

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.

The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1943

European Distress

A statement of some of the conditions in occupied Europe makes sad reading at this Christmas season. But it will show why Canada should join in the United Nations' plan for bringing relief as soon as the enemy are driven out.

Greece formerly imported 400,000 tons of wheat every year and other food supplies. All ordinary trade was cut off by the war, and the relief supply of wheat from Canada, and the relief supply of condensed milk, do not begin to meet the need.

Hence, people are dying of starvation in Greece at the rate of 4,500 a day. There is virtually no food for purchase by the individual. People line up in the streets to get a meal served from a public kitchen.

Belgium formerly imported 75 per cent of its food supply. This is all cut off, and part of the home production is requisitioned by the occupying German forces. There is severe undernourishment, resulting in 800,000 invalids suffering from deficiency diseases.

Deaths from tuberculosis have doubled. A British expert has stated that "hunger dropsy" is rampant in Belgium. He says that 30 per cent of the children are losing weight, that 40 per cent of the rest are below normal, and that, unless this process is reversed, nearly a third of Belgium's children will die of starvation or its after effects.

The people of France are receiving less than half the food calories per day that they received before the war. This is due to reduced manpower for food production and to the amount of food requisitioned by the Germans. As a result, infant mortality has doubled in two years.

In Poland, the farmers must turn over 80 per cent of their products to the Germans. They are forbidden to slaughter their own livestock. Men and women have been frequently shot or hanged for attempting to keep food out of German hands.

These are some of the conditions which will be brought to an end only by the victorious march of Allied armies. Then, too, relief supplies will be rushed in to meet the immediate desperate need, and in this Canada will fittingly play her part.

Fertilizer In 1944

The supply of potash available for fertilizer purpose in Canada in 1944 will not exceed 35,000 tons, which is about 80 per cent of the quantity used in 1943. Against this, the 1944 demand for fertilizer containing potash, in Canada, is expected to increase, states G. S. Peart, Fertilizer Administrator, Agricultural Supplies Board.

The rationing of potash for 1944 is already in effect. Manufacturers of fertilizers have been allocated only about 73 per cent of the potash which they used in 1943 and have been instructed to supply their dealers, agents and other distributors, with fertilizers containing not more than 73 per cent of the potash supplied to them in 1943.

Mr. Peart pointed out that rationing of potash will not, however, affect the total tonnage of fertilizers that will be available. Most mixed fertilizers have been reduced 2 per cent in their potash content to maintain total tonnage and these will still contain sufficient potash for satisfactory results under most conditions.

If mixed fertilizers containing potash are sold out before the season is over, as is likely, farmers will still have available to them mixtures of nitrogen and phosphates such as the 3-18-0, which should prove satisfactory, particularly on loam and heavier soils.

Federal Election Forecasts

Mr. Bracken's considered estimate of the probable outcome of a 1944 Federal election is the return of 100 Progressive Conservatives, 50 Liberals, 50 C.C.F.'s, and about 45 Quebec Nationalists, to constitute the next House of Commons. While something may depend on whether the war in Europe is on or off when the polling takes place, one is inclined to think the Progressive Conservative leader is over-generous to the Liberals, and perhaps also to the C.C.F., says the Sydney Post-Record.

seem any reasonable chance that the C.C.F. group will number 50 in the next House, unless they get four-fifths of them in the Western Provinces.—an obviously improbable contingency. For there is next to no Socialistic sentiment in the Maritimes or Quebec, and none in Ontario except in a dozen or so industrial and mining divisions. In the provincial elections of last August, the C.C.F. obtained clear majorities in only one-tenth of Ontario's 90 constituencies and but negligible support in all the rural ridings.

Pre-election prophecies, even when not merely wishful forecasts, are rarely of any value, but political trends are sometimes so pronounced as to presage general results clearly enough as between Governments and Oppositions. Nor can any impartial observer of the existing trend,—as disclosed in two Provincial general elections and a half-dozen or more Federal by-elections this year,—discern the remotest chance for the King Ministry in next year's polling.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is to be a "White Christmas" all right.

Students are home for the Festive holidays.

So far as business is concerned, tomorrow will be practically Saturday.

Provided the atmospheric conditions are favourable, there should be a steady flow practically all day of airplanes from now till after New Year between here and Moncton.

There are still a few of the armed forces "within our gates" who would welcome a weekend invitation as guests of good-hearted citizens, or even an invitation to Christmas dinner.

The uncertainties of politics are exemplified in the career of the former French Premier, Pierre-Etienne Flandin, who visited Prince Edward Island in connection with the Jacques Cartier tercentenary celebration in 1934. Today he is lodged in the Algiers military prison along with a former Minister of the Interior, a former Secretary General of Information, a former French Deputy and a former Governor General of French West Africa—all charged with treason. They were arrested on warrants issued by the French Committee of National Liberation.

Sir Hugh Allan, founder of the Allan Line, died this date 1882; after service with different shipping and ship-building firms in Halifax, he founded in 1839 the firm bearing his name. In 1852 they were granted a contract by the Government to establish a line of screw steamers in the St. Lawrence, which developed into a weekly service; during the Crimean War two of their ships were converted into Government transports, and in 1874 the British Government employed two ships to convey troops to South Africa; he was one of the original projectors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in 1872 was given a contract by the Macdonald Government for its construction; but the fact that he had made contributions to the Campaign Funds of Sir John A. Macdonald was made public, and the subsequent fall of the Macdonald Government in 1873 brought the contract to naught; he was knighted in 1871 for his services to Canadian commerce.

There are about 750,000 persons in the armed forces and over a million more in war plants and associated industries, which means that about 2,000,000 persons have left their ordinary employments in Canada. Moreover, it is stated that 70 per cent of all males of fourteen years of age and over are taking military training. These figures indicate a heavy drain on available men, but the government has yet to completely exploit the manpower resources for military need. Canada at War discloses incidentally, in reciting the work of the navy, that of the 60 U-boats sunk in the battle of the Atlantic in August, September, and October 33 were destroyed by units of the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy, the other 27 being "harmed" by the United States forces. Another interesting navy disclosure is that a large number of Canadian sailors who for four years were patrolling waters off this country's eastern coast have gone to Britain and will man a Canadian motor gun boat flotilla to fight from British shores with ships of the Royal Navy's "Mosquito fleet."

On the eve of the Festival of the Prince of Peace, let us for a moment pause, think and try to visualize the realities of the situation. It is so far as the war in Europe is concerned, 1944 will probably be a year of decision. Diplomatically and politically the stage has been set for the final phase of the assault upon Hitler's continent and there are practical reasons for believing that during the year the United Nations will find it possible to throw into the conflict sufficient strength to achieve victory. Whether Germany will fight on to the end, going down in the ruins and the flames of her great cities, or whether she will quit upon realizing that defeat is inevitable, as in 1918, there is no means of knowing. Regardless of the answer to this question, however, years of war, of increasing sacrifices and deepening sorrows lie ahead. We have not yet thrown millions of men into action at one time. We have not experienced war on a great scale. As compared with war on the Eastern Front or on the Western Front a little more than a quarter of a century ago, the operations to date have been small "perimeter"—trimming off the outer defences of the enemy. Before Europe falls, unless Germany collapses from terror of air attacks and fear of the future, the war must, alas, assume frightening aspects and proportions. After Germany there will still remain Japan—tough, fanatical and inaccessible. Let us bear these things in mind in celebrating the Christmas festival here, at present evidently so far from the god-of-war's functioning in Europe and the Far East.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of the issues of the day. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any communication.

ROCKY POINT FERRY SERVICE

Sir,—Truly this seems to be the last straw for the people of the West River district, and it has now come to the point where suffering in silence has ceased to be a virtue. As if the people on the south side of West River were not handicapped enough by not having the facilities of a bridge and gravelled or paved roads in order to reach the city to transact their business, our ferry boat, the "Fairview", has taken to cruising out on the harbor to the old-drilling plant at Governor's Island, on a mission regarding which definite information seems to be singularly lacking, and which surely should not be deemed necessary when it means depriving our farmers of their only medium of transportation across the river at this time.

On Friday last, Dec. 17, upwards of 1000 people were left perishing in zero weather on Rocky Point Wharf, some of the people having risen before daylight, and travelled long distances in order to reach the ferry in time (as they thought) they had plenty of time on the wharf all right, but very little in town, as the ferry did not arrive back from her excursion until almost 1 o'clock. On Saturday it was even worse, as she did not return till after 2 o'clock, the only redeeming feature being that the weather had moderated somewhat.

By whose authority was this ferry taken off her legitimate route? Is she not placed there solely for the purpose of serving the people of the south side of West River?

Conditions were laid down all Fall, as the ferry's engines were not working satisfactorily, and consequently many trips had to be omitted or delayed, but this last defection crowns all.

Wake up, fellow residents! Give this matter the publicity it needs and must have if we are ever to obtain even a semblance of justice and fair play.

I am, Sir, etc. DISGUSTED RESIDENT.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Sir,—Why does this Government not pay the old age pension that was promised some months ago, increased to \$25 monthly? An aged couple, both with the right arm disabled, with numerous other ailments, are not a dollar in store are refused any increase in pension. The pension office says that not anyone is getting \$25 a month pension, yet a fairly healthy man and not so hard pressed, told the writer that he was receiving his \$25 now. Where does the pull come in?

I am, Sir, etc. AGED CITIZEN.

PEACE ON EARTH

Sir,—We think of Christmas as a white Christmas, soft snowflakes falling down so peacefully, trees fields and everything covered with snow. I remember it in youth on P. E. I. I like it.

Here in California are so many Christmas trees decorated with artificial snow, while flowers are blooming in our gardens lawns carpeted with green grass. Trees loaded down with green foliage. A short distance away I see some mountains capped with snow (real snow).

"Peace on Earth" To even speak of it is but a vain hope. The world filled with the alarm of war and noise of many battles yet in Canada and the United States we are blessed with peace. Still we may have a more lasting peace. Yes even our boys in the thick of battle, may have such wonderful peace, because Christ has made peace with God. We read in God's Word — "Peace I leave with you, my peace, I give unto you, not as the world giveth away I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid."

The world is no darker now than when the Angels sang—"Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace good will toward men." The Babe who lay in the manger was to be hated, rejected and crucified. He who was born as our Savior who knew no sin, He who died for us that we might live eternally.

"One day this Babe of Bethlehem will overthrow all nations and himself will reign as "Prince of Peace". Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

For SORE and TIRED FEET OLYMPIENE THE ANTISEPTIC LINIMENT

The Poet's Corner

CHRIST IN THE UNIVERSE

With this ambiguous earth His dealings have been told us. These abide: The signal to a maid, the human birth, The lesson, and the young Man crucified.

But not a star of all The innumerable host of stars has heard How He administered this terrestrial ball. Our race have kept their Lord's entrusted word.

Of His earth-visiting feet None knows the secret, cherished, perilous, The terrible, shameful, frightened, heart-shattering secret of His way with us.

No planet knows that this Our wayside planet, carrying land and wave, Love and life multiplied, and pain and bliss, Bears, as chief treasure, one forsaken grave.

Nor, in our little day, May His devices with the heavens be guessed. His pilgrimage to thread the Milky Way. Of His bestowals there be manifest.

But, in the eternities, Doubtless we shall compare together, hear A million alien Gospels, in what He trod the Oleades, the Lyre, the Bear.

O, be prepared, my soul! To read the inconceivable, to scan The million forms of God whose stars unroll When, in our turn, we show to them a Man.

—Alice Meynell.

Truly "Thou Shalt Keep" him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." With the Angels we will can sing Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to men of good will.

I am, Sir, etc. MAY EATON 304 So. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, California.

This War—Four Years Ago

By The Canadian Press DEC. 23, 1939—United States and 20 other American republics protested to France, Great Britain and Germany against activities of their warcraft in American waters. Russians claimed important successes in Russo-Finnish war but stated that Finns' defences ruled out a lightning blow.

Xmas Gift Sets

A collection more festive, more exciting, more diversified than ever before. Smart Gift Sets cheerfully designed and moderately priced.

- Evening in Paris Toilettes in wood \$11.50 to \$10.00
Evening in Paris Gift Sets \$11.50 to \$10.00
Brush, Comb and Mirror Sets in fancy Boxes \$2.50 to \$3.50
Ashes of Roses Gift Sets \$1.15 to \$1.00
Derney's "Three Secrets" Gift Sets — \$6.75 to \$7.50
Three-Flowers Gift Sets — \$1.25 to \$1.50
Gemmy Gift Sets — \$2.50 to \$3.50
Mollana Gift Sets — \$2.75 to \$3.00

GIFTS FOR MEN

- Military Sets
Shaving Brushes
Yardley's Shaving Rows
Pipes, Cigarettes, Cigarette Lighters, Tobacco Pouches, Tobacco.

THE TWO MACS

149 Great George Street

FRITZ WEISSLER Buying All Kinds of Furs at W. Chester S. McLure's Office

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS and FRIENDS. In the friendly spirit of the Holiday Season these greetings are sent to you, with sincere thanks for your loyal support and co-operation. HENDERSON & CUD MORE MEN'S WEAR

NOTICE. We will be open Thursday till 5.30. For the convenience of our customers we will remain open Christmas Eve till 9 o'clock. CLOSED ALL DAY MONDAY. S.A. MacDonald's

IT'S CHRISTMAS AT WELLNER'S. Yule tied? Since 1868 we have been serving you. This year our stocks, in spite of war conditions, are better than ever. W. W. WELLNER Ltd. Jewelers Since 1868