

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1942.

Right Through The Ceiling

Through Mr. Gordon MacDonald, provincial representative of the Warime Prices and Trade Board, an authoritative ruling from the Board chairman, Mr. Donald Gordon, Ottawa, has been obtained with regard to the new provincial tobacco tax.

The why and wherefore is not given, but the ruling will satisfy all concerned as to the legality of the tax. That is a question which the Campbell Government should itself have answered in announcing to the public that the tax was to be imposed.

There is now no question on this score. The price of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes in Prince Edward Island has certainly been increased as a result of the new tax, but the Board, having apparently no jurisdiction over provincial taxes, has had to put its blind eye to the telescope.

Ottawa Too Should Economise

Analyzing the federal estimates of ordinary non-war civilian expenditures for the fiscal year 1942-43, tabled recently in the House of Commons, the Globe and Mail finds few signs of economy. The 1941-42 civilian estimates were \$433,131,000, but they were swollen by later supplementary estimates to a total of \$509,566,000.

It is true that some \$200,000,000 of expenditures such as items of \$168,500,000 for interest on the public debt and \$38,000,000 for pensions are classified as uncontrollable, but there have been substantial declines in the amounts appropriated for unemployment relief, for pensions and for agricultural subsidies.

Agricultural Review

The past year, says a Bank of Commerce news letter, witnessed some drastic readjustments in agriculture to war conditions, but the financial returns were generally more favourable than in 1940, except where crops suffered heavy damage from adverse elements, notably in sections of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The volume of farm products marketed in 1941 exceeded that of the preceding year, but only because a substantial quantity of western grain harvested in 1940 was held over until last year and because, also, of larger supplies of live stock and dairy products. Deliveries of cattle and sheep to stockyards and packers increased by about 7 per cent, in each class over 1940, while those of hogs were 15 per cent higher.

land, 34 per cent; Saskatchewan, 31 per cent, and Alberta 18 per cent. The output of cheese rose by 3 per cent, declines in Manitoba and British Columbia being more than offset by upturns in all other Provinces, notably of 21 per cent, in New Brunswick and 16 per cent, in Alberta. Production of concentrated milk and by-products increased by over 20 per cent. For the first time in history the butter make of the Prairie Provinces exceeded 100,000,000 lbs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We have entered upon the month of St. Patrick and the P. E. I. Legislature.

From now we will be looking for the ice to depart from the Straits and the snow from the streets.

Charlottetown and Summerside did themselves proud Saturday—now for the Province as a whole.

Owing to the C. N. R. having no more old steel rails to sell, the Amherst rolling mill of the Canada Car and Foundry Co., at Amherst, N. S. has had to lay off 150 employees.

Something should be done towards straightening out the numbers in Greenfield Avenue. There is a whole row of houses between Nos. 17 and 19, which makes it most awkward for callers and residents alike.

New Brunswick farmers who regularly export pulpwood are being allowed to export normal quantities to the United States despite present export control, it was stated in a recent return made in the House of Commons.

Can it possibly be the Mackenzie King Government is opposing conscription with their tongues in their cheeks? The Department of Munitions and Supply has just ordered 2,000,000 military headgear. For whom, and for when?

Owing to the shortage of rubber the factories in Kitchener, Ont., are threatened with being closed down, and in response to an appeal from the City Council and Parliamentary representatives, the Federal Government have sent an official to see how the factories could be converted for the manufacture of munitions.

That "sink of the country's taxes," the new and unnecessary C. N. R. Railway depot at Montreal has already cost \$25,436,793, and an additional \$1,900,000 is being budgeted for the current year. It looks as though Montreal is going to have a \$30,000,000 railway station, while we cannot get a vote for Car Ferry steamers or wharf improvement.

Mr. Ralph P. Bell, Director General of Aircraft Production told a Canadian Club luncheon that the total volume of aircraft orders in Canada today is substantially in excess of \$500,000,000 and every plant is booked solidly until at least December 31, 1943, and some until 1944 and even 1945. "Orders now in the hands of Canadian aircraft manufacturers total substantially in excess of 10,000 aircraft," he said.

We have a queer lot of economists at the head of affairs. While in the East they are bonusing the farmer through fertilizer grants to grow more feed, in the Prairie provinces last year they paid the farmers no less than \$23,502,356 to reduce their growth of feed. Under the wheat acreage reduction plan Manitoba payments totalled \$2,931,908 Alberta \$7,241,040, and Saskatchewan \$13,329,408, all to the end of 1941. Cost of administration of the wheat acreage reduction plan to December 31, 1941, was \$644,015.

There were 31,838 occupied farms in the Province of New Brunswick at date of the 1941 census as compared with 34,025 on the corresponding date in 1931. Of the total in 1941, 1,453 were fruit and vegetable farms. The decrease noted from figures compiled in 1931 may be partly explained by the different method used in handling "non-resident" farms which lie partly in two enumeration areas.

As an outgrowth of a public meeting held early in January for the purpose of discussing the ways and means of evacuating the civilian public in case of air or sea attack on Saint John, N. B., the Common Council, acting on the recommendation of a special committee appointed to look into the matter, have appropriated \$10,000 in support of a plan. One of the functions of the committee was to find a competent director for the drawing of a practical evacuation scheme, and a man had been located for the job.

John Wesley, English religious leader and founder of Wesleyan Methodism, born this date 1703; member of the first "Oxford Movement," known as Methodists; with his brother Charles visited Georgia and ministered to the Indians there; coming under the influence of the Moravians visited their headquarters in Saxony; in 1738 separated himself from the Church of England and established what afterwards became the Wesleyan Methodist Church, which soon held great sway in the English speaking world everywhere; his preaching zeal and power of popular appeal were enormous, and everywhere he went there were revivals in religion; after his death, and for the lack of similarly inspired successors, the Church lost considerable of the great influence with, and hold on, the masses it had in its earlier days; and in Canada its name was prohibited to be used when it entered the United Church of Canada.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We're told of a San Francisco gentleman who hates the Japs with a peculiar personal bitterness that the passage of time has not dimmed. The first blackout there found this man in the steam room of a hotel; he didn't hear the hullahallo, and when the place went black he simply concluded that the fuses had failed. He yelled for an attendant but none appeared. The place was pretty hot and he figured he'd better get to the dressing rooms. He set out, feeling his way along the walls, trying to identify the corners he turned and the steps he climbed, and bumped into a large table. "Where am I?" he gasped. "In the lobby," a voice in the dark told him. To his amazement it was a feminine voice and this caused him to do the best he could with a damp bath towel he had towed along. Just then the lights came on, and he was in the lobby all right, along with a crowd from the street which had been using it as a shelter. — New Yorker.

Canada's forests have long been associated with war, a communique from Ottawa reminds us. As far back as the early French regime her forests supplied the timbers for the building of ships—ships of war to wage the battle for the mastery of the seas. Following the British Conquest this policy was continued and when Napoleon tried to reduce Britain to submission by stopping the flow of raw materials from European countries the forests of Canada supplied the needed supplies. Great quantities of Canadian pine and oak were shipped overseas for the building of the King's ships. White pine trees standing in the Canadian forests were marked with a broad arrow in token that they were reserved for the Royal Navy. This was the beginning of the great forest export trade from Canada to Britain.

Charts and important records of the coast and geodetic survey are being put in a repository "somewhere in the Middle West" to protect them from loss or damage in possible air raids or other enemy action. A black and white copy of each of the more than 1,000 nautical and aeronautical charts will be made and made known by districts. This assurance puts it up to every community. We believe loyal old Ontario wants no handicap to stand in the way of a real drive for a successful end of the war.

If there is such a marked difference between army and factory pay, it would seem logical to place the factory workers on the same basis as the soldiers, with the same provision for increases in the scale that there is in the army. We fear it would not work, however, because industry could not meet the army scale of maintenance, pay and allowances. If in doubt, ask any employer if he would be willing to try the experiment. — Moncton Transcript.

In order to ease travel conditions in the black-out London Transport is experimenting with a paint which glows in the dark. Ultra-violet rays activate the paint, giving it a bluish glow, easily discernible in darkness. If these tests are successful it is probable that the fluorescent paint, as it is called, will be used at points on the London Transport system where ultra-violet rays can be made available. — London Times.

It appears only logical that every male of military age who enjoys the benefits of life and liberty in Canada should be expected to bear an equal share of the cost of defending these privileges. Anyone who is willing to accept everything which Canada has to give can hardly complain if he is asked to accept on an equal basis with every else the obligations necessary to Canada's defence, whether the field of duty is on the farm, in industry or in the fighting forces. The decision where each should serve should be made by the Government, and should not be dependent on the racial or religious group to which each belongs. — Toronto Telegram.

Mussolini is a vain, fat, bald-headed man of 59, who also loves to go around thumping on his bare chest in emulation of youthful virility. He, too, may well be flirting with the undertaker, but that does not prove that Italy is about to break into thirty thousand pieces. The more we refrain from indulgence in wishful thinking about how soon the Axis countries are going to fall apart, and the quicker we

In The Dark

Hon. R. B. Hanson's persistent, but futile, attempt to induce the Prime Minister to say how the results of the plebiscite will be interpreted by the Government seems to write finally to that side of the question. The Opposition Leader did his best. He asked what would be done if the vote gave the absolute majority, what the result would be if only a small majority consented to release from commitments; again, if the vote cast were light, with a small favorable majority, and if the plebiscite carried by large majorities in seven or eight Provinces and was defeated in one or two. Any of these circumstances is possible, but Mr. King remained adamant in his refusal to answer.

This paper has held consistently to the view that there should be no plebiscite, that the Government should stick to the principle of Parliamentary responsibility, generally supported by Mr. King and extenuated by the Minister, where the long history of democratic administration has never been broken by resort to this expediency. But, if the plebiscite is insisted upon, there can be no reason for keeping the people blind to his interpretation. Not one of Mr. Hanson's questions but should have been answered frankly. We are certain that if Mr. King had stated the course he would follow in each circumstance the people would take a greater interest in the vote and mark their ballots with the confidence in his intentions. Whether they agreed with him or not they would give him credit for honesty in making the explanations. There are answers, and only he can give them.

As it stands, he has said he will not make a new commitment when asking release of the original. This is only sidestepping. He made his pledge for election purposes, and every one knows. Presumably he asks freedom for war purposes; but how can any one know this unless he speaks frankly? There was no doubt what the release means. He is asked the informed to support him and could well say that at the time he was the uninformed. Now he appeals to the uninformed in behalf of the informed Ministry. It is at least absurd; it is not fulfilling the functions of a responsible government, and there is little wonder that doubts have arisen among the people as to what they should do. Looking at Mr. Hanson's questions again, it is recalled that the only other plebiscite held in Canadian history, that on prohibition, failed in effectiveness because Sir Wilfred Laurier decided the vote was not conclusive. This can happen again, but should not be allowed to happen. We don't know what Mr. King will do if the vote releases him from a pledge against compulsory service outside of Canada, but can have a clear idea of his course if it doesn't release him. The duty of the Canadian people who want their country to go full out for victory is to remove the alleged impediment and then tell Mr. King to act.

The thought that the Government can be punished by ignoring the plebiscite, by refusing to vote at all, should not be entertained. The Government is in office, duly elected, and its sins are on its own head. The vote is to be viewed as a matter between the people and the war, between the people and the boys overseas whose fighting strength must be reinforced. We cannot let these boys down to spite the politicians.

It has been announced that the vote will be counted and made known by districts. This assurance puts it up to every community. We believe loyal old Ontario wants no handicap to stand in the way of a real drive for a successful end of the war. get busy tearing them apart, the better it will be for us. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

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CIVIC TAX APPEALS Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal has appointed Friday, March 13th at 9.30 A. M. in the City Court Room in the City Building as the time and place for hearing all appeals from Civic valuations and assessments. Dated February 28th, 1942. CITY CLERK, City of Charlottetown.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War "Only total victory can reward the champions of tolerance, decency, and freedom, and faith." — Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Poet's Corner

FROM AN ESSAY ON MAN Leave all meander things To low ambition, and the pride of kings. Let us (since life can little more Than just to look about us and to die) Expatriate free o'er all this scene of man; A mighty maze! but not without a plan; A wild, where weeds and flowers promiscuous shoot; Or garden, tempting with forbidden fruit. Together let us beat this ample field; Try what the open, what the covert yield; Of all who blindly creep, or sightless soar; Eye nature's walks, shoot icily as it flies. And catch the manners living as they rise; Laugh where we must, be candid where we can; But vindicate the way of God to man. — Alexander Pope.

WHEN KILLING JUSTIFIED

OXFORD, England. — (C P) — "The Sixth Commandment—Thou Shalt Not Kill"—Doesn't mean you must not kill your enemies in war, the Archbishop of York said in answer to a question of university political clubs. Killing becomes justifiable when it is the only way of staying off tyranny, he said.

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