

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1941

Car Ferry Replacement

One of the resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade is of special importance to this Province. It urges replacement "at the earliest date" of the lost car ferry S. S. Charlottetown.

War requirements, of course, take precedence over everything and the "earliest date" that we can expect a new car ferry lead to be laid down in the shipyards is a matter of conjecture. What has not been fully established, at least in the minds of Prince Edward Island people, is that there is no existing boat available which, with alterations, could be used in conjunction with the old ferry steamer on the Borden-Tormentine service in winter. The complacent attitude of officialdom towards the present service and prospect in the immediate future is not shared by our citizens.

Lend-Lease Farm Exports

Farm policies in the United States are being geared to meet Britain's wartime requirements to an extent scarcely realized in this country. According to the latest Washington statement, half a billion dollars worth of food and other agricultural products have been turned over to Britain under the lend-lease program since April 29, \$300,000,000 worth having been transferred in the past six weeks alone.

The magnitude of the expenditures for farm products was disclosed this week by Roy F. Hendrickson, administrator of the surplus marketing administration. Here are some of the figures:

From April 29 to Oct. 1, 1,650,000,000 pounds of farm commodities were turned over to British officials for shipment abroad.

Another \$500,000,000 worth would be transferred by the end of February. Congress has allocated \$1,500,000,000 for purchase of farm commodities under the Lend-Lease Act.

Among the supplies which left United States docks before Oct. 1, were 10,600 carloads of dairy and poultry products, almost 5,000 carloads of pork, nearly 5,500 carloads of dried and canned fruits and vegetables, more than 2,000 carloads of fats, almost 1,600 carloads of grains and cereals, and more than 5,100 carloads of non-food products, mostly cotton and tobacco.

These figures should be a spur to our Canadian farmers—also to our Government at Ottawa, which is lagging far behind the Roosevelt administration in progressive agricultural policies.

Farm Loan Board Activities

Since the year 1929, the Farm Loan Board has been loaning money to bona fide farmers on a twenty-five year plan in a number of the provinces of Canada, and in the Province of Prince Edward Island since 1935. The following figures are from the latest departmental report:

To the end of the last fiscal year, March 31st, 1941, the Board had loaned in all provinces a total of \$45,697,415.76, of which \$35,947,883.17 was outstanding at the above date. The Board also holds real estate to the value of \$326,507.98, and agreements for sale to the amount of \$443,566.24.

In the last fiscal year, the Board loaned a total of \$2,727,507.15. Collections in the last fiscal year totalled \$3,840,950.80, consisting of \$2,056,074.16 of principal repayments, and \$1,783,976.64 of interest payments. Since the inception of the operations, borrowers have repaid \$8,782,169.48 of the principal of their loans.

The Board operates as a self-supporting agency of the Dominion Government, and provides for its administrative costs and reserves for losses from its revenues after paying interest on monies borrowed for loaning purposes. The cost of operation for the year ending March 31st, 1941, is less than 1% of the value of the assets under administration.

In the province of Prince Edward Island, the Board has loaned a total of \$1,056,316.64 to date, and had outstanding \$950,356.89 in loans at the close of the fiscal year.

Agricultural conditions and cash returns from farm operations in the Province of Prince Edward Island have not been favourable during the past few years, and a considerable number of borrowers have not been able to meet their instalment payment on their loans, but, as a general rule, borrowers met their obligations to the Board to the best of their ability. During the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1941, the Board received from borrowers in the province of Prince Edward Island \$35,980.20 on account of interest, and \$32,018.17 on account of principal.

Out of a total amount of \$107,150 loaned on Second Mortgage, the amount of principal outstanding as at March 31st, 1941, was \$76,565.93.

EDITORIAL NOTES

U. S. A. is sending 10,000 men to Iceland to relieve British soldiers now there.

The Maritime Board of Trade expressed so much satisfaction with our wet Summer and Fall that it is no wonder the doze is being continued.

Radio news despatchers from Wor-Mutual and National Broadcasting Cos. have closed down their offices in Berlin and quit because they have been frequently instructed to report material that is prepared by German propagandists and manifestly untrue. Their recommendation to their superiors in New York to cease carrying Berlin news was accepted immediately and that news period cancelled.

Over the border farmers are being advised to grow more produce this coming year. Agricultural Secretary Wickard declares that "adequate defense of America means nothing less than the defeat of Hitler." Therefore, he told the country's farmers, they must run the risks of overproduction in the interests of national defense. The Cabinet member also said that the United States was ready to show its "force" in both oceans, if necessary, should the country's interests be menaced.

Employers and employees of the fur industry in New York presented a check for \$50,000 as their contribution to the British War Relief Society for the relief of distress and the rehabilitation of residents of the bombed areas of Great Britain. The amount presented represents half of a total of \$100,000 raised by the fur industry. A check for a similar amount was presented to Russian War Relief.

Hard lines for French dames and the luxuries, though it will not directly affect anyone here Vichy France intends imposing a 20 per cent additional tax on all luxuries including jewelry, raw furs, antique rugs, golf clubs, yachts, touring automobiles, truffles, lobsters, caviar, choice perfume and high-class beauty products. The tax will be applied also to restaurants and bars charging more than 4 francs for a demitasse, more than 6 francs for a cup of tea and more than 10 francs for a glass of beer.

The war seems to make no difference to Quebec's enterprise and expenditures. Although no decision had been reached as to the exact date the provinces would take over the plant of the Beauharnois Light Heat and Power Company, the deal is being pushed through and there will be no turning back, Premier Adélard Godbout declares. A bill to appropriate the Beauharnois plant was passed at the last session of the Quebec Legislature, the cost to make it fact being estimated at approximately \$100,000,000. Not much when you say it quick!

Robert, Baron Clive of Plassey, British statesman and general, died this date 1774; at school was unruly and at eighteen was sent to India as an incorrigible scapgrace; he travelled by way of Brazil and the Pacific and while in Brazil learned Portuguese; entering the Indian Army he gained distinction at the siege of Arcot, after which his rise was steady and even phenomenal; having spent three years leave in England he returned to India as Governor of Fort St. David when occurred the famous incident of the Black Hole of Calcutta; and subsequently won the great victory of Plassey which finally established British supremacy in Bengal; later as a civil administrator he occasioned much opposition from grafters by introduction of much needed reforms and cutting down illicit gains. His enemies thereupon made vigorous attacks in England upon him, which ultimately brought on fits of depression, in one of which he committed suicide. Clive ranks high as a British Empire builder basing the British Empire in India on a territorial rather than a commercial system, and realizing that a purified administration was essential to its stability.

Berlin is now claiming that the Nazis are not vitally interested in the Russian campaign, but they do intend concentrating on the development of sea warfare in the Atlantic. Regarding this point the German propagandist says: "It must not be overlooked that a successful war at sea will take a long time, for all sea wars are in their very nature long. Sudden decisions cannot be expected. He claimed, however, that a decision would be reached by gradual attrition of the British sea transportation. Britain's new measures adopted recently to match alternations in German sea war technique are said to be sudden changes in the routes of merchant ships in the Atlantic, an increase in the number of conveying ships, and the employment of greater numbers of modern planes for conveying purposes. Britain's greatest single tactical advantage in the German view is possession of Iceland, which shortens the distance between shores for British convoys and allows regrouping of merchantmen according to speed and other characteristics before making the last leg of the journey to Britain.

Finance Minister Ilsley indicates the Government is looking to the time when a wholly Dominion-controlled system of contributory old age pensions may be set up. The announcement was the last of the series of important pronouncements made public through the forum of Parliament during the two-week sitting which was devoted mainly to a review of war developments from mid-June, when Parliament adjourned for the summer. After explaining that old age pensions now fall under the constitutional power of the provinces, with the Dominion making a financial contribution, Mr. Ilsley indicated the Dominion does not intend to go further on that basis. "The Government believes that this problem of making adequate provision for the aged can never be satisfactorily solved until we are in a position to set up a contributory old age pension scheme which would make it possible to commence the payment of pensions at a lower age than 70 years and probably make the pension payments more generous," he said. "Such a Dominion contributory old age pension program would be impossible without a constitutional amendment.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Clearly we must soon pass from the defensive to an offensive. In the year 1941, Canada has achieved something which the historians of the day after tomorrow may find it difficult to credit. We have saved our skins. No one is to tear the skin from Germany. To do this we need an invincible army to hammer hard at an enemy already held by our navy and our air force. We have also to be one of the two great arsenals of democracy, supplying between us the greater part of the needs for all the Allied forces. This cannot be done in Britain. The accused black-out, blitzes, cramped space, and lack of hands for the jobs—these things are a capital handicap. We must use the resources of the Empire on a new and imaginative scale.—London Sunday Express.

There are more ways than the purely physical to sabotage the Canadian war effort. We are sure Mr. Hitler appreciated the psychological sabotage represented by Premier Abernethy's statement in Winnipeg that Canada will never repay the money she is borrowing to help pay for the war. The Vegreville Observer reports Hon. Scion Low, Provincial Treasurer, says at a meeting at Innisfree a Canadian cabinet member is under the heel of Hitlerism than under the heel of the financial mauls of North America. We are sure Herr Hitler will appreciate the moral of the Canadian people. Premier Abernethy protested at Winnipeg that he and his Ministers will not be in the war. Which side?—Lethbridge Herald.

The Germans have admitted that we are "miserable beyond description", with ground transformed into deep, gummy mud, has checked their advances in Moscow. Now they are being hit by our air campaigns between Napoleon's and Hitler's campaigns are drawn. But the complaints are usually based on the fallacy that snow and ice were the cause of the Russian-Finnish campaign proved as much as the tanks and the roads that quagmire that came after them that doomed Napoleon—and these and the difficulty of bringing up supplies. The painting of the Grande Armée trudging through snow are correct, but they do not tell the bleak, story of mud and water. The mud was the result of the slackening of military operations in Flanders in November and December, 1917. Both sides then fought a bloody battle for the possession of the salient. The mud was the result of the slacking of military operations in Flanders in November and December, 1917. Both sides then fought a bloody battle for the possession of the salient. The mud was the result of the slacking of military operations in Flanders in November and December, 1917. Both sides then fought a bloody battle for the possession of the salient.

American soldiers are drinking one cup of tea to every seven cups of coffee and the Government has established a standard quality for army and navy tea purchases, placing all tea buying for the services under the supervision of a special department. The standard army grade of tea is expected to make 160 to 175 cups to the pound, or a minimum total of 326,000 cups. The standard navy grade is expected to be 60,000,000 pounds, enough to make 2,400,000,000 cups to the pound, or a minimum total of 326,000 cups. The standard army grade is expected to be 60,000,000 pounds, enough to make 2,400,000,000 cups to the pound, or a minimum total of 326,000 cups.

We have always to guard ourselves against that complacency which from time to time comes over the mind of a winning army. When bombs are showered on us, or when great casualty lists read so many of our hearts, then we are very aware of our position. But as a race we seem to be incapable of remembering a peril which we do not see. The great majority of the people of this country are "going to win" whatever their duties or their occupations. They realize clearly what would be the desperate state of the country if they were not to win this war beyond any question, and in their minds the "e" is always the urgent necessity of winning quickly. A minority seem either to believe that defeat or stalemate are utterly impossible or to think that whether the war goes on for two or three or thirty years it will not make much difference to them. It is this worthless minority which is accountable for a great proportion of our difficulties and our delays. They are the people who think more of so-called rights than of bounden duty, and who believe that service in the greatest crisis of history is not a privilege but a burden. These are the racketeers, the hoarders, the escapists and the trouble-makers.—The Navy (London).

Britain has been selling 50,000 dollars' worth of picnic baskets a year, mainly to the United States. Among the makers of them there is a trading concern which claims to be the oldest in the British Empire. It was turned out of London as an "inflammable" trade after the Great Fire of 1666 and fled to the mountains of the Green. Before the war it built the wicker frames for the bearskins then worn by the Guards. And it made the first picnic basket. In the countries where picnics are still possible a basket fetches anything from 20s. to 55s. America prefers the simpler type, and of these one which re-

Premier King and Conscription

(L. S. R. Shapiro in the Montreal Gazette)

WASHINGTON.—This column written six hundred miles from the seat of the government of Canada, cannot properly undertake a discussion of the conscription issue. The question is one for decision by Canadians in Canada, and I should consider it impertinent for one not completely familiar with current affairs in the Dominion to get down his hand and fast views on the subject.

But the issue looms so large in the general field of this continent's contribution to the defeat of Hitlerism that it casts its shadow from Ottawa as far south as Washington and judging from the recent debate in the House of Representatives, as far south as Texas. Then again, Mr. King has so promptly accorded his heartfelt blessing to every action of the President and Congress toward a more active role in the war that the American correspondent feels justified in exploring certain aspects of the conscription issue in the light of what has happened here in Washington.

I was particularly interested in Mr. King's statement issued immediately after the House of Representatives had authorized the entrance of American ships into belligerent ports. The Prime Minister said in part: "I mean immediate, effective assistance to countries resisting aggression, and increased power of the forces of freedom and in the defence of freedom and in the defence of freedom everywhere. It is a complete recognition of the deepening interdependence of the United States and the British Commonwealth. Mr. King realizes, as we all do, how hard it fell upon the President and the Congress to make this decision. It meant that several hundred thousand American sailors and merchant seamen will be thrust into the thick of the battle of the Atlantic and possibly of the Pacific. Every Congressman recognized that the vote would send young men from every election district in the nation into a desperate fight and that percentage of them must certainly perish before it is won. A grievous responsibility was thrust upon the President and the Congress of the United States. This responsibility was met bravely and with decision. And Mr. King quite properly hailed the action."

In this connection another of Mr. King's recent statements took on added interest. It was this one: "So far as I am concerned, without any consultation of the people on that subject, I do not intend to take the responsibility of supporting any policy of conscription for overseas service."

I do not propose to take issue with Mr. King on this statement. It is indeed a completely valid statement. We all recognize that the parallel cannot be drawn between the President's position and Mr. King's. The Canadian system makes provision for going to the people on great issues. The election resolves the issue; whereas the American system is not so pliable. There is no passage in the Constitution which gives the President the privilege of going to the people on any issue which may crop up between national elections.

But something very significant occurred in the dying minutes of the debate in the House of Representatives on neutrality repeal. Whips on both sides of the House admitted it looked like a "photo finish." There were 25 or 30 members who an hour before voting time had not yet made up their minds. They controlled the decision and they were troubled. Tremendous pressure was being put upon them from both sides—in the Capitol itself and from their constituencies.

Ten minutes before the vote, Speaker Rayburn took the floor. He said this: "A great deal has been said about the position of the President. Does the President want these amendments? Does he advocate them? These questions have come mostly from my friends on the Democratic side. Last evening late the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McCormack) and I addressed the following letter to the House: "A number of members have asked us what effect failure on the part of the House to take favorable action on the Senate amendments would have upon our position in foreign countries and especially in Germany. Some of these members have stated that they hoped you would make a direct expression upon 'is matter'."

Speaker Rayburn then read to the House the letter he received from the President in reply. We all know what it contained. The President, out of his vast and intimate knowledge of the war situation, strongly advised repeal of the neutrality act provisions. The wavering members of the House, recognizing the President's superior knowledge of the situation, voted repeal—and the democratic world cheered the result.

In this precise situation, I believe a parallel can be drawn between Mr. King's position and Mr. Roosevelt's. Granting (for the sake of discussion) Mr. King is perfectly justified in assuming the position that he cannot "take the responsibility of supporting any policy of conscription for overseas service" without consultation of the people, the question naturally follows: If Mr. King goes to the people, as Mr. Roosevelt went to Congress, what will he advocate when the people ask him for guidance, as they most assuredly will?

It is not enough for Mr. King to shift the whole responsibility upon the people. He must assume a considerable portion of it himself. The people quite justifiably will ask for his best judgment. As Jews do other men in Canada, he knows the innermost secrets of the war; he knows the position of the Allies in Britain and on the eastern front; the people have accorded him the privilege of knowing what no other Canadian may know. He need for more than 30 years be the Canadian people have bestowed lavishly upon him the opportunities for knowing more about the conduct of international affairs than any other man of the Dominion.

And now, in a critical moment in the history of the nation, they are perfectly justified in turning to him for his best judgment. It is not altogether proper for Mr. King exclusively to consult the people. The people, I assume, would like to consult him.

This, then, points up the difficulty of holding an election on the issue at this time. The sheer mechanics of letting the people decide are tremendously complicated; perhaps dangerous. If, for instance, Mr. King decides to consult the people he must take a stand on the one side or other of the main issue. The opposition is ready will have taken its position on the side of conscription. Perhaps Mr. King, after gathering before him all his superior information and sifting it in his mind, will decide to advise the people that conscription is necessary if Canada is to do her duty for freedom. Then there is no issue and the nation is needlessly thrust into a general election.

If, on the other hand, Mr. King decides to take the traditional stand of his party on the issue (to simplify the mechanics of letting the people decide the question) he automatically throws his weight as the head of one of the warring powers on the side of partial participation. The election resolves itself into an old-fashioned political fight with its non-political issue of freedom hanging on the result. In short, Mr. King cannot divorce his position as leader of the Liberal party from his position as leader of a nation at war. And the people cannot decide the question on its merits because Mr. King cannot divorce all the facts without giving valuable information to the enemy. The people can only ask his counsel and to trust give it to them, not as head of the Liberal party but as the man whose responsibility for the life or death of a nation.

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I can hear the scoffers say it is a foregone conclusion which side Mr. King will take on the issue. I cannot credit such an observation at face value. The war has become grimmer since the last general election. And, as far I know, Mr. King has not taken a stand against conscription since then; he has merely stood by an election pledge. The time is coming when he must accept full responsibility on the issue as war leader of the oriel with the fullest measure of nation. I assume he will face this courage and patriotism. It cannot be otherwise. Because if he has had his mind made up all the time against conscription, it will be difficult to explain his heartfelt endorsement of moves that throw hundreds of thousands of Americans into the battle. And, of course, he surely will not ignore the effect on American public opinion of a national election in Canada in which one of the five leaders of the warring Empire argues up and down the country that full participation is not at all necessary.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR. "Unless we assert ourselves far more strongly than we have hitherto done, we shall not defeat Nazi Germany."—Malcolm MacDonald, British High Commissioner to Canada.

GETS ANOTHER LEG

LONDON.—(CP)—Flt. Lt. Ross of Australia, has been fitted with an artificial leg for the one he lost in a flying accident here and will resume flying duties with the R. A. F.

SOME SHOOTING!

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