

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1945

Confederation Reflections

"Embrace with open arms and glowing heart the great elementary principle which is to form the corner stone of the majestic fabric; and abandon not your minds to the perturbation of unfounded fears as to the apprehended effect of the measure upon your funds and families."

From "A Plea for the Confederation of the Colonies of British North America," addressed to the people and Parliament of Prince Edward Island, by Matthew Richerz, D. D. 1867.

Monday, July 1 is not only Dominion Day—the 78th anniversary of our birth as a nation—it is also the 72nd anniversary of our own entry into Confederation with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a full-fledged Province.

This double anniversary falls at a significant time—just after the successful termination of war in Europe, in which Prince Edward Island led all of Canada in proportion to its number of recruits; and prior to a long-delayed Dominion-Provincial Conference at which it is hoped to straighten out some of the difficulties, financial and otherwise, which have arisen between the provinces and the central administration at Ottawa, and thus make a new start in our Confederation compact.

Speaking generally, there has been little sympathy in this Province for the anti-Confederation attitude which still finds expression in some sections of the country. If we have not benefited as we hoped or expected, at least we never lost sight of the "great elementary principle" on which Confederation was formed. What is needed is a fairer application of that principle to the smaller provinces.

Who will say, for example, that we have ever received that "efficient" and "continuous" communication, "winter and summer" with the mainland which we were promised under the terms of Confederation? The failure of the Dominion to live up to its obligation was underlined last year by Parliament itself, when the Reconstruction Committee of the House of Commons brought in a report recommending, as a matter of pressing importance, "improvements designed to make communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland constant, reliable and adequate."

Again, our provincial capital has one of the finest natural harbors on the Atlantic coast, but no money has ever been expended to modernize this port, and as a result of the lack of adequate piers and port facilities we are unable to take advantage of the shipping to which we are entitled. Contrast this with the nine hundred million dollars expended on canals and water ways in the central provinces, at a cost to the taxpayers of fifteen million dollars per year to operate and maintain.

These and other grievances that could be cited are not arguments against Confederation. They were not contemplated by the Confederation Fathers, of whom it may well be said, in the words engraved on the tablet in our own Confederation Chamber, that they builded better than they knew. The trouble is that their successors have fallen down on the job. It is only by forgetting politics and getting back to old-time standards of statesmanship that we can hope to make the "majestic fabric" of our nationhood enduring.

School Teacher Shortage

The annual school meetings are being held throughout the Province on Tuesday evening, July 3, and in this connection the Department of Education has circularized both the trustee boards and the clergy of the Province, stressing the importance of these meetings in planning effectively for the next year's educational program. Emphasis is laid on the duty of the voters at the meetings of electing trustees with a proper sense of their responsibility, and of providing sufficient funds both for school maintenance and for adequate supplements.

"The outlook for procuring a sufficient number of teachers to staff all schools for the coming year," says the circular issued to the trustees, "is very discouraging. Competition from other sources is still very keen and trustees and ratepayers must face the fact that unless comfortable living and working conditions, reasonably well equipped schools, and adequate salaries are provided, properly qualified teachers cannot be secured and retained."

To encourage the payment of larger supplements to teachers in rural schools the Government has provided for duplication up to \$75 of the amount voted in excess of the minimum supplement required by statute. Trustees are asked to urge the ratepayers to authorize an increase in the amount voted if such should be needed to secure a teacher, and to lose no time in engaging or re-engaging qualified teachers. With a view to distributing the supply of teachers to the best advantage during the present emergency, an order in council has been passed to the effect that schools having an enrollment of seven pupils or less shall not be permitted the services of a teacher. Such districts must either make arrangements for the transportation of their pupils to an adjoining school or schools (in this the Department will share generously in the expense) or else make use of the correspondence courses provided by the Department.

The Department has acted wisely in calling public attention to the gravity of the situation, and it is to be hoped that the procedure suggested at the annual school meetings next week will be followed generally.

Will Mr. MacKenzie King Go?

It would appear that the Liberals are not of one mind for the continuance of Mr. MacKenzie King as Prime Minister. The Letter Review says:

The Liberal party, after the first celebrations of its "victory," has begun to show signs of serious thought. Despite the failure of the Progressive Conservatives to convince the country that they have something which the Liberals have not, despite the fact that the Liberals remain in office, by the solid vote of Quebec, it is quite clear that the Government has lost the confidence of the Canadian people. Mr. King may not be much longer in office. It can be taken for granted that the unpleasant habit of trying to maintain office by trickery is in no way a characteristic of Liberals as opposed to Progressive Conservatives. It is solely the policy of Mr. King and a small group in the Party are patriotic Canadians, and as devoted to good Government as any other citizens.

Quebec, despite many suggestions to this effect, actually did not show the rabid hatred of universal military service which so many careless observers pretend to see. A heavy majority for Liberals over Bloc Populaire is not evidence of acute anti-conscription sentiment. The Progressive Conservative movement in the Province is not organized, and has no serious leadership. Given a choice between unity and co-operation with the rest of the nation, and separatism, the people of Quebec voted for what they believed to be the Party of unity—despite the fact that it long ago abandoned its open opposition to conscription, and despite the fact that French-Canadians quite understand that their fellow Liberals in the rest of the country are as conscriptionist as the Progressive Conservatives. As time goes on, new leaders will appear among the French-Canadians, and those who gain influence in the Province will not do so by preaching separatism. The field in Quebec is open. It is as accessible to a well directed Progressive Conservative Party as to the Liberals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"And what has been so rare as sun in June?"

It was like pre-war times at Government House the other night, with so many of the younger set "tripping the light fantastic toe."

Growing interest is being evinced in the future of H. M. C. S. Queen Charlotte, sealed tenders for which are called.

Someone wants to know why the Pipe Band is not sent to welcome the return of the Highlanders and others on their arrival at the Charlottetown depot.

Psychiatrist: "Tell me, have none of your childhood dreams ever come true?" Patient: "Only one. When mother used to send me back upstairs to brush my hair I often wished I didn't have any."

Tomorrow, in our churches and elsewhere, the birthday of our Dominion will be the theme of service, commemorative largely of the unreturning brave who fought and died that we might remain free.

Bitterly must Canada grieve— Though none of these poor men who died But did within his soul believe That death for her was glorified.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, English poetess, died this date 1861; began to write verses at the age of ten; at nineteen published her first work, An Essay on Mind, And Other Poems; in 1846 she married Robert Browning, and ten years later published her greatest poems Aurora Leigh; according to Dr. Furnivall, Mrs. Browning is "the greatest poetess the world has ever seen."

Books are men of higher stature, and the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear. O earth, so full of dreary noises! O men, with wailing in your voices! O strife, O curse, that o'er it falls! God strikes a silence through you all, And giveth His beloved, sleep.

Ending her maiden voyage from Liverpool and Belfast, the 15,000-ton streamlined Defoe, owned by Lamport and Holt, has docked in Montreal harbor. Leaving the shipyard of Harland-Wolff, Belfast, less than three weeks ago, the Defoe is the first ship to appear in Montreal with her navigating bridge, living accommodation and dining room all inside the huge smokestack. Her cabin space for 24 passengers is built around the big stack and even the wireless rooms, chart rooms, and auxiliary cabins are housed in the smokestack. During her stay in Montreal harbor, the Defoe will be inspected by Canadian naval and other shipbuilding architects because of her new and modern design.

The Eastern Chronicle, New Glasgow, is on its feet again, after its disastrous fire, and is publishing as usual, though greatly handicapped by inadequate temporary premises and plant. Says the Editor: "It is a great thing in calamity to have friends, and we had them. Our friends sympathized with us genuinely. The letters, telegrams and messages we received were heartening. They were not alone local, but poured in upon us from the Pacific Coast, and everywhere that the Eastern Chronicle had made friends between here and there. They cheered us and gave us encouragement to persist in what seemed to be a hopeless undertaking, the getting back into operation."

Notes By The Way

The book of the month is still the nation books—Woodstock Sentinels—Review.

Japan is said to be preparing a plan to send over explosive balloons in large numbers to this country. That where Germany made her mistake, she concentrated on the bombing of England instead of fighting the troops which were threatening her own country—Chatham News.

A columnist wants to know why a fly which can always find a hole in the screen to come in can't find one for going out. And farmers have wanted to know for a long time why cows that get in the corn so easily never get out without a struggle—Kingston Whig Standard.

The Onlooker said the world's greatest show-off is the man who purchases a three-cent newspaper with a ten-dollar bill. He should have bought one issue of a newspaper is often worth \$10, even if only three cents is charged—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

For a long time, one of the toughest jobs in the city is that of writing press releases about the istle. Finally one of the wire services demanded a definition of istle "that would be intelligible to the man who did some research, and came back with this: "Istle is a fibre of pie-apple leaves and several other plants. It has to be well wetted before weaving. This process is known as 'wetting the istle.' The Mexican women who weave the baskets are known as istle-pickin' mamas."—Boston Globe.

So Gerry McGeer is a senator! The man with the big fists and brass voice will spend the rest of his life among the wheel chairs and ear-trumpets. It's going to take time—say about 20 years—to get used to the idea. In the meantime, it seems as incongruous as if Joe Louis had taken a job as physical director of a young men's seminary. It's not that he isn't fit for the post; it is rather that he is too fit—(Vancouver Sun).

A \$600,000 uncut diamond—the world's biggest—was flown to Britain recently by the Royal Air Force. It is the size of a hen's egg, weighs 770 carats, and was found by a prospector in the mountains of the Himalayas in the month of January. The London Daily Mail reports. It is the property of the Sikh and the Government of the Punjab. A leading diamond expert said: "It is a beauty; a magnificent stone of exceptionally fine color and clarity, with hardly a flaw. It will be used for gems." When the stone is cut its value will probably increase to about \$2,000,000. Largest uncut diamond of all time was the Cullinan. It was cut and presented to King Edward VII.

News that Canadian wheat was shipped last month from the West Coast to the United States, a milestone in Alberta agriculture. For almost six years there has been a shortage of wheat in New Zealand. This last market is entirely abnormal. It is due to the disastrous crop failure experienced in Australia, and to a lesser extent in New Zealand—Calgary Albertan.

Production of new passenger automobiles after the first of the year is still highly speculative as to quantity. At best, however, the number that can come off assembly lines by July 1, 1946, would be only a fraction of what the demand could be met. By far the largest proportion of the cars now in service believed to be somewhat fewer than 24,000,000, are over age and running on borrowed time. The record of failure of cars going to the junk pile annually, in addition to the demand, with high priority, for new automobiles by returning soldiers, requires that every possible effort be made to conserve the existing stockpile is imperative.—(New York Times).

To most men failure is an enemy but to some of perception she is a friend. She is a guardian on the path to the heights of success. Her fee is sincerity and truth, says The Toronto Globe and Mail. To some, the company of failure is shameful. To the wise, she is an inspiration. Her touch renews their courage, spurs them to further effort. They know the restraint of failure has not destroyed the dream; it has merely pointed out the way. Scientists know that Edison dreamed the electric lamp, and tried some 2,000 materials before he perfected a practical filament. Two thousand failures? No, just 2,000 new ideas: all the ways it couldn't be done. The years of effort Pierre and Marie Curie invested in the isolation of radium: were they a record of failure? They would have been if it were not for the Curies, failure had not been inspiration. The long and continuing annals of the conquest of disease are an endless record of unsuccessful trial, challenging the courage and imagination to try further effort. A wise father will buy his son boards and let him make a box. The corners may not be square; the lid may not fit, but the boy will have learned more about the next box than if the father had saved him from his failure with the first. Failure is humiliating when the same lesson has to be learned twice.

Kidney Acids Rob Your Rest

Many people never seem to get a good night's rest. They turn and toss—their backs ache and their heads throb. Often they blame it on nerves when it may be their kidneys. Healthy kidneys filter poisons from the blood. If they are faulty and fail, poisons stay in the system and cause sleeplessness, headaches, backache often follow. If you don't sleep well, try Dodd's Kidney Pills—half a century the favorite remedy. 103

Dodd's Kidney Pills

Whiteall Notebook

(By Douglas Amaron, C.A., L.L.B. Press Staff Writer, London)

Maj. B.H.H. Nevill-Spence, Conservative member of Parliament for Orkney and Shetland, has introduced a novel angle into the British general election campaign. He has chartered a plane to carry him through his constituency. His electioneering will take him to 18 islands lying off Scotland's northernmost tip. He hopes to visit Fair Isle which has never before had an election meeting, but the weather will have to be good because landing space is limited and there are 250-foot cliffs to the sea. Besides the plane Maj. Nevill-Spence will have to use motorboats and a trawler. There are 17,000 electors in the Orkneys and 14,000 in the Shetlands. All the ballot papers will be carried by air to Whiteall, on the largest Orkney Island, for the count, after voting July 5.

Since 1917, baby week in Britain has been the first week in July. Nothing in the 28 years has been so successful in electing a government. Ballot papers for the 20,000 electors in the Orkneys and 14,000 in the Shetlands. All the ballot papers will be carried by air to Whiteall, on the largest Orkney Island, for the count, after voting July 5.

Most of the British troops in southeast Asia command have elected to vote by proxy in the general election, but some 20,000 will cast their ballots by mail. Ballot papers for the 20,000 are expected to reach Calcutta from the United Kingdom at the end of June, arrived by R.A.F. transport men and aircraft. They then will be sorted and dispatched by road and rail to the various units. Some may go by air to Burma fields.

The Poet's Corner

COLLECT FOR DOMINION DAY

Father of Nations! Help of the feeble, hand command! Strength of the strong! To whom the nations kneel! Stay and destroyer, at whose just command, Earth's kingdoms tremble and her empires reel! Who dost the low uplift, the small make great, And dost abase the ignorantly proud; Of our scant people mould a mighty state, To strong stem, to thee in mockery bowed! Father of unity, make this people one! We'll interpose them in the patriot's flame, Whose forging on Thine anvil was in blood laid shed to purge the common shame; That so our hearts, the fever of faction done, Banish old feud in our young nation's name! —G. D. Roberts

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Ode for Dominion Day

By Nathaniel A. Benson

I When Cartier first saw Hochelaga's height And on Mount Royal reared the fleur-de-lys, When dawn swept down the age-long savage night, Was Canada conceived in majesty, God, keep within us yet that dauntless flame Of old courageous days, When hearts were stout and hands were truly strong; Of those, who from the valorous centuries came Still let us stride the ways, And tribulation never shall be long! O Canada, unveil for us the splendid past, That thy first glorious hours may sanctify these last.

II That we might wear this present nationhood, Daulac drew sword, and sought: Death to the end; For us Brock gave an English hero's blood, And dark Tegumseh did our fields defend, Far on the west, and on the crimsoned Somme New generations proved The Empire free as their Canadian home. Now over many a field the stars are calm Where heroes sleep beloved, And there Remembrance shall forever come, These are our heritage, and these our rightful pride; God grant that we may live as nobly as they died.

III The hero's deed, the lonely poet's theme Enshrine a nation's greatness—these we have, A strange magnificence of deed and dream That mocks the years and burns above the grave. England and France flow kindred in one vein, The dreaming Celt and Scot, The Norseman all his sea-born valor brings, The magic melancholy of the Ukraine— All these are subtly wrought In one vast anthem our Dominion sings: From ancient kingdom's hopes a People shall arise To write their steadfast faith across the Western skies.

IV We are a people marching down the ages, O'er golden seas, beyond the mountains' crest; Our legacy of warriors, bards and sages Shall guide us still on truth's and beauty's quest, God, let our dreams be deep, our deeds be fair, And let our spirits be imbued with all that was, that future time Shall see a new Dominion which will dare, For right and liberty, Attain new peaks and victories more sublime. My country, Canada, land of auspicious birth, Arise, and let thy youth inspire the lands of Earth!

A STRIKING TRIBUTE

A STRIKING tribute to Life Insurance was paid in an advertisement published by a prominent Canadian Trust Company, to explain why it is such a wholehearted supporter of Life Insurance. The advertisement says:—

"In administering hundreds, nay thousands of estates, we have often found too much of everything; too much due to banks and brokers; too many guarantees; too much real estate, particularly sponsored by the National government of China headed by Wang Ching-Wei. China severed diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy. Germans claimed the capture of Riga, Latvian capital.

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Provincial Managers Office: Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague. Allison F. McLean, C.L.U.—District Manager at Summerside. Cyrus A. B. Shaw—District Manager at Montague.

This War—Four Years Ago

By The Canadian Press JUNE 30, 1941—The first MS cruiser tank produced in Canada went off the assembly lines at a Montreal warplant. All able-bodied citizens of Leningrad were conscripted for work on the city's defences. Vichy France and Russia broke off diplomatic relations.

JUNE 31, 1941—The Axis powers formally recognized the Japanese-sponsored Nanking government of China headed by Wang Ching-Wei. China severed diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy. Germans claimed the capture of Riga, Latvian capital.

BURNS AND SCALDS A burn is the effect of dry heat of over 140 degrees Fahrenheit; a scald is the result of moist heat of over 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

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By Ken Reynolds



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