THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1945

Airport Mystery

What must perplex the average newspaper reader and man-in-the-street is how important decisions affecting this Province can be reached at Ottawa, unknown and unheard of by our duly elected representatives. There must be something seriously wrong somewhere, when both Hon. Dr. Cyrus MacMillan and Mr. J. Lester Douglas, M. P., declare the first they knew of the proposed transfer of Charlottetown Air Navigation School to Summerside was when their attention was drawn to it by one or more of their constituents. Either we are a democracy or we are not, and if a democracy, then nothing affecting a constituency must be permitted without the knowledge, (not necessarily consent), of its duly elected representative. To ride roughshod over a constituency, and to treat it as though it were dirt, is the acme of iron-heeled dictatorship. Yet that is what Queen's County and Charlottetown are called upon to suffer at the dictates of the present regime at Ottawa. It may be there are good and sufficient reasons for moving the Navigation School from one airport to another; that is not the question. What we, as a democracy must indignantly protest against and attempt to frustrate, is the ignoring of our duly elected representatives in dealing with such matters. It is true, Col. Gibson, acting head of the Defence Department asserts that Dr. Cyrus MacMillan knew all about the proposal, and surely as assistant Minister he ought to have been so informed, but we have the definite assurance from the learned doctor, that he knew absolutely nothing about it, and we have no reason to doubt his word, especially as he is backed up by Mr. Lester Douglas who declares the change came as an equal surprise to him. The notice affecting the change is short, and we can well understand Premier Jones being loath to go on another "Mission to Ottawa," after the unsuccessful experience he had on a previous occasion. So far as the electors are concerned the most they can do now is to forcibly enter their protest at Ottawa, and if their wishes and petition are not given heed to, then to take means to change their representatives and Government as well. As some of the speakers at Friday's protest meeting declared, if we take this rebuff lying down, we might as well abandon a representative government—which ignores the first principles of representation.

Why We Lose Out

Any country that tolerates interference with the freedom of the Press is on the downgrade. This has been a live subject of international discussion recently, and a delegation from the United States is now touring European countries with a view to frustrating efforts on the part of bureaucratic powers-that-be to suppress that freedom. Would-be suppressors here are not wanting, and it is just as well to let it be known that that way the freedom and liberty of the individual goes as well.

In the truly democratic countries freedom of the Press is one of the many fundamental freedoms guaranteed. In some countries, such as Switzerland, it is one of the inalienable fundamental rights laid down in written form in the Constitution of the State, whereas in others, like England, it is "taken for granted as part of our democratic way of life . . . and rests on practice rather than precept."

Whether this freedom of the Press be laid down in written form or whether it rests on practice rather than precept is immaterial. The relevant fact is that it constitutes a fundamental democratic right, which is only very grudgingly and temporarily surrendered in times of national emergency in the higher interests of the security of the State. The clamour for a speedy and swift abolishment of censorship in every form after the conclusion of hostilities is a very healthy pointer in this direction.

Freedom of the Press means freedom from influence of any kind, be it the influence of the authorities of the moment, who might like to have certain things published while leaving others unsaid, or be it the influence of big advertisers who might try to exert pressure on editorial policy through signing or withholding advertising contracts. Freedom of the Press—and this applies to any country—also means complete freedom of comment on the internal and external policy of the Government and, negatively expressed, the refusal on the part of the Press to be used by anybody as a means of propaganda.

The British Press has, during the whole war, been a shining example of how a free Press, while receiving certain guidance on problems involving security, kept up the flag of political freedom and time and again demonstrated this by criticising the Government on this or that political aspect or even on matters relating to the conduct of the war.

It is surely no mere chance that dictators and would-be aggressors, totalitarianists and creators of authoritarian regimes, infallibly commit their first acts of aggression internally by abolishing the freedom of the Press.

A regimented Press is the first precondition for the successful establishment of a dictatorship, and as all aggression in Europe and elsewhere which led up to this war has consistently been committed by dictatorially governed countries it can certainly be argued that a free, virile, critical Press in every country can play a vital part in preventing the recurrence of further tragedies.

Any attempt here or elsewhere at doing away with the freedom of the Press ought to be taken as a warning symptom by the truly freedom loving peoples and treated accordingly.

Where And When We Failed

We are being told now, from quarters politically interested, that what this absenteeism (or desertion) among N.R.M.A. troops proves is that conscription in this country was impossible from the beginning, that Mr. King was right all along.

Little could be less true, comments the *Ottawa Journal*. It may be that, at the beginning, conscription was neither desirable nor necessary; the prospects seemed to tell of a blockade or economic war, with little probability of its development into a global struggle, demanding vast armies of men.

Where we failed was when with France fallen, and Dunkirk before us, and the Nazi tide rolling over Europe, presenting desperate peril to freedom on all the earth, we continued to talk and pledge "no conscription" in our old, easy, complacent way. Those who led us failed to perceive the terrible character of the thing that had broken over the world, failed to understand that this was not merely world war but world revolution, and continued to talk the old political jargon. They used, with respect to conscription, the political words and slogans that had served them in peace; used a word—"never" which has no place in the political dictionary, and which certainly has no place with respect to any course whatsoever, except treason or vile surrender, in a world being engulfed.

There were the dark days between Dunkirk and Pearl Harbor. Had those days been used by our leaders to impress upon our people the awful peril facing them, and what that peril called from them as freemen and citizens in undivided loyalty and service to the State, then who can argue that with Pearl Harbor come and the United States, our next-door neighbor, drafting all its young men regardless of racial origin or creed or rank, a similar course would not have been possible here?

"Conscription — compulsory military service — could have come and should have come with Pearl Harbor," says the *Journal*. "Our people should have been prepared for it, made to understand its need and its fairness, made to grasp the truth that in a world threatened with destruction all normal slogans and shibboleths must go by the board. Alas, no such course was taken. We went on in our old complacent political way, mouthing the same party accents, maintaining the same party practices, catering to the old prejudices and hates and suspicions. There was no Lloyd George, no Winston Churchill, no Franklin Roosevelt, to speak winged words to the hearts and consciences of our people—no one man to rise above the considerations of petty politics and party prestige and rouse the souls and unite the hearts of all sections of our country into one great stream of common affection and common loyalty for a sound cause."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Car Ferry trouble has begun early this year and we are still a long way off from March and its transportation difficulties in the Straits.

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It seems, as the outcome of the recent controversy, that the Dunstaffnage cheese and butter factory may be forced to close down. This factory has been in operation continually for over 50 years and has a capacity of 24,000 lbs. milk daily.

* * * *

Getting back into his stride. Hon. J. L. Ralston, C.M.G., P.C., K.C., has been elected a director of Barclays Bank (Canada) to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement, for reasons of ill-health, of Mr. C. S. Macdonald, M.A. Col. Ralston was first elected to the directorate of the Bank in November of 1935. He resigned in September, 1939, on his acceptance of Cabinet Office.

* * * *

1st Earl Haig of Bemersyde, O. M., British soldier, died this date 1928; had brilliant career in the Army in the Sudan, South African and Great Wars; made Field-Marshal on Jan. 1, 1917, and Knight of the Thistle in the following July; in 1919 appointed Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief of the forces in Great Britain; received the Order of Merit in 1919, and in the same year the sum of $500,000 and the thanks of Parliament for his magnificent services in the Great War.

* * * *

Major-General C. B. Price provided a surprise in announcing in London, his immediate retirement from the post of Overseas Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, and his return to Canada to enter politics. He will be Progressive Conservative candidate in St. Antone-Westmount constituency at the forthcoming election. He has been succeeded as Overseas Commissioner by Col. C. A. Frost of Halifax, who for five years has been assistant Red Cross Chief in London. His deputy is Captain David Legate, now in Paris, son of Rev. Dr. R. Moorhead Legate.

* * * *

In Saint John, N. B., they are getting after householders negligent in shovelling snow. Action followed quickly on the heels of the appointment of a committee of three by the Common Council to enforce the by-law on the clearing of snow and ice. The committee was appointed at a council meeting on Tuesday, and next day, 19 store proprietors and residents of Charlotte Street, King Square North, Sydney, Waterloo, Union and Mill streets were warned. The committee appointed consists of Deputy Mayor Kennedy, Chief of Police McLeese and Works Director Smith. The penalty for failing to have snow removed under the by-law is $2 and a further penalty of $1 for each day the snow is not removed.

Notes By The Way

The first robin is reported from Port Stanley, Ont., and pansies are said to be abloom in Nova Scotia. As for us, we expect to have fun watching the groundhog try to dig himself out on the second of February.—Ottawa Citizen.

This war has lasted a year longer than the Great War and if you wonder sometimes about the morale of our people, remember that in the sixth year of such an event a little weariness is not surprising.—Vancouver Daily Province.

Sault Star asks, "Has the bridegroom any right to expect notice at his own wedding?" We can only assume that he hasn't, as we have looked up Magna Charta, the B.N.A. Act, the Atlantic Charter and the Revised Statutes of Canada, and can find no guarantee of any such freedom. Nor is there any record that Mr. King has covered this point by order-in-council. Ottawa Citizen.

We must steel ourselves for tasks of a magnitude far greater than those we thought we faced only a few weeks ago and we must face the inevitable losses in the field that those tasks will incur. In such a situation the use of every trained man will be needed, and our future Army drafts should, in all likelihood, be stepped up just as they are being increased in both the United States and Great Britain.—Winnipeg Free Press.

What appears to be a new idea in connection with the manufacture of sugar from beets is being tried in Russia, says the Saint John Telegraph-Journal. Sugar beet juice is being extracted and concentrated at the place of production to reduce costs of transportation. By this method the extracted juice is subjected to evaporation and converted into briquettes. These sweet slabs are sent to the large plants for processing into sugar.

According to press reports, a teacher in a secondary school down in New York is weaning his pupils from modern slang by teaching them Shakespearean phrases. He says that memory work has always been a bugbear to a majority of students, but not now to those who twitter in the language of the immortal bard. As an example of the youngsters' improved language he says that when ink is spilled on the desk they say, "out, damned spot." To which we supposes he replies, "Ho, thou cream-faced loon."—Winnipeg Tribune.

A Filipino comedian appearing on the stage of a Manila theatre, needled the Japanese for the looting, particularly of watches, after the city's capture. Wearing a plain, nondescript uniform, he walked to stage centre and stopped before a stooge who said: "Ci, you're a soldier?" The comedian nodded. "What kind of a soldier are you, British?" "No." "American?" "No." "Well, what kind are you?" Silently the comedian opened his mouth in a toothy grin and pulled up one sleeve. His arm was covered to the elbow with wrist watches. That night the actor was hustled to gendarmerie headquarters.—From "Until They Eat Stones" by Russell Brines.

Recently Sir Arthur Salter, M.P. in a speech in England, said: "A little time ago an American friend of mine said to me, 'Now, I am really convinced you English believe in liberty of speech. I was driving my car through Hyde Park today when I heard an orator vigorously denouncing the brutal and corrupt Metropolitan police. I stopped my car to listen, but without stopping the engine. Just then I saw a mountain of a man, a member of the brutal and corrupt force, stalking in our direction. I thought—now there will be some fun! I suppose he'll seize the speaker by the scruff of the neck and rush him off to gaol. But when he got near, to my surprise he turned, not to the speaker, but to me, and said, quite politely, 'Would you mind stopping your engine, sir; people can't hear what the gentleman is saying'?"

Down in Elgin the county council has asked the Government to make provision in jails and police departments of spanking machines, such as are used in some penal institutions. The idea is that the machines will be used to inflict corporal punishment on juveniles who have gone wrong. One would think that if spanking at the hands of the law would curb delinquency in adolescents a little of the same treatment applied at home at an earlier stage might have prevented the delinquency from reaching the police station or the jail. The spanking machine is perfectly impersonal. It will not be actuated by anger to go beyond the proper limits of severity. Also it will not be affected by over-emphasis in the way of wails and bellowing. The machine will lay it on methodically and will desist only when the time is up. There may come a time when adolescents who flount parental and pedagogic control will run high, wide and handsome no longer. They will know that if they are not careful there is a spanking machine in the offing.—Fort William Times-Journal.

Six women have been captured in Nazi front-line foxholes. Not long ago two women were taken under arms. Is Hitler going to put German women in the Line? asks the Chicago News. Our guess would be "yes." Unless he does he cannot claim to be tops in the dictator trade. For Lopez of Paraguay, who fought Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay for five years and reduced the population of his country by 75 per cent, used many front-line woman soldiers. The last of those fighting dames died in 1946, just as Miss Jane Addams and Dr. Mary Wooley arrived at Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a peace conference. The Paraguay lady had killed scads of the enemy and her bust carried almost as many medals as Hermann Goering's ample breast. The women of Saragossa, Spain, gave Napoleon an awful jolt when they stopped Marshal Lefebvre under the leadership of their fighting Mayor Palafo and Maria Agustin. And who has forgotten that "battalion of death" who fought for Kerensky? How many women pilots are flying Russian combat planes we can only guess, but probably a good many. Woman pilots have flown most of the American planes delivered to Russia from Alaska. Men, this war may really be our finish.

Family Allowances

On Feb. 1 Family Allowances registration forms are being mailed to parents in Prince Edward Island. The following questions and answers, prepared by the Department of National Health and Welfare, may prove helpful:

1. Q. What are family allowances?

A. Family allowances are cash grants made to families for the maintenance, care, training and upbringing of children.

2. Q. Why should the Government pay family allowances?

A. One hundred years ago four-fifths of the population were working for themselves. Today, because of increased industrialization, the great majority of the population are earning wages or salaries. Under these conditions, the single man and the married man with a family receive the same pay for similar work. It is not logical to expect a married couple to rear healthy children and educate them on a wage which may only support one person. The Government can to some extent lessen this inequality by assisting all persons according to the extent of their family responsibilities. In this way, the children of the nation will be ensured a greater measure of well-being and a greater equality of opportunity.

3. Q. How will it benefit rural areas?

A. In the past the balance has been against the rural communities with respect to social services, welfare, education and the like. Family allowances will help the people in rural areas improve the health, education and welfare of their children, and will give a regular money income to ensure their well-being.

4. Q. Apart from humanitarian aspects is there any other reason why we should have family allowances?

A. There certainly is. Experience since the last war has shown us that our prosperity depends on production and production depends on markets and buying power. The distribution of $250,000,000 a year in family allowances to people who use the money will add enormously to the buying power of the people of Canada. Month in, month out, they will be able to buy more food, more clothing, more of the products of our farms and factories. Canadian farmers and Canadian workers should be all for family allowances because they help guarantee good prices and steady employment.

Experience of Other Countries

5. Q. Are there other countries that have family allowances?

A. Yes. Family allowances in one form or another have been introduced in over thirty countries—mostly in Europe, but also in New Zealand and Australia.

6. Q. What has been the experience with family allowances in Australia?

A. In Australia family allowances were introduced in 1941 and reports indicate that the system is working very well there.

7. Q. And in New Zealand?

A. New Zealand introduced family allowances in 1926 and the amounts paid have been increased several times since. As a matter of fact the last increase was made after the Canadian Act became law. At present family allowances in New Zealand are, in the amount of payment, quite close to our own although all things considered the Canadian scheme is more generous than any in the world.

8. Q. What is England doing about family allowances?

A. Sir William Beveridge in his famous report said that the system of social security he proposed must be based on three assumptions and the first of these was that there should be a national scheme of family allowances. Since then the British Government has issued a White Paper declaring it to be government policy to introduce immediately after the end of the war, a plan of family allowances under which payment would be made to parents for every child after the first. In Canada we have included the first child and our rates of payment are much more generous than those in Great Britain.

9. Q. Have any countries abandoned family allowances once they have introduced them?

A. A good many countries have been forced to stop paying family allowances during the present war because they have been overrun by the enemy but no country has ever voluntarily abandoned family allowances. To the contrary, in every country the tendency has been to improve the schemes and put them on a more universal basis so as to give larger benefits to a greater number of children.

(To be continued)

The Poets' Corner

THE COMRADES

Though we have made no covenant,
We have a faith to keep,
A deed for our hands' doing
Before we sleep.

Who paid these vows before us?
Who are they at our head?
We march now well companioned
By the deathless dead.

They were not hewn of granite
Their blood like ours ran warm,
But they remain our bastion
Against the storm.

Upon a stubborn fortune
They broke their holy youth,
The dream upon their parched mouths
Was simple truth.

Across an age-long silence,
Out of the wordless loam,
Their hands are stretched as comrades'
To lead us home.

What they asked not, we grant them,
Owning a faith to keep,
A greatness for heart's daring
Before we sleep.

—Raphel Harris Campbell, in Talaria.

THE VERSATILE GIRAFFE

The giraffe can live longer than a camel on a desert without water, run faster than a horse, and is voiceless.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Important Message to Parents

On or about July 1, 1945, the Dominion Government at Ottawa will start making payments under the new Family Allowance Act. If births of any of your children have not been registered in the Vital Statistics Office, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO SO IMMEDIATELY, OTHERWISE PAYMENTS TO YOU MAY BE DELAYED.

ACT NOW!

Don't wait another day. It is in your own interests to look into this matter AT ONCE! If you are not sure whether births have been registered, simply write to Department of Health and Public Welfare, Division of Vital Statistics, Charlottetown. Give name, date and place of birth of each child, also names of parents. Fee for this necessary service is 50c per search per child. Please remit with requests.

Department of Health and Public Welfare
HON. WILLIAM HUGHES, Minister

Capital Closeups

By JACK BRAYLEY

(Canadian Press, Ottawa)

When Baron Silvercruys, tall, greying Belgian Ambassador, leaves for Washington next Wednesday to assume his new post as Ambassador to the United States he will be accompanied by "an important member" of his mission—his dog Denis.

Denis became attached to the Belgian mission here on the advice of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who lives a couple of doors from the Embassy. He advised his fellow bachelor to buy a dog for companionship.

Mr. King suggested an Irish terrier — the same breed as his late-lamented Pat. Municipal licensing authorities accorded Pat tag No. 1 while the Denis, possibly as the dog of the senior diplomat, bears tag No. 2.

Pat and Denis—who gets his name pronounced in French rather than Irish—became fast friends and often romped on the lawns of Laurier House.

"We are wondering how Denis will get along with Fala when he visits the White House," an Embassy official said with a grin.

Diplomatic Doings: In a paint-daubed smock, wedged among other budding artists at National Gallery classes these days, is Ray Atherton, United States Ambassador.

With Mrs. Atherton, the senior Ambassador is renewing an interest in art that began years ago in Paris where he studied architecture. Mr. Atherton is interested chiefly in portraiture.

The United States diplomat is first in order of precedence in the diplomatic corps, having been accredited a few days before Baron Silvercruys. The Baron, however, is the dean of the corps, having represented his country here as minister before being raised to Ambassadorial rank.

A parlor entertainer in diplomatic circles is Francis Del Rio, 19-year-old son of Dr. Francisco Del Rio, Mexican Ambassador. At a recent party he pulled rabbits out of hats, made a rope stand on end and performed other hocus-pocus.

"By jove," exclaimed Greek Minister George Depasto, "if I could perform like that, I'd give up my present job."

WINS M.C. AND D.F.C.

(By The Canadian Press)

LONDON—Sqdn. Ldr. Count Manfred Czernin, D.F.C., born in Berlin, has been awarded the Military Cross. He is 31 and a relative by marriage of Dr. Kurt Schuschnigg, former Austrian chancellor. He is a naturalized Briton.

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QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

"My mother-in-law is allergic to bees—so I got some with a Guardian Want Ad!"

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To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a truss we ask the question. Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style—out grown its usefulness so to speak thus causing untold agony, then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up to date one. All sizes and styles at prices to suit everybody.

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