

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester M. McLure
Vice President: J. M. Burnett, F.J.I.

Subscription Rates
By Mail in P. E. I. \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months
City Delivery \$3.00 per year; \$2.00 for 6 months

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at
Hotelling's News Agency, Times Square, New York; Old
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1943

Next Objectives?

With the capture of Tunis and Bizerte, the battle of the Mediterranean may now be said to have begun in earnest. There are four islands in close proximity to the Tunisian coast, one or more of which may well prove to be the next Allied objective, all of which must be taken in order to win complete control of the western Mediterranean.

Lampedusa: eight square miles of rock, 80 miles east of Tunisia, 100 miles west of Malta. Most of it is rugged, but there is flat land at one end where an airfield has been built, and a small harbor on the south, reported to be a torpedo-boat base.

Panarella: midway in the Sicilian Channel, about half the size of Malta with a simmering volcano at its centre. Its airfield is reported to be connected by tunnel with a small underground hangar. The harbor can be used as a submarine base. The whole island is strongly fortified.

Sardinia, reinforced by the enemy by air from the continent, could seriously harass any Allied invasion of Italy. It is a big parallelogram of more than 9,000 square miles, nine-tenths rugged mountains, with so few harbors and such bad communications that its defense rests on isolated strong points. Cagliari is one of the Mediterranean's major naval bases. La Maddalena a minor one. There are several important airfields, such as Elmas and Monserrato, near these bases.

Sicily is really formidable. It has a naval base at Messina which can take vessels up to heavy cruisers, and submarine bases at Palermo, Augusta, Syracuse. It has been a Stuka base since 1941 with great dive-bomber fields at Catania on the east and Comiso on the southeast. It now has between 15 and 20 well dispersed air establishments, all good, all heavily fortified.

Sicily has already been subjected to the greatest raid ever launched from Africa, 400 Allied planes taking part in bombing the docks and industrial areas of Palermo.

These "pillboxes in the sea" will figure prominently in the news during the next few weeks.

Food Conference

A food conference is scheduled to take place next month at Hot Springs, Va., which has aroused a good deal of interest. It will be attended by delegates who manifestly can have no authority to bind their respective countries, but who will be empowered to offer advice and suggestions, co-operate in drawing up a blueprint, and then report back to their governments for approval of whatever program is adopted. The conference, if it achieves these admittedly limited objectives, will have done something worth while for the world. It will have produced the basic plan, on which will be constructed the complete machinery which will operate to banish hunger as soon as peace returns.

The three main headings under which discussion will fall demonstrate what a huge field awaits the conferees. First, there will be the matter of studying causes of malnutrition. This involves more than simply considering the supply of ample quantities of food. The whole broad subject of properly balanced diets enters into this subject. People suffer from malnutrition when there is no quantitative lack of food. There is still great need for education, particularly in some of the "backward" countries. This is a task that must be undertaken, for the sake of the general betterment of the health and physical stamina of the world's population.

Secondly, there is the matter of expansion and adaptation of production. Certain foods are grown to the point of providing unwieldy surpluses, while others are kept in scarce supply. Proper distribution is a legitimate subject for discussion at a conference such as this, for it directly affects the prospects of adequate nutrition.

Finally, facilitation and improvement, and distribution must be considered, and this is a large subject. It involves not only producing enough food and supplying sufficient ships to carry it to where it is needed to sustain life. The whole complex structure of international markets enters into the picture.

Airplane Manufacture

Airplane manufacture in this country has been hit. The Hurricane fighting plane has gone, and the Bolingbroke short-range bomber has disappeared from the munitions program. Other types of training planes also have had to be discarded. Tanks have not been immune from the fever of change and improvement, and the Valentine machine is no longer made. But another, the M4 Ram type, has proved its worth. Many guns, too, have been displaced. The anti-aircraft weapon is much less in demand now that the United Nations have assumed and maintained the offensive, and one of these guns, the 3.7, has become a war casualty. Production of most of the guns, moreover, made in this country has caught up with the initial demand and this

program is now on a replacement basis. But this weeding out of weapons that changed warfare has shown are no longer useful doesn't mean any reduction in the overall volume of munitions production in Canada. This country's munitions program was formulated on a basis of having 1,250,000 men and women available for employment in the plants, but some time ago it became evident that this number could not be secured. Instead, the munitions industry must be content with about 1,000,000 men and women. That is as many as can be gotten, from present indications, for there is no disposition to complete for manpower with the armed forces. This fact presents the prospect that there can be considerable amount of obsolescence without causing unemployment.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A splendid wind up to a week's whirlwind campaign—now for the last lap.

The purchase of a \$50 Victory Bond may not seem much, but every \$50 purchase helps—and every Canadian should realize it is his or her obligation to help now.

Alas, in spite of the glorious news from Africa and elsewhere, the victory is not yet won, and is not likely to be before many more millions are subscribed to back the attack.

It is now officially announced the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will on Friday take over the historic 175-room Halifax Hotel in Halifax for use as barracks. "The government is purchasing the building and not leasing it," an official said.

Battle of Fontenoy, in Belgium, this date 1745; during the war of the Austrian Succession, the French, under Marshal Saxe defeated the British, Austrians, Dutch and Hanoverians, under the Duke of Cumberland, and then later captured Tournai; the Duke, however, distinguished himself in the fight, and afterwards was commissioned to put down the Jacobite rebellion in Scotland, winning the battle of Culloden; he fell into disgrace for his ruthlessness, becoming known as the Bloody Cumberland; had misfortunes in the Seven Years' War, but ultimately regained popularity.

Saint John will seek the opinion of United States experts in the matter of the suitability of its airport at Millidgeville for large transport planes. The decision was made on a recommendation of the airport committee of the city, which advised the city to communicate with Mr. W. F. Schmidt, engineer employed by the States department of commerce, to secure his services as consultant. He will be asked to pass on the feasibility of enlarging and improving the airport so that it will accommodate larger planes than at present, and also estimate the cost of such improvements.

Here is one way of getting a maid. Mrs. William Burns inserted this ad in a Newark newspaper: "Wanted: Girl, white, general housework, own rooms, radio, good salary, nice home and wear my mink coat on day off." Mrs. Burns said that up to 2 p.m. that day she had received about 200 telephone calls. Most of the inquirers wanted to know the size of the coat. Most eager inquirer was the man who pleaded his wife be given the job "because she's always wanted a mink coat and God knows I can't get one for her." By 10 o'clock at night, when the Burns family took the receiver off the hook, almost 600 persons telephoned to inquire about the position. At that hour Mrs. Burns' husband, who is head of an automobile company, said his wife finally had found a suitable girl. He declined to give the girl's name, but did say the coat fits.

Canada's part in the Lend-Lease programme is contained in a statement released in Washington from Mr. Edward Stettinius, Jr., Lend-Lease administrator, who indicated that total United States Lend-Lease aid to its allies, from March 11, 1941, to April 1, 1943, had a total value of considerably more than \$10,000,000,000. About 90 per cent of all this material was sent overseas, and the distribution in the last three months was as follows: Britain, 38 per cent; Russia 31 per cent; Africa and Middle East, 16 per cent; Far East, including India, 14 per cent; other areas, 1 per cent. Then Mr. Stettinius indicates the mutuality of the arrangement. "The programme of Lend-Lease from the United States has been accompanied by similar programmes of air by our Allies. Canada, for example, has provided \$1,000,000,000 worth of supplies to its Allies without payment. In proportion to population this is equivalent to \$12,000,000,000 of Lend-Lease aid by the United States. And Canada has started on its second \$1,000,000,000 mutual aid programme."

A parliamentary return shows the annual salaries and expenses paid various bureau controllers as follows:— Chemical controller E. T. Sterne, \$8,000; motor vehicle controller J. H. Berry, \$9,000; rubber and timber controller A. H. Williamson, \$8,000; D. B. Carswell, controller of ship repairs and salvage, \$8,000; transit controller G. S. Gray, \$7,500. Construction controller John Schofield, on loan from the Canadian National Railways, receives from the railway a salary of \$10,000, part of which is charged to the government. He still devotes part of his time to railway duties. Controllers who serve without salary are: Ralph P. Bell, controller of aircraft and director-general of aircraft production; Thomas Arnold, machine tools controller; G. C. Bateman, metals controller; G. R. Cottrell, oil controller; H. J. Symington, power controller; F. J. Kilbourn, steel controller; Henry Borden, co-ordinator of controls; and J. McGregor Stewart, coal controller. Mr. Bell receives a living allowance of \$25 a day and expenses are paid to Mr. Schofield, Mr. Bateman, Mr. Cottrell, Mr. Kilbourn, Mr. Borden and Mr. Stewart. The other directors were listed as receiving no allowances. The return said the department had no information on expense allowances paid by firms with which the controllers were associated.

Notes By The Way

Sometimes pull can get you a good position, but it takes push to get on a crowded bus.—Kitchener Record.

Placing a limit of 2 5/8 inches on the height of women's shoes in the U. S. is going to bring a lot of flappers closer to the earth.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Mr. Lewis, the labour czar, is said to have had a hard, unjust childhood which embittered him against capitalism. But with him living permanently in the palatial Waldorf Astoria in New York, and seldom seen without a fat perfect, he appears to be making up for the deprivations of his early years.—Hamilton Spectator.

The term "drinking a toast" was originally coined to describe an early custom much in vogue in old waterfront taverns, records The Kansas City Times. It was common practice to put small pieces of sugared toast in the bottoms of tankards of hot toddy, hot grog, mulled wine and other drinks popular among seamen of those days. The sugared toast made a toothsome morsel comparable to the cherry in the modern cocktail.—Exchange.

National Posture Week is something new in a series of health campaigns. The slogan is "dividend of health." The slogan is based on it by Dr. John Howie, M. D. It is well merited, and particularly so in time of war, when the health of the public assumes added importance. It is one of the comparatively recent discoveries of medical science that our posture, how we stand, and walk, and sit, has much to do with the maintenance of our health. Our bodies are pieces of delicate mechanism, which can easily be thrown out of adjustment, with disastrous results. Correct posture is simple to learn and follow. Proper attention to it will pay big dividends in health.—Windsor Star.

Mr. M. B. Davis, Dominion Horticulturist, told the Ottawa Rotary Club that Canadian city dwellers should produce 500,000 tons of vegetables this year in their back yards. It may be supposed that he is over-optimistic, but he is not. He says that a million people, if they would have to raise, each of them, half a ton of vegetables to reach their objective, and it takes a good many carrots, cabbages, beets and tomatoes to add up to a thousand pounds. But that is a minor point. The real point is that everybody with a bit of earth and a reasonable amount of sunshine can grow some vegetables, ease the problems of his wartime table—and have a good time with it all.—Abernet News.

Strange as it may seem, it is only a few years ago during the drought-depression which swept the Prairic Provinces, that the contrary flock was often about the only money returns on the farm, and it was stretched to the limit to keep the family in food and clothing. There is not the least doubt that in the days of the farm wife was the most important member of the family. It was her reach that saved the day. We are glad to see that the farm wife is being recognized. She is cook and mother, the keeper of the dairy herd and the farm poultry flock, and in good many instances, she is riding the tractor or truck and taking the place of a hired man who can't be depended on for love or money. She is a mighty important cog in the war being carried on in Canada's food front.—Leithbridge Herald.

Tojo still talks about a "holy war for the destruction of America and Britain," but the indications are that the war lords' dream of victory are beginning to face even in their own warped minds. Tokio has been unable to announce the latest dispatches about victories, but the grapevine of the Far East can be depended upon to give the news just the same. And this news raises the spectre of Allied air armadas over the "land of the gods," which is all mind with the terror of the unknown. Army spokesmen openly hint at the possibility of defeat. "Public opinion is admittedly 'divided'" and the authorities are being urged to provide moral by promises of bold and proved air raid precautions.—New York Times.

The Civil Service is urged in a circular issued by the Home Office to use simple English and less red tape. Some of the hints given are: Answer letters quickly. Write in clear and simple language. Keep your sentences short. Avoid officialese and avoid all avoid cliches. Avoid ambiguity and do not hedge. Avoid using red ink so far as possible. It appears to be of a somewhat reddish tint. If you have to turn down your correspondent's request, answer him as you can why you are turning it down. "I have to," and so on. Avoid "on the subject of" and "with reference to"; use "about" and "regarding." This is a circular are well spent in seeing that circulars are clear and concise. Relations with the Public.—As a whole you are the servant of the public — of the public as a whole and not of any sectional interest.—Manchester Guardian.

Fourteen years ago one could not open the morning mail without finding at least one letter from a stranger who was prepared to give infallible advice on how to make money on the stock market. In a surprising number cases the tipsters were right—until October, 1929. The magic carpet was carried up all to a fairland where all desirable things were provided with-out work. Then, with a fearful bump, it hit the ground. Nevertheless the morning mail is again bringing evidence that the hot air worn in the magic carpet by the big pump have been patched. Again one is urged to buy shares in holes in the ground. In a recent issue of the Pre-Cambrian Shield. The ball this time is that stock market gains are not subject to income tax. Veterans of the 1929 crash may get a hint to the sound of the boiler room, but there must be a goodly crop of new investors. On a recent issue of the magic carpet travel literature is doing his little bit to make it help the national revenue. He returns every envelope on which the sender guarantees to pay five cents per letter, but he returns them empty.—The Printers Word.

THE CANADA LIFE Suggests that if our Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen overseas could only send the people at home a message regarding the 4th Victory Loan, it might appear somewhat as follows:
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AND WE COUNT ON EVERY ONE AT HOME DOING THE SAME -- TO WIN
YOU MUST "BACK THE ATTACK" TO THE LIMIT
YOUR SAILORS - SOLDIERS - AIRMEN

The Prophecy of Heine

The predictions of Heine, the poet, a century before it happened, that there would be an outbreak of savagery among the Germans, has often been referred to in articles about the rise of Nazism; and the text of the article in which the prophecy appeared is now made available in a volume of his prose, newly translated and published in New York. This article, published in 1824 under the title "Religion and Philosophy in Germany," declared that the doctrines of Kant and Fichte had developed revolutionary when they can erupt and fill the world with terror and admiration. Heine wrote of "the demonic energies of ancient German pantheists and the awakening of that fighting folly that we find among the ancient Germans that fights neither to kill or conquer, but simply to fight." Heine continued: "Christianity has somewhat mitigated that brutal German lust for battle. But it could not destroy it; and once the faming tall man, the Cross, is broken, the savagery of the old batters will flare up again, and the insane berserk rage of which Nordic birds have so much to say and sing. That tall man is brittle. The day will come when it will plitely collapse. Then the old stone gods will rise from the forgotten rubble and rub the dust of a thousand years from their eyes; and their hammer will leap up and his giant cathedrals, And when you hear a crash as nothing ever crashed in world history, you'll know that the German thunder has finally hit the mark. At that sound the eagles will fall from the sky and the lions in the farthest desert of Africa will pull in their tails and slink away into their royal caves. A play will be performed in Germany that will make the French Revolution seem like a harmless idyll in comparison. You have more to fear from a whole Holy Alliance with all its Croats and Cossacks." In 1842 the seer renewed his pre-

War—25 Years Ago Today
(BY THE CANADIAN PRESS)
May 11, 1918—French forces capture important high ground north of Kemmel on the Western Front and British airmen raid German defences in Belgium. British troops in Mesopotamia made further advance along the Baghdad-Mosul Road.
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Mr. Morton Dow, who has so capably acted in this capacity since September 1st, 1939, will continue with us as Director and Assistant Manager.
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