THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2, 1944

Strong Recommendations

It is encouraging to have, from the Reconstruction Committee of the House of Commons, such straightforward recommendations as those tabled last week with regard to Maritime transportation and other requirements. This report definitely recommends, among other things, "improvements designed to make communications between Prince Edward Island and the mainland constant, reliable and adequate." It urges Federal Government surveys of conditions in the Maritime Provinces, with the object of advising and helping in steps to improve the economic life of the people."

The report goes on to say:

"This improvement can be brought about in part through a proper development of the fishing industry; through assistance to the farming community, by the application of the provisions of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act; by the installation of rural electrification, and the extension of cold storage facilities; through proper forest conservation and extended utilization of forest products; through the introduction of additional secondary industry, where the operation of such industry is economically sound by reason of proper markets and of primary production within the Maritime Provinces or in neighboring lands, such as Newfoundland."

The report states that "a great deal of thought has been given the economic situation of the Maritime Provinces," and it adds that: — "The suggested inquiry into their condition should include the extent, if any, to which the Maritimes have suffered because of lack of proper distribution of secondary industry in Canada, and also the possibility of securing extended markets—both Canadian and international—for all Maritime production."

Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee is MR. JAMES G. TURGEON, member for Cariboo, B.C., and a native of the Maritimes. The committee's report is of the greatest consequence and its recommendations should be pressed vigorously by all our Maritime representatives as well as our provincial governments. There never was a time when united action was more necessary or more likely to achieve worthwhile results.

Lighting Public Schools?

A correspondent writes:

"With the light-meter today we can measure lighting as simply and accurately as we record temperature with a thermometer. The light-meter measures illumination in units termed 'foot candles' just as the thermometer measures temperature in units known as 'degrees Fahrenheit' or 'degrees centigrade.' One foot candle is equvalent to the illumination you would receive on a book from a single candle placed a foot away from it.

"Authorities on lighting today agree that a minimum of 20 foot candles is necessary for class room lighting if the pupils's eyesight is not to be impaired.

"When we realize that school is in session during the darker winter months and that on fully half of the days the sun does not shine at all, plus the fact that our schools were built at a time when lighting was not stressed as it is now, then perhaps it is not surprising to learn that the lighting of our local public schools, as measured by the light-meter, was found to range from 0 to 5 feet candles rather than the required 20 foot candles. When we also consider that teaching is chiefly received through the eyes, it would appear that providing adequate light is not a luxury but a necessity for our school children and indeed it has been proven that pupils working in a properly illuminated room show a general marked increased efficiency in their studies apart from an appreciable decrease in eyesight ailments."

Mr. Graydon's Speech

Mr. Gordon Graydon, leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, rightly characterized the Speech from the Throne as "a combination of the Winnipeg (Conservative) platform, John Bracken's reform speeches, a deathbed repentence, and several dying declarations." It lacked the real crusading reform spirit to be found in either the Winnipeg manifesto or in Mr. Bracken's subsequent addresses, but the effect of both these could be seen in many parts of the Throne Address.

Mr. Graydon in this connection cited some words uttered by Mr. King when he was leader of the Opposition in 1935, and applied them with far more justice to the present situation. "Looking at the Speech from the Throne," said Mr. King at that time, "I have come to the conclusion that his (Premier Bennet's) policies are a sort of *omnium gatherum*. They are intended to take in a little of everything he can discover in everybody's policy." That certainly sums up the present Government's policy today.

A strong point in Mr. Graydon's speech was his criticism of the tardy pace at which the mechanism of Parliament has been allowed to move under the present administration. He cited the last session, which covered the major part of 1943. The standing committee on agriculture and colonization did not sit until 115 days had elapsed from the opening of the session. The radio broadcasting committee did not commence its business until 123 days had elapsed; while the war expenditures committee only began its "closed door" sessions 171 days after Parliament had convened. One of the last things Parliament did last session before its adjournment was to set up this committee, which should have been convened many months before.

Another point made by the Opposition was with regard to agriculture. The single reference to agriculture in the Speech from the Throne was with regard to floor prices for basic farm products—a plank taken holus-bolus out of Mr. Bracken's policy, enunciated in his famous Lethbridge speech.

This recalls the tribute Robert Louis Stevenson once paid to Ben Jonson. In his volume of poems "Underwoods" Stevenson wrote:

"Of all my verse, like not a single line;
But like my title, for it is not mine.
That title from a better man I stole:
Ah, how much better had I stol'n the whole!"

How much better if the King Government had either left Mr. Bracken's policy alone, or stolen it in its entirety. Mr. Graydon put the situation in a nutshell when he said: "It is extremely significant that the Government should have waited until after it had been in power for eight years, and until the plan had been incorporated as part of the Progressive Conservative agricultural policy, before undertaking to establish floor prices for farm products. What Canadian farmers will want to know is why the Government did not see fit to adopt this price floor policy during those pre-war years when the prices which they actually received were only a fraction of what they were justlty entitled to and of prices ruling today."

The Government's insincerity is shown by the fact that while it promised to establish an industrial development bank to assist in the preparation for the transition of industry from war to peace, it has no similar policy to offer agriculture. It followed Mr. Bracken's Winnipeg platform in many instances, but it failed to adopt one very important plank in that platform, namely the proposal for a Central Farm Bank. Why cannot agriculture be treated as well as industry in connection with credit facilities provided by the Government?

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Subscriptions to East African War Bonds have amounted to about £0,000,000 ($26,640,000).

* * * *

It has been ascertained that more than 6,000 children in Great Britain were entertained at Christmas by Canadian troops in England.

* * * *

The Scharnhorst was Hitler's sole fighting fit battleship. His surface navy has been whittled down to such an extent that all he has available now are two pocket battleships, half-a-dozen cruisers and about a score of destroyers

* * * *

H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala, who recently completed a tour of inspection of the Burma front, said in an interview: "I have had a most interesting tour, I have seen much and learnt a great deal. Our soldiers are in fine fettle and are spoiling for battle, fully confident of victory."

* * * *

In a recent bulletin in New Zealand News it was mentioned that forecast of a rather unusual export to Britain has been made by Mr. E. Earle Vaile, the well-known Aucklander. He predicted that the time might come when grass in New Zealand, dried and compressed into cake form, would be exported to compete with cattle cake. He pointed out that grass grows eleven months in the year in New Zealand, which enables the butterfat yield per acre to go as high as 300 lbs. in the season, compared with a peak of about 100 lbs. an acre in other dairy-product countries.

* * * *

Fritz Kreisler, Austrian violinist, born this date 1875, educated at Vienna, (gold medalist), Paris, (Prix de Rome) toured United States and Canada for four years, and married Miss H. Lies of New York; made his first appearance in London in 1902; received honorary degree of LL.D. from Glasgow University; served in Austro-Hungarian war in 1914 and was wounded; received several recognitions from different European countries on account of his genius as a violinist, including the French Legion of Honours.

* * * *

The Canadian, U.S.A. and British bombers are brave but not foolhardy. Some industrial company in the States put out an advertisement showing an inane-looking bomber pilot grinning cheerfully and demanding "Who's Afraid of the New Fockewulf?" Somebody pinned it on the bulletin board of a bomber station in England with a laconic note: "Sign Here" the note said. Every combat officer in the group signed and the Group Commander's name led all the rest. We quote that story from "Target — Germany," official story of the United States Eighth Bomber Command's first year over Europe. The mood of the airmen who signed their names is the mood of us all. The enemy is strong, but we know that the growing strength of our united forces will defeat him."

* * * *

"In years to come," said Lord Halifax, "it will surely seem a vital circumstance of history that the four great Dominions of the British Commonwealth, enjoying absolute independence, should have entered without delay or hesitation into a quarrel which some, unschooled in the idea of interdependence, might have thought remote from their shores and alien to their interests. It is an event of history that in those dark days, when Europe shook with the rumble of Hitler's tanks and the tramp of German feet, from these four free corners of the world there should have instantaneously come that great and heartening reinforcement, of fighting men in all their vigor and valor, of food, of supplies, of help of every kind . . . Democratic government, which originally seemed only workable within the limits of a single city, became possible first in the small and composite nation-state, and then in far larger or more heterongenous groups like the United States of Canada, or, as we hope, in India. It may, therefore, be that this later method of association, which we call the British Empire and Commonwealth, this method of combining complete freedom with the requisite unity of action, is the beginning of yet another grafting on the democratic plant."

Notes By The Way

From Hevea seeds taken from the Western Hemisphere in 1876 grew the fields on which the world has depended for ninety percent of its rubber since 1920, says Middle America Bureau. Replanted in Calcutta, Singapore and other posts in the Far East, these wild seedlings became nine million acres of rubber-producing trees. Today the Hevea tree, the main source of natural rubber, has returned to the American tropics. Millions of seeds are being planted in three Middle American countries, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama, to become our rubber plantations of tomorrow. —Exchange

The Board of Trade has promised that in January it will raise the quota of sheets supplied to London shops, but this news is not as good as it looks at first sight. Those shops are now getting six sheets for every 200 they had in 1939. In January they will get seven. More pillow-cases will also be on sale, and like the sheets, they will all be "utility," this meaning, one supposes, that there will be no hemstitching. People are using all kinds of means to get substitutes for sheets, but it is not reported whether they are going to use large tablescloths instead. During the past few months the sale of towels has diminished; no one seems to know why, unless it is that people are already sufficiently supplied. But, anyway the board has decided that much of the cotton used in making towels will now be diverted to sheets. —Manchester Guardian.

Grantland Rice, recalls The National Geographic, wrote a verse that expresse the weatherman's perennial complaint:

And now among the fading embers,
There in the main are my regrets;
When I am right, no one remembers;
When I am wrong, no one forgets!

Actualy, thirty-six hour forecast averages ninety-five percent accurate in the first few hours eighty-five to ninety percent at the end of twenty-four hours and then drops to eighty or eighty-five. Seldom are warnings of storms or other dangers in error.

Lord Linlithgow ex-Viceroy of India speaking at a representative gathering of his own folk of West Lothian at a welcome home in Linlithgow, paid tribute to 'the magnificent contribution that India has made towards the victory of the Allied cause. Knowing the position and the nature and extent of the difficulties that have had to be overcome," he said. "I cannot overstate the admiration which I feel for India's war effort nor express adequately my gratitude for the spirited and sustained support afforded to me, whether in British India or by rulers and their Governments in the Indian States, in my duty to promote the timely development of military power, including the provision of immense supplies of munitions and warlike stores to secure the safety of India, and have effective participation in operations beyond her own frontiers, I must also pay tribute to the gallant and invaluable aid of Nepal." —London Times.

The advantage of motorways — roads 100 feet wide, divided into two 30-foot one-way carriageways by a centre strip planted with flowering trees and shrubs and open only to fast running motor traffic —are demonstrated at an exhibition opened in Lower Regent street by Sir William Rootes. There are diagrams, photographs and working models. A network of such new roads, amounting to 1,000 miles, compared with a present total of 181,500 miles of all kinds, was recommended by the County Surveyors' Society in 1938. The exhibition showed, Sir W. Rootes said, that a modern road system need not desecrate the countryside, and that even 1,000 miles of new construction, designed by the county surveyors, with their local knowledge, could enormously benefit the life of the community. — London Times.

It is unthinkable that the internationally famous Jack Miner Bird Sanctuaury at Kingsville Ontario, should ever be allowed to lapse in its unique service, when Jack Miner comes to the end of his long and markedly useful life. Fortunately, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation Incorporated, has planned soundly against any such disaster. A trust fund is being built up of gifts and bequests, with the objective of perpetuating Mr. Miner's home and sanctary in its entirety, together with ambitious developments in the interests of new generations of Canadians and Americas and visitors from aboard. It is like painting the lily to heap praise upon the world-wide plaudits that have been sounded to the honor of Jack Miner. Last June the King conferred upon him the Order of the British Empire. Her Royal Highness the Princess Juliana of The Netherlands has declared that: "The work done by Jack Miner is of the utmost value to scientists the world over, and deserves all the recognition it receives now and for all time." —Stratford, Ont., Beacon Herald.

The Poet's Corner

LOVE PROFANED

Not with libations, but with shouts and laughter
We drenched the altars of Love's sacred grove,
Shaking to earth green fruits, impatient after
The launching of the colored moths of Love.
Love's proper myrtle and his mother's zone
We bound about our irreligious brows,
And fettered him with garlands of our own,
And spread a banquet in his frugal house.

Not yet the god has spoken; but I fear
Though we should break our bodies in his flame,
And pour our blood upon his altar, here
Henceforward is a grove without a name,
A pasture to the shaggy goats of Pan,
Whence flee forever a woman and a man.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay.

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.

CANCELLED SKATING

Sir,—Having learned from an advertisement in your paper that a skating session was being held on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 1st, we went to the Forum

We paid our admission money 25c., put on our skates and waited to go on the ice but at five minutes past three, the management decided to cancel the skating. We were sent away our money being refunded.

We consider this very unfair, and against the public rights, since it was advertised in the paper, and admission money was collected up to three o'clock, and our money for admission collected at five to three.

Also, several were service personnel who had spent money and valuable time in order to get to the Forum.

Others were holders of season tickets who got nothing refunded.

This has happened on several occasions and we feel that it could be prevented in future.

We are, Sir, etc.
TWO KEEN SKATERS.

(The Guardian understands that the rink management reserves the right to cancel a skate at any time and that a statement to this effect appears on every season ticket—Ed. G.)

MUST TRUST YOUTH

Sir,—I venture to write again on the subject of prohibition, at the risk of having a millstone hanged about my neck, and being cast into the sea, as was advocated by "School Teacher" in a letter published January 31st

I fear this correspondent has misjudged my motives in writing against prohibition. I too have the best interests of our youth at heart, and it is for their good that I express these views.

Of course the amount of liquor used would increase if the prohibition law were repealed, but the liquor sold legally would be good, and the government, not the bootleggers and other profiteers, would obtain the revenue. As for those who sell liquor for a beverage being in that business for "material gain," I have yet to see a merchant who is in business for love.

If we "defile" ourselves with drinking, smoking, etc., how wicked then, are Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt, two of the greatest leaders of our time

The statement that an insatiable appetite is formed after one drink is ridiculous. If this were the case, most of us would be habitual drunkards

A correspondent has dwelt at length on the evils of government control in other provinces. Having lived for many years in the province where I believe, intoxicating liquor is most easily obtained, I can truthfully say that I have seen more intoxicated persons in Charlottetown than in the largest city of that other province

We cannot protect our youth by not exposing them to temptation. Sooner or later, the majority of them will leave the sanctuary of Prince Edward Island, and go out into the big, evil world, where temptations are many. Human nature being what it is, we cannot expect them all to be Daniels, yet we insult their intelligence and capabilities when we refuse to trust them. They cannot be expected to know how to use liquor moderately and judiciously if they have never had experience; but if they have been taught self-control, they will conduct themselves in a fitting manner, both at home and abroad.

Therefore, I still advise, strongly, and with a clear conscience, the abolition of the present prohibition law

I am, Sir, etc.,
DUM VIVIMUS, VIVAMUS

ETERNAL VIGILANCE NECESSARY

Sir.—For wilful blindness as to what is going on in the society of our country, local "wets" are unsurpassed. Usually, their writings are self-defeating by reason of their authorship or content. A positive note, however, is needed as an occasional antidote. "Wet" blindness should occasion no surprise, as a scientific investigation has proved that the alcoholic is a psychopathic case.

Constantly we need to remind ourselves, that in the other provinces of Canada, eight times as much liquor per capita is drunk as in Prince Edward Island; hence the ardent desire of local drinkers to share in the flood.

The chiefs of police of Charlottetown and Summerside have reported a complete absence of serious crime during the past year, and this despite the "bad" liquor, which drinkers write about in such heart-rending fashion. Week after week, come from abroad the reports of violent crime, linked closely with the liquor traffic. During the present week the little town of Stellarton and the village of Avonport, N. S., have been in the news. In the former two brothers have been arrested in connection with the death of a men, with whom they are alleged to have had a dispute about a bottle of liquor. In Avonport a man who had been drinking was found dead under the snow. Presumably, in both cases the liquor was "good." Here are two more occasions on which a "nip" or a "glass," "brought a beautiful and heartfelt bond of strengthened friendship between dear hearts"— to use J. M.'s phraseology of Saturday last. This poetic scribe might well become a writer of liquor ads. should the Government lift its ban on liquor advertising after the war. He has a real talent for avoiding the truth and dressing error prettily, but he should delete indelicate anatomical terms. Then too the holiness of whiskey drinking had better not be referred to publicly, but it is quite safe to denounce with adjectives the clergy and by inference the church, though they are no minority

Then too it is no longer good policy for the liquor propagandist to weep over the loss of liberty. Too many facts can be arrayed against him. Poetry and pictures are much safer. What are some of the facts as to the bondage the liquor evil has imposed on society?

Wherever liquor has left its slimy trail, every social problem has been aggravated. Frequently this committee has referred to liquor's alliance with crime. Figures recently released by the F B. I. indicate that in United States, per 100,000 of population, there were twice as many arrests for drunkenness in 1941 than there were in 1932, the last year of Prohibition in U. S. A. Further, there were almost three times as many arrests for other causes in 1941 than in 1932. These figures corroborate the evidence from some Canadian provinces, against government promotion, falsely called "control." Time would fail to mention broken hearts, broken homes, ruined careers, ruined lives, ruined minds. Of late, we have been told that venereal disease ranks as one of Canada's major social problems. As might be expected, here too liquor is true to its infamous record. Writes Dr. Milton Rosenau, Professor of Preventive Medicine in Harvard University in his authoriative book on public hygiene: "Alcohol is the bedfellow of syphilis and gonorrhea," and this fact he attributes to "loss of self-control and the anaesthetic action of alcohol upon the higher centres of the brain."

Another authoritative writer says: "Various investigators have found from 75 to 90 per cent of venereal infection including syphilis to have been contracted under the influence of alcohol."

The people of this province retain the Prohibition Act in order to preserve a measure of freedom from a dread habit-forming drug, and to avoid domination and exploitation by a parasite industry. They won this freedom by sacrifice and struggle, and only by sacrifice and struggle can they preserve it. The cost is eternal vigilance, as little cliques in our urban communities never cease to agitate.

We are Sir, etc
Press Committee, the P. E. I. Temperance Federation,
Per
ROBERT E. SHAW.

Problems "Appalling"

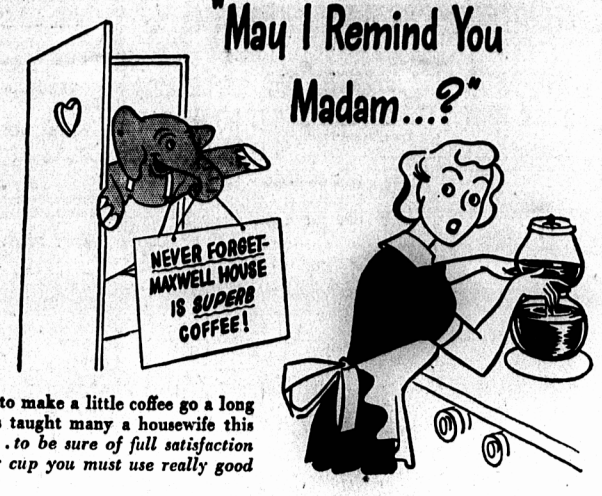
(Hamilton Spectator)

The Right Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, United Kingdom High Commissioner to Canada, warns that "post-war problems will be appalling." This is not the alarmist utterance of an irresponsible propagandist, but the considered opinion of an experienced diplomat, who enjoys exceptional opportunities of forming a trust-worthy opinion. "Wishful thinking about the peace," he says, "may be as disastrous as wishful thinking about the war. People who complacently suppose that we shall enter automatically into a better world will perhaps receive the same sort of shocks as we all received when sundry disasters befell us." He deprecated the suggestion that human nature can be changed by the mere preaching of ideals. Ideals are necessary, but they need tangible support to make them effective. Every sensible person subscribes to a program of social progress and assured peace, but the important consideration is how is that program to be worked out. Not only must there be disarmament of belligerently-inclined states, but machinery must be set up of sufficient strength to impose the will of peace - loving nations. The future security of the world depends upon the economic and military co-operation of the great Allied powers for the benefit of the "family circle" of nations, which eventually should include even our present enemies, when they have given proof of a change of heart.

That is the general outline of the great majority of post-war development plans. It is, in essence, the method of the League of Nations, as originally conceived. It is the famous formula over again: "All for one, and one for all," involving the absolute obligation of mutual defence and protection. After the tragic example provided by the history of the past quarter of a century, it would not seem possible that the treachery and errors which marked the course of so-called statesmanship in that period could be repeated. But it should be remembered that governments, especially in democratic lands, carry out the policies of the people, and that wise, forward-looking statesmanship presupposes an alert and intelligent electorate.

Democracies get what they go after. If the desire for universal peace is sufficiently strong — and there can surely be no doubt on that score—and public opinion is effectively organized to defeat the machinations of narrow-minded politicians and other self-seeking interests, it is not too much to hope that the dream of a well-ordered, rational world—a "splendid human civilization," to use the words of Mr. MacDonald — will be realized. But something more than dreaming is required. There must be abiding faith, deep thought and hard work; understanding, sympathy and harmonious co-operation; tolerance and broadmindedness, and a continuation of the same spirit of unselfish support of a grand ideal which prevails in the conduct of the war effort, if the peace effort is to succeed equally well.

CARDIFF, Wales — (CP) — Among the many plans for hydro-electric development of North Wales while war is one to harness the Conway River, G. Rankin, general manager of the North Wales Power Co., disclosed.



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