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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1946

The Wily Ribbentrop

In pursuing the conspiracy of Ribbentrop in the Nazi wars of aggression, which, he said, was proved to the hilt, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, Britain's prosecuting counsel, according to The Times, produced a number of new documents showing notably the defendant's efforts to bring Japan into the conflict. Most interesting of these is a series of intercepted diplomatic messages from the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, Oshima, to Tokyo concerning an interview with Ribbentrop on November 28, 1941. Ribbentrop insisted that Japan should not lose a golden opportunity of effecting the new order in Asia. If she hesitated at that time all the military might of Britain and the United States would be concentrated against her. He urged Japan to a decision to fight Britain and the United States, but when Oshima asked if a state of war would then exist between Germany and America Ribbentrop replied evasively that President Roosevelt was a fanatic, and it was impossible to say what would happen. The United States, he said, would undoubtedly try to avoid war.

The Ambassador inquired about the future war against Russia, and Ribbentrop replied that it was now Hitler's intention to crush the Soviet Union to an even greater extent than he had planned at first. He was now bent on completely wiping out Britain's influence in the Near East, Africa, Gibraltar, and the Mediterranean. The Ambassador asked whether it was Germany's intention to conclude the war without attempting a campaign against Britain herself. "Germany has, of course, made all necessary preparations," answered Ribbentrop. "However she is in receipt of information which would seem to indicate that all is not well within England. For example, we hear that there is a split within the ranks of the Conservatives, that Churchill's influence is on the wane, and that Bevin, the chief of the Labour Party, is advocating revolutionary measures."

Of course, said Ribbentrop, he was not one implicitly to believe all this, but it might be that Germany's other campaigns might cause Britain to fall without the necessity for landing operations. They had absolutely no intention of entering into a peace with Britain and were determined to remove all British influence from Europe. The "Island Empire" of Britain might remain, but her possessions throughout the world would probably be divided in three ways, by Germany, the United States, and Japan. Oshima, however, was evidently not completely satisfied. Events ran their dark course, and by April 19, 1943, he had Ribbentrop in another talk with Oshima holding out another favourable opportunity to Japan, this time of attacking Russia if she had sufficient anti-tank weapons at her disposal.

Work For Parliament

Parliament has been called for March 18, and not before time. It has been on enforced vacation since Dec. 18. It may be that the Government needs time to prepare its legislative program, but this is no reason why the new session should not be under way. As the Globe and Mail points out, the last session ended with much business unfinished, and, in any event, Parliament is always slow in settling down to the real work at hand. The preliminaries could, at least, be disposed of while the Government is putting the finishing touches to its legislation. Since the beginning of the year five Ministers have been abroad on mission of great importance. Their reports to Parliament should not be held back, particularly that of Agriculture Minister Gardiner, who went to London for discussions with the British Ministry of Food. Britain's critical food situation has been forcibly brought to world attention since Mr. Gardiner completed his mission, and it can be taken for granted that he was fully informed on all its aspects. Parliament and the country should be told how Canada proposes to help meet the crisis, and emergency steps may be required to overhaul our 1946 agricultural production program, as plotted at the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference last December. Producers should be informed of any change in requirements at once. Instead, Parliament will only be assembling a few weeks before the start of the planting season. Parliament and the people should be informed of the accomplishments of Trade Minister MacKinnon. While he also was concerned with the supplying of food to Britain, his mission covered the whole field of trade. Mr. MacKinnon went to London to open up new trade channels. Parliament not to mention Canadian business, will be interested in knowing to what extent he succeeded. The nation's reconversion program needs scrutiny by Parliament. It has bogged down at points, though some of this admittedly, is attributable to conditions in the United States,

and over which our Government has no control. Unemployment is increasing. The housing situation remains acute.

These are problems with which the Government can deal through Orders-in-Council, but the Government is required by law to bring all orders before Parliament without delay. During the dying days of the last session the Opposition succeeded in having written into the National Emergency Transitional Powers Bill a clause putting an end to government by secret Orders-in-Council. All old and new, must be examined by Parliament, and until Government legislation is ready Parliament's time could be well spent in examining those and about many of which it was kept in complete ignorance throughout the war.

The Canadian Army Occupation Force at the moment faces an uncertain future. There is a matter with which Parliament is very much concerned. It should have a hand in deciding whether this army is to be withdrawn, or whether Canada will continue to contribute to maintenance of order in Europe. Peacetime establishments of the navy and army have been announced, and it was our understanding that they would be reviewed by a committee of the House of Commons. Here also is work which could be proceeded with at once.

Members of Parliament are not to be blamed. Their idleness is not of their own making. Impatient as they may be to be at work, they can only sit and wait until the Government beckons.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Civic election tomorrow—be sure to vote for one or other of the candidates.

Now we are to be in for a period of Provincial Government economy, just at the time expansion should be the order of the day.

National advertising, largely in daily newspapers, has cut the cost of a can of soup 60 per cent since 1900!

An appeal to help the starving children of Europe will be found in this issue from the Save the Children Fund. Here is an opportunity for all citizens in town and country to help in the most vital problem in the world's history.

The Soviet's last Five Years' programme was a huge success, notwithstanding that at first it was laughed at by the knowing ones in other countries. With the present administration aggressively progressive, the new Five-Year plan will also succeed. It is the stick-at-it-iveness that counts. Wonder if we could have a five years' plan here to include the Brighton Bridge project, a second Car Ferry at Borden, and an additional one at Wood Islands?

The predominantly conservative and capitalist British House of Lords have passed the Labour Government's Government Control Bank Act. It is a way they have in the old country. Innovations are at first strictly opposed, then tolerated, and ultimately approved. Lord Catto, Governor of the Bank of England, addressing the Institute of Transport in London, referring to the nationalization of the bank, humorously said that the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" had come through "her major operation in fine shape."

Activities at Montreal City Hall point to a renewal of interest in a project for the city to purchase the Place Viger Hotel in order to renovate it and make it into a City Hall annex. As long ago as 1941, Executive Chairman J. O. Asselin looked into the possibility of purchasing the big structure from the Canadian Pacific Railway and only the war prevented the matter from coming to a head at that time. It is believed. The building is convenient to the City Hall and to the present City Hall Annex, and would provide space for many departments that are crowded in their present location.

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, born this date 1809; born at Hodgenville, Kentucky on his father's farm, he had little scholastic education, employed as a boy on a river flat boat, till he entered a store at New Salem, where he started studying in his spare time with a view to entering law; volunteered as a soldier against the Black Hawk Indians, and subsequently entered politics in which he had a remarkably successful career till he retired in 1832; in 1834 he re-entered as an opponent of slavery, making his greatest speech on the subject in New York in 1860, when he was elected President. Simple and unaffected in manner: tolerant and honourable in character, he was the stuff of which heroes are made. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught unveiled a statue to his memory in Canning Square, Westminster, London, on July 28, 1920.

Why not a Farmers' Day? According to the London (Ont.) Free Press James Jackson, a Prairie Scot, suggested to the convention of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that they should establish "Farmers' Day." He proposed June 21, not merely that coming at a slack season of the year farmers would have some leisure to enjoy it, but on the sunny Scottish ground that being the longest day in the year, farmers would get their money's worth. He quelled the ripple of mirth by remarking that he was quite serious. It would add, he declared, to the dignity of the farmer if there should be established a national Farmers' Day. For many years we have had Labor Day. Annual industrial outings, picnics and various forms of gatherings have a traditional place in our way of life. We have "health" days and "welfare" days, and so on. Why not a Farmers' Day? The Canadian farmer has played an essential role in feeding Britain, Canada and some of our Allies during the war and is even now busy at this vital chore. He is entitled to a national Farmers' Day, and if June 21 should be selected on the ground that it is the longest day, why, more power to the man behind the plow. Long may he celebrate his national day.

Notes By The Way

Radar gives every promise of solving the problems of Hudson Bay shipping. Radar-equipped ships should be able to work their way longer each year. It remains to be seen just how much longer. But an extension of the season will benefit our western farmers. By lengthening the season, insurance rates for radar-equipped ships should be lowered substantially, so cutting shipping costs.—Regina Leader-Post.

There seems to be a general impression that many of the war brides who came to Canada to their husbands now are wanting to return. If figures are reliable only a small minority are yearning to go home. Perhaps 9,000 over here about thirty have applied for permission to return. Not less than the average of disappointed brides in any country, who would go home, if they could.—Brandon Sun.

The baby bonus in reverse is an amusing feature—the innumerable apparently self-satisfied citizens who are taking the monthly large sum—so-called, but who find they pay it back in taxes. And, they probably Apoc. too, and are distinguished with such people, most of whom are descendants of early immigrants. One who was asked for no privilege from government except the right to take off their own shirt, rolled up their sleeves.—The Printed Word.

Canada is planning a permanent navy. Marine units will be necessary in routine, and as they are mounted to unnecessary discipline and class distinction, if it is to be a good navy, it is to be the best of our youth. One of these changes could very well be a dry dock for the navy, but it is not always allowed taxpayers are conscious of too many parties aboard ships. Authorities at Ottawa, paying our peace-time navy, could do worse than examine well the drinking question.—Vancouver News-Herald.

An Illinois county judge, convinced that juvenile delinquency for the most part is acquired directly to parents, has inaugurated a school in his court for the parents of all delinquent boys, but before him, The Boston Post reports. The purpose of the school is to impress upon parents their duty to their children and their responsibility in the upbringing of their offspring. Attendance is compulsory. Parents are not to come voluntarily face charges, but contributing to the delinquency of the children. It's an idea that should work well.

There is a grain of comfort in later patterns of the new shirts. According to these reports, Prices Board officials state that although the production of shirts is up over peacetime levels, there just aren't enough shirts to go around. The price of shirts is still high. Prices Board officials have urged around the view that there is a shortage of men's shirts. For months citizens have been told to wear coats and suits and moaned that local merchants' stocks of shirts were low. The officials view matters differently, but firmly that there were plenty of shirts to go around. It is a concern that is shared. Opinion has now changed.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Great Britain has taken leading action before the United Nations to hand back nearly all of the property she has acquired during the Great War, and she, which she came into at least occupancy of during the World War. The trusteeship plan of the United Nations is a sound and valid one. It is one of the most advanced steps that the globe has taken in respect of its international relations. Under international trusteeship, they can be brought along with the help of the United Nations, eventually as self-governing bodies, when they are ready for that. In so far as the British Empire is concerned, the trusteeship plan is a clear demonstration of the fact that this Commonwealth was not a mere collection of territories, but a body that was ready to give to the world what it had to offer.—Victoria Colonist.

Occasionally, an obscure, forgotten episode provides the best example of the human spirit. The story of the process. After long search, no better approach has been found than to return to the original source, an episode to the overwhelming historic process set in motion by the discovery of the secret of the atomic fission. The death of a young man—only twenty-two, brilliant, bold, filled with the spirit of adventure, and a patriot, or to covent anything that would strike through flesh itself.—New York Herald Tribune.

Now is the time of deep winter, and is on the lips. Nature's voice is thick with frost. Deep is the snow on field and woodland. There is only a thin sound from the meadow beneath its heavy silence. In the swamp in midwinter all is hushed. The hummocks wear round caps of white fur. Whens all is quiet and mysterious in summer, with dense foliage and deep pools of black, stagnant water, now all is open to the light. The grey birches with their drooping limbs and the high-bush blueberries with their tangled branches make etchings in the bright, cold air. Visit the country on a winter day when the sun shines from a cloudless sky, checking in snow-capped stone walls are stretching on the patchwork-quilt landscape. Pines of grey smoke hang over the farmhouses up and down the valley road. In the distance village houses cluster around the white-spired church and the quietness of the day. Now in the winter is the time to listen toward spring, it is emphasized.

Those Jap Balloons

A total of 189 paper balloons and three rubberized silk balloons, all of Japanese origin, were found in the United States, Canada, Alaska, Mexico and the Pacific Ocean area during the period from Nov. 1944 to Nov. 1945. The greatest secrecy was attached to these discoveries at the time, and it is only now that information on the development and purpose of the balloons, and technical details of their construction, launching methods, bomb load and wind-borne speed, etc., have been given to the press in a statement issued jointly by United States army authorities in Washington and by Canadian army officials at Ottawa. Both countries co-operated closely when the balloons began to appear over North America. Such co-operation was continued after Jap-Day when the American occupation forces in Japan shared still more secrets of the rather fantastic "revenge" weapon.

Interrogation of high ranking Japanese army officers after the surrenders indicate that the balloons were released solely in retaliation for the bombing attacks on Japan by U. S. aircraft, and that project was initiated as a result of the Doolittle attack on April 18, 1942.

It was first intended to develop a type of balloon capable of traveling an average distance of 1,800 miles, to be released by submarines or warships off the West Coast of the United States. The balloons, however, were developed by the Japanese navy had been depleted to the point where the ships and submarines necessary to carry out an attack were no longer available, and therefore further investigations were undertaken in an effort to develop a balloon capable of traversing the wide expanse of ocean between Japan and North America. Much experimental work was done in 1942 and 1943, and the first three months of 1944, approximately 200 test balloons, loaded mainly with sand, were released.

Although the Japanese admit they knew little or nothing concerning the course and distance of the balloons, they nevertheless began large-scale mass production of paper balloons using an inflated type of paper, approximately 100 feet. On the basis of a few reports of fires and explosions occurring in unexpected areas, reconnaissance was made of the U. S. broadcasts, they believed that some success had been achieved. The production goal had been set at 100,000 balloons a month, but only 9,000 were finished, all of which were released. The first specimens of the mass production type were available in November, 1944, and the balloons were released until about November 3, 1944. The paper balloons cost originally about 10,000 yen to produce, but the war rate of exchange, but this cost was reduced somewhat as production increased.

The balloons were released from the island of Honshu. Large balloons were launched in July, 1944, and the last were launched on April 20, 1945. However, radio signals from a balloon-borne transmitter were heard on the U. S. coast on August 11, 1945, indicating that the Japanese were still studying the meteorological conditions over the Pacific Ocean. The balloons, most released, in any one month, were launched in March, 1945. Of this number, two returned to Japan on March 15 after 48 hours, but fell in snow and caused no damage. The balloons were launched in the early morning or early evening, when surface winds were low.

Launching normally required a crew of 30 men and could be done in about eight days. The balloons, having favorable weather conditions as many as 150 were released. A Japanese officer estimated that the balloons were launched at 20 to 30 per cent of failures were due to the shortcomings of the balloons. Two main types of balloons were used, one the bomb-carrying paper balloon with a diameter of 33 feet, and the other the more fully constructed and more expensive rubberized silk balloon of 100 to 150 feet in diameter. Only 300 of the rubberized silk type were constructed because of a shortage of materials. The Japanese balloons were released between June and October, 1944, carrying radio equipment and other paper balloons constructed of mulberry bark pulp paper laminated in four plies and held together by a synthetic adhesive derived from an oriental plant, required a large amount of handwork.

When release of large quantities of paper balloons began, about 10 per cent of those released were equipped with radioisotope tracking equipment. The formation on the altitude of the balloon. Radio finding stations on the island of Honshu obtained bearings on the balloons by triangulation, which by triangulation indicated the location of the balloons. They were normally tracked up to a distance of approximately 1,200 miles, which distance would often be covered in eight or 12 hours at an average wind velocity at an altitude of approximately 33,000 feet, which is believed to be the average altitude of the paper balloons, varied cyclically from 100 to 150 miles per hour, with a period of about eight days. The balloons "tracks" showed that normally in November the course was south of east in December directly east and in February to the north of east.

The Japanese claim that the balloons usually were loaded with one-third high explosive bombs and two-thirds incendiaries. However, from recoveries of balloons in the United States and Canada, such loading was not always used. In some cases, incendiaries only were carried, with the 33-pound high explosive bomb replaced by a 26-pound incendiary. A considerable number of signals transmitted by balloon-borne radio equipment were tracked by one or more radio direction finding stations in the United States and its possessions between early December, 1944, and August, 1945. It is interesting to note that over 40 per cent of the signals were detected after 20 April, 1945, the quietness of the day. Now in the winter is the time to listen toward spring, it is emphasized.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CEILING ON SILVER

Sir,—Just a few comments on the lifting of the ceiling on silver. Heretofore, the producers had to supply requirements of Canadian users at 41 cents per oz., the ceiling price, although last year the USA raised their price to 71c. Their surplus production was exportable at 71c plus premium (78c) Now, Canadian users must pay 78c per oz.

It would appear that with labor more plentiful and the 78c price applicable to an increase in production, the producers were well away under the old setup. Assuming that the price received averaged 15c per oz. and the ore showed a net profit of 16 per cent, the profit will now be three times as great. Not a bad boost.

The ceiling price on silver like that of lumber, was I think, justified on the basis of a satisfactory profit from sales to all countries. The price of silver was enjoying relatively low prices while exports brought much higher returns. The price of silver was enjoying relatively low prices while exports brought much higher returns. The price of silver was enjoying relatively low prices while exports brought much higher returns.

PREMIER JONES AND WOMEN

Sir,—Truly we are living in ever changing times if we are expected to choose a Premier Jones. I advise—to choose a wife as you would select a good animal—given recent to young farmers at the Ontario Agricultural College. Had Mr. Jones lived one hundred years ago when the pioneers were settling in the backwoods, he would have been a Premier Jones. He would have been a Premier Jones. He would have been a Premier Jones.

NEW LONDON FARMER

OUR PROVINCIAL FLOWER Sir,—Our Provincial flower should be: 1. Typical of the Island flora. 2. Familiar to all. 3. Easily pictured. Why nominate some obscure flower? The flowers of our island which seven-eighths of our inhabitants would not know or even remember the name? Or why choose a flower which is a golden rod which is synonymous with poor land and unkempt hedgerows? I hereby nominate the most extensively cultivated flower on the island, a flower whose perfume lingers in the air on sunny wind-swept days in July and August, a flower which co-operates with the farmer in the bulk of his work, the clover. The clover provides the fodder for the Island's largest industry (dairying) in other words.

Here is no shrinking violet like the New Brunswick rose; no sweet sentimentality such as the Bluebells picked, but an out-and-out man's flower with the hardiness and simple goodness of this rural Island. Clover, you date when the Japanese state that the last balloons were released. These signals, all of the same general character, furnished the Japanese information on the location of the balloons as they were being tracked by the balloons. The balloons were normally tracked up to a distance of approximately 1,200 miles, which distance would often be covered in eight or 12 hours at an average wind velocity at an altitude of approximately 33,000 feet, which is believed to be the average altitude of the paper balloons, varied cyclically from 100 to 150 miles per hour, with a period of about eight days. The balloons "tracks" showed that normally in November the course was south of east in December directly east and in February to the north of east.

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THE SONG OF THE MAD PRINCE

Who said, "Peacock Pie"? The old King to the sparrow: Who said, "Crows are ripe"? Back to the harrow: Who said, "Where sleeps she now? Where rests she now her head? Bathed in eye's loveliness? That's what I said."

Who said, "Ay mum's the word"? Sexton to wifery: Who said, "Green dusk for dreams, Moss for a pillow"? Who said, "All time's delight Hath me for marrow-bread? Life's troubled bubble broken? That's what I said."

—Walter de la Mare. holic of a farming province with three leaves representing our three counties is familiar to all. It is photogenic as some one has suggested it should be. Blooming over a long season, there is something about the simplicity and commonness of the clover in city lawn and the rural field which reminds one of the ancient badges of the Scottish clans, the heather (common heath) of the Macdonalds, the holly of the MacMillans, the pine of the MacKinnons or the furze of the Sinclair.

The final decision on a suitable floral emblem for Prince Edward Island should be left in the hands of the Department of Education who could do no better than follow the advice of the inspectors of the Department of Education with an ear to the ground for the opinion of Women's Institutes, farmer's organizations, credit unions and other bodies. We would defer to the opinion of Hon. Walter Jones as to the most suitable species of clover to wear in his buttonhole at the next Dominion-Provincial Conference. I am, Sir, etc. IN CLOVER

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