THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1944

Bright Farm Prospects

Barring some calamitous crop failures, predicts the *Financial Post*, Canadian farmers will come out of this war in the strongest financial position they have ever reached. There may be some exceptions in a few specialty areas, but, generally speaking, the good farmer on good soil is prosperous. He has had to work hard, handicapped by lack of labor and insufficient machinery, but he has made money. Farm prices were higher, very much higher in the boom days of the First Great War period, but so were the prices of the necessities and other things that farmers could and did buy. Today ceilings apply on feed, fertilizer, implements and family items and the luxuries and semi-luxuries that were bought freely at highly inflated prices by farmers in 1917-19 are not available.

Net farm cash income for 1943 totalled $974 millions as compared with $534 millions in 1940 and when figures are compiled for the current year another substantial boost will be recorded. Cash income from the sale of farm products jumped from a depression low of $383.5 millions in 1932 to almost $1,400 millions last year. According to the DBS estimate of farm purchasing power the index rose from 116.5 when war broke out to 189.8 last June (1935-39—100).

Where has this new farm income gone? Largely into three channels: liquidation of mortgages and other debts, purchases of victory bonds and more farm land.

Because of restrictions on manufacture and distribution of many durable goods, farmers have been unable to make many of the purchases they would have made long ago had they had the money. In many cases they have been unable to replace necessary equipment. Instead, they have been putting their extra revenue into victory bonds and record debt retirement. Over half the farms in Saskatchewan are now free of debt and almost three quarters of those in Manitoba.

After the war these savings and this improved credit standing will be available for tremendous purchases of badly needed farm equipment, for the installation of bathrooms and model kitchens, for new automobiles, furniture and the hundreds of other necessities and luxuries that farmers, when able, are just as anxious to buy as city people.

Booming wartime revenues will be the means of opening the huge farm market to Canadian manufacturers and importers who are ready to supply it. Large permanent farm exports after the peace should keep that market open if we are wise enough to realize that foreign trade is vital to our general prosperity.

Christmas Early Mailing

A critical Christmas mailing period will soon confront the post office officials. With Christmas falling on a Monday this year it is essential that posting of local mail be completed by Dec. 19—outside places proportionately earlier.

Responsibility for "delivery on time" of Christmas greetings and gifts in a large measure rests with individual citizens. The post office cannot commence its work until the greetings and gifts have been mailed. It is in our own interests that we mail sufficiently in advance of Christmas Day to enable the postal service to handle the tremendous volume and complete deliveries before Dec. 25.

Hunting For A Scapegoat

An unfortunate consequence of the conscription crisis is that it had the effect of deferring for several weeks the despatch of reinforcements to the Canadian forces in Holland, Germany, and Italy. Prime Minister King and his supporters realize that, as is evident from their departure attempts to shift the responsibility for this failure on the part of Canada to keep Canada's pledge to her fighting men.

"With a slickness that is more than slippery and a dishonesty amazing in its effrontery," says the *Vancouver Province*, "they are trying to make it appear that the responsibility for the crisis lies on the shoulders of the Progressive Conservatives. It is the most arrant nonsense, of course, to suggest any such thing. We have responsible government in Canada, and, under responsible government, it is the party in power that is charged with the duty of administration."

The man who brought the crisis to a head was, of course, Colonel Ralston who had come to the conclusion that it was no longer possible to place any confidence in the Prime Minister's promise to put conscription into effect when conscription became necessary and who refused to continue to be a party to a policy which held fit and trained military personnel cooling their heels in Canada while the fighting divisions overseas lacked adequate reinforcements.

Colonel Ralston brought the crisis to a head by his protest and resignation. He allayed it by his announcement of his intention to support the government after the Prime Minister had eaten his quota of crow and had told Parliament of his intention to implement the policy he had denounced and opposed for five years. Colonel Ralston's motives in doing both these things were above reproach.

The apologists of the government could attach no blame whatever to the retiring minister. But such was the keenness of their humiliation that they had to find a scapegoat somewhere. So they honored the Progressive Conservative opposition by trying to pile their own scarlet sins on its back.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is pre-Christmas week.

* * * *

The Government has made a poor job of Santa Clausing 130 of Bruce Stewart & Co.'s employees and the estimated 500 left without visible means of support.

* * * *

The crew of H. M. C. S. Charlottetown are to be remembered at Christmas whether or not their frigate succeeds in reaching this port for the event.

* * * *

All will join in congratulations to Col. J. D. Stewart on the D.S.O. honour conferred upon him at the battle front. Under date of Nov. 30 the Colonel writes: "Back on the job again after a short spell in hospital."

* * * *

In one month 3,438 aircraft were received from Britain at an R.A.F. Transport Command airfield somewhere in Belgium; in the same period more than 7,000 tons of freight was handled, 4,280 passengers received and despatched and 7,200 casualties evacuated to England.

* * * *

Two hundred Canadian soldiers from the Western European theatre with the equivalent of five years' overseas service to their credit will spend Christmas at home in Canada. The first draft, chosen by luck of the draw, left their units last week for England whence they will sail for Canada. Another 200 will come home from the Italian theatre and 50 from the United Kingdom. The troops will have 30 days at home. Further drafts will leave monthly if shipping is available.

* * * *

The Rt. Hon. Hugh Dalton, President of the British Board of Trade, and as such a portfolio holder in Mr. Churchill's Government, thinks there should be a *quid pro quo* in the matter of political honours in Britain and Canada. Addressing a Canadian Chamber of Commerce luncheon at which Viscount Bennett was a guest, Mr. Dalton referred to the way the former Canadian Conservative Prime Minister "has joined us here, been absorbed into the fabric of our country, and obtained a seat in Parliament so secure that no election can ever unseat him." "My seat in the Commons is not that kind," he said, amid laughter. "When the fatal day comes, I give you warning I shall go across to Canada and ask to be admitted to your equivalent of our House of Lords.""

* * * *

One of the nation's great problems is to find a system of education and economic organization that will give back life to small communities robbed of their leaders for economic reasons, Dr. M. M. Coady, president of the St. Francis Xavier University extension department of Antigonish, N. S., said in an address at the Victoria Theatre, Montreal. Education had been founded too much on the escape idea that through it people could leave their birthplace and rise, job by job, in society, Dr. Coady said "There is little thought of those left behind on farms and in fishing villages. If the day ever comes when Ph.D.'s from the universities go back to the farms and fishing villages to enjoy their education, then democracy will be here. "Rural life and labor cannot continue to lose their best brains and prosper," Dr. Coady said. To the common people also must go a larger share of the national income.

* * * *

The King's Accession to the throne this date 1936; on Dec. 3 the nation had been informed of a grave constitutional crisis; King Edward VIII saw his brother the Duke of York, his mother, Queen Mary, Prime Minister Baldwin, who conferred with Dominion representatives; next day Mrs. Ernest Simpson left England for France; on the 7th the Duke of York visited his brother; in a statement read by Lord Brownlow at Cannes, Mrs. Simpson declared she had invariably wished to avoid any action which would hurt or damage the King or the throne, and expressed her willingness to withdraw from a situation rendered both unhappy and untenable; on Dec. 10, in a House crowded to its utmost capacity, Prime Minister Baldwin announced that King Edward VIII had decided to abdicate, and that he would be succeeded by the Duke of York as King George VI; amid tense silence the speaker read a message from King Edward renouncing the throne and referring to it as his final and irrevocable decision; he thereupon ceased to be King, and next day, Dec. 11, King George VI began his reign, his predecessor broadcasting a message declaring his allegiance to the new sovereign; after dining with the Royal Family the ex-King left for Portsmouth and boarded the destroyer Fury for France; the new King thereupon ascended the throne as George VI.

* * * *

Mr. W. J. Haley, director general of the British Broadcasting Corporation, reports that the BBC plans to put United Kingdom radio fans "ahead of any other listener in the world," but declared at the same time that the power of the world's press must never be weakened. "The spoken word can supplement the written word; it cannot supplant the written word," Mr. Haley told the Radio Industries Club. Mr. Haley, formerly a joint general manager of Reuter's news agency, announced also that after the war BBC, which carries no commercials or advertising, planned to operate three separate simultaneous programs on three different wave lengths. On the general subject of Press and radio, he declared: "Anything which weakened the importance of the Press in our national life would be against the public interest. I do not believe anything could happen to weaken the importance of the Press. . . . The Press is one of our most enduring and vital heritages. Broadcasting has come to stay. In our different ways we must both help each other to serve the public well."

Notes By The Way

What does one now hear of the textile genius who succeeded in making a suit of clothes of milk,—and how about measuring us for a pound of butter?—(Winnipeg Tribune.)

In Tokyo an emergency war council is called to consider the sad details. As the time for evasion is past, the boys will please check their hara-kari daggers at the door.—(Winnipeg Tribune.)

There is still some mystery over the visit of Sinatra to the White House. One theory is that Fala mistook him for a bone and dragged him in. We doubt that this is tenable. Fala would merely sniff at a bone with no meat on it.—(Ottawa Citizen.)

One member of the House of Representatives has carried to O. P.A. his determined fight to see that adequate amounts of clothing are made for outsize men and women, The New York Sun reports. For credentials as a champion of this cause, the congressman submits these statistics: he is six feet two inches tall, weighs 210 pounds and takes a 44-long suit.

Fashion designers in London say that the average woman after the war will have luscious curves from balanced wartime diets, broad shoulders from performing war work, and big feet from walking so much. The trouble will be that most women's postwar project will be to look as different as possible from the average. But how do you reduce broad shoulders and big feet? — (Montreal Gazette.)

The history of warfare has presented very few examples of the renaissance of a nation engaged in a life-and-death struggle before that struggle has reached its ending. Yet in the case of France the miracle stands clear for all the world to see. It is not yet complete; its conception will depend upon the leadership and vision of those who will have to handle the government of France during the early postwar period. But given skilful leadership and vision, that miracle will see fruition.—(Montreal Star.)

Bears, fat from a summer of stuffing themselves, are now retiring into their dens, in caves, big hollow trees, thick piles of forest debris, says Science Service. There they will doze off into the death-like sleep called hibernation. Hibernation is not always an uninterrupted slumber. On warm, sunny days in Winter, bears are apt to emerge for a short look-around; and if there is anything in sight to eat they will eat it. But most of the time they will be fast asleep, slowly stoking the banked fires of life with their body stores of fat.

The Japs at an advanced New Guinea base must remember their childhood love of catching lightning bugs, because they've been catching them in wholesale quantities, says The Army Officer. Some of our patrols reported that lightning bugs were performing mysterious gyrations along the jungle trails. They seemed to be signalling. Investigation disclosed that Jap patrol leaders had mashed up the tail lights of the lightning bugs, had smeared the phosporescent substance on their fingers, and were maintaining contact between members of their night patrols by signalling with their glowing fingertips.

Sir Ernest Simon, noted businessman, former Lord Mayor of Manchester and former Liberal M.P., opening a conference of landscape artists in London recently, compared town-planning in the Soviet Union with town-planning in Britain—greatly to the disadvantage of the latter, notes the Vancouver Province. Moscow, he said, was the only city in the world "to make fundamental decisions about the population and area needed for an effective plan before developing a great city. Moscow decided that the population of 3,600,000 should be allowed to increase to 5,000,000 but never beyond that number. Any obstructive private interests were ruthlessly swept away. "Moscow," said Sir Ernest, "is the paradise of the planner, and the planners were determined to make Moscow the finest capital in the world."

At a concert at Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow I took note of the shabby clothes of the audience, W. L. White writes in Reader's Digest. They are ill-fitting, poorly cut, often flashy but always of tawdry materials. Yes, I know there's a war on. The British also are shabby, but you can tell that at one time their well-worn clothes were good, while these never were. This is the concert hall where seats usually go to high officials or to crack Stakhanovite workers who get high wartime wages. But the audience can't compare with a meeting of the Workers' Alliance in my home town of Emporia, Kas., at the bottom of the depression. Before our W.P.A. home relief cases would have appeared in public as shabbily dressed as this Socialist Soviet aristocracy, they would have gone down to the courthouse and torn the case workers limb from limb.

My favorite newspaper informs me that Fala, President Roosevelt's Scottie, is to have what it coyly calls "a bride", and that what it also inaccurately calls "the lucky dog" is Rubev, a child of Telek, the Scottie which Winston Churchill gave to General Eisenhower! What an event in international society! But the paper does not say whether Rubev has decided upon a church wedding, or a civil affair, with Mayor La Guardia officiating. This business of choosing "brides" for dogs appeals to me strongly; all the dogs in my neighborhood are painfully lax in this respect, and although I am assured by their owners that they are of human intelligence, or better, the notions of monogamy and privacy have not yet occurred to them. The example of Fala and Rubev should clean up canine morals. The idea of aristocracy among human beings has now fallen into disrepute, but it is rising sharply in the animal world, where a mesalliance is regarded with horror. To mix a metaphor, mankind is now on all fours, while the dog is mounting his high horse.—(Marchbanks in Peterborough Examiner.)

VIRTUAL MONOPOLY

Ninety per cent of the world's nickel supply comes from Canada.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

PAGING LEWIS CARROLL

Sir,—The following is a question asked on page 110 in our Grade X arithmetic book. I am told that it is valuable as a mind trainer:

"A dealer in watches imports a number of cases at $15. The duty on this kind of goods is 30 per cent ad valorem. What reduction could he make in the price of a watch and still make 20 per cent profit in case there was no duty?"

The question does not state whether the reduction is to be made on the cost price or on the selling price; but as it is more usual to make reductions on the selling price, one must assume (if one is to get the answer in the book) that his selling price, when he pays duty, gives him no profit whatever.

Is that considered good business?

Then when he escapes the duty he wishes to make 20 per cent profit.

However it is cases he buys but watches he sells. Does he sell empty cases without the works and cheat his customers or does he throw in the works for nothing? If it is the latter, how is he ever going to make 20 per cent profit? The dealer surely is an amazing business man.

If this is mind training, like Alice in Wonderland, I feel things are getting "curiouser and curiouser". Can anyone enlighten me?

I am, Sir, etc.
MUDDLED MOTHER.

Hats Off To Britain

(World-Telegram, New York)

Historians of the next century will try to figure out how little England—before Russia and the United States went in—was able to stand off the mighty Germany that had conquered Europe. They can find some of the answers in a remarkable report just made to Parliament entitled, "Statistics relating to the war effort of the United Kingdom."

Not, of course, that statistics can tell the whole story. But they reflect in tangible form what the unconquerable spirit of a great people produced for the emergency defense of Britain and of civilization.

Here are some of the figures:

Britain's armed forces now exceed 5,000,000 out of a 47,000,000 population. More than one-third of all her men between the ages of 14 and 16 are at arms. Military and sea casualties up to last September were about 600,000.

The statistics for women are even more astounding. Almost half the women between the ages of 14 and 59 are in the armed services, in full-time civil defense or in industry.

Home front sacrifices have been heavy. Civilian casualties, even before the recent Nazi V-2 bombs, totalled more than 136,000. One out of every three houses has been destroyed or damaged.

Under these conditions of death and destruction, of blackout and short rations, the women and the men on the production front doubled the grain yield and built 722 major warships, more than 100,000 planes, more than 25,000 tanks and 4,000,000 machine guns.

And Britain has paid for half her war expenditures by taxes and other revenues—compared with our one-third.

No nation in this war has given so much from so little with such miraculous results. Overall contributions of Russia and the United States have been larger in many ways in an absolute sense, but not relative to their size and resources. In this later phase of the war the Russian and American contributions and sacrifices will increase more rapidly.

But the United Kingdom, with its almost superhuman initial effort, bought and paid for the time in which Russia and the United States raised the overwhelming superiority in manpower and machine-power now defeating the German aggressor. We must never forget that.

MAY KNOW JAP TRICKS

Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek received his military training in Japan.

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Power And Eisenhower

(Toronto Saturday Night)

The most distressing thing in all last week's proceedings at Ottawa was the speech of Major "Chubby" Power in explanation of his resignation, which was an attack on the entire military policy of General Eisenhower and amounted to an argument that Canada should cease to allow her troops to fight under that leader's supreme command. Major Power had just undergone an operation of some gravity and must in addition have felt very keenly the pang of separation from the Government of which he has been such an able and useful member; but these circumstances cannot excuse his performance. We have no doubt that such arguments are used privately by the strictly-limited-war partisans in Quebec province, but their use in Parliament by a retiring Minister was unfortunate to a degree, and could only have been more unfortunate if the Commander-in-Chief had been—as he easily might have—a British officer and therefore one of the "maudits Anglais."

Major Power did not suggest that General Eisenhower's policy of continuous and violent offensive was designed to be, or was, a greater strain on the Canadian troops than on any other part of the armies under his command; indeed he deprecated "competition in casualties." His argument assumed therefore that the whole policy was wrong, and that a slower pace in the push to the Rhine would have better results. It is no doubt possible to support such a contention, but to put it forward in the middle of an operation of the most tremendous and crucial kind which cannot be altered when once it is under way, and to demand that Canada by herself insist on changing the nature of the operation, and withdraw or lessen her participation if she cannot change it, is something of which Major Power would until last week have been thought absolutely incapable.

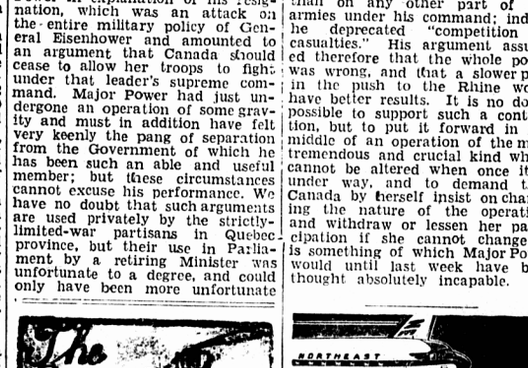
The Poets' Corner

HAUNTINGS

In the grey tumult of these after years
Oft silence falls; the incessant wranglers part;
And less-than-echoes of remembered tears
Hush all the loud confusion of the heart
And a shade, through the toss'd ranks of mirth and crying,
Hungers, and pains, and each dull passionate mood—
Quite lost, and all but all forgot, undying,
Comes back the ecstasy of your quietude.

So a poor ghost, beside his misty streams,
Is haunted by strange doubts, evasive dreams,
Hints of a pre-Lethean life, of men,
Stars, rocks, and flesh, things unintelligible,
And light on waving grass he knows not when,
And fet than rain, but where, he cannot tell.
The Pacific, 1914.

—Rupert Brooke.



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