

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Pre-ident. Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice-President, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$5.00 per year (in advance) delivery to City
\$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to P. E. Island

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

Explaining Saskatoon

The effort of an Ottawa paper to exonerate Prime Minister Mackenzie King from any responsibility for the infamous campaign of the Government party in the Saskatoon federal by-election, in which war contracts were held out as a bribe, elicits the following retort from the Financial Post:

"But of course Mr. King has seen the advertisement by now. What then has been done about it? Are the men who perpetrated the offense to be allowed to continue running affairs in the Saskatoon constituency?"

"And what about Mr. Gardiner? Saskatoon is in his parish." It is almost certain that he had at least some knowledge of what was going on.

"Is it to be inferred that these are the tactics that will prevail if, as and when a general election is held? Is the Prime Minister's non-partisan pledge to be thrown aside whenever there is a by-election to be fought? Are businessmen to regard the return of a Government candidate in their constituency as the sine qua non of a proper share of war contracts?"

"The Government has still a lot of explaining to do about the Saskatoon by-election—even though the Government candidate was defeated."

Fertilizer Supply

A committee at Ottawa has made an investigation of the prospective supply of fertilizer in Canada and reports that from present indications there is a sufficient quantity available for war requirements, except perhaps of potash. Normally about half the supply of potash used in Canada comes from Europe, the other half from the United States.

It may be difficult to obtain potash in Europe while the war is on, and production in the United States is as yet not equal to the needs of that country. For 1939 it would appear that Canada has about 70 per cent of its potash requirements already available, and by 1941 it is hoped that arrangements will be made for substantial importations. In the meantime, however, the possibilities of locating supplies of potash in Canada are being investigated. It is hoped that deposits may be found in Nova Scotia and other parts of the Dominion. Subsequent to the war of 1914-18, large deposits of potash were found in California and New Mexico.

Powers to act as considered best in the national interests in wartime have been given to the Fertilizer Supply Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Agricultural Supplies Committee established by the Dominion Government at the outbreak of the war.

Press Censorship

Noting Prime Minister King's assurance to Ottawa correspondents that the Government is anxious that the public receive as much information as possible about Canada's war effort, the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) comments daily: "Mr. King said something like that before." The Government, it suggests, can demonstrate its willingness to inform the public by actions which speak louder than the Prime Minister's statements. It sees a crying need, not only for relief from over-censorship, but for a better flow of news from official channels. The Government, it is true, established a department of information, "but it has yet to prove especially informative."

From another Liberal source, the Eastern Chronicle, comes the following comment, also not devoid of irony: "A press censor has been appointed for the Maritime Provinces. The new appointee is Mr. H. B. Jefferson, and his address, the Nova Scotia Hotel, Halifax. The surprising thing is that it would be thought that one was necessary for the Atlantic Provinces. Possibly after the admission of an instructor in law at Dalhousie University that he knew nothing of the Dominion Act and Regulations, those at Ottawa feared the editors of 'Down East' papers might be equally careless." Our New Glasgow contemporary confesses to being somewhat envious of the new censor in his cozy quarters at the Nova Scotian "in these days of gathering wood, stoking fires and shovelling snow out in the bush."

The Prospect In Canada

We have been at war four months, but a year hence—probably in less than half a year—we shall feel the effect of the war to a far greater degree, and our interest in our part in the struggle will be intensified accordingly. If, as expected, the real war begins on the western front in the spring, the Canadian division will doubtless be in it, and we know that we are fighting a powerful enemy. We may need all the strength and determination that comes from clear conviction and from keeping before us both our war aims and our peace aims.

It will, predicts an exchange, be a year of steadily expanding war preparations. More men will be enlisted for the overseas force as they are required. The great air-training scheme will be pushed ahead and many thousands of young Canadians will enter the air service as pilots, gunners and observers, and as members of the ground force. Canadians in the Royal Air Force have already distinguished themselves

and some, unfortunately, have made the supreme sacrifice in the Allied cause. There will be a large expansion in production of war supplies of all kinds, munitions, minerals, chemicals, clothing and foodstuffs. This production of war supplies for Canada and for Britain, together with other increase in our export trade, for which there are notable opportunities due to war conditions, will mean a great increase in economic activity and in the returns to the Canadian people. Practically all business will be stimulated, the farmers from coast to coast will be better off with larger production and reasonably good prices, the railways will handle much more traffic, and the number of employable men and women out of work should rapidly dwindle.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Wilkie Collins born this date, 1824, friend of Charles Dickens, and a contributor to "Household Words". His novel successes were "The Woman in White", "The Moonstone" and in his drama "The Frozen Deep", Dickens and other celebrities appeared.

Advance was shown in Canada's November export of farm implements and machinery, when the value was \$574,754 compared with \$407,714 in October and \$425,012 in November, 1938. The United Kingdom, the United States, Argentina and British South Africa were the chief purchasers. Exports during the 11 months ended November totalled \$6,271,621 as against \$7,591,005 in the corresponding period of 1938.

Swift and drastic punishment awaits any German caught listening in to a French, British or even a neutral broadcast. Thirteen million German owners of receiving sets are being taught "radio discipline" under the slogan, "Every time you secretly listen to a hostile foreign broadcast you are taking an enemy into your home." The channels through which foreign information is now made available to Germans are definitely confined to the national press and government controlled radio. There are no avenues open for the surreptitious dissemination of foreign propaganda.

"The theory that a tax rate should be raised to any level necessary to support a debt incurred through wastefulness and stupidity," says the Gazette, "is one which the Montreal civic government would accept very readily, but it cannot be put into practice. Nor should it be put into practice even if the theory were workable. That Montreal's finances are in a state of chaos is true enough, but it is not the fault of the tax rate. It is the result of years of improvidence, if of nothing worse, of the deliberate piling up of obligations which are beyond the city's capacity to pay." Is not this true of Charlottetown as well?

The British book trade is feeling the pinch of war. In the Dec. 10 issue of the Literary Supplement of The Times of London, the leading editorial predicts that "our books, like our boots, are shortly to cost us more." Many factors have contributed to this inevitable increase, the article points out, but chief among them is the compulsory War Risks Insurance charge and the rising costs of paper and the materials used in bookbinding. As an indication of the new scale of prices that will soon be effective, the editorial says that the seven-shilling sixpence novel will cost nine pence more and the eight-shilling novel will sell for nine shillings.

Another export market going. Construction of a mill for the manufacture of newsprint in the Derwent Valley, Tasmania, is well under way. Australian Newsprint Mills Pty. Ltd. expects that the production of newsprint will begin by next September, and that it will soon reach a point where between 400 and 500 tons of newsprint will be despatched weekly from the mill. Later production will rise to 500 to 600 tons weekly. Newspapers throughout Australia will utilize the newsprint that is to be made from Tasmanian timber. Up to the present all newsprint required has had to be imported into Australia largely from Canada.

Here is a give-away. According to a report from Hamburg received by the Paris bureau of the International Federation of Trade Unions, Dr. Ferdinand Bertram, a professor in the university at that German port, in expounding a theory on nutrition aimed at persuading the people to be satisfied with their wartime rations, said: "The food provided for the German people through the ration cards is not alone adequate, but is moreover, very healthy, and much healthier for many people than what they used to eat. The climate, the soil and the race must determine nutrition. What German soil does not produce is not vital for German nutrition. It is to be hoped that this good system of nutrition will be retained in its broad lines after the war also." The bulletin of the I.F.T.U. comments that the Herr Professor's theory is an unexpected argument against the Nazi demand for colonies.

At Columbus, Ohio, Professor I. I. Rabi of Columbia demonstrated the new and highly ingenious apparatus and method that make it possible the first time for man to tune in on cosmic messages which atoms and molecules of the universe have been sending out without interruption since the beginning of time. With these atomic radio receiving sets, Dr. Rabi reported he and his associates at Columbia had listened in on a number of broadcasts by the various elements that revealed for the first time many fundamental secrets about the nature of the tremendous cosmic forces within the cores (nuclei) of atoms. The newly demonstrated atomic and molecular radio transmitters and receivers, eminent authorities state, will make important new contributions to our fundamental understanding of the forces that hold the universe together. Their discovery, it is stated, will rank among the great landmarks in the history of science, taking a place alongside such epoch-making discoveries as spectrum analysis, the x-ray and the first demonstration of the existence of radio waves by Hertz.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We refer again to the code of Defence of Canada Regulations. The text of these Regulations is available to every citizen of Canada, because every citizen of Canada is expected to obey them. Here there is no "privilege" or exemption cases. Where these regulations are concerned, all citizens are equal in the eyes of the Law and "ignorance of the law excuses no one." — Halifax Herald.

Hard maple, yellow birch, beech, oak and hickory among the best Canadian woods for fuel, a cord and one-quarter of any one of them being approximately equal in heating value to one ton of anthracite coal. Re-ads of what wood is used, it should be as dry as possible for not only does wet wood give out less heat than dry wood but it is also apt to cause fouling of the pipes. For this reason firewood seasoned for less than one year should not be used, and to achieve the best results wood should be cut into suitable lengths for the stove or furnace as soon as possible so as to permit the most thorough seasoning. — Natural Resources Bulletin.

According to Cardinal Villeneuve, "the French-Canadians are true Canadians of the de per kind that has existed for three centuries. The French-Canadian deserves to be treated as such an not grudgingly given what he believes to be his own; I mean his language his religion, his family and racial traditions." It is up to Canadians of the English language to study and understand the French-Canadian viewpoint, so that a common Canadian point of view may emerge not only in war but in peace. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Reports have it that as the result of an unofficial ban or "moral embargo," the Russian Government will be unable to purchase a single bombing plane in the United States. It would be nice to see the word "bombing" dropped — in other words, making it impossible for the Soviet to purchase any plane, new or second-hand. Certainly the perpetrator of the recent outbreak against Finland should not be able to purchase anything in any civilized country—bombs, machine guns, machine guns, ammunition, dry goods, boots and shoes or even peanut butter. — Windsor Star.

It is with regret we record the Hon. George Drew's attack on the Royal Canadian Navy. Coming as it does from the leader of the Ontario Conservative party, it can hardly be ignored as deserving to be, but little support will be given this gratuitous insult to the thousands of men who are on really "active service. Considering the state of unpreparedness in which all the forces of Canada found themselves as the result of years of neglect by the government of both political parties, it is a tribute to the spirit of the sea service that so much has been accomplished despite the lack of adequate supplies and equipment when war broke out. — Hamilton Spectator.

Out of the world's news dispatches come two definite reminders that it may yet be possible to evolve a better way of living. That there are two reasons why the very young alone escape all measures of responsibility for the measures the oldsters find themselves in. It is, in a sense, retribution for two privileges for which the very young have fought tooth and nail for decades now: the backing of both the courts and of science. The first is a right to a right of being barefaced, a right to be established by Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn; the second is the vindication of a deep-rooted suspicion that taking too many baths is not only bothersome but even harmful. The very young are not only exempt from such a measure as being up in the path of a complete and utter law in the A. S. Superior Court Judge, Clement L. Shinn gave his judicial blessing to the ungod. In a custody case the mother of the 10-year-old lad involved charged that her former husband's father, permitted his son to run around in bare feet and with his shirttail hanging out. The judge holding out for compensation thought the shirttail might be tucked in better, but as for the bare feet—let 'em be. The boy was still the heritage of every small boy. A just decision, but one that cannot rebuke civilization for evolving the cement sidewalk to replace the unforgettable, soft and luxurious mud that should be felt by all bare feet that can walk. Along with the judge, Dr. Morris Fishbein will be candidate for the most popular boys' job of the year. It was he who said hotly that it is not necessary now to take a daily bath in winter. In fact says Dr. Fishbein, a couple of baths a week are sufficient. The reason is that too much bathing in winter is not good for the skin. Some thing to do with natural oils, the boys claim, and Dr. Fishbein agrees.

It is a good life for the boys. The problems of morality and taxation are above them, and below them they demand rights that no one can argue about. And they seem to be getting them. — Hamilton Spectator.

The Erie Peninsula has generally been regarded as the district suitable for tobacco growing in Ontario. The fine industry which has been developed in Essex, Kent, Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk and smaller sections of adjacent counties, is common knowledge. Less well known is the fact that 300 years ago tobacco was grown by Indians in the upper part of Simcoe County near Georgian Bay. Three centuries ago the Indians were also called the Tobacco tribe. With the disappearance of the tribe by the Iroquois passed the growing of tobacco. Growers from Norfolk County have taken an interest in the Simcoe area and only a few have been taken on no less than 5,000 acres, in the Midland, Peninsular

The U. S. Outlook For 1940

By ALEXANDER D. NOYES

(In New York Times) As is not unusual at a year-end, forecasts of 1940 elicit opposite conclusions from the same phenomena. Our people are temperamentally hopeful; most of them today find plenty of ground for hope in what has already happened, but specific prophecy published for the new financial year has been cautious. Once in a while (chiefly, perhaps, among economists) prediction is unfavorable. The outstanding arguments behind the favorable forecasts are as follows: 1. Recovery from overdone industrial reaction has been in progress throughout 1939; it has apparently not ended. It began long before September and was not arrested, but the stock market by last year's early war scares. Probably it was stimulated when war began by belief in large purchases by belligerents, but the forward movement did not stop when "war boom" expectations faded. Business hopes were highest at the year-end.

Industrial "High Records" 2. For the first time since the "boom" of the Twenties, all-time records have been made by industrial production. November's "production index," 125, was never matched, except by the 125 of June, 1929. Steel output passed previous monthly records in October and went still higher in November. Cotton consumption of cotton broke all October records and exceeded only in March and April, 1937. At the year-end, industrial inventories showed no such increase as at the end of 1938.

3. American banking position unprecedentedly strong. Member-bank surplus reserves on Oct. 31 were \$5,000,000,000, a maximum of \$3,470,000,000 prior to 1939 and of \$3,100,000,000 prior to 1937. Interest rates continue at low record; money market of United States Government bonds in September was followed by notable recovery.

Gold Reserve 4. World gold production 14 per cent above 1928 and 64 per cent above 1927, which itself was then high record. Almost about \$3,000,000,000 world output in 1939. United States imported last year net \$3,300,000,000 foreign gold and retained this country's product of some \$185,000,000. 5. Convincing evidence of drift to conservatism. Defeat in 1939 Congress of "spending-reducing" measures pressed by the Administration. Positive indication, in preliminary, New Deal advantages were now on the defensive.

The Other Side The opposite conclusions, heard occasionally nowadays, commonly take this form: 1. Industrial recovery has continued during six consecutive months, so it did in 1936. Yet the 1939 recovery was followed in 1937 by a sharp decline. The present trade revival was built up in 1939 by expectation of a "war-material boom" which did not eventuate. It is not clear whether the war have we had opportunity to learn to what extent our foreign trade will be affected by withdrawal of our ships from the most prosperous avenues of ocean commerce. 2. New records for industrial production do not guarantee the immediate reaction of United States. It failed to reach even the 1930 figure.

3. Abnormally high surplus bank reserves result largely from hesitation among new investors in creating lack of long-range confidence. Furthermore, in 1936 and 1937, surplus reserves \$2,000,000,000 smaller than in 1939 were the result of a "war-material boom" which did not eventuate. It is not clear whether the war have we had opportunity to learn to what extent our foreign trade will be affected by withdrawal of our ships from the most prosperous avenues of ocean commerce. 4. Accumulation of gold in United States, largely in excess of world production, creates problems of its own. No one knows what will be its effect on international exchange and the international money standard.

Political Uncertainties 5. Growing opposition to unsound financial policies at Washington is admitted. Yet this very fact may forebode an acrimonious political campaign. Our government's fiscal position with its annual deficit nearly \$4,000,000,000 and its public debt nearly \$42,000,000,000 (as against \$16,026,000,000 in 1930) is the worst in our history. Despite last Summer's Congressional revolt, extravagance continued; deficit for the last Fall of 1939 increased \$230,000,000 over 1938. With the well-known distinction of new taxes in Presidential year, it is not easy to see how the position will be remedied. Thus the conflicting viewpoints of our people are not only in sharp contrast, but they are also in sharp contrast to them; especially how continuation of European war will affect our own situation, for good or bad. We may not learn the truth immediately, yet rarely do we

Two Million More Men

(Globe and Mail)

In this country it is hard to grasp the significance of His Majesty's proclamation calling 2,000,000 more men to the colors with one stroke of the pen. Britain's share in the war job has been conducted on the sea and in the air with such satisfactory results, while the French forces held the Maginot Line, and we have heard so much about the conclusive probabilities of air mastery, that an immense draft of manpower like this has seemed unnecessary. The 2,000,000, however, is additional to the 1,500,000 already called up for service, to give the United Kingdom a force of 3,500,000 by spring. In a sense, no doubt, the proclamation is an immediate answer to Hitler's New Year's threat, but it is no idle demonstration. It means that the war is likely to be serious on all fronts and that the time can be delayed in making the maximum of preparation.

We know the last war was not concluded by a mere military or naval overwhelming effort as is now being made in the initial stages. That conflict was in progress nearly four years before the final stroke of the nation was summoned. In March, 1918, the total force raised was 3,888,000 for regular and territorial army, exclusive of Dominion colonial and Indian troops. The high-water mark of British overseas contingents reached 2,834,000 in the same month, while the grand total of all Empire forces in the war theatres and at home, was 5,569,000. His Majesty has now summoned from the United Kingdom the equivalent of all the men in Canada between the ages of 20 and 50 at the moment this country rejoices in the safe arrival of 16,000 men who can lend a hand. Soon Britain will be spending \$200,000,000, or nearly \$1,000,000,000 a month on the war, and the need apparently is correspondingly greater. This is something for us to think about as we consider what the war is for. The United Kingdom is risking her full resources, taking all that can be spared in men and materials, to protect the democratic front of the world from the terrible assault Hitler and his German supporters promise to launch. There no longer is any pretense in Berlin. It is a war to a finish, with Britain the chief objective.

Contemplating the tremendous sacrifices in the Motherland, we cannot be content with less than the utmost of our own time to our heritage. If Britain finds it necessary to raise 3,500,000 men within a few months and spend on so vast a scale, it is not a matter of what should Canada do? The program far ahead of that of 1914-18, the need apparently is correspondingly greater. This is something for us to think about as we consider what the war is for. The United Kingdom is risking her full resources, taking all that can be spared in men and materials, to protect the democratic front of the world from the terrible assault Hitler and his German supporters promise to launch. There no longer is any pretense in Berlin. It is a war to a finish, with Britain the chief objective.

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The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE CHURCH PORCH"

Resort to sermons, but to prayers most; Praying's the end of preaching. O Lord, be dressed; Stay not for the other pin; why thou hast lost A joy worth words. Thus hell doth jest Away thy blessings and extremely to look at thee. Thy clothes being fast, but thy soul loose about thee. Judge not the preacher; for he is thy judge. If thou mislike him, thou conceivest him not. God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge To pick out treasures from an earthen pot. The worst speak something good; if all want sense, God takes the text and preacheth patience! —George Herbert (1893-1933)

the beginning of a new year. In the past months especially, several months elapsed before the twelvemonth's real financial trend was determined.

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LONDON—(CP)—On the first of CROYDON England—(CP)—"see-the-children excursions" 5,000 Speeding to meet her husband who parents were reunited with their was on 48 hours' leave, Lady Suir-evacuated families for the day. date was fined £2 (\$8.90) here.

Attention Farmers Near Charlottetown

POTATOES. We are very much pleased to report a sharp advance in the price of Table Stock Potatoes. On account of Seed being absolutely at a standstill we cannot recommend that this advance is permanent. To growers who are living on farms near Charlottetown bordering on the improved roads where the plows are travelling arrangements can be made where our trucks can call on days that the temperature permits and haul in your potatoes. My guess is that Cobler Seed will not move until around the tenth of February to any extent. There might be a small demand for a little bit of Mountain Seed and we wish to notify our friends and customers that we are interested in purchasing at prevailing market price their offerings during the winter.

TURNIPS. Remember the old song "Yes We Have Some Bananas" Well we have regular orders for turnips. We can arrange to truck same, similar to the potatoes or we are interested in buying cars East of Charlottetown or on the Murray Harbor Branch in bulk. Remember that we buy turnips daily, and if it is possible, to reach you by truck kindly contact with the office. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the many growers near Charlottetown who have made it possible for me to establish a very nice Produce Business. I hope that our transactions have been pleasant and profitable and that same will prevail over a period of many years to come.

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