

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 1943

Rural Electrification

Last June this Province was visited by Dr. Leonard C. Marsh, research advisor to the Dominion Government and author of the noted "Marsh Plan" for social and economic security. Dr. Marsh was here to consult with the Provincial Government on rehabilitation questions. A Maritime conference was subsequently held about which few details were ever released for publication. One of the things which impressed Dr. Marsh here, however, and which he discussed freely with the press, was our great need of rural electrification. He regarded this as a measure of major importance, citing a comprehensive report prepared by the Manitoba Government on the subject to show that a bold development of rural electrification would not only greatly increase the comfort of the farm home, but also the efficiency of farm production, the size of farm income, the attractiveness of rural life in general, and the rural market for industrial products.

Further convincing arguments along this line, presented by Dr. Eugene Forsey, director of research, Canadian Congress of Labour, to the House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction, also based on the Manitoba Report on Rural Electrification, have been issued in pamphlet form. Here are some interesting quotes:

Canada is one of the greatest electricity producers in the world and still has vast undeveloped power resources. Yet less than 20 per cent of our farms have any electricity at all. The Ontario percentage of 37 is the highest. For Prince Edward Island and the Prairie Provinces the percentages range from 4.7 to 7.3. In Sweden, on the other hand, 75 per cent of the farmers have electricity; Denmark 85; France, Germany and New Zealand about 90; Holland 98. Even in the United States, where geographic conditions are more comparable with Canada, the average is nearly twice as high as in Canada. Six states have over 80 per cent of their farms with electricity; six more have over 70 per cent. Below the Ontario level (which is the best in Canada) are only sixteen states of the not-riculously backward South, and six others. Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Saskatchewan are all below the worst of the American states.

The Manitoba Report estimates that an initial ten-year plan in that province could bring electricity to some 25,000 farms at present without it. Applying this ratio to the other provinces, it seems safe to assume that the total for all provinces would be not less than 250,000 (and even this would leave almost half our farms still without electricity). The Manitoba Commission's estimate of capital costs, applied to the Dominion generally, would indicate a total cost of around \$175,000,000. On a similar basis, the cost of wiring and appliances might reach \$150,000,000, or a grand total of about \$325,000,000 over a ten-year period, or such shorter time as might be practicable. This in itself offers a sizable field for post-war new investment.

While the Manitoba Report is of much general value, conditions differ so widely from province to province that similar reports for the other provinces are urgently necessary. This is one of the things which it is to be hoped the Jones Government is preparing to present at the next session of the Legislature. Both major parties were pledged in the last election to promote rural electrification, and the Government is also pledged to set up a Ministry of Reconstruction under which such a scheme would be extended to cover "all parts of the country." So, we may expect something along this line when the House meets.

Steel More Plentiful

Steel, says an exchange, is no longer the problem child of war production in Canada. At one time factories could not get steel for fabrication into war machines and equipment. A manufacturer would put in an order for steel and then hope. Maybe he would get the steel in six months, perhaps it would be longer. If he ever got it in less than six months, it was always advisable to break the news gently, lest the manufacturer be overcome by the shock. Now, steel is to be released for civilian uses. Baby carriages to care for the never-failing crop of babies will be made. Kitchen utensils to replace worn-out pots and pans are also to be produced. Steel office equipment in which business executives can file away the thousand and one Government directives is another civilian need to get steel. Farm machinery, fences, building materials and other items are to be made from steel released for civilian use.

Now perhaps, we can get on with the building of our long-delayed car ferry.

Ignoring Parliament

Appearing before the House of Commons Reconstruction Committee, Labor Minister Mitchell, according to The Canadian Press, forecast "a national transportation policy" covering railway, highway and air carriers, imposing "similar controls" on each. In doing so he was obviously assuming authority which does not belong either to him or to the Government for which, presumably, he spoke.

No doubt, comments the Globe and Mail, there will be a redrafting of the national transportation policy. But no Minister of the Crown is in a position to tell a House committee what the changes in that policy are going to be. In appearing before the committee the Minister of

Labor was in no position different from the spokesmen of the railway brotherhoods or any ordinary citizens who may care to make recommendations to it. Like them, he could say what he thought should be done, and urge that it be done. What is done will be for Parliament to decide.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of the worst storms on record was that of St. Andrew's night, 1892, 51 years ago when both the steamers from Pictou to Charlottetown and Pt. de Chene to Summerside were held up crossing for nearly twelve hours.

Says the Moncton Transcript in reply to an article in these columns: "The Transcript readily concedes first place among the provinces to Prince Edward Island on its record of enlistments. It is unfortunate that, because that province is joined with Nova Scotia in Military District No. 6, official figures fail to show its high standing and that, in consequence, it does not always receive the honor that is due it for its magnificent showing in enlistments. Whether or not it also leads in the percentage of call-ups, The Guardian does not say, and the figures are not available here."

The Christmas transatlantic venture of the R.C.A.F. into the field of mail-carrying is not entirely a new thing for Canada's fighting air force is already furnishing a transport service between Moncton and Goose, also up in the north. But the prospect of there being insufficient facilities elsewhere to get all the vast pile of Christmas mail to the troops by Christmas was in effect a challenge to the R.C.A.F. and the project soon to be launched will help to make happy not only Canadian flyers in other areas but also soldiers and sailors of this country's fighting forces beyond the Atlantic. It means that R.C.A.F. machines will help T.C.A. and the R.A.F. ferry command and the U.S. service move mail across the Atlantic but they will also aid in getting mail to Canada's troops in Italy and even to war-employed Canadians in Northeast Africa and as far east as Ceylon. And this service is to be continued while the war lasts, and also form the basis for post-war Canadian air transport service.

This is how Mr. Donald Gordon, Aberdeen chief of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, solved the Haggis dilemma for Tuesday night: "It is understood that the board action was taken in response to appeals from interested parties throughout Canada and that these consisted principally of collect telegrams and franked letters. A spokesman for the board said to ascertain that there is any commonly-agreed-upon recipe for haggis. In some forms it is believed to contain sheep's stomachs, hearts, livers, lungs and hoofs and while the meatless Tuesday order prohibits serving of butchers' offal in public eating places on Tuesday, it was felt that an exception could be made for haggis because as many Scotsmen contend it is a hardship to eat it as maintain it is a hardship to go without it. It was intimated that haggis originated in the days of border raiding as a means of concealing evidence of sheep stealing but has since become a recourse of harassed cheifs in house-cleaning seasons."

There is an evident revival in men's organizations in connection with the Churches. Away back in the 'Twenties they flourished, but for some reason or other most of them died out. The following is the syllabus for session 1926-7 of St. James Literary Society:

- 1926 Nov. 5—Opening Address and Soiree, Rev. W. Bruce Muir. Nov. 12—"Island Stories by an Island Writer", Mr. W. A. Stewart. Nov. 19—Debate: "Is a Business Education Better Than a Classical Education?", Affirmative, Mr. Ian Burnett; Negative, Mr. Heath Saunders. Nov. 26—"Are There Really Ghosts and Goblins?", Dr. Heath McIntyre. Dec. 3—Debate: "Is Attending Moving Pictures Harmful?", Affirmative, Mr. Wm. Burns; Negative, Mr. Roderick Munn. Dec. 10—"The Three Musketeers", (Dumas), Mr. N. D. MacLean. Dec. 17—"Dickens' Christmas Carol", Rev. W. Bruce Muir. Dec. 24—Holiday. Dec. 31—Holiday. 1927 Jan. 7—"Why We Turn Over a New Leaf", Hon. John Agnew. Jan. 14—Debate: "Is the Standard of Public Speaking Degenerating?", Affirmative, Mr. Robyn Cameron; Negative, Mr. Albert Roop. Jan. 21—R. L. Stevenson's "Treasure Island", Mr. W. A. McLaren. Jan. 28—Debate: "That Mental Development Gives More Satisfaction Than Physical Development", Affirmative, Mr. David Stewart; Negative, Mr. Wendel Macdonald. Feb. 14—"What Should Boys Read?", Mr. R. R. Hurst. Feb. 18—"Hat Night". Feb. 18—"Peeps at the Heavens", Mr. D. K. Currie. Feb. 24—Debate: "Is it Better to Have Failed Than Never to Have Tried at All?", Affirmative, Mr. Harry Hyndman; Negative, Mr. Stirling Macdonald. March 4—"Some Mispelled Humor", Mr. K. M. Martin. March 11—Barrie's "Peter Pan and Wendy", Mr. C. Cameron. March 18—"The Value of a Popular Free Library, Art Gallery and Museum", Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M.L.A. March 25—"The Place of Hymns in Worship", Mr. D. A. MacKinnon. April 1—"All Fool's Day and Its Jokes", Mr. A. W. Hyndman. April 8—Closing Address and Soiree — Hon. J. A. Mathieson.

Notes By The Way

In this post-war dream home, of glass construction, through one slip downstairs to spot the collar button beneath an upstairs dresser. —Milwaukee Journal

The Hamilton Spectator says that the dark dingy cellar of an earlier day has vanished, being replaced by the bright, cleanly modern version. We should like to escort the man who said that into the awesome grotto where we keep our furnace, and set him to work shovelling some of our old-fashioned ashes. —Peterborough Examiner

The lowly skunk has been given a lot of most undeserved publicity, according to a man who claims to know much about these little animals. This man tells us that when a skunk is trapped, the other skunks will bring him a bed to lie on. Further, that they will bring him food. He says he can prove this. If what this man says is true, and we are not counting him a bit, name any other animal, wild or tame, that is so considerate of its own at a time like that. —Trenton Courier Advocate

I have been living in England for just over three years. During these three years, in the towns and villages of Great Britain, in trains and on motor cars, in streets, in shops and shelters, in clubs, in drawing rooms and in factories, so many faces smiled at me so many eyes greeted me, so many friendly hands shook mine and so many lips spoke a kindly welcome to me. They all belong to friends whose names and addresses are unknown to me. This letter to you, Sir, is the only way I can say good-bye to your people, whom I found to be the kindest in the world. —Czechoslovak Officer in London Times

It is welcome news that New Brunswick has harvested a bumper crop of potatoes. The potato belt of the province is practically the only such area in central and eastern Canada to "dig" the crop, so to speak, in its volume and uniformly dependable quality. According to recent reports in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal, it is estimated that there will be a total crop of 8,000,000 barrels and top \$20,000,000 in value, the best record in the potato growing history of the province. This is a tremendous count for much in the agricultural and economical life of the province. It is of vital importance to the potato growers of the province. —Quebec Free Press

A comparatively small percentage of the population of patience and omniscience that make a first-class proffreader. It is thought of, at least in some hardy, the great German exponent of the doctrine of ruthlessness in war, still living in Berlin, they must be a stiff-necked breed, hard to shake out of their convictions. The capital of the Reich for more than two years has been a favorite target of our air forces, and has suffered tremendous damage from some 80 earlier raids, but apparently none of them matched in devastation the double attack on Monday, when about 1,000 planes of the Royal Air Force unloaded more than 2,300 tons of bombs upon the city. The estimated toll of 10,000 lives is much higher than the losses in London in any single day of Hitler's aerial blitzkrieg, and the destruction of such buildings, men and Swedish correspondents tell of widespread conflagrations and enormous destruction of buildings. When the German radio admits that the raid caused "serious damage," no further evidence of the calamitous effects upon the German metropolis is required. But the consequences will extend far beyond the city itself. If, as a Swedish newspaper reports, it is a doomed city which can never recover from this blow, the effect upon the morale of the whole German people will be tremendous. It is the administrative nerve centre of Germany, and the general paralysis of its life which must ensue when the Reich is reduced to ruins as the headquarters of the Ministry of Munitions are bound to impair the efficiency of Germany's war machine. Previous air raids had made many of its 4,000,000 inhabitants seek refuge in safer places, and now in all likelihood a huge flood of homeless, terror-stricken refugees will pour out from the capital to every corner of Germany to spread stories of the appalling destruction wrought by the hostile planes and of the helplessness of the defenses against such attacks. Berlin, a great garish modern city, was a symbol of modern Germany, but the Germans were very proud of it, and its destruction will be a shattering blow to whatever confidence in ultimate victory they still retained. In the last war, the use of air power was not sufficiently developed to permit the bombing of Berlin by the Allies, and apart from the trivial effects of sporadic air raids upon Cologne and some other places in the Rhineland, the Ger-

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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, will be received at this office until noon on Friday, the 3rd day of December, 1943, from any person or persons willing to contract for the gravelling of the Ellerslie Road, Lot 13. Specifications for this work may be seen at this office. Tenders shall be marked "TENDER FOR GRAVELLING ELLERSLIE ROAD." Required deposit of \$1,000.00 must accompany each tender. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. (L. B. MacMILLAN), Deputy Minister of Public Works & Highways

Berlin's Fate (Globe and Mail) If any disciples of Gen. Berthold, the great German exponent of the doctrine of ruthlessness in war, still living in Berlin, they must be a stiff-necked breed, hard to shake out of their convictions. The capital of the Reich for more than two years has been a favorite target of our air forces, and has suffered tremendous damage from some 80 earlier raids, but apparently none of them matched in devastation the double attack on Monday, when about 1,000 planes of the Royal Air Force unloaded more than 2,300 tons of bombs upon the city. The estimated toll of 10,000 lives is much higher than the losses in London in any single day of Hitler's aerial blitzkrieg, and the destruction of such buildings, men and Swedish correspondents tell of widespread conflagrations and enormous destruction of buildings. When the German radio admits that the raid caused "serious damage," no further evidence of the calamitous effects upon the German metropolis is required. But the consequences will extend far beyond the city itself. If, as a Swedish newspaper reports, it is a doomed city which can never recover from this blow, the effect upon the morale of the whole German people will be tremendous. It is the administrative nerve centre of Germany, and the general paralysis of its life which must ensue when the Reich is reduced to ruins as the headquarters of the Ministry of Munitions are bound to impair the efficiency of Germany's war machine. Previous air raids had made many of its 4,000,000 inhabitants seek refuge in safer places, and now in all likelihood a huge flood of homeless, terror-stricken refugees will pour out from the capital to every corner of Germany to spread stories of the appalling destruction wrought by the hostile planes and of the helplessness of the defenses against such attacks. Berlin, a great garish modern city, was a symbol of modern Germany, but the Germans were very proud of it, and its destruction will be a shattering blow to whatever confidence in ultimate victory they still retained. In the last war, the use of air power was not sufficiently developed to permit the bombing of Berlin by the Allies, and apart from the trivial effects of sporadic air raids upon Cologne and some other places in the Rhineland, the Ger-

man Fatherland contrived to enjoy immunity from the direct ravages of war. It had only experienced some of them, the German people would probably have shown less enthusiasm than they actually did for the combined efforts of Hitler and the General Staff of the Reichwehr to revive Germany's military strength and prestige as a prelude to embarking upon another great adventure in aggression for the purpose of avenging the earlier defeat and achieving world domination. Now at last they must be coming to realize that the impact of war waged with totalitarian fury can bring back upon the heads of its promoters, after they have failed to achieve an easy early victory, a terrifying destruction of human lives and valuable property; and for the first time since the invasions of Napoleon more than a century ago millions of Germans are getting a first-hand experience of the grim horrors of conflict.

We have an idea that by the time the air forces of the United Nations have attained their planned objective of reducing all the important cities of Germany to formless masses of rubble the German people will be thoroughly surfeited with war and its consequences, and that for many years hereafter anybody who tries to preach about the glories of war with pen or voice will have a very chilly reception in the Reich. It is regrettable that the methods which have to be adopted for purging the German mentality of the baneful ideology implanted in it by Prussian militarism involves the loss of the lives of children and other innocent people. But if the ultimate result is to fix firm in the German mind the conviction that war does not pay, and that an infinitely more desirable goal is permanent peace from which Germany, in common with the rest of the world, would profit, then generations of Germans yet unborn may benefit by the deaths of unfortunate victims of the air raids, which were the only means of driving home to the whole race a lesson that had to be taught.

AND BEER SO SCARCE SYDNEY, Australia. — (CP) — The package Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith found on a train in the Blue Mountains was heavy and it tinkled. Was it a bomb? Railway officials investigated and later informed the Smiths 15 bottles of beer had gone to the lost property office.

for Easier Quicker BETTER BAKING. BRODIE'S OAT COOKIES. 1 cup Brodie's Self-Rising Flour, 1 cup Rolled Oats, 1/2 cup Raisins, 1/2 cup Sugar, 1/2 cup Butter, 1/2 cup Milk. Mix flour and rolled oats together. Melt butter and add boiling water and brown sugar. Combine the two mixtures. Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet and press down with fork. Bake in moderate oven until slightly brown. Baking time from 10 to 15 minutes.

The Post's Corner. FROM: AUTUMN. O go and sit with her, and be overhauled. Under the languid downfall of her hair! She wears a coronal of flowers faded Upon her forehead, and a face of care.— There is enough of wither'd every-where To make her bower,—and enough of gloom; There is enough of sadness to trouble. If only for the rose that died, whose doom is Beauty's—she that with the living bloom Of conscious cheeks most beautiful, has faded; There is enough of sorrowing, and quite enough of bitter fruits the earth does bear.— Enough of chilly droppings for her bowl; Enough of fear and shadowy despair. To frame her cloudy vision for the soul! —Thomas Hood. MASTERPIECES LOST. The poems written by Chedmon, seventh century Anglo-Saxon poet, have been lost though paraphrases of his work survive.

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National Film Board. Sound Movies. NOV. 29 - DEC 4. North Wilshire - - - - Thursday. Southport - - - - - Friday. Vernon - - - - - Saturday.

WARNING. To all persons who have not paid their 1943 dog tax on or before the 4th day of December, 1943, summons will be issued. J. A. FULLERTON City Clerk.

GRUEL. MOVIE PREVIEW TIME. A radio preview and discussion of outstanding motion pictures to be shown soon in our favorite theatre. This week's movie is "Flesh & Fantasy". 8 P.M. Charlottetown. Tonight. 7.15-7.30 P.M.

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