THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 1945

Prelude To Christmas

We commend today's special Christmas features, illustrations and advertisements to our readers, old and young. This Christmas should be the busiest and happiest we have had since 1938. We are still in the aftermath of war, it is true, with all its harrowing memories and unsolved problems. But it is with thankful hearts that we should look back over this year of our deliverance, and with hope burning bright for the future.

War surely has taught us what Christmas **really means. It is the** symbol of all that life holds for us, of the deepest and most enduring aspirations of men's hearts. It was only by nearly losing it that we have learned how precious it is.

Gift-buying is of necessity limited to available commodities, but a glance through today's issue will show a surprisingly wide choice of bargain goods. And it is the wise buyer who does his or her Christmas shopping before the last-minute rush. Early shopping benefits the hard-working store and post office employees as well. There are only eight more shopping days before Christmas — little enough time in which to read one's *Guardian* and get busy.

For Prairie Farmers Only

One of the recommendations in the interim report of the P. E. I. Advisory Reconstruction Committee is for legislation similar to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act to cover reconstruction and rehabilitation in this Province. Judging by the attitude of the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, as expressed in the House of Commons the other day, we are not likely to get it.

That is too bad, because Prairie farmers have benefited to the extent of twenty million dollars under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act in the past ten years The customary annual vote of two million dollars was before Parliament last week, and on that occasion a petition from the Peace River district was read, urging that the provisions of the Act be made applicable to British Columbia. The answer was no.

Mr. Gardiner argued that "as the name of the Act indicates, it was intended only to deal with Prairie farm rehabilitation." It was passed primarily to take care of the drought area, and the Government had endeavored to confine it pretty much to what is known as the Palliser triangle. "We were approached by all the provinces," he said. "and it certainly was recommended by a committee of the House during the last session that we should extend the principles of the P. F. R. A. to all Canada. If we were to do that, it would involve a material change in the responsibilities of the provinces in relation to a number of problems as compared with the responsibility of the Federal Government."

The Minister, whose own constituency is in Saskatchewan, went so far as to say that "everything we are doing under the P. F. R. A. is, under our constitution, the responsibility of the provinces. The only reason that responsibility was accepted by the Dominion when the Act was first brought in in 1935, and when I brought in amendments in 1936 and 1937, was that we had induced people to go into an area that we knew to be exceptionally dry, and having induced them to go in we had a responsibility to re-establish them."

"If we are to assume new responsibilities in all the provinces," Mr. Gardiner said, "it seems to me that that question would be bound up in the larger question which is now being discussed at the Dominion-Provincial Conference." He did not think that such legislation as the P. F. R A. could be extended to all Canada, because the problems are so different.

Mr. Black, M.P. for Cumberland, urged that the principle of the Act be applied to the Maritime Provinces, particularly in reclaiming the marshlands at the head of the Bay of Fundy. Mr. Gardiner was cagey and made no reply; but Mr. Black put on record the Conservative policy in the matter, as voiced by his party leader in the recent Federal campaign. *"As a long range policy,"* Mr. Bracken stated at that time, *"we propose to have the present Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act extended throughout the farming areas of Canada, so that it will become national in scope."*

So it seems our farmers will just have to wait until Mr. Gardiner goes out and Mr. Bracken gets in.

The National Debt

At the end of the present fiscal year, the net public debt of Canada will amount to over $13,500,000,000. This will represent a 330 per cent increase over the national debt at the outbreak of the war. Whereas, at the end of the fiscal year 1938-39, the net debt amounted to $3,152,000,000, or about $272 per capita, at the end of the fiscal year 1944-45 it stood at $11,298,000,000, or $974 per capita.

The total gross debt rose from $4,028,000,000 on April 1, 1940, to $15,712,000,000 on April 1, 1945. After deducting holdings by the government, the debt increased from $3,271,000,000 to $11,298,000,000 during this period. This increase in the debt, however, was not accompanied by a corresponding rise in the debt service, primarily because of the reduction in interest rates. Whereas, on April 1, 1939, the average rate of interest paid by the government was 3.52 per cent per annum at the end of March, 1945, it was only 2.51 per cent.

While the debt constitutes a problem to the Dominion, it is not as serious at the present time as is generally believed, because the debt service absorbs only about 3 per cent of the total income. It is evident, however, that the maintenance of a high national income is necessary to prevent the debt from becoming too great a burden. A large national income, accompanied by full employment, will make it possible for the government to obtain sufficient revenues to meet interest charges without too much of a sacrifice on the part of the taxpayers. If the national income should decline, however the debt problem would become much more difficult to handle.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

From now on Christmas, the first White Christmas since the war, will be the theme of everybody's thoughts and actions.

* * * *

The good news about the dehydration plant's re-opening fitted in nicely with the calling of the provincial election in the Fifth District. It is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good.

* * * *

The **boys of** today are evidently not much more concerned than the boys of yesterday over the problem of good and evil. Instinctively they turn to adventure to lend spice to their school day routine, leaving it to their negligent parents to bear the consequence of their ignorance or defiance of both moral and criminal laws. Hence joy riding at other people's expense.

* * * *

The increase of Parliamentary indemnity from $4,000 to $6,000 per session will be an accomplished fact before Parliament rises. The only objectors are one or two members who want to make party capital out of the question. Undoubtedly were they assured their opposition would endanger the passing of the measure and prevent them getting the increase, they would be less concerned about the "delicateness of their task."

* * * *

A large increase in credit selling is predicted by Mr. J. Gordon Dakins, manager of the retail credit division of the National Dry Goods Association. If the goal of full employment is reached, credit business may well double its pre-war volume, he claims. He urges retailers to prepare now to increase their charge account business rather than wait until the reconversion period is well advanced. He reported the result of a recent survey by his division showing that 76 per cent of the reporting retailers are now soliciting charge accocunt trade.

* * * *

Combined savings and demand deposits in Canadian chartered banks as at October 31, again reached a record high, as did these component totals individually, according to the monthly condition statement of the banks, totalling $5,298,591,000 as compared with $4,633,386,000 a year ago and $5,027,182,000 at the end of September. Savings deposits rose to $2,991,624,000, an increase of $502,693,000 over the year ago total of $2,488,931,000, and substantially ahead of the September total of $2,934,845,000. Demand deposits also showed a substantial expansion with the figure for the end of October recorded at $2,296,967,000 as against $2,144,455,000 for the year ago period and $2,092,337,000 at the end of the preceding month.

* * * *

Gregory Rasputin, dissolute, ignorant Russian "lay" monk, who until his "conversion" in his 34th year, was an ordinary ne'er do well peasant, was assassinated this date 1916; he became a Czarist "healer", and in the guise of Monk visited Mt. Athos, Moscow and Petrograd, writing a description of his pilgrimages entitled *My Thoughts and Reflections;* he obtained great influence over the Tsarina, and, through her, played an important political role, becoming the most active of the "dark horses" which precipitated the Russian revolution of 1917; lured to a supper party by Prince Yussupuy Sumarokov, a nephew of the Czar, he was shot, and his body buried beneath the ice of the Neva.

* * * *

According to the Vancouver *News Herald* a very prominent prairie churchman was married a second time—he had been a widower—and with his bride left by train for a honeymoon in the east. Widely known in Canada, he decided to use a little deceit on the train and, as they were ushered into their drawing room, he tipped the porter $5 not to tell anyone they were just married. Next morning, in the dining car, the couple soon became acutely conscious of the smirks and side-glances of fellow-passengers. Suspecting their porter had given the show away, the bridegroom upbraided him for lack of faith. "I told you not to tell anyone we were just married," said the groom. "But ah didn't sah!" said the astonished porter. "Matta of fact, ah 'specially impressed on everyone that you was *not* married!"

* * * *

Why the United Kingdom needs to borrow from U. S. A. and ourselves The war expenditure of the United Kingdom was proportionately far greater than that of any other Allied country. This expenditure was met partly by taxation on a scale never before reached by any country in the world, partly by public savings, and partly by the sale of overseas investments. At the same time, in order to harness the maximum proportion of the national capacity to war production, the United Kingdom reduced her exports — so drastically that she emerged from the war with an export trade less than one third its pre-war volume. Before the war the prosperity of the United Kingdom was due, to a great extent, to her ability to import more than she exported, the balance being paid by "invisible" exports, chiefly in the form of revenue from overseas investments and shipping. Today the situation is reversed. Saddled with the loss of a high proportion of these overseas investments and with a merchant tonnage of only three quarters of the pre-war figures, the United Kingdom must now export far more than she imports.

Notes By The Way

Gen. C. de Lattre de Tassigny says the French army will be reorganized and its principles, methods and discipline reformed. Too bad this was not done some time prior to 1939.—Brantford Expositor.

"There is," says one authority, a great deal in life besides money." Nevertheless, professor, the old mazoom seems to be holding its own in popularity. Can it be that people don't know about other things?—Ottawa Citizen.

The National Housing Act was undoubtedly a wonderful success in everything except that there was never in all Canada's history such a desperate housing shortage as there is now.—Vancouver Province.

Early in the war, the two huge liners, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, made marine history by passing each other three times between Sydney Heads. The first time was on April 1, 1941. The morning fog was rising when the Queen Elizabeth left her anchorage, outward bound, and the Queen Mary was then arriving. Between the two high rocky headlands, just over a mile apart, they passed each other. They sounded their sirens and dipped their ensigns in recognition. The second passing was on April 9, soon after dawn, with the Queen Elizabeth this time inward bound. Then the port of Sydney saw the greatest aggregation of merchant tonnage in the Queen Elizabeth (85,000), Mauretania (35,677) fl Nieuw Amsterdam (32,287), and Ile de France (43,450), all berthed within sight of each other, and preparing to leave for the Middle East with Australian and New Zealand trops. The third heads meeting of the Mary and the Elizabeth was on June 13, 1941, as the Queen Mary was outward bound.—From an Australian Newsletter.

The human being in khaki on the bank of the Ems or the Ruhr can see no reason why he should not pass the time of day with Frau Schmidt, give a sweetie to little Heinrich, and take Gretchen out for a walk. It may be assumed that in the past four months the human being has found the code of behavior dictated to him by the national attitude to be impossible. But it does not follow that the national attitude was wrong; nor that because British and American soldiers are not good haters that they have no moral fibre. It is unfair to them to interpret "fraternization" in the lowest sense, as some sections of the press have done. But two deductions should be drawn. One, sharpened by the present sickening disclosures at the Luenberg trials, is that pure anti-Germanism is as sterile and unconstructive an emotion as anti-Semitism, and that the civilized man feels it as wrong with Germans as with Jews to judge an entire people by the behavior of its worst elements. The other is that facile demands for Germany's perpetual occupation or perpetual ostracism are a waste of breath; not because such policies are wise or unwise, but because human feelings will prevent their being carried out.—Glasgow Herald.

Evening comes early, these days with the sun almost at the limit of its southing and the solstice close ahead. Early evening and a long dusk half-lighting a frosty world even longer when there is a salting of snow on the hillsides. Smoke-blue dusk without shadows and with the thinnest glints of starlight. Winter has come to the northern lands, by any practical calculation; for winter is a time of chill and long nights and deep rest for the rooted life of this earth. The leaf hangs sere on oak and beech, and the bud waits on dogwood bough and maple twig, waxed and sheathed against the storm. The bogland crunches underfoot, crusted with frost, and ice needles reach out from the pond's brim, knitting the brittle lace that will soon cover still waters. Dogs yelp the valleys, harrying rabbits that scurry from brush heap to stone wall, and from the cries echo on the chill-heavy evening air. A lone crow kaws from the hilltop, proclaiming his ownership, and as the evening deepens one can hear the insistent call of a barred owl somewhere back among the hemlocks. The silence seems all the deeper for the lesser sounds that ride the dusk. Day is short and night is long, and this is the time for thinking long thoughts. Streams run deep and at their own pace, and hills stand sturdy against the sky. Fires burn with a steady flame. The year approaches the turn. The season of the Nativity is close at hand, and wise men look to the stars and search the books for understanding. — New York Times.

Though fundamental research in all the sciences suffered during the war, much progress was made in the practical application of discoveries which were still in a state of incubation. This is particularly true of medicine. The wholesale use of DDT in combating typhus, the remarkable work done in controlling tropical diseases, the new techniques devised in psychiatry and neuro-surgery are among a score of advances that occur to the mind. Hence the decision of the New York Academy of Medicine to devote its annual "lectures to the laity"to this vast subject. That portion of the public which wants facts instead of miracles will surely take advantage of the opportunity thus presented to learn from distinguished authorities what medical scientists have accomplished in the laboratory at home and in the hospital at the front. The social aspects of medicine will also receive attention. How far present practice can be changed to meet the requirements of a large class that cannot afford either expensive diagnosis or still more expensive treatment is a burning question. It is good that it will be taken up with such matters as medicial education, preventative medicine and the distribution of costs; for it is precisely because medicine has made such astounding progress that its social aspects must be discussed in connection with research. The public ought to take advantage of the Academy's lectures to inform itself on questions that call for a decision on the part of every voter. More taxes as well as the better distribution of medical care are involved, which is reason enough for the public's attendance.—New York Times.

Our Export Credit Policy

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The full extent of the financial commitments which Canada will undertake to assist in the reconstruction of war torn countries and the revival of peacetime trade is now being revealed. Last Monday Mr. Ilsley asked the House for authority to grant an additional $650 millions in export credit loans. This together with the $100 millions previously made available brings the amount of exports loans up to $750 millions.

Loans totalling $103 millions have already been made to Belgium, the Netherlands and her colonies, Czechoslovakia Norway and Russia Further export credits amounting in all to $400 millions are definitely planned for France the Netherlands, the Netherland East Indies and Norway. This would leave $250 millions to cover new loans to Belgium, China and Russia which are still being negotiated.

Credit arrangements with our largest customer, the United Kingdom are not included in these figures. Mr. Ilsley announced that the question of financial assistance to the United Kingdom will be dealh with by special legislation at the next session of Parliament. The amount needed to under write our trade with the United Kingdom will call for at least another $500 million, probably more. The precise nature of the arrangement hinges upon the outcome of the British-American financial discussions in Washington.

Aside from all this, Parliament must almost immediately consider the matter of adherence to the Bretton Woods agreements. It appears that unless the agreements are ratified before the end of the year by countries representing at least 65 per cent of the subscriptions to the proposed organizations, they become null and void. Consequently there is likely to be a last minute effort to obtain the necessary number of signatures.

If the agreements come into operation there is little doubt that Canada will take part. In that event, Canada will have to subscribe a total of $625 millions to the proposed Monetry Fund and Reconstruction Bank. These subscriptions would not be used up immediately and to some extent are contingent undertakings, but they would constitute a pledge of credit.

Thus, in all Canada is in the process of making commitments for the finance of export trade amounting to nearly $2 billions. This figure is equivalent to the value of the whole of our export trade for two years before the war. Almost overnight this young country has switched from a large foreign borrower to one of the world's great creditors.

A Farm Bomb

(Hamilton Spectator)

Ontario's Agriculture Minister, Col. T. L. Kennedy, is the man who has come along to bite a dog. He has made "news" in a way that few of his teammates have made it. He has made it by saying that there are too many people farming and that a lot of them should return to city jobs.

This exposes a hard dilemma. For while Mr. Kennedy is making this extraordinary pronouncement, we are given statistical evidence, if that were neded, that this is a time when reconversion and strike troubles are forcing urban unemployment on us. Why, it is being so often and urgently asked, do not those people who came to city factories as war workers go back to the towns and villages from which they originally came?

The strain on Canadian cities of this influx of war workers has been heavy. It has taxed their services, and more than anything else has aggravated their severe housing shortages. And the whole tone and stress of official propaganda has been to start a reverse movement and get people back to the rural areas.

But this is not the main point that Col Kennedy is making. What he is emphasizing is something that should always be emphasized. He is pointing out that farming is not something that "any one can make a go of." He is debunking a facile theory that has disillusioned thousands of natives and many, many thousands of immigrants. The farm is not a gold mine, with easy profits. It calls for hard work, for scientific study and for talents that mark off success from failure just as distinctly as in any other business. Ask the farmer.

Col. Kennedy warns veterans particularly that a man will fail on the land unless he is prepared to "study, suffer and learn the most advanced agricultural methods." Farming, he added, "is an expect business and requires training skill and toil. The man who does not regard farming as a scientific enterprise had better go back to the city."

Ninety per cent of the produce sold from Ontario farms is produced by 50 per cent. of our farmers. Out of the 192 000 farmers in the province, Col. Kennedy feels 52,000 are superfluous. He is particularly critical of "part-time" farmers, who work in the city and do small-scale agricultural operating outside.

Whatever there is in Col. Kennedy's contention it has the punch of originality The fact that it challenges all existing Government exhortations is enough in itself to give it prominence. Perhaps there has been some loose thinking about the trends of urban and rural populations, or at least some confusion between social and economic goals. If so, the protagonists of more and more farms and more and more farmers for Canada should speak up.

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Pulls off a little tell-tale bargain tag
Counts off the items on a pencilled slip,
Enjoying to the full her shopping trip.

For one she buys a tiny beaded purse,
And someone gets a hankie frail and sheer.
A little favorite nephew gets a book
Where knights in armor and a cavalier
Ride out to battle clad in bright array
In all the trappings of a by-gone day.

She looks at crystal with a longing eye,
Gloats over china of a loved design,
Holds up a figurine with a cautious hand,
Buys Christmas wrappings and a spool of twine;
Gets a stuffed dog with little scarlet paws,
A tiny reindeer and a Santa Claus.

For one short season of the age-long year
She lets her generous heart hold happy sway,
Buying her little gifts with careful hands
To match the joyful spirit of the day,
Destroying her own need that she may share,
The love that is like music in the air.

—Edna Jacques, in The Toronto Star.

Potato Bags And Diapers

(The Printed Word)

Charwomen, it is said are harder to get since the institution of the baby bonus. On the assumption that charwomen are spending their time looking after their children rather in polishing floors in other people's homes, this is the best thing yet heard about the baby bonus.

Hillsburg, centre of the Ontario potato country reports that boys and girls of 15 and 16 years were demanding and getting $4. to $5.25 per day digging potatoes. Perhaps they saved their money and continue as from July 1st last, to use the $6 per month diaper donation for spending money.

A grocer on a side street reports that an impecunious family across the way have been quick to keep the money in circulation. The first cheque for $22., arrived on a Friday and father took Saturday morning off. The grocer negotiated the cheque, the owners taking $6. in groceries and $19. in currency. A little later, a taxi took pa and ma away, leaving the children to their own devices. Pa and ma returned in the evening, shortly after the beer parlors closed. They (pa and ma) were the worse for wear, reports the grocer, who by that time had retired to his living quarters above the store. As expected ma appeared at the back door with a further grocery list and asked for credit which was refused .Perhaps that was expected too.

Postscript to those reports is the case of a country girl of high-school age who could finance further schooling in town if she had the baby bonus. But her legal guardian, a brother, isn't intending to let those guys in Ottawa get hold of name and address; they might ask him to file an income-tax return.

All of which suggests that, if we as taxpayers were going to spend all that money for the ostensible benefit of children we could have found a better plan than the uncontrolled and uncontrollable handout of cash.

Those who are fearing the breakup of civilization are inclined to point to such moves as definite steps on the way. One's optimism that we really can progress is tempered by observation of the inability of politicians to see the grave need for genuine education of voters.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—(AP)—Three members of a federal council deputation which recently returned from Germany where they studied religious problems said in a report that "the Protestant churches in Germany have experienced a vigorous upsurge of life and activity since the end of the war (and have) banded themselves together in a new nation-wide federation the Evangelical Chuch in Germany, which holds a particularly hopeful promise for the future."

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