THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1943.

New Brunswick In Wartime

In the Speech from the Throne delivered at the opening of the New Brunswick Legislature, attention is drawn to the increasing use of the province's natural resources in wartime production. Pulp for explosives, paper for containers, veneer for warplane construction and lumber and wood products for various war uses in substantial quantities are listed among the supplies furnished. Wooden vessels for combat purposes are being constructed. Iron ore is being mined and a daily output of 1,000 long tons is anticipated. Coal mining continues to occupy an important place and known deposits of essential minerals are being investigated. For the first time, peat moss resources are being developed successfully on a commercial scale. This in adition to increased production and price advances in many agricultural products, and increase in the generating capacity of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission at Grand Lake makes an impressive picture of wartime activity.

The Speech also notes, with commendable pride, that New Brunswick ranks high in enlistments for the armed forces, being second only to Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia in that regard. From every point of view, our sister province is entitled to all the war work it can get.

But there is a wide disparity between the satisfaction expressed in the Throne Speech and the attitude of the people of New Brunswick as voiced by the Saint John Telegraph-Journal. "There has been consistent neglect of us by the Government throughout the war," charges our contemporary. "There is no naval establishment of any considerable size in the whole of this sea-girt province. The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services has not seen fit to inspect, nor, so far as anybody is aware, officially to set foot in New Brunswick since he assumed office. Millions of dollars have been spent on naval projects in the Minister's own province of Nova Scotia and in Quebec. Neglect of New Brunswick is so marked as to suggest downright enmity."

In particular, the Telegraph-Journal refers to the building at Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, of a large naval establishment. The estimated cost runs into some three million dollars, and there does not seem any reason why a better site could not be selected in these Maritime Provinces.

We understand that Souris, P.E.I., was suggested as an ideal site for such an establishment; but being even worse off than New Brunswick in lack of live-wire representatives at Ottawa, our claims for consideration were given scant attention.

More Discrimination

When the Sirois Commission made its recommendations with regard to the transfer of certain provincial taxes to the Dominion, it stated in the case of Prince Edward Island: "The sources of revenue which would remain with the Province are peculiarly stable since they comprise gasoline, automobile and land taxes, while the two items most subject to fluctuation, viz., public domain revenue and revenue from liquor control, are of negligible importance as compared with those of other provinces."

Last Tuesday, Finance Minister Ilsley announced that while the Dominion Government would compensate the provinces for revenue lost through the curtailment of liquor sales, it had decided to reject the provincial request for a guarantee of motor vehicle license revenue.

The Dominion, in short, is stabilizing a source of revenue which is a matter of "negligible importance" to this Prohibition Province, while refusing to accept any responsibility for the decrease in what the Sirois Commission regarded as one of our few stable revenue sources.

The King Government was urged to guarantee motor license revenue on the ground that Dominion restrictions on tires and gasoline were causing a substantial falling off in provincial receipts. Mr. Ilsley's reply to that was: "It is the war and not the Dominion Government that is responsible for the restrictions on gasoline and rubber and the provinces cannot expect to be protected against every contingency to which the war may give rise."

We could accept this with better grace if it was not accompanied, in the same budget speech, by such solicitous regard for provincial liquor revenues. The program suggested in regard to liquor, Mr. Ilsley says, is intended to assure the provinces of "a minimum revenue equal to, or nearly equal to, the highest annual revenue they have ever obtained from liquor sales, and, in addition, the possibility of enjoying an increase in that revenue as a result of higher retail prices and the savings in custom duties on imported spirits."

Those provinces which profitted most in the past from liquor sales will now, of course, be "sitting pretty", at the expense of the taxpayers of the Dominion.

Ten Vacant Jobs For M.P.'S

Apropos the appointments one of which is allegedly to go to Hon. Cyrus MacMillan, the Ottawa Journal says:

"So we're to have 10 'parliamentary assistants' at $4,000 a year (plus their sessional indemnities). It's not going to take the Director of National Selective Service long to get them. They will be on hand, ten just men and true and more than that, ready and willing to serve their country, and with a chance on the side to make more speeches in Parliament and to play in a Cabinet minister's kindergarten.

"What hopes this must stir in ambitious breasts: and what vistas it must open up of prestige and authority, and patronage influence, and nice offices with private secretaries and stenographers, and soft rugs under foot, and letters written on embossed stationery! Almost we can seen Monsieur Jean Francois Pouliot in one of these roles: liking it so much that he would consent even to be 'parliamentary assistant" to Col. Ralston.

"It is a happy prospect; even though, alas, there can be only ten, with ten times that number of whom there will be only the bitterness of disappointment. If only there were more ministers!

"Meanwhile we like the easy, care-free way in which this thing has been approached. A radio speech by Mr. Bracken in Winnipeg: his long-distance suggestion of parliamentary under-secretaries to beat Hitler; a gesture of acceptance by Mr. King—and the thing is done. Done to the tune of $40,000 from the patient taxpayer, plus considerably more than that when the business really gets going."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Wonder if Hepburn drove King to the "water wagon" or vice versa.

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Now that Gandhi's three weeks' publicity stunt is at an end, people are wondering who has been "the greatest beneficiary under the act."

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Premier Campbell does not intend remaining Pooh-Bah for long, and will in all probability unload his various portfolios at the end of the coming session of the legislature.

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This war is gradually bringing us back to a realization of the Divine command—"six days shalt thou labour"—not four or five. If everybody did that nobody would have to work seven, and there would be less trouble in the world.

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A $21,600,000 budget providing for an overall deficit of $291,809 but including no new or increased taxation and making provision for a $1,000,000 start on a post-war reconstruction fund, has been presented to the Alberta Legislature by Provincial Treasurer Solon Low.

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In congratulating Mr. E. Benjamin Rogers, M.Sc., on his acting appointment of Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, the fact was omitted that he won an I.O.D.E. scholarship to enable him to pursue his university course in London. It is interesting to note that he attended the London School of Economics, of which Sir William Beveridge of the "Beveridge Plan" is principal.

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Here is a story that is on the rounds at Ottawa. Prime Minister King will not run another election but will retire, go to England to reside, and, like his predecessor, be made a peer. In order to carry his peerage it will be necessary for him to have a coat of arms. An official of the college of Heraldry being consulted he suggested an appropriate device for Mr. King would be "two snails rampant on a field of red tape."

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Here is General Sir Bernard Montgomery's description of the ideal soldier: "At his best he is between 23 and 30, led by a company commander of about 35 and a brigadier under 40. He can live on bully beef and biscuits indefinitely, sleep wet in ditches or on the moor, march till he drops, then march again. When he is completely exhausted he will again march. And then he will fight."

* * * *

Thomas Carlyle, historian, philosopher and essayist, died this date, 1881; his work is remarkable for its qualities of humour, sarcasm, and profound insight, and his vivid and picturesque style is distinctly characteristic of the man; in his disposition Carlyle was often irritable, hasty and inconsiderate, afflicted as he was by chronic dyspepsia, yet these defects scarcely served to hide a noble and tender nature: he was accustomed to sit alone for hours in deep contemplation; once when he visited Lord Tennyson, the two sat in silence for two hours before a blazing fire; when he rose to go Carlyle remarked: "I have enjoyed this intercourse immensely": "No speech ever uttered or utterable is worth comparison with silence."

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The Patriotic Pouliot, M.P., has asked in the House of Commons why Lt.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian Army Commander overseas, has not been promoted to rank of full general. Can this be the explanation given by Mr. E. W. Brown in his biography of the Prime Minister in Harper's? "When Canadians are urged to 'support their leader' the face beside the script will be that of General McNaughton, the Commander of the Canadian army overseas. It is true that General McNaughton is magnificently photogenic and the Prime Minister is not: photographs always fail to catch the quality of Mackenzie King's eyes, which are of a singularly full and impressive blue, sometimes commanding, sometimes simply amiable and winning. Nor do they suggest the strength of his thin mouth, the lines of firmness in his chin, or the general air he has of integrity and distinction. But it is not just because the Prime Minister falls so far short of being photogenic that his face does not appear on posters; what his countrymen believe his character to be does not at all satisfy their notion of a national leader."

Notes By The Way

A heading in a Toronto newspaper, "Birth of Quints a Boon to Others," reminds us that no North Simcoe mother has as yet entered a claim for that million dollars we offered some three years or so ago for the first sextet of boys to be born in this peninsula. Not much enterprise evident among the ladies of this area! We are half inclined to withdraw the offer. —Midland Free Press-Herald.

Sent from the Cathedral of St. Bavan in Ghent, Belgium, to France for safe-keeping in May, 1940, the famous painting, "Adoration of the Lamb," has been presented to Goering by the Vichy Government. Fatty should be proud of his new treasure. The devious means by which it reached his salon probably gives him clearer title to this picture than he holds on any of his other possessions. —Windsor Star.

Sensible people, we think, will want to step on this "freedom of the air" controversy before it goes an inch fart'. Post-war air transportation and its control are matters for the peace tables, our job now is to stay unite' and get on with the war. —Ottawa Journal.

Forty million tons of wood a year are used for paper making in North America, yet this is only five per cent of the timber cut. The rest goes into lumber, fuel and other uses. Some mills are turning pulp into paper 270 inches wide at a rate of more than 1,200 feet per minute. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

They say Mr. Bracken is never happier than when he can get into a pair of old overalls and dig up the garden. But it's going to be bad if his neighbor's a Liberal and keeps hens. —Ottawa Citizen.

One of the most contented patients at a naval hospital on the South Coast is a black cat, who since her arrival a few weeks ago has had the best attention that surgical and medical skill can give. Puss, the pet of a destroyer's crew, was wounded during a lively encounter recently with the enemy in the Channel. A piece of shrapnel pierced her lung and damaged a paw. Other casualties from the ship pleaded that she should be given first attention on arriva. in hospital and she has made a splendid recovery. —Sunderland Echo.

Particles of a 300-year-old egg have been dug up at Fort Ste. Marie. That just might be the explanation of an experience we had at breakfast a few mornings ago. —Windsor Star.

The people of Paris are said to be eating rats this winter. They had the same diet in 1871 and again during the last Great War — something always to remember the Germans by. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

At the Casablanca conference, Roosevelt and Churchill shook hands. Hitler, Benito and Tojo just shook —and they're still doing it.— Exchange.

This note was left on the slot machine in a Chicago beer parlour: "In case of an air raid, stand next to this machine. No one has ever hit it." —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Men's suits are supposed to be cut along sober lines, but they still have hip pockets. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Many people are not only mystified but greatly concerned over the growing number of strikes. With Canada engaged in the greatest war effort in its not very long history, giving every spare dollar to help finance the stupendous bills and women joining in a number of capacities both military and civil, it seems strange that labor should be so restless, and even upsetting the war schedule to the extent that the morale of the people is endangered, which must give a good deal of comfort to the enemy —Paris (Ont.) Star.

We have now arrived at a point where astute traders, or commercial vultures, will begin to plan to be "in at the kill" when the war is about to end. The theory is that by direct confiscation and all kinds of trickery, including the depreciation or wiping out of native currencies, the Germans and the Japs have secured possession of all the industrial organizations and other property of their victims; that with defeat looming they will look for fences to whom they can sell the loot; and that possibly many are now roosting in neutral countries preparing "to fly in and to buy in." The warning referred to serves notice on such commercial vultures that the Allies won't countenance their deals. —Montreal Herald.

It is wrong to talk of the failure of colonization during the last quarter century. Far from that; we owe it a number of new parishes. What is more and more apparent, however, is that new methods must be adopted, especially to get around the first painful years. Even though it is distasteful, it must be recognized that the race of sturdy settlers of yesterday, the "makers of new land," had disappeared. Formerly one could leave an old parish where there was nothing luxurious about the life, as today, for a colonization area. The passage from one life to another was not too brusque. That is not the case today. It is a long jump from the old parish into which modern progress has generated, to the colonization township where there must be clearing done and the land made productive. It needs nearly heroism for that tour de force. Under such conditions you can preach in vain that salvation lies in colonization. Try a little of that heavy job yourself and you will be quickly disillusioned. —Le Nouvelliste (Three Rivers).

Our neighbors, the Canadians, like a good idea wherever they find it. For instance, they recognized that B. M. Baruch's plan for over-all price-freezing rationing and taxation was a common-sense program for stabilizing living costs in wartime. So they adopted it and made it work. Meanwhile our planners in Washington, rejecting experience gained in the last war, merrily busied themselves cooking up more novel schemes of price control —all of which failed —until months late, after much damage had been done, they started trying to adopt some of the basic ideas in the Baruch formula. They are still trying to catch up with the Baruch plan but are not making fast progress. —New York World-Telegram.

R. A. F. In Canada

(I. N. S. in Ottawa Journal)

There are bits of Britain all over Canada these days most of them in R. A. F. blue. They haven't lost their accents but they are scrambling around on skates, tumbling down hills on skis, gaping at our distances and muttering about our cold.

The Air Ministry is shy of figures, but we can say there are tens of thousands of R. A. F. boys and men serving in Canada on the staffs of R. A. F. schools. And there are tens of thousands of R. A. F. boys and men going through R. A. F. and R. C. A. F. schools as aircrew trainees.

How are they getting along? Fine just now, they say; but at first things were not so happy. When bombs were falling at random over Britain, over the homes of their wives and mothers and sisters, the R. A. F. people here were introspectively nursing heavy consciences. And because of their unhappy restlessness they didn't get on too well with Canada and Canadians.

Now, however, that great burden is largely removed. They can eat and work and play and sleep with at least some assurance that "over home" things are not too bad and that the job they are doing right here is one of the reasons for the improvement over there.

* * *

The gladdening of their hearts was not left entirely to the fortunes of war. Communities nearest the R. A. F. schools organized entertainment, dances, and recreation, and many homes were opened to provide a friendly hearth.

Aircrew students move about the country from school to school and are absorbed by their strenuous courses. But such excitement and change is not the lot of the staff worker in the R. A. F. schools. The man who is stuck in a prairie hamlet for the duration on a dull routine job can use some friendly treatment.

Providing this treatment is an organization known as "The Canadian Committee", itself a forerunner to another obliquely named organization called "The Canadian Foundation." The original finances came from an anonymous donor in England who is interested in promoting wider knowledge and better understanding of Canada, both at home and abroad. That broader purpose is just now held at arm's length while the organizing committee is charged with making R. A. F. personnel feel at home in Canada.

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Mr. Walter Herbert, formerly assistant director of Public Information, is the executive secretary of The Canadian Committee. From him we learned of work under way for R.A.F. staff workers under these headings:

Providing schools with libraries of Canadiana, with moving pictures of Canada, with lectures and hobby club facilities;

Enabling R. A. F. personnel to travel at little cost and giving them entree to places and institutions that interest them;

Assisting in the organization of study groups or hobby groups — engineering, camera, agriculture, and so on.

As an example — many have been amazed by Canadian mining activity and the Canadian committee has assisted in the planning of trips to Finn Flon or Sudbury, or other notable mining projects where R. A. F. men are received as guests and given splendid facilities for studying the work in which they are interested.

As an example with regard to libraries—Mr. Herbert found one R. A. F. school had 3 000 books, of which only three pertained to Canada. Yet the interest in Canada is exceedingly active, and if these men are given any assistance they will become very familiar with the Dominion and presumably very friendly to it. The committee, in short, aims not only to entertain but to educate. It is public relations work at its best and directed while the iron is hot.

Mr. Herbert nurses a hunch that if this war lasts long enough the R. A. F. men will be better equipped for a quiz program on Canada than will the average Canadian — but he is not so anxious that he would purposely prolong the war to attain that goal.

* * *

As for aircrew trainees — they average 20 years of age and live in a different world. Work and play, with enough sleep and feed to keep keenly alive—that is their maxim, and let the lecturers, libraries and mines go hang. A study group concentrating on railway construction in Canada may be all right for oldsters in their thirties doing staff work, but give the trainee a 'plane or a girl or a good hockey rink and he's in his element.

At many an R. A. F. school two rinks are on the go most of the time. The Commanding Officer occasionally skates clear off the ice and has to be pushed back on by spectators, and others can remain upright only so long as no one pulls their stick from under them. But there's a laugh for all and the liniment bottle is large. One D. F. C. fellow wears an old rubber tube about his seat to ease his fall.

Baseball has not gone over very well, and a spot of cricket here and there in a prairie field no longer staggers a wandering farmer. They also favor riding, golfing, skiing (of sorts), hunting. As one R. A. F. man put it to me: "Look here, Smith, we get a variety of sports here that only the posh can afford back home and then they have to dash up to Scotland or over to Switzerland to pack it in. We don't think much of your cities, but your country's grand."

Another visiting Briton says the most interesting thing about the R. A. F. schools is the way the lines of British society have broken down. Fellows from Eton and Harrow sleep alongside or in the upper bunk to a bloke from Edgeware Road and think nothing of it. The Duke of York started special camps to accomplish that in England but the R. A. F. schools have carried the experiment into practical and successful use.

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The trainees get a kick out of things we take for granted: riding [illegible] on our trains, seeing our airdromes all lit up, shopping for clothes to send back home where rations make them scarce. Many a lad out of England's big cities has never had a train ride until suddenly he flies into one here to travel 2,000 miles.

Yet all thise only hints at the scope of the reactions of a Briton paying us a wartime visit, and of the responsibility Canada has of matching the kindly reception given Canadian troops in Britain.

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Lend-Lease Figures Revealed By Halifax and Stettinius

Letter Asserts Americans Received More Beef Than They Shipped

(American Magazine New York)

NEW YORK, March 4— The blue Simons and Mary Joneses, the millions of men and women in our war production plants, are largely responsible for our current food shortage. This is no reflection on them, but Lend-Lease Administrator Edward R. Stettinius says it's true.

And the British Tommy's John Bull, not our own Uncle Sam, is largely responsible for putting our vast war production program into high gear at an early date. This is no reflection on Uncle Sam or American war workers, but Lord Halifax, British Ambassador, says it's true.

These two statements, based on the disclosure of new facts on two vital aspects of our war effort, were given today by Lend-Lease Administrator Stettinius and Lord Halifax in signed articles in The American Magazine.

Stettinius analyzes the shortages in meat, milk products, eggs, fish, vegetables and fruits—and concludes that American war workers, not the demands of our Allies, are chiefly responsible.

"In 1942 we Lend-leased and sent abroad, chiefly to England, 18,000,000 pounds of beef," he says. This represents only one out of every 500 pounds we produced. On the other hand, through reciprocal Lend-Lease, Australia and New Zealand supplied our American forces with 25,000,000 pounds of beef. Thus we received 7,000,000 more pounds of beef than we shipped abroad.

Stettinius declares that our beef "has gone largely to our armed forces at home and abroad, and to those (chiefly war workers) who have more money to spend than in previous days."

"The great bulk of Lend-Lease foods which we shipped in 1942 was made up of pork, milk products, edible fats and oils, and eggs", Stettinius discloses. "In 1942 we shipped 1,112,000,000 pounds of pork to our Allies. That was 10 per cent of our American supply, and is a really big bite of pork."

Stettinius reports that we Lend-Leased 23 per cent of our cheese, 7 per cent of our condensed and evaporated milk, 1 per cent of our butter, 10 per cent of our eggs, 7 per cent of our fish, and aoout 1 per cent of our vegetables and fruits. All the butter went to the Russian army.

"Why such luxury for the Russian army?" Stettinius asks. "The 1 per cent of our butter (17,000,000 pounds) would permit each of 8,000,000 Russian soldiers, fighting the boodiest battles in history, to have American butter on his black bread once a week, instead of lard or linseed oil. That is not luxury."

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All told, Stettinius reports, we shipped to our Allies in 1942 "less than 6 per cent by value of our total food supply, but still it was a great amount, and was of incalculable value to our hard-pressed Allies in a critical year."

Stettinius warns that the armed forces and Lend-Lease may each take about twice as much food in 1943 as they did in 1942, but adds that Americans will still have the most nutritous diet of any people in the world.

Lord Halifax, also writing in The American Magazine, declares that the British Government, through the expenditure of $3,200,000,000 in America since the outbreak of war in September, 1939, made possible the early expansion of war factories, and the early designing and quantity production of airplanes, tanks, machine tools and merchant ships.

"British expenditures with the American aircraft industry total some $1,750,000,000," Lord Halifax reports. "While this may not seem like a staggering sum in the light of subsequent Congressional appropriations, it means that America had an airplane industry built up and operating when she realized her peril—an industry that would have taken a much longer time to build up, had it not been for Britain's earlier assistance."

Lord Halifax asserts that while we think of "the finest tank in the world—the 28-ton General Sherman —" as an American product, it is in one sense "a joint Anglo-American enterprise." After finding their tanks useless in the Battle of France, British purchased quantities of our General Lee tanks. "Perhaps you can imagine our dismay, in those dark days after Dunkirk," Lord Halifax says, "to discover that the General Lee had all the faults and weaknesses of our own tank."

The result was that British and American experts, Lord Halifax reports worked together and subsequently produced the General Grant and then the General Sherman.

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Through Great Britain's program of "flat orders" in American industry, a pool of standard machine tools was formed and the volume of our machine tool industry rose from $250,000,000 a year in 1939 to $750,000,000 yearly at the time of Pearl Harbor, Lord Halifax reports.

"Two of the shipyards now achieving production miracles were built with British money," he says. The British Merchant Shipbuilding Mission came to the United States in September, 1940, and being unable to find facilities to build merchant ships fast enough, selected and purchased sites for new yards at Richmond, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

"Two brand-new American companies were formed to build the yards and the ships," Lord Halifax writes. One of these, the Todd-California Shipbuilding Corporation at Richmond, had for its president Mr. Henry Kaiser, who at that moment had never built a ship.

"The incident is noteworthy for two reasons: First, because it introduced a new giant in the world production, Mr. Kaiser, who continues to utilize his British-fired experience to turn out ships faster and faster for the United Maritime Commisson, to which the British yard was sold. And, secondly, because it standardized a type of cargo ship for the United Nations."

The Poet's Corner

SIC TRANSIT

High ride the armies of the conquerors;
The gleaming spears and burnished breastplates clank
In battle on the long-contested shores.

Bright galleys sail the dark Ionian Sea,
And legions enter Carthage, rank on rank,
While war is purple pomp and panoply.

Imperial edicts and the Roman pride
Rule half the world: Caesars are overthrown,
The gods of ruthlessness are glorified.

Helen, whose beauty launched a thousand ships,
Watches the tide of battle while alone,
Young Paris faces ruin for her lips.

The breastplates and the spears have turned to rust:
Troy is a vanished dream and Carthage, dust.

—Bayka Russell in the New York Herald Tribune

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