THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1942.

Britain's Share

Axis propagandists in the United States are doing a good deal of biting at the heels of the British. They keep on snarling, "Well, what are the British doing?" A Washington correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune was annoyed by this, and thought he would find out for himself what the British are doing. What he found out he had vouched for by American authorities aware of what the British are doing.

When Lord Halifax gave a New York audience recently a picture of what Britain is doing to whip the Axis, he is said by the Washington correspondent to have understated the facts. He did not, for instance, give the answer to the sixth columnist who complains that the Americans gave too many airplanes and tanks to Britain to leave enough now for the U. S.

But, "for every bomber and fighter airplane that Great Britain acquired from abroad during 1941, she exported nearly five to the battle lines in the Far East, in Libya, in Russia, and elsewhere.."

And as to tanks: "Fifteen tanks went out from the British Isles for every one imported. True enough, Great Britain fell short on the tanks promised to Russia up to the end of Januray. Yes, she fell short by one single tank!"

Still rumor snaps at the British effort. It is claimed that Britain owed its victories to aircraft it did not make. The Washington correspondent says the answer to that is: "Of the aircraft that defended the British Isles against so many raids, 89 per cent were British-made. Of the aircraft that won victories for British forces overseas, 75 per cent were British-made. And of the casualties in the R. A. F. and squadrons serving with it, 75 per cent were suffered by fighters from the United Kingdom."

He might have added, too, suggests an exchange, that the great expansion in the U. S. aircraft industry is the result of orders placed there by Britain and France in the war's early days. That foresight is now paying 26 nations big dividends.

Saved By New Drug

Thousands of lives are being saved in Russia's armies by treating their wounds with the group of drugs known as the sulphonamides including the famous M. & B.. 693, says the British Industries Bulletin. Supplies of it have formed part of shipments of drugs despatched from Britain to Russia.

In bombed cities as on battlefields many lives can be lost from the infection of wounds. When the wounded have to be carried long distances, as in Russia, or wait their turn for surgical operations, it may be too late to prevent extension of the infection and the deadly bacteria from circulating through the blood stream.

About three years ago American surgeons showed that one of the sulphonamide group, known as sulphanlamide, could be applied in powder form directly to a wound and that, if this was done in the early stages, infection of the wound could be prevented. Early in the war this procedure was developed by British Army doctors in France, but it was in London's air raids, with hundreds of people receiving dirty wounds like those of battlefields, that a more complete body of clinical data was first obtained.

Reserve Army Pay

Pay for the Canadian reserve army, now being enlarged and revitalized, will continue on the existing basis, at rates slightly below those of the active army Basic pay for privates in the reserve is $1.20 a day against $1.30 a day for privates in the active army. Pay for higher ranks shows a corresponding deviation from that allowed the men of the active forces. Officers and men in the reserve army are entitled to rations and shelter at public expense while in training camps and transportation to and from camp. A training day at camp for pay purposes is 24 hours but for drill and training at local headquarters of their units the men are paid on the basis that a morning, afternoon or evening parade lasting two hours is equal to one-third of a day, and tactical exercise or field training lasting five hours or more is equal to a whole day. Church parades, small arms training periods of inspections, if they last two hours or more, are counted as half-days. No dependents' allowances are payable on behalf of men in the reserve army but they are entitled to pensions if killed or injured in the discharge of their military duties.

Not A Failure

Was Sir Stafford Cripp's mission to India a failure as claimed by so many of our contemporaries? By no means. The world at large and India in particular know more about the situation and the British policy than ever before. No longer does one read of British unwillingness to grant Home Rule or Dominion status; no longer does any responsible writer claim that the Hindus should have power to rule "on their own" irrespective of the Moslems and other minority groups. Instead, universal sympathy and appreciation are extended to the British for their patience, forebearance and vision in keeping control in the interest of peace and humanity. It is now generally realized and acknowledged that for Britain to hand India over to the Hindu Congress would be tragic and spell civil war, a return of the population to that state of savagery from which British rule and Christian missions rescued it. The world now knows that, and India too is aware of it.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Who is going to get the vote out for the plebiscite—a "slush fund" is unthinkable and unlikely?

* * * *

This day week we all will be voting "yes" to give the Government the authority they say they need.

* * * *

The new artillery and other home defence units should have plenty officers of more or less experience to fall back upon —so many, for one reason or another, had to remain at home.

* * * *

Imports of softwood lumber into the United States in 1941 were estimated at 1,183,335,000 feet as compared with 607,184,000 feet in 1940, an increase of 94.8 per cent, writes Mr. W. D. Wallace, Office of the Canadian Trade Commissioner in New York, in a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce. Canada was the principal source of supply, accounting for 99 per cent of the total imports.

* * * *

British government decided on Monday to limit the price of meals served in hotels and restaurants. The limits in each case were not announced. Sale of fish, game and poultry in hotels on specified days also is to be prohibited. Decision to limit the prices of meals followed a public protest against black marketing which, it was said, made much of its profit from the patronage of luxury clubs, hotels and restaurants willing to pay high prices for rationed foods. Meals are to be limited to three courses and now no food may be served after 11 p. m. except in night workers' canteens.

* * * *

It may be recalled that when Hitler visited Brest in 1940, the British fleet off shore immediately started to bomb the city. The Gestapo were convinced that the Fleet had been advised of the Furhrer's presence by pro-Allies, and started "a traitor hunt," without success but with much inconvenience to Free French symathizers. Again the Nazis are suspicious, and have notified the population of the coastal city to be ready for a proclamation of a state of siege without advance notice. The state of siege would be proclaimed because of "the existence of elements . . . . which might, when the moment appeared favorable, permit themselves to engage in manifestations which could have unpredictable repercussions," the German notice said. The declaration, published in the newspaper Depeche de Brest said the state of siege, if proclaimed, would last indefinitely.

* * * *

Sir Robert Peel, baronet, the twenty-one year old descendant of the British Prime Minister of that name is among the crew lost in the British warship sunk by the Japs in the Bay of Bengal. The original Sir Robert is historically famous for three achievements: He created the London Metropolitan Police who were designated "Bobbies" after his Christian name; he carried the legislation providing Catholic emancipation, and fathered the Free Trade policy which made Britain the dumping ground for the world's produce and led to millionaires and combines which have since cursed humanity. His great-great-great-grandson who has now sacrificed his life for his country, was like his ancestor educated at Harrow, whose "old school tie," Prime Minister Churchill also wears. Young Sir Robert intended entering law, but on the outbreak of the war joined the Navy, at the age of eighteen, as an ordinary seaman.

* * * *

The total sinkings from the outbreak of war to the end of 1941 were about 8.3 million tons. On the other hand it is probable that enemy losses of shipping for the same period have totalled not less than 5 to 6 million tons. The total world loss of sea-going merchant shipping due to the war may therefore be put at 13 to 14 million tons out of a pre-war total of 63 millions tons. This is offset by the partial replacement of tonnage by building in the British Empire, in neutral countries, and no doubt to some extent in enemy countries, and to the huge building program of the United States, which has provided about a million dead-weight tons in 1941 and will provide about 18 millon tons of new shipping over the next two years. On the debit side there is the longer haul imposed by the loss of safe passage through the Mediterranean. This has been estimated as a 30 per cent loss of efficiency to British Empire sea communications. A number of ships also, while they escaped sinking, have been damaged, but the delay to shipping imposed by the need of repair has been minimized. Assistance given by United States repair yards has been appreciable.

* * * *

Adolf Hitler, Fuehrer and Chancellor of Germany, born this date 1889; Austrian who fought for the Fatherland in the Great War, and afterwards organized the National Socialist Party (Nazis) advocating a Nazi state based on the concept of racial purity; non-Aryans, with minor exceptions, can not be members of the civil service or serve as journalists, and the number of them in the professions is limited; the economic system is that of the corporative state; trades unions and employers organizations are prohibited, being replaced by the German Front movement which includes labourers, employers alike; its foreign policy is aggression to place Germany over all; there was a plebiscite on Nov. 12, 1933, after the Government's withdrawal from the League of Nations to vote on two questions: (1) Whether they endorsed the Hitler Government, and (2) whether they would vote for the Nazi list of candidates—the only list put before them —for new members of the Reichstag; on question (1) 93.4 voted "yes," and on question (2) 92.2 voted in the affirmative; since then Hitler has done what he liked which was not to the liking of any other nation on earth except Japan.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The censor won't let you discuss the weather, but there's nothing wrong in saying that a load of wood, coal or sawdust is a fine thing if you can get it. — Vancouver Province.

Regardless of how Ontario will fare as the result of having surrendered important taxing rights to the Federal Government, it is in a fortunate position with regard to gasoline tax revenue. The Dominion Government has guaranteed to maintain the same revenue annually to this province that was realized during the year ending March 31, 1941. That sum was $26,0 8,290, a much greater amount than could be obtained from this source under gasoline rationing and voluntary denials in use of this commodity. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The other day, on the radio, Lyman Bryson presented a pretty good definition of education. "Education," he said, "is, in fact, anything that we do for the purpose of taking advantage of the experience of some one else." The definition is of that particularly stimulating kind which tempts one to expand it into an essay. This, in fact, is precisely what Mr. Bryson himself proceeded to do. But it would be perhaps more educational if each one of us expanded it into an essay out of his own experience. Which reminds one that the reason some people are chronically uneducable is that they fail to take advantage not only of the experience of others but even of their own. — New York Times.

A number of readers have sent us "Can you tell me?" letters about the removal of iron railings and fences. So far we have heard of no opposition to the work itself. What we have been told, however, is that where iron gates have been removed hooks or hinges have been cut through in some instances, with the result that householders who wish to fit temporary gates have to remove the stumps from the posts or walls, and try to have hooks replaced. Others say that stonework or brickwork is damaged during removal of railings. We were under the impression that actual damage would be made good, and were shown one estimate for £4 for repairs after rails worth ten shillings as scrap had been taken away. There may have been special circumstances in that particular case, and we express no opinion on it, but we do know there is some anxiety among householders about what is to happen to their gardens now that the dogs can have a free run over them. — Sheffield Telegraph.

In a historic London hall built from timber of Trafalgar men of war, Czechoslovakia has just shown how she has harnessed her experience to the war service of British industry. One manufacturer was forced to leave his leather factory in Czechoslovakia within two hours, leaving all his equipment behind him. "I brought only what was in my own head," he says. Today he is producing boots and shoes for the Army Navy, A T S. and W.A.A.F. Another leather manufacturer is working at full pressure on flying helmets for the Royal Air Force. A compatriot is turning out buttons. A second who had a chocolate factory with branches in Austria and Poland, is supplying canteens in Britain. Others are making textiles, infrared ray apparatus, furniture. One Czechoslovak master brewer is even brewing lager of the Pilsner type in Manchester. Processes new to Britain have come in with the exiles. An engineering firm has a new alloy, light as aluminum. The formula is a secret, for it is being used on war work. By another process non-conductive materials, such as wood, plastic and fibre, can now be electro-plated, thus saving much metal. — British Industries Bulletin.

Women are making coins in Britain's Royal Mint for the first time in its centuries of history. Now numbering nearly a quarter of the total workpeople, they have learnt the process of coming backwards. First they were put on the "overlooking" machine, with its slowly moving belt on which the newly minted coins are spread out for inspection. Then the women went to the presses, which in one operation impress the blank coinage on both sides and, in some coins, mill round the edge. A coin which is helping to win the war is the 12-sided three-penny piece of nickel-brass. It contains less than a quarter of the metal in three pennies, and their copper is needed for munitions. No pennies have been struck for United Kingdom use since June, 1940, which at that time meant a saving of over 800 tons of copper a year. But last year saw the minting of 60,000,000 nickel-brass threepennies, the highest total in any year since they were first issued in 1937, when 45 million were struck. In 1938, 15 million were issued; in 1939, 5,600,000 and in 1940 13,000,000 There are now about 150,000,000 of them in circulation compared with about 3,000 million bronze coins and 1,350 million silver coins. — From the British Industries Bulletin.

A "shipwreck suit" is the latest British invention for saving seamen's lives. It is made of a bright yellow rubberised material in two parts — combined trousers and overshoes and a hood and coat. The coat sleeves are long enough to cover the hands, and slits in the trouser legs allow the limbs to be taken out easily for massage. The hood is used as a carrier for the complete outfit, which weighs 3 lbs. 6 ozs. It is to be worn in lifeboats or on rafts and its bright yellow colour shows up the shipwrecked to rescue ships and aircraft. The inventor is Mr. Thomas Metcalfe, O B E., who is Administrative Principal in charge of the life-saving appliances of the Ministry of Transport. The electric light fitting now used for life-saving waistcoats was also Mr. Metcalfe's idea: the light is clipped to the collar strap, and the watertight battery, lasting for ten hours, is kept in a pocket. The Society of Arts has awarded Mr. Metcalfe a £50 prize for his shipwreck suit. This prize has been given annually since 1926 for inventions "advancing the science or practice of navigation:" last year it went to the inventor of portable radio equipment for lifeboats. It is a bequest from Thomas Gray whose father wrote the well-known rhymes for teaching seamen the rules of navigation, including the familiar "Green to Green, or Red to Red. Perfect safety—go ahead!" — British Industries Bulletin.

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.

CORRESPONDENT SOUGHT

Sir,—I am writing to you to request your aid in helping me obtain a correspondent in Prince Edward Island. I feel that at times like the present friendship between the peoples of Canada and the United States is of most importance. In this regard, I feel that an exchange of ideas and knowledge of ways of life is of paramount importance. Since I know so little about Prince Edward Island, I have selected Charlottetown and your newspaper (the name of which I found in "The Canada Gazeteer") to aid me in obtaining a correspondent. I hope that this letter will not go unanswered.

I am 20 years old and a student at Canisius College. I am interested in sports, music, reading, the theater, etc. I am willing to write to either boy or girl, soldier or civilian who would care to correspond.

Thanking you in advance for any aid that you might give me.

I am, Sr, etc.,
JACOB F. YOUNG
116 Garfield St.,
Buffalo, New York.

A WASTE OF GASOLINE

Sir,—Why should the Government give hundreds of gallons of gas to agents running around the country, when the merchant men say they are not wanted? They say we can order our own goods through the mail and save all that gas. They only take up our time "chewing the rag." Why not call in all the old number plates of cars? It is a waste to have them put in the scrap pile. Why not have the plates painted in place of being stamped? They would be cheaper to prepare and would last for a year as usual. Why should doctors and veterinaries have any more gas than the farmer who has to use his car in place of his horses? Farmers have not got driving horses now as in the time of no cars; their horses are plugs for the field. Doctors and "Vets." must keep a horse for winter; why not use him in the summer? Anyway the horse is too slow. Still, there are just as many people dying as when the horse was used on the road. Why should a car be registered every year? One registration should be enough till that car is ready for the scrap pile. If car licenses were set at five dollars to cover expense and gas raised two cents more it would be better for the car owners and the Government would get the same returns. There would be more gas bought and the people would all get a square deal. Now if I buy a license for fifteen dollars and I drive 1,000 miles, my friend pays his fifteen dollars and drives 5,000 miles. If the gas put in cars cost him more money we would be all used alike and the Government would get the returns from the extra price on gas.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FARMER
Cape Traverse, P. E. I.

PRAYER IN WARTIME

Sir,—Rev. Gordon Powell, M. A., B.D., Asst. Minister of Scots Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Australia, has contributed an interesting article to the "Messenger" on "National Prayer." He says: "We have had four days of prayer at the request of the King, and one at the request of our Australian Prime Minister. What good have they done? Recently I went carefully through the newspaper files to see what had happened after each day of prayer.

"I found a strange thing, namely, that in the week immediately following each day of prayer there came phenomenal and often unexpected events of a kind definitely favorable to the Empire and the Allies. At the same time I discovered that a month after each day of prayer other events were recorded entirely unfavorable to the Allied cause. How can we explain this curious but regular sequence? It occurs to me that it is just as in the days of Moses in the fight against the Amalekites, when on the mountain top near by he lifted up his hands in prayer the Israelites prevailed. When he grew weary (or perhaps confident or even apathetic) and stopped praying they were defeated."

The results of his investigations were as follows:

"The first Day of Prayer fell on May 26, 1940, when with amazing spontaneity, people all over the Empire flocked to Church. The newspapers for the following week recorded the successful Dunkirk evacuation. But a month later France had collapsed.

"In some areas the Second Day of Prayer on September 8, 1940, met an even greater response. In the week that followed there were recorded the indescribable air raids on London, when Mr. Churchill said, "Never was so much owed by so many to so few," and exactly a week later we find the R. A. F. bringing down 185 German planes in one day. But a month afterwards the shipping position had suddenly grown desperate.

"Exactly four days after the third Day of Prayer on March 23, 1941, the people of Yugoslavia suddenly and most unexpectedly revolted against their own Government and upset Hitler's timetable. But a month later the British and Allied forces were in full retreat from Greece.

"We gathered for prayer on September 7, 1941, and it was on September 11 that President Roosevelt delivered his momentous broadcast to the world, in which he announced his "shoot-on-sight" policy for the American Navy. Since that time the food ration in England steadily increased. But a month later we were reading with heavy hearts that Odessa was on fire and had capitulated.

"November 16, 1941.—In Australia we gathered once more for prayer. Within a few days the successful advance in Libya began. A month later our cities were in darkness." (Jsh. 3:1) Joshua rose early to lead Israel over Jordan.

(2 Kings 19:35) Israel rose early and found their enemies dead.

(Mark 1:35) The Son of God rose early to go to a solitary place to pray.

I am, Sir, etc.,
READER
Hampton, P. E. I.

The Poets' Corner

AN APRIL MORNING

Once more in misted April
The world is growing green,
Along the winding river
The plumey willows lean.

Beyond the sweeping meadows
The looming mountains rise,
Like battlements of dreamland
Against the brooding skies.

In every wooded valley
The buds are breaking through,
As though the heart of all things
No langour ever knew.

The golden wings and bluebirds
Call to their heavenly choirs,
The pines are blued and drifted
With smoke of brushwood fires.

And in my sister's garden
Where little breezes run,
The golden daffodillies
Are blowing in the sun.

—Bliss Carman.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"We stand in a frightful menace and terrible danger." —W. C. Woodward, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Rebuilding Coventry

(Victoria, B. C., Colonist)

In bomb-shattered Coventry a housing committee has evolved a new type of construction for houses which it is claimed is damp-proof, rot-proof, vermin-proof and fire-proof. Moreover, the construction is so staunch that a house will stand up to a 500-pound bomb exploding thirty feet away. It is not said what material is being used but needless to say it is not wood, and the use of steel has been reduced to the minimum. In Coventry, too, they have designed what are called home-shelters which, after the war, can be converted into two-story houses or bungalows at little expense. The opportunity of the destruction that has been wrought is being taken advantage of to make a much more up-to-date city. They are going to have roads to suit modern traffic, with proper parking arrangements and with the road junctions reduced to a minimum. It will not be necessary to take up the roads to get at the mains, and shoppers will not have to cross traffic streets. All these things are to be done when the time is ripe. Meantime experimental houses of the type needed have been built and a scheme for the construction of 2,000 of these has been presented to the Ministry of Health and approved. It is hoped to build the houses on mass production lines.

Vote "Yes"

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The ultimate test of a democracy is the readiness of its citizens to register their opinion on public affairs. We think enough of our democracy to fight for it. Do we think enough of it to get out and vote on April 27? And, of course, to vote "Yes".

Voters are notoriously lazy. But this occasion of the plebiscite is so important that every man and woman who has a vote should make use of it on April 27. This result will not occur unless there is drive and leadership in the campaign. Upon every member of Parliament, upon every citizen of public office and influence in every community, there rests a great responsibility to organize the vote to get it out. The survey of the activities of the Manitoba federal M.P.'s made by the Free Press does not indicate much action yet.

Any member of Parliament who does not work to get out the affirmative vote with the same fierce energy he employs when his own election is at stake is not worth his salt to Canada. He, together with the representatives of every other political party in the country must be out day and night organizing this campaign. If he does not do so, his repeated votes and speeches in Parliament count only as empty words, his ringing declarations about the need to smash Hitlerism can be written off as so much sound.

If any community takes no or-

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The "No" vote, such as it is, will be dictated solely by narrow personal and selfish considerations. Those who vote "No", no matter how they may rationalize their action, will be persons who place a higher value on their own safety than they do upon the safety of the state. Their negative vote will be cast with the deliberate purpose of limiting the war effort of Canada. Most of them will say that they are voting against conscription. They will be doing nothing of the sort. They will be voting to tie the Government down. Mr. King has repeatedly said that the issue is solely one of effecting release from pledge. The use to which that release may or may not be used will depend upon the future course of the war when remains hidden from us. But Mr. King pointed out very wisely on Tuesday night that, if we do not do all we can to help our allies, we cannot ask them, in the hour of our own extremity to help us. We will be left, 11,000,0000 helpless citizens to protect alone one of the richest prizes coveted by our barbaric and ruthless foes If the common sense of this proposition does not appeal to every citizen of Canada, it is difficult to imagine what argument would.

* * * *

A "Yes" vote, on the other hand frees the Government from the pledges which it made when war broke out. It will be more than this. It will be added proof that Canada means business It will win us friends and sympathizers all over the world. Per contra, a "No" vote will please nobody but Berlin Tokyo and Rome. In those three capitals, where the darkness of tyranny lies impenetrable, the rejoicing will be loud and prolonged. This plain fact should be remembered by anyone in Canada to whom the issue of the plebiscite is not yet clear. It is a rough test but an accurate one: what gives comfort to the enemy is bad.

We do not believe that the Canadian people will return a negative majority. But we believe profoundly that an impressive affirmative majority is needed to convince both the outside world and our own "No" minority that the nation is determined to let nothing stand in the way of victory. Every "Yes" ballot adds to the size of that majority; and that is why it is so important for each one of us on April 27 to go to the polling booth and add our votes to the weight of the national answer.

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