time the alleged offences were committed the accused were not "enemies" at all.

Further, apart from "War Crimes" all, or nearly all of the offences were lawful by the laws of the country, Germany, to wit, in which they were committed.

The author gives a final warning that the victorious power will always claim that the vanquished was the aggressor and in such case, if Britain be vanquished, it may go hard for some of her "Economic Planners."

New Consumers' Organization

A new women's organization which has made itself heard in the nation's capital and of which much more will shortly be heard throughout the country, is the Canadian Association of Consumers. This is a voluntary, independent organization, and was formed by representatives of national women's groups, Provincial presidents of Women's Institutes, chairmen of the former W. R. A. C., and the consumers' branch of the W. P. T. B. Its membership is open to all women living in Canada on the payment of a small fee. It has been formed to provide a channel for economic education to all Canadian women and at the same time to be a focal point for consumer education.

The women felt they should unite because they have a keen sense of human values and human welfare. This coupled with adequate information should make their united voices of value in the practical workings of our democracy, and also ensure better home making.

Specifically the aims of the new organization are:

1. To unite women's strength as consumers; to work for the improvement of standards of living in Canadian homes.

2. To study consumer problems and make recommendations for their solution.

3. To circulate information on matters of consumer interest and to secure and evaluate opinions.

4. To bring the views of consumers to the attention of Government, trade and industry and to provide a channel from these to the consumer.

The programme will be flexible, formulated to meet the needs of every hamlet, town or city in Canada.

The association has adopted a six point programme covering: (1) standards of consumer goods; (2) prices; (3) planned spending and saving; (4) "you and the home market"; (5) housing; (6) foreign trade—a two-way street. Each of these points is subdivided into numerous sections, all bearing on practical every-day problems of the consumer.

While soaring prices were a live topic at the organization meeting of the Association at Ottawa, it was felt that they could not be discussed without consideration of Canada's unique place in world trade. Emphasis was placed on the relation between the standards of the quality of goods consumed and the standards of a satisfactory quality of living.

The Association will seek to work through existing women's organizations, and it is hoped that every housekeeper especially will avail herself of this opportunity to obtain, through the director, the information which will be made available from expert economists, technicians and others.

The organization meeting instructed the new directors to meet with Prime Minister Mackenzie King and his Ministers to discuss the whole question of rising living costs. They asked that immediate action be taken to bring down prices of essential commodities to assure a decent standard of living and to hold off further increases in basic food prices until the prices of other commodities become stabilized.

The Association is planning to open a nation-wide membership campaign, and it has made an auspicious start in the practical nature of its aims and objective.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Princess Elizabeth christens the Canadian liner "Edinburgh Castle" at Belfast today.

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The first United States Congress met this date 1774—one year after Prince Edward Island's first Parliament met.

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It is understood the stand to be chosen for buses in the City is Clarke St., running between Prince and Hillsboro.

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Every cent of fire insurance money paid to insurers is later collected from non-losers by increased rates. It therefore pays to keep down the number of fires.

* * * *

Nobody, not even the Premier, knows when the Provincial election will take place, but it is surmised that if it is to be held this year, the date will be round about the third week of November.

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Mr. Arthur T. Fardais, Ottawa motorist, probably regrets his consideration for the safety of a pigeon. Fardais braked to avoid running down the bird and a following car crashed into him. Damages amounted to $165.

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The United States is going in for food conservation with as much ballyhoo as in the promotion of ball-bearing pens. The administration has been forced to realize that the great American public has built up a resistance to all but the most high-powered newspaper appeals.

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The New Zealand Labour Government has introduced an amendment making it compulsory for a union to hold a secret ballot of members directly affected before any strike. The object of the legislation is to prevent union members being forced into a strike against their will by militants.

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The Argentine seems to be preparing to develop a dairy industry in addition to its present beef herds. Many of the foundation stock will be purchased in Canada, enabling us to encourage high class competition as we did in the fox industry, and are doing in the hog industry.

* * * *

The division of Palestine is one of the few issues on which Russia is on the same side as Britain and the U. S. The motives, however, are somewhat different. The western powers being concerned with providing a home for the Jews and Russia being bent on weakening the rightist Arab federation.

* * * *

It was a graceful and appreciated act on the part of Deputy Postmaster-General W. J. Turnbull to attend the Board of Trade, if for no other purpose, than to advise us not to be impatient about a new Post Office in the City, reminding us we may have to wait as long as we did for our new Car Ferry,—six years. He also had a dig at those politicians who may think departments exist for the purpose of providing jobs for "deserving democrats." "The Department," he said, "does not exist for the purpose of finding jobs for civil servants, or for making money. There is only one limitation we put on what we do: we are not entitled to take out of the taxpayers' pockets luxury services to give to a favored few."

* * * *

Nuremberg criminals executed this date 1946. Adolf Hitler is presumed to have died, probably a suicide, on April 30, 1945. In November, 1945, at Belsen, and in December at Nuremberg, German war criminals guilty of atrocities were arraigned and tried. The indictment charged the major war criminals with responsibility for the deaths of 12,000,000 men, women and children, and on Oct. 1, 1946, the tribunal sentenced 12 of the accused to death, 3 to imprisonment for life, and 4 to lesser terms, while 3 were acquitted. Allied Control Council rejected all appeals for clemency, and rejected plea by Goering, Jodl and Keitel to be shot instead of hanged. Shortly before he was to have been hanged Goering committed suicide by taking cyanide in his cell. The remaining Nazis sentenced to death were hanged at Nuremberg before dawn on 16th.

* * * *

It is to be hoped the scheme to remodel Dalvay to suit our steadily growing tourist trade is not being lost sight of in the plethora of other projects mooted. An up-to-date Dalvay in the National Park would set the pace not only for the erection and development of other tourist resorts, but would encourage wealthy Canadians and Americans to erect summer homes of their own in favourable sites, just as the Macdonald's built and maintained Dalvay till the third generation sought pastures new in Continental Europe. It will be untold generations before Europe will have sufficiently recovered to attract summer tourists from this side; whereas we have everything needful at our command, the only things still required being vision, initiative and enterprise. We can picture Prince Edward, the Island Beautiful, as the most popular summer resort from June to October on the whole of North America.

Notes By The Way

One of those new immigrants brought from Great Britain painted a picture for Canadians in a sentence just after he entered this fortunate land. We should pause to think about it seriously. The arrival announced with gusto. "I have had four weeks' egg rations for breakfast this morning." — Brandon Sun.

Toronto expert says parents are responsible for the delinquency of their children. But then grandparents are responsible for the parents and so on ad infinitum, until you get right back to original sin. — Toronto Saturday Night.

The sponsor of a mail order course in writing suggests that budding authors adopt flowery, three-word pseudonyms under which to submit their first efforts to magazines, relates Trade Winds in The Saturday Review of Literature. "Where" he asks, "do you think Mary Roberts Rinehart and Clarence Budington Kelland would be today if they had written under the names of, say Mary Jones and Clarence Smith?" In the opinion of Trade Winds, they'd be in exactly the same place they are now.

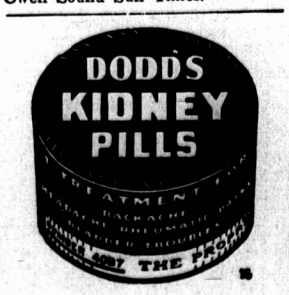
There is a fascination in plowing. There is scarcely a more beautiful sight than a well-matched team rhythmically and leisurely plodding up and down a field and heaving clean, straight swathes of brown earth where pasture or stubble were before. Science says that straight furrows are not the thing and the farmer is a conservationist. But he's glad that he can still plow. Plowing is satisfactory work whether in a straight line or following the natural contour of the land. — Kitchener Record.

When he was thirteen years old, George Ernest Fader knew nothing about tooting a bugle, but he was sure that the Canadian army offered a good career; his father and two brothers were in it already. So George enlisted and, after basic training, was handed a bugle. Says Fader: "I just exhaled, and if the right note didn't come out, someone booted me in the rear." George's father and brothers were pensioned off in due time. George stayed in uniform, became a pay clerk, a sergeant major, and the father of two. Last week, at thirty-three, George retired on a pension (two - fifths of his pay) good for about $1,000 a year for the rest of his life. — Time Magazine.

When given a chance at employment, disabled persons generally prove they are just as capable as other workers in the same types of jobs. Often they are superior. Yet there is a great unified need for providing them fuller opportunities to display their special skills and all-round working ability. Some 6,000,000 handicapped men and women are now employed in thousands of different kinds of jobs. They are performing well. A cross-section survey in 109 plants which hire both handicapped and able-bodied workers revealed that the handicapped employes have been found by their employers to be more reliable and less inclined to absenteeism than the others. Also, they are widely regarded as being unusually careful and adaptable. Wherever they have been properly placed their production records have been outstanding. — Kansas City Times.

A great deal is being said these days about the necessity of westerers gaining an understanding of the Russian mentality, says The Woodstock Sentinel-Review. This inspired a contemporary to recall an anecdote related by the late great Spanish writer, Blasco Ibanez. "Ah, the Russians!" Senor Ibanez exclaimed. "They are strange people. I have talked with their statesmen and writers. I have read their books. Again and again I have felt that at last I understood them, but, all of a sudden, something would pop up to prove me entirely mistaken. "It is this way: A Russian says to you, 'two and two makes four.' You say 'yes'. He says 'four and four makes eight.' You say 'certainly.' He says '16 and 16 makes 1,876.' You protest they do nothing of the sort. They make—' "He looks at you in despair. " 'Ah!' he wails, 'you do not understand the Slavic soul.' "

A modern farmer has to be a mechanic as well as a tiller of the soil. Quick repair jobs frequently add much to the dangers. As an instance, the hay fork equipment now in use many years for lifting and mowing hay quickly, presents many hazards in itself. Lifting as much as a half load of hay at times, it puts a terrific strain on the several pulleys along which it works. The fork itself may, through mechanical failure or momentary carelessness plunge down endangering any one who may happen to be below. Or something may catch in the carriage, which runs along tracks at the extreme height in the peak of the barn. Then the farmer has to climb up to fix it, at that height, sometimes right over a runway of the barn. The common hay fork, with its long sharp tines, standby of the farmers through generations, carries with it many dangers. — Owen Sound Sun Times.



PUBLIC FORUM

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

LEADERSHIP NEEDED

Sir,—I have read that keen and understanding letter by H. K. S. Hemming concerning the packing-house workers' strike, and certainly concur in the suggestion that lack of leadership and inaction on the part of the authorities involved (either at the Federal or Provincial level) makes a solution to the labor-management problem just that much more involved—and, as your correspondent says, "the longer we neglect it the more difficult it will become."

Unfortunately the fact that meat supplies continue to come fairly normally to Canadian tables, tends to obscure the dangers lurking behind this most unfortunate — also untimely — labor-management fight? The people likely to be most cruelly hurt are, as you know, those at both ends of this 'food pipeline" — reaching back to the livestock producers on the one hand, and the hard-pressed folks in Britain and the continent on the other!

I cull a thought from your W.C.T.U. column in that same issue which appears to this reader to have a place in this picture, and which I commend to the notice of all concerned:

"We shall feed the hungering souls of earth;
But whom have we fed today?"

The ineptitude and silent cowardice of our public men at this grave hour is, indeed, deplorable? O for a Canadian voice to match this grim hour, and rally the troops of peace in the global war on hunger! Listen to the clarion-call of Woodrow Wilson in years of crisis, no darker than the present hour: "Men's hearts wait upon us; men's lives hang in the balance; men's hopes call upon us to say what we will do. Who shall live up to the great trust? Who dares fail to try? I summon all honest men, all forward-looking men to my side. God helping me, I will not fail them, if they will but counsel and sustain me."

I am, Sir, etc.,
STUDENT.

Success Of West Indies Conference

The reports of the British West Indies Conference so far available leave no doubt that the idea of federation has now firmly taken root among the three million people of these scattered and ancient Colonies who have had separate forms of government in some cases as long as 300 years. The Conference was concluded only on September 19th and such account of its achievements as can be given now is only in summary form.

The main committee of the Conference with Flight Lieutenant Aidan Crawley, M.P., Parliamentary Private Secretary to the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the chair at its first session on September 15th, found itself in general agreement on the principle of federation on the Australian model: that is to say, the component territories to transfer certain powers to the federal authority, reserving to themselves all other powers. Only British Guiana of the seven Colonies concerned could not subscribe to this resolution. British Guiana however agreed with all other decisions.

* * * *

Of these the most important is agreement to form a joint standing organization to plan the federation. The Committee, which will sit in Barbados, will consider and make recommendations on the assimilation of fiscal and tariff policies and of the legislation of the federating units, unification of currencies and, so far as practicable, of public services. Its members will give thought to the form of constitution most likely to meet the aspirations of the mass of the people. The Committee is asked to report by the end of next year so that a further conference can be held not later than June 1949.

There was keen discussion on the resolutions embodying approval of the proposal to federate. In particular, some preferred immediate federation, while others feared that might put back the development of responsible government in each Colony. Finally, with the reservation already noted in respect of British Guiana, the Conference passed all the resolutions of which the following are among the more important.

Firstly, the Conference, recognizing the desirability of a political federation of British Caribbean territories, accepted the principle of a federation in which each constituent unit retains complete control over all matters except those specifically assigned to the federal Government.

Secondly, the Conference agreed that an increasing measure of responsibility should be extended to the several units of the British Caribbean territories, whose political development must be pursued as an aim in itself without prejudice and in no way subordinate to progress towards federation.

Thirdly, the Conference agreed that the provision of adequate intercolonial and external shipping services and other communications is essential if progress is to be made towards federation, and recommended that in the meantime, and until a federal authority exists, a British Caribbean Shipping Committee should be set up as recommended in the report of the fact-finding meeting on shipping held in Barbados last July.

* * * *

Mr. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, flew to Jamaica to attend the Conference. In a broadcast he said the idea of federation had taken very firm shape and committees had been formed to hammer out its framework and see how the difficulties might be overcome. He gave assurance that Britain would continue to help build up responsible Government in each Colony irrespective of the progress made with federation.

During the previous few months several regional West Indian Conferences have been held, all of which have helped pave the way to federation. Unification of medical services was the chief subject at a conference of Directors of Medical Services and senior medical officers in Barbados in June. Other topics included the employment of specialists by groups of Colonies and an interchange of qualified nurses.

The shipping needs of the West Indies were discussed in July, also in Barbados, at a conference convened to supply data to the Imperial Shipping Committee in London which is enquiring into this problem. After this meeting there was a conference on oils and fats to draw up an agreement to adjust distribution and prices of edible oil and fats so as to make the best use of existing output and encourage more production.

S. A. McDONALD'S

The Poet's Corner

TO A FISH

You strange, astonished-looking, angle-faced
Dreary-mouthed, gaping wretches of the sea,
Gulping salt water everlastingly,
Cold-blooded, though with red your blood be graced,
And mute, though dwellers in the roaring waste;
And you, all shapes beside, that fishy be,—
Some round, some flat, some long, all devilry,
Legless, unloving, infamously chaste:

O scaly, slippery, wet, swift, staring wights,
What is't ye do? What life lead? eh, dull goggles?
How do ye vary your vile days and nights?
How pass your Sundays? Are ye still but joggles
In ceaseless wash? Still nought but gapes, and bites,
And drinks, and stares, diversified with boggles?

The Fish Answers:

Amazing monster! that, for aught I know,
With the first sight of thee didst make our race
For ever stare! O flat and shocking face,
Grimly divided from the breast below!
Thou that on dry land horribly dost go
With a split body and most ridiculous pace,
Prong after prong, disgracer of all grace,
Long—useless—finned, haired, upright, unset, slow!

O breather of unbreathable, sword-sharp air,
How canst exist? How bear thyself, thou dry
And dreary sloth? What particle canst share
Of the only blessed life, the watery?
I sometimes see of ye an actual pair
Go by linked fin by fin! most odiously.

—Leigh Hunt.

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Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

OLD GUN MEMENTO

On the removal of the ordnance from the Blockhouse in 1856, an 18 pounder gun was allowed to slip from its sling and roll over the bank of the fortress to the water's edge, where it remained for several years. But in 1860, during July, when all were preparing for the reception of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) the late Theophilus DesBrisay, Esq., had the gun brought to Charlottetown and placed in the ground, in an upright position, with the muzzle upwards, at the north angle of Queen and Grafton Streets. A stout flag-staff of considerable length was placed in the bore of the gun, from the summit of which the Union Jack was displayed during the three days' sojourn of His Highness. Though the staff has been removed for many years, the gun remains erect, as a memento of the harbor's fortifications, and a memorial of the Prince's visit to Prince Edward Island.—Pollard's History. (The gun is still where it was placed in 1860, at what is now Hughes' Corner.)

OPERAS IN CHAPELS

TONYPANDY, Wales — (CP)— The Mid-Rhondda Operatic Society is pressing the church society for the use of several large chapels, "capable of accommodating 800," to stage their operas because of the existing building shortages.

HARD ON SOLES

Sharp edges of volcanic rock on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic can wear out a heavy pair of boots in six days.

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