THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1941.

The War Situation

In the absence of fuller information on the pact of non-aggression signed between Turkey and Bulgaria, it is just as well to accept the view quoted by the Canadian Press from authoritative circles in London, that it leaves unchanged the situation in the Balkans so far as Britain is concerned. The Axis powers are using it as propaganda to browbeat Greece into acceptance of their terms, but the Greeks have already shown that they will take a lot of scaring.

Japan, another ominous factor in the present situation, is believed to be planning a lightning move against Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. But in the opinion of the diplomatic correspondent of the London Times of Feb. 15, this threat is regarded in Singapore as mere imitation of Nazi threats in the "war of nerves." Without minimizing the danger in the Far East, the Times cautions its readers against becoming "needlessly alarmed."

Prime Minister King rightly says that the prospect of a Japanese offensive against Singapore coincident with a German thrust at Great Britain and enemy assaults on Gibraltar and Suez should not be overlooked. But these moves, if they are in contemplation, would have been more effective after the defeat of France than they are likely to prove today.

In the meantime, British courage and confidence remain unshaken. If another crisis is approaching, it will be met in the same spirit that achieved the miracle at Dunkirk.

The Census Can Wait

The estimates tabled in the House of Commons on Monday for purposes other than war expenditures included $2,886,350 for the taking of the dicennial census. The fact that the B.N.A. Act provides for the taking of a census every ten years is the excuse, rather than the reason, for embarking on this huge expenditure during wartime. There would be no likelihood of any of the Provinces objecting to having the Act amended to postpone the census, if the King Government had seen fit to follow this course. It did not choose to do so, and its decision is regrettable from many standpoints. So far as Canada's war effort is concerned—the only effort worth considering at the present time—the Government now has all the information it requires, in the registration cards which were filled in by every citizen last year. To spend nearly another three million dollars on a census this year, in the midst of a nation-wide war savings campaign, is inexcusable. The huge army of men and women who will be employed in this useless census-taking should be engaged in war activities. Moreover, if the census were postponed until after the war it would give employment to a class far more deserving than party heelers,—namely, our demobilized service forces.

Farm Production Reviewed

Cash farm income for the past year is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to have been 2 per cent greater than in 1939, and the largest in the past decade. Analyzing this statement, the Bank of Nova Scotia monthly review notes that the chief expanding items were receipts from livestock and dairy products, the effects of which were most evident in Ontario and Quebec. The most striking development has been the pronounced increase in hog production. Marketings of hogs were particularly heavy in the last quarter of the year, averaging 150,000 per week, and the total for the year, of 5.5 millions, was a record—50% greater than in 1939. Prices were maintained at roughly $9 per cwt. (Toronto basis) up to the end of October, when the first Bacon Agreement expired. Under the new Agreement, announced on November 14th, Britain is expected to take the entire exportable surplus of Canadian Wiltshire sides (estimated at 425 million lbs. in the year ended October 31st next as compared with actual exports of 321 million lbs. last year) at a price apparently equivalent to around $8 per cwt. for live hogs. This reduction in price may discourage hog production in certain areas, particularly where much of the feed is bought, rather than grown. Indeed, breedings have already declined in the Maritimes and Quebec but where grain is abundant, as in Alberta, substantial increases continue. Great Britain also provided a larger market for cheese at a fixed price of 14c per lb. (Montreal basis), and during the "cheese season" — May to October—the price relationship between cheese and butter was such as to stimulate output. In fact, cheese production was 14% greater last season than in 1939. An agreement with Britain for the new season provides for a slightly higher price (14.4c) and for a further substantial increase in shipments.

Meanwhile, the price ratio between cheese and butter was radically altered by a sharp rise in the price of the latter. Butter consumption was increasing and, as stocks declined more rapidly than usual, fears of a shortage arose; the price advanced to a speculative peak of nearly 38c per lb. in the latter part of December as compared with quotations of about 25c in the early Fall. At this juncture the Wartime Prices and Trade Board set a maximum price of about 35c a lb. and the market price has since fallen somewhat below this level. A number of farm organizations protested that such a maximum offered them no protection against a weak market during the season of heavy output, and the Dairy Products Board has since been empowered to establish a minimum and to give a small bonus to cheese exports to the United Kingdom (this would be in addition to the bonuses for high quality already in effect). At the same time, the Ontario Government proposes to pay a bonus of 2c a lb. on cheese production which indicates an overall base price for the coming season of between 17c and 18c in that Province. How this will react on cheese producers in other provinces remains to be seen.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

They are still keeping their weather-eye open for fifth columnists in England, and have just placed in an internment camp the Hungarian born wife of Baron Howard of Effingham. Lord Howard is the son and heir of the Earl of Effingham; the barony of Howard was created in 1554, while the Earldom was bestowed in 1837.

* * * *

It is very thoughtful of the Governor of Idaho to combine economy with matrimonial bliss. Governor Chase A. Clark hopes to save the State money and at the same time make happier the homes of State employes by cutting their traveling allowance from $5 to $3.50 daily. "Paying a man $5 a day for expenses makes staying away from home attractive and matrimony suffers," he reasons. "I intend to avoid a lot of divorces by making it cheaper to cut the road trips short."

* * * *

McGill University students are being bombarded with Communist propaganda in the form of a publication called "The Red Triangle," issued from some secret hidden press. But the curious thing about this is the report that while the police are endeavouring to trace the source of the propaganda "they expect some trouble due to the release from internment of many Communists and Fascists." Evidently the Mackenzie King Government is engaged in playing a game of "hide-and-seek" in Quebec.

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Prince Edward Island is not the only agricultural province where fertility is depleted. Prof. Henry G. Bell of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., says that the fertility of Ontario's soil is being depleted at the rate of almost $136 a farm at present replacement costs. He told the annual meeting of the Ontario Crop Improvement Association that a survey of soil depletion statements for one year revealed a loss in pure nutrients for every farm in Ontario of 1,576 pounds, despite efforts to revitalize the soil with manure, legumes and fertilizers.

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The adoption of a new liquor regulation at Princetown University of broader scope to "permit wider and more equitable enforcement" is announced. The new regulation virtually legalizes an "unwritten law" that has superseded one of the university's oldest rules for many years. Instead of prohibiting "the keeping or using of alcoholic liquors in any students' room," the new ruling says that "intoxication, or disorder and bad manners, arising from the use of liquor, are particularly serious offenses and will subject the students involved to the penalty of suspension, or dismissal from the university."

* * * *

That the tension in Norway is close to the breaking point is deduced by the Swedish press from leaflets distributed throughout Norway by a secret patriotic organization, asking Norwegians to abstain from too hasty and violent actions against the Quislingists and German soldiers. "The day will come," say the leaflets, "when we shall all together go into action, but not before the signal has been given. Passive resistance, however, must continue." Unconfirmed reports say small British and Norwegian craft are smuggling arms into Norway at night, dropping them at agreed places, where they are picked up by Norwegian patriots.

* * * *

David Garrick, English actor and dramatist, born this date 1717. Garrick elevated the whole tone of the stage, substituted for the old stilted, declamatory style, one more vivacious and natural, and greatly increased the popularity of Shakespearean performances. He was a pupil of Samuel Johnson, and he and Johnson went to London together from Hereford to try their luck. In 1741 he appeared at Goodman's Fields as Richard III, achieving an immediate and extraordinary success, which continued for a period of nearly 40 years. His versatility was almost beyond credit and every part he studied he adorned. He was buried among the great in Westminster Abbey.

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Plants that "bugs" do not like are being bred by American agricultural scientists in a new offensive against the insect menace. While the new kinds of plants become untouchable to devouring insects, they remain tasty and nutritious to man and beast for whom they are raised as food. Instead of trying to fight the insect foes of our farms only with poison and other such methods of control, the idea is to make the plant do its own fighting by being so disagreeable to the attacking insects that they will seek their dinners elsewhere and even starve. Alfalfa, corn, onions, sorghum, and wheat are among the crops in which insect resistance has been developed. Seeds for a number of these new varieties have already been released or recommended by experiment stations. Insect resistance will not completely replace the other methods of fighting insects now in use. It will supplement them.

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At a conference of social leaders in Washington, representatives Joe Starnes of Alabama, acting chairman of the House Special Committee on Un-American Activities, declared that the American Youth Congress stood "fully exposed as an un-American and subversive group working solely in the interests of the Communist dictator." This was the organization with which the Students Christian Movement was affiliated until the nature of its propaganda was discovered and denounced. Without mentioning Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has declined, along with several others, to address the Youth Congress, Mr. Starnes said that "because it has been persistently and fearlessly exposed by the Dies committee, the Youth Congress is unable to obtain the distinguished speaker whose support it once commanded, and, furthermore, it is unable to obtain the support of more than a mere negligible fraction of the young people who were once deceived into working with it. Exposure has done the trick."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Even since the great events of the past months overseas, it must be very obvious to the American public that the morning newspaper is the great medium for the proper presentation of the news of the world. It is not subject to hasty "news flashes," which oftentimes alarm but do not instruct. All during the night the editors scan the reports from around the world and at your breakfast table, where you sit sanely and calmly in judgment upon these great events, the morning newspaper is your counsellor and your guide. More than ever, news must be organized. Editorials must be weighed and corrected and oftentimes rewritten far in the late hours of the night. The news must be presented in its proper relation to its importance and its emphasis as compared with other news. Lately we of the morning newspapers have been complimented by Quincy Howe in an article in Good Housekeeping for our work in one of the most crucial periods of history. We are grateful for his accolade and will indeed continue to keep faith. — Boston Post.

In regard to construction of more ocean going vessels of many kinds in Canada, what "gets the goat" of Nova Scotians is the boastful idea of certain people in Ontario that they will have to do it. Whether or not they have it in the Ontario school books that Nova Scotia ever built any ships or whether they really know on the shores of the Great Lakes what a ship really is or ought to be, would seem of minor importance to the idea that shipbuilding means a lot of money and the Ontarians want it. An example of Great Lakes workmanship in that line was on record thirty years or so ago when Mr. Day, editor of the Rudder, a New York yachting paper, had a motor boat named the "Detroit" built in Michigan especially designed for ocean service. Before he got her well into the heave of the sea this side of the Strait of Canso, he was sorry he had tried, but did manage to get her to a New England port where she had to be thoroughly rebuilt before he took her across the Atlantic where he was glad to sell her instead of attempting to bring her back again even in summer weather. Mr. Day was very free in expressing his opinion to the ideas of Great Lake shipbuilders about ocean tonnage. He said that if you wanted a craft for ocean navigation built on the Lakes you must double the strength of their designs for a vessel "and then some" as they have no idea of the force and strain of ocean seas. Nor, would it appear, have they much idea of the fact that iron mines and perfect building facilities as well as necessary skill for construction are plentiful in Nova Scotia. All we need on this coast is the money to start and we could equal in native production the best big yards in Great Britain or the United States. —The Spectator, Annapolis Royal.

Disgusted with the "absurd felt hats" which men with regard for their appearance persist in wearing in winter, hats that will not stay on the head when a gusty wind blows, or keep the ears warm if they do stay put, The Halifax Chronicle lodges a complaint against fashions in men's clothing for both summer and winter. Many others have tilted against the same windmill, with little to show for their pains. As the Chronicle sagely observes, "men are wont to poke fun at women for being slaves to style, but men are far more slavish in their adherence to style." In spite of this, we gladly volunteer to join in the war against foolish fashions for men, if The Chronicle will consent to add to the list our own particular pet hate, which is concentrated on the ridiculous cuffs on men's trousers. We will not permit ourselves to give full expression to our feelings on the subject. We merely point out that they are utterly useless and add to the ugliness of already ugly garments; they collect dust and germ-laden dirt in summer and snow in uncomfortable quantities in winter, they are a nuisance and an abomination and no men ever said a kind word about them. — Moncton Transcript.

The seed catalogue arrives this year with some such intimations as it brought to amateur gardeners in 1917. In time of peace prepare for war in the kitchen garden also. If war passes us by, who will be sorry to have a few rows of beans, peas or potatoes? Last war hysteria ploughed up many acres of lawns and flower beds in favor of the latter. There is plenty of idle land for growing supplementary crops of vegetables without doing violence to ornamental planting. This side of hysteria, though, the enthusiasm of amateur gardeners may well be raised a pitch or two this year. Those who are too young or too old to participate in the huge defense effort, undertaken and well under way, can do themselves and the country good by raking off, planting and hoeing more garden sass than usual. War may never come to us, but it has got into the seed catalogue already with reminders that our old friends in Holland and Denmark cannot send us their well-bred spinach and cauliflower seed this year. As we plant these crops this season let us recall the plight of these friends, resolve to save ourselves from a like fate and to do all we can to restore them to the pride and freedom our common enemy has crushed; if it is only by growing a little extra food for ourselves while the young, able-bodies and abundantly vigorous defy those who have made life a nightmare for countless millions. They also serve who tend spinach and cauliflower until a better day. — New York Herald Tribune.

The greatest job to be done by the Government of Canada is a job of salesmanship. It has to sell the war to the Canadian people. Not that the Canadian people are cool towards the war. Not that they don't want to do everything to win the war. The trouble is that they haven't begun to realize yet what they are expected to and must do. The military side of the war is easily understood. It is heroic, positive and physical. The economic side of war is a dingy business at best, part of the "gloomy science". It is almost impossible to get it over to the people....The Government is very poor at explaining the truth about these things. Cabinet ministers make long speeches in Parliament and hardly anybody reads them; and those who read them generally don't understand what they are about. Always they are full of economic terminology, cliches and ten-dollar words out of textbooks. It is too heavy for the average Canadian digestion; especially when the Hepburns and Aberharts are ready to offer something much more palatable, hors d'oeuvres of all sorts, a veritable economic cafeteria. — Bruce Hutchison in Victoria Times.

Lincoln Under Fire

(London Free Press)

There is something significant in the news that the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Tower in London has been so damaged by Nazi bombs that it is in danger of collapse. Of all the American presidents, two stand clear and bright in the high lights of history's long perspective as opponents of tyranny, Washington and Lincoln. The present courageous incumbent of the White House has yet to be measured against the yardstick of the years, but he gives evidence of achieving for himself the eminence of these historic figures. Washington fought against the tyranny of a stupid absentee landlordism; Lincoln fought the equally short-sighted stand of the secession leaders. Both achieved their purpose.

The intimate relationship between the mind of Lincoln and the basic faiths of the English people was always apparent, but has been generally admitted only in comparatively recent years. The St. Gauden's statue of Lincoln near Westminster Abbey and this tower in South London are evidence of this. But some of the words of Lincoln are still more compelling evidence. The Bible, Shakespeare and Burns were almost his only reading for a great part of his life, and it was out of this incomparable background that he conceived his Gettysburg speech, his most famous utterance. In that address we find that memorable string of thoughts—"That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It is as appropriate as anything that has happened in this war that a monument honoring the man whose sombre, inquiring mind assembled these magnificent lines should be torn by Nazi bombs. The 250-foot stone tower is scarred by Prussian iron almost at the moment when Nazi editors in Berlin turn their venom on Mr. Roosevelt. There is a strange coincidence of material and rhetorical assault in these events. But Lincoln rests secure in the forum of democracy and Roosevelt's voice kindles the flames of courage. Lincoln's Tower shall be rebuilt and Roosevelt's dream shall become reality, and when the arduous roads of war have been travelled men will be closer to their destined goal of brotherhood.

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