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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1942.

Taxing Brains

Mr. Donald Gordon of the War Time Prices policy, is to be congratulated on the generalship shown in the execution of a difficult assignment.

Although it has nothing to do with his department, there is in effect another "Ceiling" which equally effective is not in our view so desirous.

It seems our legislators are left with the responsibility of industrial initiative, and as they are not a creative body, but men chosen for their personal popularity, or often forced upon the electorate by a political machine, they cannot be a substitute for the creative powers now throttled in a whole nation.

Not that we think those at the head of our government are lacking in intelligence for many of them are thoroughly capable in certain respects. Yet few men can entertain and develop more than one idea, and the "idea" men directing affairs are so involved in winning the peace, therefore ensuring that Canada will be out in front when hostilities cease, that there is danger of losing the war.

The generous rewarding of private initiative would not affect the responsibility of preventing inflation. Comparatively few would become wealthy, and most of this wealth would be in the form of new industries Canada needs. Profits in a growing business are usually ploughed back. Anyway from this angle it could not be more inflationary than the vast sums of government money being injected into the "chosen" for no better reason than that they are self-assertive.

Unconvincing Statements

Previous Liberal assurances to the contrary notwithstanding, it is now evident that there is a connection between the results of the four by-elections held on Monday and the King Government's attitude toward its conscription plebiscite.

The very day after the election, Defence Minister Ralston announced in the House of Commons that "if army enlistments keep close to the level of the last four months Canada will be able to meet all requirements of the 1942 army programme by voluntary enlistments."

Another Government spokesman, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, interpreted Mr. Ralston's statement as meaning that there was "no immediate need for conscription for overseas." He quoted Hon. Mr. Howe to the same effect, and said he himself was of the same mind.

Mr. Gardiner went further. He said the by-elections had settled "a number of disputed points," and that the voters "showed they were agreed that conscription is not immediately necessary to a total war effort in Canada."

According to the figures given by Mr. Ralston, between 173,000 and 193,000 men will be needed for the armed forces during the year ending March 31, 1943, bringing our total armed forces, at home and abroad, to a maximum of 615,000 men. This, on a per capita basis, is very considerably under the enlistments already obtained in Prince Edward Island. It is on this basis that Government spokesmen claim "no immediate necessity" for conscription for overseas.

One may well ask, in view of the extreme gravity of the situation in the Pacific and the Mediterranean, and the almost certain prospect of a huge Axis drive against Great Britain herself—how any such statements can be accepted with complacency.

U. S. Seed Potato Situation

While the 1940 crop of seed potatoes was the largest on record, the crop for 1941 is very close to it in size and ranks as the second largest ever produced in the United States, writes Mr. J. P. Manion, Assistant Trade Commissioner, New York, in the current issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. The 1941 crop is indicated as being 17,524,273 bushels, only 6.5 per cent less than the previous year. The Irish Cobbler is still the most widely grown potato in the Union, seed production amounting to 25.9 per cent of the total.

The production of the State of Maine is of most interest to Canada, due to conditions of growth similar to those in New Brunswick and somewhat similar to those in Prince Edward Island. Maine's production for 1941 is 7,692,833 bushels as against 8,466,186 bushels in 1940 and the record production of 8,519,001 bushels in 1937. As regards varieties, Cobblers and Green Mountains led the field almost neck and neck,

the Maine production of Cobblers reaching 2,370,720 bushels and that of Green Mountains 2,347,345. Maine thus produced 51 per cent of the American Cobbler output and almost 90 per cent of that of Green Mountains.

Prices of certified seed to growers on Dec. 1, 1941, averaged 93 cents per bushel as compared with 69 cents in the previous year, 99 cents in 1939, 85 cents in 1938 and 63 cents in 1937. About 18 per cent of the crop was sold at that date as compared with 20 per cent in 1940.

Duty on Canadian seed within the quota limit of 1,500,000 bushels is 37 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. Transport charges are also high, ranging from 40 to 50 cents per 100 pounds.

During the season Sept. 15, 1940, to Sept. 14, 1941, Canada sold 750,077 bushels of seed potatoes, or one-half of the maximum allotment. High prices in the United States this year should reduce somewhat the differential in price between Canadian and American seed, and it is probable that sales during the present season, if shipping is available, will exceed those of last year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Mackenzie King policy is evidently to knock the Big Interests publicly, and appease them privately.

The debate on the Address in Parliament is likely to peter out soon, and then we will have it all over again in connection with the plebiscite.

It seems Vichy is playing the same game with U. S. A. that Japan did. In the present instance the soothsayers are accompanied by the destruction of the Normandie.

The MacMillans have a reputation for adding letters to their names, and Lieut. Bob MacMillan distinguished R. C. V. N. R., D. S. C., with bar, is proving no exception; in addition he is our outstanding war hero to date.

The new City Council has been duly constituted as the result of yesterday's election in Ward V. Hope there will be a continuance of good administration and a decent surplus of revenue over expenditure at the year's end.

The Hon. Minister of Fisheries Michael told the Quebec East electors that by 1943 we will not be owing the Mother Country anything on invested capital, and then we need not import any more from her. Fine sentiment from a loyal Minister of the Crown.

Everybody is hopeful that our tourist season will be up to expectations the coming season, but do not let us forget the Prince Edward Island will have to go off the route for overhaul, and there is no Car Ferry steamer to substitute for her. Likewise, unless a second steamer is provided for Wood Island-Caribou route, we will lose an enormous number of tourists from that direction.

The Supreme Court bench is conducive to longevity. The Chief Justice of Montreal Superior Court, the Hon. R. A. E. Greenshields, last week celebrated his eighty-first birthday, and received from his brother judges, who called upon him in Chambers, hearty congratulations upon the event. In a graceful speech, His Lordship acknowledged what he was pleased to note was "quite a multitude of good wishes," and the gift of a huge bouquet of carnations presented to him by J. A. Beaulne on behalf of the criers of the Superior Court, besides hearty felicitations from members of the Bar.

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States, born this date, 1809; farmer's son, river boat hand, store clerk, lawyer, soldier, politician, member of Congress, opponent of slavery; retired from politics in 1852; re-entered political life two years later, and after a stormy time was nominated as a Republican for Senate in 1858, but not elected; in 1860 made a great speech against slavery, and was elected President, being re-elected in 1864, and continued so until the end of war, being assassinated at Washington, April 14, 1865; simple and unaffected in manner, tolerant and honourable in character he gained the respect and confidence of the average man, and is still revered as the embodiment of all that a statesman should be. "Let us have faith that Right makes Might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Possibility that as the war goes on the railways may have to curtail some of the services the public has become used to, in order to continue giving full support to interests of the war effort, was hinted by Mr. R. C. Vaughan, president, Canadian National Railways, in the course of an address before the Canadian Club, Montreal. "The railways continue to have a reserve capacity, but it will become increasingly difficult to meet requirements for all forms of transportation, and it is quite possible, as part of the emergency arising out of the war, that we will have to spread out available services and equipment somewhat thinner than the public has been used to in the past, and we all hope to be able to do that without undue inconvenience to the public. But it must be realized that we are at war."

Compared with the bewilderment of the little man with a gun on a small piece of battleground, one cannot help admiring the extraordinary capacity of many civilian observers who advance their theories confidently and authoritatively on the passing progress of the war. They grasp the widest implications of a battleline 150 miles long. They spend a few hours with troops in manoeuvres and come back convinced that our Army is twice as good as it was in 1914-18. If the observant eye belongs to an observer concerning the Far East it is astonishing how at 6 A. M. it detects unmistakable defensive moves by the Japanese forces but by 12 noon it finds the Japanese forces in an obvious aggressive set-up. Yet, the most agile army in the world could scarcely reshape its strategy in the space of six hours. We have, no doubt for our sins, to suffer such critical observers, only at the time of Waterloo Wellington got along all right without them.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Does any one remember when it was generally believed in this country that Chinese troops carried fans and umbrellas, stopped fighting whenever it rained, and by scaring them to death with gongs and firecrackers? The Chinese, in fact, were never so foolish as that. They did dislike rain, and being a highly civilized people, they thought it a wasteful way of setting disputes. When in 1937 a dispute arose which led to the outbreak of the fighting they simply made themselves into a nation of soldiers. We think China's allies will not be ashamed now to admit that there is a great army in the world that General Liu Kwanlung's fighting men who arrived somewhere in Burma this week after a thousand-mile hike through the mountains and jungles southward from Kwangsi Province. Without truck or mule they brought along their supplies and their equipment, including an assortment of mountain artillery. These are the soldiers who have been standing off the Japanese for four and a half years. Knowing how we now know their viciousness and the striking power of the Japanese, we can value what the Chinese have achieved. Long marches under trying conditions are an old story to some of them in the unhappy days of the Chinese civil war the so-called Communist army marched 8,000 miles from the Yangtze to the Yangtze during the present war which covered forty-three miles in twenty hours. And this was considered commonplace. — New York Times.

Now the Government is to issue a second suit for walking out by the soldier. The difference between an army battle dress uniform and a civilian suit is that the soldier's uniform is made of a material that is not subject to the same wear and tear as a civilian suit. The soldier's uniform is made of a material that is not subject to the same wear and tear as a civilian suit. The soldier's uniform is made of a material that is not subject to the same wear and tear as a civilian suit.

Well, at least one of the secrets of the success of Britain's famous and amazing Command has come out. It seems that at the moment of the outbreak of the war, the British Government had a policy which was to put its insurance in better shape so as to assign \$10,000 of his monthly pay to the insurance company. The soldier's uniform is made of a material that is not subject to the same wear and tear as a civilian suit.

Horses are coming back. That's the news from the front. With gasoline and rubber and steel on the restricted list owing to their need for fighting the war, the old Dobbin premises to come back into his own. Horses on the farm is likely to mean just that, and in increasing measure as the war goes on. Horses are coming back into his own. Horses on the farm is likely to mean just that, and in increasing measure as the war goes on.

Of the four new Labor peers Squadron Leader Wedgwood Benn is likely to be of greatest service in the Upper House. He is an admirable debater (not that the members of the House are in cut-and-thrust), with Ministerial experience as Secretary for India, and practical experience as a soldier, a farmer, a singer, a highly alert mind, and a pitiful supply of common sense. If his duties at the Air Ministry do not seem him too much away from the House, he will add an element of substantial value to the Lords' discussions. It is a pity that the expedient of creating life peers was not adopted in this case. Since it is specially stated that the four peers are simply a matter of temporary convenience, there seems no good reason why their holders' descendants to all eternity should be ennobled. — London Spectator.

An army truck, driven by an Indian soldier was travelling across a bridge in Port Sudan. There was a slight traffic jam, and the driver did not brake quite quickly enough to avoid a camel. Unfortunately, the animal's leg was broken and it had to be shot. This was a very serious loss to the owner, for a Sudanese camel is like his bullock to the Indian cultivator. For this reason, the owner of the beast was persuaded to bring a charge against the military driver. When the case came up in court, the driver was put in the dock and the camel-owner asked to identify him. He had one look at the Indian, and turned to the magistrate indignantly and said: "If this is the man who killed my camel, I wish to withdraw the charge. In the first place, this man is a foreigner here and therefore a guest in my country. In the second place, he has come here to defend me against my enemy. This court was full of merchants that morning and I am impressed were they by the spirit of the camel-owner's reply that

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.

ARMED FORCES AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Since the outbreak of the war our government, quite properly, has been urging the people to "serve by saving." In view of this the public may be interested to learn of the rather strange attitude of the authorities at Ottawa towards the paying of insurance premiums in advance by members of the army and air force.

One of the best reasons for a soldier taking out insurance is that it affords him an opportunity to save systematically in an admittedly safe position as soon as possible. This is a privilege available to any civilian policyholder who is ambitious enough to take advantage of it, and strange as it may seem, it is also allowed by the government to naval ratings though not to soldiers and airmen.

The purpose of the restriction on paying premiums in advance is to guard against the policyholder accumulating in the insurance companies a free surplus which could be used for any time, and which if distributed while on active service might militate against disciplinary requirements.

Now that there is no danger if he is in the navy; it is only if he is a soldier or an airman. Nor is there any restriction to prevent him from paying as much of his pay as he is wished to be held in trust for him or placed to his credit in the bank. The danger is that he might get his policy too well established.

May I be permitted to cite a couple of actual cases to illustrate how this restriction works. Soldier No. 1 is an excellent type of young man, who at the outbreak of the war had a policy with a heavy indebtedness against it. Immediately on enlisting he took advantage of the opportunity to put his insurance in better shape so as to assign \$10,000 of his monthly pay to the insurance company. The soldier's uniform is made of a material that is not subject to the same wear and tear as a civilian suit.

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Singapore's Last Stand

The following gripping narrative appears in Time and is appropriate to the news now received over the wire:

For a few hours one brilliantly moonlit night last week a strip of granite and concrete, 1,138 yards long and 20 yards wide, was the safety valve of the British Empire. The Battle of Malaya was lost; the Battle of Singapore was about to begin. Between the two battles there lay only the narrow strip connecting Johore and Singapore Island, known as the Causeway.

Britain's spindling Army commander, Lieut. General Arthur Ernest Percival, mindful of the hazard of trying to defend southern Johore with no avenue of escape but the Causeway, had decided to run for it, to get across the Causeway before Japanese bombers blew it up.

Now, in the silver night, the men and their machines were on their way across. Not a single enemy plane was overhead to make things messy; the men were of many nations—Australians, Scottish Highlanders, English regulars, bearded Sikhs, wry Gurkhas, Malayan militiamen but they were of one mind. They had their single mind on the question of how to hold this crafty enemy.

As they crossed in a weary parade troops sandwiching trucks, refugees teetering on lorries crammed with household goods, cameramen looking warlike armed with their paraphernalia, they must have known that Singapore Island might be just as hard to defend as Malaya had been. They would have to know a contrast was presented between Arthur's troops here on Ba'aan—a relatively small area for their small numbers to defend. They had about three divisions to guard more than 60 miles of the island's circumference against about six Japanese divisions. They knew, from bitter acquaintance, the preponderance of the Japanese Air Force, and that Singapore Island had only four good fields. They knew how tightly packed are the buildings and docks of the Naval Base right across the Straits from Johore, and therefore what squinting ducks of a target they would make. They knew that the island's things would have to be slaked from two secondary rain-catchment reservoirs—the kind blasted at Hong Kong.

And they knew that the impending invaders, having made landings all the way down the Malayan coast, would try to land on the fringes of Singapore Island.

But as they crossed the Causeway that night they did not know that help had already reached them, that a convoy of troops and planes and guns, miraculously shielded by a sudden storm from 60 attacking Japanese planes, had safely made port at Singapore.

The motley column on the Causeway dwindled off. Finally, with a touch of ceremony such as only the British could devise in such circumstances, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, who had been the first Britons to meet the Japanese up Thailand way, marched across the last to leave Malaya.

They marched to the defiant sky of an Argyll bannock.

As soon as the last Scot was across, mines which snipers had placed under the Causeway were touched off. Great chunks of the narrow strip jumped into the night sky. Its 510-foot deck and its rolling lift bridge were blown up.

This done, General Percival issued a proclamation to all concerned: "Any enemy who sets foot in our fortress must be dealt with immediately...."

"For nearly two months our troops have fought an enemy on the mainland who had heavy advantages of great air superiority and considerable freedom of movement by sea. Our task has been to impose losses on the enemy and to gain time to enable the forces of the Allies to be concentrated for their struggle in the Far East."

"Today we stand besieged...."

Neither of these outstanding speeches are likely to receive the newspaper attention they would have had if attention results and news were not filling the front pages. But to those who have access to a copy of Hansard I would certainly commend the reading of these two notable contributions. Mr. Johnston, New Democracy, representative of Bow River, Alta., followed in different vein by attacking the plebiscite and the government in harsher phrases than any of his predecessors in the socialistic groups.

At tonight's sitting, as I have said, all was different and the speaker with the exception of Mrs. Castleman (and I was glad to have been here when at least one of the two lady members spoke) had a hard time to hold the attention of any listeners in either House or galleries. When Mr. King entered the Chamber after the election of his candidate, and the defeat of Mr. Meighen had been conceded, he received a great ovation from his supporters and the pounding of desks was long continued. My mind

went back twenty odd years to the time when Mr. King, himself, seated in his own constituency, won, by a close decision in the Chamber itself, his first notable victory over Mr. Meighen. At that time he was barred from showing his pleasure and elation inside the bar of the House. But not so now. Mr. Meighen swallowed a bitter pill then and he has had to take another dose of bad medicine tonight. It must surely be realized now that his remarkable brain was not designed for the leadership of a popular assembly; and the group who engineered his recall in advancing years from that Chamber in which his outstanding talents might have been devoted to high public service for still many days, in order to enter an arena for which he had not displayed much aptitude in youth, must surely regret their untimely and imprudent action.

Mr. Percy Black of Cumberland, N. S. was the only Conservative speaker of the day. He was against holding a plebiscite, ready to represent his constituency in cooperating with the government and all parties in an all out war effort. The people of his country have great pride in that son of theirs, Mr. Ralston, and want him to work in the Churchill way. He strongly urged that more of the industrial extension be directed to the Maritime, and stressed also the necessity for a new car ferry for Prince Edward Island. But it was unfortunate that he was up at the most disturbed

(Continued on page 5, Col. 2)

The Perfect VALENTINE Gift. She will be thrilled with one of these BRIDAL WREATH RINGS. Choose the ageless beauty of a flawless diamond to reflect the sincerity of your romance... Here, at a modest cost, you can get diamonds guaranteed perfect in coloring, cutting, brilliance and flawless quality. Come in tomorrow!

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OTTAWA LETTER. By Robert L. Cotton. (Special to the Guardian).

ATTENTION Swine Breeders. NOW is the time to guard against PIG WORM. MAC'S PIG WORM TONIC POWDER. It will thoroughly abolish all traces of worms, and improve the health of your stock. 35c and 70c a package.

MAC'S CONDITION POWDERS FOR HORSES AND CATTLE. Tones up the system, cures all skin troubles, and gives glossy coat of hair. For swollen legs, purifying the blood and as an Eradicator of worms it is an unfailing remedy. Price 50c a package.

MAC'S HEAVE AND COUGH REMEDY. Relieves Coughs, Colds, Heaves and all infectious diseases of horses. It can be easily administered by mixing with the food, and leaves no bad after-effects. Price 50c.

THE TWO MACS. 149 Great George Street. Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE. A Thought A Day For A People A War.

The Poet's Corner. HEAVEN-HAVEN. I have, in my possession, letters from both these boys asking why they are not allowed to continue to save whatever amount they wish. The first soldier can get around the regulation by assigning his pay to another card. Apparently all he can do is apply it on his insurance. In the second case however, the young man concerned is not so happily situated. Apparently all he can do under the present regulations is under and spend.

BACKACHE OFTEN WARNING. Backache may be the first sign of kidney trouble. When your back aches look to your kidneys. Don't fail to heed this warning—it is too important. Take prompt action to correct Backache, or its cause. At the first sign of Backache turn confidently to Dodd's Kidney Pills—for over half a century the favorite remedy for kidney ailments.

NEW TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. A NEW issue of the Island Telephone Directory is scheduled for publication on April 1st. Listings will be closed on February 14th. Persons who intend to become Telephone Subscribers at this time, and subscribers who wish changes made in their present listings, are urged to send their requests to our nearest Business Office at once. We cannot undertake to give effect in the new issue to orders received after February 14th. Please note carefully this closing date.

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