

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1945

N. B. Reconstruction Program

The New Brunswick Committee of Reconstruction has made a very comprehensive report to the Provincial Government, and a summary of its recommendations makes very interesting reading. It includes a proposed harbor development scheme, with particular reference to Saint John; airport construction; \$38,658,000 to be spent on postwar highway grading and paving and \$2,535,000 on new bridges; intensive program of forestry conservation; aid to potato growers in development of insect and disease resistant varieties; improvement of dehydrated and starch manufacturing methods; and better utilization of waste material from the potato industry; cooperation with Ottawa to obtain abundance of commercial fertilizer and limestone at cheapest price; farm drainage and land clearing program; acceleration of soil survey; distribution of western feed grains at minimum cost; encouragement of fish meal industry; further development of blueberry harvest; development of cooperative cold storage plants; assistance to fishermen by various ways; radical improvement of public health services; rural electrification; eight million dollar school building program; slum clearance and housing projects; full review of Dominion-provincial financial relations, etc.

The report is evidently the result of careful and expert study, and has the advantage of presenting a concrete programme which can be discussed on its merits with the federal authorities. In this Province the Jones Government has not yet got around to establishing that non-partisan Reconstruction Committee which it promised in its election platform. However, Premier Jones has recently assumed the portfolio of minister of the new department (for which authority was taken at the last session of the Legislature) and, still more recently, a secretary or deputy of the department was appointed in the person of Mr. I. F. Connolly.

No doubt reconstruction problems were discussed by Premier Jones and other members of the Island delegation which visited Ottawa last week. What is needed now is a blueprint such as the New Brunswick Reconstruction Committee has so fully prepared for that province. This is a matter which should be divorced entirely from politics, and it is hoped that the public will be kept fully informed of the progress made from time to time, on a subject of such vital interest and importance.

Empire Forces

The total strength of the British Commonwealth and Empire forces at the middle of 1944 was 8,713,000. The number of men reported as killed, missing, or prisoner of war is not included in this total. If allowance is made for these and for men discharged on medical and other grounds the total number of men who are serving or have served since the outbreak of the war has been over 100 millions. The comparable figure for the last war was 9 millions. The casualties to all ranks of the armed forces of the United Kingdom during the first five years of war, as reported up to September 3, 1944, were:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Killed: 176,081; Missing: 38,275; Wounded: 193,788; Prisoner of War: 154,968; Total: 563,112

Casualties to the British Commonwealth and Empire forces during the first five years of war as reported up to September 3, 1944, were 925,963 of whom 242,995 were killed, 80,603 missing, 311,500 wounded, and 290,865 prisoner of war. From the beginning of the war on August 31, 1944, 29,629 merchant seamen serving in ships registered in the United Kingdom have been killed by enemy action at sea and 4,173 have been interned by the enemy. These figures exclude the number of merchant seamen who have been wounded or injured.

If McNaughton Were Defeated?

Appropos of General McNaughton's candidature in the coming by-election in North Grey, the question is being raised of what will happen to him if he is defeated—whether he would be compelled to resign from the Cabinet immediately, or whether he could remain in as Defence Minister standing for some other constituency in the coming general election. Oddly enough, says the Ottawa Journal, there is no law governing the matter—and little precedent. All that exists is custom; the custom under which members of the Cabinet must be members of Parliament. The fact remains that this custom, supported by no statute, could not prevent Mr. King from continuing General McNaughton in his Cabinet regardless of the verdict of North Grey. Mr. King could hunt about for a safer place to run his man, or, in law, he could allow McNaughton to remain Defence Minister and simply have him represented in the Commons by some other Minister or a Parliamentary Assistant. But if this is the law it is not the custom. Our system of government is based on parliamentary representation, on the principle that if a man cannot be elected he has no right to govern. So fundamental is this principle that up until 1931 whenever a Member of Parliament was named to the Cabinet he had to run

for re-election to prove public approval of his right to receive emoluments of office. Nowhere in Canada's parliamentary history is there a case of a cabinet minister holding office for more than the two or three months it took to arrange his election in Parliament.

In the long record of Britain's parliamentary history there is only one case. In 1846 Gladstone held the Colonial Secretaryship for one year without being in Parliament, his Newark seat being refused him because of his stand in favor of repealing the Corn Laws.

In the light of this, Mr. King would hardly disregard the basic principle of our governmental system. General McNaughton, moreover, holds the key Cabinet post in this wartime government. That he could continue to hold it without a seat in Parliament, after an unsuccessful attempt at the polls, is scarcely conceivable.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With the demobilizing of Leach Grove, the loss of 130 employees at Bruce Stewart's, and the indications of Federal disregard for our interests, the prospects of Government here under present Liberal Government are glum indeed.

One of the anomalies of our present system of snow shovelling is that those law-abiding citizens who regularly keep their pavements clean are the ones to suffer most, and the most denounced by pedestrians, when a thaw sets in, for theirs become the flooded footpaths.

Prospects for the vacant Air Ministry are being discussed at Ottawa, and Hon. Colin Gibson, Minister of National Revenue suggested as the likely appointee. What about assistant Minister Cyrus MacMillan, isn't he entitled to promotion, and aren't we entitled to a seat in the Government? Oh, for some worthwhile "yappers" at Ottawa to make the rafters ring!

Under present regulations members of the R. C. A. F. who have had overseas service or more than three years' service in Canada are not subject to army call when they are discharged from the air force. New regulations will restrict the exemption to those with overseas service. Such a policy would make available for army service a large number of ground crew whose service has been limited to Canada. The 4,200 trainees released by the R. C. A. F. following curtailment of the air training plan are practically all subject to call and may already be directed to report for army training.

In its post war programme to be submitted to the Federal Government, New Brunswick recommends that \$8,091,000 be spent on school building requirements in the 10-year period following the war. (This includes \$1,619,500 for replacement or improvement of 1,110 one-room schools, \$1,450,500 for replacement or improvement of 100 elementary graded schools in rural areas, \$3,000,000 for construction of 60 new regional high schools, \$650,000 for extensions or new buildings for academic and vocational secondary schools in cities and towns, and \$1,165,000 for replacement or improvement of elementary schools in cities and towns).

Edmund Spenser, English poet, died this date 1599; born in London, and educated there and at Cambridge where he distinguished himself and became known to Sir Philip Sidney; gained literary fame first with his Shepherd's Calendar; receiving a government appointment in Ireland, he published in 1580 Astrophel and a elegy on Sidney, and later, the first part of his long allegorical poem, Faerie Queene, the second part not being published till his return to London, 1596, when he also published Prothalamion; his home was burned and one of his children burned in Ireland, and he himself died in poverty and disappointment; his poetry is remarkable for grace and melody; together with a sumptuous imagination.

The righteous man, to make him daily fell, Were not that heavenly grace doth him uphold, And steadfast Truth quite out of all!

If the health of the residents of Saint John is to be adequately protected there is an urgent need for the pasteurization of all fluid milk brought into the city for consumption was the opinion expressed at a meeting of the Saint John Board of Health. Laboratory tests made recently indicated the necessity for such measure, it was stated. To further emphasize their stand in the matter the board passed a second resolution urging the provincial government to provide for compulsory pasteurization of all fluid milk sold in the province. A similar resolution was passed at a meeting of the board some time ago but no action has been taken to date. The Saint John board has not been authorized to enforce the pasteurization of milk being delivered to consumers. By checking raw milk as it comes from the producer individual licenses may be suspended if the standard of cleanliness is low in the opinion of the dairy and foods inspector, but that is all.

Quebec is getting along nicely under the King Government "conscription" policy. Police Chief Jean Jules Gagnon told the Quebec City Council they now had none of the police force listed. All the City Constables once in the armed forces now are back in the police force. Then Major Gerald Bigaoutte, M. D., Medical Officer Commanding the No. 5 Provost Corps has resigned. Reason: "I did not object ordering the tracking down of military delinquents when they had volunteered for service," he said. "However, I do object to give similar orders when they concern men who have been conscripted for service overseas." Maj. Bigaoutte has been in charge of the Provost Corps since 1940, and evidently has more respect for conscripts than volunteers.

Notes By The Way

The first grapefruit grove in the USSR, in Georgia, will yield an estimated 100,000 grapefruit this year. Introduced from the United States only a few years ago, the grapefruit is gaining wide popularity in the USSR. Planting was halted by the war, but the grove in the sub-tropical zone are now being expanded.—USSR Bulletin.

Figures of hog production in Canada for the first nine months of 1944 show that Alberta is still far in the lead. Up to the end of September, Alberta had contributed to the flow of hogs into commercial channels, eventually to feed Allied armies overseas. The Lethbridge Herald reports that Ontario produced 1,853,000, Saskatchewan 1,484,000 and Manitoba fourth with 860,000. All three provinces increased 60,000 this year over last, or about 40 per cent but there are signs that production is now falling off.

In the sixth year of war they can still see in a neutral country a wedding party of 3,000 invited guests, fantastic splendour and pageantry, water-falls of jewels, opulent receptions, second marriages, Express Foreign editor, brought pictures to London from Spain, taken at Seville, where, in the great cathedral, Pedro, the Orlean-Braganza—grandson of the first Emperor of Brazil—and Princess Esperanza of Bourbon-Orleans were married by Cardinal Segura. The bridegroom, wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece, and the bride, with Orlean-Braganza. Describing the wedding, Foley said there were "bridesmaids and a top hat, and marquis and counts to fill the train. There are 16 trunks of trousseau to be sent to the bride's new home in Rio de Janeiro. The wedding presents filled several rooms, and included jewels valued at thousands of pounds.—London Express.

Banks are dignified institutions, and we like them that way. A romping or frolicsome bank is unthinkable. But banks are also human, and we have always been rather sorry that they took pains to conceal their humanity from the public. Such concealment has led to the familiar cartoon conception of a banker as an over-stuffed old gentleman with white hair and a top hat, who sits in a high-backed chair, and is cruelly indifferent to the size of the average citizen; it has allowed Socialists (who only like Socialists) to spread the idea that bankers are scheming fellows who bring about depressions and who are always trying to make money out of the backs of the poor. It has fostered the legend that banks are bowlegged institutions operating on business principles laid down by Scrooge. Banks have never been like that, although they have become much sunnier during the past 25 years.—Peterborough Examiner.

Most educational authorities agree that the major reason for the decrease in secondary schools was the fact that many young people left school to take war jobs. Thousands of them, having gone to work in the summer, simply kept on working and failed to return to their classes. What those young people should have realized, and what those in similar circumstances must realize, now that re-conversion is in the air, is that the education they have received is more important than any immediate aid they can give, as workers to be effective. Here in Newfoundland, as elsewhere throughout the country, the local department's campaign deserves praise. But the price of this campaign is that children now of high school age, that they represent the future for which we are fighting and must prepare ourselves for it.—Baltimore Sun.

The interim report of the Rev. Committee on dentistry just issued gives a frankly gloomy picture of the dental health of the population. Describing it bluntly as "bad" and adding that its effect on general health is bad, the report states that the examination of recruits for the armed forces, drawn from every part of the country, has disclosed a widespread incidence of dental disease. The committee takes the view that a comprehensive dental service should form an essential part of the National Health Service, and it hopes to make such a service sufficiently attractive to secure recruits.

Chinese Government reports indicate that Chungking cigarettes are made of tobacco produced locally. Americans who smoke them are inclined to disagree. They contend that the law of the material used by the manufacturers consists of whatever is rejected by the makers of Chungking cigars. The cigars, say these experts (who judge by taste alone), are made of hemp soaked in glue and bound together with reclaimed rubber, third grade. New York Herald Tribune.

The Canadian contribution to the common war effort has been massive, and this is an appropriate moment to acknowledge it. Canada has been liberal with her manpower and equally liberal with munitions, food and money. Canada, for instance, bears the entire cost of pay, allowances, maintenance and equipment of all R.C.A.F. squadrons operating overseas, and likewise of all R.C.A.F. personnel in the R.A.F. That land of wide spaces has shown an equal breadth in her cooperation with the Empire. It is highly gratifying to see Canada getting results commensurate with her great outpourings.—Edinburgh Evening News.

Of all Allied aircraft, Berliners are said to dread most of all the Mosquito, which they term "the money raider." As the newest Mosquito now flies at a height of six miles, above the range of German anti-aircraft batteries, and can carry a 4,000-pound bomb, six 500-pounders, that fear would appear to be thoroughly justified.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

WOODSTOCK MAYOR RE-ELECTED WOODSTOCK, N.B., Jan. 11 (CP)—Edgar A. Neal was re-elected by acclamation today for another one-year term as Mayor of Woodstock.

"White Dwarfs" And Starry Spaces

(London Times) Speaking of "White Dwarfs and Starry Spaces," Sir James Jeans said that all the stars that could be seen without a telescope lay inside a sphere having a radius of about 3,000 light-years—that was to say, the distance which light travelling 11,000,000 miles a minute took 3,000 years to cover. Judged by terrestrial standards such a sphere seemed inconceivably great. The light by which we saw its farthest stars started on its journey long before the foundation of Rome, before the siege of Troy, and only reached us now. Yet this sphere was only one drop in the great ocean of space. The greatest of stars had a diameter of something like 200,000 light-years; their light sent out enough energy to run a space long before man had become civilized at all. If they compared that wheel to the driving force of an express locomotive, the sphere of stars seen with the unaided eye would be the size of a soap suds bubble on the surface of a rotating star; our own system was only one of many.

The central stars of the planetary nebulae were remarkable as being the hottest of stars known to astronomy—indeed, that was probably why they alone had a surface temperature of 10,000 degrees Centigrade, or 10 times the temperature of the sun. Even the fire in the fire-box of a locomotive was so hot that its few square feet of surface radiated enough energy to run a train, but these stars were so hot that an area of surface the size of a postage stamp sent out enough energy to run a vast liner the size of the Queen Mary.

The central stars of these nebulae were abnormally small as well as abnormally hot; they belonged to the class of very compact stars known as white dwarfs. One of these stars had recently been discovered with only about half the dimensions of the earth. In spite of its small size it probably contained nearly 1,000,000 times as much substance as the sun, so that its average density must be about 35,000,000 times that of water. To put it in another way, a cubic centimetre of earth contained 1,000 ounces, but the average cubic foot of matter in that star contained about 1,000,000 tons. A piece the size of a pinhead would break a man's back. That was an extreme case, and the central stars of the planetary nebulae were mostly considerably larger, the majority having one-half or one-third of the diameter of the sun. The nearest of these nebulae were many thousands of light-years distant, so that they appeared as faint objects in the telescope.

Describing the nebulae lying outside the wheel which our sun belongs, Sir James said it was impossible to form any clear mental picture of such vast distances, but a small-scale model might, perhaps, provide some slight help. If we constructed a model on the scale of one inch to one million miles, the inch all the stars we could see with our unaided eyes were contained in a cube less than one-hundredth of an inch in diameter—a mere speck of dust. But the telescopic universe occupied a sphere 90 feet in diameter, and our model of our whole galaxy was a small disk of the size of a pin-head; our sun was a single electron, and the earth was one-millionth part of an electron.

After discussing the theories of various scientists, Sir James concluded: As you will see there is an absolute feast of hypotheses to choose from. You may pin your faith to any one of them, but you must not be certain about any. Personally, I feel disinclined to choose any one in particular; it seems to me that it is still open to question whether space is finite or infinite, whether it is curved or flat, whether the so-called constants of nature change in value or stand still—if, indeed, any of these questions have any meaning. I know that in saying this I lay myself open to the charge that having led you into a maze I do not know the way out. But, if you will, I shall try to show you the way out. In my defence let me quote R. L. Stevenson: "Little do we know our own blessings; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." Those scientists who work at these problems are still enjoying the explorer's thrill as they ever venture into new territory.

The Poet's Corner

ECSTASY I taste a liquor never brewed, These words a bard scooped in pearl; Not all the vintners on the Rhine Yield such an alcohol!

Inebriate of air am I, And debauchee of dew, Reeling through endless summer days From firs of molten blue.

When landlords turn the drunken bee, Out of the foxglove's door, When butterflies renounce their drams, I shall not drink the more, Till seraphs swing their snowy hats, And saints to windows run, To see the drowsy weaver busy Leaning against the sun.

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Program will consist of: Discussion on correct tattooing of Hogs for identification purpose; Followed by:

Practical demonstration on Live Hogs at Stock Pens. Everybody interested in tattooing hogs or having occasion to do the job is invited to attend, irrespective of where tattooed hogs are being shipped.

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