THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1944

Post-War Exports

Swinging back Canada's war-swollen export trade to a hundred per cent peacetime basis "will be the biggest commercial task in Canada's history," asserts Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, in an article in the Commercial Intelligence Journal written as a preface to a series of articles on leading Canadian export commodities and industries.

To a large extent Canada's normal pre-war export business has become a war casualty, Mr. MacKinnon points out. In addition to the fact that our energies and resources have been concentrated primarily on production and distribution for war purposes and that we have had to limit exports, some of our customary export markets have been cut off and, in most of those remaining open to us, imports of many classes of goods from Canada have had to be reduced because of shipping shortage, the conservation of exchange for more urgent requirements or for other reasons.

The wartime gains have exceeded the losses in peacetime trade many times over, however, so that we have now a gigantic new volume of exports. Between the new and the old that remains, our total export trade has been running for some time at a level of roundly three billion dollars a year. By comparison, there was not a single year from 1930 to 1939 when the value of Canada's exports closely approached one-half that figure.

Canadians may well be proud of the extent to which their country is today shipping goods abroad, for the volume of our exports is one of the best indicators of the power of Canada's economic "punch", writes Mr. MacKinnon. "Nevertheless, if we are to keep our feet on the ground, we must not lose sight of the fact that 75 to 80 per cent of our present exports belong in the category of regular peacetime exports."

While more dependence may be placed in future on domestic policies to maintain employment and prosperity and less on external trade, the latter must continue to be an important constituent in the economic welfare of most countries, he asserts. In the case of Canada, whose development has been based to an unusual extent upon export business, whole regions and many major industries have always depended upon exports for their prosperity. Their reliance upon exports may be much less years hence than it is today. But the prospect, for as far ahead as most of us are able to see, is that many sections of the Dominion and many of the greater Canadian industries must continue to live by exports.

May Fly Again

The late Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith's famous Fokker monoplane, The Southern Cross, may leave the Australian War Museum and fly again. If it does it will be because Columbia Pictures propose to make a film about "Smithy."

After it was purchased by the Commonwealth Government in 1941, The Southern Cross was placed in the War Memorial Museum, Canberra.

An examination has been made of the machine by an aeronautical engineer, who has expressed the opinion that, with minor adjustments, it can be made airworthy. If the necessary permission is granted by the Commonwealth Government the machine will be put into flying trim by the R. A. A. F. and photographed in flight for the film.

The plane of "Smithy's" partner, the late C. P. T. Ulm, which played an important part in the progress of aviation in Australia, is at present lying at Canberra aerodrome, and it has been suggested that it should be preserved as a historic exhibit.

Momentous Days

Never in history, note an exchange, have armies travelled so fast. Never has the news of victory reached the public so rapidly. The people of England did not hear of the Battle of Trafalgar until weeks after the event. The Battle of Waterloo and the end of Napoleon were dramatic events, news concerning which was carried to England by pigeons, or by men on horseback and sailing vessels. The electric telegraph was not invented until 1844, 29 years after Waterloo. Now the latest war news is flashed across the world in a matter of minutes.

Not since the creation have the inhabitants of this world witnessed within so short a period such momentous war events as have been recorded in the daily press during the past few weeks. Since Roumania was knocked out by the Allies and declared war on Germany on Aug. 25, Paris was wrested from the Nazis. Scarcely had the echoes of the victory celebration died away before word flashed round the world that Bulgaria was negotiating for peace. Brussels and Antwerp fell as the German armies raced for the Rhineland, with the Allies hard on their trail. Belgium was liberated in 48 hours, with virtually no property damage. Holland was being occupied by the rapidly advancing armies of Britain. American troops were reported inside Germany. The Reich was ringed by foes.

It is impossible to recall any period in history when more exciting news was breaking, or when sensation after sensation flashed round the world in such rapid succession.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In connection with the previous reference here to the repair of St. James Church steeple it should have been mentioned that Mr. E. S. Blanchard is joint-architect with Mr. Harris in the work.

* * * *

"The Save the Children Fund" organized in Great Britain in 1919 after last Great War, and which has been resuscitated and made vitally effective in the present war, is appealing to subscribers, old and new to continue the good work. The demands on the Fund are tremendous, and growing with every new liberation of down-trodden countries. Here the organization is represented by Mr. John O. Hyndman, who has done much to bring it to the attention of the charitable and other well disposed citizens.

* * * *

For the first time during this war, figures have been collected and published on the actual hours worked by almost all types of industrial workers in Britain. The survey was undertaken for the first pay week of July, 1943, and the results published in the Ministry of Labour Gazette for February, 1944. It is shown that for the occupations covered the average for men of 21 years and over was 52.9 hours a week; for women of 18 years and over, 45.9; for youths, 14-20, 48; and for girls 14-17, 45.1. The average for all workers was 50 hours a week.

* * * *

This year's rice crop in Australia is expected to be a record. All of it is grown in New South Wales (see June Newsletter). With an average yield of about two tons to the acre (a figure which has caused amazement in Ceylon), this should provide at least 75,000 tons of "paddy," compared with about half that total in pre-war days. The whole of the crop is required for the Allied forces and for consumption in the island territories of the Southwest Pacific. The quality is excellent.

* * * *

Councillor T. Albert MacKinnon does the right thing in calling upon those in the city who want universal coal weighing certificates to attend the meeting of the City Council and back their opinion by their presence. Anyone now may have their coal weighed on the city scales by making the request and footing the small bill; the trouble is that it is the exceptions who do so, and the others are the complainants. A considerable cost will be involved in installing such a system, and the question is—is it worth the cost and trouble involved? The oil burners, though not affected, would have to pay their share of the cost.

* * * *

Alfred Noyes, C.B.E., LL.D., Litt. D., British poet and novelist born this date 1880; his publications include: *The Loom Of Years, A Tale of Old Japan, Collected Poems, Selected Verse, The Torchbearers, Drake, Tales of the Mermaid Tavern, The Elfin Artist, Essays on English Poetry, The Return of the Scarecrows, The Last Voyage, The Unknown God, Voltaire, The Incomplete Gardener, Orchard's Bay, The Lost Man*:

"This outer world is but the pictured scroll of
worlds within the soul;
A coloured chart, a blazoned missal-book
whereon who rightly look
May spell the splendours with their mortal
eyes, and steer to Paradise."

* * * *

A man was on trial for kicking a neighbor's dog. He was found guilty and fined $15. He protested in vain that he didn't dislike dogs. In fact, he said, he once owned a dog which had been his best friend, next to his wife. The judge said that testimony might have helped only if the defendant had said that the dog was his best friend, for that is what dogs are supposed to be. "Yes", the man on trial replied, "but the person who originally said that didn't have his wife sitting close by him."

* * * *

Stalin is absent from Quebec conference because meantime the Soviet is not at war with Japan, and that is one of the principal items to be discussed by the other Big Two. Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M. P., believes that Russia will come into the war against Japan once the German danger had been removed. One reason would be, he says, that Russia has an immense territory with very few sea outlets. Archangel and Murmansk are frozen part of the year, while the Baltic ports are not very useful without control of Denmark nor the Black Sea ports without control of Turkey. This makes Vladivostok and other possible Pacific ports very important, and for that reason Russia would not wish to remain a spectator when the future of the western Pacific was being decided.

* * * *

It is pleasing to find a timely protest in the *Ottawa Journal* in connection with the "Hollywooding" of the war conference in Quebec. Our contemporary sanely points out that Quebec was chosen for the conference for practical reasons, and not for the purpose of creating "honour and glory" for the Dominion or the Province, any more than Casablanca was selected as a suitable place in North Africa. Proceeding it says: "Photographers, we suppose, we must have, and the saccharine pieces of sobsisters, but a world that has known a great deal of sorrow has probably all it can stand of Mr. Churchill's cigar and Mr. Eden's Bond street tailoring and the angle of Mr. Roosevelt's cigarette holder. For all of these leaders, great in this war, there should be respect, even admiration, but the business of depicting them as sort of 'pin-up' boys of the Allies has been a bit overdone. Finally, let us be preserved from the stuff of statesman-journalists who, possessed of little information or none, insist on writing about 'momentous decisions' and putting together a lot of solemn jargon about grand strategy and geopolitics. The grand strategy and geopolitics, if there be any of either, will be secret, with the bare bones of what is decided given out officially from time to time on a few sheets of paper. The vital conclusions of the conference will, of course, be secret—as they must be."

The Irony Of Canada's Role

(The Montreal Gazette)

One of the features of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference is the fact that one of the Big Four is Great Britain, not the British Commonwealth. This fact is not merely a matter of course, something that was always planned. Rather, it represents the failure of an earnest move to constitute the British Commonwealth of Nations as one coordinated group in just such a peace-keeping structure as the Dumbarton Oaks Conference is now endeavoring to build.

Indeed, the Dumbarton Oaks Conference places in a truer light the effort made earlier this year to bring the Commonwealth nations more effectively together to meet the responsibilities of peace. There is a new incisiveness and immediacy to these words spoken by Lord Halifax in his address before the Toronto Board of Trade last January 24: "If, in the future, Britain is to play her part without assuming burdens greater than she can support, she must have with her in peace the same strength that has sustained her in this war. Not Great Britain only, but the British Commonwealth and Empire must be the fourth power in that group upon which, under Providence, the peace of the world will henceforth depend. There, summed up in a sentence, is the need as I see it."

Obviously, it was, as Lord Halifax foresaw, "among the first problems to be considered" when the responsible ministers of the Crown from every part of the Commonwealth met together. Obviously, too, Prime Minister Churchill, though he may have presided over the conference itself with judicial restraint, yet expressed, on the conference's eve, how close his hopes lay to those of Lord Halifax. But the difficulties that confronted these hopes had early become apparent when Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, speaking before the Canadian House of Commons on January 31, declared that Canada could not "for one moment give support to such an idea."

* * *

Any expectations that Prime Minister King would alter his stand were disappointed when, in the address delivered in London before the members of the British Parliament, he proved no less determined in his opposition. Indeed, the precise point of difference between Prime Minister King and Lord Halifax appeared in their use of the word "danger." Lord Halifax felt that danger lay in leaving Commonwealth relations unaltered before the challenge of peace. The danger, for Mr. King, lay in making any alteration in the existing structure.

The Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers ended with a joint declaration of vague, if hearty, goodwill. But clearly it had failed to reach agreement on the main problem with which it had been faced. This failure was necessarily something of a triumph for those who had placed themselves in opposition to the proposed changes, and something of a discomfiture for those who had favored them. By and large, however, when the conference was ended, there was a tendency to smooth over the question as though the whole discussion was rather academic in any case, or was concerned with those post-war discussions which (in the days before the Allied invasion) seemed very remote indeed.

But we now realize that the machinery to keep the peace is being fashioned at this very hour. We see, too, that it is taking the precise form that Lord Halifax foresaw (and to which Mr. King objected)—the concentration of the peace-power in the hands of the Big Four. No less clearly, we see that Great Britain is taking up the burden alone.

It is true that the Commonwealth is there at Dumbarton Oaks, in spirit if not in body, as a sort of background, or potential reserve. Nor can there be any question that Great Britain's relation to the Commonwealth, however loose, is adding weight to its influence, as it will throughout the future.

* * *

Yet the difficult fact is not to be hidden that nothing has been done to remove the essential weakness of the Commonwealth, as Lord Halifax pointed it out last January. As Lord Halifax emphasized, cooperation in war is no substitute for the failure to cooperate to prevent war. "That in fact all the Dominions save one entered the war with us is not sufficient answer," he said. "Nor is the fact that they have made a total war effort that matches that of the United Kingdom. For we must rightly concern ourselves not so much with what happens when war has come, but with what in future we can do to prevent it coming. The magnificent response of the Dominions in 1939 was not, thank God, too late to save the cause for which the Commonwealth and Empire stood and stands; but there was a real sense in which it was too late to save the peace."

The irony of Canada's role in the last war lay in the fact that, having made a vigorous contribution to winning the war, it made only the feeblest of efforts to prevent war's recurrence. But the irony of Canada's role in this war is far greater. It lies in the fact that at the very time when it is pouring out its blood and treasure to bring victory, it withdraws (mainly by the action of its own government) from playing an equally active part in securing the peace for which it is sacrificing so much.

Notes By The Way

Singer Bing Crosby, recording his music and patter for German consumption, is listed as our latest weapon." The Nazis must be demoralized indeed if they can be scared by "Boo-boo-boo-boo." — Windsor Star.

During the battle for New Guinea, it has been revealed. Japanese soldiers thought they were fighting in California. The Australian and American troops, it appears, contributed the earthquake effects. — Windsor Star.

Any church interested in souls alone and not in bad housing that damns them, politics that corrupt them, an economic system that cripples them and international relationships that determine their destiny, is not a church at all. — Canon C. R. Calvert, President, Family Welfare Bureau, Winnipeg.

How long will the last? If we could see some of Hitler's secret reports we could probably answer that one. But when he's calling on 15-year-olds and old men to defend the homeland he's in a bad way. — Lethbridge Herald.

"Hollywood won't believe I'm through," says crooner Frank Sinatra as he fires a blast at the movies, declaring delicately that they "stink." On the contrary, Hollywood probably knew he was through after his first couple of pictures, and before the hard fact became evident to him. — Windsor Star.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of good schools and good teaching. They have a fundamental influence on the character of the population. They will be a very large factor in shaping the kind of province Saskatchewan will be 25 and 50 years hence. On that score improvement of the school system has a high priority in all post-war projects. — Regina Leader-Post.

The Nazis are reported to be altering the Maginot line so as to turn its armament against the Allies. Surely no defence structure in history has played a more perverse part. Originally planned to shield France from her invaders, it may now be used to delay the advance of her liberators. It may be hoped, however, that it will prove as ineffective for the second purpose as it was for the first. — Montreal Gazette.

The horse can live off the land and perpetuate a supply of horsepower by raising a family. With mechanized power, such as tractors, repairs, gas and oil have to be taken out of the pocket of the farmer. The horse can forage and, to a considerable extent, live on its own. A horse can rest while waiting, thus automatically refueling himself. The horse is a handy source of mobile power on the farm. He can be taken to any corner of the farm and he can stop and start, wheel about, or turn this way or that way hundreds of times a day without running up expenses. —Fort William Times-Journal.

The ratio of preventable accidents in agriculture is higher than in any other industry, members of their families and workers on farms are killed and many thousands injured every year in Canada as the result of accidents, most of which could have been prevented. With the farm labour shortage just now so acute and when all our production of food is so essential to the war effort, the accident toll is particularly serious. A survey has disclosed that machinery is the chief source of farm work accidents; that live stock runs a close second and that falls are in third place. The wise farmer is he who, learning the cause of accidents on his farm, takes steps to eliminate such causes and all possible hazards. For example, the fact that loose clothing causes one-third of all farm accidents involving machinery should make every one avoid that particular hazard like a plague. — Collingwood Enterprise—News.

The stories of P. G. Wodehouse, the English humorist, were delightful within the limits of their set pattern. His Jeeves, the imperturbable gentleman's gentleman, was a gem of literary creation and justly famous. But, as we said, Mr. Wodehouse's humor was limited. He stepped out from behind his characters, after the Nazis caught him at his French villa in 1940, to broadcast to the home folks back in England. He used the German radio to tell them the lighter side of life in a concentration camp. Now, left high and dry, in Paris, Mr Wodehouse says it was all a "terrible mistake." He has asked official permission to come back to England and explain. We doubt that the English will be much interested in the explanation of a man who says "we never suffered during the war and we had enough to eat." We venture to guess that their attitude might be summed up in the words of one of our own radio commedians: "Tain't funny, McGee." — N. E. A. Service

Beware of what the retreating Germans may do to you, was the gist of a warning broadcast to his fellow-countrymen by the French spokesman: "I shall always have before my eyes", said the broadcaster "that little boy terribly burned because a German as he left the village put a hand-grenade into his hands. I shall always see that family, all of whose members are permanently injured, because three Germans amused themselves by throwing their last grenades into the trench where they were hiding with other civilians of the village. And I shall always see that woman, who had gone mad when a German killed her little girl by her side while she was trying to hurry the child away from the fighting. "Nothing equals the platitude of the German soldier as he surrenders with a smile. But before he surrenders he fires his last cartridge, and if the opportunity offers he uses it on the French always the weakest and most disarmed." — From News From France.

Lessons of The Robots

(Windsor Star)

Even official caution now admits that the robot bombs are beaten. Britain is told that it need fear no further heavy attacks. Our invading forces on the Continent have cleaned out the dens of the fearful automatons.

With this announcement come some details of the campaign of horror which are thought-provoking. They reveal the true seriousness of the threat to the British people, and also the splendid work that was done to protect them.

An average of 100 bombs were launched per day during the period of assault. This number concentrated on the comparatively small area of London, could and did wreak serious destruction of life and property. There can be no doubt that those in authority spent some anxious times before the menace was eliminated.

The statement, however, is noteworthy principally because it shows the splendid efficiency of the defences. It is truly remarkable that only 29 percent of the bombs reached their target. These were enough, of course, to cause tremendous casualties, but the toll would have been tragically multiplied had a major proportion of the projectiles found their mark.

The Nazis have grim reason to reflect on the failure of their campaign of frightfulness. They have loosed, in desperation, the most modern of all weapons, only to see its efficiency quickly crippled, without one shred of military advantage being gained. They can take satisfaction only from the deaths of a few thousand innocent civilians.

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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.

PROHIBITION

Sir—In a letter in your paper dated Sept. 9, an indignant 'mother of a boy in the Airforce' denounces my beliefs as unfriendly to her son, as well as all other men serving their country. As the writer refuses to sign her name, I can only believe that she is ashamed of the doctrine she preaches. Secondly, does she speak for herself, her son, or both? On what does she base her beliefs? Personal contacts with the effects of alcohol, or condemnations from the mouths of others? I feel sure it is the latter.

I did not mean my letter to be interpreted (apparently she did) as advocating open sale of beer to be the only way of improving conditions for the men who will be returning. I specifically stated that it would be one step in this direction. I firmly believe it would, hence my own signature.

The writer goes on to say that in the days prior to Prohibition, this Island suffered from the abuse of alcohol. Yes there was liquor aplenty, but good, and that is more than can be said for the larger part of the liquor drunk while this so-called Prohibition is in force.

We all condemn narcotics as the worst underminer of society. I cannot claim any personal experience with dope, but I have watched 'bottled' dope work its insidious ruin on human beings. If people's eyes are blinded to the havoc wrought by Prohibition, and refuse to remove this curse from our midst, then I for one will do my best to have my children brought up in another locality.

Let this 'Mother of a Boy in the Airforce realize that her son may be now a broader minded man. He may have his own ideas on the subject of liquor. The least we can do in respect to alcoholic beverages is to have a law entitling him, or all other returning men, to a respectable drink, not subject to a doctor's prescription, should he or they wish one.

I am not going to ask for any additional space in these columns on this subject. I advocate abolishing Prohibition for the good of Prince Edward Island, and the future can and will, prove me right or wrong.

I am Sir, etc
HARRY MORRIS
West Royalty.

The Poet's Corner

EDGE OF DARKNESS

The moonlight wove a cage of silver bars
Between the branches, and a thrush awoke
Complaining to the night. How softly broke
That silence in the breathless time of stars!
On this thin edge of darkness, the least sound
Falls with new meaning on the listening ear.
Wind in the leaves, brook-water: we can hear
Earth's ancient sleepers stirring underground.

Perhaps that thrush, too early for the dawn,
Was roused by a strange music even more
Elusive that the horns of Elfland blown.
Slowly the moon set and the song was gone,
We heard the closing of a small green door
On secret worlds far older than our own.

—Bayka Russel, in the Christian Science Monitor.

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