THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Lieut. Ian A Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. (On Active Service)

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 1, 1944

Misunderstood

Of Lord Halifax's speech in Toronto, the Winnipeg Free Press says: "It is the most authoritative statement yet to hand in support of the theory that, by some method yet undisclosed, the progress of the British Commonwealth nations toward complete autonomy under the Crown should be halted."

Lord Halifax's speech, comments the Ottawa Journal, neither stated nor implied any such thing. More: In a subsequent interview with the press Lord Halifax made it clear that interference with the autonomy of the Dominions was the farthest thing from his mind. "No one wishes for anything but complete freedom for the Dominions and Britain alike."

The Winnipeg Free Press goes on to say:—"The choice for humanity lies between a world dominated by a few great powers and a world which is a community of nations, acting together to maintain the peace and to assure to all the highest possible standard of living and individual opportunity."

Is there such a choice? The world being what it is today, the answer of many people must be "No." Throughout this war the great powers—Britain, Russia and the United States—have dominated. With their governments, and their governments almost exclusively, they have controlled the issues and directed the courses of hostilities. Casablanca, Cairo, Teheran, attest to that.

Can any sane person, looking at world realities, believe that when peace comes it will be otherwise? That, in a world of turmoil and dislocation, with quick and decisive action vital, and with power necessary to enforce decisions, the small nations will have much voice in shaping events?

Lord Halifax, close to the heart of things, knows differently. He sees the world's affairs dominated, certainly directed and controlled, for a long time at any rate, by a group of four great powers, and what he suggests, and all he suggests, is that Canada be a part of one of that group.

Albertans Prepare

The Independent Citizens' party of Alberta has recently completed an organization meeting in Calgary, at which a party leader was selected and a program of action drafted against the time when a provincial election will be called. The Independent party is composed of followers who are opposed both to the Social Credit Government of Premier Manning and to the CCF. The party was organized more or less informally before the last provincial election and polled 130,000 votes against Social Credit's vote of nearly 133,000.

Since the last election, leadership has been on a temporary basis. Now it is anticipated that Mr. James H. Walker, who was selected recently, will devote most of his time to party affairs in an effort to build it up before the next election comes along. Commenting on the revival of interest in the Independent party, the Calgary Herald says:

"The Independents as a party have been gravely handicapped since the last election by lack of a permanent leader and an up-to-date platform. The system of rotating the House leadership of the party from session to session has not worked out well. There was also the failure to keep the organization and rank and file enthusiasm up to the needed pitch between sessions. Comparatively few public meetings to keep the electors informed of party plans and policies have been held in recent years. The opposing parties have made no such mistake.

"By the election of a permanent party leader and a comprehensive and forward looking platform which should attract wide support, the Independent forces are now in a much more favorable position for the next provincial election, which may not be far away. The objectives of the party, as determined at the convention, range from educational reform and more equitable distribution of education costs to improved health and housing conditions; from agricultural encouragement to improved roads; from co-operation with the Dominion in social security measures to refunding of the provincial debt at the earliest opportunity. It is broad in scope and touches many aspects of provincial well-being."

The arrangements made at the convention will give the Independents a more permanent organization and a better continuity of policy. While there may still be difficulties between the groups going to make up the new party, the present organization should be able to deal with them more easily.

Fewer Abandoned Farms

According to the Dominion census of agriculture, the area of abandoned or idle farms in Canada in 1941 was 5,023,541 acres as compared with 5,280,166 in 1931, a reduction of five per cent. The number of these farms in 1941 was 32,518, or 295 fewer than in 1931. The value placed on this farm land was $22,290,114 as compared with $36,450,278 in 1931 and on buildings $5,380,988 compared with $6,358,346, revealing decreases of 38.9 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively.

The number of abandoned or idle farms was as follows by provinces in 1941, corresponding totals for 1931 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 434 (376) Nova Scotia, 2,707 (3,063); New Brunswick, 1,804 (1,622); Quebec, 5,315 (2,747) Ontario, 5,563 (4,572); Manitoba, 3,190)6,476); Saskatchewan, 7,791 (5,183); Alberta, 4,009 (6,640); British Columbia, 1,705 (2,133).

The percentage decrease in the total number of abandoned or idle farms was 0.9 during the ten-year period. Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia recorded decreases of 11.7, 50.7, 39.6 and 20.1 per cent, while Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan showed increases of 15.4, 11.2, 93.5, 21.7 and 50.3 per cent, respectively.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

In Great Britain, the sweets and chocolate ration is 12 ozs. for a 4-week period. It may be purchased on a weekly basis, i.e. 3 ozs. The pre-war average consumption was 6 1-4 obs. weekly.

* * * *

Canadian dried eggs have been highly complimented by members of the Ministry of Food. The allowance to the public has been one packet (equivalent to 12 shell eggs) per consumer every four weeks. Children under five are entitled to double this quantity.

* * * *

Purchase of the following soaps is controlled in Britain by rationing; toilet soap, hard soap (household), soft soap, soap powder, soap flakes and liquid soap. The allowance is 1 coupon her week. A coupon is required to buy: 4 ozs. hard soap, or 3 ozs. toilet soap, or 6 ozs. No. 1 soap powder, or 3 ozs. soap flakes or chips.

* * * *

British farmers are in the same position, and the same frame of mind as Canadian. They are making some money out of the war; are not doing as well as city labour; are unable to obtain sufficient labour and want to know what their position is going to be in the post-war world.

* * * *

The area under flax in Britain has been increased from a few hundred acres in 1939 to over 50,000 acres in 1943. Northern Ireland has also made a remarkable increase in acreage from about 20,000 to 90,000. From this effort have come large quantities of high grade wing fabric for aircraft factories.

* * * *

Accident prevention slogans are to be printed on pay envelopes issued to 30,000 workers in five London Transport works. They include the following: "There is no safety device as good as a careful worker", "Never lark with machines; they don't know when to stop", "There is more trouble in having one accident than in preventing a hundred."

* * * *

Chief Justice Sir Edward Coke, English lawyer and politician, born this date 1552; called to the Bar at the age of twenty-six, his abilities were soon recognized, and he had no difficulty in securing a seat in the House of Commons of which he was elected Speaker in 1593; he was Crown prosecutor at the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh, and is still remembered for his brutality to the accused; was appointed Chief Justice of Common Pleas in 1606; was a vigorous defender of the common law against royal prerogatives and orders-in-council; gave offence to the King and was imprisoned in 1621; re-entered Parliament in 1625, finally retiring in 1629; famous as a legal writer.

* * * *

Where development enthusiasm prevails. Eighteen projects at an estimated total value of $46,070,000 and giving employment to some 6,570 men over a period of from three months to three years have been approved by the Moncton Board of Trade for submission as the board's post-war reconstruction plans to be considered by the provincial and dominion governments. A report presented by Mr. J. E. Hoover, chairman of the committee covered subjects ranging from sewerage and curb and gutter construction in the city to the development of tidal electric power from the Petitcodiac River. The meeting at which the report was adopted was one of the best attended in the history of the board, with approximately 60 of the 95 members present.

* * * *

"The postwar era will bring back the days of competition in business and we must keep ourselves fit to run a good race in that competition," said Walter Kiehn of J. J. Gibbons Limited, Toronto, in an address to members of the Advance Club, Batawa, Ont., and guests from Trenton, Belleville and Frankford. "Wartime demands and the scarcity of labour and lack of the propelling force we call competition is apt to make us soft," Mr. Kiehn warned. "We don't have to worry much today about the customers—they are pleading to buy all the merchandise we can produce. But such prosperity and comfort offers no security for the future. Business without keen competition is a lifeless thing that does not develop new ideas unless we force our minds to it." One of the most important steps for postwar security is to keep active mentally and physically, Mr. Kiehn advised, to keep up-to-date on all business and industrial developments that come out of the war and be ready to return to the field of real tough competition that must inevitably follow a period such as that through which we are now passing.

* * * *

The Canadian Congress of Labor having announced that it was out to organize the farmers, the French newspapers have forthwith put the public on its guard. In Quebec—as everywhere—the peasant class acts as a stabilizing element, so much the more so as it has a two-thirds majority in the counties, though comprising but one-third of the population. The C.C.L. invitation has therefore in certain districts had a somewhat bad reception. The Montreal-Matin has warned against an organization "the unions of which are for the most part affiliated to the CCF party." "Our farmers have at their disposal all that is necessary in the way of organizations. The co-operatives are more numerous than ever, and equally more and more prosperous. Where these do not exist, it is because the farmers prefer to act independently of one another. There are also agricultural clubs of all kinds, and powerful organizations such as the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs who give valuable service to our farmers. What more could a union closely tied up with a political party, the leaders of which have already demanded the socialization of farms, give to the farmer?"

Notes By The Way

A hair's-breath is one-forty-eighth of an inch. Seems less than that when the car misses you. —Toronto Star.

A crowless rooster is the latest thing in the poultry world. With eggs where they are, it's really the hen that has something to crow about. —Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

Owing to the shortage of steel needles are being made from pressed straw, says a science item. Finding them in haystacks will be more difficult than ever. Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

We learned last night from one who has an eye and ear for the idiosyncrasies of the English language how to spell "fish" ghoti. It's simple; gh as in "cough," o as in "women" and ti as in "mention."—Minneapolis Star Journal.

Toronto's chief coroner says thousands of bottles of a face lotion containing alcohol have been consumed there as a beverage; result two dead, hundreds seriously ill. But how to protect a fool against his folly — there is a real problem. —Ottawa Journal.

Out of 1,668,000 sheep shorn in Canada last year Alberta sheared 442,800 head to lead the Dominion. We lead in hog production, too. Alberta is rapidly becoming the premier mixed farming province of Canada. Lethbridge Herald.

Run-of-the-mill humanity may be comforted by news that even members of the British Parliament have buttons knocked off their shirts by the laundry; sometimes don't get the garments back at all. This has been discussed in the Mother of Parliaments. And if this august body can't get anything done about the grievance the rest of us might as well give up seeking redress. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

"Many bridge players use a four no-trump bid as a conventional slam try," the Four Aces observed in Saturday's contract bridge column. "Many do not; but it must also be recognized that there are certain extraordinary cases in which a player bids four no-trump for no other reason than that he wants to play the hand at that contract." Inconceivable! It just doesn't seem possible that such a thing could be tolerated, in what has been considered a gentleman's game. —Chicago Daily News.

Simple remedies are often best. A correspondent to a Vancouver paper says that a raw potato cut up and applied to a burn will work wonders in relieving the pain. "I have found it good many times when I have burned my hands," he writes. "Others may be glad to try it." We pass the tip on for what it is worth. —Kitchener Record.

There should be an open season on "practical jokers," these people with a warped sense of humor. Many people have been injured at the hands of such men with freakish ideas of what constitutes fun. There is the case of Freddie Bartholomew, for instance, who four years ago was injured when someone pulled a chair away just as he was sitting down. He has been discharged from the United States army because of an injury to his back, sustained at that time, making it necessary for him to wear a brace on his back. There is nothing funny about things which merely cause humiliation. "Practical jokes" should not get the idea that anyone likes them for the things they do. —Niagara Falls Review.

In these days women are doing all sorts of jobs which once were the exclusive prerogative of men. They are to be seen daily going to and from war plants, wearing slacks. They are no strangers to the dust of factories. There was a report the other day of a woman working in a railroad roundhouse. The report was accompanied by a photograph showing her in overalls, alongside her husband, a railroad man. Once upon a time a roundhouse was the perfect example of a masculine world. For long, women have worked in shops and offices. They are to be seen in the halls of legislation, in public administration. Only the other day, a woman, Mrs. George E. Otton, was elected chairman of the Woodstock Board of Education. Other cities have women chairmen. The big surprise is to find that a woman, Mrs. Viola R. MacMillan, is the new president of the Prospectors and Developers Association. The surprise can best be understood by quoting from a letter to Wellington Jeffers, the financial editor, from Jack Hammell, "who is known on five continents for his picturesque methods of "cracking open" the Far North, which it will be recalled, is believed by Sir William Mulock to be hiding a secret Sir William said the secret would be discovered. If so, it will be discovered by prospectors. "This little lady, Mrs. MacMillan," wrote Mr. Hammell, "deserves untold credit for what she has done. I know the prospector probably as well as any man living and he is plenty tough ." Yet it is with these "plenty tough" men of the Far North that the woman president will have to deal. While Mrs. MacMillan is credited with social charm she has gone on prospecting expeditions swum wide rivers, handled canoes and she knows the bush Incidentally, Mrs MacMillan thinks there is a good prospect in the Far North, when the war is over, for the rugged outdoor men which the war is making. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

COULDN'T SLEEP COULDN'T WORK

What a relief to settle down to a real night's rest, and awake fully refreshed, ready for the day's duties. I was tortured by fretful nights—tossing, turning — never comfortable. Half awake days —over-tired, driving body and mind to work when they needed rest. "Try Dodd's Kidney Pills," said a friend — "it may be your kidneys". I'm glad I followed his advice as now I'm sleeping like a top—thanks to !!!

Dodd's Kidney Pills

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE NEW CARFERRY

Sir,—We noticed in one of our papers on Saturday where there was considerable freight congestion at Tormentine right now and we understand the car ferry is making several trips per day. A short time ago it was announced that the contract for a new car ferry had been let. But we wonder how many rivets have been driven in that new ship, how many men are employed on this world' largest steamer of her type, when will this mighty ship make her first trip from Borden Peir?

Maybe that parliament is now starting it's new session some of our members will answer this important question.

Right now freight is piling up at Tormentine with the boat making five and some times eight trips per day most every day.

What will happen in March when the ice starts to move, when, like some other years, this old age pension boat called back from the brink of the grave yard for old steamers, takes two days to make one trip?

Refrigerator cars will be needed fast and plenty. coal, scores of cars of it will be needed very bad.

Cars of other frieght standing on the long sidings at Tormentine are no good to business men who need the goods.

Warehouses here filled with potatoes will be useless without cars to move them to the markets like last year, when people in some places were without spuds for weeks and weeks.

Business men of this city, the Board of Trade and your paper have fought the car ferry battle to this, very day, and today we want to know the truth, has work started on the new car ferry yet, and when will she be ready to take up her duties.

Right now our plight looks very serious, what is the answer?

I am, Sir, etc.
W. A. O'BRIEN,
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

"WE WANT PROHIBITION ENFORCED"

Sir,—May I be permitted to use a little space in your column. I am a daily reader of the public forum, sometimes I get a kick out of reading letters written by those who are fighting for Government Control, which I hope we will never have, and the Temperance letters are the ones I agree with. I am a mother raising a young son who is disgusted with the look of a drunk now. That is the way to keep him. I would hate to see Government Control come to this fair island of ours. We have lived for years without it, and our forefathers before us. Why should we disgrace it now by having an open bar with a large sign painted in gold letters to draw the attention of passers by? We want to set a good example for our children, and we will, and not let them see their parents or parents go in to those groggeries and get lined to the eyeballs. Yes, we know it is bad enough now, it is just what they make it themselves. It would be much worse if we had an open bar because they would know they could get it any time. Liquor is all right in its place, especially for a sick person in a heart condition. We know it will stimulate the heart, that's all right, but there are a good many I guess who think there is something the matter with their heart all the time, and need a lot of it. I am surprised to read some of the letters of those who are fighting for Government Control. They are thinking more of the bottle than telling the younger generation the curse of it. Those who wish to pay for a script and get something decent to drink, take it home and use it within reason. They can get it often enough. We cannot stop them; and there are those who are foolish enough to drink "jungle juice", "scruch", "bay rum", "rubbing alcohol", "flavourings" and a lot of others, poisons especially embalming fluid. It is a wonder they don't try brake fluid and antifreeze. If a man thirsteth let him drink buttermilk as one put it. Those who buy the cheap grade are usually the ones who cannot satisfy their thirst. I would like to see them, where it is handed out over the bar. Would they ever draw a sober breath? So come all you temperance workers let's fight for our rights.

I am Sir, etc.,
A MOTHER.
Kensington.

Aid To Maritim

(Moncton Transcript)

A great deal of thought had been given the economic situation of the Maritime Provinces," the federal Reconstruction Committee says in its report which has been presented to Parliament. Results of this consideration are found in the recommendations contained in the report. These consist chiefly of suggestions for the improvement of the condition of those engaged in the primary industries of farming, fishing and lumbering.

These, with mining, are the basic industries of the three eastern provinces and their importance is recognized. The committee does not appear to have been convinced that much opportunity exists for industrial expansion. It lists the introduction of additional secondary industry as one of the means by which improvement could be brought about, with the qualification "where the operation of such industry is economically sound by reason of proper markets and of primary production within the Maritime Provinces or in neighboring lands such as Newfoundland."

This is not so clear as it might be, but nobody in the Maritimes would urge the establishment of industries that were not economically sound. One of the difficulties experienced in the Maritimes in the past has been that of retaining the industries that were economically sound and thereby attracted the attention of more powerful competitors in other parts of Canada, with dire results in many cases to local enterprises.

There is one important factor which should not be overlooked in considering the prospects of extending manufacturing operations in these provinces, although no mention of it appears in the summary of the report which has come over the wires. That is the quantity and price of electric power available. Without sufficient power, developed at low enough cost, the Maritimes cannot get very far away from the role of "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to which, in moments of discouragement, some Maritimers think their provinces have been condemned. Already eighty per cent of the potential water power of the Maritimes has been developed. If development of the remaining twenty per cent had been economically feasible, that would have been undertaken also before this.

Some other source of power must be provided, on a scale large enough, to encourage the establishment of industries which would be attracted by the natural resources of this part of the Dominion and by the advantage it possesses of accessibility to ocean ports.

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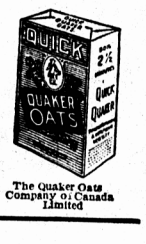

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The Poet's Corner

FEBRUARY

The robin on my lawn,
He was the first to tell
How, in the frozen dawn,
This miracle befell,
Walking the meadows white
With hoar, the iron road
Agleam with splintered light,
And ice where water flowed:
Till then, when the low sun drank
Those milky mists that cloak
Hanger and hollied bank,
The winter world awoke
To hear the feeble bleat
Of lambs on downland farms:
A blackbird whistled sweet;
Old beeches moved their arms
Into a mellow haze
Aerial, newly-born:
And I, alone, agaze,
Stood waiting for the thorn
To break in blossoms white
Or burst in a green flame . . .
So, in a single night,
Fair February came,
Bidding my lips to sing
Or whisper their surprise,
With all the joy of spring
And morning in her eyes.

—Francis Brett Young.

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