

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink." WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1940.

Health Activities

It is encouraging to note from the Provincial Health Department report that the mortality rate for tuberculosis—86.2 per 100,000—showed a decline last year over that of the preceding year. The new addition to the Provincial Sanatorium will increase the bed capacity for patients and it is expected that the present year will show still more favorable results. During 1939 more than sixty rural school districts requested that their school children be given an examination by "skin testing". In addition all incoming students to Prince of Wales College, St. Dunstan's University and Summerside High School were examined in this manner. All pupils showing a positive reaction to the test were further examined by having their chests fluoroscoped or X-rayed. Attacking the tuberculosis problem from this angle means that more cases will be diagnosed in the "minimal" or early stages and precautions taken which will avoid long periods of expensive hospitalization in later years.

Among notifiable diseases another major cause of death is pneumonia. In this connection the Deputy Minister reports: "Until we are in a position to type our pneumonia we cannot avail ourselves of the benefits of the various sera which have been so effective in the larger centres of population in lowering the mortality from this respiratory disease. We hope during the coming year to be able to render this service to the medical profession of the province."

More than six thousand children were immunized last year against diphtheria. Due, it is claimed, to these precautions there were no deaths from diphtheria during the year and the scarlet fever epidemic, which continued up to the end of the year, was checked in Charlottetown by the immunizing of more than fifteen hundred school and pre-school children in December.

War And Unemployment

One thing that the past seven months of fighting has demonstrated is that war is not a cure for unemployment. On the contrary, unemployment is a desperate drain on resources required for war, and it is becoming increasingly apparent that the war will make it the more necessary for Canada to attack this problem with greater vigor and resourcefulness.

This point is made convincingly by an Ottawa correspondent in the Winnipeg Free Press, who cites figures drawn from the monthly returns of the Department of Finance. Taking the months September to February, 1939-40, he shows that there was an increase of more than \$11,000,000 in unemployment relief costs over the corresponding months of 1938-39. This notwithstanding that all the indices of business show marked improvement. Car-loadings, production, wholesale and retail sales, exports and imports—every barometer shows the effect of the war boom.

Detailed statistics for unemployment are available only up to Dec. 31. Last September there were 125,477 fully employable people on relief. In October there were 125,147; in November 132,903; in December 146,800. Undoubtedly the war boom is giving employment to some who were unemployed. But it is equally clear that the war boom will not begin to solve the unemployment problem. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that more than 100,000 fully employable people constitute the crux of the problem. What this means in terms of cost to the country may be calculated from the fact that when the dependents of the 146,800 fully employables are included, there are 442,827 individuals on relief. And, of course, in addition to these there are the partially employables and the unemployables. Actually, last December, there were 25,352 partially employables and 23,712 unemployables on relief, and when these citizens and their dependents are added to the 442,827 individuals in the fully employable category, you get the total number of urban people on relief—550,676.

The significance of these figures is plain. The war boom will restore perhaps 25,000 people to employment. There will remain this core of unemployed—employables and unemployables—which, including dependents, will mean a relief roll of not less than 450,000 persons.

Inflation

It has been said that war can never be financed through taxation and borrowing alone, that some recourse to inflation is imperative. The word "inflation" however is given various interpretations and probably no two authorities would agree on its precise definition. The subject is discussed in an article in the current issue of Canadian Business, which quotes the London Economist as applying the following test in determining what is and what is not wartime inflation: For every pound that a government spends, has some private individual foregone the expenditure of a pound which he would otherwise have spent? If the answer is "Yes," then there is no inflation. But if the government's expenditures increase without a corresponding reduction in the expenditures of the public, then there is inflation and prices will rise.

At the beginning of the war, the Canadian Government sold \$200,000,000 of bonds to the Canadian banks. Part of the money was used to buy war material. Private individuals did not reduce their bank balances or forego expenditures which they otherwise would have made.

This, therefore, was bank credit "inflation." But it was justified by the Governor of the Bank of Canada as a necessary step to enable the transition to a war economy to be made with a minimum of unsettlement.

The Dominion of Canada Loan which followed the September financing was offered only to the public and no subscriptions were apparently solicited from the banks. The people of Canada were asked to forego current or prospective expenditures and lend money to the Government. It is true that the banks advanced money to individuals to buy these war bonds and a limited amount of hidden inflation resulted, but the period of bank finance was only three months and the amount of hidden inflation resulted, but the period duly large. If, however, any large proportion of a public loan is subscribed to by investors who, in turn, borrow from the banks, the inflationary results are just as serious as if the Government had gone directly to the banks.

EDITORIAL NOTES

R. M. Ballantyne, writer for boys, six years in the service of the Hudson's Bay Co., born this date, 1825;

For a' sae sake he looks, what can the laddie ken?

He's thinkin' upon naething, like mony mighty men;

A wee thing maks us think, a sma' thing maks us stare;

There are mair folks than him biggin' castles in the air.

The equioctial gales are surely just one month late.

It is a mistake putting away the snow shovel, or taking down the storm door and windows before April is out.

As people cannot very well get out of town, they may as well spend any spare time they have in the Legislative Chamber.

Newfoundland's seal catch to date is set at more than 146,000 skins with all ships but the Ranger and Beothic home from the hunt. The total catch last year was 97,345.

The Prime Minister went to Virginia Beach to be away from it all—only to find Hon. J. F. Michael, Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Burton M. Hill, M.P., of St. Stephen, N.B., and Mr. William George Akins, member of the Fisheries Board waiting to interview him.

Here are the directions given by a U.S.A. authority on saluting the flag: "Those present in uniform should render the right hand salute. When not in uniform men should remove the head-dress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder. A woman salutes the flag by placing the right hand over the heart."

Steel is at a premium in Britain. Because the metal is needed for war requirements, no additional steel air raid shelters will be supplied after current deliveries, Sir John Anderson, Home Secretary, informed the House of Commons. He said that shelters capable of accommodating 11,500,000 of Britain's 45,000,000 people had been distributed. Additional shelters will be constructed of brick and concrete.

In the outskirts of Toronto, the police have discovered gambling establishments which pay the taxi fares of patrons from Toronto to visit them. The matter came up when a taxi-cab driver sought restoration of his licence. Chief Draper said the man had refused to dissociate himself from suspected gaming houses which were paying the taxi fares from the city. Evidently they are supposed to pay the return fare from their winnings.

In Australia they are raising their seventh division. Mr. John Curtin, Labor leader, declared Australia's danger is closer to home than the Suez Canal (where the first contingent of Australian overseas forces are now in training) and demanded stronger home defences. Premier Menzies also announced that orders for building anti-submarine vessels "to the maximum capacity of Australian shipyards" had been placed at the request of the British admiralty. The ships will be of the trawler type, also suitable for mine-sweeping.

The \$265,000 which Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes left "to the United States of America" at his death in 1935 will be used to preserve his writings in a specially edited volume. It is said that the memorial volume would be edited by Justice Felix Frankfurter. A small memorial park directly behind the Supreme Court building also is tentatively planned. A joint committee composed of three members of the Supreme Court, three Senators and three Representatives will direct the expenditure of the Holmes legacy, which is the largest ever given to the government. The total estate was about \$550,000.

It is an ill wind blows nobody any good. For instance, "Quisling"—the name of the Norwegian major who formed a puppet government when the Nazis invaded Scandinavia—seems headed for the dictionary as synonymous with the word traitor. The Times in an editorial welcomed it as a "windfall" for the English language. The newspaper said that it greeted it "As sincerely as we detest the quality which it connotes." "Aurally it contrives to suggest something at once slippery and tortuous," the Times said. "Visually it has the supreme merit of beginning with the letter Q which long seemed to the British mind to be a crooked, uncertain and slightly disreputable letter."

Sometime ago the news was full of the Mrs. Sidley will case, now her brother Mr. William Horlick, Jr., "has passed in his cheque," and has left the bulk of his fortune to his brother, Mr. Alexander J. Horlick of Racine, despite the fact that the two had been estranged for years. A petition for probate of the will estimated the value of the estate at \$5,000,000 in personal property and \$100,000 in real estate. Mr. Horlick gave \$200,000 to Miss Andrea Pultz, for years his private secretary, and \$500,000 to Madeline Horlick Sidley, his sister, who died in 1938. The \$500,000 bequest will go to Mrs. Sidley's estate. The bequests to Mrs. Sidley and to Miss Pultz carried the notation: "For many kindnesses both have shown to those I love."

NOTES BY THE WAY

All dictatorships are born in the dark. They survive for a time in the light. The one long tyrannical empire stands in public view, gag the press, censor the expression, silence the pulpit, censor the radio, control the movies, propagandize the public with half-truths—this is the swiftest way of lying there is. The real bulwark of democracy is not the ballot box but the honest newspaper.—Michigan Christian Advocate.

Keep your temper. You'll be inclined to lose it a hundred times in the days ahead. For, apart from the major discomfords of war, ordinary everyday life becomes full of little nagging irritations. You will have to endure days of spiritual and mental toothache. But no good will come from losing your temper about it. That is the way to get rattled and give everybody around you a bad time. Now is the time for patience and good humor. They pay big dividends in wartime. They can be as important to a nation as big battalions.—London Daily Express.

Almost as important immediately as the manufacture of munitions, and of still greater importance in the long run, is the economic strength of the Commonwealth that comes from the all-but-complete range of the all-but-complete range of the products and their wide geographical distribution. Nickel from Canada, frozen beef from Rhodesia, cotton from New Zealand and the fighting force in France; but the Empire as a whole has an economic strength and resilience that far transcend the possession of specific materials. The international trade provides a thousand stresses for the conduct of the war in which the Empire and its Allies are engaged.—Rhodesia Herald.

Opening a train extension to Gordon Park, a new Brisbane suburb, the Lord Mayor (Ald. A. J. Jones) said this would probably be the last long extension because of the trend towards bus transport. If the service by modern diesel-engined buses over soon "proved to be successful, the system would be extended to other areas," he said. The train extension was described by the Lord Mayor as one of the most successful constructed by the City Council. It cost \$28,000, including \$7,000 for the concrete roadway in which the tracks were embedded.—Australian Press-Union.

There is always suspicion about the first robin. Is he really the first? Or is he a holdover from last Summer? Has he just come out of a hiding place hereabouts where he elected to spend the winter instead of going to a warmer clime? When the first robin is spotted the bird sharpers look skeptical. They like to pretend that they know all about it. They are as likely as not to say that the first lone robin hopelessly alone specimen from the south, but that he is a lazy fellow who shirked the toil of migration. However, ordinary citizens, resolutely looking for signs of Spring, will continue to believe the first robin has returned from the south and that he is a true harbinger of Spring.—New York Sun.

Sir: The Australian soldiers who have settled in Southern Palestine are rapidly becoming popular. Their first leave in the city, Tel-Aviv, and in Jerusalem, which they visit daily in batches of 500, created a sensation. They raced on tradesmen's bicycles and donkeys along the main thoroughfares of the town, frequently colliding, and seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. It is remarkable how quickly they made friends with the population, with whom they fraternize in cafes, bars, and on the streets. They were taken especially to the small boys, and bought up the entire goods of a chocolate shop and distributed in one case, and in another a soldier took a photograph taken of a small hawk, whose supply of shoes he bought, with himself. The Aussies are already conquering Britain by gaining the friendship of a population that has been somewhat alienated during recent years.—Letter in London News-Review.

The "previous occupations" records of Dominion members of the R.A.F. show an extremely wide variety of callings. Those followed by one A.C. 2 now under training at an initial training wing can probably not be beaten for range and number. He left school at Bradford, Ontario, at the age of 18, and became in turn a house painter at Detroit, tight-rope walker in a circus, coal miner, and lorry driver in an orange grove in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. From Texas he hitch-hiked "across the rods" to Ontario—2,800 miles. From Montreal he worked his passage in a cattle boat to Glasgow and made London in two free lorry rides. He became assistant in a ladies' shoe shop, but this only lasted three days. He joined a silk firm at Newcastle, and was there when the war broke out, but left for the R.A.F. recruiting office. He has at last found his job after his own heart.—Canada's Weekly (London).

This story comes to us, suitably censored, direct from a member of the British Ministry of Information. Facing each other across the Maginot Line are a French village and a German village. The French village gets its electric current from the German village. Use of the present tense is intentional. At the outbreak of war, the current was shut off. French 75's lobbed over a few shells and service was restored immediately. Several months later the Germans again essayed to go against the public utility business; again they were shelled, and again they turned on the juice. Recently there was a third blackout in the French village. Before the French could get the field guns in action, however, a voice came belting through the loudspeaker normally devoted to German propaganda: "The power plant has broken down. Please be patient for a few hours."—The New Yorker.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PICK-UP AND DELIVERY SERVICE

Sir—Permit me through the columns of your paper to express my appreciation of the work of the Board of Trade's Transportation Committee in securing for this city the new "Pick-up" and delivery service inaugurated recently. This service consisting of five trucks, manned by courteous and efficient drivers, is giving the business men in Charlottetown a service on a par with all Maritime cities and is proving a boon to merchants and business men. The action of the Railway in establishing this service here in non-competitive territory is further evidence of the fairness and impartiality with which the "People's Railway" treats all parts of the country and is an assurance that further transportation needs will be as promptly looked after. I am, Sir, etc.

SHIPPER

CLEAN POLITICS

Sir—In an issue of last week you gave space to a letter signed Liberal Committee—in which some mean insinuations were made against a First Queen and a Fourth Prince member. I would suppose that the writer is now cutting clear from the Liberal party. And as he goes he stabs these men in the back. From the tone of his letter I would suppose he either peddled liquor or wisened to have the job; probably the latter. If he wished to make the political game a cleaner one, he should begin with himself, confess his sin publicly and sign his name. I believe the like of this would cause a change in our thinking in regard to honesty, and an about-face-forward march that would save our country from moral and financial bankruptcy.

I would like to call the attention of the reading public to a statement by our new Governor General... "Moral Re-armament stands for a change of heart—for that new spirit which must animate all human relationships. Its purpose is the practical application by every one everywhere of the standards of honesty, purity and love. It calls on us to make the will of God the guiding force for individuals, for homes and for nations. In fresh, whole-hearted acceptance of these principles, now, lies our strength for these dark days—the answer to our fears and to our griefs, our one sure hope for a new world. And spiritual power is the greatest force in the world." I am Sir, etc.

PROHIBITION, DEMOCRACY ETC.

Sir—Some years ago, I had a great deal of entertainment—thus enabling me to pass quite pleasantly what otherwise would have been a very wearisome winter—in writing a few letters to the Press on the Prohibition question. I do not go so far as to say that the subject rather thoroughly going so far as to call to our aid in the discussion our little knowledge of Latin and Greek, which signs of budding erudition caused some of our Prohibition friends to send out frantic calls to help to university professors of Greek and Latin. We had a lot of fun, but I am afraid we made few converts for, while the prohibitionist is a zealous proselytizer himself he is the last person in the world who is able or willing to be influenced by the reasonableness of an argument. So long as it is his own special brand.

He believes that he has been divinely appointed to be his brother's keeper, and that this commission necessitates, at all costs, his preventing his brother from enjoying a glass of ale. Reluctantly, he will allow his brother to imbibe if ill, but resolutely refuses to allow him a taste if well. This commission is not interpreted by the prohibitionist as meaning that he must "dig down" if his brother's family is hungry and procure the bag of flour, but as merely requiring him to see that the "moral" swiftness of his brother is not subjected to subversive teachings calculated to undermine his character by allowing him an occasional drink of ale. To the prohibitionist, this is a very sacred commission; nay, more, it is sacrosanct, and has the added advantage that it is very easy on the bank account.

Today, the prohibitionist again prepares for battle. From a long way off he has heard the call and now busies himself in bucking on his armor. Amply supplied with misinterpreted Biblical quotations, with medical "facts," and with

The Poet's Corner

ALL THAT'S PAST

Very old are the woods; And the buds that break out of the briar's boughs, When March winds wake, So old with their beauty are— Oh, no man knows Through what wild centuries Roves back the rose. Very old are the brooks; And the rills that rise Where snow sleeps cold beneath The azure skies Sing such a history Of come and gone, That every drop is as wise As Solomon. Very old are we men; Our dreams are tales Told in dim Eden By Eve's nightingales; We wake and whisper while, And the day gone by, Silence and sleep like fields, Of amaranth lie.

—Walter de la Mare.

social welfare "statistics," he will hasten to the fray. Not if he can help it, shall the tourist have his beer and wine.

It may be that this lugubrious defender of moral welfare, this table-hitter with his mouth-filling pious platitudes, will once more succeed in his nefarious aims. But he can count on it, I voted for him last time, and once is plenty.

The fanatical, practices-what-he-preaches prohibitionist constitutes but a very insignificant percentage of the population of this Province. Wherein, then, lies his power that even the heads of Government quail before his gloom-filling, joy-killing, saturnine countenance? At least, answer is that, heretofore, at least, he has always had the assistance of other groups much larger than his own.

In the first place, there are, possibly, from fifty to a hundred confirmed "drunks" in this Province. Their number has not, probably, varied much in the last hundred years and, the population remaining constant, will not likely vary much during the next hundred. The cause of their drunkenness is not social but biological. Like the O. B. D. of Harold Begbie's book, they were born drunk and, allowing them the physical ability, they will die drunk. They constitute a source of annoyance, of irritation, to the average citizen. They are an ulcer on the stomach of the social body and, in times past, have caused the well-meaning, modest imbibers to forego his own pleasure in his unselfish efforts to remove temptation from the chronic inebriate. The result was that the moderate drinker had only succeeded in penalizing himself while the drunk went merrily along his way. For him, there was always "lemon" and, moreover, as long as there is life, there is "hops."

In the second place, since the prohibitionist is an unconscious hypocrite,—by far the more dangerous kind—he enlists in his aid, as by a magnet, all the forms of conscious hypocrisy. The fellow who, in his mental adolescence, has been influenced by the false propaganda that there is something of depravity in a moderate use of beer as a beverage, but who cannot quite repress his normal desire for an occasional glass of ale, will drink it "on the sly" and "then, with his beer's exuding "sen-sen," coves, "sparmint," or some other deodorant, go to the poll and vote "dry."

In the third place, all those engaged in the unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors will support the prohibitionist. Good business will not allow them to do otherwise for the more circumscribed are the laws permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors by the Government, the greater outlet there will be for the unlawful wares.

Those are the three groups which, in the past, have given the prohibitionist his power to place reactionary "temperance" legislation upon the statute books of this Province.

I do not think the Provincial Government has handled this beer and wine legislation properly. No plebiscite should have been allowed and the proposed legislation should have been put into effect at once. When election time rolled around again, we should have seen the Opposition very critical of certain Government measures but not one "peep" should we have heard from them concerning the Prohibition Amendment. For they, too, would recognize wise legislation. Such a course would have been in harmony with all democratic principles. But there is nothing democratic in the allowing of the

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frenzied antics of reactionaries to play upon the sympathies or the other emotions of a public still more or less under the domination of forces which are not always brought into play for the public's good. I am, Sir, etc. J. C. LEWIS, Alberton, P. E. I.

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