

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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Subscription Rates
By Mail in P. E. I. \$1.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months
City Delivery \$5.00 per year; \$2.00 for 6 months

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at
Hotelling's News Agency, Times Square, New York;
Old South News Agency, Corner Mill and Washington

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1942.

Unfinished Business

Parliament opens with many problems facing the Government and with apparently no programme to meet them. Yet it promises to be an active session, with Mr. Bracken—even on the floor—so directing the activity of his followers as to insure greater insistence on parliamentary responsibility.

French African Problem

An Associated Press writer emphasizes that notwithstanding the meeting of French leaders at the Churchill-Roosevelt conference in French Africa, the situation there is still fraught with danger by reason of lack of unity.

Nazi Press Jittery

Hitler's newspaper, the Voelkischer Beobachter, comments bitterly on the hardships that Nazi troops are suffering in Russia and reminds German civilians that they must appreciate how difficult the fighting is there.

During the two months that the Russian offensives have been rolling forward, British military observers in London estimate that about ninety Axis divisions, sixty of them German, have been badly mauled and partly destroyed.

Air Force on Berlin and other centres within the Reich, and it is little wonder that the Nazi supremes are singing small these days. They can not blind themselves to the truth that their gangster power is being smashed before their eyes as Allied blows become heavier.

Maritime Business Trends

Business conditions in the Maritime Provinces are optimistically reviewed in the Bank of Montreal news letter, which says: Wholesale turnover generally continues in higher volume. Retail trade is brisk. Christmas shopping was the heaviest in many years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is officially gazetted at Ottawa that County Court Judge Lloyd Lewis of Summerside is being appointed a member of the Charlottetown, P.E.I. mobilization board.

Feodor Mikhailovitch Dostoieffsky, Russian novelist, died this date, 1881; was one of a galaxy of intellectuals who were mainly responsible for wakening the masses and preparing for the revolution which set their country free from corrupt military and ecclesiastical dictatorship.

In conformity with the revised consumer credit regulations recently announced by the Prices Board, retail merchants may treat purchases made between the 25th and the end of the month as purchases made on the first of the following month, and bill them accordingly.

A statement issued from Ottawa this week brings up to date the record of recruiting by military districts both by the voluntary and compulsory method and shows the Maritime Provinces well out in front with the largest percentage of their eligible male population in service and Quebec with the lowest: Military District No. 6 (Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) enrolled 44.1 per cent of males between 19 and 45; military District No. 7 (New Brunswick) enrolled 41.5 per cent.

McGill has turned down 66 students who have failed to make the grade and turned their names over to the National Selective Service. The Senate passed the following resolutions: "In view of the request of the Director of National Selective Service that each University should ruthlessly weed out the incompetent and mediocre students," it is hereby resolved.

Parents of boys seeking commissions would be well advised to read and inwardly digest the following by the Commandant of the Officers' Training Centre, Brockville, and to bear in mind that Lieut. Frank Andrew, the latest graduate from that college with marks equal to the highest ever obtained there was a former Scout in the Kirk Troop: "I consider the Scout programme excellent training for any boy who may be called upon to play his part in times of emergency, be they in peace or in war."

Notes By The Way

A conference might be defined as a group of men who, individually, can do nothing, but as a group can meet and decide that nothing can be done.—Kitchener Record.

The explosive force of our new bombs is something colossal. Three hundred tons of our two-thousand pounder recently spaced will completely destroy one whole square mile of industrial plant. What is more, the blast will damage about three times that area.

There's nothing like a mild day in January to stir the gardener's Symplocos foetida, which is as hardy as persistent as crab-grass. One look at the new seed catalogues, and a quick mental summary of the rationing program and he is all but setting out tomato plants. This has always been the season of the gardener's dreams, which are as hardy as persistent as crab-grass.

This would be a good notice to hang up at Saul's Ste. Marie in St. John's, Nova Scotia. A war plant worker at Caldwell, New Jersey, has cleared 753 consecutive days on the job. (P. E. I. has a son at Guadalupe.) —St. Catharines Standard.

"When I was a boy," father used to say, "I thought nothing of walking four miles to school and back every day." The kids of this rationed era don't think much of it, either. —Brantford Expositor.

Maybe you think you are a husky chap who can wield a snow shovel as easily as a rifle barrel. So when the big drifts come, you arm yourself with the shovel and set to work. In the process of clearing the snow, you are apt to get discouraged with your agility and you heave to with gusto. Better be careful about that urge to shove beyond your strength.

At a Refuges concert given in North London, the Scout were surprised to hear "Comin' Thro' the Ring" sung in very smooth German. Apparently it translates well, almost word for word, and it is a favorite with certain Austrian girls. As Scotland is still singing psalms to the air which upholds the German national anthem it seems that the international spirit remains in music. —Glasgow Herald.

We wish each person who uses the word "idea" were required to stand on one foot until he could give a clear definition of it. —St. Louis Star Times.

The heart is not the eighth but the first wonder of the universe. It beats more than 3,000,000,000 times before the total surrender. It is living proof of the superiority of blood, muscle and nerve over metal. Clocks and watches—which tick a mere 2,000,000,000 times in seventy years—are considered the junk pile long before the normal heart begins to tire. It's a tough job, the heart's, to pump out seven or more decades. Given half a chance, it will produce those 3,000,000,000 or more beats necessary for a long life. Even after it is damaged, it will persist with amazing tenacity if not called on for tasks beyond its strength. —Dr. P. J. Steinhilber, in The American Mercury.

Amazing progress in the field of scientific achievement has been made in the Soviet Union in the past twenty years. Without fanfare and without a burden of carried-on research has been carried on. Russian scientists have learned the means of making synthetic rubber which actual production had proven was before the war. A recent article in The Tribune tells of the high percentage of Russian soldiers recovering from wounds due to the medical care given by the most modern drugs; 98.5 per cent of wounded were healed. Now the information Bulletin tells of the how colored cotton has been grown in the country. The Bulletin says the cotton ranges from reddish to blue, with the latest improvement to have twice the strength of the old fibre and does not have to be dyed. Our Russian allies have come a long way from a nation that not long ago could read or sew his name. —Winnipeg Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian assumes no responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Sir—In the recent manslaughter case just concluded the Federal Government came to the aid of the Indian allegedly responsible for the crime. Will the Federal Government come to the aid of the slain man's widow, and family, whose only support is now in England to fight for justice, peace and freedom, that justice which is so sorely needed in this Province? I am, Sir, etc., G. J. E.

NEW GLASGOW vs SUMMERSIDE

Sir—Resignation now remains the only honourable course open to the Summerside Town Council. Principles of democracy demand that the recalcitrant Council make way for one willing to co-operate for the Provincial Government. Incorporated under the laws of this Province the Town of Summerside and its Council is ultimately responsible to the people of the Province.

In recently commending the Council for its change of heart, we spoke too soon. On the 17th, even yet has the Council met with the Premier to discuss collaboration with the Provincial Government. Incorporated under the laws of this Province the Town of Summerside and its Council is ultimately responsible to the people of the Province.

No excuses can relieve the Summerside Council from its moral cowardice and dereliction of duty, since it now shows no desire to enter into any agreement with its province of law enforcement, and since the Council has plainly indicated its refusal to co-operate with the Provincial Government, and will go into conference with the Premier only to find out what can the Government and people of Prince Edward Island allow the attitude of the Summerside Council to be. It is a disgraceful and shameful attitude, which takes place in a few weeks Summerside, it will be remembered, which votes "wet".

It is to be hoped that this political move backfires, and that the people of Summerside, remembering Premier King's appeal, will give the Mayor and the "wet" council a little encouragement to run again, and that they will nominate, cast their ballots against them.

We are, Sir, etc., B. E. Shaw, New Glasgow, P. E. I. Island Temperance Federation.

The Poet's Corner

THE JOURNEY

By what far traverse, Along what headlands wet with cloudy spray— Past what vicinities came my soul this way? I remember dimly As in a dream, as the shadow of a shade, Alabaster walls no builder laid. Tall translucent cities, Their streets tiled how richly to the tread With garnet, wine-purple, rose-red.

O heavy journey! Out of what country, why did I come away? —Audrey Alexandra Brown.

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ANOTHER YEAR UNDER WARTIME CONDITIONS
1942 and the GREAT-WEST LIFE
The Great-West Life is filling an important role in the nation's wartime economy. During the year, the Company invested over twenty-eight million dollars in Victory Loans on behalf of its policyholders—representing hundreds of thousands of premium payments. In addition, over a quarter of all male employees have entered the armed services, while others are giving their time to the many organizations essential to the war effort.

Christmas With Canadians Overseas
Capt. The Rev. R. J. Berlis, B. D., Late of Hunter River.
Your readers may be interested in the account of a festival service which I held on Christmas Eve in one of the Scottish camps of the Canadian Forestry Corps.
The setting was a bare recreation ground which the men themselves transformed from a bare to a sanctuary by their own skill and imagination. A thick garland of evergreen boughs, intricately woven by the genius of Indian boys, was hung in graceful loops and curves about the entire length of the hall. Shining, white, decked at the four corners, but it was the raised dais at the end of the hall which arrested and then held the eyes of each man who entered. One of our sergeants, a gifted artist, had painted a fine mural landscape on the bare wall-board. Against a background of blue and sunny sky, snow-fleeting mountains and dark pine trees—a perfectly conceived scene, it seems to me—stood our Christmas altar. It was a festive altar, white with snowy linen and gleaming with the silver of candlesticks. A simple rustic cross rose in the centre, its bare arms touched with gold by the candles on either side. Flanking the altar were two tall sconces of candles, their white flames pointing towards the central shrine of the Christmas cross. And behind all this, the tender beauty of our homeland interpreted by one of our comrades.

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