

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1939.

The Year In Review

The old year now passing will be memorable for the breakdown of the efforts to preserve peace in Europe. But in Canada there is reason for rejoicing in the spirit of unity and Empire loyalty that the challenge of war has called forth.

But we scarcely needed such a reminder after the unprecedented scenes witnessed in Canada last summer, on the occasion of the visit of Their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth. This Province shared in the honour and privilege of welcoming Their Majesties, who captivated all hearts with their gracious personalities.

Another event which will go down in Provincial history was the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the historic Charlottetown Conference which preceded Confederation. The occasion brought many distinguished visitors to the Island, including the Premiers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba, four members of the Dominion Cabinet, the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and representatives of other Provincial Governments from coast to coast.

Other noted visitors during the year included Hon. E. L. Patenaude, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, Sir Percy Everett, Deputy Commissioner of Imperial Headquarters, Boy Scouts Association, Rev. Robert Laird, D.D., LL.D., treasurer of the United Church of Canada, and Major General McNaughton, commander of the First Division, Canadian Active Service Force.

The Provincial and Prince County capitals lived up to their reputation as convention centres last summer. Charlottetown was host to delegates attending the Maritime Firemen's Convention, the Rotary District Conference, the Royal Arch Masons of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, the first Maritime Convention of the Churches of Christ, the Maritime Council of Catholic Hospital and Nurses Associations, and other bodies, while at Summerside the gathering of the Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., the Grand Encampment and Rebekah Assembly was a matter of Maritime-wide interest.

Politically, interest centred in the Provincial election held during May, which resulted in the return of the Campbell Government with a reduced majority in the Legislature.

At Government House the Hon. George D. DeBlois was succeeded by the Hon. B. W. LePage as Lieutenant-Governor, the former having held office with outstanding success for five and a half years.

The exhibitions held during the fall showed further progress in quality production of farm products and livestock. Of special importance in this connection was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Provincial Exhibition Association and the unprecedented attendance at this most popular of all Maritime fairs.

The messenger of Death entered many homes during the year, prominent among those who passed away being Mr. A. E. MacLean, M.P., Hon. H. J. Palmer, K.C., a former Premier and Attorney General of the Province; Hon. David MacDonald and Hon. L. L. Jenkins, both former Speakers of the Legislature; Hon. Jeremiah Blanchard, Mr. H. H. Acorn, M.L.A., Rev. W. A. Thompson, Rev. J. A. MacLeod, Rev. W. H. Harding, Mr. Henry C. Lowe, Mr. Nelson Rattenbury, Captain Ernest Kemp, Mr. Roy McClure, Superintendent J. O. Scott of the R.C.M.P., Dr. Martin, of Grand River; Mrs. R. T. Holman, Mrs. Andrew McNair, and Mrs. Elizabeth Susan MacLeod, Island poetess. Among deceased parliamentarians was Mr. R. H. Jenkins, Ex-Mayor of Charlottetown and a former M. P. for Queens, who died in Calgary. The list could be extended to cover many others who contributed to the welfare of their community and province, and whose presence will be sorely missed at this season. To all who are under the shadow of bereavement The Guardian tenders respectful sympathy.

And to our readers, one and all, best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Comfortable Quarters

Canadian veterans who experienced the rigours of camp life on Salisbury Plain during the winter of 1914-15 will feel like envying the good fortune of Canada's First Contingent in this war. It is indeed, says an exchange, a cause for satisfaction that excellent quarters have been provided at Aldershot, the finest military camp in England. Aldershot owes its origin to the Crimean War, which revealed the necessity for maintaining large garrisons of troops in centralized districts with facilities for training them. It was selected by Lord Hardinge, the commander-in-chief of the time. Aldershot is the principal military training centre of the country. It possesses permanent barracks, with shower baths and other modern conveniences, workshops, churches, hospitals, recreation grounds and schools of instruction in signalling and cooking. Not far off are the famous Bisley rifle ranges where the crack shots of the Empire meet in annual competition. It was from Aldershot that the "Old Contemptibles" departed for France, and it became a great demobilization camp after the war.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The last work-a-day of the year.

Since Munich till now we have been living in a sort of bewilderment.

What shall 1940 bring forth? Peace in Europe and Asia, or war in Africa and America?

Stephen Butler Leacock, Ph.D., Litt.D., LL.D., born this date, 1869, "It rather occurs to me that it's the common-people who do things."

The state of Europe has not only had a material, commercial and financial unsettlement to its discredit, it has a mental, philosophic and religious upheaval as well.

Surely the powers-that-be are not going to deprive Charlottetown and Queens County the right to have a military air-training depot. If so, it is going to be too bad for them when the day of reckoning comes.

The War Loan is to be issued in demoniations as low as \$50, but so far no indication has been given of the rate of interest it will carry. There is plenty uninvested money waiting for a return greater than allowed by the savings banks.

What's in a name? A newly wed couple from Winnipeg were making their honeymoon a Christmas visit to their parents at Dauphin, when their car ran into a truck at Eden. The bride was instantly killed while the bridegroom was taken to Neepawa hospital in a serious condition. Again turned out of Eden.

District orders for military district No. 3, show that Second Lieut. J. N. S. Buchan, son of Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, passed his practical examination for an infantry lieutenant. Lieut. Buchan is an officer in the Governor General's Foot Guards at Ottawa.

At the request of the New Zealand Government, the Marquess of Willingdon, former Governor-General of Canada and former Viceroy of India, has been invited to represent the United Kingdom during the centennial celebrations which are being held in New Zealand early next year, it was announced recently. He will be accompanied by the Marchioness of Willingdon.

Stocks of foreign corn in Canada on December 15 amounted to 4,540,238 bushels as compared with 5,858,816 on the corresponding date last year. The countries of origin were as follows, with figures for 1938 in brackets: United States, 3,032,579 (5,014,454) bushels; South Africa, 1,506,953 (601,008); Argentina, 706 (30,051); Australia, nil (213,393).

According to Mr. H. A. Jones the new British liaison officer between Ottawa and London, who has just arrived in Ottawa, it is fast being established that Great Britain's air arm is of superior calibre to that of Germany. He said the British Wellington and Blenheim bombers are standing up better under fire than German bombers. Mr. Jones is a close friend of Air Vice-Marshal G. M. Croil, who has been mentioned as a possible director of the air scheme. Both served in the same squadron of the Royal Air Force in the first Great War.

Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe said recently that he had been endeavoring for the last two years to be relieved of his duties as a guardian to the Dionne quintuplets. An unofficial report said he might retire as guardian, continuing as physician, after the new year. This report could not be confirmed officially and Dr. Dafoe said he did not know when action might be taken in the matter. "Nothing has been done about it yet, but I would like to return to my former capacity as a personal guardian to the little girls," said Dr. Dafoe. "This would leave me free to watch their health and personal well-being, and not both with business arrangements as at present."

At the close of a memorable year we wish to put on record the following tribute by the British-owned Sun newspaper of Montevideo, as an example of the true British spirit: "We regret to record the death of Captain Hans Langsdorff, the gallant officer and great gentleman who went down with his ship in the River Plate Sunday, Dec. 17. To the many who must be mourning the dead sailor we offer our sympathy in their grief, which we also share. In view of the fact that the sixty-two British sailors who were prisoners on the Graf Spee have nothing but good to say of their captor, we feel that in compiling and publishing the foregoing obituary notice we have anticipated the wishes of the British community. Shortly after the prisoners were released Captain Dove of the Africa Shell told us of a conversation he had with Captain Langsdorff shortly after reaching refuge in Montevideo. Between Captain Langsdorff and Captain Dove had sprung up a friendship such as is quite possible and quite proper between two 'white' men who find themselves temporary enemies. Captain Langsdorff, after complimenting the skill and daring of the Ajax and Achilles, said: 'Well, that ends the war for me. I shall never put out again. I will not lead my boat to certain suicide nor uselessly sacrifice the lives of my men. I am glad I have not the life of one British non-belligerent on my conscience.' Although Captain Langsdorff took his life in the early hours of yesterday we have given the date of his death as last Sunday because it was on Sunday that Captain Langsdorff really died. He left a letter saying that from the moment he knew he had to sink his ship he made up his mind to take his life as soon as he was assured of the safety of his officers and men. The dead sailor was a socialist idealist who put his theories into practice by having the same rations for himself and his officers as for his men. The main Allied objectives in this war are broadly to restore the liberty of the Austrians, Czechs and Poles. We would add to this list the Langsdorffs of Germany."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Fears may be expressed by some people regarding the ability of the vessels which have been transferred from Great Lakes to ocean service to withstand Atlantic weather conditions. Perhaps they forget that considerable number of the freighters in service on the Great Lakes and the Upper St. Lawrence were actually built in British yards and made their way across the Atlantic under their own steam before entering Canada's inland service. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

The relations between Ministers and members have been very friendly and they have doubtless been greatly stimulated by the respect the Prime Minister has shown for Parliament, in the last year when Mr. Lloyd George was Prime Minister he treated the Commons very cavalierly, and made his appearances there only when it suited his convenience. The Commons naturally resented this. Mr. Chamberlain, who in peace-time was most reticent in his attentances, has not allowed the pressure of work to keep him from his place on the Treasury Bench, and in this respect has shown a practical regard for democracy very welcome not only to M.P.'s but the British people at large. — Glasgow Herald.

Mr. and Mrs. Carveth Wells explorers, returned recently from a trip to the Malay peninsula where they took motion pictures of birds that sleep upside down, fish that climb trees and other unusually gifted animals. They brought with them a stuffed specimen of a mouse deer or waiscoat pocket deer, which is about the size of a fox in its own country. Mrs. Wells says that when this deer is pushed by a tiger it climbs a tree hangs by its tusks and pretends to be a fruit. This is all very interesting, and leads to speculation concerning the reactions of the tiger to the strategy of the plankton. For instance, it would be of great interest to have this question answered: What happens if the tiger climbs the tree and pretends that he is a frugivorous animal? — New York Sun.

There is not the slightest doubt that Ribbentrop has antagonized large sections of opinion in his own country—the honest Nazis and others who genuinely consider that communism is an evil, the Rosenberg theorists who believe in the doctrine of expansion northeastward the Admirals who do not care to see the Baltic become a Russian lake and the industrialists who looked to Southeastern Europe for willing partners in German trade. All these groups are now being dashed and their hopes scattered. The author of their disillusionment is now trying by bluster and false charges to absolve himself from the consequences of his own ineptitude, and to put upon the Generals the responsibility for getting the country out of the difficult position into which he has thrust it. — London Times.

People of Britain are known for their love of roast beef, their plum pudding, their pipes, their tea-drinking habits and their umbrellas. It is a commentary upon the interwoven character of world industry that these attributes are acknowledged by Britshers, they have had to rely on other parts of the world to provide them. For instance, the roast beef may come from Canada, the Argentine or Ireland. The piums may have crossed the Atlantic also. The tobacco for the pipes may be from Ontario, Virginia or the East. The tea is likely from India. Even the umbrellas, to which British people are addicted on account of climatic conditions, are frequently made of British materials. At all. A despatch tells how the umbrella industry of Manchester has been given a pep-up by war. The rayon umbrella cloths, sent from Germany under subsidy, are no longer available, and the Manchester mills are now busy. It would be interesting to know if the "gamp" Prime Minister Chamberlain carried on his peace expeditions was entirely of British materials. In any event, the umbrella, a symbol for British people, in all cases, has not been representative of British industry. As 20,000,000 are in use in Britain, it is no small business to manufacture them. — Windsor, Ont., Daily Star.

Few soldiers, and no staff officers trained in modern schools, think they can give strength to their own armies by detracting from the merit of the German. Civilians are prone, however, to imagine that the political situation in Germany tends to breed disaffection within the army. This is unlikely. The latest source of studied information on the subject is the book, "The German Army," written by Herr Herbert Rosinski, now a refugee in Great Britain. That book gives little encouragement to those who like to think that the German army today is inferior either in efficiency, equipment, or morale to that of 1914. Internal political dissensions in Germany are unlikely to perturb an army whose ranks are filled by soldiers imbued with the current Nazi doctrines from childhood. Strict discipline is entailed in the Prussian making of a soldier, but is acceptable to a people of a docility that likes being ordered about. The army is almost a haven into which young men from the labor camps enter with relief. They are well treated, are well housed, and contrary to general impression outside Germany, initiative and resourcefulness are encouraged in the German soldier subject to outward strictness in discipline. Germany's present army cannot have dissociated from it the tradition that Herr Rosinski traces from the influence of Frederick the Great. This has been materially helpful in intensifying training an army whose strength is young in years. Equipment is not lacking. "The German artil-

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PROHIBITION

Sir:— One of the sponsors of the liquor curse, signing "An Old Soak", launches one of the old worn out diatribes against Prohibition. While tirading against prohibition a response of all our breaches of the Decalogue and the sins of fallen humanity, the errors of the "S. of T.", of "Mr. Ben. Spence", the "W. C. T. U." and those he assails that are the real targets for his wrath. It is those who are responsible for enforcing the Act, who solemnly pledge "You give me liberty at whom he should discharge his ammunition. Not only in Prohibition, but in every act for the moral good of the community, even the best Liquor Control Measure that human skill ever devised, wherever there was a righteous cause in its formation, curtailing the evils of the traffic of any form of lawlessness, those clauses find Old Soaks to defend their politicians willing to bend to their sophistries and to parrot the cry,—"Fill the great cauldron from the still with burning spirits, give me rum, give me rum, give me rum." You give me Liberty to drink damnation.—"There's a Liberty to drink in Hell." I am, Sir, etc.

PROHIBITIONIST

CIVIC REFORM

Sir:— Discussing my letter on civic reform Mr. T. favor "the manager" adopts the "tomorrow" or, alternatively, the stand-pat attitude. He says—"Surely he did not expect business men of the City to act upon this matter in the short time, before the forthcoming February elections." If they don't act, and pursue the past policy of drift, it will only make the "mess" greater. But it has already been discussed, by many former Mayors. A resolution some years ago was actually voted down by the City Council. The Junior Board of Trade have had a special sitting discussing it, and now is the proper time to push it. Mr. Hemming himself urged, to his credit, that "there cannot be too much discussion in the press". He reminds us that—"The City has a Charter which regulations can only be altered by an act of the Provincial Legislature." Mr. Hemming does not seem aware that the Charter which regulations can only be altered by an act of the Provincial Legislature. The City Incorporation Act is long ago a forgotten mandate more honored in the breach than in the observance. I would be interested if Mr. Hemming would turn his analytic talent to an impartial essay upon performance of the requirements of this Act. True enough the statute can only be amended by parliament, but that is fiction. The transformations and mutilations which it undergoes in practice show that there are drive-ways through its provisions which, in the words of Daniel O'Connell, "you can drive a horse and cart through". I would like Mr. Hemming, or any others, to take up the main mandatory, or even directory, clauses in the Charter which are violated. The important business items of administration, and explain how they are regarded, and why relegated to the discard as they have been. It is admitted that the mandate to hold elections, in February will likely be obeyed. That is an individual responsibility placed upon the person in person, which has never been.

lery," says Herr Rosinski, "is in numbers and equipment, today inferior to the Imperial army. Its armament has been completely revolutionized during the last years." — Winnipeg Free Press.

9. Mrs. Jolly Says:

SOMETIMES the after-effects of fire are about as bad as the fire itself. For instance—where would you live while your home was being rebuilt after a fire—where would you pay your rent? Six or eight months rent expense on top of everything else would be no joke, believe me!

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The Poet's Corner

FROM "LOCKSEY HALL"

Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever reaping something new; That which they have done but earnest of the things, which they shall do;

For I dug into the future, far as human eye could see, Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;

Saw the heavens filled with commerce, argosies of magic sail, Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales;

Heard the heavens filled with shouting, and there rained a ghastly dew From the nations airy navies, grappling in the central blue;

Far along the world-wide whisper of the south-wind rushing warm, With the standards of the peoples plunging thro' the thunder-storm;

Till the war-drums throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled, In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.

There the common sense of most shall hold the fretful few in awe, And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law.

—Tennyson.

yet been dishonored. I do not accept Mr. Hemming's estimate that I favor "the manager method." I would prefer to cite our Water Commission system, which with less waste and irregularity has been the most economical, practical and successful of civic departments.

He declares that "as Mayor Foster and his Council have done exceptionally good work during their tenure of office, it has occurred to me that they might, by general assent, be re-elected by acclamation." I would like to ask where he gets this evidence of "exceptionally good work?" I am not questioning the accuracy of his statement, but upon what evidence does he base it? The Act of Incorporation requires that the first duty of the Council is to present a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures for the previous year. Has this been done? Can Mr. Hemming accomplish an accountant as he certainly is, give even a fairly accurate estimate of

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