THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1940.

The Navy In Action

At the time of writing reports are being received of a major naval battle in the North Sea, between units of the combined Allied fleet and the Nazi navy which has been convoying German landing parties on Norwegian coast towns. If such is the case, it may be a decisive factor in the war. It is well, of course, to avoid "wishful thinking" in the circumstances, but the news that an opportunity has at last come for the British Navy to strike with full force and effect cannot but raise hopes of a smashing victory.

Germany's sudden invasion of Norway and Denmark is regarded by military observers in London as a strategic blunder, inasmuch as it exposes the German flank for the first time and gives the Allies the very opportunity they were waiting for. It is obvious that this action had been planned for some time, and was not precipitated, as alleged, by the Allies' action in laying mine fields in Norwegian territorial waters. As pointed out yesterday in the British Parliament by Premier Chamberlain, it would have been impossible for German landing forces to be at selected points far up the Norwegian coastline unless they had left German bases before the mines were laid.

There can be little doubt, either, that this move on the part of Germany was anticipated by the Allies. Since the Soviet invasion of Finland the position of the other Scandinavian countries has been precarious in the extreme, and recent statements by the British Prime Minister and Allied war leaders, coupled with the tightening of blockade measures in northern waters, indicated intensive preparation for any emergency.

A factor in the Nazi invasion of Denmark is the inability of that country to produce the feedstuffs it requires for its extensive agricultural export trade with Great Britain. This will increase the demand for Canadian bacon and other products in the British market, and from now on our Canadian farmers will play an increasingly important part in Britain's war effort.

It is considered possible, too, that the 1st Canadian Division, now in England, will form part of any army sent to Norway. It is unlikely there will be any official announcement in this regard until our troops are actually at the Front. In the meantime, there is reassurance in the announcement that Britain and France have reached "full agreement" on the measures to be taken in this emergency; measures which most certainly included preparations for the naval engagement now reported to be taking place, and which may prove as important in its results as did the battle of Jutland in the last war.

Y. M. C. A. Appeal

It is gratifying to note that the directors of the Charlottetown Y. M. C. A. were able to collect the $5,000 absolutely necessary to prevent the closing of the institution. There was a generous response from benevolent citizens and the $500 which was promised on condition that the whole amount would be collected, was secured. Now the annual campaign for the necessary money to carry on during the year is about to be launched, and it is hoped will meet with equally favorable response from the public generally. The campaign opens on April 15 and closes April 20. In addition to local maintenance requirements the "Y" is appealing on behalf of national war work.

Elsewhere in today's issue appears a review of the activities of the Charlottetown Y. M. C. A. during 1939. It will be noted that since the outbreak of war in September all men in uniform have been made welcome free of charge, to the privileges of membership. This is but one of the many contributions to community service the "Y" is making, and for which funds are needed.

Coal Marketing Problem

J. McG. Stewart, K.C., Coal Administrator for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, has announced, according to a press dispatch from Halifax, that the limit has been reached in the marketing of Nova Scotia coal in Central Canada. His explanation is that, despite all efforts to give domestic coal the preference in the Canadian market, coal from the United States, which has only risen 35 cents per ton in price since the war began, still has the edge in the competitive Ontario market.

It is easier to understand this explanation than to accept it, comments the Sydney Post-Record. Without access to the most recent official figures, it is a conservative estimate that Ontario is now consuming foreign-mined coal, to the volume of approximately 8,000,000 tons a year. The conservation of the home market for the product of Canadian wage-earners being an accepted indeed a cardinal principle, of Federal policy, this importation of foreign fuel on such a scale, while colliery unemployment in the winter season remains a major economic problem in this country, presents an anomaly anything but creditable to Canadian statesmanship, even in times of peace. Now that Canada is at war such a condition becomes indefensible and intolerable. If Canada is not made independent of foreign fuel sources in time of war, we may never expect to see an effective fuel policy established in Canada at any other time. It is surely up to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to find a way to market in Canada every ton of coal that can be produced in Canada, at least as long as the war lasts.

Inspiration From The Past

Under the title of "What's the use—the motto of the defeatists," a striking pamphlet has just been issued by the Citizen's Research Institute of Canada.

It recounts the work which the Barons at Runnymede, John Hampden, Jacques Cartier, Wolfe and other great men did to win the patrimony which is the proud heritage of every Canadian, and points out that the responsibility for preserving those privileges rests on the present generation.

"If we now say 'What's the use'," continues the brochure, "and act or fail to act accordingly on all public questions, we risk losing all that we most prize in the field of civil, religious and personal liberty. No one can take our place in the struggle. We are all in reality combatants whether or not we are enrolled in the army, the navy and the air force."

This is an apposite reminder and it cannot be too strongly emphasized at this time. There is no room for the defeatist in Canada today. If we adopt the laissez-faire attitude, disaster is bound to come and bring retribution in its train. It is not enough these days to pay lip service to democracy. We must bend every effort and employ all our energies and abilities towards helping Canada in the struggle for liberty.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

We may expect beer and wine legislation this session of the Legislature.

* * * *

Some of the "neutrals" are beginning to cry out before they are hurt by the Allies.

* * * *

A. C. Swinburne died this date, 1909. "At the door of life, by the gate of breath, there are worse things waiting for men than death."

* * * *

The Temperance Federation delegation was well received by the Government—why shouldn't it, being a former political ally?

* * * *

It is announced that Germany has banned modern dances for the duration of the war. Then what kind do they favour now — the old goose-step?

* * * *

At the Rotary Club the speaker was enlarging on the great future there was for development of new industries—goats, for instance, the breeding of goats. "Goats," remarked a member *sotto voce,* "I think that is our main trouble — we have too many goats already."

* * * *

Premier Campbell resents being told that politics entered into negotiations regarding the extension of time asked by the ex-Lieutenant-Governor. Is it his guilty conscience that is roused to protest, seeing that the Prime Minister quite evidently "passed the buck" to him, and acted upon his advice?

* * * *

They start their naval officers young in the Old Country, especially those whose forbears have long been associated with the senior service. The 13-year-old son of Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, conqueror of the Admiral Graf Spee, is joining the navy. The boy, Cyprian Henry Harwood, has been admitted to the Royal Navy College, Dartmouth. Admiral Harwood has been in the navy since boyhood.

* * * *

Half a million homing pigeons are being used by the Royal Air Force, of which 2,000 birds are on duty daily with the coastal command ready to carry messages from reconnaissance aircraft to bases when it is necessary that radio should remain silent. The pigeons often show remarkable tenacity in fighting their way home. One bird, released from a plane at 13,000 feet in clear weather above a blizzard, off the Scandinavian coast and distressed by the altitude, dropped like a plummet to 1,500 feet at which height it was accustomed to fly. When the bird disappeared into the blizzard below the pilot give it up for lost, but three days later the pigeon returned to its base. It had fought its way across the North Sea in blinding snow and a roaring northwesterly gale.

* * * *

When the Rev. M. O. M. Duke left Doncaster, Yorkshire, to become vicar of a London church, Whiskers, the family cat, gave the metropolis the once over from her new abode in Paddington and walked out. That was just before Christmas. The nostalgic urge strong upon her, she kept right on walking and in due course showed up at the vicarage in Doncaster, having covered the distance of 172 miles in two months and eighteen days. Apparently she had made the journey by easy stages, putting up for a few days with people en route, for she arrived fit, though thin. But it was only to suffer a new shock: the greenhouse in the vicarage garden, where she had been born and had her sleeping quarters, had been pulled down by the Rev. Mr. Duke's successor. Whiskers, disconsolate, declined proffered hospitality at the house and made her way to the residence of a woman neighbor, who used to look after her during absences of the Duke family. After resting there for a few days, however, the cat vanished and it is surmissed that she is on her way back to London.

* * * *

Patronage, a handy instrument when votes are being solicited but a nightmare to the politician after he is elected, may eventually be the cause of the creation of the long-mooted civil service commission in the Province of Quebec. It is learned that at a recent Liberal party caucus at Quebec, two newly-elected members threatened to resign if a civil service was not set up to rid them of the plague of patronage. And, strangely enough, one of the members who made the threat was a member from a rural riding where the patronage demands are not half as numerous as those made on the members for the urban centres. "To an unfortunately great number of the electors, the sole duty of the legislator is to find them jobs and heaven help him next election if he fails," said this member. "While it may be true," he continued, "that patronage is useful to a party around election time, what advantages it may have during that period are offset a hundred-fold after the election is over. For every one person for whom you are able to find some little job there are generally 50 to 100 other applicants who are disappointed and who will vote against you at the next election," he said.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The reports of the record of commercial aviation in the United States during the year 1939 show, for the first time, a complete absence of fatalities. In 1938 there were five fatal airplane accidents in the United States with a total loss of twenty lives. The year before thirty-two passengers were killed. This year none was killed —and more than 2,000,000 passengers were carried more than 17,000,000 miles. — New York Herald Tribune.

A new factory at Tbilisi, Russia, is to produce 1,450,000 bottles of champagne this year. By 1942 the output will be up to 4,000,000 bottles. As there are 170,000,000 people in Russia, the plant must do much better than this, else the proletariat will have to continue on vodka. But then, only in a Utopia would all the people have champagne, and Russia is no Utopia.—Windsor Star.

In the presence of 35,000 Buddhist pilgrims, and with time-honored ritual, the ceremony of laying the base of the pinnacle on the restored Ruwanweli Seya Dagoba (temple) at Anuradhapura, ancient capital of Ceylon, was performed. When a button was pressed a bell rang at the top of the spire, and the first section of the giant pinnacle was fixed. Fifty crackers were exploded, while a thousand monks chanted prayers. The original Dagoba was built by King Dutugemunu in 158-137 B.C. — Indian Press Union.

A Chicago newspaper lists 30 murders which have taken place in that city during the past six years, 15 of the victims being policemen and the other 15 were officials of labor unions. There have been well over 1,000 murders in Chicago during that period, but these 30 were selected to prove a point. The point is that out of the 15 police killings the police solved 11 of them—the murderers were tracked down and convicted — while of the 15 union murders not one was solved. If the 1,000 or more gangsters and other slayings were examined, the percentage of arrests and convictions would not be much better than in the cases of union murders. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

There is nothing that worries the human race quite as much as implications that, in certain respects, other animals have the jump on us. Major Stanley S. Flower, British zoologist, has just contributed to the collective ego of the world by announcing that man can truthfully boast the longest span of life. The old myth about the elephant living longer has no basis in fact, the major says. As a matter of fact, the oldest elephants fall just short of living 50 years. The world of man could be a little prouder of this distinction if it could only forget that elephants, at least, have a pretty good chance of finishing their normal life span without worrying about wars and traffic accidents. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Those youths in Brooklyn's murder - for - hire industry, who killed on assignment for as little as a dollar a job, weren't "born killers." Neither were they all products of identifiably bad environment. Some of them got into the business of incorporated murder as simply as this: They borrowed money from loan sharks, couldn't pay it back, and were coerced into paying their debts and "avoiding legal action" by doing petty misdeeds first; then being forced into more and more felonious acts by threats of exposure, and finally they were assigned to kill. Monstrous? Surely, and it is easy to see what dupes they were. But it is also easy to read in their plight a lesson on the evolution of criminals from trivial beginnings. — Minneapolis Star-Journal.

Mr. F. A. Macquisten (whose death is announced) was an idiosyncratic in his own way as Colonel Wedgwood is in his. For years these two have been the most strongly marked "characters" in the House of Commons. The difference between them is that the oddity of Colonel Wedgewood burns at its most attractive in the cause of freedom and individual liberty, whereas Macquisten's served humbler ends. His political philosophy might be summed up as anti-Puritanism. In particular he hated the people who hate whiskey, which he thought, moderately used, as he himself used it, was necessary to salvation, the mark of spiritual (not spirituous) grace in a man. Mr. Belloc's one-time obsession with beer was not more pronounced. Praise of whiskey got into many of his speeches. — Manchester Guardian.

Amongst the 1914-18 veterans now getting back into active service khaki, in spite of all official obstacles, is Mr. B. M. Cloutman, an Honors B.A. of London, and a barrister practising on the Western Circuit. He was educated at Berkhamsted school and London University, and the last War served with the R. E.'s in France, Belgium and Italy. Whilst commanding the 59th company, R E., attached to the 5th division, Mr. Cloutman won the V.C. as well as an M.C. His V.C., the last awarded in the last War, was gained on November 6, 1918, five days before the Armistice, by swimming the Sambre river into the German lines, and cutting the electric wires by means of which the enemy were going to blow up a very vital bridge, thus impending our advance in the victory push. Mr. Cloutman, who is now 48, left the army after the War with the rank of Major. He now returns into patriotic harness, discarding his legal gown and wig for a Sam Browne and steel hat, with the rank of junior sub. Surely this must involve some waste of magnificent experience. Honors B.A.'s, who are V.C.'s and have been Majors, must be fairly rare. —Ottawa Journal.

A grave, an almost terrible, responsibility rests on the shoulders of the government now sustained by the people. It is for them to mend the flaws that were so glaringly exhibited when war broke out in September. It is for them to see that this country will put its full weight behind the prosecution of a war that has already brought forward such a noble response from the people of Canada. Any abuses will bring down the angry condemnation they deserve. Any failure, either during or after the conflict, to measure up to our responsibilities as a partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations will be equally condemned. It is no picnic that the members of the new Parliament will attend in Ottawa when the next session is held; it is a critical, awe-inspiring challenge to their honor and ability. It is in no sense derogatory to Mr. King to say that he now faces his first major test as a leader. The same goes for his Cabinet. — Hamilton Spectator.

Olympic Games "Off"

(Globe and Mail)

The chief reason there will be no Olympic Games this year is that there isn't in the world enough peace to permit their holding. The nations are in too warlike a mood for sport on an international scale. People cannot very well fight and play at the same time—except occasionally in hockey.

War has cast its shadow over the Olympics. The last Games, in Germany four years ago, hardly were enjoyed by spectators or participants. Even then the international atmosphere was troubled. Japan wanted the event this year, but Japan could not prepare for the Games while otherwise engaged in China and elsewhere. Gallant little Finland was willing to provide the accommodation, but announces officially that "because of the abnormal situation prevailing" this can't be done. Poor Finland has more tragic affairs to consider now.

In such circumstances it is pertinent to ask why the Games should be renewed at all. One aim of the Olympics was the promotion of international understanding and good-will. Though these sports gatherings cannot be blamed, there still is a lamentable lack in the world both of understanding and good-will. Latterly the Games have resulted in a good deal of bickering. It is hard to satisfy ambitious and highly strung athletes of different races and temperaments. If any of these complain of treatment received, their people at home also are aggrieved; which does not promote good-will between the nations.

It is claimed that, by the addition of events, the Olympic Games have got too extensive and unwieldy to be run off without friction. In 1936 the Games cost Germany $25,000,000. Finland, where they were to have been held this year because of Japan's war troubles, has spent many millions in preparations, and now Finland herself is practically wrecked.

None can forecast world conditions during the immediate years to come. A prolonged war will leave all countries in financial trouble; certainly with demands on public and private purses more urgent than preparation for Olympic Games. The Empire Games were successful, and in good time these might be revived. But the universal nature of the Olympics, and the expense involved, suggest that they will be hard to keep up.

The Poets' Corner

THE FAWN

Lift up your head. Stop blood and breath,
Stare, shy one, from the familiar shade
Of forest, beyond which lies death,
And the five fury men have made.

Look how the grass moves, where it should
Be still this windless morning. Look!
Something is crouching there where stood
A bronze-leafed alder and a brook.

O wary one, why not go flying
Before you know? Why do you pause,
One foot lifted and one foot trying
The twig-strewn turf of leaves and straws?

It is I that bar your wide-eyed way.
I stalk the secret heart you bear.
Your nostrils know me, yet you stay
Tasting the cold, man-scented air.

Will you, if I am still and calm,
Come closer, suffer me to rise
And, holding up a weaponless palm,
Show you the fawn within my eyes?

—Raymond Holden in the New York Times.

C. N. REVENUE UP

MONTREAL, Que., April 9 —The gross revenues of the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways system for the week ending April 7, 1940 were $3,877,506 as compared with $3,370,862 for the corresponding period of 1939, an increase of $506,644 or 15 percent.

Holes In The Blockade

(BostonPost)

Great Britain, as Prime Minister Chamberlain said yesterday, must intensify her blockade against Germany by all possible measures.

It is apparent that several huge holes exist, by means of which Germany is getting large supplies from neutrals. Indeed, reports have it that imports into Germany are coming through in such great quantities as to relieve her from the fear of shortage in essential goods for some time.

The blockade is life or death for the Allies. It is their strongest weapon. With the deadlock on the western front which is likely to continue, and prospects of an offensive in other areas dim, the British and French can get nowhere unless the blockade of Germany is much more effective.

United States government reports show an immense gain in our exports to neutrals such as Sweden, Holland, Norway, Belgium, Italy and other countries. The supposition is that much of these extra exports find their way to Germany.

One instance must be particularly galling to Great Britain. A large amount of tin was released by the British authorities for shipment to America on the plea of American importers. Most of this British tin was almost immediately sold and reshipped to Russia.

As Germany is greatly in need of tin, the suspicion arose that she would get this shipment eventually from Russia.

This hardly speaks well for the good faith of the American importers.

If neutrals are reshipping goods to Germany they are undoubtedly doing so, save in the case of Italy, through fear of German reprisals if they do not. There is little anxiety on their part concerning Allied threats, but German demands are backed up by the spectre of force.

* * * *

Neutrals close to Germany live in constant fear of invasion if they do not give the Nazis what they want.

There are however, weapons at the Allies' command which might prove effective. They can at any time, bar the imports by the neutrals of goods from British dominions and colonies. This would be a heavy blow to some neutrals.

Also, in the case of Sweden and Norway, they could tighten the blockade of Germany by going farther into the Baltic Sweden's iron ore is Germany's most precious import.

There is much to be done before the Allied blockade can reach anything like effectiveness. It is the chief problem of the Allied nations.

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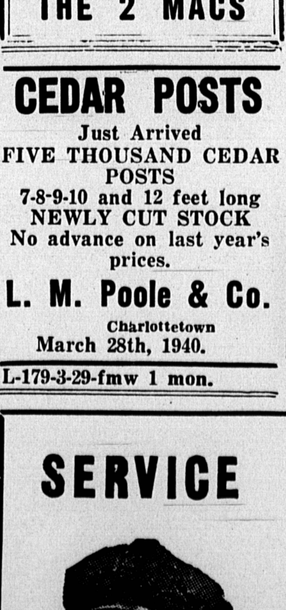
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