

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1940.

Supercilious Criticism

Prince Edward Island readers of Toronto Saturday Night will take due notice of the uncalled-for criticism it levels against the Conservative leader, Hon. R. B. Hanson, for discussing, "to the extent of truck transportation in this Province, and our claims for better service under the terms of Confederation. The Charlottetown Board of Trade has just extended to Mr. Hanson a warm vote of thanks and appreciation for the manner in which he dealt with this subject on the floor of the House. They have also wired our federal representatives, expressing the conviction that a united effort on their part would secure for this province the inauguration—long deferred—of the Wood Islands car ferry service." Mr. Hanson recently visited this Province, and was amazed, on going into the matter, to find how shabbily he has been treated in the matter of transportation improvements. He took the first opportunity of championing our cause in Parliament, thereby giving nation-wide publicity to the matter.

Toronto Saturday Night asks superciliously: "How on earth is a party leader to build himself up in the public mind as an authority on the great matters of state if he has to be constantly dealing from one of the most conspicuous desks in the Dominion, with local problems of this order of magnitude?"

Violation of the terms under which we entered Confederation, affecting vitally the farming and shipping interests of this whole Province, is thus insultingly dismissed by Saturday Night, to whom "statercraft" apparently is synonymous with the interests with Toronto in particular, and Ontario in general. The insult is still more broadly conveyed, by the suggestion that Mr. Hanson, in standing to discuss the problems of little Prince Edward Island at all, was providing the country with "one of its most innocent and charming sources of entertainment." In Saturday Night's opinion, other Conservative members from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia should have broached this matter, not Mr. Hanson. This, forsooth, because "there is no Conservative member from the Island." But what of our four Liberal members, sitting dumb as oysters? The Liberal editor of Saturday Night has no words of criticism for them. For his enlightenment we may state that under the last King Government, Mr. Brooks, the only Conservative member from the Maritimes, repeatedly voiced the grievances of this Province in Parliament. But his voice went unheard. It is because, as Opposition leader, Mr. Hanson's voice carried farther and did not go unheard—even by Saturday Night—that the people of this Province are so deeply indebted to him.

The Sirois Report

The Halifax Herald challenges the statement in the Financial Post that the three Maritime Provinces are a unit in favor of the Sirois report, and wants to know who gave such intimation. Our Halifax contemporary overlooks the fact that this is a democratic country, governed provincially by constitutional practices, and naturally the government for the time being is the body which decides to assert what is the will of the people on any given constitutional question. As luck has it, the three Premiers of the Maritime Provinces are Liberals, the three governments are Liberal, the majorities of each of the legislatures being Liberal. When the respective Premiers in reply to the letter sent them by the Prime Minister of Canada on the question of the Sirois report state that on the whole the report has their approval, that means nothing more or less than that they, as representing their Provinces, consider that the Provinces are still behind them in matters constitutional.

Of course, that does not justify the respective Premiers declaring that the report should be adopted in all its phases. There are certain matters of detail affecting each Province which it would not be to their advantage to have enacted as the outcome of the forthcoming conference at Ottawa. We have suggested certain objections that should be raised to the report so far as our own Province is concerned, and we feel sure that Premier Campbell himself, and other Premiers throughout Canada, are desirous of having public opinion and not the opinion of the Sirois Commission incorporated in any agreement that may be arrived at.

It is pleasing to note the growing interest being taken in this great question, as evidenced by discussions in the various leading newspapers and the consideration being given to the report by Boards of Trade, etc. We hope that the matter will be thoroughly discussed in all its details and a précis of the views of the different organizations presented to the respective Premiers as a guide for any action they may take when the Conference sits.

Canada's Air Heritage

Under the above title the Department of National Defense has issued an attractive booklet, the purpose of which is to serve as an inspiration builder for the boys now in training in the Royal Canadian Air Force for air-crew service overseas. It contains biographical sketches, accompanied by coloured illustrations, of four of Canada's greatest air men in the last War—Air Marshal W. A. Bishop, V.C., Lt. Col. Wil-

liam George Barker, V.C., Lt. Col. Raymond Collishaw, C.B.E., and Lieut. Alan Arnett MacLeod, V.C. Only two of these heroes now survive—Bishop and Collishaw. The latter, who has fought in the air over Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Russia, Persia, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Egypt, at present holds a vital post with the Royal Air Force in the Middle East. Barker was killed March 12, 1931 in a crash over Rockcliffe Aerodrome near Ottawa while making a trial flight just prior to demonstrating a new type of two-seater plane for the Civil Aviation branch of the Department of National Defense. MacLeod succumbed to influenza at Winnipeg on Nov. 6, 1918, while he was convalescing from injuries received on active service.

Nobly begun by these heroes and by thousands of others who served with distinction in the Royal Air Force in the Great War, Canada's air traditions are being carried on. "Today another generation has taken their place and is writing its deeds in the skies over England and Europe. Others are preparing in the training schools throughout the country. It is planned to present to each of the trainees, on the day he receives his wings, a copy of the Defence Department booklet, suitably inscribed by his Commanding Officer. The idea is a commendable one. Much of the material used in the booklet has been taken from Lt. Col. George A. Drew's "Canada's Fighting Men," to whom due acknowledgement is made.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now for the final lap in the race of 1940.

From now till after January 15 the three main subjects requiring attention are the War, Christmas and the Sirois Report.

What has become of all those prophets, Indian, bushmen, and naturalists, who, in October predicted we would have little or no snow this winter?

The City Council and Board of Trade are surely not going to resort to hole-and-corner meetings when the public interests are at stake. That is not a democratic gesture, though dear to the hearts of bureaucrats.

In order to economise ship's space and benefit tonnage at large, the British Government have banned the importation of bananas from Jamaica and the Cameroons. This means hardship to the 63,000 employees in handling the imports in Britain, not to mention the all but ruin of the banana planters in these two colonies. Jamaica will fare better than the Cameroons as she has the U.S.A. practically at her door.

Though Japan is an Axis partner of Italy, the Japanese-owned Hong Kong News couldn't refrain from joshing Mussolini over his adventure in Greece. The paper, published in English in that British colony, and generally believed to be financed by the government of Japanese-occupied Formosa, printed a cartoon depicting Il Duce sliding backward into Italy from a map of Greece—labelled "Grease." "Slippery, isn't it?" the caricatured dictator exclaims in the caption.

Robert Bloomfield, poet, born this date, 1766. His best known poem, "The Farmer's Boy" was not only popular in England but was translated into three foreign languages. His other works were of varied character, but most read were those on the seasons, "Summer", "Autumn", "Winter".

"Thine heart should feel what thou may'st hourly see, That Duty's basis is humanity."

The Federal Government has decided that Ministers sending Christmas cards to their constituents and friends must pay for their own cards. In the past they were provided at the expense of the taxpayers. As these cards were "franked" through the mails, and despatched by the Department's staff they did not cost the Ministers a red cent. But do not let this be taken as an excuse by the ordinary individual to hold up on the kindly custom of remembering friends and acquaintances at Christmas-time. To do so would be to deprive the Government of postal revenue now greatly needed, besides tending to lower the morale of the Christian population at a time everything possible should be done to sustain it.

Premier Adelard Godbout, spokesman of French Canada, left no shadow of doubt as to the attitude of French Canadians towards the war, or as to their appreciation of what Great Britain is fighting for and the whole-hearted desire amongst them to co-operate with the British in that fight in "facing the facts" last Sunday night. French Canadians fully realize that, although the seat of war is thousands of miles away, the front line, Canada's front line of defence, is where the enemy is striking now. They know where our national security lies; they know, as everybody knows, that if the Germans should pierce the overseas rampart, they soon would, as Mr. Godbout stresses, invade Canada. Hence Canada's front line of defence is in Britain or Europe, wherever the war is being fought.

How these Mackenzie Kingites do love to multiply their office. A new portfolio of Government—"A Department of Romance"—was suggested to the Government by Mr. C. E. Johnston (N.D. Bow River) who nominated Agriculture Minister Gardiner for the post. Mr. Johnston read an extract from Mr. Gardiner's recent speech in the House when he expressed his devotion to agriculture and declared that no change in his official position would "remove my lifelong association with and love for farmers and farming." That love for the farmers was "very touching," said Mr. Johnston. "I thought then that we should advise the Prime Minister to relieve the Minister of Agriculture from his many portfolios and give him another one, entitling him to be called the Minister of Romance because he has such a loving heart." It should be noted Mr. Gardiner is also Minister of National War Services.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The appearance of Main street is a sign of improving times and everybody can see and appreciate. The vast improvement in the city's business section is the greatest visible proof of the healthy state of affairs in North Bay. Business concerns have spent huge sums of money during recent years either in the erection of new buildings or in extensive alterations. Practically every business place on Main street has entered into this improvement scheme, with the result that North Bay is one of the finest looking business centres in the province. — North Bay Nugget.

Printing House Square has been bombed with considerable interior and exterior damage, yet The Times has continued publication. The editorial department has been destroyed, but as Mr. Churchill says, in paying tribute to the newspaper, "the resourcefulness and adaptability of your staff is beyond praise." It was only a few weeks ago that the manager of The Times made it clear that it would continue to publish, no matter what happened. "If," he said, "Printing House Square is knocked out, we will publish elsewhere in London. If that should be rendered impossible, we'll publish somewhere else in the country. As long as there is a suitable printing plant in England The Times will be printed and published. And if you can imagine such a thing, that we are blown out of Britain, then we'll cross the Atlantic and publish The Times there." The Times in this pronouncement has shown itself the spirit of the soul of the soul of England. — There'll Always be The Times.— Victoria Daily Colonist.

The Dominion and the Provinces, when they meet in January to consider the Sirois report, will be equipped with a staff of readers who have never been equipped to deal with questions of Dominion-Provincial relationship. It is known that the findings of the Commission are acceptable to many of the Provinces as they are to the Dominion. Indeed, no Province has taken up a position of outright hostility. That, even given complete agreement about the political aspects of the report, changes may be found advisable, is of course possible, and perhaps probable. But an outright rejection by any province, or by provinces, would give the dissenting bodies in the responsibility of proposing more suitable alternatives. Because upon one point there can hardly be differences of opinion. The report, in the opinion of those who attend studies, has made it clear to all that our existing federal system is no longer adequate to the requirements of Canada; and that to persist in retaining it is to invite a very great disaster and perhaps to make disaster inevitable. — Winnipeg Free Press.

The statement has been sometimes heard during the past year that a mistake was made by the farmers of this county when they devoted so large an extent of their properties to the growing of apples. There has been very great progress made in the development of that industry, and on every hand extensive orchards now greet the eye. That so much of the land has been set out in orchards is a reason given for the falling off to so large an extent of other farm products, but there is plenty of evidence that there yet remains an abundance of land suitable for agriculture that is not worked. A better reason is probably that apple growing in past years has brought so much better returns than any other branch of farming that there has been little incentive elsewhere. However, if a mistake has been made there is now a good chance to correct it. Last year the provincial department of agriculture instituted a policy which provides facilities for the removal of old trees that have outlived their usefulness so as to enable the setting out of young trees of better varieties or the use of the land for other purposes. In view of the conditions these facilities have been taken advantage of—and many trees taken out. It is said that at present there are no less than 175 applications in for this service, and that no less than 10,000 trees are now ready for removal this fall, a number that may be considerably increased. It seems like a good move, and the result will undoubtedly be a better future condition of the orchards, but as well a revival of mixed farming that cannot fall to work out to the ultimate good. — Wolfville Acadian.

It takes moral stamina to stay at work when the air raid sirens have shrieked their warning. It takes courage of a still higher order to go on making an airplane, an engine, a gun, a shell, when you know that at any moment a bomb may crash through the roof above you. Lord Beaverbrook whose energy has made the Ministry of Aircraft Production, has praised the bravery of workers who volunteered to go on with their jobs even when rooftop spotters reported "bombs" overhead. "Triers," said Lord Beaverbrook, "is the spirit which makes our victory certain." Fortunately for Great Britain and for the democratic world, British labour has as a whole shown superb courage as well as endurance ever since the intensive air raids began. There have been exceptions, but they may well have been the fault of their own leaders. It is hard to underestimate the workers' capacity to "take it." Whenever a response has been needed from British labour, it has come magnificently. There has been no haggard, no faltering; the British working man has accepted longer hours, harder working conditions, separation from his family, and physical risk as great as that of the soldier. It is because he knows that this is a people's war which demands a people's response if this freedom is to be preserved. — New York Times.

Naval launchings in wartime are generally private occasions at which only those who have ordered or made the ship are present to see her waterborne. But the public, through the newspapers, can sometimes join in such a ceremony and wish Godspeed to the ship and all who sail in her. Recently a cruiser took the water in a British yard. Even the lady there did not know the name Mrs. Dorling (wife of Rear-Admiral J. W. S. Dorling) gave her,

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.

FIRST PRINTING IN CANADA

Sir.—The statement has been made that the book, "First Things to Acadia," by John Quinpool, Halifax, is the first commercial volume wholly produced in the Maritime Provinces in the last 70 to 100 years and one wonders if this is an exaggeration.

"Wholly produced," means, it is explained, not only compiling and writing and editing, but rather referring to printing, illustrating, binding, and marketing and to the implied cost rather than quality, involving output and machinery. "Commercial" alludes to volumes intended for national circulation and actually securing wide distribution, as this book has won, and "home marketing direction" has the same significance. "Binding" means hard covers, cloth or leather.

Many excellent publications have been written and printed in the Maritimes, especially in paper covers. Others have been issued in "boards" for provincial school texts or for limited institutional, society or family circulation.

The suggestion is that in the case of a well-known standard volumes in hard binding relating to historical and literary matters in New Brunswick, P. E. Island and Nova Scotia, it invariably has been found necessary, where large editions have been planned to have the work done elsewhere on account of cost. This presently applies to virtually all school and college texts.

As is well known printing and binding in Canada commenced in "old" Nova Scotia, when that province embraced sister Maritimes. The undersigned will be glad to hear from any readers who are conversant as to book-printing and book-binding in the Maritimes.

I am, Sir, etc.

JOHN W. REGAN

75 Jubilee Road, St. John's, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

LARGER UNIT OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Sir.—In order to explain what the Larger Unit means we have drawn largely from information at hand on how the Larger Unit operates in countries where it has been successfully used. It is understood, of course, that this information will serve only as a guide and that any successful application of the principle in our Province will necessarily take into consideration our own peculiar conditions and needs, and can be applied only after much study and experimentation on the part of competent educational authorities.

Probably the simplest way to explain the Larger Unit would be to take Where, in Alberta, under the old system, there were sixty or seventy schools managed by sixty or seventy sets of elected trustees, under the Larger Unit system, the same sixty or seventy schools are managed by one set of elected trustees (usually five trustees), with one secretary to serve the unit instead of the usual sixty or seventy. The local school boards of three trustees are retained in an advisory capacity to look after local interests.

The Divisional Board is given full control of the staffing of the schools of the division, and of the financial conditions and needs, and appoints the teachers assigns them to the schools where they are best fitted according to ability and experience, pays the teachers' salaries (on Prince Edward Island their supplementary) and terminates their contracts when this step becomes necessary. It is responsible for the erection and care of buildings, and, in some cases, their location, and for the supply of equipment and furniture needed.

In Prince Edward Island it will be found convenient to group from seven to ten schools more or less, in one unit according to their geographical location. The ultimate object would be to have in each unit a Central High School for Grades

but one day her name may be honored as are the names of the Ajax head and the ship. As the vessel stood on the slips just a hulk with superstructure and funnels added, she was a mystery ship to us. She will be fast, but no details were made available, and at that stage one could not even guess at her future armament. — From the London Times.

For the Bath — and after

Advertisement for YARDLEY products including LAVENDER CRYSTALS \$1.10, YARDLEY LAVENDOMEAL \$1.10, and BATH DUSTING POWDER \$1.50.

Let Yardley of London make your bath a silken-soft delight that will leave you luxuriantly rested... subtly perfumed... gloriously refreshed. Get these bath luxuries at our Yardley counter. JAMIESON'S DRUG STORE

CROWN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY advertisement. In peace or war, the deep-rooted security of a Crown Life policy gives sturdy defence to the home and lends strength to the nation. Policies in force - \$228,000,000. Home Office Toronto.

IX and X, and in time, perhaps, even for Grades XI and XII. This would relieve the one-room rural school teachers of the burden of teaching these higher grades thereby allowing for the more efficient teaching of the fundamental subjects. It would also leave room for the addition in the lower grades of certain other courses such as they have in Ontario and other progressive educational centres. It would allow for higher standards in the High School Course bringing it to a parity with the other provinces. This is but a brief outline of the essential principles of Larger Units, the detailed advantages of which will be developed in succeeding articles.

P.E.I. TEACHERS FEDERATION

Sirois Report Not Cure-All

Adoption of a new federal-provincial deal along the lines of the Sirois report is not only desirable but essential to furtherance of the war effort. The unanimity of opinion on this point is noteworthy. There is, however, a tendency to look upon the report as a cure-all for our troubles. No greater mistake could be made.

The report recommends debts of the provinces should be assumed by the Dominion; the assumption by the Dominion of the whole unemployment relief; grants-in-aid to establish a uniform standard of public services throughout Canada; and that the whole problem of transportation should be provided as involving, in present circumstances, grave dangers to the solvency of the public authorities. In return the Dominion is to receive the sole taxation.

When the report is implemented many of the more pressing problems of the nine provinces will be shifted to the already overburdened shoulders of the Dominion. Unemployment, however, will still remain a desperate threat to the existence of the nation, relieved for the moment by war activities.

The study of the transportation problem will find, as all the previous studies have found, that we have more railway services than we need.

Those that believe we can make the country rich by becoming another nation of hotel-keepers like the Swiss, and the communities which have lost railway services, will demand our highway be extended and improved.

In essence, adoption of the excellent Sirois report provides an intelligent method of pooling all the financial problems of our public authorities into one gigantic problem. The same eleven million people will still owe the same total of public debt. Little will have been done to prevent a further increase in it. There is the gravest risk, if not the certainty, that it will continue to grow faster than ever—quite apart from the war.

To repeat, the report is an excellent one. It provides a basis for immediate action. But even to adopt it would be

The Poet's Corner advertisement. TO AN OLD TUNE. You cannot choose but love, lad, From dawn till twilight dreary; You cannot choose but love, lad, Though love grows weary, weary.

HICKEY'S CHASES GLOOM advertisement. I'm always worrying. A GOOD Tobacco Chases WORRY. Folks who use our Tobacco never worry until they run out of it. So long as they have a supply they can face the troubles of the day with a smile. HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST. Manufactured by HICKEY & NICKOLSON TOBACCO CO., LTD., CHARLOTTETOWN

BRAHMIN ORANGE PEKOE TEA advertisement. Say to Your Grocer I Want BRAHMIN ORANGE PEKOE TEA. You will enjoy its superior quality.

YARDLEY advertisement. YARDLEY suggests this gift of bath luxury... Lavendomeal to soften and lavender dusting powder. EXAMINATION Fitting and Supplying Glasses Etc. H. J. MABON OPTOMETRIST. Office Hours: 10 to 12 A.M. 2 to 5 P.M. Holidays etc. by appointment. Office Connected with DRUGSTORE.

THE TWO MACS DRUGGISTS advertisement. Also a full line of YARDLEY'S VANITY CASES —and— TOILET ARTICLES at popular prices.

Luxury with Economy advertisement. FRESH AS A FLOWER! 'LOTUS' The New Perfumed Cologne by YARDLEY. At once subtle and exotic... yet fresh and fragrant as an English country garden. The floral undertones in this delightful new Cologne leave a lasting impression of charm. E. A. FOSTER CENTRAL DRUG STORE.

Mount Royal Hotel advertisement. Come to the Mount Royal Hotel. MONTREAL. DIRECTION VERNON G. CARDY.