# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1943


## Lucky Nova Scotia

Here are some of the windfalls the war and the King Government are bringing to Nova Scotia in the way of contracts for navy buildings, as announced by Navy Minister Macdonald (ex-Premier of Nova Scotia) in Parliament this week:

Deep Brook, $8,815,000.
Naval Ordnance Department, Dartmouth, N.S., $2,588,000.
Nelson Barracks, Halifax, $7,324,000.
Halifax Dockyard, $1,535,000.
Shelburne, Naval Base, $1,307,000.
Point Shelburne, N.S. Naval Base, $1,307.000.
Point Edward, the Sydney Base, $5,700,000.

The other Maritime Provinces, one must assume, are too far inland to share in such appropriations. Upwards of $2,500,000 is being spent on a naval signalling college at Ste. Hyacinthe; but that, of course, is in Quebec.

## The Taxpayer's Money

Prime Minister King, notes the Montreal Gazette, has yet to reconstitute the Special War Expenditures Committee of the House of Commons, though the session is half over. In his absence in Washington the Liberal majority refused to permit investigation of Wartime Information Board outlays by the Public Accounts Committee. The refusal was based upon an official contention that these outlays should be inquired into, if at all, by the Special War Expenditures Committe, thus far non-existent.

In striking contrast to this situation is the systematic probing of United States defence expenditures by the Truman Committee. This Committee is composed of ten senators, is presided over by Harry S. Truman of Missouri, and is assisted by legal counsel. In the middle of April 1941 the Truman Committee began its public hearings. It has heard several hundred witnesses, some of them repeatedly, and has printed thousands of pages of testimony. It has cut down expenditures by enormous sums. It goes into the types and terms of defence contracts, the methods of awarding such contracts, the utilization of small business facilities, the geographic distribution of contracts, the effect of the defence program with respect to labor and labor migration. It delves into the performance of contracts and the accounting required of contractors, also into benefits accruing to the latter through amortization for the purpose of taxation or otherwise. It examines labor and management practices and "such other matters as are deemed appropriate."

The British House of Commons has also a select committee which is credited with having made extensive investigations of waste and abuses incident to the British war programme.

Both in England and at Washington, these committees are doing their work fearlessly, determinedly and efficiently. They are exerting influence upon future spending policy besides satisfying themselves as to the use of the billions already expended.

In Ottawa on the other hand little has been accomplished because the investigators have been preponderantly Liberal and because the field of inquiry into the spending of the taxpayers' money is limited by the dictates of partisan policy.

## Mr Bracken's Speech

The address recently delivered by Hon. John Bracken at the commemoration service at the grave of Sir John Macdonald has won widespread recognition. The *Globe and Mail* (Independent) commends it as a successful effort to recapture for the Canadian people some bedrock truths and fundamental principles which are in danger of being forgotten. It says:

"Paying tribute to the virtues and public services of his great predecessor in the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, he recalled that the most dearly cherished aim of the latter was the achievement of a real spiritual unity for the whole Canadian nation. His political life was consecrated to welding the various elements in Canada in a common nationhood, animated by a common desire to promote the welfare and prestige of the whole country and provide against internal discords which fomenters of racial or sectional differences might try to create. In the Canada visualized by Sir John, the caterers to sectional prejudices and selfishness could have made no headway, because a commonalty of ideals and purposes would have pervaded the whole nation. So it is good to hear Mr. Bracken bidding Canadians return to the ideals of Sir John, and intimating his intention to try to undo the work of disintegration which lesser men have carried on, with too great success, for partisan ends.

"Equally appropriate was his reminder to his audience that, while Sir John was a staunch Canadian, always ready to stand up for his country's rights, he never for a moment contemplated a Canada treading an isolationist path in political divorcement from Britain. With almost his dying breath he preached the doctrine that Canada could most surely attain security and prosperity by holding fast to the British connection, and Mr. Bracken, presenting arguments against isolationism which are unanswerable, proclaims himself an adherent of the same faith, ready to give it practical expression in his policies. He wants to see Canada "not as a colony of inferior status, not as a child of Britain," but a full, actively participating partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and also from this strong base a member of a wider sisterhood of nations working together for the banishment of such evils as war, poverty and ignorance, and for the general betterment of humanity.

"In these days when the mind of the Canadian public as the result of half-hearted and self-interested leadership and the subordination of national interest to partisan purposes is in a deplorable state of confusion, Mr. Bracken's courageous proclamation of a faith which ought to be one of the proudest possessions of the Canadian people should come as a breath of reinvigoration to our political life. The great majority of the Canadian people aspire to build a nobler and better civilization in this well-favored northern land, and to see it play a glorious role in the building of a better world once the war is won. Mr. Bracken in his felicitous speech pointed out to them the way in which these aspirations could be most effectively achieved, and the simplicity, honesty and straightforwardness of the principles which he laid down as guide posts for a national policy are in shining contrast to the devious appeals to baser instincts in which some of his political opponents habitually indulge."

## —EDITORIAL NOTES—

Feast of Corpus Christi; observance enjoined by the R. C. Church in 1264 in connection with the doctrine of transubstantiation; usually observed on the following Sunday.

* * * *

Earl Strafford, British statesman, executed this date 1641; started his political career by opposing the aggression of King Charles I, and was imprisoned for refusing as head of the government to provide a forced loan; became leader of the Constitutional party, and eventually became the adviser and confidant of the King, who raised him to his earldom; attainted as a traitor by the Long Parliament he was sentenced to death, the faithless King assenting to his execution after assuring Strafford he would come to his rescue.

* * * *

Transparent cigarette package wrappings sterilized in boiling water have been used with great success in dressing open wounds and ulcers in the hospital at Lagos, Nigeria, according to Dr. M. Ellis of the British Colonial Medical Service. In an article in the British Medical Journal Dr. Ellis writes that the wrappings have the advantage of being non-irritant and also permit the inspection of wounds without having to uncover them. "We believe," Dr. Ellis says, "that the rate of healings is increased by that type of dressing."

* * * *

Cautious as ever over the Union Jack. Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons he was not so sure that "a deplorable condition of affairs" existed because of the Canadian position in regard to a flag, and added that it was untrue to say Canada had no flag. The Prime Minister was speaking in reply to a question by Mr. Wilfrid Lacroix (Lib., Quebec-Montmorency) who asked "what steps does the government intend to take to put an end to the 'deplorable condition of affairs' arising from the fact that 'in all countries of the world Canada is the only one which does not posses a flag?" Mr. King said he did not think the question should be answered in the form in which it stood and didn't.

* * * *

A question regarding our post war army has been raised by the New York Times. We shall want, when the war is over, to bring home at the earliest possible moment the men who have been fighting overseas on many fronts. But we can see clearly, even at this distance, that we shall need other men to take their places. For this reason it is not too early to consider amendments of the selective service act which would prolong the life of that measure, and of its provisions regarding overseas service, through the period of post-war uncertainty and readjustment. Action of this kind, taken now, would have one important incidental result. It would strengthen the ties that bind the United Nations. For it would demonstrate that we have already begun to consider seriously the proposition to which both political parties and the great majority of our people now stand dedicated: the proposition that the United Nations shall play an active and effective part in any collective efforts made to safeguard peace when peace is won.

* * * *

When Parliament votes 410,000 pounds a year as King George VI's Civil List, 110,000 pounds is earmarked for his own use (the Privy Purse), states British News Review. Out of it the King pays such expenses as the cost of the Royal train for official journeys, but how the money is spent is not known exactly to any one except His Majesty and tall, quietly competent Sir Ulick Alexander, Keeper of the Privy Purse. Recently, however, one secret of the P.P. accounts leaked out. Because there are no glittering courts or levees, no lavish state banquets, no costly entertainments for visiting foreign potentates in wartime, many thousands have been saved up by the Privy Purse in the last three years, money which is the King's to spend as he pleases. But instead of using it for private purposes, the King has returned the cash to the national coffers by lending it interest free to the Government as a contribution to the costs of the war. Because he dislikes publicity for what he classes as his private affairs, His Majesty allowed no mention of this patriotic act to be made in Parliament.

## Notes By The Way

**Meat rationing begins to-day,** limiting adult persons to the moderate portion of two pounds a week. If it had begun twenty or thirty years ago, there would be a lot more physically fit, happy and symmetrically-shaped Canadians alive than there are at the present time. —Sydney Post-Record.

**Even our most imaginative** appraisals to-day of the future of aviation will have to be revised tomorrow. Major de Seversky says we must think of the air as a new and concave sea, an eighth ocean. We are still scarcely into the Columbian era of exploration and conquest of that sea. —Minneapolis Star Journal

**A story is going around Turner** Valley to the effect that a baby was born and there weren't any scales to weigh him with, so somebody said well, why not borrow Dave Blacklock's fish scales (Mr. Blacklock being a noted fisherman). So they borrowed Mr. Blacklock's scales, and weighed the baby, and the scales said 42 pounds and everybody said that just goes to show what a wonderful place Turner Valley is. —Calgary Herald.

**When a girl with little experience** and possibly no more than a public school education can work on an assembly line in a war production plant or in a business office and make considerably more than a girl who completes high school and attends normal school to qualify for the teaching profession, it is not at all surprising that a shortage of teachers prevails. If rural schools are to be staffed, better salaries and more congenial school quarters appear to be essential. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

**It is not often in these days of** many travelling art dealers that a prize is picked up by one of them without a struggle, but one such appeared today at Christie's, and the discoverer was rewarded by selling for £2,800 what he had bought for £20. The painting was one of three which were sold as one lot at a sale in a South Coast house. The buyer took it to Christie's, where it appeared to-day catalogued as "A Gentleman on a Grey Hunter Trotting in a Landscape," by Ben Marshall. Marshall's prices have soared in the last twenty years, but £2,800 is pretty high in the best times and remarkably high for today. —Manchester Guardian.

**Complaint is heard again this** spring of the destruction by picking of wild flowers. Each season thoughtless people are urged to be considerate of the beautiful and fragile flowers that grow almost anywhere, but especially in the beauty spots that remain as nature provided them. The plucking of these flowers is merely destructive, as they wither and die very soon, while in some cases the plant is injured. But the chief argument against this foolish habit is the evidence of selfishness which would deprive others of enjoyment of one of nature's most beautiful gifts. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

**One of the Dominion's finest assets** is the native ability of certain children of families without means. In the interest of humanity as well as that of our country this fine ability should be developed for the community. That is why the new national scholarships idea recently announced by the minister of education deserves support and commendation. In the past there have been too many children of well-to-do parents enjoying the privilege of higher education because it seemed the thing to do, while other students of outstanding merit were unable to proceed for lack of finances. More and more we hope it will be recognized that children born in this Dominion will have a full opportunity to develop their talents regardless of the financial ability of their parents. With such a set up we can look forward to a more intelligent democracy. —St. Mary's Journal-Argus

**What other statesman in our day** is so impregnated with the majesty, the lessons, the inspiration of world history? Churchill sees and reveals the perspective of our human story, now by so many ignored though it is hence that he draws so much of that spiritual power whereby he braces them also to endurance and valor. The most charming instance of all occurs in his description of the (first) meeting with President Roosevelt. Many accomplished speakers might have given us this: "We had a church parade on Sunday in our Atlantic bay. The President came on to the quarter-deck of the Prince of Wales where there were mingled together many hundreds of American and British sailors and marines. The sun shone bright and warm while we all sang the old hymns which are our common inheritance and which we learned as children in our homes." How many would have added what follows? "We sang the hymn founded on the psalm which John Hampden's soldiers sang when they bore his body to the grave — Gilbert Norwood in the University of Toronto Quarterly.

**Returning to Canada after two** and one-half years of service with the R.A.F. overseas FO. Tom Carter, North Yarmouth farmer's son, described his greatest thrill from seeing oranges, bananas and grapefruit displayed in stores, while he also enjoyed the pleasure of eating ice cream for the first time in months. So few of us who have remained at home realize what it would mean to be without such things in our daily fare. We take such things for granted and if we cannot get a certain size of oranges or grapefruit or a certain flavor of ice cream we think we are hard hit. On a few occasion last summer supplies of ice cream were depleted at Port Stanley. People on the beach promenade grumbled loudly, some worked themselves into states of indignation because of the shortages. If we would only stop and think once in a while when we grouch because we can't buy and eat all the things we enjoyed in prewar days. There are children in the British Isles who have never seen an orange or a banana. They may have tasted ice cream two or three times in their lives. If they get one or two eggs a month they are lucky. And, like FO. Tom Carter, they would think they were in a mundane heaven if they were served big plates of soft rolls made from white flour with sweet dairy butter to spread thickly on the rolls. —St. Thomas Times-Journal

## Altars Of Evil

(New York Herald Tribune)

In the speech which Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to this country, made lately at Laval University, in Quebec, he talked of the erosion of man's spirit, that continued attrition of faith and civilization which has been accomplisher in the last century through various doctrines of "social collectivity." Said the ambassador: "Nazism asserts, in the words of Hitler himself, "the saving doctrine of the nothingness and insignificance of the individual human being." The speaker pointed out the "catastrophic implications" of such a teaching, where the state is defied, Christianity usurped and man left without any relationship to any power greater than his evil masters in negation, destruction and despair.

The more thoughtful of such dark leaders and priests, Lord Halifax said, "begin to view their handiwork with anxiety." This anxiety, we know, is certain to increase with every day and night bombing attack on that "fortress of Europe," which now becomes a very altar of Moloch, defended in a crumbling temple of pagan faith. To that altar, true to their belief in the nothingness and insignificance of human beings, the high priests of Nazism have led their more or less willing worshippers from Italy, Hungary, Rumania and other satellite nations. On it have been laid the bodies of those myriads who died along Russian rivers and in the streets of Stalingrad. Before it have marched and chanted Rommel's once happy, uniformed altar boys. And around it now, as the months pass, will die the deluded, civilian believers of German cities.

Whom have they worshipped and for what do they die? The altar of man's free spirit is as eternal as the altars of God. This is a war concerning it. We fight, as Lord Halifax told his hearers, for an ending of the domination of that evil and fatal creed wherein a defied State must have its sacrifices, its captives and itst slaves. That altar of Moloch, which Hitler erected, has not much longer to demand its procession of victims. The priests already tremble. And to what can they pray when skies smoke above them and captives revolt?

## Life In Paris Now

(From an article in Harper's Magazine by C. J. Fernand Laurent, for many years a member of the Chamber of Deputies representing a Paris seat, who escaped from France last December.)

Let me give you a glimpse of Paris in Summer. Buses and taxis have disappeared. Horse-drawn vehicles are rarely seen. All Parisians ride bicycles —or walk. An elderly couple, very correct, pedal by on an ancient tandem.

From the great lady to the midinette, every woman goes bare-headed and bare-legged. In the dressmaking houses of the Place Vendome and the Avenue Matignon the simplest ensemble costs from fifteen to twenty-thousand francs: only the wives of the Germans, the profiteers, and the collaborators patronize these places

There is a great vogue for print dresses —made out of scarves dug out of bottom drawers and ingeniously assembled. Thus it happens that Parisiennes run around the town showing on their backs the most unexpected designs: the coats of arms of our provinces, the map of Europe, boats, airplanes, the coronation procession of King George VI. Miraculously, they succeed in remaining attractive. There is no more leather, of course, and so they all wear wooden-soled sandals. For a long time our ears will recall the double sound of foot steps in Paris under the occupation —the dull thud of the German's boots and the light, brisk patter of the Parisiennes wooden sandals on the sidewalks.

And a glimpse of Paris in Winter: Since the Nazis have put the country on Berlin time —which is two hours ahead of sun time —it is still dark at nine in the morning. Men and women slip rapidly, like shadows, through the dark and the cold. Many are wearing their old Winter-sports costumes; they go to work in ski clothes. All hasten toward the warmth of the metro. In the corridors they pause, stricken-faced, before little white posters which they scan with a rapid glance. These posters bearng the signature of von Stuelpnagel, announce to the population by way of warning lists of hostages shot the previous day. These posters bearing the signature family lives in a single room, which there is no longer any means of heating. There has been no coal for a long time, and hardly any wood. During the Winter of 1940-41 electric or gas heaters could still be used, but since then rationing has been so severe that it is practically impossible to run them. So as often as they can people seek the collective warmth of the movie houses.

## Redistribution

(Ottawa Journal)

The Government is said to be going ahead with a redistribution bill this session; this under the B. N. A. Act provision for a readjustment of constituencies following each census according to a population unit determined by the fixed representation of Quebec. Whether this law demands redistribution immediately after the census, or only before any general election following the census, is not clear, but the Government, in any event, can excusably go on with it now.

In days gone by a redistribution bill invariably was a signal for political battle. Opposition always took the ground, sometimes without reason but more often with reason, that they were being "hived", were being made the victims of some outrageous "gerrymander" to keep the government in power. Fierce strife was the result.

We doubt greatly whether any "gerrymandering" will be attempted this time. Mr. Mackenzie King's Government is a straight party affair, as intensely partisan as any government which has ever existed anywhere at any time, but we don't think it would risk the public wrath that would come down upon its head if at this hour it tried juggling of seats for its own gain.

A more likely attack upon this redistribution bill will be concerned with the loss of several seats for the West. The West holds that in the movement of people during the war, with thousands from beyond the Lakes coming east to work in munitions factories, the census did not give its true population figure; and that consequently it should not be penalized. The case seems a reasonable one. Indeed, if it were not for the provision of B. N. A. Act, it would perhaps be a good thing to have redistribution postponed until after the war. More than 800,000 of our people are in the various armed services.


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### The Poet's Corner

**FROM: AT THE WARS**

O yellow-hammer, once I heard
Thy yaffle when no other bird
Could to my sunk heart comfort bring;
But now I could not have thee sing
So sharp thy note is with the pain
Of England I may not see again
Yet sing thy song: there answereth
Deep in me a voice which saith:
"The gorse upon the twilit down,
The English loam so sunset brown,
The bowed pines and the sheep-bell's clamour,
The wet, lit lane and the yellow-hammer,
The orchard and the chaffinch song
Only to the Brave belong,
And he shall lose their joy for aye
If their price he cannot pay.
Who shall find them dearer far
Enriched by blood after long war."

—Robert Nichols


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### PERSONAL

Mrs. Donald Grant of Charlottetown has gone to Saint John N.B. to meet her husband, Lieutenant Grant of the navy, who returned recently after spending three years overseas with the Royal Navy.

### DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

GROMER, England — (OP) — Mrs. J. E. Hewitt has lost her husband and only son in two wars. Her husband was killed in France in 1915, and now her son, fighting with the Eighth Army, is reported killed in action on the anniversary of his fathers death.


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