THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1944

Petitcodiac Power Scheme

One of the most important of post-war projects in every province will be rural electrification. In this Province both the Government and the Opposition, in their platforms issued during the last election campaign, stressed this subject. The question has been how to obtain a cheap source of electrical power sufficient for the many purposes not only of agriculture but of industry as well. Perhaps a solution lies in a movement now on foot in our sister province of New Brunswick, to obtain a federal grant for a survey of the possibilities of the Petitcodiac tidal power project.

The argument advanced in favor of this survey are of Maritime-wide interest. It is conceded that lack of sufficient electrical power has heretofore been a serious handicap to our development. There are no large waterfalls left undeveloped, and few small ones. The Petitcodiac tides, however, furnish a potential source of tremendous volume of power. If they were harnessed, they would produce enough electricity to revolutionize the industrial life of the Maritimes, to say nothing of the effects an abundance of cheap electricity would have in making living conditions more attractive on the farms. Success in harnessing the Petitcodiac would be an encouragement to undertaking other tidal projects which now appear to present greater difficulties. The supply of tidal power is, of course, inexhaustible; the difficulty may be in harnessing it economically.

Premier Jones, we understand, is a strong believer in the possibilities of the Petitcodiac power scheme. We may assume, therefore, that the Prince Edward Island Government will give support to the efforts of the New Brunswick authorities in obtaining a federal grant for a thorough survey of the whole proposition. This, however, may take time. Federal governments—especially Liberal governments—move with almost agonizing slowness when it comes to doing things to improve conditions in the Maritimes. In the meantime every other prospect in the way of rural electricification should be explored. The matter is too important to be dependent on the findings of a survey in another province; through unquestionably, should the Petitcodiac scheme materialize, we should benefit very greatly in this Province from its operation.

The Conservative View

Prime Minister King's attempt to make a domestic political issue out of Lord Halifax's recent speech in Toronto has proved abortive. The Conservative attitude on the questions raised by Lord Halifax—questions of Empire-wide significance—was well expressed by Mr. Gordon Graydon in the House of Commons. Mr. Graydon said:

"The Prime Minister has stated that he is going to attend, at an early date, a conference of British Commonwealth prime ministers. There are strong, but we hope not irreconcilable, views abroad in Canada with respect to our position in the Commonwealth and with respect to our relations with the world at large. It is unfortunate that the speech from the throne mentions only the latter.

"It is well that the views of all sides should be carefully weighed and considered. The views of the Government would be particularly welcome, but it is not our intention to embarrass our own Prime Minister, nor the representatives of other parts of the Commonwealth, by tossing controversial issues into this debate when common sense indicates that every effort must be made to secure a united front in a united Canada in a greater and more powerful British Commonwealth."

Must Be Investigated

James Clark, who inspected shoes made for the Canadian armed forces, publicly charges that "inferior leather was placed in army boots supplied to the Government of Canada by a Quebec manufacturer, who gave presents of whiskey to Government inspectors placed in his plant." He alleges also that he was dismissed from his position because he tried vainly to protect the treasury and prevent the purchase of 1,000,000 pairs of boots not made according to Government specifications.

"This," comments the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal), "is a very serious charge. It is directed against the Inspection board which is composed of high military officers and represents the Canadian and British Governments. The board's duty is to inspect many kinds of articles supplied to the fighting forces of both countries. The charge, laid by a responsible public servant and lying against a responsible inter-government board, cannot be ignored. The Government should order an immediate inquiry into Mr. Clark's evidence, either through the War Expenditures committee of Parliament or through a royal commission."

Holiday in Britain

The London Evening Standard tells of what some of the troops are doing with their leaves overseas. Apparently the Home Division of the British Council attempts to 'provide whatever type of leave a man requests—and the variety is wide indeed.

A member of the Belgian paratroop force wanted to study the electrolytic production of zinc from a concentrate of zinc ore. He was put in touch with an expert on mineral research at the Imperial Institute.

Private J. Detynishyn, from Canada, wanted to spend his leave painting signs. He was welcomed by a leading firm of signwriters.

A private in the Royal Netherlands Brigade, who had worked as a buyer at a tobacco leaf factory in Smyrna, wished to visit a tobacco factory. A visit was arranged.

Captain A. J. Brinton, South African Forces, wished to discuss cross-breeding of fat lambs with an authority on the type of meat required for the English market. He was helped by an expert of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Signalman L. D. Allen, of the Canadian Army, wanted to spend his nine days' leave on a commercial apiary. The manager of a bee farm near Marlborough, Wiltshire, welcomed him as his guest.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

In the city, one is coming to appreciate the Sunday calm of our rationed Wednesdays.

* * * *

Congratulations to the winning Councillors and Water Commissioners in yesterday's election. Now to get down undisturbed to the business of civic management.

* * * *

Konrad Wilhelm Rontgen, German physcist, died this date 1823; did valuable work in various branches of physics, but is best known for his discovery of the "X" or Rontgen Rays in 1895; awarded the Rumford Medal of the Royal Society in the following year, and in 1900 the Barnard Medal by the Columbia University for the greatest scientific discovery of the preceeding five years; in 1901 awarded the Nobel prize for physics.

* * * *

The people of France are all set for invasion, according to a Frenchman who recently crossed to Britain. Their underground organization is "perfect" and they are described as awaiting the signal to transform passive resistance into action. Tension in France is said to be mounting to new heights in the past few days, with fighting in some parts of the country assuming the proportions of civil war. Russians, Dutchmen and Poles, even two Americans, are reported to be aiding French, and reported to be aiding French patriots to blow up trains. It was learned in London that the French Committee at Algiers expects to have 200,000 men in the underground movement fully armed and under orders when the invasion is launched from England.

* * * *

A rat trap which electrocutes the rodent, deposits the body in a container and re-sets itself for the next victim, is being tested by Buffalo (N.J.) rat control officials. The device has electrocuted 160 rodents a night a trap, said Mr. Charles B. Benedict, of Rochester, distributor of the contrivance. As the rat enters and crosses an invisible ray of light, doors at both ends of the trap shut. Confused by clever lighting, the rat runs up an inclined plane towards an imaginary exit. A jolt of electricity sends the rat hurtling into the death chamber. A metal plate pins him and 110 volts of electricity burns him for 2 1-2 minutes. The dead rodent is dropped into a receptacle. The doors spring open, and the trap is ready for the next rat.

* * * *

As the result of the Opposition demanding an explanation of the recall of General McNaughton, the Prime Minister has promised to give one day for discussion this week. Meanwhile, the General and the Prime Minister have had a four hours interview, during which, no doubt, "the explanation" was duly drafted to meet the wishes of both parties to the disagreement. It will be recalled that last week, Mr. King, replying to the demands of the opposition groups who assailed the government for delaying a statement, declared, "after all, the great question that is before the country and before the world at the present time is the prosecution of the war, and the prosecution of the war is not being impeded in the least by Gen. McNaughton being at the Seigniory Club at the present time or by the government's seeking to conclude this debate (Throne Speech) before we take up the debate on war measures."

* * * *

A Hartland correspondent writes: With wire enquiry and demand continuing good from consuming centres throughout Ontario and Quebec, the potato market continues firm with dealers offering $2.55 to $2.70 per barrel for Canada Grade One Green Mountains or Katahdins. Farmers continue to show a reluctance to sell, however, and haulings to loading points are light to moderate. Shippers feel that a steady movement of potatoes to market is necessary and some fear that unless farmers show more inclination to sell, there may be a glut in the spring. Holdings throughout Canada are heavier than was the case a year ago, and in addition, potato acreage in early southern states shows an increase, all of which will have an affect on the market as the season advances. Dehydration plants at Hartland and Grand Falls continue to operate on an around-the-clock schedule, and are using large quantities of potatoes. Starch factories in both towns continue to take all available cull potatoes at $1 per barrel.

* * * *

Dealing with the proposed increases in the treatment allowances paid to personnel discharged from the armed forces for medical reason, Hon. Ian Mackenzie says the change means that a private who formerly received $44.20 monthly now will receive $45. A private's wife who formerly received $18.20 now will get $35. A lieutenant who formerly received treatment allowance of $44.20 will get $150. A lieutenant's wife who formerly received $18.20 will get $45. In addition, the dependents will also be paid the cost-of-living bonus they now are receiving. The allowances for children remain unchanged. Those qualifying for the increased allowances are those whose treatment is continued without interruption from the date of discharge—either as in-patients, or in certain cases as out-patients. The allowances may be continued only for a period equal to that of service during the present war, or for 12 months following discharge, whichever is the lesser. Provision is made also for dependents' allowances for persons who become dependents of the ex-serviceman after the date of discharge.

Notes By The Way

The City of Kingston is expanding rapidly. It is no longer a static city of 23,000 or 24,000 people, but a growing industrial city with a population of nearly 35,000 in addition to the armed forces. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

War can be a costly business. In San Francisco a junk yard holds a pile of wrecked planes from the Pacific war fronts which is estimated to have a present value of about $13,000 as salvage. Those same planes cost at least thirteen million dollars when they left the assembly lines.—Hamilton Spectator.

Shilling midday dinners for 6d. were enjoyed today by nearly 1,000 boys and girls in a group of British war factories. Under a scheme instituted by the Austin Company, employes under 18 years of age are now entitled to have a two-course meal at this half-price. They must comply with a condition that they take both courses. The firm are paying the difference in the price. —Evening Standard.

Newspapers get panned for everything under the sun, but it remained for a Toronto woman to tell the Globe and Mail that it was no good any more for wrapping garbage. This charge brought the following clever retort from the editor: "But, come what may, we must answer this canard. We can't speak for the Telegram. Nor can we talk for the Star. But we can say without equivocation that the Globe and Mail is just as good for wrapping garbage as it ever was."—Trenton Courier-Advocate.

The British medical weekly, The Lancet, publishes a communication from a group of three investigators who throw cold water on patulin as a "cure" for the common cold. The three compared 100 patients who received patulin treatment with 100 who received nothing. The showing made by those who were treated with patulin was not significantly better. It is hard, says a New York Times science writer, to reconcile these findings with those of Major Greenwood, who seems to have proved that, so far as statistical analysis goes, the results obtained by clinicians with patulin cannot be attributed to chance. Patulin is a derivitive of penicillin.

What population can Australia carry A South Australian authority puts the figure at 20,000,000, but a Melbourne professor goes to 40,000,000 and even 60,000,000 if there is careful agricultural planning. Both agree that the great central area of Australia can never become fertile like the heart of the United States. It is too dry. "It is not like the deserts of Arizona, U. S. A., with snow mountains melting just when they are wanted. Australia is the flattest, hottest and driest continent in the world,' says the South Australian. "Something might suddenly occur by means of which, say, tabloid food could be prepared to serve to people living round Lake Eyre, but the idea that science could suddenly discover something is only a gamble and can not be made the basis of a discussion. I think we have done very well to get seven million here to date."—Vancouver Province.

Architects and designers of business places, whether they know it or not, have cause to be worried. Present trends threaten to bring about the necessity of completely overhauling orthodox designing methods. Go into a grocery store on almost any corner and you'll find a prospective subscriber to the new plan. A steady star customer arrives with a list. No longer does the grocery man pick items off shelves with a flourish that displays packages and brands. Instead he reaches quietly here and there, endeavoring to give service without undue show or fanfare. A good customer gets his canned stuff, raisins, currants, rare cheese — and in Quebec his beer — and leaves the premises beaming. The customer is happy; the groceryman is pleased at having satisfied a customer. But if it keeps on, what about the poor architect and fixture man? He's going to have the problem of designing and building store fixtures that will allow all the stock to be kept under the counter.—The Printed Word.

The one person in the world, it seems, who can't escape the relentless eye of Duty is the cook. All nature conspires against cooks. They are hopelessly pitted against ravenous, elementary forces as insistent as gravity, as perfidious as fortune, as unfeeling as destiny. From New Zealand comes a dramatic instance. A small force was besieged by the Japanese. All the officers were wounded and the cook took command. He held the Japs off all night, killed a number and did a good job all round. But when dawn came and the fighting ended, the cook began to look troubled. "What's the matter," his buddy asked. "I've got to get out of here. I should be getting breakfast ready now." This is beautiful in its simplicity. From time immemorial The Cook has had to drop everything else and at the appointed time rush off to his pots and pans. He (She, too. Sex is but an incident in this cosmic drama) is first to stir in the cold, gray dawn, busiest at noonday, and still going strong at nightfall. There is no respite, no long unbroken contemplation of comfort and joy.—Providence Journal.

VICHY

These men lost heart and hope, let faith grow cold,
And sold themselves. Small trafficking, thus far,
Were there not mingled with that dross a star,
The very soul of France; they would have sold
This with the rest, but it escaped their hold,
A shaken but still shining thing. There are
No treasons, no betrayals that can mar
Its radience, it will kindle as of old.
Ancestral voices ringing over France,
Calais to Marseilles, Bordeaux to Lorraine,
Will cry: "To arms, to arms! Our long mischance
Is done, the Gaul is on the march again!"
Then that false brood shall creep and crawl from sight,
Like jackals at the first return of light.

—Dudley G. Davies.

From 'The New Treasury of War Poetry.'

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.

WORDS MISPRONOUNCED

Sir,—It may be of interest to have a slight diversion of topic included in your correspondence, that granted, will you please use the following.

The writer often wonders if many others notice with regret, the misuse and abuse of a great many words in our language that is so common today. It has become so universally common that one fears that in another 50 years our present day English will have been so maltreated as to become almost unrecognizable to any of us living then.

Among the worst offenders are the radio broadcasters. Here are a few daily examples of the present time. Russian territory is called "Donnyets, not as it should be Donets. A railway is a rel-way. A "Coupon" is called a Cupon. America is used as Amarica by one whose name ending "tosh" gives it as "torsh." Again we hear "Unutted States, instead of United States. Muntreal instead of Montreal. Kebec instead of Quebec. In a store one was heard asking for a Moggasin instead of a moccasin. Recently a fine musical event in the city was broadcasting and the singer was patriotically intoning "Ole Ang Zine" instead of Auld Lang Syne. "Rusher" is the substitute for Russia. Onteerio for Ontario, Windas instead of Windows, Wanta for Want-to,, Gonna instead of Going to. Strenth instead of Strength and that is the end 'off' (instead of of) the story.

P. S. The above gems were all gathered in at a single evening's listening from 6 to 9. It may be too much to expect a "Chaucer" like purity of our speaking "English," nowadays but surely if the above is to become commonly accepted, because of a slothfulness of our Canadian speaking, we are certainly retrograding and that "fast."

I am, Sir, etc
A SENSITIVE EAR

In Support Of Influenza

(Halifax Chronicle)

Most of the arguments we can think of are all arrayed against the discomforts of influenza. That premonitionary chill, the ensuing flareup of fever, the headaches and backaches and all the other aches which follow in flu's wake, do little to justify the claim that anything whatever can be said in support of influenza.

That is why we find it hard to grasp the viewpoint of those who see unexcelled "intellectual opportunities lurking behind the ugly prospect of ten days in bed. Not that ten days in bed has anything to be said against it for its own sake. Few prospects could be more pleasing. But not many of us embark willynilly upon such a venture without some outward (or, in the case of influenza, inward) force shaping our destiny. And ten days abed to the accompaniment of influenza is not something to be looked upon with equanimity.

Channing Pollock — according to Topics of The Times—found that in the ten days he was so confined he managed to get through three novels, two autobiographies, and four works on economics, as well as the usual diet of newspapers and magazines, leading him to observe that if this could be achievement of ten days, pneumonia might be equivalent to a college education.

The sequence of the patient's progress, mentally as well as physically, is worth noting. As the fever abates the I.Q. rises and by the time he is ready to get up he has progressed from the relatively commonplace level of the novel to the more rarefied atmosphere of economics.

All of which doesn't lead us to any conclusion whatsoever other than that the erstwhile Mr. Pollock must have been an exceptional patient, or else we lesser mortals don't know a good opportunity when we see one. The idea of getting through four works on economics, either in or out of bed, and with or without the added stimulus of an influenza bout, seems to us to be the sort of achievement which only the fantical followers of some of our more exotic brands of political exhibitionism could be capable.

MONTREAL, Feb. 7—(CP)—Denmark wants to contribute to the United Nations victory, Hon. Henrik Kaufmann, Danish Minister to the United States, today told the Canadian Club.

"Europe may be a place where there will be a great deal of civil strife and a great deal of killing once the actual international warfare stops," he said, "but that will not be the case in Denmark because we are all united.

Nazis in Denmark have been making ready for the day when they will be forced to leave, Mr. Kaufmann continued, and factories were reported to have already been mined to be blown up before their evacuation.

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Department Of Public Works And Highways

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(L. B. Macmillan),
Deputy Minister of Public Works and Highways.
CHARLOTTETOWN, Prince Edward Island,
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