

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1940.

The Olive Branch Rejected

The candidates for the Nov. 7 by-elections in the Second District of Queens were nominated last week, the Conservative candidates being Messrs. R. K. Bell, Charlottetown, and Philip Matheson, Oyster Bed Bridge, and the Liberal candidates Messrs. Alex. Matheson, Charlottetown, and George Kitson, Hampshire. In each case candidates nominated were a Charlottetown lawyer and a rural representative of the district. All are newcomers in the field with the exception of Mr. Bell, who not only contested the last general provincial election but was declared elected by the Chief Justice of the Province.

At the Conservative convention on Friday, a resolution was passed unanimously, suggesting, in view of the necessity of practising every possible economy in these dire straits, that some arrangement be made whereby the expense of by-elections might be avoided. In place of such by-elections it was suggested that one candidate of each party be declared elected, and that the money saved through such an arrangement be donated to the Red Cross.

This proposal, we understand, was considered at the Liberal convention on Saturday night, and was turned down. The by-elections do not affect, in any way, the position of the Conservative Government in the Legislature. The turning down of the Conservative proposal, however, can only be construed as a determination to place political interests before the interests of the country at this critical time.

Since the olive branch has been rejected, it may be surmised that in Mr. Bell's case the by-election is being fought to regain a seat which was already his by right, and of which he was unfairly deprived by reason of the trial judges failing to come to a decision on whether or not they had a right to sit as a court of appeal on the Chief Justice's decision. Mr. Bell's opponent having since been elevated to a higher position, this objection on the part of the Supreme Court judges has had the effect of a Liberal victory for the seat in that case would now have had to be declared open.

What is more important now is the fact that we are at war. The Conservatives suggest that surely we are not at war with one another in the West River District. They offered a way out for the Government by proposing that one candidate from each party be declared elected, and the money thus saved be donated to the Red Cross. The Liberal delegates at Saturday's convention evidently received no lead from the powers that be to favourably consider this proposal, and decided to fight instead.

So be it! The incident recalls a similar one in connection with the federal election in 1917, when the Conservatives offered to go 50-50 to avoid a contest when the fate of the Empire was at stake. The Liberals of Queen's County turned down that offer, with the result that Mr. Warburton, the Liberal candidate, was defeated. In that, as in the present case, it was not fear of defeat that inspired the Conservative suggestion, but a sincere desire to avoid unnecessary public expense.

A few months ago, the Campbell Government embarked on the expense of a quite unnecessary plebiscite on the liquor question. To Hon. Dr. MacMillan's suggestion that the plebiscite be postponed and that the money be donated to the Red Cross, Premier Campbell replied that this proposal had come too late—that already one-half of the money had been expended in preparing ballot papers, etc. No such excuse can be advanced in the present case. The Conservative suggestion to call off the by-elections in Second Queens came before the Liberal candidates had even been nominated.

There is, of course, nothing now to do but fight it out. The Conservatives have two able candidates in the field, and despite the fact that they have the provincial and federal governments in line against them there is no question as to the strong public support which they can muster. The issues in the campaign will be fully discussed at a later date. We tender warmest congratulations to Messrs. Bell and Matheson on being chosen as Conservative standard bearers at this time, and have every reason to believe that they will fully measure up to the confidence reposed in them.

Air Training Program

When Parliament meets on Nov. 5, one of the most vital matters for discussion will be the speed and progress made under the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Figures as to the speed with which training centres have been erected and so forth are encouraging and essential. They are in keeping with the acceleration which every Canadian sought and expected from the Government after the May-June blitzkrieg had torn the scales from our eyes. But it is not enough to know that the program has been greatly speeded since the original blueprints were laid down.

What really matters now, says the Financial Post, is the assurance that every ounce of blood and sweat that this nation can muster is being poured unflinchingly into this war-winning "university of the air."

journalists and war commentators has made the significance of the air training plan very clear. Hanson W. Baldwin, of the New York Times, stated bluntly that in his view this training program is the only part of Canada's war effort which may in the near future exert a definite influence on the outcome of the struggle. Mr. Baldwin is acknowledged as one of the ablest war analysts on this continent.

It is clear from this and other comment that Canada must do everything possible to speed the training program in two ways. First, by training more pilots beyond the present maximum figure of 8,500 annually. Second, that the program reach its peak performance considerably ahead of the earlier schedule. Under this schedule the plan did not reach its peak in pilot production until November of next year.

Mr. Baldwin expects the testing point in the war will come not later than the spring of 1941 and that it is then rather than the following autumn that the real worth of this major Canadian contribution will be most apparent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Prime Minister having "missed the boat" here on his Maritime visit, it is to be hoped the Hon. Mr. Michaud has not been made Chief Justice of New Brunswick before he fulfills his engagement to speak at the Fishermen's Union banquet at Summerside tomorrow.

The Battle of Trafalgar this date, 1805 when the British fleet under Nelson gained a victory over the French and Spanish fleets under Villeneuve. The victory annihilated the fleets of France and Spain, relieved England of serious fear of invasion, and placed the British navy in a position of incontestable superiority from that day to this.

A British officer, Lieut. Eric Wilson, who was "posthumously" awarded the Victoria Cross has been discovered to be still alive and a prisoner in the hands of the Italians. Lieut. Wilson, attached to the Somaliland Camel Corps, won the award for valor while commanding a machine-gun post during the Italian advance into British Somaliland in August.

H.R.H. The Duke of Windsor has presented the British Government with one of the canteens that are used to feed the people of London in air raid shelters. The Duke invited residents of the Bahamas to make contributions toward the purchase of others. Each canteen costs \$500 (about \$2,225).

At the Harrisburg (Pa.) National Dairy Show the other day Canadians carried off 40 awards for Ayrshire exhibits and 12 in the Holstein classes. Of the 40 Canadian Ayrshire awards, four were first, three were seconds, seven were third and five were fourths. The remainder were distributed among the lower brackets. Of the 12 prizes won by Canadian Holstein exhibitors two were firsts, two seconds, three thirds and two fourths. The other three awards were lower. The Ontario herd of eight head was placed second in the class for the best herd, behind Minnesota.

All the American big interests are not behind the Canadian-American St. Lawrence River Scheme, approved by Premiers King and Hepburn and President Roosevelt. Mr. Lachlan MacLean, President of the Mississippi Valley Association enters his dissent as follows: "The Mississippi valley is opposed to any development of either power or navigation on the St. Lawrence that does not include full protection of Lake Michigan as an all-American lake and an adequate diversion from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river system to provide a commercially useful nine-foot channel from Chicago to New Orleans."

The Canadian war effort was criticized in an address by district Rotary governor T. C. MacNabb of Saint John, N.B., before the Halifax club. He said the Dominion's fighting forces must be marshalled in "great numbers" to aid in the defeat of Germany and Italy. "A somnolent effort is being made under indolent leadership toward a perfunctory participation," he said. "If we pursue our own ease and the making of money out of our country's struggle, we shall perish and there will be no ease in 'German Canada' and no wealth for those who failed to spend to save."

The British Air Ministry discloses that two of the best-known squadrons from "North of the Border"—fighting units from Edinburgh and Glasgow—have been flying daily over southeast England for several weeks. Between them, they shot down nearly 150 German aircraft, the Ministry said, besides many others which were unconfirmed or merely damaged. One outstanding achievement of the Glasgow squadron was on August 25 when it shot down 12 German planes without a loss. The Edinburgh squadron took part in the first air battle over a year ago when the Germans attacked the Forth Bridge. Transferred south, it recently destroyed 14 enemy aircraft in a single day, the Ministry said.

Bombing churches and sacred places seems to be the distinguishing feature of the Axis warfare. We know the havoc already caused in England by the bombing of historic places of worship by the Nazis; now comes word that the Fascists are following suit in Palestine and have bombed the Moslem mosque at Haifa. A warning sounded two minutes before the planes came over, enabling the majority of the Arabs thronging the busy centre of the town to take shelter. Believing the mosque's precincts inviolable, some people went inside the mosque or stood against its walls instead of going to underground shelters. It was there that Arab townsmen and villagers suffered death or mutilation. Two high-explosive bombs fell on either side of the mosque, one exploding in the centre of the roadway opposite the mosque and damaging walls and shattering windows, and other bursting inside the cemetery, smashing tombstones and tearing open graves.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The estimated cash return to the farmers of Western Canada this year will be greater than in any year since 1929, remarks the Searle Grain Company in its regular weekly release of information. If this is true it will create all the more interest in the calamity howling that has featured the last weeks because of the difficulties raised by the problem of the storage of grain. Because there is this present year a very difficult and knotty one it is to solve too—a large number of citizens have been going up and down this country declaring that ruin is upon us all. Well, if a cash income of \$300,000,000 (the Searle figure) is ruin, this prairie country could stand a lot of the same medicine. The times are abnormal. We have never had a situation like this before, but the fact remains that we are going to pull out of the difficulty all right and with more money in our pockets than we have had for some years. Perhaps it would be wiser to keep this fact in mind than to give ourselves indignation—and the prairie a black eye—by announcing from the house-tops that we are broke or nearly so. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Nazi propaganda, like Nazi "secret weapons," has scared a good many timid souls. Watch it at work this week. The Nazi position is that if there is to be frightfulness in this war they will furnish it, and that it is their duty to do so. They are going to kill or wound thousands of British aviators. It is unimportant for British aviators to drop explosives anywhere in Germany. They have been threatening "amazing" things for some time. Having uttered this threat they turn a shocked humanitarian countenance toward the neutral world as they reply to the accusations that they are threatening "amazing" things. They are carrying many children and more than 300 civilian refugees to Canada. They declare that that no German submarine is ready for a longer ship last week, second that the City of Bernau had aboard members of the "plutocratic class" some propaganda agents. They are carrying gold, that, German submarines are ready to be used to attack passenger ships without warning. Fourth, that Prime Minister Churchill has announced that all British merchant ships are to be sunk by the City of Bernau, and therefore fair game. —New York Times.

Madrid and Barcelona were the principal targets for the bombing squadrons that had a great success in hitting London. Spain staged the great rehearsal for the present conflict, and all the evidence indicates that the Spaniards have had enough of the long and unhealed wounds, physical and moral. Spain asks nothing but to keep quiet and let the fighting be done by the other side. The Spanish ordeal was the prologue, the Franco Government has manifested the greatest interest in the civil war. That the time for the payoff is being approached. Spain, as proved by some highly placed people who expected to see the streets of Berlin. No one would have been surprised if Spanish adherence to the Axis preceded or coincided with that of Japan, and the delay is a matter of some interest. The Axis fall in completely with the plans of Germany and Italy. —New York Times.

General Pershing warned us twenty-two years ago against an armistice until the power of Germany had been destroyed. The British are waiting to swoop down upon Berlin when the mealy-mouthed counsel of political leaders prevented it from teaching the Huns a lesson when the Axis were in the memory. Today we are paying the price for having ignored that warning. Heaven send that when the Axis are in the memory, our leaders will not once more allow themselves to be prevented from crushing, in such a manner as posterity will never forget, the power of the Axis. They are waiting in their might against the forces of civilization, of humanity and love of little children. —Montreal Daily Star.

It is a curious phase of the immigration problem that Atlantic and Eastern European peoples are being welcomed into Canada, while maintaining the strictest vigilance that they do not intend to conform to our laws when they have become established here. We in Canada are to give it around the world as easy marks. For instance, the Doukhobors plead for succor against a bloodthirsty persecution in Russia, but when we take them in they make life as uncomfortable as possible for us. It is easy to state the dilemma, but extremely difficult to dispose of the question. For three decades now it has been a patient, then occasionally tough, but always tolerant. The Doukhobors laugh in their sleeves at our irritation and go right on refusing to obey the laws of citizenship. —Vancouver Sun.

A few days ago we did a piece suggesting that the British counter-attack on the streets of London was due to the fact that they were not intended to conform to our laws when they have become established here. We in Canada are to give it around the world as easy marks. For instance, the Doukhobors plead for succor against a bloodthirsty persecution in Russia, but when we take them in they make life as uncomfortable as possible for us. It is easy to state the dilemma, but extremely difficult to dispose of the question. For three decades now it has been a patient, then occasionally tough, but always tolerant. The Doukhobors laugh in their sleeves at our irritation and go right on refusing to obey the laws of citizenship. —Vancouver Sun.

Where one government building existed thirty years ago, says The Printed Age, there are now dozens. The Ottawa government, which used to be fairly well confined to the Hill and the Langevin block, had, even before this war, crowded down and over the river like water poured from a ladle to make an indigestible mess. Insignificant! The city which does not boast Dominion government building housing customs and income tax and agricultural people and others of an ever-growing number of civil service. Provincial Government likewise has become big business. It has all been so easy—this taking more and more of the national income for government services. It was easier with each in-

crease in the civil service, for under circumstances must a civil servant be deprived of his vote, with the result that the civil service in the Dominion and in any province or any sizable city holds the balance of power in any election. And more than one prime minister at Ottawa has been helpless before the united wishes of the "inside" civil service.

The most part decided that it would be unimportant and unwhimsical to fire at a man in such circumstances. The accepted rules of war are quite clear. Everything I must decide whether the parachutist will land on his own territory or on ground in possession of the enemy. In the former case he is not in the position of one who has surrendered the owners or captor, but of a fugitive, who, if he is caught, will fight again. In that case it is a legitimate act of war to kill or wound him. But if the man is coming from an enemy territory he is sure to be made a prisoner, and in that case his surrender ought to be accepted. —Manchester Guardian.

Aerodrome Construction

Commonwealth Air Training Plan By J. A. WILSON, M.E.I.C. Controller of Civil Aviation RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION

Due to the heavy aircraft traffic it was necessary to construct hard surface runways and taxi strips on all Service Flying Training Schools, Main aerodromes and one Relief aerodrome to each Main, as well as on all Bombing and Gunnery Schools, Air Navigation Schools and Air Observers Schools.

The Bombing and Gunnery Schools required the best type of runways due to the heavy aircraft used are— (1) Type of aircraft as well as number of aircraft used; (2) Soil condition; (3) Available aggregate; (4) Available construction equipment.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of current events and questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

CITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Sir,—Reference the letter of Arthur M. Clark, President, Charlottetown Junior Board of Trade. I'm afraid I must claim to have been slightly misquoted in your report of the last City Council meeting, when the report stated "Councillor Chandler was of the opinion that the authors of the Civil Affairs report should have presented it to the Finance Committee of the City Council before having it published." I did not say "should have presented it to" because I had already received the report from Mayor Holman on Friday the 11th, the date on which Mr. Clark gave it to His Worship. I said, "should have discussed it with" the reason for this being that the report as written appeared to have application to conditions existing in part at the time of the presentation of the report of Messrs. Archibald and Morell. In other words, when the author's interview with the Civil Information Committee, while its presentation and publication at the present time at least implied that it referred to conditions now existing, and I felt it might have drawn a more accurate picture had consideration been given to some changes and improvements which had occurred in the intervening period. However, the report was accurate as regards the date of the interview, capably prepared, and though I may differ from some of the conclusions arrived at, I consider it a distinct contribution to the higher commendable cause of endeavouring to persuade our citizens to acquire a greater knowledge of, and take a greater interest in the financing of our City. I'm sorry no members of the Civic Affairs Committee were present to hear the discussion in your report caused.

I am, Sir, etc. R. C. CHANDLER, Chairman Finance Committee, Charlottetown City Council.

WHEAT RESERVE

Sir,—I would recall a statement by one of your correspondents in The Guardian ("Join" of The Times, issue of July 8): "With our most vital national food product, should be conserved until every inch of the Empire has been provided for a long period ahead, within reason, in other words, there would be no surplus to sell outside the Empire until a complete surplus of wheat in at least one year was safely housed and held as our reserve."

And so, in a sense, it has happened. If one may measure the situation from the following pair of items in the news-columns: (1)—There was a total of 40,000,000 bushels of all grain in Canadian elevators at the close of business, October 11th, it is officially reported. The theoretical storage capacity of the elevator system in that country is estimated at 425,000,000 bushels. (2)—The British government now has 100,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat in storage in this country. (Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 11, 1940).

I think some way should be devised by which not only this "in store" bushelage for the account of the British government but, also, an "Empire Wheat Reserve" should be removed from the day-by-day market. It may be considered that the immense weight of the temporarily unwanted grain is performing a useful or constructive service by holding down the price-level at about 50 cents to the farmer; but I have my doubts as to either the utility or wisdom of keeping our growers at this subsistence level. If this is necessary, to remove purchasing-power from the market, and avoid the "threat of inflation" among the secondary industries, already working three shifts daily on 50,000 war contracts involving \$100,000,000, well and good; but it seems to this unsophisticated Canadian that we should discover a more equitable and less ruthless technique. Our farm friends have just come through the toughest "depression decade" in history. I think it is up to urban Canadians to assist them in carrying the load.

It is true that we today get something for our tax money that we did not get then. Highways are the principal improvement bought at public expense, and properly so, although there is evidence that the taxation for highways has exceeded the cost of highways. Our schools are better but it hardly can be said that education has been improved or materially benefited. We have much better postal service. We have much more government regulation of and interference with business but it is not clear that the owners or suppliers of our goods are any better off. We have much valuable labor legislation, but some of it is pernicious in that it benefits labor at the expense of farmers and consumers.

Where one government building existed thirty years ago, says The Printed Age, there are now dozens. The Ottawa government, which used to be fairly well confined to the Hill and the Langevin block, had, even before this war, crowded down and over the river like water poured from a ladle to make an indigestible mess. Insignificant! The city which does not boast Dominion government building housing customs and income tax and agricultural people and others of an ever-growing number of civil service. Provincial Government likewise has become big business. It has all been so easy—this taking more and more of the national income for government services. It was easier with each in-

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QUICK RELIEF FOR: Stiffness, Aches—Pains from Bruises, Soreness, Bumps, Strains and Chest Colds. No Rubbing Required JUST PAT IT ON SLOAN'S Family LINIMENT HELPS NATURE HEAL FASTER!

One way that occurs to me by which a beginning could be made in getting these rural urban judgments into balance, would be to enunciate a general policy of "quota" or "token" payments for rural urban judgments on capital or plant indebtedness (leases, agreements, etc.) equivalent to the Wheat Board's delivery "quotas" in other words, when the farmer gets the cash, he will pay, but not while forced to store 50 per cent of his bushelage on the farm.

A second or two after the explosion a large quantity of rubble and other debris came down on the shelter. An effect of the experience was to lighten anticipatory fear of bombs; Sir Ian says that "if you have what they call a 'near miss' the effect seems to be to put up your guard, but to make you feel better afterward." The theory of actual bombing has frequently been recorded by others.

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