THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1943

Post War Railway Plans

An extensive plan of post-war reconstruction has been submitted by the Canadian National Railways to the Reconstruction Committee of the House of Commons. The plan outlines projects calling for estimated expenditures of 640 million dollars and calculated to provide 95 million man-days of employment.

Mr. R. C. Vaughan, president of the C. N. R., and Mr. S. W. Fairweather, vice-president, both emphasize that this program is tentative and that the company was requested to give the Government information of the employment that could be provided should it be necessary to launch useful works when the war ends. The planned undertaking is therefore contingent upon Canada's position after hostilities cease and the extent to which employment may be required.

Mr. Fairweather particularly stresses that the Canadian National is in no sense advocating the expenditure of capital on the scale indicated. Its policy has been for many years to enter upon only such improvements as were clearly shown to be remunerative or unavoidable. This post-war program goes much beyond that scope inasmuch as many of the proposed projects could not be considered as self-liquidating. But all of them are presented as being practical. The self-liquidating propects would call for an expenditure of 200 million dollars, giving close to 31 million man-days of employment. The company would not be able to bear the full cost of works in the other groups, and the country at large would also benefit from them, such as the construction of subways which would eliminate grade crossings, whereas these would add little to the net earnings of the company.

The C.N.R. has accumulated a reserve of 19 million dollars against deferred maintenance, a project it desires to proceed with as soon as the labour and materials are available. This is urgent to restore the system to its normal service condition. Mr. Fairweather views the post-war era with optimism and sees no reason why a business slump should immediately follow the peace. A period of hesitation may be likely, but this should be short-lived as a result of the expansion of industry and the coincident demand for both producer and consumer goods. He sees a need for considerable new railway mileage to tap the wealth of natural resources in such areas as the Peace River and the Mackenzie River basins, Northern British Columbia, Northern Quebec, Northern Ontario and regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

There is no direct mention of the Maritimes in the brief, which deals with general principles of post-war employment rather than with specific projects.

Maine's Potato Troubles

The Aroostook County Farm Bureau's executive committee has reported that it had requested the Federal Food Distribution to announce immediately its plans for price support of potatoes next fall and declared that a critical situation rapidly was developing in the potato industry. Maine, the committee said, had planted a tremendous acreage of potatoes at the urging of the Federal Government and expected the largest crop ever harvested next fall.

Advance steps must be taken at once, it added, to insure sufficient storage, and develop a starch and purchase programme which will give price protection. The committee reported that storage already was a critical problem.

Applications for materials to build potato houses, which had been approved by the Arrostook County War Board, were clearing the W.P.B. in Washington so slowly as to constitute a dangerous bottleneck, it was said. Unless immediate steps were taken to remedy the situation, the group asserted, potato growers without storage might be forced to sacrifice part of their crop at prices below the floor established by Federal authorities.

The Story of Life Insurance

At the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, renewal of the life insurance institutional campaign for another year was unanimously approved. This statement may not mean much to the layman, but behind it is a truly remarkable achievement. For twenty-three years this Association has carried on nation-wide institutional advertising. The advertising has been designed simply to tell the public about the life business. Wider understanding of the principles of life insurance, what it does for the individual, what it does for society, as a whole, has shown marked progress during the period of this work. And in the same time, life insurance in force in Canada has increased from less than $2.2 billions to almost $8 billions at the end of 1942.

Last year's advertising stressed the co-operative and democratic nature of life insurance; showed how life insurance ownership helped in Canada's wartime financial problems. Since the war began, life insurance policy-holders through their companies have invested $600 millions in war loans and each working day $500,000 is paid to dependents of Canadians in the fighting forces at home and abroad.

The recent unanimous vote to continue institutional advertising to familiarize the people of Canada with such facts as these is evidence that results continue to be abundantly satisfactory.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The summer visitors are flocking to our shores; may they be blest with our most favourable weather.

* * * *

Why it is that Prime Minister King has no "pull" in London, and has to get the President of the United States to intercede for him? Is it not largely because he has always looked to Washington instead of London, and now is considered part and parcel of the President's regime?

* * * *

It was not all soldiering for the Canadians during the first days on the island of Sicily. Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower went ashore to the beach where they had landed to find crowds of soldiers taking a well-earned swim after working for hours on the dusty beaches.

* * * *

The province of Prince Edward Island has an area of 2,184 square miles, and Sicily is four and one-half times as large. The Italian island is almost one-half the size of Nova Scotia and more than one-third the size of New Brunswick.

* * * *

"England will not now fall," said Mr. S. P. B. Mais in a BBC broadcast, "though in order to preserve decency, order and a free life for the world of tomorrow many, many of us, and of you, will still have to lay down our lives, and are well content at the prospect of that sacrifice... We think however not in terms of death, beyond cultivating that essential 'Readiness is all" attitude which Hamlet found so commendable. We are ready, and that is all that matters. We can dismiss death. We think only in terms of getting on with it. Our minds are steeped with this one idea, to win, to win quickly if possible, but at any rate to win, if it takes a lifetime, to win outright and completely."

* * * *

A statement on the new Alaska highway given to the House by Prime Minister King seems to leave little doubt that all Canadian rights are being amply protected. Mr. King quoted from an exchange of notes between the two governments, and in these notes it is provided that the part of the Alaska highway passing through Canadian territory is to become "in all respects an integral part of the Canadian highway system, subject to the understanding that there shall at no time be imposed any discriminatory conditions in relation to the use of the road as between Canadian and United States civilian traffic." This seems fair enough.

* * * *

Last Sunday, notes the Ottawa Journal, people were talking about "the news from Sicily on the radio." The news they were hearing on the radio was mainly the news sent by Ross Munro to the newspapers, and which the newspapers turned over to the radio—including the big American chains. Ross Munro is in Sicily as the correspondent of The Canadian Press, the co-operative news gathering agency of Canadian daily newspapers. That news agency, with the British United Press and other newspaper organizations, is the main source of authentic war news—with newspapers, as Prime Minister King told the House of Commons on Monday, the best source of information on day-to-day military operations.

* * * *

Rev. Dr. Isaac Watts, English evangelical poet, born this date 1674; was an Independent minister in London; famed for his hymns, metrical versions of the Psalms, and poetical exhortations to the young; best known hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past":

Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight
For 'tis their nature to...!
How doth the busy little bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower...
I would not change my native land
For rich Peru with all her gold...
Were I so tall to reach the pole,
Or grasp the ocean in my span,
I must be measured by my soul,
The mind's the standard of the man.

* * * *

The first important principle in democratic representative government is that the administration speaks with one voice. No latitude is permissible for individual expression of opinions on vital subjects—whatever a member says on these binds the government. Should a member differ from his colleagues, he either voluntarily resigns or is asked for his resignation. Mr. Mackenzie King is introducing a new practice, which started with the Hon. Mr. Cardin differing from his chief on the census; he was allowed to remain in office until public opinion compelled his retirement. Next we have Mr. Claxton, the Prime Minister's own assistant, laying down a policy on foreign affairs, which his chief has seen fit to repudiate—though still retaining the offender in office. Most recently we had the Prime Minister severely trouncing a back bench French Liberal for occasioning political controversy over the flag and national anthem at a time when all attention and concern should be occupied with war development. Immediately after this, his colleague, the Minister of Justice Hon. Mr. St. Laurent, caused a great sensation in the House by expressing similar views to those of the back-bencher, without a word of protest from the Prime Minister. We are living in strange times and under a Prime Minister who blows hot and cold almost in the same breath.

Notes By The Way

A searcher of the heavens says that the Big Dipper, by its position, indicates the kind of weather that is coming. By that token the Dipper's lid must have been pointed eartnward of late.—Moncton Times.

Author Sonia Lee says "a vital and persuasive voice is woman's most valuable stock-in-trade—her secret weapon." Oh, come now, Sonia—weapon perhaps, but what's secret about it.—Ottawa Citizen.

And still the wonder grows as to why it is so easy to steal and resell gasoline rationing books. In present circumstances these should be the most carefully guarded of a motorist's possessions.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

A Netherlander in Weymouth, England told the story of a beautiful new tulip grown in the Netherlands which struck the fancy of a Nazi general. A box was sent to him. Inside was a note saying the new tulip had been named—Spitfire.

Orator says women must not shrink from unglamorous war jobs. Those who for long have cheerfully washed clothes and scrubbed floors don't need any special advice on the subject from men.—(Toronto Evening Telegram).

When one contemplates the madness of men and nations in starting wars and carrying them on, one does not wonder at the words of George Bernard Shaw: "The longer I live, the more thoroughly I am convinced that the other planets use our planet as their lunatic asylum" —Our Dumb Animals.

General Smuts often gives lifts to soldiers. One such journey had a very amusing ending. The General was in mufti at the time. He had picked up two British officers on the Pretoria Road and when they got out of the car one of them said to the driver: "Who's that nice old bloke inside?" Leaning out of the window, the Prime Minister chipped in: "Sorry I didn't introduce myself —my name's Smuts"

In the non-receipt of parcels sent from Canada to the boys overseas, it is more than patent that the Post Office Department should be given a clean bill of health. The statement of the Postmaster General is reassuring. In 1942, out of over 21 million parcels sent, 61,889 has been lost through enemy action. Complainants not receiving tobacco and cigarette parcels numbered 3,581 and of that number, the Post Offie gave a satisfactory account of 3,547. —St. Catharines Standard.

In the past, nations have demanded outlets to the sea, says The Christian Science Monitor. They have seen in these the only means of keeping their trade lanes open. Their national economy and indeed their very existence has for centuries depended in a large degree upon the shipping that came and went through their seaports. But tomorrow seaports will count less. Before the present war, air transportation gave promise of some day becoming a vital factor in commerce. When the war ends, that day will have come

Drs. D. Lazzlo and C. Leuchtenberger (Mount Sinai Hospital, New York) announce in Science that inositol, a B vitamin, stops the growth of tumors in mice. The inositol was injected intravenously. Administration subcutaneously or orally was ineffective. That the tumors were really checked was shown by comparing their sizes and weights in treated and untreated animals in an experimental period of forty-eight hours. Sodium Phytate and lipositol produced effects similar to those of inositol. All this ought to interest research chemists who are studying the cancer problem.

It is not often in these days of many traveling art dealers that a prize is picked up by one of them without a struggle, but one such appeared the other day at Christie's, and the discoverer was rewarded by selling for 2,800 pounds what he had bought for 20 pounds. The painting was one of three which were sold as one lot at a sale in a South Coast house. The buyer took it to Christie's, where it appeared catalogued as "A Gentleman on a Grey Hunter Trotting in a Landscape," by Ben Marshall. Marshall's prices have soared in the last 20 years, but 2,800 pounds is pretty high in the best times and remarkably high for today.—(Manchester Guardian).

What a spectacle it is—a captive Nazi general in tears because his tanks are scattered, his guns lost and hardly one grenadier is left for him! These are not the tears of contrition, nor even of weakness, but tears of villainy. It was all hearty good fun when French children bled to death in roadside ditches, when Polish Jews toppled over into graves dug with their own last strength, when Greeks dropped of starvation in the streets of Athens, when Czechs and Dutch Belgians and Norwegians were tricked and betrayed and degraded. Now it is heartbreaking. These are tears that flow from profound astonishment at the discovery that there are two sides to the game. The butcher weeps as the knife slips in his hand and its point grows red with his own blood.—New York Sun.

The disclosure that the oil fields of Canada's northwest are being developed as a war measure is additional evidence of the great national resources which as yet have been scarcely touched. While this war and its demands for oil have brought about the operations of this vast supply near the Arctic Circle, its benefits will be in evidence long after the conflict ends. The drilling of numerous wells and building of more than 1,000 miles of pipe-line is evidence of the extent of the deposits. When the wells and their accompanying refineries are in full operation, the products will be of great help to the allied nations. The oil project is said to rival the Alaska highway in scope and importance. Its operation will pour oil into the war machines of the United Nations, while industry in the Dominion will be benefitted as well. The people of Canada will hear with satisfaction of the establishment of this new industry and will be encouraged to give more attention to other natural resources which are now lying dormant, but which might be used in the carrying on of the war and eventually establish a worthwhile peace.—(St. John Telegraph-Journal).

Front Line Generals

"Action at last for Canada's invasion army finds seven Canadian generals in command of its two corps and five divisions. The Corps Commanders include Lt.-Gen. H. D. G. Crerar.

By Douglas Amaron
Canadian Press Staff Writer

A quietspoken man but no armchair strategist or die-in-bed general, Lt. Gen. H. D. G. Crerar has been aching for action for almost four years.

When the first Canadians disembarked in Britain in 1939, he was brigadier in command of Canadian Military Headquarters at London. He knew that new Canadian divisions would be plowing the ocean to Britain during 1940 and he wanted the command of a brigade in the field.

He waited two years for a field command—in the meantime spending a year as Chief of the General Staff at Ottawa—and relaxed only when he became a divisional commander in 1941. A few months later he was commanding a corps as lieutenant-general, a rank from which he had reverted to major-general to get overseas in a hurry. Now he figures it a cinch he'll see action.

Since his appointment as corps commander, he has been guiding the forces under his command through the toughest training grind any Canadians have experienced.

There has been one purpose in this hard work—to train the troops so that when they meet the enemy face to face they will not be too seriously hindered by their lack of battle experience.

"Every man is eager to be on the offensive and encouraged to be thinking of attack," Gen. Crerar said at the height of this training. "Here, we regard the European coast as the front line—the Channel as No Man's Land."

You feel, from talking with Gen. Crerar and reading his order to the troops, that he places a premium on intelligence, alertness and condition. He works on the theory that no officer or N. C. O. not capable of taking over from the man directly above him is qualified for his present rank.

"Lack of battle experience means we must train all the harder," he explained. "Having lacked practice against the enemy we have to be super in everything we do."

The general, a medium-sized man with a serious expression but a friendly disposition, is as tireless as he asks his troops to be. He is a popular commander right through the ranks.

One of the "old regulars," he was not always a professional soldier. Born in Hamilton, April 28, 1888, he graduated from the Royal Military College in 1909 and chose to be a civilian engineer with the Ontario Hydro Commission. However, he joined the Canadian non-permanent artillery.

In 1914 he started in the First Great War as a captain in the 11th Battery, C. F. A. At the armistice in 1918 he was a lieutenant-colonel with the D. S. O. and M. C. By coincidence his path touched that of Lt. Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, whom he succeeded as Canadian counter-battery staff officer in 1918.

He joined the permanent force in 1920 and in the succeeding years filled a variety of army appointments, including that of colonel commanding at R. M. C. He came to Britain a month after war began as senior combatant officer at C. M. H. Q. and arranged for the arrival of the 1st Canadian Division.

Unwarranted

(Halifax Chronicle)

When the Minister of Justice made the astounding statement that he would try to arrange with the censors to suppress reports of public speeches like that of Miss Agnes Macphail, who attacked the judiciary, a storm of popular protest arose Nobody in their right sense took Miss Macphail seriously anyway, and Mr. St. Laurent's retort, by its very implications, has done infinitely more harm than Miss Macphail's silly remarks.

Now from Vancouver comes an even more serious report. The censors—it is asserted—are meddling in women's political activities.

An individual who was Canadian censor in European languages from 1939 to 1942 has asserted—according to The Sun—that a special memorandum was issued to the censors on May 1, 1942, as follows: "All letters observed in the mails containing information regarding women's political activities in all parts of the world and women's activities in connection with post-war reconstruction should be specially submitted to this office and the file reference C11292 38 quoted."

If there is any truth in this assertion then it constitutes the most monstrous abuse of the function of censorship yet to be dragged into the light of day. What business has the censorship got to pry into the private political views of women, or for that matter, of anyone? If there is even the semblance of truth in this report those responsible for authorizing such snooping, prying practice should be given their just desserts and kicked out of the public service of Canada without the slightest delay!

Public patience is willing to undergo a lot in wartime. But any action on the part of bureaucrats which suggests tampering with people's political opinions is dynamite. Extracting quotations from private correspondence and forwarding copies to government departments smacks too much of totalitarian methods to be tolerated in this country. It is time that the House of Commons, as the watchdog of the people's rights, conducted a full investigation into the uses and abuses of censorship in Canada.

The "War Of Resistance"

(Christian Science Monitor)

It was on July 7, six years ago, that Japan started in China a war whose end is not yet in sight. The Chinese named that war their "war of resistance." The resistance was against aggression. Therefore the purpose of China's war was, a few years later, to become the purpose of a world war. Nothing better illustrates the need to check evil in its first stages than the history of the half-dozen years since China began her brave fight for life.

There is evidence today that Japan's attack on China was the beginning of a war in which not merely Chinese interest was consciously threatened by Japan, but in which the position of the United States and Great Britain were under deliberate attack. Painful indeed are memories of speeches in democratic countries which outlined the possibility of regarding Japan as the new middleman in the Far East. The young nationalist China stood as a growing barrier to Japanese designs for Asiatic domination. To remove it was the first necessity in a plan which envisaged the destruction of American and British power and treaty rights in the Far East.

That the Chinese were early in their resognition of the character of the war then developing is illustrated in the message which General Chiang Kai-Shek addressed to his nation only a few days before its outbreak.

While there is the slightest hope for peace, we will not abandon it . . . But authough a weak nation, if unfortunately we should have reached the last limit, then there is only one thing to do—that is to throw the last ounce of energy of our nation into the struggle for national existence, and when that is done neither time nor circumstances will permit our stopping midway to seek peace. . . Let us all realize that once the war is begun there is no loking backward, we must fight to the bitter end.

As China enters the seventh year of war against aggression the entire free world is ranged by her side, determined to fight to "the bitter end." "Unconditional surrender" by the aggressor nations is perhaps more than the great Chinese leader looked for when he delivered his epoch-making message. To clear China's soil of the invader may well have seemed enough of a task. The sacrifices of China have been great. It is fitting that the rewards should be greater than could be foreseen.

The Poet's Corner

REINCARNATION

I too remember distant golden days
When even my soul was young; I see the sand
Whirl in a blinding pillar towards the band
Of orange sky-line 'neath a turquoise blaze—
(Some burnt-out sky spread o'er a glistening land)
—And slim brown jargoning men in blue and gold,
I know it all so well, I understand
The ecstasy of worship ages-old.

Hear the first truth: The great far-seeing soul
Is ever in the humblest husk; I see
How each succeeding section takes its toll
In fading cycles of old memory.
And each new life the next life shall control
Until perfection reach eternity.

—E. Wyndham Tennant.

The Gay Life

(Manchester Guardian)

Warnings about "careless talk" and people who try to extract military information from members of the forces may recall the story of one of Marlborough's generals who was being entertained at a big banquet in the City of London.

Next to him was a talkative alderman who insisted on boring him with a succession of questions about the life of a soldier in the field. The general fenced him good-humoredly for a time, but the alderman would not be denied. "But, sir," he demanded, "surely yours must be a very laborious employment?" "Why, no sir," rejoined the general, "we fight about four hours in the morning and two or three after dinner, and then we have all the rest of the day to ourselves."

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Be IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Charlottetown as follows:

The By-law to regulate traffic in the City of Charlottetown is hereby amended by adding to Section 58 thereof the following:

'The said Committee is further empowered and authorized to set up slow signs at any street intersection and maintain the same as long as said Committee may think fit, all of which slow signs shall be clearly indicated by printed lettering so placed that it may be read by the drivers or operators of the approaching vehicles which are intended to be slowed; No vehicle confronted by such slow sign shall enter upon such intersection without having materially reduced its speed below that ordinarily allowable at an intersection, namely, 10 miles per hour, and every such vehicle shall delay entering upon such intersection, even to the extent of completely stopping, until such entry can safely be effected without interfering with traffic on or nearly approaching the intersection or with foot traffic thereat; provided always that vehicles entering such intersection from approaches not confronting them with a slow sign (or with a 'stop sign) shall not hereby, or by Sections 56 or 57 of this By-law or by any sign placed under Section 56 be relieved from the requirements of this By-law limiting speed at intersections.

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