

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857) President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure Vice-President: J. E. Burnett, F.J.I. Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Editor and Managing Director: J. E. Burnett, F.J.I. Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Lieut. Ian A. Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. (On Active Service)

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 1944

Car Ferry Situation

The Board of Trade is to be commended on bringing fresh light to bear on the car ferry subject at its council meeting on Thursday. The situation is an extraordinary one and by no means satisfactory or reassuring one. The Prince Edward Island is now in the midst of the heaviest icebreaking work of the winter, and is apparently not in as good condition as the public was led to believe. She was laid up last Sunday for underwater repairs, and it is understood the damage was caused by rock loosened from the foundation of one of the piers. The same thing may happen again at any time. The terminals both at Borden and Tormentine are said to be in bad shape, and will have to be rebuilt.

In the meantime, the railway authorities are reportedly behind a move to have the design of the new car ferry changed, to provide four instead of three railway tracks. This would give the boat greater freight carrying capacity, but there are difficulties in the way which were pointed out by Board of Trade members at Thursday's council meeting. It is claimed the change would not cause a hold-up in construction, or reduce the accommodation for automobiles and passengers. It is very difficult to see how such a radical change in design would not cause further delay, which is the most important point of all. We cannot afford one month, week or day's unnecessary holdup. It is imperative that the contractors be given the "full speed" signal and that nothing be allowed to interfere with the job until it is completed. Even then it may be too late to save us from serious trouble. If the new ferry's 19-freight car carrying capacity is regarded as insufficient to meet requirements, then, as Mr. Mutch pertinently remarked, the solution is another ferry. Nor is there any reason why, as stated at Thursday's meeting, an hourly summer service, day and night, could not be provided to take care of the tourist traffic. To make the entire service subservient to railway requirements which should have been foreseen when the Charlottetown was lost three years ago and are only now suggested after the new contract has been let, will simply not be tolerated.

We have now back of us the recently tabled report of the Reconstruction Committee of the House of Commons, recommending "improvements designed to make communications between Prince Edward Island and the mainland constant, reliable and adequate." That is fine as far as it goes, but just one word should be prefixed to the recommendation. It is the word "immediate." What are our representatives at Ottawa doing for us? Are they not bringing that word, day in and day out, into the ears of the King cabinet and the railway officials?

National Health Insurance

Dr. J. J. Heagerty, Deputy Minister of Health, is reported as saying that National Health Insurance (presumably the Dominion Government's scheme now under examination by Parliament) has been "endorsed by the medical profession throughout the Dominion." This, according to the Ottawa Journal, is a misleading statement. The Canadian Medical Council has endorsed only the general principle of the Dominion Government's measure and that measure leaves for settlement by the Provincial Governments all the tricky but important questions affecting doctors. The medical bodies have said in effect that they do not want to stand in the way of a thorough examination of National Health Insurance which may or may not be desirable in Canada. But they have hedged around with provisos their approval of the principle, indicating that when the provinces get down to the discovery of a practical plan of operation vital problems will arise affecting the profession.

Dr. Vivian, Minister of Health in the Ontario Government, contends that the Dominion Government is attempting to interfere with Provincial rights in this matter. It is indirect interference—a sort of bribery that might spread—because the Dominion proposes to say to the provinces: If you will start a scheme of health insurance along certain lines and do this and so we will hand you a large sum of money. But the Dominion passes on to the provinces all the headaches of the scheme.

The CCF, on the other hand, makes no bones about what are its aims. Young Mr. Jolliffe, Ontario leader of the party, is quoted in an official document as saying: "What the CCF is aiming at is a system of socialized medicine as a part of a general scheme of socialization." With no worry about provincial rights, Mr. Jolliffe says: "When a CCF Government comes into power in the Dominion (reformed health services) will be transformed with the least possible confusion and delay into a thoroughly socialized medical system which is a natural part of a socialized society." All the doctors young and old under the CCF scheme are to be regimented and salaries and areas of work fixed, and Mr. Jolliffe says frankly that if there are any doctors who don't like it they can be left to stew in their own juice or starve.

Mr. Jolliffe is also quoted by the Journal as having said to a meeting of doctors in London: "The public will have to stop demanding 24-hour service; that is all there is to it." One of the doctors present asked: "Can your party arrange for all babies to be delivered between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.?" Mr. Jolliffe didn't answer that one. A multitude of equally difficult questions could be—and will have to be when the provinces take over where the Dominion leaves off—put to Dr. Heagerty and others who are so sincerely advocating National Health Insurance.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hope Premier Jones will do something to stir up our dumb representatives while in Ottawa. We never previously were so unactively represented.

We may be back to ice-boats at the straits—ye gods, think of it; and meanwhile we are having wordy promises in the speech about the great things the Government intend doing after the war. Have our unrepresentatives ever heard that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush?"

Russia in freeing 16 of her constituent republics to run their own affairs, even to the act of secession, is only following the example of the British Commonwealth. However, there is a proviso which holds the units in strict control of the Soviet, namely, reserving to the government of the USSR the right to handle international affairs and to decide on questions of war and peace.

Still an age of miracles. Five months ago a 33-year-old Glasgow mother lost her power of speech following a serious illness. With a friend she went to see the film The Nelson Touch (titled Corvette K225 in Canada), the story of an R.C.N. corvette on Atlantic convoy, written by Lt. John Sturdy, formerly of the Montreal Gazette. As she left the theatre the woman turned to her friend and said "Wasn't that a fine picture?" Her companion was astonished and together they visited the woman's doctor, who found that her speech was again normal and likely to remain so. The film, doctors said, must have stirred some latent interest in her and restored her power of speech as a direct result.

Sir Robert Peel, British statesman, born this date 1788; best remembered as the "father" of the modern police who were nicknamed after him "bobbies" and "peelers"; previously there existed no organized body charged with the maintenance of order and the suppression of crime; most of the large towns had paid watchmen, and elsewhere there were parish constables, but as a rule any one desirous of traveling after dark did so at his peril, and consequently most people were in their homes, or other people's homes by sunset; this lack of control tended to encourage rowdiness and crime, hence it was, when industrialism increased some organized system was deemed necessary; Peel's Metropolitan Police Act, and subsequent county police acts, answered the purpose; and since then law and order in all civilized countries have been maintained by such a system.

Is Ottawa played out as a legislative and administrative body for the provinces? According to the Saint John's special correspondent, Ian Sclanders, at Ottawa, it is, and this is a matter that should be effectively discussed and dealt with at the forthcoming Federal-Provincial conference. Says Mr. Sclanders: "There is a growing opinion on the part of back benches of the two old parties that the solution lies in turning over to provincial governments a greater measure of responsibility. This is not subscribed to by Mr. Coldwell's CCF group, who, of course, want to scrap the B.N.A. Act and centralize everything. What plenty of Liberals and Progressive Conservatives feel is that the process of centralization we have already had in this nation has so swamped the central government that it has had no alternative but to delegate its functions to boards and commissions which are appointed rather than elected and which do not have to answer to the people. They feel that our democratic system of government has lost its personal touch—and much of its democracy." Who is there that contradict this? Why our members are afraid to voice our needs in Parliament lest they offend, forsooth, the powers-that-be.

On Armistice Day, 1942, the minesweeper H.M.I.S. "Bengal", on her maiden voyage from Australia to India, in company with the Dutch tanker "Ondina", sighted two Japanese merchant raiders, each twice her size. Unhesitatingly, the "Bengal" proceeded to close the range, and "engage the enemy more closely", and with the sixth shell from her solitary gun, a 12-pounder, she sank one of the raiders. The other raider ceased attacking the tanker and made off. The tanker's crew were able to get her to port. This gallant action of H.M.I.S. "Bengal" has earned praise from naval men throughout the world, who cited it as an instance of a ship's "living up to the finest tradition of British naval practice." Since then H.M.I.S. "Bengal" has covered thousands of miles in her task of commerce protection. Many of her original crew are still in her ship's company, and her present commander is an Indian naval officer—and the ship is still inspired by the same intrepid spirit as brought rich reward in glory on her maiden voyage.

Industrial demobilization is already proceeding, and must inevitably speed up quite rapidly, says The Letter-Review. Materials are already being released, in small and insufficient quantities, for washing machines, electric irons and other commodities. Advantage of the situation is that we may hope that the task of returning workers to non-war occupations will be under way, before hostilities end. One danger arises from the fact that the Government does not seem to have any clear post-war programme; is not ready to decide what civilian needs should have first priority, in the case of release of small quantities of any material. That is, as far as post-war planning is concerned, the Government seems to be giving its chief attention to making elaborate studies of how to act in that distant period when the best thing for the Government to do would be to leave economic activities to individual enterprise and little thought to the immediate problems of the period during which our economy is, of necessity, still partly under wartime controls. That is the large number of men who have successfully evaded military service will have the pick of the post-war jobs, and this will raise great bitterness later on.

Notes By The Way

The wise man is careful never to use the word "will" these days, no man can say what he "will" or "won't" do tomorrow.—London Free Press.

A definition of peace, as suggested by certain tendencies on the home front, freedom to quarrel among ourselves as much as we please.—Standard Breeze.—Herald.

Remember away back in the summer of 1940, when the great and famous national exhibition and famous national exhibition took place, and you were asked among other things, "Can you milk a cow?" Wonder what the government did with that vast fund of "this information"—Branitora Express.

A Toronto newspaper wonders whether Sir Winston Churchill might not be 101 years old, when he accepted 100, pointing out that he was not registered at the time he was born, but what is one year more or less in a whole century of life.—Branitora Express.

In a laboratory outside London British scientists have discovered a way to double the size of fruit and vegetables, and of flowers, and to increase the resistance of plants to disease. The means they have used is the co-choline drug, and one method is described as giving an "antiseptic shock" to the seed. This doubles the size in each seed. The method is described as making a bigger plant of information.—British Ministry of Information.

It may be as the sages say that there is no such creature as an indispensable man, but in the present juncture of international affairs Winston Churchill is not only indispensable but also irreplaceable. It is good to know that the hand of the master is again holding the reins in Downing Street. All of us, Americans as well as Britons, feel the safer for it.—New York Sun.

Campbellton has this winter developed into an old-fashioned "inland winter" or a "winter town," it might be so-called with the number of dog teams being greatly increased over any winter in a long period of time. The number of dogs, be it a collie, Newfoundland, or just plain dog, has increased to a point where the parade has traffic on streets and sidewalks pretty well cluttered up most of the time. The dogs are used in some cases have been augmented by the use of dogs and some residents of the town have teams of two in harness to haul them on their journey, eliminating the expense of gasoline and feeding a horse. Many of the dogs are driven by Indian boys from the Reserves across the river at Resolute. An ingenious skill at rigging the animals in harness and in control of the teams is being shown by the young owners of the town itself.—Campbellton Graphic.

Businessmen and economists in neutral countries are currently expressing concern about the possibility that the United States dollar devaluation as a means of coping with mounting national debt, says Newsweek. But top-flight American economists hold that such a move is extremely unlikely. They point out that even if the dollar's present value were halved, the nation's twenty-two billion dollar debt would be worth only forty-four billion dollars—negligible in comparison with the national debt which may reach the \$300,000,000,000 before the war's end. As a matter of fact, they say it actually would be more sensible to resort to printing-press money than to direct devaluation, but it causes extreme doubt that either will be used.

Australia's sunshine makes beach wear important, particularly for women, says Australian News-Letter. Last year a ban was placed on the manufacture of man-made swimsuits to conserve labor and materials for war needs. When early spring sunshine urged swimmers to the Sydney beaches, some wore costumes made from handkerchiefs, scarves and remnants of gaily colored materials, surrealist designs and patterns. One athletic-looking lass made her debut in a suit made into a tartan skirt and skirt she had worn when a child, and shorts she made from a suit she had worn in a previous life. "I had no coupons left for a swim suit," she said. Later in the season the custom was to wear man-made swimsuits because factories are now permitted manufacture restricted to three styles—cotton, wool, silk, rayon and six colors. Velvet, satin, silk, cotton or latex and two-piece brassiere suits will not be made.

Christmas tree allergy may be the explanation for post-holiday asthma attacks in children who have never previously had asthma, in the opinion of Dr. Charles C. Coghill of Los Angeles. He described this condition, new to the medical profession, as a new type of "You Allergic?" of which he is co-author with Jessamine Hilliard. To a child with an allergic predisposition, he explains, inhaling with every breath the fine dust shed by the Christmas tree for the week or more it is in the home may bring on severe allergic symptoms for the first time. Added excitement and over-eating of rich foods may play a part in bringing on a first attack of asthma after Christmas, but says Dr. Coghill, allergists believe the Christmas tree of equal or greater importance. For prevention, artificial trees or those sprayed for just that purpose are suggested. As an alternate, the tree may appear on Christmas Day only, being promptly removed the following day.

It is estimated that accidents cost employers about \$35 per worker a year.

HOW TO COMBAT Rheumatic Pains

Rheumatic pains are often caused by uric acid in the blood. This acid impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Treat rheumatic pains by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 107

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YANKEE CLIPPER (Wartime Version)

We're making sail on the Yankee Clipper! Blow the Man down! Blow! Blow! Blow the Man down! Through the gale that's rising is a white-eyed ripper! Blow! Blow! Blow the Man down! It's a living gale, but we're making sail. For we've sighted Boby Dick the whale. Sighted him over the combers booming On the horizon fuming and spuming. Seen his tracks on the skyline flailing. And we make him sorry we took about weeping. About weeping, to the windward reaching. Away to the place where we saw him breaching. Heaving up from the deep profound. And we're going to hit him before he can sound. For we have conned and learned the sea's ways. And we've got it to him with the bright long dart. Nantucket, New Bedford! Be not afraid of such a whale as never was speared. Deep though he sound, we know his path. And the iron shall smite him be down the high through the breach, we'll do him under. For all he may wallow and batter and thunder. And we'll eat our chowder in New Bedford town. Blow! Blow! Blow the Man down! —Leonard Bacon.

Earthquakes Unpredictable

(New York Times) The sleeping mountains have brought death and destruction to the Argentine province of San Juan in Argentina. Why should western South America be thus visited? Mountains line the shores of the entire Pacific, and they project from Caribbean islands to the north of the continent. The reason is that the earth is sinking but because the earth is sinking, it is a shift of rock. It may be only inches, it may be feet. But when translated, it is enough to devastate hundreds of square miles. It is not because the earth is sinking, it is because the mountains are being pushed up, contrary to popular supposition. Our Atlantic seaboard is an old part of the earth. It is stable. Hence it is subjected to few shocks, and these are usually so slight that most of us are unaware of them. Western Argentina is paying the price of geological youth. This latest catastrophe makes us wonder again what the prospect may be for predicting earthquakes and thus saving lives and homes. It is not bright. So far as the record goes salvation lies more in the engineer than in the seismic prophet. For the engineer can at least build structures that will not topple over in that lesson. It seems not. A few earthquake-proof structures have been erected, but the custom is still to clear away the rubble, to build more flimsy structures and to take the chance that the next earthquake is not due for years.

USED IN EMERGENCY

When the head of an ordinary worm is cut off, he simply grows another.

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To the Electors of Ward 4

At the request of a number of citizens I have nominated as a Candidate in Ward Four at the forthcoming Civic Election and hereby solicit your support. If elected I shall endeavor at all times to serve in the best interests of the City and interpret your wishes at the Council Board. W. R. LEPAGE.

CARD

Having been asked by the Plumbers Association to contest the coming election as Water Commissioner, after due consideration I have consented. My reason is, that I feel the public should have a Master Plumber on this Board as a health measure, especially in the interests of property owners. D. L. MacKINNON.

To the Electors of Ward 4

Having nominated for Councillor for your ward in the forthcoming Civic Election I sincerely solicit your support. Anything for the benefit of the City in general and Ward Four in particular will receive my complete attention. T. B. ROGERS.

People's Cemetery Company

There will be a meeting of the share-holders of the People's Cemetery Company at the office of the Eastern Trust Company, Charlottetown, on Wednesday, February 9, 1944 at 4 P.M. DATED this Fourth day of February, A.D. 1944. Estate V. C. SMALLWOOD ADA L. SMALLWOOD Administratrix.

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STRIKES IN WINTER

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