THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1944

Another Big Victory

Add to the encouraging news from the battlefronts of Normandy, Italy, Russia and the Southern Pacific the fact, as given in the latest official statement on anti-submarine activities, that merchant vessel losses to the undersea raiders "reached almost the lowest figure of the entire war." In a joint statement released on Sunday by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, we have the assurance that "Hitler's submarine fleet failed on all counts in June, 1944." No detailed figures are given, but it is stated that for every United Nations' merchant vessel sunk by German submarines, several times as many U-boats were sent to the bottom.

It is not long since the submarine menace bulked large indeed, causing an appalling toll of losses every month. Today the people of London are probably worrying more about robot bombs than they are about U-boats. Yet the U-boats constituted a very real threat to Allied victory, and the job of cleaning them up is one of the very greatest achievemnts in naval history. Not until after the war will the whole story be told. When it is, our boys of the Royal Canadian Navy will find themselves, like Abou Ben Adhem, leading all the rest.

Allied Air Attacks

The Allied air bombing of industrial and military targets through Nazi-dominated Europe, including Germany itself, has meant a tremendous investment. It has required aircraft, operating facilities, fuel, ammunition and other supplies, and trained men of both air and ground crews. It has meant, too, sobering losses of some of the finest young men of the British Commonwealth and the United States, as well as fliers of occupied countries fighting with the Allied forces.

But this investment and sacrifice have yielded big dividends. Heavy blows have been made upon the enemy's war potential that have tilted the balance of offensive power strongly in favor of the Allies. How definite and unmistakable these results have been was revealed with specific details recently by Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the U. S. Army Air Forces.

In appraising his report, an exchange observes it should be kept in mind that he spoke with all the weight and responsibility of his position high in the war councils of the Allies. He spoke, furthermore, with the backing of the ample, direct and confidential reports constantly reaching him, from "definite information" on the effects of bombings in Europe, and from his recent first-hand observations on the invasion front.

On this solid foundation, he was able to assert that German aircraft production has been slashed to one-third of the output believed planned by the Nazis. Damage to oil production and refining centres has cut the enemy's fuel supply to 30 per cent of normal he estimated. Berlin is a ruined city, with 40 to 50 per cent of the centre of the city bombed out.

Gen. Arnold laid greatest emphasis on what the assaults against plane factories, oil sources and the Luftwaffe itself had done to reduce the effectiveness of the German Air Force, both as a defence against bombing attacks and a weapon to harass the invasion forces. The general pointed out that the Luftwaffe had "an aviator's dream" in the targets offered by the invasion ships gathered in British ports and moving across to Normandy, and in the invasion forces themselves when they were bottlenecked on the beachheads. From his own observation, he saw that the Germans passed up these great chances to strike from the air—simply because they couldn't do it.

These are concrete military results of incalculable value to the Allies. They are daily saving lives and holding down losses of equipment as the invasion forces press forward in France. Undoubtedly they are having an indirect effect on the ability of the enemy to resist in Italy and on the Russo-Polish front. They are bringing victory closer more speedily and more surely. They are indeed a vital factor in Allied superiority and the ability to undertake the colossal hazard of the invasion.

Prospects in Argentine

"It would appear to be more essential than ever," says J. A. Strong, Canadian Commercial Attache at Buenos Aires, "that individual Canadian firms interested in the foreign field should take steps to formulate a long-term policy that would place them in an advantageous position with respect to the marketing of their products. Past experience indicates that it is the aggressive firms with complete confidence based on their known ability to meet competition, that make the conditions."

The fourth of Mr. Strong's articles deals with Argentine imports from Canada which, he declares, "have had to be kept at the low level commensurate with the supplies obtainable from foreign sources and as well, for scarce materials, within the absolute minimum and essential requirements of this country."

The shipping situation, says the report, has precluded the importation from Canada of some commodities that are not in short supply and that might otherwise have been made available for this market. The Argentine Government allocates the shipping space at its disposal, and Canada furnishes the commodities that may be available when the minimum requirements of Argentina. Consequently current conditions are no final criterion of the future prospects for exports to this market from the Dominion.

Newsprint and other mass-production papers, wood-pulp, farm implements, certified seed potatoes, Douglas fir lumber, asbestos fibre, calcium carbide, battery parts, mantles and lantern parts, loom needles, wallpaper, fish oil, refractories, ferro-alloys, tool steels, brass valves, steel tubing, copper, watt-meters, whisky and furs are some of the principal commodities comprising Canadian export trade to Argentina. They indicate the character of the import demand in this market, and cover three broad groups: (1) mass-production commodities from Canadian raw materials, such as newsprint and wood-pulp; (2) raw materials and raw or semi-raw materials and parts for local industry; and (3) heavy machinery and specialty manufactures, such as farm machinery, needles, and watt-meters, which are not produced in Argentina.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada was invaded by the United States this date 1812, and the war lasted till 1814.

* * * *

In declining to be made the tools of the Government for the enforcement of Prohibition by means of medicinal scripts, the P. E. I. Medical Association merely endorsed the stand they have taken on previous occasions.

* * * *

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics report the average price level for Canadian farm products reflected a slightly firmer tone in June with a gain of 0.4 to 102.1 in the index number on the base 1926 equals 100 between the weeks of May 26 and June 30. Field products moved 0.4 points higher to 91.1, due to upturns for raw leaf tobacco, potatoes and hay. These outweighed a minor decline in rye. In the animal products section an increase of 0.3 to 120.4 was due to stronger livestock quotations.

* * * *

Circumstances always alter cases for Prime Minister King. An Ottawa correspondent writes: "The lively debates in the House and the Senate and the evident break in Liberal ranks over the provision in the Election Bill to disenfranchise the Japanese in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada recall the fulminations of the present Prime Minister against the election measure in the last war. The changes were rung for a long time after the 1917 Wartime Election Act was operative about the wilful disenfranchisement of Canadians, about the criminality of doing such a thing especially during a war whose aim was to make the world safe for democracy, but now either through administrative ineptitude or an eagerness to do something to please Pacific coast people or both the crime long ago denounced is now committed."

* * * *

As president of the British Board of Trade, the Hon. Hugh Dalton, Cabinet Minister, has to know the needs of Britain's civilians and, more than that, he has to know many of the "little-known" public likes and dislikes. Mr. Dalton has a Consumer Needs Branch in the Board of Trade which keeps him up-to-the-minute to answer such questions as: How long on the average will a razor blade last? What is the percentage of women with 44-inch hips? How many baby napkins does a mother buy? How many saucepans are there in the average home. He gave these, in a tribute to the branch, as some of the questions put to him during the war and gave the answers: 10 days; 17 per cent of all civilian women; 18 on an average and four.

* * * *

Robert Bruce, Scottish King and national hero born this date, 1274; of Norman descent, his father was one of three claimants to the Scottish throne on the death of the "Maid of Norway"; he was crowned King at Scone, and King Edward I of England made war on him, driving him from pillar to post; the tide turned in his favour in 1307, Bruce winning a decisive battle at Loudon Hill; Edward thereupon set out in person to lead his forces, but died on his way to Scotland; by 1309 Bruce was lord of most of Scotland, and by 1313 Stirling alone held out against him; a large English army, under Edward II, marched to the aid of that county, and was decisively defeated at Bannockburn on June 24, 1314, by the superior skill of Bruce, who forthwith invaded England, extorting the recognition of Scotland as a separate and independent kingdom which was granted by the Treaty of Northampton in 1328; Bruce was a wise King, a brave soldier, and a true patriot.

* * * *

The first ships to come within German gun range off the shores of France were those charwomen of the sea, the little minesweepers —the "smokey Joes", Admiralty trawlers, converted fishing trawlers, drifters, and other types, some of them built in America. There were 200 of them carrying 10,000 officers and men, over 2,800 tons of minesweeping gear and 70 miles of sweep wire. The job that minesweepers have been doing around the shores of England, day in and day out for five years, has become a routine one. The jobs they have been doing in other waters have not been essentially different. They swept around Sicily, Salerno and Anzio. Some of them have swept the White Sea Channels to make way for Allied convoys to Russia. The minesweepers were also at Dunkirk. But routine or not, it is probable that theirs is a task that requires the most skilful seamanship of any, even when not subjected to enemy fire encountered from the Norman shore. For the job is carried out in strong tides, all weathers, and shallow waters. Not only were the minesweepers the first to go in, but they are likely to be among the last to get out of the war. After the last war it took about a year to clean up the mines, even those mines whose positions were known. It will take longer this time. A great number of mines have been laid by air and their positions are not known, so that there will be enormous areas which must be swept before the seas will be safe.

Notes By The Way

Unfortunately, every additional flock of prisoners taken in France or Italy probably means more unwelcome guests for Canada to feed, clothe, guard and shelter for the duration of the war. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek recently said that nations can only maintain their existence by being prepared to risk it. Power politics where weak nations are used as pawns, irrevocably lead to warfare. This has been conclusively proven by the present war. — Chatham Daily News.

In some parts of Canada people are complaining about zoot-suits; elsewhere the grievance is against girls who wear shorts. In the midst of a great war for freedom the desire to dictate what others shall wear flourishes as never before.—Peterborough Examiner.

The absent minded professor was off form this morning. He did not try to eat his newspaper and read his toast; did not rush out of the house with misplaced garments; did not go along in the rain holding a stick over his head; did not give the bus conductor an aspirin tablet, and did not show his season ticket to the policeman on duty. He had forgotten to get up.—Sheffield Telegraph.

Sally, South Perth Zoo's aged chimpanzee, is an inveterate smoker When she has finished her smoke Sally stubs her cigarettes under a sack in her cage. One day she set fire to the sack. She tried to put the fire out by heaping other sacks on the smouldering one. A keeper extinguished the fire. Sally was not injured, but for hours after she crouched in a corner with her fur standing on end.—Australian News-Letter

House builders are banding together to end jerry-building after the war. Already 50 per cent of the private builders who will put up 85 per cent of Britain's brick houses have agreed to accept certain standards and to permit inspectors to examine their work. If their buildings are sound they will receive a certificate which will carry with it a guarantee to the purchaser of the house that if anything goes wrong within two years the builder will put it right. — London Daily Mail.

Psychiatrists at the University of Chicago, trying to find out what makes people become alcoholics, have gleaned some interesting and possibly valuable information through experimenting on cats. As reported to the American Psychiatric Association, meeting in Philadelphia, they found that healthy cats contemptuously refused alcoholic beverages, but that jittery, neurotic felines, on the other hand, seemed to like a few "hookers" because of their bracing effect. The same animals, cured of their nervousness, however, turned up their noses at intoxicants. — Brantford Expositor.

One day a young man came in great perplexity to the clergyman, Dwight L. Moody, and said, "Mr. Moody, I want to reform and lead a better life. But I don't know how I can give up my undesirable companions." "That's not difficult, young man," replied the revivalist, smiling sympathetically upon his visitor. "Just live a good life and your undesirable companions will give you up."—Christian Science Monitor.

Some members of the British Parliament have attempted to lecture Mr. Churchill for going to the invasion beach head in Normandy. This seems to be the ultimate in useless occupations. Of course everyone agrees that the British Prime Minister should not have taken the risk he did His leadership is too valuable to be exposed to cross-Channel war perils at this particular time. On the other hand, that is the kind of man Churchill is. He likes to be in the thick of things and devil take the risk. If he were not that kind of man he could not have provided the spark and inspiration he did during the dark days of 1940. Lecturing such a man is a waste of time and energy —he will only do something worse tomorrow.—Winnipeg Tribune.

In the list of royal birthday honors just announced by King George VI, Viscount Halifax, British Ambassador at Washington, is created an earl. It is a well deserved recognition by his Government of Lord Halifax's difficult years of service here since 1941, when he succeeded the late Marquess of Lothian. In his first coming to the capital Lord Halifax brought with him unpopular memories of the fatal and disastrous appeasement policy of the Chamberlain Government, in which he served as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. But this was soon over-shadowed and forgotten in his straightforward and open discussion of every wartime problem of Anglo-American relations. Too, Britain's tall and kindly ambassador has become liked in this country because he has proved himself uncompromising in his deeply serious outlook on the evils embodied in the essential doctrines of that Nazism which he had once believed could be fought by compromise. —New York Herald Tribune

The Poets' Corner

REBIRTH

Once in the year a man should go
out of the earth,
whether in Springtime furrows,
pressing the seed
into the sweet damp loam, or down
in the corn
under the shadows, or by a low blue
weed
in an Autumn field, in a ragged and
lonely corner.

Once in the year a man should return to the ground,
and there on his knees renew the
ancient pact
whereby his heart to the pungent
earth is bound
And when, again erect, he comes
indoors,
there will be a quiet strangeness in
his eyes,
his wife will find him wonderful
and new,
kin to the tawny earth and sunny
skies.

—Frances Frost in the New York Tribune.

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.

BICYCLE ACCIDENTS

Sir,—Last week I read of at least two bicycle accidents on our streets and there probably were others which were not mentioned.

One wonders why there are not twenty every day, and some fatal. The question might be asked, what is a bicycle, a vehicle or just a man sitting down running, or boy as the case may be, and what side of the street he is supposed to be on?

For instance every day we see bicycles on Grafton Street going west on the left side, meeting cars going east on the same side; in other words they "squeeze in" between the car and the curb.

Every day we see them going south on Great George Street, meeting cars going north on the same side. That is, they are driving or sitting down running on the left side instead of the right, which is supposed to be the side to be on.

Last week when a heavy truck was coming around the Pure Milk Co. corner the driver met a bicycle with two grown boys on it, young men, and they were forced over the curb and in loud voices were going to get the police. The driver said: "O.K. boys, this is my side of the street." Another truck coming out of a driveway tangled with a bicycle on the sidewalk and every one knows at least half the bicycles in this city are operated on the side walk. Last week a man was hurt, quite seriously when knocked down by a bicycle on the sidewalk.

This writer had the experience of being bumped by a bicycle on the sidewalk a short time ago. These bikes are operated by men, young and old, boys and kids who can't reach the seat but put their feet through the frame. Some of those days maybe, before this letter goes to press, some one or more of those bike riders are going to be killed. Bicycles with two men, bicycles with two boys, bicycles with two girls on them can be seen any day on the street, and especially around the Victoria Park along the shore and bathing side; and not only that but on the wrong side of the roadway or street.

This letter is not to condemn our busy Police who are more worker than paid, more abused than respected. It is to call attention of parents and our City Fathers to the fact that something must be done and done now to curb this danger where young men, young girls and kids are playing with death. The greatest killer ever invented has been and still is the automobile. So I say to City Fathers and parents, something must be done to prohibit this ignorant practice that has become so common.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WALTER A. O'BRIEN,
53 Bayfield Street,
Charlottetown.

PROHIBITION AGAIN

Sir,—In your issue of the 5th. inst. a letter appears over the signature May Eaton of Pasadina, Calif. In her letter she says, "Thank God for the victory over the enemy of man's soul". I am assuming that she attributes this victory to the beneficent workings of the so-called Prohibition Act. I fail to see that the Arch Enemy has been overcome, but rather is he more strongly entrenched in Prince Edward Island than ever before in the Island's history.

So far as I can see there is no element of prohibition in the Prohibition Act. It is merely a Government Liquor Sales Act controlled only by the number of scripts issued. I am told that these scripts are usually exhausted by the end of the first week of the month. With Government competition thus eliminated the traffic is tossed holus bolus to the hell holes within which Charlottetown is infested and which ply their hellish trade practically unmolested.

We have had the so-called Prohibition Act in force in Prince Edward Island for many years, and we also have its offspring—rum-running, moonshining, home brewing, etc., which in turn provide us with our murderers, killers of all kinds, drunkards, perjurers, and other law breakers.

We too have our cigarette smoking, cocktail drinking women, as well as Pasadina; also our drunken women as witness the free-for-all woman fight on Richmond Street only two Sundays ago. A gentleman home on a visit from the Pacific Coast told me that in all his time spent in the United States he had never seen anything to compare with it. Drunken women and men filled the streets so that he had to back his car out to Pownal Street for fear that he might be set upon. The women were doing their best to disrobe each other.

Premier Jones was very moderate when he told the ladies of the Women's Institute that there is ten times as much moonshine as Vendor's liquor consumed here.

Moonshine has become a staple product of P.E.I. and is vended covertly on our streets at twenty to twenty-five dollars per gallon. When dealt out by the retailer it sells for fifty cents per glass and eight and ten dollars per bottle.

With approximately one hundred dives in Charlottetown selling moonshine a pretty fair idea of the extent of this traffic may be obtained.

I feel quite sure that if your California correspondent were here on the spot instead of three thousand miles away she would quickly change her opinion as to the working of the present Act.

Hoping that our people will awake to the seriousness of the situation before it is too late and that those intrusted with the enforcement of the Prohibition Act will get busy and realize their responsibility to the people at large.

I am, Sir, etc.
CHAS. H. CHANDLER.

THE C .C. F.

Sir,—Under the above heading in Tuesday's Patriot Vernon Crockett of York, P.E.I., wrote a very thoughtful letter. The recent turnover in Saskatchewan has given the people of Canada serious food for thought. Canadians are a sensible, practical people and are not given to socialistic or communistic fads. On the other hand these are days when electors generally are looking for changes and it is quite within the range of possibility that the two other Prairie Provinces will follow Saskatchewan in their next provincial elections. British Columbia and Ontario might also follow but there are two careful Conservative and Liberal union governments in power in those provinces which may head off the growing desire for change. Manitoba also has a union government but in that Province the C.C.F. is more likely to gain control.

In Eastern Canada, where the C.C.F. depends largely upon their alliance with labour, it can only be a matter of time when the farmers will discover that their interests are by no means in common with those of international labour unions, if for no other reason than that the unions by refusing to incorporate and by insisting upon signed contracts with their employers, place themselves in a most unfair position. While the employers dare not break their contracts, the workers treat these contracts with contempt and strike on the least provocation, and many times without provocation, knowing that they cannot be sued because they are not incorporated.

The Province of Quebec is too much taken up with racial and religious problems to give the C.C.F. any worthwhile following and, if given time to think, the electors of the three Maritime Provinces, outside of the Cape Breton mining element, will hesitate to give the socialists an opportunity to dictate to them.

Since the Saskatchewan election I have been looking for an expression of opinion from the editors of the Liberal and Conservative newspapers of Canada regarding the real cause for the present change of public feeling and it seems to me that they have purposely evaded the problem. During recent years I have discussed in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island the political future of Canada, principally with the younger element of electors, and I have found a very widespread condemnation of the manner in which the Conservative and Liberal party machines have for the last forty or fifty years controlled our whole political system. No longer have we government by the people or for the people but rather by intensely selfish partisan machines. From start to finish at nomination, soliciting of votes, electioneering, forming the cabinets, and clandestine caucus meetings, we are under the rule of political methods that are entirely wrong and unworthy of an honest nation. Particularly is this evident in the universal adoption by our Federal and Provincial governments of the unsavoury, dishonourable, dishonest spoils system, which system has not a single redeeming feature to its credit. Not only does it cause a great waste of time on the part of our elected representatives but it provokes dishonesty by the electors and causes a widespread distrust of politicians generally. It also prevents many of the better element from allowing their names to be placed before the electorate.

I believe that the above rather than socialism have been the causes of the marked turnover in Saskatchewan and further that if the dangerous C.C.F. principles are to be combatted successfully our old-time parties must get together and clean out the Augean stables.

I am, Sir, etc.
H. K. S. HEMMING

HIGH school boys and girls - - - and their teachers, can make a very important contribution to the Nation's war effort by working on the farm this Summer season. Never before was such help of more VITAL IMPORTANCE, never before were food supplies more URGENTLY needed. Maybe you have felt that you yourself can do very little, but you yourself, multiplied by thousands of other willing helpers, can accomplish a very great deal. These are grave days and every ounce of our strength will be required to beat the enemy. We know you will gladly do your part.

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