THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1945

Conference Prospects

Because the January, 1941, Rowell-Sirois conference broke up with nothing accomplished after a few days of provincial rights bickering, some observers are forecasting the same fate for the Reconstruction Conference, with Ontario and Quebec being cast in the obstructionist roles. But here, according to *The Financial Post*, are some cogent reasons for thinking otherwise:

The delegates will be able to speak the same statistical language. At the 1941 conference, provincial accounts had only been brought into similar form by means of estimates made especially for the Rowell Commission. Since then, intergovernmental statistical committees have achieved a considerable standardization of the provincial accounts. Accurate and official comparisons between provinces will be possible for the first time. There has been a crystallization of provincial as well as Federal opinion on the essentiality of high employment and income. Purpose of the 1941 conference was to achieve some constitutional housecleaning at a time when war news overwhelmed the domestic scene. The 1945 conference, called in the name of reconstruction, with the last enemy nation tottering, is tackling the most important issue of the day.

It is clear that Canada's ten governments have been functioning since 1942 on a basis that is very similar to some of the key Sirois proposals. Personal and corporation income taxes have been centralized and unemployment responsibility has been transferred to Ottawa. It has been possible to transfer the cost of provincial debt to the Federal treasury. Yet no province has suffered financially, and most provinces have added to social service and other expenditures during the period of the tax transfer.

Unlike the 1941 meeting, this conference is not regarded as purely an Ottawa show. But the greatest guarantee of success is the fact that unlike the 1941 conference it holds the spotlight of public interest. High income and employment are overwhelmingly the key political questions for the man in the street. This conference is not being billed as one about "Dominion-Provincial Relations." It is about jobs and pay envelopes, and as such no politician can afford to take the blame for its failure.

War Memorials

Conflicting views on the nature of a war memorial to honor the heroes of World War II are outlined by Janet R. Keith in the August issue of *Canadian Business*. As representative of one side of the argument, Miss Keith quotes from the official organ of the Canadian Legion, that "the supreme sacrifice paid by our boys on the battlefield should not be used as an excuse for obtaining civic facilities and amenities which for the most part should in any case be available in all civilized, forward-thinking communities." As spokesman for the other side, the writer selects Major Ian Eisenhardt, National Director of Physical Fitness, who says, "I believe that I speak for many people when I say that the best memorials will be those that will allow for the growing up of a physically fit, mentally alert, and spiritually disciplined coming generation." To further advance her argument for living memorials, she enters the results of a recent Gallup Poll on the question, conducted among Canadians, which showed that "90 per cent of those questioned said they favored memorials in the form of playing grounds, clubs, hospitals, and schools, while only 10 per cent wanted monuments." Living memorials are favored by a majority of 91 per cent in Britain and 96 per cent in Australia, she continues.

The article outlines the various types of monuments and offers examples of what has already been done in cities and communities throughout the country.

'Lame Duck' Ministers

Prime Minister King has announced the resignation from the Cabinet of Hon. D. L. MacLaren of Saint John, Minister of National Revenue since last March, who was defeated in the Dominion election in Saint John-Albert on June 11. But Mr. MacLaren's relinquishment of his portfolio will not become effective till October 31st, and he is to receive the post of Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick on the following day, November 1. His frustrated incursion into the political arena, says the *Sydney Post-Record*, is therefore not devoid of dividends. Previously a Conservative, Mr. MacLaren apparently considered that opportunity was on the flood for his quick transfer of political allegiance, but it was obviously not exactly the kind of opportunity he envisioned when the new light broke upon him. He has never had a seat in Parliament or in any Legislature.

"The cases of Revenue Minister MacLaren and Defence Minister McNaughton are so grossly out of line with the long accepted practice under representative government that they may without exaggeration be said to constitute a grave constitutional scandal," the *Post-Record* adds. "It is of the essence of the British pattern of responsible government that a Minister of the Crown must occupy a seat in one of the Houses of Parliament, in the end that he may on any and all occasions be ready to give an account of his stewardship from his place in the House to the people's chosen representatives. The only relaxation of this rule which has ever been recognized by constitutional authority is that a newly-appointed Minister, or one who has met a temporary electoral reverse, may continue to hold office for a period long enough to enable him to procure a Parliamentary seat without any unnecessary or unreasonable delay. In practice this period of grace has been a matter of days or of weeks,—just time enough to cover the procedure of the issue of the necessary election writ, the choice of a constituency, nomination proceedings, and the holding of a poll if there should be a contest for the seat. And while it is true that these necessary steps to get a seatless Minister returned have on rare occasions covered periods of one, two, or even three months, it is a clear breach of the spirit of the constitution of this or any self-governing British Dominion for a Cabinet Minister to function in office and preside over an important Department of the Government for the better part of a year without having a seat in the House."

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

The great event of the week at Ottawa, the Dominion-Provincial Conference, opens today.

* * * *

For the whole of 1944, we had 2,325 births, 926 deaths, and 645 marriages in this province.

* * * *

All is practically in readiness for the big Old Home Week, to which so many look forward from one year's end to another.

* * * *

The boys are coming home again rapidly, and it will not be long before the bulk of them, save and except those Pacific-bound, are once more in our midst. It behooves every one to do their utmost to make the homecoming enjoyable and if at all possible permanent.

* * * *

The tuberculosis death rate in Saskatchewan last year was the lowest of any of the provinces of Canada, figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveal. Saskatchewan's death rate was 25.3 per 100,000 population, as compared with 48 for the entire Dominion.

* * * *

It must have come as a shock to many to learn of the tragic death of Mr. X. O. Gallant, for long secretary of the Mont Carmel Exhibition. In connection with its catalogue and prize list he made periodic visits to business men, and did a very great deal in the popularizing of his exhibition which is now one of the finest in the province.

* * * *

It is needless to say that nearly every nook-and-cranny where one may sleep and eat has been secured for this and next week by former residents and newcomers to our shores. What a wealth there is in the development of this Island as a tourist and health resort, if only some wise man or men would devote time and energy to its development, providing suitable hotel and other accommodation for our visitors.

* * * *

Mr. Ian MacKenzie, who is not our favourite Minister (says *The Printed Word*), discovering on a visit to the troops that they are divided in opinion over the "points", and the "unit" methods of choosing men for demobilization, publicly announced that he was going to have this all changed as soon as he got home After all, in a country in which any Ambassador, any civil servant, any officer of the Bank of Canada, or the C. N. R., may publicly announce Government policy, there seems to be no reason why a Cabinet Minister cannot do this. It is an extraordinary development of our system of Government, and one which is not promising for the future.

* * * *

A dream came true this date 1734; a nephew of Lady Clerk of Penicuick, Scotland, was invited to a fishing party on the Firth of Forth for which he intended setting out at 6 A.M.; during the night, Lady Clerk screamed out, "The boat is sinking, save oh, save them"; her husband woke her, and asked if she was thinking of the fishing party, to which she replied, she had not once thought of it; going to sleep again she soon was heard to shout—"the boat is going down"; roused and pacified she returned to slumber only sometime later to cry out in agony—"they are gone, the boat is sunk"; on the strength of this dream she induced her nephew to send an apology for not joining the party; and sure enough his companions, going out were caught in a sudden storm, and perished.

* * * *

Professor Robert Rae, Bachelor of Agriculture, Agriculture Attache on the staff of His Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America and Agricultural Adviser to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Canada, will shortly be returning to the United Kingdom. He will be succeeded by Mr. A. N. Duckham, O.B.E., M.A. Mr. Duckham has been serving as Director of the Supply Plans Division of the Ministry of Food, having joined that department at the beginning of the war. Among his earlier appointments were those of Secretary and Manager to the Northern Ireland Pig Marketing Board and Research Officer at the Bacon Developments Board. He has travelled extensively in Europe and North America, on economics of animal husbandry. He acted as adviser to the United Kingdom Delegation to the Hot Springs Food and Agriculture Conference in 1943 and was a member of the Food and Nutrition Committee Interim Commission set up by that Conferenc, and also Chairman in the United Kingdom of the 1943 Food Consumption Level Enquiries Committee of the Com-

Notes By The Way

It is discovered that a school book in use in New York state describes the Japs as "friendly, beauty-loving, alert, clean and intelligent people"—one of the longest typographical errors on record. —Chicago News.

It has been disclosed that the idea of those oil pipe lines across the English Channel and far into the continent was first advanced by Lord Mountbatten, who was rated as No. 1 playboy of London. —St. Catharine Standard.

Residents of a town in Surrey, England, petition to have a street carnival removed, saying that it is harder on the nerves than flying bombs were in the war. A couple of midway spielers, a crooning bearded lady, an old toothless lion and a mechanical hurdy-gurdy can create a lot of bedlam when they really put their hearts into it.—Hamilton Spectator.

Our habitual drunkards in Win-nipeg are still gathered up from the gutters by the police department and hauled off to jail. On the morrow they face the magistrate on drunk-and-disorderly charges and if they cannot pay small fines are sent back to the cells for seven days. All this has been the accepted order of things since the first drunk was pulled out of the mud of Main street several generations ago. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Lumber is about as valuable a crop as any land can prduce. Growing trees should be given just as much care as field crops. Where conservation methods have been neglected there will be much work to get forest areas cleaned up so that trees will again have a chance to grow. Every owner of a wood lot has a potential source of wealth and the amount of money he gets from it depends upon the care he gives it.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

A number of people fear there will be a peacetime crime wave when the servicemen are discharged because of the training they have had in the arts of killing. This is one of the most stupid and senseless assumptions that could be made and an unwarranted reflection on the mass of servicemen. There are, of course, evil elements in the services, and they would have been just as evil had they remained in civilian life, but to believe that the soldiers will come back with an urge to kill their fellow-citizens, to commit robberies with violence, is to reveal a sad ignorance of the quality and spirit of the men who have been fighting for us. — Vancouver Province.

As was earlier feared, evidence of countless "unrecorded" Nazi executions is now being revealed. The list of hitherto missing Norwegians is being slowly reduced as one body after the other is removed from Nazi execution pits. How many Norwegians are lying in unmarked mass graves will not be known for some time, as new evidence of Nazi "justice" is being uncovered every day. Early in June the bodies of five men and three women were unearthed at Grini concentration camp near Oslo, all killed by a bullet through the neck. Investigation had established the date of the murders as shortly after the unsuccessful attempt on Hitler's life last summer. — From News From Norway.

The selling price of houses has become a topic of wide-spread comment, and it would not be difficult to cite instances in which modern property has been sold at more than double its pre-war price. The ready observation that profiteering is rampant does not logically apply, as many of the houses on the market are privately owned and the owner has to face the fact that if he is buying another house he will probably need all he can get for the one he is leaving. The only remedy lies in the rapid erection of new houses to lessen competition. To fix an arbitrary price limit, as the Council of the Law Society states after investigating the subject, might operate very harshly in many cases, and methods of evasion would be on a scale that would bring into disrepute any legislation on the subject. — Edinburgh Scotsman.

William Thomas Lawson has been awarded a Reuben Wells Lawson scholarship of the value of $250 by the University of Toronto because he came first in the first year of the honor course in social and philosophical studies, the University of Toronto Bulletin reports. Mr. Lawson, who is 34 years of age, returned from active service and enrolled in University College at the beginning of the session 1944-45. He had been away from school for some years but, in spite of that fact, he proved to be one of the best students in the course. President Sidney Smith points out that this is another example of the fact that veterans are likely to make better students than others, not only on account of their maturity but also because they know exactly what they propose to do and work very definitely toward their objective.

Business good-will is a precious asset which is not always recognized as it should be in commercial circles. There is, however, at least one British firm which by a sportsmanlike gesture should be assured of a market for its products in Argentina. We do not know its identity, but the action which has earned it, and British exporters in general, a tribute in that country is recorded in the great Buenos Aires paper 'La Prensa. The story goes back to the days when the U-boat campaign was at its height. A firm of Argentine merchants at that time placed an order for certain goods, which were duly shipped and lost by enemy action. Another consignment was sent forward, and it also went to the bottom. Two years later the importing firm received an advice that a third consignment was on the way to Buenos Aires. It reached its destination safely, and the importers found to their surprise that they were invoiced at precisely the same figure as originally quoted. The facts came under the notice of La Prensa, which published a leading article extolling the proud tradition of British trade, and, as another local commentator says, serving as a reminder of the value of living up to the high example set by those merchants of old who were responsible for the introduction into Argentina of the phrase "palabra de ingles" as a symbol of fair dealing.—British Syren and

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

THE FUNDY TIDES

Sir,—To the railway men who fought the disastrous effects of the great "Soft Spot" on the Tantramar Marsh near Sackville, N.B. over which the Canadian Army from overseas is now being safely and quickly transported, has come the realization of the immense value to the development of Canada has been the Confederation tie—our old Intercolonial Railway opened in 1872 when its trains ran from Halifax to Riviere-du-Loup—thence to Montreal over the G.T.R.

It has had many enemies who would rob it of a life-giving volume of freight and passenger traffic but as a part of the Canadian National Railways it has proved its value to our national life.

Now it is revealed, especially in the past five years, on the Tantramar that our railway between Moncton and Truro is in deadly danger from the effects direct and indirect of old Fundy's tides. The dykes, "reared by the hands of the farmers with labors incessant" are going out and seawalls built by railway engineers along the right of way do not prevent the vibration of heavy passing trains from churning the water into the blue mud sub-soil which underlies all our marsh lands and will sustain great weight if drainage and dykes aboideau and piling keep the water a reasonable distance from the track.

Old timers who have watched this twice daily struggle of the tides to regain their ancient possessions, urge that a start could be made by building an aboideau across the mouth of the Tantramar river. There are untutored men on this Isthmus who could with a two foot rule and a lead pencil supervise the erection of such an aboideau on the old French model which would do the job. The engineering problem is a proven one.

A few miles of super dyke from the east bank of the Tantramar to tide head and the River Herbert could be crossed with another aboideau. These two aboideaus would keep the Fundy tides from our old Intercolonial and the Tormentine branch from the foot of Dorchester Hill to the foot of the rise into Springhill Junction a distance of 35 miles and stop forever the upkeep of probably 100 miles of dyke by already overworked farmers in Cumberland and Westmorland counties.

In this district and below high tide level the new Canadian broadcasting short wave station has been erected at a cost of over $2,000,000. The Amherst-Sackville highway, main highway between Saint John and Halifax, is also under high tide level and protected by the farmers' dykes for six of their ten miles.

The Great Southern Pacific Railway after moving their main line several times in the Imperial Valley of California did exactly as I am suggesting here and impounded the waters of the Colorado river within their natural bounds and saved a vast acreage of rich soil to the California soil workers.

There are among our Canadian Army engineers men who have tackled and successfully completed greater jobs of similar nature in France, Holland and Belgium and there are thousands of returned men who are used to army hardships who would enjoy the rough life of the aboideau builder. There is an unemployed gentleman in Halifax, whom our Prime Minister once employed to build and equip our Canadian navy, to whom the direction of such a job as this would merely be mental relaxation and there is another Maritimer in Ottawa who could tack an extra million on to his next bond sale to finance this job without a twinge of conscience. So gentlemen when will the mud begin to fly?

I am, Sir, etc.,
A. W. BULNER,
Aulac, N.B.

The Poets' Corner

VISION

Seaman, upon the prow of victory
Scanning the water through the
dropping gale,
Which is the land you think at last
to see?
Whom do you hail?

Soldier upon the conquering battlefield,
You, airman, that on wings of
vengeance sail,
What is the vision to your eyes revealed?
Whom do you hail?

"We see an England green amid
the wrack,
Cities and hills, and farms alone
the vale.
And those who only in our hearts
come back,
Those do we hail."

—I. A. W. in The London Times.

SEPTEMBER MEETING FOR HEALTH LEAGUE

TORONTO — The 26th annual meeting of the Health League of Canada will be held at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto next September 26, 27 and 28, it has been announced by Dr. Gordon Bates, General Director of the League.

The gathering will be sponsored jointly bythe national organization and the Toronto Branch.

Disease prevention again will be the League's annual meeting theme, with separate gatherings scheduled to discuss immunization, industrial health, nutrition, pasteurization and venereal diseases.

A feature will be a luncheon for women, while an effort is being made to obtain a speaker of international repute to address a public mass meeting.

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PROCLAMATION BY His Honour Lieut. Governor J.A. Bernard Regarding BRIGHTEN UP WEEK IN THE PROVINCE

In honor of our returned heroes and as a welcome to our summer visitors I do hereby Proclaim and set aside the week of August 6th to August 11th a

BRIGHTEN UP WEEK IN THE PROVINCE

Attention to Homes and Schools with Paint and Whitening, a General Cleaning up Process, AND THE FLYING OF FLAGS will add Beauty of Appearance and Value to Prince Edward Island and will make our Province more attractive to ALL RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES as well as to those who seek Recreation and Rest among us.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Government House, Charlottetown,

this Twentieth Day of July 1945.

J. A. BERNARD,
Lieutenant Governor
of Prince Edward Island.

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