

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1940.

What! No Santa Pals?

No, not necessarily, but The Guardian this year is leaving the field to generous souls who are praiseworthy providing for the little ones whom Santa Claus may otherwise overlook.

After consultation with people who are in a position to know, The Guardian is advised that organizations like the Dispensary, the Salvation Army, and the various women's associations connected with the churches, are able and competent to provide for the wants of the poor little children who are naturally expectantly looking forward to Christmas for a visit from Santa Claus with the customary toys, fruit and candy.

Ever since 1916, "The Black Year" of the last war, The Guardian has fathered, with the active support of the priests, parsons and officers of all the churches and the Salvation Army, this Santa Pal movement. The lists of deserving cases were supplied by those in the best position to know the need, and the check on the respective lists provided by the Guardian staff prevented duplication. The Guardian was the clearing house as well as the receiving and distributing centre. Of recent years others offering their services in like capacity have generously entered the field, and we are now informed the various churches feel that they can attend to the Santa Claus end of the Christmas festivities for the children, as well as provide Christmas hampers of goodies for the grown-ups, which is all to the good. It rightly falls to the lot of the churches to do this work, and they will find infinite blessing and satisfaction in discharging it. For a quarter of a century it has been a labour of love to be associated with successive loyal bands of Santa Pals, and this makes it all the harder for the Guardian staff to make the break now. But we feel that our withdrawal of the community movement may make possible the further development of individual organizations and Congregational efforts in providing Pals with direct and personal contact with the recipients. In the Santa Pal Movement the individual recipients know not their benefactors as such, but only know them as Santa Pals.

The Separation Allowances and Soldiers' remittances together with the work provided at the Dispensary has seemingly left few in the unhappy position of being without the necessary means of providing for the realization of the expectations of their children on Christmas morning. These are not in that happy position, the churches feel that they themselves can do the needful. This being so, we trust there will be an abundant response to the appeals which may be made by the Dispensary, the Salvation Army and the various churches for so beneficent a purpose.

St. Andrew's Day

Prince Edward Island has a special interest in celebrating Saint Andrew's Day, this being the only Province in Canada, according to the 1931 Census, where the Scots lead the population. Their number is given at 22,480, with a total of 1,310,000 for all Canada. While the anniversary of the Saint falls today, the Caledonian Club celebration will take place on Monday night, which has been selected as a more convenient date.

A brother of Simon Peter, whom he brought to Jesus, Andrew was a faithful follower of his Master and a shining example of the virtues which have ennobled Christianity in all ages. Tradition accredits him with preaching in North Greece, Epirus and Scythia and being martyred at Patras in Achaia on a cross shaped like an X at about 70 A. D. The Cross of St. Andrew became the national banner of Scotland at an early date, and is woven into its history.

The traditional observance of St. Andrew's Day is a matter in which Scots, at home and abroad, continue to take fitting pride. It is this feeling of pride in, and reverence for the past, coupled with rectitude and initiative in his everyday dealings, which is characteristic of the Scot, and which he values more than rank, wealth or renown. These rewards he not infrequently obtains; but they are incidentals, not objectives to be sought after for their own sake.

There are, admittedly, other races possessing virtues of their own, and occasions when a Scotsman will magnanimously concede they should be celebrated. But not on St. Andrew's Day!

Those Garbage Cans

The present session of Parliament is allegedly sitting for the purpose of discussing the Government's conduct of the war, including, of course, the details of war contracts and all other relevant matters, wherever such details may safely be divulged. The Cabinet ministers have made speeches, replete with impressive generalities. But when Conservative Leader Hanson wanted to know how much the Defence Department paid for 26,000 garbage cans—a question which surely did not involve the betrayal of any state secret—he was told that this information couldn't be given; that it wouldn't be "in the public interest." This answer was received with astonishment in the House, and with ridicule throughout the country. Newspapers from coast to coast commented on it ironically, asking what value the details about garbage can purchases would be to Hitler. Finally the Government gave the answer. The garbage cans, purchased in December, 1939, cost between \$3.10 and \$3.95

each. The cans are presumably of superior quality; indeed they may be said to be, at that price, in the superlative class.

Mr. Hanson said he understood that some 900 of these superlative garbage cans were still in a storehouse in Saint John, although the Department had reported them as being in use. Defense Minister Power, in his belated statement about prices, replied that there had been "some misunderstanding". So far as the Ordnance Branch was concerned, the cans were in use when they were delivered to depot stores; but "they did not check up to find out when the cans actually went into use by the units."

The matter is insignificant compared with the millions of dollars involved in more important war purchases; but the principle of governmental responsibility is the same. And a new angle to the situation was revealed by the fact that some 20,000 of these garbage cans were bought from a firm of which Mr. G. K. Shiels, now Deputy Minister of Munitions and Supply, is the head. The transaction may have been perfectly legitimate, but, as one Opposition member said in Parliament on Thursday, "that sort of thing does not make for confidence or enthusiasm on the part of the people."

If firms headed by Deputy Ministers can get large contracts for garbage cans, they presumably are getting other war contracts. It would not be a bad idea if Parliament probed a little further into this matter, and demanded a list of the business connections of everyone associated with the Government in the distribution of war contracts. The humble garbage can will have served a useful purpose indeed if it arouses public interest in this matter.

Here in Prince Edward Island, where we have a well-equipped plant for turning out war material, there are idle lathe and idle workmen. No contracts, not even for garbage cans, are coming this way. Our sister Maritime Provinces are complaining that they, too, are being neglected in this regard. Our elected representatives seem to have no pull with the Government's army of bureaucrats at Ottawa!

A Dangerous Practice

The practice of children dragging on motor cars and playing on the icy streets was discussed as a matter of serious concern at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society. Almost every year it is necessary to call attention to this dangerous practice, and it is to be hoped, with the cooperation of the schools, the parents and the police that there will be no further need to complain of its prevalence this season. In other cities it is not, tolerated, and rightly so. Accidents are almost inevitable under such conditions. Street crossings are now dangerous enough for adult pedestrians, and it is simply courting trouble to allow children to use the streets as a playground. This is the time, before any serious accident has taken place, to bring precautionary measures to bear. The children can, and must, be taught to obey the law, for their own safety as well as others'.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Andrew's Day,
The pavement is dangerously slippery these days.

Queen Alexandra born tomorrow's date, 1814, died Nov. 20, 1925.

Special attention is directed to Newsy Notes by "Agricola" in this issue.

Not a few autoists got stalled at Borden en route to Charlottetown and Summerside this week.

General Lord Baden-Powell is now on the high road to recovery, and no further bulletins on his condition are being issued. The youths leader is eighty-three and resident in Kenya.

As the exigencies of his Parliamentary duties prevent the Hon. Cyrus MacMillan, Ph.D., M.P., attending the St. Andrew's Dinner here on Monday, the principal toast will be given by the Hon. Thane A. Campbell, LL.D.

Perhaps one of the objects of the recent visit of the Hon. Horace Wright, in the company of Mr. J. W. Boulter, to Ottawa was to introduce the prospective Premier to the powers-that-be. Hope "the once over" was satisfactory.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, G.B.E. born this date, 1906. She was formerly Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark; is Honorary Colonel of the Buckingham Bn., the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry; has two children, H.R.H. Prince Edward George Nicholas Paul Patrick, born Oct. 9, 1935; and H.R.H. Princess Alexandra Helen Elizabeth Olga Christabel, born Dec. 25, 1936.

"Despite the blackout and food restrictions," writes a correspondent, "London's night life is still the liveliest of any world capital, considering the fact that you get this excitement without a big cover charge, a paper hat or a fiddle. The other night I dined at one of London's most venerable restaurants, famous for its food, which is more solidly British than Winston Churchill and is trundled to your table on pushchairs on which Yorkshire pudding is hacked off under your nose. We had polished off some of this and were listening to an ancient waiter's explanation of why preserved ginger and Devonshire cream had had to be removed from the menu for the first time in eighty years when suddenly there was a tremendous bang outside. It brought all the diners to their feet and was followed in about three seconds by another explosion about seven and three-eighths times more tremendous. I stood up in time to see the dignified clients and the august waiters diving under tables and chairs for safety—that is, with the exception of a very corpulent client who had just come in and was trying to crawl under a head waiter who was escorting him to a table. He might well have succeeded had not the head waiter been engaged in trying to crawl under him. Never in any country have I seen the social classes mix more thoroughly or more quickly."

NOTES BY THE WAY

English newspapers are printing letters from refugee children in Montreal and other Canadian centres, the tenor of the epistles being that this is a "grand country" and that the people are kind and friendly. One such letter in the London Daily Telegraph tells of the wonderful things here—"bumming birds, frogs a fact, and others with brightly coloured stripes down their backs, butterflies with five inches long". This youngster has "at last learned to dive". The juvenile letters are a good advertisement for Canada and may lead to a considerable immigration of British people after the war. In the circumstances, it would be the part of wisdom for the guardians of the little refugees to continue their practice of making them feel at home in this part of the Empire. Canada is one of the good citizens it can attract for many years to come. — Montreal Gazette.

If, however, greater safety is to be secured on the streets and highways of the Province, there must be a rigorous and widespread enforcement of traffic laws. And driver who speed here—on the highways will bear testimony to the fact that a small percentage of motorists pays little heed to the published regulations. There must be a concerted effort to stamp out these infractions of the law. Those who disregard stop-lights, who exceed the speed limit in restricted areas and on the outskirts of towns and cities, who cut in and out of traffic, who attempt to pass while going up hills, must be energetically prosecuted and punished. Likewise there should be a concerted effort to enforce the law against glare lights. — Brantford Expositor.

The two special and separate funds for the education of the children in war-time have been made clear by the G.O.C. commanding troops in a northeast county in a circular he has issued to the clergymen of all churches in his area. In the event of an immediate or attempted invasion a "general alarm" will be given by the ringing of every bell in every church throughout the country. The bells will ring loudly, as a call to battle, the peals being a few minutes in the church near the occurrence. The civilian population, the G.O.C. states, should of course, continue quietly with its normal tasks and duties. It is preferred by the authorities that the incumbent should supply the bell-ringer, and only if this is not possible should a soldier ring the bells. — London, (By Mail).

It is an incumbent upon municipal administrations as it is upon ordinary individuals to practice economy in their expenditures. This particular time so that all possible financial support may be lent to the Federal exchequer in its all-important task of financing the war. The higher the rate of municipal taxation the less able will be the municipalities to make their contribution towards national taxation. We might even be willing to forego some of the fringe commonly associated with municipal administration to the end that the national treasury shall be adequately supported and certainly, with unemployment relief expenditures being done as they have been, the municipal taxpayer himself entitled to a measure of relief. — From The Brockville Recorder And Times.

The Greek soldiers are being linked to the heres of Marathon and Thermopylae. Marathon was a Greek victory over the invading Persians. Thermopylae was a defeat of the Greeks at the hands of the Persians. Both became proud landmarks in Greek history because of the heroism of the Greek forces that took part. This was no less true of the Greeks at Thermopylae there was the ancient counterpart of a "fifth column." A traitor showed the Persians a mountain path by which they could bypass the Greeks holding their mountain passes high above and little below Thermopylae. — From The Christian Science Monitor.

Oil is the greatest weakness. Almost all that was captured in the occupied territories has now been used up by expenditure in the Battle of Britain and destruction by British bombers. The long arm of our Air Force has been reaching blows at the synthetic oil industry, on which Germany depends for a large part of her needs, and at the railways which feed the refineries. What now be squeezed out of Romania or bought from Russia has a very long distance to travel. Mr. Dalton estimates that a failure of transport might now produce such a shortage of oil as to cause a catastrophic breakdown of the military machine. Germany, however, has stocks enough for some time yet, and to recall that her armies collapsed in 1918 when oil reserves fell to 1,000,000 tons gives us no definite information on her power of endurance in the very different conditions of 1940. But we may be certain that she is already feeling the pinch of oil shortage. It must assist Italy and provide something also to keep the factories and fields of the occupied countries in production for her other needs. — Daily Telegraph and Morning Post.

It is time for that great fighting quality which has placed Canadian arms among the finest in the world and is maintaining that tradition today. It is time for the Canadian to become dominant in every Canadian, to animate their daily lives, their work, their support of the war effort. There can be no half-measures in this war, it must be fought with the utmost endeavor of everyone, civilian as well as soldier, and with determination to fight it through to the end. The crushing of Hitler, his theory of life and his way of living—Saskatchewan Star-Phoenix.

In the visible form of plant which has arrived in Argentina for a new flour mill, Goebells has received a neat return to his wife. Hitler is beleaguered Island, blockaded by sea and air, unable to manufacture because her factories are being heavily bombed. The new mill is being put up at Cordoba for the Argentine to succeed, one which was completely destroyed by fire.

The Rowell - Sirois Report And Prince Edward Island

A Dominion-Provincial Conference is to be held at Ottawa in mid-January to consider the recommendations of the Rowell-Sirois Commission on Dominion-Provincial relations. This Commission, appointed on August 14, 1937, was empowered to make "a re-examination of the economic and financial basis of Confederation and of the distribution of Legislative powers in the light of the economic and social developments of the last seventy years." In particular, it was instructed (a) to examine the constitutional allocation of revenue and governmental burdens to the Dominion and provincial governments, (b) to investigate the character and amount of taxes collected from the people of Canada, (c) to examine public expenditures and public debts in general, and (d) to investigate Dominion subsidies and grants to provincial governments.

Public hearings were held by the Commission in the Provinces, in the course of which were recorded over 10,000 mimeographed pages of evidence, and 427 exhibits were filed. The hearings at Charlottetown took place Feb. 10-12, 1938.

In its report the Commission recommended a basic realignment of Dominion-Provincial responsibilities. The Dominion would assume full responsibility for unemployment relief of unemployables and the entire provincial debt. The Provinces in turn would withdraw from the income, corporation and inheritance tax fields. In place of present subsidies, national adjustment grants would be paid the provinces to enable them to maintain a national average of services without excessive taxation.

A federal finance commission's key proposal in the whole scheme, this body would advise regarding adjustment grants and emergency grants. It would also approve provincial borrowing where a province chose not to borrow on its own credit alone.

By transferring to the Dominion control over relief and revenue sources which have become national in character, leaving the provinces with the less fluctuating taxes, the Commission suggested that the Dominion would be able to budget for the economic cycle rather than for a year at a time. The provinces, on the other hand, would be kept in keeping with their needs, giving them a "real" and not illusory autonomy.

Principle Income Tax Now. For Prince Edward Island the Commission recommended that an initial minimum grant of \$750,000 be given, in addition to which would retain revenues estimated at \$680,000. This would provide a total revenue of \$1,430,000 to cover an estimated annual expenditure to provide for expansion services. The estimate is on the basis of 1937, but \$153,000 is allowed for "deterioration in financial position of provincial government before considering needs for a national adjustment grant," which presumably is intended to cover increased debt charges incurred since 1937.

Under the Commission's plan, on the basis of 1937 figures, the following provisions would apply to the Provincial Government:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Net debt service assumed by the Dominion: \$221,000. Relief to employables assumed by Dominion: 21,000. Savings on tax collection costs: 10,000. Sinking funds: \$252,000. Relief works charged to capital account: 208,000. Total: 748,000.

early in May. The contract for replacement was given in the third week of that month to a firm of milling engineers in the North of England. — By Robert Williamson.

Lentheric Gifts for Men

- Shaving Lotion — \$1.10
Shaving Lotion — 2.50
Shaving Bowls — 1.25
After Shav. Tale 1.10
Three Musketeers 2.25
Men's Sets 1.60 to 4.55
Over Sea Set — 1.60
Men's Toilet Soap, 3 in box — 1.00

JAMIESON'S DRUG STORE

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Deterioration in financial position of provincial government before considering the need for a National Adjustment Grant: 153,000. Debt: 901,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Taxes transferred to the Dominion: 244,000. Former subsidies: 657,000. Total: 901,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Relief to employables assumed by the Dominion: \$30,000. Municipal relief works: 34,000. Total: \$64,000.

This summary, says the Commission report, shows that, in respect of 1937, the application of the general provisions of the plan to Prince Edward Island would impair the financial position of the Province by \$153,000 and improve that of the local government by \$64,000. It considers, therefore, the desirability of an adjustment grant, resting on the need of balancing the provincial budget on current account and for increasing expenditures on education, welfare services and development so as to provide services not markedly inferior to those in other provinces, without Prince Edward Island being compelled to resort to heavier taxation than imposed elsewhere in Canada. It estimates that an annual increase in the expenditure on education and public welfare (principally the latter) of \$200,000 to \$250,000 would suffice to achieve substantial real equity with other Canadian provinces. It recommends, accordingly, an annual National Adjustment Grant of \$750,000.

"If the Commission's recommendations are implemented," says the report, "the Provincial Government will have at its disposal a remarkably reliable revenue, and will find that its expenditures are, at least in the technical sense, almost entirely controllable. Before the new expenditures for which the adjustment grant would make provision are undertaken, the budget of the Province would appear in round figures as follows (based on the 1936-37 average):

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Provincial revenues: \$680,000. National Adjustment Grant: 750,000. Total: \$1,430,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Debit: Expenditures: 1,170,000. Surplus available for expansion of public welfare, education, and development expenditures, directly or through municipal subsidies, and for reduction of taxation: \$260,000.

Two special claims of this Province are dealt with in the Commission report. First was the question of cancellation of a Dominion loan for \$782,402, made in 1937 when Prince Edward Island entered Confederation, to be used to buy lands held by absentee landowners and resold to tenants. The Dominion also agreed to pay an annual subsidy of \$45,000 less interest on the loan.

The Commission reported: We do not think this is a matter on which any finding in favor of the province based on legal grounds could now be made. It added that "any hardship suffered by the province over its land transactions had been considered and provided for in previous financial adjustments between the Dominion and the province."

"If, however, our general financial proposals are to be implemented, including the proposal that the Dominion should assume provincial debts, we feel that the province should be relieved of this debt of \$782,402 to the Dominion along with all other provincial debts," the report said. "In such an event, the province could be relieved of annual interest payments on this loan, and its subsidy would be subject to the recommendations which we have made as to adjustment payments from the Dominion to the province of Prince Edward Island."

Transportation Claim. Briefs of the Charlottetown Board of Trade and of the Maritime Transportation Commission, both approved and supported by the Provincial Government, raised the issue of the Dominion's obligation to provide continuous communication between the Island and the mainland. The briefs charged the Dominion with failure to fulfill this obligation under the terms of the Island's entry into Confederation.

The Commission turned a cold shoulder to these presentations. (Continued on page 10, Col 8)

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The Farmer's Problem

(Halifax Chronicle). Mr. Justice A. C. Saunders, speaking in Summerside, touched on a point that is all too often forgotten in the discussion of farm production. Judge Saunders was speaking of the importance of producing bacon and dairy products as part of the war effort. There is a great need for the expansion of such production in the Maritimes. Nova Scotia does not produce enough even for domestic requirements. There have been repeated demands, year after year, for greater output. The demand has increased since the war. It is especially great since Nazi forces overran Denmark and Norway. Great Britain is now more than ever dependent on the country for foodstuffs off the land.

But Judge Saunders pointed out that the cost of production is a problem facing the farmers. He said: "Our farmers are willing and anxious to raise hogs, but it is too much to expect them to do so at a loss. The trouble is that our feeds in this province are too expensive, owing to the high freight rates to the Maritimes."

That is obvious enough, but it is overlooked. People make righteous demands that the farmer increase his production. They do not realize the farmer's difficulties. Remove the difficulties, and the situation would quickly solve itself. If the farmers could make a profit by producing more, they would soon expand their production facilities. The lack of consideration for the farmer's problem is fairly common among people in the cities and towns. They think the farmer has an easy time of it because he has everything he needs at hand. He need never starve, they say, because he grows his own food. Such expenses as fertilizers and sprays and feeds and farm machinery do not occur to many a casual, but vocal, critic.

VICHY, France, Nov. 28.—(AP)—Further repatriation of Frenchmen from Great Britain was disclosed today with announcement that the steamship Massilia has arrived at Vichy with 90 officers and 2,200 sailors of the French

navy as well as 800 seamen of the French merchant marine from the British Isles.

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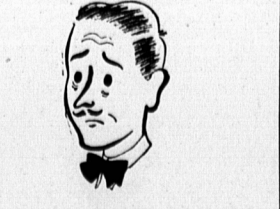
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