

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Edition (Founded in 1871)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.

Subscription Rates
By Mail in P.E.I. \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months
\$1.25 for 3 months; 50c for one month

By Mail to other Provinces and U.S.A. \$5.00 per year
Saturday Weekly: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months
50c for 3 months

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1942.

Canada's Poor Publicity

A Washington correspondent in the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) writes that Canada's war effort in so far as publicity in the United States is concerned, has reached such a low ebb that it can be denominated truthfully by the term "boycott."

Numerous reasons have been adduced by both Britons and Canadians to the writer for this American press boycott of Canada, so different from the treatment accorded in the last war.

The long and bitter isolationist campaign in which Britain and Canada were used as whipping posts—the desire for a scapegoat.

Inept presentation of Canada's case, failure to seize the psychological moments for publicity, and lack of a vigorous publicity campaign in the United States.

Unflinching opposite work of defeatist and fifth columnist elements invariably picturing Canada as an unwilling participant in the war.

Fighting in France, at Dunkirk, in Norway, North Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East in which no Canadian forces were engaged.

Widespread expectation by the numerous British haters in the United States and unconscious American imperialists that Britain was about to collapse after Dunkirk; that Canada must then take refuge in American suzerainty.

Traditional American dislike for the "Tory" party and "ruling classes" in Britain, still regarded as dominating Canada.

These are only a few of the reasons one hears given by puzzled Britons and Canadians, says The Free Press correspondent. They do not apply to either the American Government nor the large class of intelligent Americans who recognize that if Britain falls, America will not have a real friend left on earth.

"The Canadian Government," says the Free Press correspondent, "has a bad name with the press here (at Washington) for its habit of silence. News of the great range of Canadian activities in relation to America is virtually unobtainable in Washington. This does not embrace vital war news. It does include commercial relationships; our buying and selling; our intimate financial relations with the American treasury, the federal reserve board, the tariff commission, and others too numerous to mention. Sources wide open to American reports in so far as domestic affairs are concerned. But where Canada is affected, they are a closed book to both Canadian and American reporters. That is the chief reason for Canadian unpopularity with the average American reporter; they are weary of news refusals. They are disgusted with the invariable answer that Canadian news must be given out at Ottawa—meaning real news, not stuffed shirt government 'releases.' In American minds, the implication is that Canadian news is used at-home to win press favoritism."

It is to be hoped that the result of Monday's plebiscite will create a more favorable opinion of Canada's war effort, and that the King Government will seize this opportunity of establishing closer relations with the American press and public.

United Kingdom Farm Prices

The Minister of Agriculture has announced that an adjustment in the prices for farm products in the United Kingdom was being made after full consultation with the National Farmers' Unions of England, Wales and Scotland, writes Mr. G. R. Paterson, Animal Products Trade Commissioner in London, in a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

The price of millable wheat will be increased from 14s. 6d. to 16s. per cwt. The maximum price for milling oats will be increased from 13s. 9d. to 14s. 9d. per cwt., and that of feed oats from 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. per cwt. The price of rye will be raised to a maximum

of 15s. 6d. per cwt. It is expected that a new maximum price will be announced at an early date for malting barley, but in the meantime the feed barley price will be raised to a maximum of 14s. 6d. per cwt.

There will also be some adjustment in the price to be paid for the 1942 crop of potatoes. This will vary according to variety, district and the season of the year, but the general aim will be to give the farmers an increased return of approximately 5s. per ton as compared with what they obtained for the 1941 crop.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It was natural this Province should lead in the "Yes" vote, having already led in volunteer enlistment.

When the soldier vote is added to the civilian vote, the "yes" will practically make it unanimous—outside Quebec.

It is now for the Prime Minister to forget his "ifs" and "ans" and get on with the job of helping to win the war.

Charles William Shirley Brooks, English novelist and editor, born this date 1816; considered one of the greatest Editors of Punch, where he succeeded the great Mark Lemon in 1870; he started in it the well-known series of satirical articles, "The Essence of Parliament," which have been continued ever since; was educated for the bar, but turned to journalism and novel writing, his novels including "Aspen Court," "The Gordian Knot," "The Silver Cord."

The total area sown to field crops in Prince Edward Island in 1941 was 456,224 acres compared with 494,692 in 1939, according to 1941 census returns. The area sown to wheat decreased by slightly more than 50 per cent during the ten-year period, while that of barley increased 246 per cent. A drop of 15.8 per cent was shown for Oats, but mixed grain rose 70.4 per cent. The area sown to potatoes fell off almost 26 per cent during the ten year interval.

Substantial savings of labor, materials and production have been effected in the knit goods industries by drastic reduction in the types of yarns and range of colors hitherto supplied from primary textile mills, according to the War-time Prices and Trade Board. Through steps worked out in collaboration between the industry and the board's knit goods administration, the number of shades of worsted yarn to be offered to the outerwear knitting trade has been slashed from 1,400 to 48. The number of shades of yarn available to the men's fancy half hose trade has been reduced from about 400 to five solid and three mixture shades. Worsteds formerly supplied in approximately 35 different counts of both single ply and double or multiple ply are now confined to eight counts single and 12 counts double. Cotton yarns are now confined to 18 counts, instead of 44 as previously. The reductions mean less stock to be carried by the knitting mills and fewer changes of machines from one count to another. The 20 shades in which makers of women's stockings formerly offered their product have been cut to six standard shades plus four shades of each mill's own choice.

Reports from Quebec that the Godbout government is planning to take over the privately-owned power companies in order to create a provincial hydro, presumably fashioned after that in Ontario, have been accepted at their full face value in Montreal utility circles. "They evidently intend to take us over," was the comment of one well-informed utility man. It was learned that during the past few weeks the provincial government has been securing considerable data on capitalizations, operating results, etc., of the several Quebec power companies. It was thought possible that an enabling bill may be introduced before the end of the present session or within a couple of weeks. A prize objective of the provincial Government in any such move would be the recapture for retention within the province of the large sums which now go annually to the Federal Government for income taxes, 1941's figure in this respect having been something like \$12,000,000 with Montreal Power alone accounting for about half of the total. Such a saving could be either applied towards a reduction in rates or, following the Ontario practice, be used as a sinking fund for retirement of capital indebtedness.

Increased poultry production has been recorded on Canadian farms during the past few years. This situation resulted from relatively abundant feed supplies and better markets for both poultry and eggs. The industry has also received an added impetus since the War through the shipment of large quantities of eggs to Great Britain. The total exports of eggs advanced to 16,276,256 dozen in 1941, an increase of 15,000,000 dozen over the 1939 shipments and 5,000,000 dozen over those of 1940. The number of poultry on farms was estimated at 66,513,000 at June 1, 1941, an increase of 2,250,000, compared with the number recorded at that date in 1940, and approximately 4,000,000 above those shown two years ago. Advances of 3.9 per cent. for hens and chickens, and 1.9 per cent. for turkeys were shown; ducks and geese declined almost 1 p. c. The gross farm value of poultry advanced from \$47,000,000 in 1939 to \$51,000,000 in 1940 and \$59,000,000 in 1941. The average value per bird was 83 cents for hens and chickens, \$2.11 for turkeys, \$1.62 for geese and 99 cents for ducks. The production of eggs was estimated at 244,154,000 dozen in 1941, an increase of 7,000,000 dozen over the farm output of the previous year. The average production per hen was 112 as compared with 111 in 1940, and the total farm value of \$52,082,000 was the equivalent of 21.3 cents per dozen in 1941 as against 19.5 cents per dozen in 1940. The gross farm value of poultry and eggs amounted to \$111,403,000 and the sales income was \$50,202,000. Compared with the previous year these figures show increases of 15.2 p. c. and 13.5 p. c. respectively.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The men responsible for this war are all over 50. Most are over 60. It was not they who gave the time when you get a break? — Lennox Free Press.

Russian women are solving the shortage of labor in the Soviet Republics. We have an idea some of them both much with weight off. — London Free Press.

"Isn't it time," asks M. Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to the U.S.A. "for us to make Hitler race his brains and wonder where his enemies will direct their next blows... Isn't it about time to compel him to scatter his forces a little? Sounds as if you had something there, M. Litvinov. — Brantford Express.

Nurse Nancy Vance, of Charlotteville, Va., knew she was dying of cancer when she gave up a private room and took a bed in a hospital ward so that she would have more money. For more medical attention for her funeral? No. She would have more money left in twenty years' savings to donate to the fight against cancer. She died the other day and left all she had, \$2,300, for that great cause. Many of us do less with more. — Vancouver Sun.

It may give Mr. Deems Taylor, who had soundly argued that the war ought not to interrupt the performance here of German music, strength in his struggle against his critics to hear that not only have the works of the poet Heine and the composer Mendelssohn been purged by Germany but the poet even Handel himself has been spared by the Propaganda Ministry. According to the trustworthy Manchester Guardian, by order of Dr. Goebbels himself the text of "Judas Macabaeus" has been rewritten under the title "William of Nassau" while "Israel in Egypt" has become "Mongol Fury" — a quality, incidentally, of which the Germans have learned more this winter than even Handel's rewrite artist could tell them. The back librettists are also to be rewritten to remove from them any suggestion of the Jews. The Nazis can be great and good. The Nazis have taught us many lessons in the science of waging modern warfare and shall put to good use. We can afford to learn from them now to employ the new arms effectively, now to mobilize our industrial resources and how to wage the war of nerves that is as important as their campaigns as are tanks and airplanes. But must we also copy their stupidities? Are we to imitate their methods of propaganda and their methods of Jewish persecution? If we do, we shall have made as great fools of ourselves as have Hitler and Goebbels of their bestiality. — Hartford Courant.

The I.O.G.E. in war and peace has given us a service to many worthy causes. During the present conflict the organization has freely given of its time and wide experience to the alleviation of suffering humanity. Through its efforts many a sailor has been warmly outfitted against the chill Atlantic winds. The heroic men, women and children who have shared in its generosity. Voluntary women workers, with no thought of remuneration have taken to long and arduous tasks of help to the sufferers of the war. Canada may well be proud of these women, and give them all the assistance and encouragement in its power in their undertakings. In many meetings rooms all over Canada groups are being formed to do the work which is vital to the war effort. Without their work, many a life would be much harder to bear. Let us all do our best to help wherever possible. — Saint John Telegraph Journal.

Statements made in the United States that movements of American planes over Canadian territory en route to Alaska has been obstructed by the marauding black flocks, Hon. C. D. Howe has characterized them as "pure nonsense." His apologizing for this language is a sufficient refutation. He is speaking mildly if the charge made against him by Vice-President Harvey Campbell of the Democratic Party is correct. There has been "a one-man bottleneck, of the blatant complacency and stubborn non-co-operation" without foundation. It is a sufficient refutation of the matter to warrant some plain speaking on both sides of the argument. Between two nations with equal resources there can be no excuse for non-co-operation anywhere. Equally, there can be no excuse for accusations that are not founded in fact. — Montreal Gazette.

Out of the fiery trial of this war, with all its good-bys and heart-breaks, all its grief and suffering, all its destruction and hatred, can come the Canada of which our fathers dreamed—a land of freedom for all to enjoy, its riches a season, and the time for these things may also come after the guns are silent. Anyone who does not dedicate himself to the war, as well as to winning the war, has failed himself, has failed Canada, has failed humanity. — Timmins Daily Press.

One of the whispered political anecdotes which he said, acted as a sort of safety-valve in Germany, was recalled by Sir Paul Dukes. The story ran that in the early days of his regime, Hitler, being an ignorant man, wanted to understand the running of public institutions. On his tour of inspection he asked the governor of a lunatic asylum, "Have you any patients here with a fixed idea who imagine that they are me?" The governor said, "Yes, we have two. They even think themselves up to look like me." Hitler was so interested that he went into a room to meet the two lunatics. After a while voices were heard, and a scuffle was heard so the door was opened by the anxious attendants. One of the men ran out, but nobody knows what one it was! — Birmingham Post.

A breakdown by provinces of subscriptions to the Second Victory Loan shows that 30,000 subscribers in the Province of Quebec put up a total of \$230,000.00. What it means is that something better than one person in ten in Quebec took a share of the loan; that the Quebec families, a subscription must have come from practically every family. — The Ottawa Journal.

At Rest

"The idle ships dream-like at anchor ride Beside the piers where wavellets lap and croon; One ghostly ship sails outward with the tide That swells to meet the pale imperial moon. O, fading ship, between the dark and light, I send my heart and hope with you tonight." (From "Twilight in Abegweit", by L. M. Montgomery.)

And, too, your ghostly ship goes out,— Sailed hence, to setting sun: On course triumphant run, Nor now to turn about.

And on this shore bereaved, with cry Like muted heart-strings, wheel The gulls, and eerie riel, To bid a friend, "Good-bye".

Down "Lovers Lane" the joncos flit, And, too, each chickadee: But gone their notes of glee,— And red-breasts pensive sit.

In "Lake of Shining Waters" deep, Each zenith-mirrored cloud Seems dimmed to sombre shroud, To fold in peace thy sleep.

While here in storied "Avonlea" The throbs of wakening Spring But mem'ries saddened bring To bloom and bower and tree.

But proud in her beloved Isle Fond hands her bier prepare,— To rest in honor there, Embraced within its soil.

There, "Lucy Maud", in quiet rest Serene until the day When shadows flee away, And fade at God's behest!

The "hushed enchantment of the shore" Still weaves its magic spell: The breakers' muffled knell Your "Requiem" evermore.

Summerside, P. E. I. A. J. MacAdam. April 27, 1942.

Prince Edward Island

By L. M. Montgomery, O.B.E.

(Characteristic of the late Mrs. Evan Macdonald's love for her native island is the following article which she contributed in 1939 to "The Spirit of Canada," a volume magnificently published by the Canadian Pacific Railways as a souvenir of welcome to their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth.)

Somewhat, one never thinks of Prince Edward Island in terms of history. It has, of course, had its little history, the echoes of which float faintly down the centuries since the June day of 1594 when Jacques Cartier looked on Abegweit... that beautiful Indian name... "Island of the Wave," which it should never have lost, no matter to what saint or prince... looked and sailed away and did not come back again. The French tried to colonize "St. John's Island" and we hear of the "Red Assidians" who came to it from the vale of Evangeline; it was ceded to Britain in 1763. Din tales come down about forest fires and Indian invasions from New England and plagues of mice and the heartbreak of terrible storms and homesick emigrants. But it is not in its history that you will find the spirit of Prince Edward Island.

Neither is it to be found in the vast land of ruby and emerald and of its incomparable black flocks, horses and potatoes. For we do not think of Abegweit in terms of commerce. We think of it in terms of beauty, charm, peace. There are beautiful landscapes elsewhere, all over Canada, but they lack the indescribable charm that haunts the eye and glows in the heart. It is too elusive... too subtle... for definition. Is it the touch of austerity in the Island landscape that gives it its distinctive beauty? And in what consists that slight austerity? Is it from the fields with magic of dark spruce woods behind them? Or in the glimpses of harbours and tidal rivers unbelovably blue? Or does it go deeper still to the very soul of the land? Ay, that it does. For lands have personalities just as human beings have, and the spirit of one land is not the spirit of another nor ever can be. And Destiny once said, "I reserve for myself this colourful little land of ruby and emerald and sapphire as a last refuge for the fairies and the old gods."

The fairies have disappeared from the rest of the world. It has become too noisy and machine-ridden and commercialized for the green folk. Because the fairies can live only by the belief of man. When that dies they die. But it is still possible to believe in fairies in Abegweit. There are still places there where self-respecting elves can abide... winding lanes back in the woods... ferny dells with brooks slipping through them... eternal green twilight under irresponsible path... a plantation of tiny spruces just beginning to take shy possession of some neglected pasture corner... a meadow snow-white with daisies lying under a young moon. There you will find that curve... almost, just a little rise... if you can move quickly and silently enough. Only... you never can. You always just... but their laughter floats back to you in the whisper of the wind and the puckish rustle of the aspen. And that is your reward. For it is good to hear fairy laughter and forget the world for a while.

The sons and daughters of Abegweit are a loyal folk. Once there was an old Scotch Islander in the West who was always talking of "the Island." "What island do you mean?" he was asked. With inarticulate disdain he answered... for all of us... "Why, Prince Edward Island, mon! What other island is there?"

None! none! Deep down in our hearts we are conscious of the most profound pity for those luckless people who were not born in

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"Until the present tide of conquest is turned into overwhelming defeat for the enemy, no country—and assuredly not Canada—can consider itself secure." — W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada. LOT'S WE DON'T KNOW. The English language contains approximately 700,000 words, as well as 300,000 more terms considered obsolete or unsuitable for the home. In ancient Peru, silver and gold were used to make garden spikes. Keep Minard's in the home.

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