THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1945

The San Francisco Conference

With the San Francisco conference not far away, the *Financial Post* suggests that Canada's Prime Minister should take with him to important international conferences the Leader of the Opposition. This would help present a united front to the world; would prevent vital international problems becoming partisan issues at home; would help educate the Opposition Leader; would tend to give us greater continuity in our foreign policies.

That view finds another proponent in the *Winnipeg Free Press* (Liberal). It says that the forthcoming United Nations conference is so important no chances should be taken that "every opportunity should be seized to make sure that the new league should not become in any way an issue of domestic politics. To avoid, or at least to minimize that danger, it would be a wise act on Mr. King's part to associate with him on the Canadian delegation representatives of the other important parties in the House of Commons and in the country."

Particularly in view of the fact that San Francisco conference will be held prior to the Federal election, hence while the election campaign is in fact on here at home, the *Free Press* thinks it extremely important that Mr. King take every possible means to take Canada's part in that conference completely out of the party fight at home.

The *Ottawa Journal* takes the same view. It points out that the Australian delegation to that conference will include representatives of all major parties; that outstanding Republicans will be in the U. S. delegation; that the British delegation will represent a coalition government.

The *Journal* fears that "having run the war as a private party affair," Mr. King might assume that "he has a right to keep for the party the task of settling matters of the peace."

This, the *Journal* doesn't want at all. "All of the people of Canada, all of its parties, have shared in the sacrifice of this war; they all have a right to be represehted in the making of the peace—in anything that concerns future security. Mr. King, therefore, has a plain duty to the Canadian people, should undoubtedly have our major political parties share in this San Francisco conference."

Improved Pasture Lands

An interesting experiment in improved pasture lands is being conducted in Ontario. It has been found that the season of pasturage can be lengthened, and something like perennial feeding areas ensured by planting special grass seeds, the crops from which have the habit of reseeding themselves and are not winter-killing. Trial plots have lived up to expectations and the new method is said to hold every promise of success when it becomes general, as it doubtless will.

Mr. John D. MacLeod, director of the crops branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, is enthusiastic over this project and predicts great things for it when a large proportion of the pasture lands of the province is planted to a scientific mixture of edible grasses. The department has already established 144 trial plots in various parts of the province. It is planned to double the number of these plots this year and have at least one in every township. A careful record is kept of meat poundage and milk production of the stock that feeds in each plot. The ultimate benefits it is hoped will be reflected in better fleshed beef cattle, in larger and richer yields of milk, which in turn give higher grades of butter and cheese.

There must be an end to the discretionary powers of officials.

The Farmer Wants Stability

In its annual presentation to the Prime Minister and Cabinet the Federation of Agriculture emphasized the need for a definite food price policy for this country. The brief declared that, contrary to what many believe, high prices are not a dogma of organized agriculture, but that rather its aim is equality of economic returns as among various groups in the nation, with stability in prices and costs as of paramount importance.

The Federation makes one point likely to be lost sight of by urban consumers who are inclined, naturally, to resent any increase in food prices. This is that, whereas the old cost-of-living bonuses have been incorporated with basic wage rates, farmers have no assurance as yet that the subsidies and bonuses they now receive will be incorporated in basic farm prices when these are decided under the "floor price" legislation.

The Federation fears that an attempt may be made to institute a "cheap food" policy at the expense of the farmer. It has argued in the past that should Canada decide that certain essential foods be made available to the people as cheaply as possible in the interests of national health, then farmers should not be expected to bear the cost by having to buy in a high-priced market and sell in a low. In the brief, as the *Ottawa Journal* cites, presented this is put as follows:

"If a low-priced food policy is to be adopted, it should become the basic consideration in the directing of our national economy, and all other prices, wages, interest rates, and rewards for services should be brought into line. Unless this is done a cheap food policy, maintained at the expense of agriculture, will be disastrous to the people on the land, and a costly blunder for Canada in the end. The Federation of Agriculture believes that if all elements of our economy are co-ordinated and balanced on a moderate price level, it would be the soundest of all policies."

It must be admitted that the present policy, or lack of one, is at best haphazard. Labor, especially organized labor, has had its wage increases made a part of basic wage rates and there is no suggestion these will, or should, be decreased after the war.

On the other hand, many of the increases farmers have received for their products are in the form of premiums and bonuses paid directly by the Dominion Treasury and not passed along to the consumer. The farmer has no assurance he is going to be able to keep such returns as he now receives, although he faces the prospect of having to continue to pay higher prices for the manufactured goods he must buy and the labor he must employ.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

At the forthcoming Liberal nomination meeting for Prince County, it is understood that Hon. Mr. Barbour, Minister of Public Works, has requested that his name should not be submitted.

* * * *

Insecticidal paints which will keep the premises where they are used free from flies, mosquitoes and other insects for a year or more were forecast recently at a meeting of painting and decorating contractors. Intensive tests of such paints, available in flat, semi-gloss or gloss finishes, not toxic to human beings, are now being made.

* * * *

It was ever thus, the slip betwixt the cup and the lip. Based on an estimated reduction of 17.3 per cent in sows bred to farrow in the first six months of 1945, which resultant production together with the hogs on hand will provide the 1945 marketings, indications now are that Canadian hog marketings this year will be from 15 to 20 per cent below those of 1944, according to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

* * * *

Michelangelo, Italian sculptor, painter, architect, military engineer and poet, the culminating genius of the Renaissance, born this date 1475; in character he was proud, somewhat scornful and intolerant, impetuous and violent; amazingly versatile and productive, while his devotion to his art and his unsparing labour are fit models for artists of all ages; more generous qualities came with old age: "The promises of this world are for the main part vain phantoms, and to confide in one's self, and become something of worth and value, is the best and safest creed."

* * * *

New Brunswick is once more urging the Chignecto Canal Scheme as a vital war project, pointing out among other things that it would save a tremendous amount in freight rates, and bring this city within 179 miles of Saint John instead of 609 as at present. Quoting from the evidence submitted to various commissions *Saint John Telegraph-Journal* gives the following: "Charlottetown: Fifteen million bushels of root vegetables would be shipped by the canal annually at a saving of nearly $700,000. Island fisherman would have easy access by water to New England markets." No doubt the Jones Government will get behind this movement.

* * * *

An early Quebec provincial election is anticipated as well as the general election in June or thereby. Agriculture Minister Barre, introducing a bill to provide for drainage of land, told the Quebec Legislative Assembly that a provincial election may come "sooner than expected." The government majority in the House is "none too large," and if illness should prevent five or six members from attending, as "in the case of our premier today," the election might come "sooner than expected." There was no further discussion in the matter. Premier Duplessis was absent from the session due to a minor illness.

* * * *

Setting a thief to catch a thief in reverse. A member of the Montreal Police department, who, when not on duty guarding public property, turned his hand to heading a ring of auto thieves has made a complete confession of his double life to former colleagues. He is Cst. Arthur Maranda, 36, a member of the police force for 14 years. He appeared before Judge C. E. Guerin and readily pleaded guilty to stealing three autos, the first of which disappeared last July. Police learned that Maranda operated a garage on the side and it was there that he dismantled the stolen cars and disposed of the parts. When the detectives visited the garage they found two autos, a quantity of spare parts, a police radio and a pair of handcuffs.

* * * *

Even in Toronto Spring brings trouble to the civic authorities and citizens. The principal thoroughfares of Toronto have been cleared, after a fashion, laments *Peterborough Examiner*, "but great mounds of snow form dikes on either side, and there are ruts eight inches deep in the middle. A shifting, heavy, gluey mass, resembling wet brown sugar, is everywhere. Around Queen's Park, the University and the Parliament Buildings the roads are worse than they could possibly be in the depths of the country, for hopeful motorists have churned the snow in a kind of Arctic bog. On the less frequented streets—which include streets as important as Dundas and St. George—the pavement affords a narrow track on which pedestrians must walk in Indian file. Taxis and private cars drive on side streets with constant risk of being bogged down—presumably until the spring thaw."

Notes By The Way

The Germans say that with new devices their U-boats can stay under water for 10 weeks. But thanks to some devices of our own hundreds of U-boats are staying under water permanently. — Ottawa Journal.

French-speaking Canadian soldiers who captured a Rhine castle found among refugees in the cellars "some arrogant 'teen-age youths." Reform of such young Nazi monsters, brought up under Hitler's insame dreams, is going to be a real problem. — Ottawa Journal.

An island in the Danube near Budapest captured by the Russians had no less than 24 munitions and armament factories. All over Europe the Germans have had the same plethora of war plants working and it is little wonder their armies are so well supplied, despite air bombs.—St. Catharines Standard.

Bowling experts figure that in the country at large there are 1,000,000 after-midnight bowlers. Chicago has about 2,400 bowling lanes, most of which are open after midnight and are used by thousands of bowlers, who, as a rule, cannot indulge in the game at other hours. — Chicago Daily News.

We don't like that talk about "the common man." Henry Wallace invented that detestable expression and it has been used ever since as though the majority of mankind were simpletons who had to be coddled and protected by a few powerful people who know better. We insist that the world is not only for the common man, but for the uncommon man also; the uncommon man is very often the man who makes the wheels of progress revolve. Every common man ought to have a chance to become an uncommon man if he can do so, and every uncommon man ought to be allowed to live as he wishes, so long as he does not make a nuisance of himself.—Peterborough Examiner.

Oh, these pipsqueaks who consider themselves the incarnation of the war effort! When shall we be rid of them? Do not say "after the war" too hastily for already the opinion is spreading that we must keep a few thousand head of controllers, collators, delators and frustrators to help us mind our Ps and Qs in time of peace, and a great many of them will imagine that they are above the law. A great many of them will identify themselves with the greatness of Canada, and a great many of them will take seriously that dangerous partial truth that the Civil Service is the real government of the country. In their opinion, the hand that checks a form will establish the form, and the hand that engrosses in triplicate will rule the world. Friends of Freedom, let us sharpen our post-war pins for these balloons! — Peterborough Examiner.

Recently Jacques Barzun, a brilliant French scholar, who has been teaching in the U.S.A., wrote these words about history, and we shall do well to ponder them: "The historical sense is a comforter and a guide. The possessor understands his neighbors, his Government and the limitations of mankind much better. He knows more clearly, not what is desirable, but what is possible. He becomes 'practical' in the lasting sense of being taken in neither by panicky fears nor by second-rate Utopias. The historical sense is, above all, political-minded. It suggests that in the struggles of men with one another no virtue implies the possession of any other, that motives are mixed, and that no evil is absolutely perverse." In short, the historical sense gives balance and insight. We need these qualities now, and will need them increasingly in the hard days which are to come.—Peterborough Examiner.

The audacious assault of the United States' naval air force on Tokyo, from a flotilla of aircraft carriers backed up by a tremendous naval task force, again raises the question of when, if ever, the climactic naval battle between the United States and Jap fleets will take place. To many, this attack on Tokyo is interpreted as a challenge by the Americans to the Japs to come out and fight. This interpretation ignores the fundamental difference in the concept of a navy's role that exists in Tokyo and Washington. To hunt out the enemy navy and engage it in battle — the Nelson touch—is an embedded tradition in both the British and American naval services. But the Japs have always thought of their navy more as an auxiliary of the army than as an independent striking force. The Japanese navy does not go out to fight battles for the purpose of establishing naval supremacy. I goes out to convoy transports, loaded with troops or supplies bent on conquest. Or it moves in to screen the army from attack by hostile forces.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Franco-American relations appear to be at the low point right now. General de Gaulle was disgruntled and peeved and made it so known, when he was not invited to the meeting of the Big Three at Yalta. Yet he was too busy, when invited by President Roosevelt, to meet the President at Algiers. This was a studied snub after Mr. Roosevelt had said that he was too busy to go to Paris. One thing is certain France will never be restored to former greatness by the smallness of its politicians. Undoubtedly President Roosevelt carries American public opinion with him. De Gaulle is hard to understand. He may not be a Bourbon but he acts like one at times. What Frenchmen, who worship the almighty dollar as much as any other people, are prone to forget, is that President Roosevelt represents not only the richest nation on earth but a nation that is overflowingly generous, when reached with the right appeal. Just recently the United States government offered a $2,500,000,000 gift and credit system to help France. The French army is to be doubled this year and that could not be done without outside help. They want the French Empire restored 100 per cent and that includes French Indo-China, which was handed by the Vichyites on a silver platter to Japan. Is French pride worth American, Canadian and British lives? De Gaulle seems tarred with chauvinism. The one reassurance which comes out of Paris is the reported attitude of some leading French ministers. They did not like the refusal of de Gaulle to meet the American President.—St. Catharines Standard.

Equality Of Sacrifice

(Text of an address delivered by Hon. John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Association in Ottawa, March 2, 1945.)

I

We are now in the sixth year of the greatest war in human history. Insofar as Canada is concerned, this war has been run by one party. It is a party which has shown rank discrimination and gross favouritism in its choice of those who must risk their lives in battle. The question the Canadian people must answer is whether we are to have from this time on a measure of equality of sacrifice or whether we are to have a continuation of discrimination and favouritism in matters that affect the lives of nearly every family in the nation.

At this hour, as we sit here warm and comfortable, I can't help but think of the young men I saw little more than a month ago, in Holland and Belgium, in France and in Italy. I can't forget their faces, their eyes, their smiles, as we talked together of many things, chiefly of things back home.

They asked me what was doing in Canada and whether things had changed much. They talked of the war, they talked of the future, of jobs, of hockey, and other things. They talked of their leaves, of their training, of their friends. But mostly they talked of home. No matter what the subject was when we began, it always turned to that —their home.

* * *

Wherever I went, whether it was in the training centres in Great Britain, at the base hospitals and leave centres in Britain or on the Continent, or whether it was in the forward areas within the sound of battle, the questions were the same: "Tell us about Canada, about home."

Those same young lads at this very moment are fighting in Holland, in Germany and in Italy. In mud and in slush, sometimes without sleep and never with the comforts you and I enjoy, those youngsters with the insignia "Canada" on their shoulders are fighting to defeat a bestial enemy, in order that lasting peace may come to you and me and those who follow us—fighting on to do their appointed job so well that the dangerous task will not have to be repeated again as it had to be after their fathers thought they had licked it once and for all, more than twenty-five years ago.

Many of the boys I saw in December and January will never see their homeland again. Some of them, even in that brief space, like many before, have already found a last resting place in a foreign land. They have given their lives, even as others have given their health or their limbs, in order that we now here might live in peace, and those who come after us might grow up, live normal lives, marry and raise families and carry on without the danger of another war.

* * *

Many things these young Canadians told me. I saw and talked with men in the ranks, with N.C.O.'s with junior officers, and with field officers of the highest category; and they made me feel a warm glow for their youth and courage, for the land that bred them, and for the parents who raised them. These young Canadians are not only first-class fighters — there are no troops in the world to excel them, anywhere — and they are not without knowledge of why they fight. Let those who will, scoff and say that our boys don't know why they are in the war. Those who speak thus belittle our troops —they don't know our fighting men or they undervalue the stuff of which they are made.

Had any of you seen and talked with those boys as I did, you would have spoken even more strongly than I did in Grey North. You too would have carried the massage the boys sent home with me—they asked no favours, but they felt they were entitled to the assurance of all possible help, in the way of trained reinforcements, for the fighting ahead was to be bitter and there were to be heavy casualties.

Since I saw them, some have advanced into Germany and are fighting a desperate foe in his own as well as in other lands. They were right about losses. Casualties have been heavy and will be heavy. Some boys with whom I talked will not come back again. Some will never walk again. Some now lie in base hospitals, thinking of the games they will not play again, of the fun they will never again enjoy, of the thrill that will no longer be theirs as it was when they skated down the ice and shot the puck into the net.

It is not an easy thing to face death as do the men on the line of battle. The men over there know that. They understand it all too well. But it is an unnecessarily cruel and unforgiveable thing to send men into battle with a sense of injustice in their hearts or when the war is over to have that sense of injustice remain. And those men, like the vast majority of those at home, have a feeling of injustice that must be wiped out if we are to have future harmony in this land.

What must those men think when they know they need trained help and when they see at home a huge Government-protected army that trains and trains, but has not been allowed to help them fight,—and even after a Government crisis, come forward only in dribbles. How would you feel about it if you were in their place?

What can those men who have been given a month's leave after five years of war — what must they feel when they see remaining here in Canada tens of thousands of home draftees who have never heard a gun fired in conflict?

* * *

From my observations over there, five years is too long for young men to live in the abnormal environment of war. None of those five-year men should be sent back and those over there should be brought home. The problems of re-adjustment will be difficult enough with a much shorter period under arms; yet Messrs. King and McNaughton still keep five-year men in the battle line! And they tell you and expect you to believe that the reinforcement situation is satisfactory!

Do not misunderstand me. Those long service men have not only done their duty; they will continue to do it. But how must they feel when this obvious injustice is perpetrated in front of their very eyes? And how will their comrades still over there feel when the war is won and they come back and find what they know to be true, that there had been a huge army of trained men kept idle while they, often under strength, were facing the fire of the enemy? How can there be any national unity when there are such divisions and inequities in the nation?

(To be continued)

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.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION NECESSARY

Sir,—Our last letter dealt with the distressing economic condition of our province. In this letter we shall suggest some means of improvement. We believe that the economic life of the Island is closely linked with our educational system, and that the absence of practical courses on our school curriculum has a direct bearing on the financial welfare of our people.

In many cases our farms are operated on a hit-and-miss system, by methods found adequate in grandfather's day. The main crops are usually those that require the least knowledge and skill in production, rather than those which are most profitable. Often it is the boy who shows little aptitude for his studies—the "dull" boy of the family, who is destined to be the farmer. The opposite should be true. The education of the farmer and the fisherman is of first importance to our Island's prosperity. For example, the instruction of our rural boys of high school age in the elements of scientific farming could not but result in the general use of greatly improved farming methods and a more far-sighted planning of farm industry. Such courses could include dairying, raising of small fruits (Dr. Lattimer suggests that fruit growing could be one of our most profitable industries) production of honey, care and dressing of poultry and hogs, care and repair of farm machinery. In such high schools there would seem to be a very real need for instruction on how to market our produce to the best advantage. Community projects (such as gardening, care of stock, etc.) could play a leading part in such a program and would result in the development of wholesome community spirit. Similarly, high schools in fishing areas should include, along with certain agricultural and the necessary classical subjects, instruction on the fuller development of our fisheries. It has been said on good authority that unlimited amount of cod, mackerel and hake abound off the banks of the north shore of the Island, which at present is hardly touched but could be harvested at good profit if the necessary steps of systematic dredging, co-operative fishing in large boats, and scientific care of the catch were carried out. As in all Island goods, a top grade quality is a necessity for long term profit. At present, 90% of the cod sold on our local market is imported.

The canning of Island products could be greatly expanded since little power is needed in this industry. Sheep raising and the production of pure bred cattle could be greatly intensified; forest growth could be revived and made profitable, while handicrafts, pottery making, fine weaving, fine hookings of rugs, etc. of a high standard, such as are being carried on in other parts of the Maritimes, could play a minor but important role in an improved economy for the Island.

It is true that transportation difficulties present a very real problem, but we believe that a united and untiring effort on the part of the people in this, as well as in educational matters, will result in a brighter future for our Province.

We are, Sir, etc.,
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

THE CHALLENGE

Sir,—With the utmost respect and with all due deference to that estimable body of women known as the School Improvement League may I suggest that, when they issued that serious challenge in your Saturday issue, evidently intended as a reprimand to their lesser halves, they failed to see the strong silver lining which is showing today under the dark cloud that has been hanging over this wonderful island ever since 1873 when our so-called "Fathers" unfortunately accepted as dependable the now long forgotten promises of the other Canadian provinces.

It apparently has not yet occurred to this body of forty-five seriously minded women, who have been willing to abandon the after noon bridge table to share in serious discussions having for their object an uplift and re-formation of our out-of-date school system, that their very existence entitles them to claim a small share of the silver lining. Possibly they do not realize that but a decade ago a suggestion to form such an organization would have been laughed to scorn. Already not only have they brought to fruition two valuable improvements in the lighting system and safety from fire hazards in our city schools but they have impressed the mind of the public with the pressing need of a high school in Charlottetown and for a change from the one room country school to larger units in which a higher grade of teachers, better paid and better qualified, will instruct the children of the rising generation.

These are matters of basic importance to the future of the whole Island and too much praise cannot be given to these women for devoting their time and brains to the cause. It is well in this connection to remember that as a rule governments do not initiate and that the first word must come from the people and so it is that, confident of a widespread change of feeling, there is good reason to expect that our Premier as Minister of Education will introduce some special legislation during the approaching meeting of the Legislature. Let us then give full credit to our lady friends and wish them long life and steady growth in numbers and vision in whatever channels of Island progress to which they may turn their minds.

On behalf, nevertheless, of the sterner sex to whom I presume that the challenge has been issued, I am going to assume at least some of the responsibility for a reply, leaving it for others better qulified to enter the ring as champion for the Island as a whole. Personally I can see a great change of feeling today from that which existed a decade ago. No longer does one hear on the street that oft repeated epithet, "Why worry, no one cares a hoot." Hoot, I presume, expresses a minus quantity of some nature. People today do care not a hoot but a great deal. Our government, our business and professional men are making plans for many important changes so soon as the war permits the required supplies and labour. Prince Edward Island is to have a full share in the new world betterments. Already a whole series of special plans are being thought out, outlined in writing, and discussed by men of experience. Moreover a real challenge is being issued to these committee men by the people as a whole who will not be satisfied with excuses and palliatives such as was the case after the First World War.

In another letter I shall, with your consent, outline some of the more important plans and undertakings that may be expected as a means of improving conditions in agriculture, the fisheries, manufacturing, and of course in business.

I am, sir, etc.,
H. K. S. HEMMING.

WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME

Sir,—Could you spare a little space in your paper for a few questions.

Is Mr. Jones afraid to take away the script from the doctors, or is the Government bound by any means to supply doctors with scripts? Any doctor today should be able to make a living without that donation.

It is understood a script is issued for a medical purpose only. How many are, and how often are they issued and the issuer knowing very well it is for bootlegging business?

The boys are coming home now and when you meet them and welcome them home, this is what they say: "It is nice to be home but what is the matter with Prince Edward Island? Are we ever going to be in line with other provinces and get rid of Prohibition? They can't drink shine or home-made beer full of lye, or rubbing alcohol, lemon extract, shaving lotion and orange extract.

Some one said, "What a country," but the country is fine; it is its operation that is awful, and it is time now for a change.

I am, Sir, etc.,
DAN PERRY.

The Poets' Corner

NIGHT THOUGHTS IN SPRING

Peace, and the quiet pulse of midnight, beating
To the sweet breath, the soft, sweet breath of Spring!
Here, in the hour when Life and Death are meeting,
Death seems a little thing

Creation's strife this hour has lost its violence
In Nature's peace. On earth and sky there broods
The long glance of the moon that sweeps the silence
Of midnight solitudes . . .

This is the hour when Beauty seems eternal,
When Life and Death are neither gain nor loss
The astral eyes of midnight, undiurnal,
View all that is and was.

—Thomas Saunders.

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ATTENTION TRUSS WEARERS

To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a truss we ask the question. Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style—out grown its usefulness so to speak thus causing untold agony, then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up to date one. All sizes and styles at prices to suit everybody.

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