

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1945

Soil Preservation

In United Empire Magazine, Sir Albert Howard, C.I.E., Fellow of the Imperial College of Science, deals with the manner in which Nature restores the productivity of the soil—the only one source of food. He describes as well how those who work the land short-sightedly or through ignorance are transferring the soil's "capital" to their pockets. In other words, they are not restoring its fertility and in consequence in many countries the value of land formerly cultivable is being destroyed. In the United States, for example, in less than a century nearly three-fifths of its "agricultural capital" has been lost as the result of soil erosion. Now, the seriousness of the situation having been realized, practical measures are being taken to repair the damage at a cost which only such a rich country could afford.

But soil erosion is not the only factor that is tending to convert the green carpet into infertile waste-land. The growing use of chemical fertilizers, the writer and other scientists prove only too convincingly, are similarly destructive in their efforts. Immediately, they stimulate growth, but in that they are drawing upon the soil's fertility and putting nothing back, the chemical fertilizers are hastening the exhaustion of the soil. And not only that; it is found that vegetables raised by such means lack flavour and nutritive value. The following is quoted from Empire Magazine of the experience of New Zealand where, in order to create pasture lands for sheep chemical fertilizers were used:

"The more far-seeing of the population have for some time been disturbed by the growing signs of malnutrition and the increases of the number of patients in hospitals and asylums. Admissions into public hospitals have shown a gradual increase up to 120 per cent. Mental cases have gone up by 100 per cent. The increase of illness among young children is alarming; every year before the school age is reached some 80 per cent are found to be physically defective in some way or another; of every 100 children who enter the New Zealand schools, 15 show signs of needing medical attention, 15 need observation, many show signs of nose and throat trouble and at least two-thirds have dental caries."

"How can we put matters right," the writer asks. And he replies, "In a very simple way: by converting all available vegetable, animal, and human wastes into humus and so restoring the fertility of our soils. At the same time we must give up the use of artificial manures, which only put off the evil day of reckoning for a brief period and ultimately make matters worse."

Prince Edward Island also has its problems of soil erosion and impoverishment, which were dealt with in a brief prepared more than a year ago by the provincial committee of the Canadian Conservation Commission. "The soils of the Province," the brief stated, "are becoming impoverished. The water supply is diminishing, and in some instances is being polluted. Forest cover has decreased, soil erosion is widespread and wild life has practically vanished. These conditions will not correct themselves, and unless checked will become progressively worse."

The brief deplored the fact that "little in the way of remedial measures is being attempted. The problem is so vast as to be beyond the successful solution of unaided private effort. There is an acute need for a carefully considered plan of conservation and land rehabilitation based on existing knowledge and on a province-wide scale."

"The improvement of this greatest natural asset of the Province," the committee reported, "does not lie in increased application of chemical fertilizer, although for a time that might help. Faulty farming practices plus depletion of natural water supply have contributed very largely to this reduced fertility and any suggestions concerning improvement must be based on that premise." Water stabilization through increased forest cover was recommended as of first and foremost importance in this connection.

Nothing has since been heard of the report of the Conservation Committee, which consisted of Dr. J. A. Clark, chairman, Messrs. J. O. Byndman, W. R. Shaw, B. F. Tinney, D. C. Schurman, R. R. Hurst, Fred Cannon, Leo M. Cassery, F. G. Ward, G. B. Whiteside, G. C. Warren and D. J. Bonnell.

Britain In Sea-Air Service

"Jane's Fighting Ships" of 1944 gives British aircraft-carrier strength at seven plus forty escort carriers—the type of craft which has been generally found more practical in actual combat being less than half tonnage but, with more than half the plane capacity and used with great effect in the Atlantic, Arctic, and the Mediterranean. "Jane" mentions only those ships which have come into the news. It is made to presume there are many more. The British indeed have always been fore-

most in the technique of sea and air warfare; the first flight ever made from a ship at sea was in 1911, from the British battleship "Hibernia," and the first torpedo dropped from seaplanes was by a British pilot in 1913; the first landing of aircraft on a ship at sea was in 1917—made by a British pilot; the first air service to sink a warship by dive-bombing was the "Bergin" in 1940, the first to defeat an air attack on a fleet by fighter defence. British naval aircraft have shown remarkable development from the "Swordfish" bi-planes responsible for the famous Taranto attack to the "Baracuda", outstanding for its fast rate of climb; from the Sopwith "Pup", the first sea-aircraft ever to shoot down an enemy plane, to the very latest "Fairy Firefly" the most formidable naval fighter aircraft in the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Week of Prayer meetings are attracting greater attendances every evening.

DDT has added another of man's insect foes to its list of conquests. This time it's the potato leaf-hopper, serious pest in many potato-growing areas. Treated plants are found to be taller, broader, darker green in color, and leaflets were flatter. No foliage injury was observed.

Early in 1943 a unit, the nucleus of which was formed of Halifax aircraft, was formed for the purpose of dropping supplies to Europe's resistance movements. From May 1943 up to November 1944 this squadron had made 2,670 sorties, of which 1,688 have been successful, they have dropped 5,664 tons of supplies and 705 men.

Like the man who was served with doubtful food, and first "tried it out on the dog," the Federal Government announce they are going to try out if re-elected, their Family Allowances policy on the people of this Province. The beneficiaries under the act will have not the least objection, and will look forward with keenest anticipation to a worthwhile Dominion Day celebration on July 1.

It is extraordinary—or is it?—that the Island delegation to Ottawa should not have included any of our Federal members, or at least been introduced by one of them. Such a thing seldom or ever happened before, and indicates a rift is not well within the ranks of the Liberals. It does seem odd we should elect Federal representatives and then have to send, what the Liberal organ describes as a "Mission to Ottawa" to do their work.

Sir John Moore, British General, entered Corunna, this date 1809; was an officer in the American War, served in the West Indies, Ireland and Holland, Egypt; Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and won fame for his conducting of the Spanish resistance to France; took part in the march of the Light Brigade, and defeated the French at Corunna where he was killed; his passing was made famous by the poem of Rev. Charles Wolfe: Not a drum was heard not a funeral note . . . He lay like a warrior taking his rest, with his martial cloak around him.

Addressing 2,000 teen-age students in London on "Education in World Citizenship", Dr. Barbara Simons whose first husband was shot down over France in 1943 and whose second was killed at Arrhen in Holland, urged the students to "examine your history" to see why wars occurred. "In finding these answers you will discover why, before the war, they burned oranges in California and threw herring back to the sea while children were deformed by rickets." She did not expand this statement. She concluded with words her second husband had written his three-year-old stepson: "Never make peace and loyalty an excuse for war. Make peace an opportunity for courage and loyalty."

Mr. L. W. Brockington is linked up with the proposed new Odeon Theatre at Charlottetown. The Winnipeg Tribune quoted an announcement by Boxoffice, film trade publication, that L. W. Brockington, K.C., had been appointed personal representative in Canada of J. Arthur Rank, well known figure in the British film industry. The Tribune added: "The magazine reports that in Mr. Brockington, Mr. Rank has a representative who is definitely associated with the inner circle of government deliberations in Ottawa. It sees the appointment as suggesting a close understanding between Federal authorities and the active heads of the government in Great Britain on the promotion of British films and the extension of distribution and exhibition of British films in the Dominion." Mr. Brockington's appointment adds importance to a deal which Mr. Rank recently made with Odeon Theatres of Canada for distribution through their theatres in the Dominion.

A Canadian bomber crew's adventure while flying to India, told by Gerry Wilnot to BBC overseas listeners, must have seemed like one of the stories from the Arabian Nights. While crossing the Arabian Desert the bomber was forced to come down. On landing, the crew met some friendly Arabs who guided them to the palace of their Sheik. There bodyguards escorted them along a pathway of thick red rugs to meet the Arab Chief. They soon found themselves sitting on fluffy pillows and being served with fruit and coffee. Later the Sheik invited them to stay for the night, but they decided to return to their aircraft, and slept under the wing, guarded by the Sheik's men. They were soon awakened, however, when the moon rose, and invited to a feast which included a breakfast they found that on the Sheik's orders a labour gang was to pull the bomber out of the sand to an improvised air-strip. Seven hours later the plane was ready for flight and they took off again for India.

Notes By The Way Socialist Strategy To Save King

People take advantage of the fellow who has a heart of gold, which is why he has so little of it in his pocket.—Guelph Mercury. There are estimated to be one hundred thousand farmers in the men are expected to return to their family farms, but many of them, it is believed, will want to establish themselves on their own farms.—Hamilton Spectator. The composite opinion of world leaders is that victory may be nearer than we think and farther away than we suppose. The watchword then, is to keep cool, and put everything in the punch but don't press.—Winnipeg Tribune. A potato grower in the Alliston district is reported to have had 40 per cent of his crop lowered in grade because of bruises caused by the digging machinery being operated so rapidly a speed. As the old proverb says, "It is better to make haste slowly."—Barrie Examiner. Any one who wants to act like a member of parliament says a writer, will put his hands to his head and shake it hard. Parliamentary heading will be commended if it comes under the general directions. "Shake well before using."—Windsor Star. The Allies cannot be insensitive to the sufferings of Norway and in the world it is difficult to see how at this juncture in the war of aid and supplies, men, material and supplies, the Norwegian must resign themselves, however unwillingly, to the present state of affairs.—Montreal Gazette. We don't hold with the professional optimists who are assuring us that everything will be all right after the war. One of the reasons we don't is that we've been told of a group of 100,000 rehabilitation centres that have been asked what courses they would like to take to fit them for civilian life. Out of a group of 100,000, 6 said they wanted to be radio announcers.—Colliers.

Victory votes to the value of \$60,000 were stolen during the election, no doubt the thieves would not doubt the government acted to protect people from their own folly, in which carelessness and a prominent politician was a prominent place. Everyone knows that a prominent politician is a prominent politician, but the habit of continuing.—Toronto Globe and Mail. At Washington early in December one of the select restorers of the great dome of the United States Capitol, the architect of the reconstruction, took part in a competition with his rival growers from Texas and Florida. He demonstrated a reform which would change to be squires, says the New York Times. The state governors referred the contest. They give the world their best, but they are not trained in orderliness. In due time it will cease to be a matter of time and become safe for anybody.

People whose sole concern appears to be the situation of the situation would do well to consider what they are doing. "Idiotologists" and "intellectuals" who know far more about war than the general staffs themselves. They are high command war. They are attempting to force the issue with a "second front" in the minds of the public. They don't know what they are talking about today.—Halifax Herald. Canada's Ambassador-designate to the United States is the sort of fellow who works coastless, with his feet tucked above the elbows, concentrating, and hangs from a strap on his way to the office. Almost every one has a "Mike." That goes for President Roosevelt and Anthony Eden, the top ranks, and the bottom ranks. No one calls this informal, direct and unceremonious diplomat by his legal first name, which is Lester. Because "Mike" stems from a better.—Baltimore Sun. Pride is handsome, economical; pride eradicates itself, but itself, that it seems as if it were a great gain to exchange it for pride. Pride can go without a great gain without fine clothes, can live in a potato, pursue a career, can eat with poor men, or sit silent well contented in a mansion. It costs money, labor, honor, women, health and peace, yet leading nowhere. Only one way leading nowhere, a long drawback; proud people are intolerably selfish, and the vain are gentle and giving.—Ralph Waldo Emerson, in "The Conduct of Life."

Every day there are purchasers of stock not worth the paper it is printed on. To do it, a lot of them are cashing in their post-war savings—their Victory Bonds and War Savings Certificates. When eventually they find out they have been taken to the cleaners by a glib racketeer, they are likely to complain to authorities, but it is too late then to do much about it. There is only one sensible thing to do about it, and the time to do that is when the rings and the such-and-such stockbrokers, speaking from Toronto. The sensible thing to do about it is to tell the So-and-so to go fly a kite. That is the gist of a warning just issued by the New Brunswick Utilities Board, which knows from complaints it has received how many persons are being victimized by a statement from the "booster" in this province, there are reliable brokers to whom the investors can turn for sound advice, and the banks are always ready and willing to assist anyone to invest in good securities. That's a warning to the men in Italy have had quite a tough time and certainly they

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Attention WAR VETERANS

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British Subs Bank 165 Jap Ships in '44

By ALLAN NICKLESON LONDON, Jan. 2.—(CP Cable)—British submarines sank at least 165 Japanese ships, including a cruiser and a destroyer, during 1944, a compilation from navy records by The Canadian Press showed tonight. The figure, roughly, is also the total of British submarine successes since Japan entered the war on Dec. 7, 1941, since there was little Royal Navy underwater activity against the Japanese before last year. British losses in the period were not available. Of the 165-Jap total, only 10 were merchantmen, ranging from large freighters suitable for troop transport to small coastal vessels carrying supplies to the spread-out Japanese forces. Many other Japanese ships, including a 7,000-ton aircraft carrier, are believed to have been sunk through British submarine action but unless there is absolutely no doubt, they are probably Navy lists them only as "probables." The total cannot be compared with United States submarine successes in the Pacific and Far Eastern waters generally, just as destruction of enemy craft by United States Naval units in the Mediterranean would be infinitesimal compared with the Royal Navy.

Some idea of how the troops themselves feel about this is found in a recent edition of The Canadian Press News, that excellent newspaper put out overseas for Canadian troops in all overseas theatres. Doug How, C.P. correspondent with the Canadian Corps on the Adriatic Front, was asked to do a story on what the troops thought of spending another Winter in Italy. Wrote How: "It is one of the more unfortunate and stifling characteristics of the newspaper business that it precludes the use of printed profanity and without profanity of richness and breadth any attempt to fulfill this request must be destined to failure." Doug How recalls how all last Summer the men whispered about being out of the trenches before another Winter of mud and more mud, of patrols through greasy, cold, treacherous fields, of heavy fighting and nervous waiting. But Summer left and Fall came and now Christmas has been and gone and the men are still there, and "feel it in their bones" they will be there for some time yet. "It is wretchedly true to say," How writes, "that the Canadians in Italy are resigned to tolerate another Winter in Italy. Maybe some beneficent fate, maybe some military stroke here or elsewhere will banish the men, but the soldiers figure, the chances are they will stay in Italy, then it's got to be." "Resigned to tolerate." The thoughts of these men should be kept in our minds when we in Canada complain about the boredom of another Winter of war—the crowded street cars and restaurants, no silk stockings and not enough butter. Let's remember the Canadian Corps in Italy.

THE OLD BEAU How cracked and poor his laughter rings! How dullest his eye once flashing! But still a courtly pathos rings About his bent and withered form. Tonight where mirth and music dwells, His wrinkled cheek, his locks of snow Gleam near the grandsons of the belles. He smiled on forty years ago! We watch him here, and half believe Our gaze may witness, while he prelates, Death, like a footman, touch his waist, And tell him that the carriage waits. —Edgar Poe.

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