# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1940.


## Mr. Chamberlain's Record

A news despatch from London last week told of British parliamentary friends of former Prime Minister Chamberlain rallying to support him against criticism and against a possible demand by critics that he resign from the Churchill cabinet. Surely, comments the Ottawa Journal, it was a grim pity that this was needed; but at least it ought to be welcome to us in this country to hear that Mr. Chamberlain has friends with vigor and common sense to repudiate the almost incredible foolishness or bigotry of people who blame Mr. Chamberlain for what they sneer at as "Munich", and for the present German success. The fact ought to be palpable to any person possessing ordinary intelligence, that Mr. Chamberlain did a magnificent thing in his Munich effort. Any failure connected with that or with what has happened since was due not to Mr. Chamberlain, but to the blind stupidity of the mass of us in all our British democracies.

No statesman in a free democracy can move faster than the majority of the people like. In Great Britain and in all the overseas British countries, a majority of people have had always a deep-rooted distrust of what we call "militarism". We think that because we object to arms, nobody else is likely to bother us. So, we despise soldiers; and we distrust anybody who wants soldiers. So we slept after 1918 steeped in confidence that nobody was ever going to start international fireworks again wilfully and savagely; and that anyway, if somebody did, it need not bother us seriously because the British navy could take care of us all without any bother being needed about armies or airplanes. And so, for twenty years after 1918 any British statesman who suggested spending money on "militarism" could be sure of being more or less unpopular; if he were insistent, he could count on being kicked out of office promptly.

Mr. Chamberlain fell heir as prime minister of Great Britain to a prolonged era of disregard of possible international danger. After 1918, Great Britain, alone of the great powers, deliberately proceeded to comparative disarmament, forced to do so by pacifist enthusiasts, League of Nations theorists and massed public opinion. Her statesmen were not to blame further than that they were not wiser than their own people, or did not think it necessary to fight the majority feeling of their own people to a point where they as public men would become disliked and impotent themselves.

The Ottawa paper recalls that when Czecho-Slovakia was threatened by the German juggernaut in 1938 Mr. Chamberlain did what few men could have done. He put his pride in his pocket, constituted himself a very noble apostle of peace, tried personal contact with Hitler, and got from that madman a promise to stop with the recovery of the Sudeten Germans. It wasn't Chamberlain's fault that the great gesture did not save Europe. It was not his fault that Hitler was a liar and a blackguard. It wasn't Chamberlain's fault more than that of the rest of us that Great Britain and the British Empire were helpless anyway to stop Hitler or even to frighten him. Mr. Chamberlain at least convinced the world of British good faith, and of the overwhelming British desire for peace; and also he did delay danger for a while, and enable Great Britain to get a little further ahead with armament before the crash came.

## The Nazi Yoke

The heel of the conqueror is being felt on the neck of unfortunate France. The following eight decrees have just been promulgated:

1. Prisoners of war may not be communicated without German authorization.
2. No pamphlets may be distributed and no meetings or demonstrations may be organized.
3. The dismissal of employes, or the quitting of work by employes, with the intention to harm German interests, is forbidden.
4. The publishing of material harmful to Germany is forbidden.
5. The listening publicly or alone to non-German or unauthorized radio broadcasts is forbidden.
6. Spreading anti-German news by radio or any other means is strictly forbidden.
7. German laws shall be applicable to all cases brought before military tribunals for trial.
8. All of the foregoing decrees are effective immediately.

## Crop Prospects

Crop reports from all parts of the Dominion continue to be very encouraging according to the Bank of Montreal monthly report. In Central Canada frequent rains with for the most part ample sunshine have resulted in excellent growth for both crops and pastures, and in the Maritime Provinces, although field work has been delayed, the crop prospects are good. In the Prairie Provinces the young grain crops have been favored with almost ideal growing conditions; the weather has been sunny but not too warm and at regular intervals there have been generous and widespread rains; they were particularly heavy in mid-June in northwestern Manitoba, northeastern and northern Saskatchewan where they helped to remedy conditions created by an earlier spell of drought. Pastures in the Prairie Provinces have greatly improved. Stocks in Canadian grain are gradually being decrased through a heavier export movement and on June 14 they amounted to 279,508,047 bushels as compared with 279,624,235 bushels for the previous week and 110,214,354 bushels for the parallel week of 1939. Dairy production is experiencing its usual seasonal expansion; during May the outputs of creamery butter and factory cheese were respectively 27,248,699 and 12,902,933 lbs. as compared with 27,827,443 and 11,217,875 lbs. in May, 1939.

## — EDITORIAL NOTES —

The mountain labouring in the production of a mouse is once more illustrated in the cabinet reconstruction at Ottawa.

* * * *

Edmund Burke, statesman and orator, died this date, 1797: "Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom; and a great empire and little minds go ill together."

* * * *

"The black cat" superstition has just got another victim to encourage those who believe there is something in it. A black cat crossed the path of Jules Naef, 60-year-old baker of Geneva, as he entered the apartment building in which he lived on the sixth floor. That night Naef was killed. He fell from the roof of his house trying to get the same black cat off the ridgepole.

* * * *

A new use has been found for old lace as a result of recent air raids in the old country. Residents of one Welsh community discovered that old lace stuck against windows, provides the best protection against flying pieces of glass. One householder treated every window that way. Monday a big bomb exploded outside the house but all the windows remained intact. Most windows have strips of paper pasted on them. Sulphur fumes from bursting bombs have spread the fear of poison gas but the fumes soon pass away.

* * * *

Something should be done about permitting political ideality on the C.B.C. air. We have been inundated with complaints about the alleged unpatriotic theorizing of a speaker on Sunday afternoon who succeeded in rubbing the feelings of fans the wrong way. This is not the time for airing individual views on international politics and religion; what we have got to do is to concentrate popular opinion on winning the war. It is useless to argue about the blessings or otherwise of insurance when the house is burning. Choke these university professors off for the duration of the War.

* * * *

Swiss women, incorporated into the army as ambulance drivers, telephone operators and in other capacities, began to wear as part of their uniform regular officers' breeches with shiny black boots. They looked so smart they were criticized. Press and politicans asserted the costumes made girls so conscious of appearance they couldn't do their work properly. Skirts were recommended instead of the breeches. That only magnified and prolonged the controversy. Skirts, declared war workers, were not practical for army tasks. Finally, the Government stepped in with a compromise. It decreed divided skirts for the auxiliary forces, and divided skirts without shiny black boots.

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The Canadian motion picture industry has arranged a nationwide effort to lend impetus to the War Savings Stamp campaign, which offers everybody a pleasant opportunity to buy extra stamps and enjoy some entertainment. On Monday night, July 15, as part of this campaign, the local picture theatres will present a special free show. Admission can be secured only through the purchase of a minimum of two war savings stamps, (at 25 cents each), which will remain the property of the purchaser. The stamps will be sold at the box office, together with a complimentary ticket, which the purchaser must surrender at the door. War Savings certificates may also be purchased at the theatres. The expense of the special shows is being borne by the theatres and the film agencies. Every cent collected in the sale of the war savings stamps will be turned over to the government.

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Mr. T. J. O'Neill, Liberal M. P., Kamloops, has not much confidence in the Mackenzie King financial policy, and prophesies dire things for the Dominion if his Government do not mend their financial ways. Unless we utilize our national credit, he told the House, we cannot hope to continue with the rate of taxation and adding to the public debt to the tune of approximately $1,000,000,000 a year. If this continue there will be total collapse of our financial structure. "I have a great deal of respect for all members of the Social Credit Party but I have not joined that party," Mr. O'Neill said. He referred to the Alberta Government's failure to meet in full the interest payments on Government bonds. "I am not saying this in criticism of the Government of Alberta," he added. "I am merely calling attention to it in order to point out that that is what the Dominion of Canada is going to have to do if it keeps on financing the way it has been."

* * * *

Advice has been received from Chile that despite the apparent calm in southern Brazil, German colonies are ready for uprisings in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile if the United States enters the present war or Germany gains control of the seas. Raiding schools and political clubs that had flouted nationalization laws, the Brazil police found the Nazis had organized all local German societies—political, gymnastic, singing, literary, etcetera—some under protest, into the Verband Deutschevereine im Ausland with headquarters in Berlin. New German immigrants and Nazi German-Brazilians, aided by consular officials, had reorganized Deutscher Heims and Germania clubs in each community as Nazi centres. Old German-Brazilians who were not Nazis were forced to join by threats, abuse, beatings, boycotts and ostracism. The program of totalitarian propaganda in the schools, churches, clubs, camping and scouting groups, and the German-language press and over the radio, subsidized from Germany, the police learned, was to convert German-Brazilian youth to Nazism and teach them to admire and revere Herr Hitler, believe in German racial superiority and hate the United States and the Jews. The Nazis began inculcating such ideas in 1933. Children who have learned nothing else for seven years are now young men and women.

## NOTES BY THE WAY

**The pacifist chickens of the** democracies have now come home to roost. What we see today is the logical and inevitable consequence of the peoples of the democratic countries having listened with approving smugness to the shoddy imaginings of the mealy-mouthed brotherhood (and sisterhood) whose vaporings and nit-wit stupidity were held before us as the acme of common sense and wisdom. Having said so much, we shall for the moment ignore them But, it ought also to be said that in looking for the scapegoat upon which to place responsibility for the present state of affairs, the democratic peoples need not go far. Undoubtedly the grand old game of blaming this person and that group of persons will be played to the limit. That's a waste of time and effort. All Mr. J. Canadian Citizen has to do, when searching for the man and the woman who is wholly and solely to blame, is to walk to the nearest mirror and look at it. He will see there the reflection of the individual on whose shoulders lies the entire responsibility. And that is that. —Legionary.

**Japanese statesmen use the** strangest words to cloak their meanings. Unfortunately for them the Western world has almost come to the point where it finds it easy to translate. Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita fools no one when he speaks of Japan's mission to "stabilize" East Asia. Stabilization in this case means domination, as anyone knows who has given the most casual thought to the situation. By his radio address, Arita has stripped away all the servile, fawning mannerisms of his race and has made the brazen declaration of Japanese aims in the Orient. He has done so because Japan thinks that the time is ripe for her to get away with it. Unfortunately, for a period, she may be able to do just that. The powers who have interests to guard on the western shores of the Pacific have other matters of importance to occupy their attention for the moment, and in the interval Japan may go a long way toward achieving her drama of sovereignty over the whole Eastern world, including territory actually belonging to other nations. The odd psychology of the Japanese, however, probably prevents Arita and his fellow extensionists from seeing the inevitable retribution which will follow, at some future day, this brazen move to make the supreme grab while the Western world is locked in conflict. — Windsor, Ont. Star.

**Those intimately acquainted with** the situation in Brazil find nothing alarming in an occasional injudicious remark by President Vargas. They recall that a pro-Nazi threat to oust him in 1938 almost succeeded. They fear that another attempt will be made at the peak of Germany's prestige. They say that, dictator as he is by instinct, Vargas, perforce, is in the democratic boat and he is sincere in desiring to align himself with President Roosevelt. Vargas and the majority of the people in this Portuguese-speaking half of South America fear the Nazis because they fear Germanization. Especially they fear the possibility of a decisive German victory which would enable the Nazis to send a merchant shipping fleet and aviation to Brazil again. They do not fear an immediate invasion but rather a pro-Nazi revolution backed by a well organized pro-Nazi minority in Southern Brazil. This probably would mean civil war, a disaster which Brazil has faced too often in the past, and this would be followed by a German invasion to "protect" the German minorities. In Rio Janeiro and Southern Brazil there are a million Germans and there are three millions of Italian descent. Hitherto the Italians were gradually being assimilated, but today the fifth column is active among both Germans and Italians, who constitute one-tenth of the population. Brazil has enormous unexploited resources of iron ore, manganese and tropical products, which would be a big prize for Germany. — Moncton Transcript.

**The British are hard for some** people to understand. You offer them advice when what they need is airplanes. Do they appreciate the advice? And when they are steeling themselves for the sort of ordeal their tight little island has not faced since 1066, when all the free world knows that its present line of defense against Hitlerism rests on the steadfastness of the British people, when that people needs the faith as well as the material aid of other free peoples — just then you advise them to run away. And do they appreciate your advice? No: for the British are hard for some people to understand. Adolf Hitler has pointed out in "Mein Kampf" that they were too hard for Imperial Germany to fathom: "We had no conception of the forces that would lead men to their death of their own free will." But the failure of Herr Hitler's hopes to make an ally of Britain in his scheme for control of Eastern Europe shows he himself found it hard to understand the British. Senator Key Pittman may also find it hard to understand them. For his suggestion that they quit the British Isles and move the center of their defense efforts to Canada is not being jubilantly received in Britain. It is true Prime Minister Churchill had already envisaged such a possibility. But he saw it as a hope of continuing resistance to Hitlerism even if the unthinkable should have come to pass. Any suggestion that Britons, high or low, should yield up their castles before they had fought to the "last ditch," in lanes and fields and hills, mistakes the tenor of Mr. Churchill's words. — Christian Science Monitor.

**If it shall be the destiny of the** British Commonwealth of Nations to fight alone for that great democratic and Christian ideal of the sanctity of the humblest human being, then a hard road lies ahead of us and we shall have to summon all our courage and faith. It is the soul that dares that finds its fulfilment. This may be heroic doctrine, but it will not be fulfilled by heroics. It will be fulfilled by patient, brave and cheerful acceptance of whatever discipline and sacrifice we may be called upon to make for the sake of our country's cause. For law and order, for a world free from terror and the poison of treachery, for a decent security for peace loving people, for the conservation of all the material moral and cultural values of our civilization, for truth and the right to hold our most Christian faith we have accepted the gauge of battle forced into our hands. It will not be cast aside till victory is ours.— Sackville Tribune.

## 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.**

### PROHIBITION vs. BEER AND WINE

Sir,—Under the heading Editorial Notes your issue of July 6th published the following:

"Evidently the Legion beer and winers are pinning their faith in Queens to carry the day."

Assuming, and it is so accepted by the public, that by "The Legion beer and winers" you refer to the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, I, as president of the Prince Edward Island Command feel obliged to express to you the indignation of the members of this organization at being so designated.

It is true that the Canadian Legion, at the provincial convention in Summerside, passed a resolution condemning the prohibition law, and requesting the government to repeal it, and enact in its place a liquor control law based on what was found to be the most effective, and satisfactory law then in force in any of the provinces of the Dominion, or the Mother Country. This resolution also expressed the opinion of the delegates that the cause of temperance could be promoted more effectively by education than by compulsion. This resolution was moved by T. E. MacNutt of Charlottetown, and seconded by W. A. MacLaggan of Montague, neither of whom could be accused of wishing the prohibition act repealed as a matter of personal convenience.

Neither at this convention, nor upon any other occasion did the Canadian Legion ask for the enactment of any beer and wine legislation, nor, emphatically, did it ask for the holding of any plebiscite. The Legion did not ask to be given any representation on the committee of scrutineers appointed to count the ballots, nor had it any knowledge that such a provision was being considered previous to the introduction of the bill to the legislature.

The Canadian Legion has not the slightest interest in the result of the plebiscite, and took no part in the campaign which preceded it. It did request the government to make provision to insure that the Island soldiers on active service were not deprived of the right to vote. This action was taken with no knowledge of how these soldiers intended to vote, and without any attempt to influence their vote, simply because the Canadian Legion is of the opinion that of all the citizens of this country, the most entitled to the right of the franchise are those who are offering their lives to assure its continuance for us and our children.

The above is a complete statement of all the Canadian Legion's connection with, or interest in the recent plebiscite, and as there are members of the Legion who favor the retention of the present prohibition law, and who so indicated by their votes, they, particularly, and quite naturally, resent being referred to as "Legion beer and winers."

Then too the Canadian Legion, irrespective of its views on the question of prohibition, is a proud, and exclusive organization. The qualifications for membership cannot be complied with by many who took a much greater interest in the plebiscite than we who fought to retain the right to be governed by the will of the people. We're proud of our record in the last war, and in this one. We're proud of our membership in one of the greatest organizations on earth,—the British Empire Service League, and we're proud of our name,— the Canadian Legion. We chose that name on the suggestion of our commander-in-chief, the late Field Marshall Earl Haig, and resent being referred to by any other, be it "Legion beer and winers" or Legion prohibitionists, or any other name the fertile brain can originate.

I am, Sir, etc.,
R. C. CHANDLER,
President P.E.I. Command
Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.

(There is no more reflection in being in favor of beer and wine than in favouring prohibition. The Legion's Summerside resolution speaks for itself. Our opinion is that the question should be decided at a general election as one of policy, and not as a side issue in administration by plebiscite after an election. Ed. G.)


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## Forgotten Incident

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Has anybody got a long enough memory to remember Guernica? The event with which the name is connected occurred only three years ago, but it has become so trifling an incident in the ever-widening record of cruelty and murder that it may well have dropped completely out of recollection.

Guernica was the name of a small ancient Spanish town of pleasant aspect in the basque country. Civil war was raging in Spain but Guernica was not a military centre, and for months escaped actual attention by the combatants. Then, on a bright spring day, Guernica was wiped out — buildings burned, more than a thousand residents killed, the public buildings razed. An American newspaperman who arrived on the scene before the day was over, said that the town had been deliberately bombed by a squadron of German airplanes, presumably as a try-out with a view to future activities in other fields. From his account it appeared that the bombers first used small bombs to drive the inhabitants to cover, then demolition bombs to destroy their homes over their heads, then machine-guns to slaughter the fleeing refugees, finally incendiary bombs to burn the ruins.

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This statement of Guernica's fate was fiercely denied and the ensuing controversy lasted for months. There is indeed a definite niche in the libraries given up to Geurnica literature. The American newspaper account of what had happened was supported by a detailed statement by a nun who had been present while the destruction of the town was going on, and had gathered quite a distinct impression that the little city had been deliberately and systematically blotted out from the air.

On the other hand, General Franco was profuse in his assurances that no airplanes subject to his control had been anywhere near Guernica. The Germans were vocal with indignation; any such performance as this was quite outside anything that they were capable of. Since it could not be denied that the city had been all but destroyed, some explanation had to accompany these denials; and this took the form of a claim that the Republicans, realizing that they would have to evacuate the Basque territory, had first destroyed the city, incidentally butchering a considerable percentage of the inhabitants.

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There is, of course, no longer any doubt by anybody that Guernica was used by German air-bombers as a practice-field, with a view of future similar exploits over other defenceless open towns. There have been a hundred Guernicas since then and there will be hundreds more. There is no longer any need to lie about these monstrous performances because the public opinion of the world, which was alert to the horror of Guernica, has now become so brutalized that it accepts them as inseparable from modern war. There has not been in the United States, for instance, a degree of indignation over the systematic destruction from the air of a large part of Rotterdam with casualties running into the thousands which amounts to five per cent of the volume of protests to which the bombing of Guernica gave rise. Thus the civilized world continues to descend the steep slope to the Dark Ages.

## The Poets' Corner

### A CHILD'S LAUGHTER

All the bells of heaven may ring,
All the birds of heaven may sing,
All the wells on earth may spring,
All the winds on earth may bring
All sweet sounds together;
Sweeter far than all things heard,
Hand of harper, tone of bird,
Sound of woods at sundown stirred,
Welling water's winsome word,
Wind in warm, wan weather.

One thing yet there is, that none
Hearing ere its chime be done,
Knows not well the sweetest one
Heard of man beneath the sun,
Hoped in heaven hereafter;
Soft and strong and loud and light,
Very sound of very light
Heard from morning's rosiest height,
When the soul of all delight
Fills a child's clear laughter.

Golden bells of welcome rolled
Never forth such notes, nor told
Hours so blithe in tones so bold,
As the radiant mouth of go'd
Here that rings forth heaven.
If the golden-crested wren
Were a nightingale—why, then,
Something seen and heard of men
Might be half as sweet as when
Laughs a child of seven.

—Swinburne.


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