

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the weakest Ink." THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1942

Ralston For Conscription

The Hon. the Minister for Defence, Col. Ralston, following Navy Minister MacDonald in the Conscription debate, declared his belief that the Plebiscite was a mandate for conscription and nothing else. It is what we would expect of him—a veteran of the last war, and the present chief of our Department of War. Like most of us, he would prefer a voluntary army but "we cannot let the army down, and what is more important we cannot let Canada down." "Canada has three fronts" he added, "and I contend that for us in the long run the English Channel is the most vital of all."

That settles it—Conscription for overseas is a vital necessity, and no pussyfooting on the part of hide-bound political partisans can prevent its ultimate enforcement.

The Sum of It All

Concluding his Budget speech, Finance Minister Ilsley blew to smithereens the fallacious optimism regarding the war which for too long has characterized our recent "way of life." Too many of us used to jeer at German "bullets for butter" policy, and Hitler's "Youth Training Scheme," our laissez-faire Government policy was supposed to be so much superior, so much more practical, so much more pleasant for all concerned. Now some of the members of our laissez-faire Government have awakened to a realization of the extreme gravity of the situation. Let us quote, as we fully endorse, the closing passages of Mr. Ilsley's Budget appeal:

"The proposed tax increases are substantial and severe. They are imposed on the assumption that Canadians appreciate the critical gravity of recent events and the necessity of making a supreme effort in the present year. A few weeks ago, the atmosphere was surcharged with optimism which in many of its manifestations was almost light-hearted. The war would be over by January; the tide had turned; Germany was facing internal collapse; Japan had over-extended herself; Italy was a joke; and so forth. More and more Canadians were putting forward demands for their own material betterment, and increasing numbers were transferring their interest from war to post-war problems.

"The events of the last few days must surely have had a sobering effect. This is no time for airy over-confidence. Events in China, events in the Ukraine, events in the Crimea, events in Libya,—do not these convince us that the war may not be won this year, may not be won for many years? It was not recklessly that Germany and Japan brought the United States into the war, as they did. What foolish statements we have made! Not long ago, how often was it said that Hitler was a madman, irrationally running headlong to destruction, that Japan was committing hara kari! Alas, there seems to have been nothing irrational—nothing intentionally suicidal about the plans of our enemies. These aggressor nations prodded the United States into the war because they were convinced that they could, nevertheless, win—win in 1942. Do Canadians realize how critical the situation is at this moment in Russia, in China, and in the Middle East and how critical it may be elsewhere before long? I believe that now they do and that their individual desires for gain, and ease, and advantage are submerged in the nation's will to win."

Oh, that we had had such vision in 1939 instead of 1942!

The Parallel

Napoleon, with his Grand Army, faced but one winter in Russia. Hitler has survived one winter, but with each passing day must be pondering how he may survive a second.

There has been in recent weeks a number of articles tracing the parallel between the Russian campaigns of Napoleon and Hitler. The parallel, says an exchange, is deadly and may perhaps be best summarized in the following passage from Hardy's "The Dynasts":

Marie Louise: And where is the Grand Army? Napoleon: Oh—that's gone. Marie Louise: Gone? But—gone where? Napoleon: Gone all to nothing, dear Marie Louise: But some six hundred thousand I saw pass Through Dresden Russia-wards? Napoleon: Well, those men lie—Or most of them—in layers of bleaching bones 'Tis laid here and Moscow . . . I have been subdued; But by the elements; and them alone Not Russia, but God's sky has conquered me! From the sublime to the ridiculous There's but a step! I have been saying it All through the leagues of my long journey home— And that step has been passed in this affair! Yes, briefly, it is quite ridiculous, But never say you look at it—Ha-ha!

Marie Louise:

But those six hundred thousand throbbing throats That cheered me deaf at Dresden, marching east So full of youth and spirits—all bleached bones— Ridiculous? Can it be so, dear, to— Their mothers, say?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Midsummer Day. The war means more and more sweat, blood, tears and taxes.

Welcome to the British "Blitz" Scouts on their mission of "Preparedness."

"It might have been worse," is the general comment on the budget and its taxation proposals.

All loyal citizens will cooperate in making Army Week the success it deserves. Do your bit.

All citizens interested in Air Raid Precaution should be at the "Blitz" Scout meeting in P. W. C. tonight.

Evidently there will be less rum than ever here this summer for apart from increased taxation, 20,000 gallons have been destroyed by fire in a distillery at Barbados.

It is up to every citizen to have a bucket of sand, a pail of water and a long handled shovel on hand to cope with a raid should it unhappily occur. Be prepared.

A patient went to his doctor and got a script for rum. He presented the script at the vendor's and was told he would have to take Scotch. "But my doctor prescribes rum," said the sick man. "Don't care" replied the vendor, "we are our own doctor; besides we have had no rum for two months."

Dr. Wilfrid Laurier McDougald, Montreal, has passed to his final account at the age of sixty-one, unhonoured and unsung by his party press though for a number of years he played a leading part in Liberal councils at Ottawa, and was chairman of Montreal Harbour Commissioners. He was also a Senator, but resigned his seat following the Beauharnois revelations, which led the Liberal Party into such trouble that Mr. MacKenzie King declared it was "passing through the valley of humiliation."

A four year old boy of Nominique, Que., who was punished by his parents for swimming on Sunday, ran away in his night shirt with an older brother, with whom he had gone swimming. They were lost in the woods for four days, and kept themselves alive by eating raw partridge and frog legs, while at night they slept in a lean-to against a tree which they had constructed. The little fellow went to hospital when found, but seems little the worse for his escapade.

There are differences of opinion at Ottawa with reference to bare-legged "stenos." Mr. Stitt, civil service commissioner, says the problem whether women and girls in Government offices should wear stockings or go bare-legged is strictly up to the employees themselves. On the other hand Doctor Arthur Beauchesne, Clerk of the House of Commons expressed the opinion that bare legs would be forbidden for stenographic pool employees and girls in various other offices.

First Methodist Legal Conference held in London this date 1784 when it adopted its constitution and became the supreme court of Methodism; it consists of a hundred members elected either by seniority or by the vote of the whole annual conference; this body endorses and adopts what has been done by general conference; the first actual Methodist Society was formed five years previously, then grouped to form a circuit, then finally an annual conference out of which the legal governing body is constituted.

What can be done to make people realize what they are doing when they use their cars without absolute necessity? asks the Brooklyn Eagle. The number of cars on the roads is beginning to approach pre-rationing proportions. Lives are being lost to bring oil to the East Coast. Brave men risk horrible death in a burning sea every time a tanker clears the Gulf ports. We have no new rubber and the war must be won with rubber. Is it possible these people have only carburetors and no hearts? Are they without enough self-respect to enjoy patriotic self-denial?

Recently the Chungking Government announced the appointment of Sien Shuh-kang as the Chinese Minister to the Vatican. Its original announcement that it had arranged for an exchange of diplomatic representatives with the Vatican came within a week after Japan on March 27 announced the appointment of Ken Harada as Japan's first Minister to the Holy See. Ken Harada, has now called to the attention of Vatican authorities that in the event the Vatican permitted the stationing of a Chungking representative at the Vatican it would ignore Japan's position, as Japan now is fighting the Chungking regime. Surely Japan does not contemplate making war on the Vatican as well as on the United Nations!

Beginning July 15 every motorist in the Atlantic States will be required to display on his car a sticker showing the type of gasoline ration card he holds. With the stickers on the cars, residents of every neighborhood will know who among them has a coupon book he doesn't deserve. At the same time essential motorists will be protected against being falsely accused of possessing undesired ration books. The stickers will come in four colors, one for each type of coupon book—A, B, C and S—issued for passenger automobiles and commercial trucks and vehicles. Those who obtain A books will be given stickers colored black; B books will have green stickers; C will be red, and those with commercial S books will be brown.

UNCLE SAM'S BIG GUNS The 105 mm. howitzer is the United States' chief medium sized field piece.

NOTES BY THE WAY

German children are to be taken from school at ten and put to work on the farms until the beginning of November. This is much more severe than the Russian measures. In Russia the recent regulations require agricultural labour save local authorities power to mobilize children over fourteen during their holidays. The comparative indifference of the Nazis to education is all the more striking because Germany's rapid progress in the nineteenth century was due to her educational reforms. Germans themselves attributed their success largely to this cause, and it was noted that whereas 90 per cent of their army in 1872 was illiterate the French figure was 23. But the Nazis in their enthusiasm for drilling a people in their dogmatic system have thrown over the old German respect for intellectual training. This was shown in their treatment of the universities, where the number of students fell between 1931 and 1937 from 136,000 to 68,000. (Hitler came to power after the beginning of 1933). This blow at the elementary schools is the most severe of all. The children are to be placed in Hitler's Youth Camps, where they will be removed at the same time from the influence of school and home. What kind of a people will emerge from this intense Nazi incubation? —(Manchester Guardian).

The outlook for the Manitoba crop at the opening of the season is good, according to the first Free Press crop report. In Saskatchewan it is fair, but in Alberta not so good for lack of rain in the central and northern areas. There is a further reduction in wheat acreage in Manitoba of 19 per cent, but an increase of 19 per cent in barley eight per cent in oats, and 31 per cent in flax. The increase in barley and flax was what the government particularly asked for. There will be an increase of 10 per cent in hogs, helping to meet the demand from Britain, and a six per cent increase of cattle. For the whole prairie country, the report is satisfactory. It is difficult to estimate accurately the reduction in wheat acreage, but it looks like 5 per cent. The increase in coarse grains and flax is much less than was wanted for war production. —Winnipeg Free Press.

For about nineteen minutes yesterday many of us were led to believe that an air raid was imminent. There are four kinds of air raid signals: the yellow, which is a confidential warning to civilian defence officials and to essential industrial and transportation services; the blue, which mobilizes civilian defence services; the red or "action" signal, which means that enemy planes are within five minutes' flight; and the white, or all clear. This area got the blue signal at 11.06 yesterday morning. Fortunately there was no red signal, and there were no enemy planes. But the radio was off the air for seven minutes an indeterminate number of minutes. It had a good chance to be called off otherwise, and in many doctors, nurses, police and civilian defense workers stood by or began to mobilize. The experiment was not entirely successful. A great many people rushed to the telephone which is due to the fact that things not to do during an air raid alarm. The school alarm system proved imperfect, with results which have been disastrous if the rain had been a disaster. It is a real test of the population which would have been caught off guard. Offhand one would say that our facilities for dealing with the effects of an air raid are in pretty good order, but that our war or air raid facilities are not. There is still work for the OGD to do in Washington and for Mayor La Guardia and his assistants to do here before we are really ready. —(New York Times).

In the last world conflict of Hymn of Hate didn't do so well. Although peculiarly suited to German ways of thought and supposed to convey a sort of magic power that enemy troops to overwhelm the enemy, what was actually produced was derision and wonder that a great nation could be so childish. Efforts on the Allied side to demoralize soldiers and to produce by drill a sort of automatic fury, such as hashish may cause in an Eastern fanatic, were discarded. Nevertheless, a change their ideas was attempted, an effort was made to revive the same idea in battle training in the present war. The plan has been given up for the duration at least. Lieutenant General Bernard Paget, Commander in Chief of the Home Forces in Great Britain, has sent a letter to all British Army units ordering that "the use of strong language and attempts to produce blood lust" be abandoned. Lieutenant General Paget remarked that "an attitude of hate is foreign to our British temper and an attempt to produce it by artificial means is a training is bound to fail, as it did in the last war." This decision has been generally applauded in Britain. Exports of the United Nations need no other means to make things as uncomfortable as possible for Axis forces than a hearty dislike for what they represent. They have found it possible to produce a sort of genuine opposing front lines without losing their mental balance. Anything professing to transcend the ordinary man's aversion to foul play is likely to be put on a par with making faces to frighten the enemy or slanging pins in the effigy of an adversary. —(New York Herald Tribune).

There will be general sympathy with the Beaverbrook in the destruction of his house by fire. It is stated, I see, that the Bonar Law papers bequeathed by Bonar Law to Lord Beaverbrook are unpublished and of some interest here. Of the biographies of Prime Ministers and other leading political figures of the last two or three decades one is conspicuous by its absence. That is Mr. Bonar Law's. His son, Mr. Richard Law, was working on the book several years ago, but he could not get far without access to the papers which Lord Beaverbrook holds, and that access, I believe I am right in saying, was not forthcoming. How matters stand today regarding that I do not know. In any case, Mr. Law, who is now Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is no doubt too much occupied for the moment with his biographies. —London Spectator.

UNCLE SAM'S BIG GUNS The 105 mm. howitzer is the United States' chief medium sized field piece.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"We must, therefore, examine searching and repeatedly our own conduct and character and the quality of our war effort in every form and direction." Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Motion Pictures And Morale

(By Wellington Jeffers in Toronto Globe and Mail)

So far as I recall, the Dominion government has never recognized publicly as the British and United States governments, that those agencies of entertainment and instruction which add distinctly to the morale of the people of the United Nations have a higher value in wartime and deserve more support than in days of peace. This is so well understood in Britain that, despite the shallow early counsels of Colonel Blimps with petrified mentalities, first priority was given for building and cinema houses which were bombed out in the Battle of Britain.

Mental and physical poise are great assets for a people at any time, but most so when called on to endure a long war. One means of preserving "balance" is to permit and encourage avenues of relaxation at times from the all-consuming thought of what war requires and entails. Energies are renovated and renewed in this way, even when the films are also providing a wonderful vehicle by newsreels and special pictures to show just what is being done for the war effort on all industrial and fighting fronts, and story pictures which express in terms of human interest and romance and striving what real human beings are doing and suffering in war, and what is at stake.

For instance, Canadians will soon see the Metro release, "The Mrs. Minister." I have not seen it yet, but even without seeing it, I write about it and speak of it as "the greatest picture since Mr. Chips." It is being presented in the United States now, and their publications speak of it as giving to the people Britain at war a certain new skin of recognizable, representative Britons. I have seen with great enthusiasm recently pictures which show the human side of the Russian war, and I will certainly see this one, and hope it will live up to what I expect.

In the last war the silent film did a splendid job for the Allies. While a time of stress, it did not provide a cubbyhole for the wishful thinker. Nowadays it would be hard for a smug man to retain a shred of complacency at a single movie release or other picture always portrays some aspect of the war. I remember seeing a picture in the last war which was with fine and eloquent restraint in its story form portrayals of the long fight for human freedom in the great wars of history. A young man, sitting behind me, rose as the picture ended and—without knowing he spoke aloud: "That does it. I am going right out and enlist."

One side of the war service is the moving picture theatres are well patronized. If they were not, they would not be interesting. They would not be interesting if they were not, and that is a necessary precondition. But the war is raising costs of producing pictures and of distribution. In the United States this has been met by higher attendance. The result on our side is worth the hearing used in The Globe and Mail on this page yesterday: "Movie 'Rush'."

In Canada the encouragement is lacking which is given in the United States by increased admission prices and by less taxation. Here pictures are a twenty per cent, as against a similar figure in the United States of ten per cent. In addition, with the single exception of the

The Poets Corner

FROM "FRAGMENTS" In some green island of the sea, Where now the shadow coral grows, In pride and pomp and empery The courts of old Atlantis rose. In many a glittering house of glass The Atlanteans wandered there; The paleness of their faces was Like ivory, so pale they were. And hush, they were, no noise of words In those bright cities ever rang; Only their thoughts, like golden About their chambers thrilled and sang. They knew all wisdom, for they The soul those Egyptian kings Who learned in ancient Babyl. The beauty of immortal things. They knew all beauty—when they thought. The air chimed like a stricken lute, The elemental birds were wrought, The golden birds became a fire. And men in desert places, men Abandoned in rocky sick with fears, Rose singing, swung their swords again, And laughed and died among the spears. The green and greedy seas have drowned That city's glittering walls and towers. Her sunken minarets are crowned With red and russet water-flowers. In towers and rooms and golden courts The shadow coral lifts her sprays; The scrawl hath gorged her broken orts. The shark doth haunt her hidden But at his falling of the tide, The golden birds still sing and gleam; The Atlanteans have not died, Immortal things still give us dream. The dream that fires men's hearts To build, to do, to sing or say A beauty that can never take, An Adam from the crumbled clay. —John Masefield.



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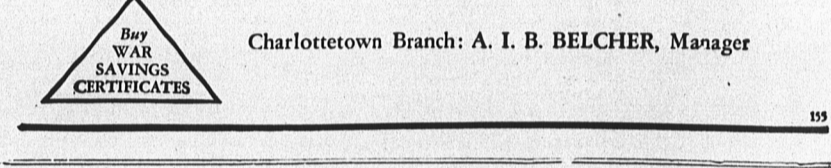
It may be a hospital case, a family emergency, or a new tax rate, or—something else. When it hits you, the blow is serious enough to cause you much inconvenience.

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Province of Ontario, the provincial governments impose taxes ranging from five to seventeen percent, which are added to the Dominion tax. Admission prices in Canada have been "frozen," which means that, regardless of higher operating costs, theatres are not permitted to increase their admission prices over those charged during the basic period of September 15 to October 11. This is not the case in the United States.

People can easily deceive themselves as to the current earnings of movies. While box office returns have naturally increased above pre-war levels in industrial centres with lots of war industries, and in many agricultural centres, there is decreased attendance because of a migration of workers. Canadian theatres find generally that, in many Canadian communities, the point has been reached where the total cost of entertainment, including taxes, cannot be increased without a serious falling off in attendance. That would mean a loss of revenue both for the government and the industry and the good a job as greater resources would permit.

Face In The Fog (Winnipeg Free Press) An armed party of Japanese of unannounced strength has made a landing on the tiny island of the western tip of the Aleutians. The Japanese are "saving face" in the fog after the drubbing they got off Midway Island. It is a little late in the game to believe that the realists themselves to be fooling themselves in the Aleutians. If they are pretending a traditional confusion they are going so misleading as when their smiles are entirely meaningless.

The fog may prevent the United Nations seeing where the Japanese have got to and what they are doing in the islands that are the stepping stones to Alaska's mainland, but it is the fog after the Japanese while doing whatever they mean to do. A story going the rounds in Alaska some months ago bears on this fog-ridden activity around the Bering Sea. It was being said last December that the story of Pearl Harbor could very easily have been the story of Alaska. This was thought so true that a high military commander in Alaska is quoted—probably quite accurately—as saying on hearing of the dismissals of General Short and Admiral Kimmen, "There, but for the grace of fog, go I."

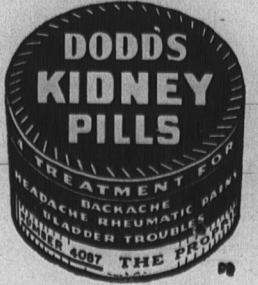
The United Nations should have learned their lessons. Fog that may be said to "save face" has to be saved. Good deal if any face is to be saved. The fog is said to be hiding in its cloak to reach the bigger Aleutian island of Kiska, which is 200 miles nearer the mainland. It should be enough for the United Nations to know that this is trespassing where trespassing is forbidden. The sooner word comes that the faces of any

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Japanese making for the mainland are pushed in, good and plenty, the napper we will feel. The way Japanese has had his six months' fling, swaggering and bayoneting, and better begin to realize that home calls him, and soon will want him to help put the fires out.

Frosting For The Cake (Halifax Chronicle) From Ottawa comes word of an appointment which should send shivers up and down the spines of countless patient souls who love mourning list or controllers of this and that. In this case—to be strictly technical—the latest addition to these guardians of our daily destinies is not actually a "controller" at all but merely a "co-ordinator." To the lay mind, a distinction without a difference perhaps, but a distinction none the less, which, despite its subtlety is doubtless obvious to the lowliest bureaucrat.

The incumbent of this latest office is a gentleman by the name of Knott, who nails from Montreal. He will bear the euphonious title of "Co-ordinator of Consumer Information," his duties suggest the need for versatility and even ingenuity of an order not called for in the part of mere controllers. Perhaps that is why he has been named a "co-ordinator" instead. Among those duties are:

(a) To co-ordinate information when possible so that two or more departments when dealing with the same subject may share information, supplement and strengthen each other's efforts. (b) Provide detailed information services for government departments which have no press or publicity agents of their own. (c) Supplement work of existing information branches in various government departments by preparing additional special materials and wider distribution. Mr. Knott, in short, is to become a sort of frosting to ornament the cake of departmental publicity. Just how much this will cost in additional taxes is not clear from the information at hand, but the prospect does not look too rosy. For Mr. Knott's organization promises to have a family of sub-bureaus which will spread far and wide the words and findings of the "Co-ordinator of Consumer Information."

TYPEWRITER THEFTS Theft of typewriters has become so serious in Britain that Scotland Yard has set up a special branch to handle such cases.

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