THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1946

Mr. Gardener's Alibi

Now that the Dominion-Provincial Conference has proved a failure, Agriculture Minister Gardiner announces that but for this failure he would have introduced legislation in Parliament this session to extend the provisions of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act across Canada. Strange that the Minister never hinted at this intention before. Our Island farmers have been after this extension for years, actively supported by Premier Jones, but without making any noticeable impression at Ottawa. In May, 1945, when Mr. Gardiner was in Charlottetown campaigning in the Dominion election campaign, he threw cold water on the Premier's hopes by stating that there were differences of climate, etc., which had to be considered before implementing schemes of this kind.

That was a year ago. Now the Minister announces his discovery that "problems of irrigation and drought exist all across Canada"; but alack! he can do nothing about it because the Conference with the Provinces broke up in disagreement. This must be heart-breaking to Mr. Gardiner, but no doubt he can console himself with the reflection that he has found a new alibi.

Challenge To Leadership

Both students and staff of Prince of Wales College are to be commended on the hard work achieved during the scholastic year now brought to a close. The keen interest shown in the commencement exercises yesterday was indicative of the importance attaching to such a ceremony.

One is reminded in this connection of the advice given to a recent graduating class by Premier Angus Macdonald, of Nova Scotia. It had been favorably commented upon across Canada, and it is well worth quoting with our own fresh crop of Island graduates in mind:

"The first matter that I ask you to consider," said Premier Macdonald, "is the challenge to public service and leadership that many of you will shortly hear, and hearing will, I hope, answer. The great problems of your generation will be the problems of government. There are those who show great interest in the sort of houses they live in, or in the kind of cars they drive, or in the condition of the clubs to which they belong, but who look on government as something remote and inconsequential. It is something that has to be endured, something that thrusts itself before them occasionally—for example at election times or when some unpopular measure of taxation is introduced. It is, therefore, something to be grumbled at and condemned, and the politicians who are in charge of the matter are to be looked at with disdain or even contempt.

"Let me ask such people if anything has affected their lives and the lives of all human beings more sharply, more definitely, than the war through which we have just passed. Yet the great issue of making war and the equally great issue of framing an abiding peace have to be decided by governments. And above and beyond war and peace, governments are, by the very nature and complexity of modern life, compelled to extend the scope of their activities. Hence the impact of their policies and measures is felt by every citizen in the land and often by the people of other countries as well."

Farm Labor Situation

National Employment Service officials are to be commended on their efforts now in progress to obtain as much help for Prince Edward Island farmers as possible this season. Our farmers can co-operate by at once notifying the department of their employment requirements. So far only about 150 applications from Queen's and King's Counties have been received, and approximately 100 workers have been supplied.

While it is stated that the situation in this Province shows a slight improvement over last year, such apparently is not the case in the country generally. According to the *Farmer's Advocate*, "all reports indicate that the farm labor situation in 1946 will be worse than at any time during the war. The situation is becoming progressively worse, while the absolute food shortage cries for more and more production of foodstuffs. A national crisis is looming up."

Not only is there a shortage of farm help, but unrest is created among farm workers by industrial wage increase and short working hours established by law. "More and more," says the *Advocate*, "the problems are forcing farm operations back to their own resources and to the unpaid labor of their families." It recalls the proposal made to the Government by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that a Royal Commission be appointed to survey the whole field and make recommendations in the national interests. The *Advocate* agrees that a survey made by a Royal Commission might be "the first step in harmonizing all the interests and in bringing order out of the threatened chaos."

Unfortunately, it is rather late to be thinking of making "a first step" at this juncture. Seed-time and harvest do not wait upon procrastinating administrations. The Royal Commission should have been appointed months ago, if any value was to be derived from their recommendations during the current year.

The Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture has not been negligent in bringing this matter to public attention. It passed the following resolution at its last annual meeting, and embodied it in the brief which it presented to the Legislature two months ago:

> Whereas an exceedingly serious situation exists on the farms of the Province with regard to farm labour, and
>
> Whereas the conditions for the next year are not as bright as those of any of the war years in this respect, and
>
> Whereas there seems to be a definite tendency on the part of men returning from overseas and from war industries away from the farms of the country:
>
> Be it therefore resolved that the Federal Department of Labour make a thorough survey of the farm labour situation and initiate such provisions as may be instrumental in directing labour to the farms of the country."

The Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Legislature on February 27 last had this pessimistic reference to the situation: "The scarcity of labour in agriculture continues with no relief in sight,"—a statement which at least might have called for unanimous expression of disapproval.

It is to be hoped, however, that the situation will turn out to be better than was anticipated. At least every effort should now be made to recruit as much farm help as possible, especially for the harvest season.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

John Adams, the first U. S. A. Ambassador to the Court of St. James, England, received by the King this date 1785; he was subsequently twice Vice-President, and then President of the United States.

* * * *

While the Federal Government estimates it will "save" $24,000,000 by the withdrawal of the milk subsidy to farmers, the consumers will have to make up the difference by contributing 2c a quart in increased cost. This notwithstanding, milk is still the cheapest, most nourishing food one can consume.

* * * *

While over 150 applications for farm help have been received, with fifty still on file, only six unemployed have registered as farmers. Some 190 others with pre-war farm experience, have given in their names, but for other sorts of employment. This does not look too promising for the movement for increased food production in the Province.

* * * *

The Legion is rightly keeping a watchful eye on Government and civic appointments to see that the interests of returned men are protected. Regrettably among politicians it is still true here, as Kipling wrote of the British veterans years ago:

"For it's Tommy this, and Tommy that, an' chuck him out the brute.
But it's 'Saviour of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot."

* * * *

One of the outstanding events of the week has been the Spring Carnival sponsored by the Kinsmen, which has been enjoyed by a large number of patrons. Its object is to provide means for the recreation of youngsters, and is well worthy of support. The last opportunity for visiting it will be this afternoon for the little ones, and tonight for all others.

* * * *

In Rome, do as Rome does, we are told, but evidently American Orchestral Leader Robert Lawrence had forgotten this, and came to grief, with the consequence of a clash of wills between him and Italian Tenor Giacomo Lauri Volpi, with the audience taking sides lustily, almost breaking up Lawrence Tibbett's first performance of "Rigoletto" at Rome's Royal Opera House. The clash came when Mr. Lawrence, former music critic for the *New York Herald Tribune*, refused Lauri Volpi, one-time Metropolitan opera star, an encore after the tenor had finished singing the famed fourth act aria, "La Donna e Moble." Mr. Lawrence's efforts to pick up the score immediately after the aria were frustrated three times by loud ovations from the audience.

* * * *

Mr. Kenneth Stuart, Sidcup, writes to *The Spectator*: Sir,—At the risk of being called unchristian or inhumane, I feel bound to offer the following comments on the letters you have published on the subject of "Hunger in Germany." I, too, have just come from B. A. O. R., and saw no signs of repentance or shame in Germans for what they had inflicted upon the world. The only thing they are sorry about is that they failed to win the war. For several years before 1939 they had the choice of guns or butter, and they made their choice. From 1939 onwards we were compelled to choose guns; and as a result we are woefully short of butter now. Why should we reduce our short supplies to feed unrepentant Germans? They should have thought of these things before. Major Billingham says that we have a direct responsibility to millions of Germans. What responsibility? Responsibility to feed them up so that they can start another war? We tried being kind in 1919, and 1939 with that result. Hunger and starvation are unpleasant, but they may teach the Germans that war does not pay—a thing that they do not realize at the moment. Sympathy with the Germans is a dangerous thing. According to them, Hitler was the only real Nazi; the rest never had their heart and soul in the movement. Their consciences were clear and untroubled in the years from 1938 to 1945. The fact that their stomachs are not over-troubled by food from 1945 onwards will help them to think far more than Military Government's efforts at re-education.

Notes By The Way

We have no National Library and our National Gallery is starved, but we have a half million dollars a year to spend on ephemeral broadcasts! What goes on in Ottawa anyway?— Peterborough Examiner.

Eire is haveing "trouble" again and former members of the illegal Irish Republican Army are reported near death, due to hunger strikes. And this time nobody can blame "the English!" —Brantford Expositor.

More than one-half of the fresh water area of the world lies within the boundaries of Canada. And if more than one-half of the fresh water fishermen of the world want to come here and try their luck, we'll be very happy about the whole thing. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

The British have neither the manpower nor the resources to carry their European burden alone. We stood with them in the war, for our own sake. We should stand with them in peace for all the world's sake, not least for Canada's sake. —Winnipeg Tribune.

And now a scientist tells us toothache isn't so bad— that there's a natural "pain ceiling" and nothing above the ceiling counts. Perhaps the scientist who evolved it can find comfort in that theory, and we should like to see him put to the test. —Ottawa Journal.

The wrens are here again, and judging from their chatter, they are complaining about the housing shortage, says The Port Arthur News-Chronicle The householder who puts a wren house in his back yard may be assured of musical entertainment through most of the summer, particularly in the mornings.

Statistics kept by the Old Age Pension Board show a gradual increase in the age at which this province's old age pensioners die In 1928 the average age at which male pensioners died was 77.68 in 1936 it was 78 52, and in 1944 79 51. The average age at which female pensioners died in 1928 was 78 55, in 1936 79.49 and in 1944 80 16. —Vancouver News-Herald.

The most pressing single problem before Canada today is to induce young people to leave the cities and to seek their fortune in that place where the pioneers found it, on the frontiers of this wide and rich land. It is afield and not in the towns that there arise those opportunities which can give young people their best start in a new land. —Victoria Colonist.

To a great many people, life seems to have lost its meaning and significance. The world is full of fainting and discouraged folk who have lost heart. They are carrying on with a sort of performance, but the zest and song have gone out of life, and the staleness and the want of enterprise have gripped them. If ever the world needed poise and sanity of thought and action it is now —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

Times are changing and it is hardly possible now to live idly and happily. All of us pay a stiff price for even existing. The rule that in order to possess one must earn is stronger today than ever. The world trouble calls for concerted action. There is no room for "sitters". The aid of everyone, whether natural workers or drones, is needed at this time. Will this assistance be given? On it depends the most important things of all our futures. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Rev. J. Noel Lyth, rector of an Episcopal church in England, has told his congregation: "I will neither marry nor bury you nor baptize your children unless your claim in terms of church-going is good. This is not just a piece of fancy writing. I am on strike. I hope that what I have said will offend a good many of you if, being offended you are also challenged to some serious thinking about the duties and obligations of the church people." —London Daily Express.

What a great improvement well painted barns and other farm buildings would make in the general landscape! Imagine nice red barns snuggled under spreading elm or maple trees scattered about the rolling hills, instead of the drab, weathered barns of today. A great many of our stables are now gleamingly white with their coats of [illegible] Many of the roofs have taken on color with the newer [illegible] roofing Some barn doors have been painted a nice bright red But few barns have been repainted. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

That a book called "Forever Amber" ran a close second to sales of the Bible in this country is quite a commentary on the taste of the reading public. No commercial critic called the book literature. It was not long in style It hardly stood because of the historic background or authentic culture It was described, to put it mildly, as a frank book. Again we say it is quite a commentary on the reading public's tastes that it ran second to the Bible. —Boston Post.

The 110,000 Poles who have been serving in Italy are to be demobilized in Britain where they will establish themselves rather than return to Poland That is a big increment of foreign-born for an island whose people are notably homogeneous Such an infusion may make changes in the ways and outlook of the place, just as large groups of newcomers put their imprint upon the United States. If that is to be the case Britain can look toward this country and be pleased that their big new slice of population is Polish. For Poles have given this Republic much in leadership, diligence and loyalty. —Detroit Free Press.

Having served 10 years in the Royal Air Force I find that the civilian ration is by no means sufficient. My wife would be quite willing to sacrifice part of her own [illegible] ration, particularly bacon, in order to provide me with a breakfast about four mornings each week. Indeed, she did so until I discovered her secret. Now we have a much better arrangement. My wife and child can have the bacon ration. For myself I travel each day to a neighboring large town for business reasons and by leaving early I am able to enjoy a good breakfast in the station diningroom. The expense was a problem, but now I find that by leaving early I can get a workman's ticket and save sufficient in this way to get my breakfast for 1 shilling, 1 1-2 pence. As I also have the midday meal out we manage quite nicely on our rations. But it is high time the Minister of Food put a stop to my flagrant evading of his food regulations.— H. F. in London Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MR. DOUGLAS REPLIES TO MR. HEMMING

Sir,—Mr. Hemming's letter, in your issue of the 28th instant, with *reference to my very humble* radio address, pays me a great compliment, and I *confess that I feel* highly honoured to think that with my few years in Parliament, in the Ilsley atmosphere, I should have absorbed enough of that veritable wizard's ideas as to arouse the suspicion of such a critic as Mr. Hemming, whose experience in political affairs dates back to at least the regrettable defeat of Reciprocity in 1911.

I am, Sir, etc.
J. L. DOUGLAS.

Ottawa, Ontario,
May 30, 1946.

"WHAT OF THE NIGHT?"

Sir,—The cry, "What of the Night," was one which in the past was heard at frequent intervals during hours of darkness. It was the call of the officer of the guard upon the wall to the lonely watcher upon the high tower. It was the duty of the watchman upon the tower to maintain alert and ceaseless vigilance. Relief from vigil came only with daylight.

Walls, and the guard, and the watchman upon the tower, were a defence and protection to those within the city when absence of light made the enemy not readily discernible. Daylight brought vision and discernment, which meant resistance and defence.

What walls were to towns and cities in the olden time, laws are today. Laws are the defence of those who need protection Clarity of understanding of the purpose to be served by law and of the danger against which its protection is to be given is as necessary today as the relief given by daylight in the past to the vigil of the lonely watcher above the wall. Darkness, and half-light, are the opportunity of the enemy in both cases. Eternal vigilance and a clear vision of the danger to be avoided is as necessary today to the maintenance of law as it formerly was to the effectiveness of the defence of a wall. Laws can be violated just as walls can be scaled. Insidious violations and the consequent injury to those who should be protected ought to receive unremitting and close scrutiny if the guardianship and protection of law is to be effective.

There are some who say that in a Christian state laws are unnecessary. Others assert that laws themselves induce a desire for their own violation and should therefore be repealed. Both statements contain fallacies. They show confusion of thought and absence of that clarity which should mark the children of light.

If Christianity were based upon such principles as 'laissez-faire', (let them alone; let them do whatever they like), or 'sauve qui peut', (look after yourself, never mind what happens to others), there might be some basis for such contentions. But these are not the precepts of Christianity. Christianity is based upon quite opposite principles. Christianity is dynamical. The Christian Golden Rule is not the negative rule, 'Do not to others what you would not wish done to you,' which was given by Confucius and other philosophers in an anti-Christian era. The positive rule, "Do to others what you would wish done to you" takes the Christian out of and beyond the region of mere justice to others, since we wish more than we can claim, or than the average man, not a Christian, is willing to do. The precept of the Golden Rule means that the Christian shall do spontaneously fo; others all that a spirit of magnanimity and generosity may prompt. Welfare of others is the concern of the Christian. The divine law of love, 'love thy neighbour as thyself' requires that a Christian protect his neighbour and be concerned for his well-being. As applied to a neighbour who needs protection, the Golden Rule involves the enactment of laws which will accomplish this purpose. It also calls for vigilance in seeing that they are duly administered. The fulfilment of this duty by a disciple who bears the name Christian is evidence of the spirit of the Master whose name he bears.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W.E BENTLEY

HASTINGS, England —(C P)— Six-year-old Freddie Anderson was saved from drowning here after he fell over the sea wall on his scooter when Daniel Evans hooked his clothes with a fishing rod and line and kept him afloat until help came.

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Here in this corner stands the apple tree
Grown old and gnarled; still will it bloom again,
For every branch is decked with pink-tipped buds,
Waiting the soft caress of quickening rain.

Sometimes in May after a shower, there comes
A perfect night, when all things are in tune,
And slowly in the velvet dark appears
The gleaming circle of a mellow moon.

Across the sward, the silver moonlight spreads
Until it rests upon the sleeping tree,
And then the ancient magic works again—
The wonderful and lovely mystery.

A tremor moves along the slendor boughs,
As every bud unfolds its petals sweet,
Until each tiny twig and graceful branch
Blooms like a picture, perfect and complete.

And in the morning, when the sun's first ray
Proclaims again the coming of the dawn,
There, like a shining beacon, stands the tree,
And beauty smiles across the dew-kissed lawn.

—E. H. Warr, in The Toronto Daily Star.

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Beginning on Thursday, May 30th, MacAdam's Bus will leave Morell at 8 o'clock, via the pavement to Gunn's Corner, Point Des Roches, Blooming Point, Tracadie, Mill Cove, Grand Tracadie, Covehead, and York Road to Charlottetown. Trips daily except Wednesday and Sunday until further notice. Leaving Charlottetown at 4:30 for return trip. All times standard.

ATTENTION

This bus will leave Morell Mondays and Fridays at 7 A.M. for Bangor, Milburn to Church Road, before proceeding to Charlottetown.

To The Citizens of Charlottetown:—

In keeping with other Municipalities, I hereby proclaim Sunday, June 2nd, as Shut-Ins Day.

On this day we who enjoy good health are asked to visit those less fortunate than we, who through sickness have been set aside from their daily toil.

B. EARLE MacDONALD,
Mayor.

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