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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1939.

Air Training Centres

Attention has been called in these columns on several occasions to the importance of the federal air training scheme in connection with the new Charlottetown airport.

Our local contemporary now joins us in pressing the advantage of this proposal, and the importance of the Provincial capital as an air-training centre.

When war broke out, only five months of the fiscal year had passed. If the Government had then taken steps to save on controllable expenditures it might have felt that its economy pledges were being carried out.

South African Markets

Since the outbreak of war South African buyers have shown an increasing interest in Canadian products, especially those which can replace merchandise formerly imported from Europe.

The stoppage of commercial intercourse with Germany will leave a gap in the foreign trade of the Union which, as far as merchandise imports are concerned, had an average value during the past ten years of close to £4,000,000.

Trade between Germany and South Africa was governed by a Payments Agreement, which was in some respects similar to the arrangement which existed between the Reich and Canada.

Thrift Vows Unfulfilled

The Dominion Government is beginning to plan expenditures for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1940. In this connection the Financial Post notes that Government economy pledges, given at the outbreak of war, have so far failed to materialize.

But it is equally apparent, says the Post writer, that something has happened to the Government's resolution; something between the point of origin, the Cabinet, and the point of record, the official figures on Government expenditures.

Table with 3 columns: Category, 1939, 1938. Rows include Agriculture, Civil Service Comm., External Affairs, etc.

On top of the Government's current balance sheet must be placed the statutory items which will further inflate expenditures. There is, for example, the bonus to wheat farmers to be paid under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

"The more the facts are examined," says the Post, "the more feeble and irresolute the Government's determination is disclosed to be."

Against this may be placed the gains in revenue due to war taxes imposed in September, which will be relatively small in the next four months.

The Government apparently is now steering itself to cut down the main estimates for 1940-41, but the main estimates are only the first doses of expenditure.

EDITORIAL NOTES

W. E. Gladstone born this date, 1809.—"National injustice is the surest road to national downfall."

We are the only province ignored in the matter of airplane training base. New Brunswick has got two, and Nova Scotia one.

The Conservatives in Souris district had better busy themselves selecting a candidate for the vacancy there lest the Government steal a march upon them.

Mr. Richard Gardiner Casey, P.C., D.S.O., M.C., 49 years of age, has been appointed Australian Minister to Washington at a salary of £3,000 plus allowances of £4,000.

The purpose of censorship is clear. It is to prevent the enemy from knowing how you propose fighting him. To withhold from him the character of your arms, the size and disposition of your fighting forces.

The planting of black walnut trees alongside of almost every highway in Canada, both for their nut production and as a future source of timber supply, is a feasible one, according to Mr. H. H. Blanchet, of Ottawa.

Here is the new morality preached by the Germans. Heinrich Himmler, head of the German police, addressing the Elite Guard said: "Beyond the limits of bourgeois laws and customs which ordinarily are probably necessary it can become an exalted task even outside of wedlock for German women and girls of good blood to become—not frivolously but imbued with deepest moral concern—mothers of children beget by soldiers moving to the front without knowing whether they will return or die for the fatherland."

The Prime Minister went "on the air" Sunday evening, says the Ottawa Journal, and spoke for 40 minutes about the air training scheme.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The cutting of Christmas trees, which was looked upon as a sideline occupation, is now in some instances a major source of farm revenue.

This tactic in German warfare ought to make the whole world glad German colonies are not scattered over the earth as bases for marauding ships.

With a total of 16 freighters tied up there for the winter, Prescott has cut into its own as a marine centre and, as he pointed out, the mere fact that this fleet will remain there while navigation is suspended and will be outlived there for next season's operations means quite a lot to the community in terms of trade and employment.

Appointment of Hon. J. G. Taggart as chairman of the federal bacon marketing board will strike most Saskatchewan people as a case of naming the right man to an important post.

Where is a more utterly wasted life than that of Henry Scriver—a man who has spent 44 of his 58 years behind the grey walls of the South Carolina Penitentiary?

The doctrines advanced by Hitler and Stalin are the negation of all that Christianity has taught through the centuries.

One can hardly bear to think of what the Czechs are going through; it is bloodcurdling to hear that hundreds of students have been taken off to Buchenwald and other concentration camps.

A recent number of "World Study" reminds us that people sometimes make the dictionary as others make the Social Register.

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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.

SURVIVORS OF 1873 GALE

Sir—It may interest Guardian readers to learn that of those who braved the fury of the memorable August gale of 1873, which caused so much destruction and loss of life along the North Shore, there are still four survivors living in King's County.

DOCTORS AND SCRIPTS

Sir—Jesus whose birthday we have just finished celebrating is the author of the "The Good Physician."

CITY MANAGEMENT

Sir—A correspondent "Reformer" in Monday's Guardian raised a question of more than ordinary importance, that of the advisability of Charlottetown's changing its method of city government.

"Reformer" apparently favours the manager method, under which the mayor is elected in general elections, while the City Council is elected by the voters.

It is quite possible, and even probable, that the City manager plan would be in our citizens' interest if they had been fully informed of the necessary changes and many advantages.

Unlike previous years, very little interest appears to be shown in the approaching elections, and as Mayor Foster and his Council have done exceptionally good work during their tenure of office, it has occurred to me that they might, by general assent, be re-elected by acclamation on the understanding that so soon as a special emergency committee appointed to investigate the whole question of civic government, with a further condition that, if as a result of the committee's investigations the citizens have decided in favour of some new system, the Mayor and Aldermen would resign so soon as the necessary legislation had been enacted.

The personnel of the committee of this nature would be an important feature and, in order that all interests be represented, may I suggest that five men be named by the following bodies: the Provincial Government, the City Council, the Senior Board of Trade, the Junior Board of Trade and the Law Society.

It is easy to guess how long he lasted—only eight months, according to "Word Study." To frivolous persons who believed that national bankruptcy and the deluge

The Poets' Corner

WHITE ROOFS

Old roofs that only yesterday Were dingy indiscriminate gray And not one clean-cut slope or line Now startle and delight the eye— Clear white against the winter sky.

Information Under such a plan as the above the risk of climatic error should be reduced to a minimum.

PROHIBITION, ETC.

Sir—In your editorial notes you stated that a reader has protested vigorously against the supplying of soldiers with liquor and the issue of Well, Sir, for undaunted hyper-cy and preposterous nonsense that just about takes the prize.

We have to face the facts. If people are going to drink they are going to drink, prohibition or no, and while we all concede that total abstinence is desirable we unequivocally state that it cannot be brought about by prohibition.

Conditions on the island are disgraceful, and our official self-righteous hypocrisy is a continental joke.

One hears a great deal about democracy and minorities these days. There seems to be a lack of the former here, when a society that at their annual meeting mustered about 16 stalwarts, can legislate mor-

How Are Your Eyes?

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G. F. HUTCHESON

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Every person who is troubled with gas in the stomach and bowels should get a bottle of Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture and see how quickly it will relieve all distressing symptoms.

A Naturalist's Calendar FOR Prince Edward Island. A carefully prepared series of notes of Meteorological and Botanical observations made in the period 1910-1937; and including a short list of common insects. By BLYTHE HURST ("Agricola") Brackley Beach. On Sale at THE SCHOOL SUPPLY CARTER AND CO. MARITIME STATIONERS WOOLWORTHS TRAVEL BUREAU GUARDIAN PUB. CO. Price 25 cents per copy

BRITAIN BUYS FROM BRAZIL. RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Authoritative sources reported today that representatives of British firms have closed deals in Porto Alegre for the purchase of agricultural, meat and wood products having a total value of around \$400,000.

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