THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1939

A Momentous Speech

Prime Minister Chamberlain's stirring speech yesterday marks a new departure in the attitude of Great Britain towards Nazi Germany. He spoke openly of the unscrupulous conduct of Hitler in violating the solemn guarantee given at Munich, and of the menace to Europe which Germany's invasion of Czecho-Slovakia involves. He declared that Britain was prepared to fight in the cause of European peace and that it had behind it the support of the whole Empire and of other peace-loving nations as well. Coming from a man of Mr. Chamberlain's character and mild temperament, and taken in conjunction with the tremendous armament programme launched since the Munich conference by the British Government, such words carry momentous weight. They cannot fail to make an impression even in Germany. They leave room for no misunderstanding as to where Britain stands, and will have the effect of rallying all the forces of world democracy on an issue which has at last become clear-cut and decisive.

Veterans' Survey

Announcement is made of a survey of the veterans of Canada, men and women, who are prepared to serve their country in time of emergency.

In the belief that Canada cannot, in a period of international tension leave herself exposed to the perils of direct or indirect hostile action within or against the state, but should provide at once for our future security, the veterans' associations have offered their services to the nation. Under this scheme those willing to serve in Canada are being asked to register forthwith. It is proposed that the veterans, the majority too old for overseas service, would guard canals, hydro plants, public buildings, etc., in time of national emergency.

As a result of the survey the Government will have available a force ready for service at home, which force would relieve the military units for other activity.

The offer of service to the nation has been made by all Veterans organizations in the Dominion, who believe that the country's protective forces should be buttressed by the services of men and women who are competent and willing to serve under the direction of constituted authorities. Unquestionably the best reservoir of such men and women is our great body of veterans.

More Liberal "Economy"

Some one has sold the Mackenzie King Government the idea of a National Film Board empowered to review and coordinate the motion-picture activities of the several departments, and taxpayers who appreciate the tendency of civil servants to expand and glorify themselves at the nation's expense may well shudder at the certain prospect of another $250,000 a year being added to federal expenditures.

Two years ago the appropriation for Dominion Government films was but $40,000; this year it is $150,000, The Globe and Mail (Independent) is of opinion that the Leader of the Opposition is not drawing a long bow when he predicts that when the new National Film Board gets into its stride there will be another jump.

West Indies Penalized

Details of the importation of oranges into Canada have been given the House by the Department of Trade and Commerce, on the inquiry of Dr. Young, of Saskatoon. They show how little has been accomplished by the King Government to develop orange imports from the British West Indies.

In the calendar year 1938 we imported 63,908 cubic feet of oranges from Jamaica, 5,811 cubic feet from Trinidad, 10,957 cubic feet from other points in the British West Indies, and 5,988,169 cubic feet from the United States. In the lowest month of the twelve the United States sent us almost four times the quantity of oranges we received in the complete year from all West Indies countries.

No doubt, comments the Ottawa Journal, it is true that the orange industry of the West Indies in its present state is incapable of meeting the enormous demand from Canada for this citrus fruit. It is equally true, on the other hand, that we dealt a blow to that young and promising industry when for five months of each year we agreed to admit oranges from the United States free of duty—subjecting the infant orange industry of the British islands to free competition from the old and entrenched citrus industry of our neighboring country.

Oranges from the West Indies are free of duty at all times. From the United States they are free in December, January, February, March and April—which are five of the six months when the Jamaica fruit arrives in any considerable quantity. Last year in those five months the United States sent us more than three million cubic feet, or more than half the year's imports from that country. In the same period from Jamaica we bought 51,766 boxes out of the years' total of 63,908.

Canada is the nearest important market for West Indies oranges, and we might show a greater understanding of the economic problems of those islands, especially when the fruit they have to sell is of high quality and repute. We might do better than expose them at the height of their season, to open competition from California and Florida. And there is another point. The special excise sales tax of three percent now applies to American oranges but not to oranges from the British West Indies. If it is absolished the West Indies growers lose this small preference and their difficulties in the Canadian market are increased accordingly.

Editorial Notes

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain born this date, 1869.

* * * *

There was not the usual dry walking for the Irishmen yesterday.

* * * *

Sir John A. Macdonald predicted better than he knew when he wrote Mr. DeBlois in 1870.

* * * *

Cardinal Villeneuve of Quebec will visit Poland before sailing from Paris on return to Canada. In Poland are branches of the Oblates of the Immaculate Conception, an order to which he belongs.

* * * *

A Jersey cow tried to swallow an electric bulb down in California while standing on a wet barn floor. Bossy was electrocuted, but the bulb was still alight in her month when the farmer discovered the tragedy.

* * * *

A school girl in the Bronx has written to the General Electric Company, Schenectady, for "a little sample of electricity, if you can spare it." The request could have been more effectively addressed to Premier "Mich" Hepburn who has been giving Prime Minister Mackenzie King, unsought, so many rude shocks lately.

* * * *

There are youngsters of sixty-five in Ontario still dependent upon Dad. An applicant for relief said he had been out of work for nearly six years, and hoped times would improve. "How have you lived with so little employment?" asked the official. "Times have sure been tough," the man said, "but my dad has been able to take care of me." "How old is your father?" the investigator asked. "Oh, he's 90," the applicant replied.

* * *

It is reported that Mr. Oliva Dionne, father of the Quints, was opposed to his little ones going to Toronto to see the King and Queen, maintaining that their Majesties should go to Callender. But the Provincial Secretary of Ontario, who issued the invitation was not worrying over the matter; indeed he was willing "to bet my hat they will be here" bright and early to receive the honour and distinction of a personal interview with their Royal Guardians.

* * *

"As a matter of public policy, price fixing is extremely difficult to carry out," was the opinion expressed by Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of Pensions and National Health, replying to suggestions that amendments to the Food and Drugs Act should control prices for certain types of cosmetics. "There is an old rule—'Let the buyer beware,'" added the Minister. "After all, if we, by regulation, go to the extent of seeing to it that the product is pure and that the quantity is as stated on the package, really the responsibility for the price he is going to pay devolves on the purchaser."

* * * *

Here is what dictatorship may lead to as reported in a Canadian Press Bulletin from Saskatoon. Barber George Kenny, father of nine children, will not have to go to jail for a violation of the Saskatchewan barber code of which he was convicted by Judge J. F. Bryant in district court here on January 18. Kenny was fined $55 or ten days in jail for giving a haircut for less than the prescribed 40 cents. At the time Kenny indicated he could not pay the money and therefore would have to go to jail. Counsel for Kenny, received a letter subsequently from the Department of the Attorney General announcing that Lieutenent-Governor-in-Counsel had decided Kenny would neither have to go to jail nor pay his fine. The law is thus rendered ridiculous.

* * * *

The Federal Government is taking steps to guard against the activities of Nazis, Communists or other enemies of the Canadian system of law and order. The authorities have moved recently to recruit a volunteer force under the direction of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, also utilizing provincial and municipal police departments, with a view to effective action in any emergency that may arise. The Dominion Government claims to be in posession of information with regard to certain individuals and groups that makes it impossible to ignore them. The result is an arrangement for an "anti-sabortage" force that can swing into action whenever its services may be required "No enemy of Canada can say he has not been warned" states an official. "Those in this country who are not ready to subscribe to the democratic ideal and to play their parts in maintaining it, should get out now. There is no room for them here."

* * *

The King and Queen have been visiting the British Industries Fair at the Olympic where they obtained a pair of binoculars and a couple of cameras for their Canadian tour. At Earl's Court Section. Their Majesties ordered a table cloth in pale blue from a display which had been ordered by a Canadian firm for sale during the Royal visit to the Dominion. Mr. Chamberlain's umbrella has furnished ideas to many firms and Queen Mary was shown a lamp in the shape of an umberlla. Elsewhere she saw a Chamberlain clock with umbrella figuring and hands, and bought a number of combs in the shape of an umbrella and called "Mein Gampf." Queen Mary accompanied by the Duke of Kent, the Princess Royal, and the Duchess of Gloucester, made a tour of the sections at Olympia devoted to leather goods, toys, and stationery. Many purchases were made. The toys and games were much admired. Dolls in almost endless variety make a very colourful display. Queen Mary noted the Chamberlain doll, and chose one of the umbrella brand in preference to the fishing-rod type. She was interested to hear that a model of the King was selling particularly well in the United States in view of the impending royal visit.

NOTES BY THE WAY

One hundred years ago New England counting houses buzzed over the announcement of a new business enterprise. Newspaper notices informed them that W. F. Harnden would run a car between New York and Boston for "small packages of goods, bundles, etc." The "car" existed only in a pioneer's prophetic vision. First express shipments were carried in Harnden's carpet bag. On March 4 a railway pageant at the San Francisco Exposition will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the carpet bag's first trip. It will be a tribute to the nameless stalwarts of the service; the pony express rider who accepted wolf packs and prairie fires as seasonal difficulties; the stage coach driver who fought Sioux and bandits; the railway express messenger and the airplane pilots who carry on today. —Business Week, New York.

We have not had long to wait for the British Admiralty's official ractions to Germany's new battleship program. These new Nazi monsters are to mount eight 15-inch guns in their main turrets besides a formidable secondary armament of 5-inchers. Our King George V battleship design was for eight 14-inch guns. It is now announced that these ships will, however, now be mounted with 16-inch instead of 14-inch guns. According to reports the latest Japanese big ships carry 16-inch guns, and the new battleships are to be armed with weapons of that huge calibre. It is know that Italy also has embarked on 16-inch battleships. Though at normal range, is as far as a crow's-nest look-out can see, probably an 11-inch or a 14-inch naval gun is nearly as effective as a 16-inch; in these days the naval gunner is aided by aerial observation commanding a much wider range. Moreover, the weight of metal from a 16-inch salvo at any range would probably be more devastating than that of the lesser guns. —Ottawa ournal.

Perhaps the Metropolitan Opera is decadent. If not, why did it take seriously the comment of Beniamino Gigli, who denounced it in Rome? Gigli is, or has been, a very good tenor. which means that he is equipped with extraordinary chest capacity, admirable vocal cords and an ear for music. Nature rarely confers so much, even upon her favorites; why should anyone expect her to go beyond all this and add an unusual supply of brains? As for Gigli s statement that the United States is approaching "something like civil war," it was probably perfectly sincere. If a street gamin flung an overripe tomato at a policeman within his sight, Beniamino is the sort of man who wou'd see the beginning of civil war in the incident. The country has not forgotten the incident in Detroit in 1926, when somebody, perhaps with a perverted sense of humor sent an anonymous letter to the police, saying: If Gigli wants to adorn a slab in the morgue let him try to sing in Detroit. We will cut this canary's throat. Gigli learned about it, instantly cancelled the Detroit concert and fled from the city, "with sorrow to disappoint my beloved Detroit public." as he said. A man as imaginative as that could easily see civil war in a dozen incidents of the last year. —Baltimore Sun.

There are certain important regions of the world regarding which we have to depend on information that is always inadequate, and not always reliable. One of them is Abyssinia. In view of the inevitable marshalling of forces on the international stage, there are good reasons for desiring to know whether that country is to be regarded as an asset to Italy, as Italians were claiming till late'y, or a liability, as most competent commentators in other countries predicted. In that connection a message from Port Said in the Daily Telegraph recently deserves some attention. It paints a picture that can hardly be congenial to Signor Mussolini of the state of Abyssinia, where the colonization scheme is said to have ended in total failure, brigands are roving the country and the Italians hold only the towns, and though some notable achievements in roadmaking have been carried through some of the new highways are already deteriorating for lack of money for upkeep. Reports from Port Said via—Jibouti are not the most satisfactory form of news regarding Abyssinia, but Jibouti is in fact the only channel through which objective news can emerge. Whatever the precise situation, it is safe to conclude that if Italy ever found herself engaged in hostilities in Libya, the irregular forces still in active existence in Abyssinia would create considerable difficulties for her there. —The Spectator London.

The Nationalists have used air power in direct support of their operations in the field, and in attacks on important strategic objects in Republican territory, and on the enemy's administrative system and means of supply. It is impossible to form any judgment as to the efficacy of what is rather misleadingly called "indiscriminate" bombing—bombing of the civil population—because this can never be effective unless it is practised systematically and intensively, and this has not been done by either side. The Nationalists have confined their bombardments to what must always be recognized in war as legitimate objectives —docks, arsenals, barracks, stores, military and administrative headquarters. It is a tragedy that "open towns" contain so many of these, but it must be remembered that when General Franco delcared a neutral area in Madrid, the Republican Government placed in it material of military and political importance. The most important aspect of this form of aerial attacks has been the attempt of the Nationalists to impose upon the Republicans the equivalent of a naval blockade, by continual bombing of their seaports. This will probably be found to have shortened the war sufficiently to justify a method of warfare which will always antagonize public opinion, although it will certainly be used in future wars. —Peter Kemp, in The National Review, London.

All sorts of reputations are going under these days. Before international broadcasts started, the Billingsgate fishmongers were said to use the strongest language in the world. —Ottawa Citizen.

Italian hotel proprietors and merchants bewail the fact that most of the tourists coming to Italy are now Germans who, because of German exchange restrictions, can spend very little. Well, they know where to address their complaints if they dare. —Moncton Transcript.

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.

STRANGE COINCIDENCE

Sir:—The following authentic story I relate here, happened shortly after my arrival in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in 1918

On December 6, 1917, while on duty as a soldier in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, this city was reduced to ruins through the worst catastrophe of modern times. Thus it was, that shortly afterwards I was transferred to Charlottetown.

It was during my sojourn in the Garden of the Gulf, that a friend living on Water Street, of whom I had become acquainted passed away.

The Sunday following his death, I attended his funeral, the hearse and carriages being drawn by horses.

On the way to the cemetery (two streets above Water), one of the horses drawing the hearse sat down on his haunches, and refused to get up, in spite of persuasion from the driver.

It was necessary to secure another horse in order to proceed.

After the funeral an old lady remarked to a friend, "It is an ill omen, you will have another funeral to attend within fourteen days."

We tried to impress upon her that the days of superstition were over, but she insisted upon her "ill omen."

Friday week following the funeral, a well known citizen of Charlottetown dropped dead in the train on his way home from Hunter's River, where he had been on business in his capacity as a traveller.

The Sunday following, just fourteen days after the previous funeral I had attended (and in the same street, where the horse had sat down), I attended this gentleman's funeral.

I am Sir, etc.,
GEORGE H. BAIGENT.
New Glasgow, N. S.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Sir:—I think the person who wrote in your column recently, under the heading of "Crabbed age and youth," merits sincere congratulations, and allow me to be one of the first to offer them. There is, possibly only one point about which any criticism can be made and that is that he or she did not sign it. I think a letter of this sort is not one to be ashamed of, and should be one of which any one may be in ity proud.

The writer states that when a young person gives vent to his thoughts, he is branded as a "radical." Let me say that the youth living in a free country deprived of a means of livelihood are not allowed as they should, to air their grievances but we hear loud shouts from "old women" of both sexes, who would rather stuff their already bulging purses than give consideration to the coming manhood and womanhood of our province.

I am one hundred per cent behind "young Canadian" when he called such persons "stupid grasping hypocrites." He certainly struck the right note. But of course you are not supposed to say anything about these kindly "old sots" for fear of bringing about a premature end to those already tottering on the grave-side.

In 1938 I was appointed on a delegation to wait on the Government in regard to the placing of a bill on the statutes. The bill was good but our genial assembly were either too much taken up with "balancing" the budget or else were in a mood to display a minimum of interest, so that, as would be expected the bill was thrown out.

On that occasion my thoughts went back to 1916. I was doing guard duty on Halifax pier no. 2, when the 105th Batallion boarded the "Empress of Britain" for overseas. In all sincerity I believe it was as fine a group of young men as I have ever seen pass through Halifax. but this was not the only fine group of men to leave Prince Edward Island. And may I say here, that there was not a Canadian unit fighting in France that did not have one of our sons in its numbers.

Thousands of the best, left Canada to fight for democracy, yet not one in all their number is given an honored place in the representation of this Province. It would appear to me, that the "old boys" are having things pretty much their own way, and when one can no longer take his place on account of the very awkward procedure of bringing a wheel chair upstairs, he relinquishes his stall to his best friend, and that is why "birds of a feather" shine as far as our representation is concerned. In the words of either party, the other is a failure, so surely all these very intelligent men cannot be wrong.

I am not trying to cast reflections on either party. The party and the ones who represent it, are materially two different things, but surely some new blood can be substituted for the one, who time after time have proven their insufficiency.

It might be well for the delegates on whose shoulders the responsibility of nominating candidates rests, to weigh well their decision before making a choice, since we have now reached an anti-climax in poor governments, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Eliminate favoritism from your mind! and give the man who has the interests of his country at heart a chance, rather than giving those who have passed their stage of usefullness an opportunity of repeating their mistakes.

Then gone will be election bribes campaign funds, and party "pop", and we shall have truly representative government which is the sincere hope of each and every honest-minded citizen in our country.

I am Sir, etc.,
DANIEL R. JAY.

LATEST TAXATION SCHEME

Sir:—In their microscopic search for further tax victims, the Liberal Government have discovered that small tradesmen, petty store keepers and earners of a few dollars, have escaped their drag-net.

They have a collector on foot after income taxes, who are otherwise exempt by law. The small grocer or mechanic in trade are told that they are liable, regardless of how small their incomes or holdings may be, and taxes, with arrears demanded.

When the "Taxation Act" was first passed, the Legislature made a distinct provision exempting small earners for certain amounts, then holding that the wage earner and persons of low income must be exempted for an amount to cover certain living expenses. Up to the present, with one exception (referred to below) this intention of the Legislature has been respected. Clause (b) and (2). Sec. 4 of the Act, 1924, reads thus:—

(b) "Every person shall be assessed and taxed on his personal property and income . . . subject to said exemptions and provisions."

(2) "Where any person is assessed and taxed under this Act on the prsonal property from which his income is derived, and where the amount of the tax on the personal property is greater than the amount of the tax on his income, the tax on the personal property shall be the only tax payable in respect of both the income and the personal property, but where the tax on income is greater in amount than the tax on personal property the tax on the income shall be the only tax in respect of both the income and personal property; and where the tax on personal property and the tax on the income are equal in amount, the tax on the income shall be the only tax payable in respect of both the income and personal property."

This last sentence alone, apart from the strong exemptions of the whole context, absolutely declares that where personal property does not exceed the income, then there is no personal property tax assessable for taxation. It must be exclusively—"Income."

This principle was actually tested in the County Court many years ago, by several leading merchants and mechanics. The then government sued a number of outstanding citizens. The defendants pleaded that as business profits were actually wages, exempt as income, that they were entitled to these exemptions. The Court ruled absolutely in favor of the defendants. and dismissed the cases instituted by the Government.

And after all those years this obsolete scheme is resorted to to get at the small earner, whom the law, moral decency, and the intention of the Legislature exempted.

I am Sir, etc.,
LEX.

WHAT WAS THE COST?

Sir:—As the time is drawing near for our Legislature to meet, we trust we shall then learn what is the total amount paid up to date for the land for the National Park, and what amount the Government have spent on this project.

In the fall of 1937 there were many highly paid officials driving around burning Government gas. One day they would stick a number of small laths in the ground, a few days later they would arrive again, take up the small markers and substitute a stake, go back to town and have another joy ride next day to tack a flag on those stakes. This made the hard working farmer realize that there are easier ways of making a living than by plowing and harrowing and he also realized that he was helping to pay for those joy rides as the tax payers must foot the bill, be it Local or Dominion Government that is doing the spending.

The Hon. B. W. LePage, I understand, was very much opposed to this Park project and he stated to a friend of mine, that a park was not needed on our Island and that we could not afford one; but in a short time Mr. LePage seemed to change and now advocates the Park as something wonderful for our Island. Does not this just show us that "where the carcas is there will the eagles gather together"?

When Premier Campbell and Hon

(Continued on page 13, Col 7)

The Poets' Corner

AN EPITAPH

Here lies a most beautiful lady,
Light of step and heart was she;
I think she was the most beautiful lady
That ever was in the West Country.
But beauty vanishes; beauty passes,
However rare—rare it be;
And when I crumble, who will remember
This lady of the West Country?

—Walter de la Mare.

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