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

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 1, 1943.

Equally Responsible

Running through all the local Liberal election propaganda is the emphasis placed on the fact that there has been a change of Liberal political masters—that the Jones Government is a new government and, inferentially, is not responsible for the political sins of its predecessors the Campbell administration. Hence the alleged reason for calling the election at this time — to get a new mandate.

All this is interesting as evidence that there is a wide split between the Jones group and many who were prominent under the Campbell Government. But this does not in any way relieve Premier Jones and his colleagues of their responsibility in supporting the Liberal government which has been in power for the last eight years. Notwithstanding their occasional criticism of the administration, it was noticeable that in the last election campaign they forgot all their differences and were as partisan in their support of the Campbell Government as it was possible to be. Similarly, when voting in the Legislature, they either voted with the Government on political issues, or discretely absented themselves.

There is really no more reason for the Jones Government to call itself a new administration and seek a fresh mandate before the expiry of its term on this ground, than there was for Premier Campbell to do so when he took over office after the death of Premier Lea. In one case as in the other, the government continues though the personnel be changed. The fact that Premier Jones and his chief colleagues, Messrs. Barbour and Hughes, were mere back-benchers under the Campbell regime doesn't alter the situation one iota.

Safeguard Of Liberty

Rt.Hon. Lord Wright told the Canadian Bar Association Convention at Winnipeg last week that the safeguard of British liberty is the supremacy of law, which can be changed only by the act of a free and responsible Legislature. Lawyers and judges know this. They have watched Government authority delegated by Order-in-Council to all kinds of bodies and individuals having no responsibility to the Legislature; and as surely as a governmental bureaucracy never relinquishes what it can hold an unneeded proportion of these bodies will stick permanently.

The Bar Association, suggests the Globe and Mail, advisedly might start a revival in the manner of the evangelical crusader to prepare people to return to first principles. The ballot has been losing its significance when, in times like these, it should be more precious than ever. Thus the first step in responsible government is halting; and it follows that if the electors don't care the legislators will take the easy way, which is always to obey the bosses. The Bar wants the country administered through legal enactments rather than bureaucratic regulations, and undoubtedly would prefer laws that reflect the will of the people through elected representatives. At present the operation of many laws on the statute books is suspended. The danger is that four, five or six years of this sort of government will make dead letters of too many laws unless there is an awakening of the public conscience on responsibility.

The Food Situation

Agricultural productivity in Canada has suffered marked impairment at a time when food requirements are greater than ever before. The problem is dealt with somewhat pessimistically by a writer in the current Canadian Business. High farm production goals set by official authorities for the current year—for example, about 20 per cent increase over 1942 in meats and eggs and 6 per cent in dairy products—will not be realized, says this writer. Indeed, there will be serious deficiencies in certain foodstuffs, immediately in canned goods and fresh soft fruits and perhaps later in such staples as dairy products and meats. Unless the food requirements for war purposes (which the writer estimates as 25 per cent of total production after allowing for exports, domestic, military and naval stores and the heavier diets of hundreds of thousands of people engaged in more strenuous work than in normal times) are curtailed, the civilian population will have to do with both a smaller variety and volume of foodstuffs than it now has at its disposal. The present indications are that the war requirements will increase rather than decrease, for one reason, because Canada should provide her share of the additional supplies needed to maintain the Allies' fighting forces in Europe, Africa and the Pacific area and to supplement the subnormal diets of the countries freed of the Axis' yoke.

Farm purchasing power—cash income less farm costs—improved between 1932 and 1939 but in the early autumn of the last-mentioned year was still below normal, 83 per cent of 1926, when agriculture enjoyed its best all-round year. Financial reserves for new undertakings were therefore insufficient, particularly for adequate replacement of depreciated implements and machinery, to say nothing of additional equipment. Before farm purchasing power had been restored to a normal level the supply of all mechanical equipment had been drastically curtailed. Thus, farmers' purchases in the five-year period 1936-40, estimated as about half those in 1928, were insufficient to replace material worn out in the early 1930's. Last year the supply of new equipment was cut by one-fifth, and this year to one-third of that available in 1940. The supply of parts for repairs, however, was fixed at 65 per cent more than in 1940.

Another serious problem is that of farm labor shortage, which will likely increase as the war continues.

The estimate of the Canadian Business writer for crop production—fodder, grains, roots and vegetables—for all Canada is about one-third below that of last year's bumper output. The immediate supply of food will not be reduced proportionately, for with record livestock holdings, good pasturage and reserve feed stocks, the volume of meats and dairy products can be maintained at, even slightly increased above, the present level. But it is predicted that the overall supply of food will decline in the next few months by at least 10 per cent, and that the civilian population will find an even greater cut in its diet before the next crop year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Germany began the war by invading Poland this date 1939.

* * * *

St. Giles Day; he was the abbot who founded the hermitage of St. Gilles in France; lived in the 7th Century, and is recognized as the patron saint of lepers, cripples and beggars.

* * * *

The Island's output of creamery butter was well over a million and a half pounds in the first six months of the year, the total—1,522,237 pounds comparing with 1,074,433 pounds in the similar period of last year, an increase of 41.7 per cent.

* * * *

Saying that the seaborne invasions of North Africa and Sicily were on a scale thought by many to be utterly impossible, Mr. A. V. Alexander, British First Lord of the Admiralty, said: "Literally we have moved tanks and aircraft in their thousands, mechanical vehicles in their hundreds of thousands, and men in their millions."

* * * *

According to Labour Minister Mitchell agreements have been made with all provinces that all costs of transporting help to farms, and other costs except those of moving workers from one province to another, will be shared equally by the Dominion and the province concerned. Facilities of the employment and selective service officers would be used in the program and an agricultural employment adviser would be appointed for each employment region. Details of the program would vary with the needs and extent of the farm labor in the different provinces. The aim this year was to furnish not only seasonal help for peak labor periods on farms but to provide the experienced help needed by dairy and livestock farmers in order to maintain maximum production. Nothing of this seems to have happened here, so far.

* * * *

The major responsibility of sending food to Russia and North Africa has been undertaken by the United States, while Britain sends the kind of supplies she can better spare. This means that, while America will try to make up British depleted reserve stocks, she cannot expect the ample and varied quotas she has received in the past. Britain may even have to accept further ration cuts and a reduction in points values. Ultimately the state of the national larder must depend upon military requirements and the shipping situation, which no man can accurately forecast, though at present the U-boat threat seems under control.

* * * *

Four fines amounting to $5,000, and costs totalling about $23, were levied against Gross Woollens Limited, 9 St. Catherine Street, Montreal, when the company, through counsel, admitted four charges of violating Wartime Prices and Trade Board Regulations. Two charges were that the company sold or offered for sale textile materials to its licensed customers at prices higher than the highest lawful prices at which it sold goods of the same kind and quality during the basic period. The other two accusations were for selling or offering for sale to unlicensed customers textile materials not similar to those it sold during the basic period, and upon which it was required by law to have a price fixed, and upon which it failed and neglected to have prices so fixed. The defence explanation prompted Judge Archambault to impose four fines of $1,000 each and costs. Mr. Leon Crestohl, representing the W. P. T. B., and defence counsel pointed out that they had agreed that fines totalling $5,000 and costs should be assessed. Accordingly, fines of $1,250 and costs were imposed in each case, constituting one of the heaviest fines levied against a single individual or firm for violating wartime regulations.

* * * *

A joint war aid committee of Canada and the U. S. has been set up to "study problems arising out of operations of the U. S. lend-lease plan and Canada's mutual aid program." Where necessary it will make recommendations regarding either or both of the plans to "the proper authorities." The "initial membership" of the committee was given as follows: Canadian members — E. P. Taylor, deputy member of the Canadian section of the Combined Production and Resources Board; L. P. Pearson, minister counsellor of the Canadian Legation in Washington; J. B. Craswell, director general of the Washington office of the Department of Munitions and Supply, and Maj.-Gen. Maurice Pope, chairman of the Canadian Joint Staff. U. S. members — Maj.-Gen. J. H. Burns, executive of the Munitions Assignment Board of Great Britain and the U. S., who will be committee chairman; W. L. Batt of the War Production Board, committee vice-chairman; J. D. Hickerson, assistant chief of the European division, Department of State, Arthur V. Van Buskirk, deputy administrator in the Lend-Lease administration, and Brig.-Gen. B. C. Wright, director of the international aid division, Army Service Forces.

Notes By The Way

If your gasoline tank runs dry remember that our soldiers crawl up those Sicilian hills. —Chicago Daily News.

It takes seven pounds of corn to make a pound of pork on the hoof. But you can make 236 muffins from seven pounds of corn. The lesson in this is that civilians must eat more grain and vegetable products, less meat. The idea is to substitute direct consumption of field crops for indirect consumption in the form of meat.— Vancouver Sun.

Where the coasts of Burma and India meet a soldier's helmet became a baptismal font when four soldiers decided they wished to be baptized. On a gun position at Donbaik, the padre performed his strangest baptism ceremony. He learned that four never had been baptized. He explained the significance of baptism and asked them to think it over. Back they came a little later, and there in the jungle, with a steel helmet as their font, they were baptized.

As Mussolini has gone, so, too, will go Hitler and all his kind. There is no place in this modern world for dictators. The Hitlers and Mussolinis and such other gangsters are but a passing phase in the onward march to human freedom—everywhere. The road ahead is long and hard, and the goal is far away. But that is mankind's destiny.— Detroit Free Press.

The News-Record of Fergus, Ont., reports the auction sale of a popular type of coupe, 1931 model, for $320, adding that a year ago its selling value was about $50. It used to be that an auto began to decline in value the moment it was driven auto of the salesroom, but now it would seem that it becomes more valuable with age. Maybe the old law of supply and demand is at work.— Montreal Gazette.

A paste containing thirty-three percent sodium fluoride has shown promising results in relieving toothache due to exposed dentin, common cause of dental pain, it is reported to the American Dental Association by Drs. William H. Hoyt and Basil G. Bibbyv of Boston. "After short treatments," they say, "teeth that had caused trouble for years ceased to be sensitive." Use of the chemical was first suggested by Dr. E. H. Lukomsky of the First Moscow State Medical Institute. The treatment, it was added, has also been used successfully in relieving pain in sensitive areas caused by preparing cavities for filling. The cavity is first soaked with two weak solutions of the sodium fluoride before the thirty-three percent paste is applied, otherwise the application of the paste causes intense pain and a sensation of extreme cold for a short time. No logical explanation can be offered yet as to why sodium fluoride has this remarkable effect and, since it is a toxic drug, dentists are warned to use the treatment with caution pending further study. —Exchange.

The psychological effects of the Chinese war include the development of national unity and a national spoken language, and the elevation of the standing of soldiers in popular esteem.—Exchange.

Nine of 21 youths rounded up in Windsor as chronic loafers, and ordered to accept employment through Selective Service or face terms in a work camp, have given a demonstration of their worthlessness by disappearing. All that remains to be done is to run them down again and give them a taste of forced labor. Circumstances surrounding their case show that they had not even a shadow of excuse for their refusal to accept employment. They just do not like work, so they have taken what they think is the easiest way out. Obviously, they must not be permitted to get away with it. A roundup of work-shy young men now is under way in many parts of the Dominion, and if it is to succeed no flouting of authority can be tolerated. The country needs their labor. And they have shown that they are sadly in need of the discipline that goes with employment.— Windsor Star.

An unnamed writer in the summer issue of that invaluable British quarterly, "The Countryman", comments upon the lasting quality of timber found in some of the old buildings of England, instancing that, under favorable circumstances, wood may prove as permanent as stone. Beech piling and oak spikes of Winchester Cathedral were in good condition, in 1906, after seven centuries had passed over their well knit fibers. And the beamed roof of Westminster Hall stands hardily, after being erected in 1399. "The Countryman's" correspondent tells, too, of piles under Holy Trinity church, at Hull, which are still sound for testing after having been put in place in the year 1270—displaying that traditional "heart of British oak" famed in wars.

I farm in Dorset in the West, in one of the smaller English counties, and mine is just a medium-sized farm. It is about a mile long by three-quarters of a mile wide. Most of the fields are about 20 acres in area, although they vary from a few small plots of two acres up to our biggest field of 43 acres. The hedges round the fields are of ash, hazel, and thorn. At least they were ash, hazel, and thorn when they were planted 200 years ago. Today 1,000 other shrubs and herbs have crept in—blackberries, wild roses, honeysuckle, bryony, clematis, primroses, violets: a careless abundance of lovely plants with lovely names. To those of you who do not know England, it is almost impossible to describe a Dorset hedge, while the exile, who hungers for it, could probably give me name for name in an endless list. —London Calling

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.

LIQUOR SITUATION "DENOUNCED"

Sir,—Owing to conditions existing in regard to the liquor business in this Province many of our citizens feel that a change of some kind is overdue. With the prevalence of illicit stills all over the Island and which are steadily on the increase, as well as the many tragic events happening every day or so, our Province has gained a very unenviable notoriety.

With an election coming next month the time seems opportune to obtain an expression of the electors as to whether it is advisable to continue the Canada Temperance Act or substitute therefore some other Act which might or might not improve conditions. In the opinion of a great many people things could not be worse and they are anxious that something be done to stop the slaughter of the innocent.

A questionaire could be placed on the ballot and thus eliminate any cost to the public.

Sincerely hoping that some action may be taken,

I am Sir, etc,
CHAS H. CHANDLER
Charlottetown, Aug. 31, 1943.

DUCK SHOOTING

Sir,—In the Public Forum of your issue of the 27th, I see "Sling Shot" endeavored to answer my sketch regarding duck shooting, I did not say anything about a longer season for shooting ducks, for the majority of farmers are willing to have ten days taken off the last of the season and made open ten days earlier.

Yes, Gunner is a farmer and a returned soldier of the last war and has a son in the R.C.A.F., of this war, and I do care whether the farmers have meat two days a week or three times a day, and my feet are not getting itchy, nor is my dog getting anxious to travel through fields or along shores looking for game for pastime. Even if this is a late season, it will be the only time the farmer can afford to go away to any extent with the gun. I don't think "Sling Shot" can understand the busy season on a farm when he mentions threshing and potato picking this time of the year. Further he mentioned using precious gasoline driving to ponds I may say I, like a lot more farmers, have no car and if the season opened on Sept. 10th it might be the means of saving gas which would be used in cars driving officials around the country.

I was talking to some of our members and they agreed with me on ten days earlier and they would do what they could in this line. Perhaps "Sling Shot" would like to know that I wrote my first letter on request of a dozen or more farmers in this locality, who do not go shooting just to wing a duck but often bring home enough to do their family for a week in one trip. I ask our members once more "whom the people elected" to take enough interest in the farmers who are the backbone of our little Island to have the shooting season open on Sept. 10th.

I am, Sir, etc
"GUNNER"

Low Bombing

Details, hithetro secret, of how ingenious Americans developed minimum altitude bombing, which contributed immeasurably to the Bismarck Sea triumph and the sweeping of Axis land and sea forces from North Africa and the Mediterranean, respectively, are revealed for the first time in the current issue of Collier's Weekly.

The new technique, more commonly known as skip bombing, has been so successful that it now is being used by American airmen in all parts of the world and taught to other United Nation's pilots, Henry F. Pringle states in the Collier's article. Minimum altitude bombing, put to the acid test in the Bismarck Sea last March when an entire convoy of 22 Jap ships was destroyed, "added enormously to the complete victory" and "demonstrated its worth beyond any question," says Pringle who adds: "The Japanese never knew what hit them."

In the Mediterranean thousands of tons of Axis shipping were sunk through minimum altitude bombing which was used more recently in the devastating American aerial blow against the vital Ploesti oil fields. For military reasons the complete stories of these successful exploits cannot yet be told.

The desire to devise some aerial weapon to destroy tanks started experiments which led to development and perfection of skip bombing. Working with others under the direction of Brigadier General Grandison Gardner, commandant of an Army Air Forces' proving ground in Florida, Colonel Sargent Huff soon provided the delayed fuse necessary for bombs used in minimum altitude attacks.

Next developed was a method for keeping bombs from skipping over a target, as frequently had happened in combat, when they were dropped at 10, 25, or 50 feet heights while a plane traveled 300 or so miles an hour. The working out of a method of sighting a target provided another obstacle which soon was overcome. While details of how this was done are military secrets, Pringle states that this much can be said:

"It is so simple that a pilot in a single-seater can hit a tank, a moving train or a ship and can correct his aim at the last second. Behind the method lay interminable calculations and experiments".

Bombs varying from 250 to 2,000 pounds, depending upon the target can be used in skip bombing which can be carried out by most any gets in the Bismarck Sea, Lieut. Colonel Ernest C. Young of Still-kind of plane except those that are heavy and slow. In the respect that it can continually change its course until three seconds before bomb release time, a skip bomber has a decided advantage over a torpedo plane which must stay on the target for at least 30 seconds before firing.

"The minimum altitude bomber is in no comparable danger from antiaircraft," Pringle writes. "... the pilot is flying so low that larger antiaircraft guns, difficult to swing and depress, cannot hit him at the range involved".

A skip bomber pilot varies his attack in accordance with the nature of his target. Then by calculating his height, speed and distance from the objective he can layed fuse gives him time to escape drop a bomb so that it will either hit a target on the fly, or strike ground or water—whatever the case may be—before continuing on to from the subsequent explosion. pierce the object desired. The de-water, Oklahoma, found his on

Just as planes found their tar-land while flying between 300 and 400 miles an hour over Pantelleria island in the Mediterranean, says Pringle who adds:

"He dropped one bomb, from 10 feet, about 50 feet in front of a gun emplacement and scored a direct hit. Soon afterward, still scraping the ground, he saw the opening of an underground hangar. The Colonel, according to the official report, was seen 'popping one squarely into the underground hangar as blithely and skillfully as a youngster skips pebbles across a pond."

The Poets' Corner

MISSING

You are but absent from assembled ranks
And from the wounded taken from the field
And from the numbered dead — but not from thanks
Of people with a truth too great to yield.
You are a part of something that is made
Of faith beyond the creed, of courage born
Or more than strength, your steps in this crusade
Missed now, where marching feet a road have worn.

That road leads on to victory; you stepped
Too firmly there for any to forget—
And hope returns to eyes that long had wept . . .
You are but absent on a mission yet
To be disclosed; accompanied you will be
By One who journeyed from Gethsemane.

—Glenn Ward in the New York Times.

Soldiers As Ballot Ammunition

(Windsor Star)

The Dominion Government is trying to help the Liberals in the current provincial election campaign in Prince Edward Island. Premier J. Walter Jones made a special trip to Quebec to confer with Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King. Following that confab, which was sandwiched in between the war discussions, Mr. Jones returned to announce the Prince Edward Island election would be on Wednesday, September 15.

Battalions of the Reserve Army have been moved from the mainland to camp in Prince Edward over-burdened transport facilities to the island, but it has brought some additional spending money to the island stores and business concerns. During their fortnight's vacation, the reserve men spend quite a bit.

That is just one of the little boosts the Dominion Government has been giving Mr. Jones, who stands behind Mr. King, just as Harry C. Nixon of Ontario stood behind Mr. King.

There is no C.C.F. or other third party in Prince Edward Island. The Progressive Conservatives Island. This has taxed the already composed of former Conservatives, are running against the Liberals. Ottawa will keep an eye on the result, because Ottawa never takes an eye off the ballot boxes.

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