

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink." TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1939

His Majesty's Message

His Majesty King George's address to the Empire on Christmas Day was a model of what such addresses should be, both in length and subject matter. It dealt of necessity with the Empire's war effort and the reason why, with clear consciences, the people of the British Commonwealth could celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace and at the same time renew their determination to fight Nazi aggression to the bitter finish.

The Air Agreement

It may be taken for granted, says the Montreal Gazette, that whatever delay took place in the negotiations leading to the conclusion of last week's agreement for the development of a huge air-training enterprise in Canada was due to a realization of the tremendous cost involved. It is all the more gratifying, therefore, to learn that the Canadian Government has gone into this undertaking in no niggardly spirit but is assuming something more than fifty per cent of the estimated cost of the project for the three years which the agreement covers.

The British Way

One of the greatest war jobs in England, notes the Ottawa Journal, is being done by the British Parliament. Refusing to play politics, breaking all party ties, it is a constant prod to the Government, compelling vigor and alertness. Day after day in the House of Commons Prime Minister Chamberlain and his ministers have to answer questions, to tell why things are done, or to tell why things are not done. Nor are questions and criticism confined to the Opposition. They come just as freely from Conservatives, from the Ministry's supporters. In the attack on the censorship, for example, the most trenchant criticism came from the Government's own benches.

clusively from a narrow ring of titled mediocrities. When our own Parliament meets, says the Journal, it is to be hoped it will take a leaf out of the book of the British Parliament. Nobody will want party criticism, but what everybody will want, or should want, will be constructive criticism, and, above all, information. As it is, we are altogether too tongue-tied. Too much under the spell of that bromide so beloved by bureaucrats about "being at war," as if being at war involved surrender of public right to know how the war is being run.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Next holiday next Monday. Boxing Day. Officially observed. Evidently Premier Aberhart believes in Santa Claus for he has just sent his Provincial Treasurer and Provincial Minister of Public Works to Ottawa in the hope and expectation that the Prime Minister will prove at least a Santa Pal.

Beginning Monday, Germany's frontiers with Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland will be closed from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. to prevent smugglers and spies from reaching the Reich. The order does not affect regular railroad schedules, but there are few night trains, anyhow.

Canada supplied approximately 8 per cent of total imports into Australia during the twelve months ending June 30, following Great Britain and the United States. For the same period Germany supplied less than 4 per cent of total imports.

The City Council of Toronto the Good offer a reward of \$50 to any citizen who is able to furnish information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of any person guilty of applying for an election ballot in the name of another voter at the civic election on New Year's Day.

Canadian Green Mountain variety of seed potatoes will again be tested in Argentina on a large scale during the coming season, the Department of Trade and Commerce is advised. The future demand for this variety in Argentina and consequently the price that local buyers will pay for it as compared with the Katakadi variety will depend largely on the results obtained this season. Arrival of Canadian seed potatoes in Argentina this season to date total 277,132 crates.

Premier Campbell has found an apt pupil in Premier Godbout, Quebec, in the handling of an embarrassing situation. The latter has just dismissed 1,500 Provincial government employees, and is so sorry for their distress that he intimates his intention of introducing a system of permanent Civil Service, under a Civil Service Commission. It may be noted that his "sorrow" is of the prospective kind, for the Liberals who may be subject to "the axe" after next election.

Hugh Conway, English novelist and poet, born this day, 1874.

"I know not when the day shall be, I know not when our eyes may meet; What welcome you may give to me, Or will your words be sad or sweet, It may not be 'till years have passed, 'Till eyes are dim and tresses gray; The world is wide; but, love, at last, Our hands, our hearts, must meet some day."

Little admiration for the Russian army as a fighting force, "outside the Red Square," was expressed in an interview in Montreal by Mr. S. C. Lamport, of New York, a delegate of the Good Neighbor League, who has been in Russia seven times during the past six years, and made a survey of European countries for American interests. According to Mr. Lamport, the Russians are impressive in demonstrations when they are parading in front of Stalin, "but outside of the Red Square I don't think they're worth much. If a little country like Finland, alone and unaided, can make such a stand against Russia, what will she be able to do if she gets the support she should? And I don't mean speeches, I mean planes and guns and bullets." He believed that Russia had given Hitler the "biggest double-cross in history" by gaining the better part of Poland, and he was definitely of the opinion that the Russians would never fight alongside the Nazis, or lose a single man in any battle that would advance Nazism. His personal belief is that Russia, if Germany breaks up, will start a movement to create a Bolshevik state in the latter country.

It was a bitterly cold day with an icy wind sweeping over the airport and drying up its usual coating of mud, when Mr. Chamberlain visited France by airplane. The Prime Minister, who had left his umbrella at home, looked pale and chilled as he stepped from the plane although the journey had been relatively comfortable. After their first greetings the party entered a huge hangar, where coffee, brandy and biscuits were waiting. (He was offered a cup of brandy, but he refused, and took a cup of coffee and a biscuit instead.) In the canteen he met a corporal who was introduced to him as "a man from Birmingham." "A fine city," the Premier remarked. "You cannot come from a better place." A number of war correspondents were introduced and one of them told the Premier that he had found the war "rather hard to write about." An officer present here put in a remark to the effect that "boredom was better than bombs." Mr. Chamberlain reflected a moment. Then, "It is a matter of taste, I suppose," he said. "Personally, I would prefer to be bored than bombed." As the Prime Minister walked through a village on a brief tour of inspection the French inhabitants recognized him even minus his umbrella and cheered him enthusiastically. He was offered tea in the officers' mess but declined saying: "Nowadays I have no time for tea and I seem to have the gout habit."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The license of a large number of road motor services in the Dominion have recently been revoked by the Transport Licensing Authorities on the ground that they are in competition with the State railways which, it is contended, can cater adequately for the need of the districts concerned. One of these officials stated that it was fully appreciated that there would be some inconvenience for the time being, but it had been necessary to consider the welfare of the public as a whole. Thousands of gallons of petrol would be saved and unnecessary waste in other directions would be eliminated. Many of the Railway Department's own road transport services have been suspended owing to the commandeering of lorries and trucks for military purposes. — New Zealand Press Union.

A resident of this city was coming home from New Jersey with three cartons of cigarettes, bearing no New York state or city tax stamps. He had purchased the cigarettes for himself, his wife and his son. He stepped off a ferry in Manhattan he was arrested. His cigarettes were confiscated. He was summoned to appear in court and answer a charge of tax evasion. This citizen was less meek than some. He went to court, pleaded not guilty, got a post-mortem and is expected to argue his case. Here looks to be the makings of a good sample case that can be carried, we hope, as high as the Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court to determine whether or not citizens must accept "customs" barriers between American states or even cities as already accomplished fact with unlimited multiplications and extensions ahead. — New York World-Telegram.

Both the War Department and company officials have kept an effective veil of secrecy around the construction of an unbelievably huge Army bomber at the Douglas plant in California. Through a landplane, it will dwarf even the great Atlantic Clippers and will be the largest known plane in the world. It will have a wing span of more than 220 feet and will weigh approximately 125,000 pounds — compared with 132 feet and 82,500 pounds for the biggest Clippers and 95 feet and 24,000 pounds for the Douglas DC-3, biggest airliner now used in the U.S. Originally designed to have six motors, the new plane is now to have four of the new 2,000-horse-power menster engines. It will have a tricycle landing gear, will carry a 37-millimetre aircraft cannon, many machine-guns, and some 20 tons of bombs, but will have a cruising range of about 6,000 miles. Its speed isn't known. — Newsweek, New York.

After being out of since mobilization day, Parisians may now telephone to the bar on the corner to order a bottle of wine or to the restaurant downstairs for a couple of sandwiches. The Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone has ordered the re-establishment of public telephone service in cafes, restaurants and bars out of since the first day of mobilization. Assistance calls from public p.n.s., however, are still refused.

A tightening of official control over Germany's metal trade is indicated in new government regulations which prohibit the exportation of light metals and their alloys for all but "essential" industrial purposes. In the future, light metals may be consumed, without specific official permit, only for (1) products which have been manufactured regularly by individual firms in the past, (2) materials for military use, (3) products destined for export and (4) experimental purposes speedily approved by the trade control authorities.

Methods for turning the cold frame into a heated one were devised when electrical science turned its attention to the problem. In the old days the cold frame was heated in winter with an application of manure, or hay, a system for heating the soil by electricity, and, in some instances, further, augmented by supplemental electric lighting, has proved relatively inexpensive — and is certainly more pleasant than the old. Electric soil-heating cable is an insulated, lead-covered resistance — re thermostatically controlled so that the temperature may be set high enough to germinate seeds, lowered for the seedlings and turned off entirely when it is desired to harden them off. This last, of course, is tantamount to the hotbed being transformed into a cold frame.

Extract from "A Tax History of the Twentieth Century" of Lawrence: "The balloon tax, levied on the small balloons used by children, opened up a new field for taxation. New York city imposed the first such tax in 1938, but six months later a similar tax was imposed by the State of New York. As a result of the imposition of this double tax it became the practice among New York children to go to New Jersey to purchase balloons for themselves and their playmates. When the tax yield began to fall, it became necessary for the city and State to place balloon tax inspectors on the ferriesboats and tube trains. As a result of these measures many children who had been legged balloons into the city were apprehended and received heavy fines. — New York Sun.

The annual sale of confiscated firearms, fishing equipment, etc., took place last month. All told, there were on view 321 firearms — rifles and shotguns, which represents an increase of almost 100 over last year. Probably the first thing that attracted the attention of a visitor to the display

PUBLIC FORUM

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

GOVERNMENT

Sir:— A short time ago you announced a divided Council as to the need for a change in our system of civic administration. Some in favor of a "commission"; others the "stat- us quo", etc. Now that Christmas engagements have passed, and city elections are in the offing, isn't it time for our live business men to take hold and insist upon some practical system to replace the obsolete and costly method which should have been scrapped long ago, and which is forcing us headlong into prospective bankruptcy? We cannot continue as we are now doing, to go on increasing our staggering loads of debts and taxations. I am, Sir, etc., REFORMER

Hans Langsdorff

(Ottawa Journal) Chivalry has little to do with Hans Langsdorff. An officer in the traditions of the old Imperial German Navy, fate and Adolf Hitler made him the central tragic figure in a pitiable episode which stained his calling. He had brought his battered ship into Montevideo, had been worsted in fair fight, but the world, we think, will say for his memory that he would have sailed out again. That is what his suicide, with all the terror of a Greek tragedy, now tells. When the Graf Spee, driven from battle by British seamanship and gunnery, anchored in Montevideo, Captain Langsdorff paid tribute to his foes. Their marksmanship, he said, was "incredible," had brought "enormous" damage upon his ship. Clearly, he was ready to go out again; would have gone out to whatever fate and British gunnery had in store for him. He refueled his ship and provisioned it, mended what repairs he could. It was only two days later, after he had talked with and received orders from Adolf Hitler, that he changed his story. Only then he became not a seaman of tradition but the political puppet of a Nazi politician. He took his ship, bearer of a proud name, to ignominious suicide, left a blot that will be forever indelible on the German naval story.

Now Hans Langsdorff, his humiliation unbearable, is dead in Buenos Aires. Dead by his own hand. It would have been better had he disobeyed Hitler's orders and taken his ship to battle; better had he, even obeying orders, gone down with his ship when he saw that the British were cutting his ship by these three days perhaps is explained by a good command-er's regard for his crew. He wanted to know his men were safe, and he would not have been content to let his utmost for them. That duty accomplished, life no longer appealing to him. But what his suicide tells in any event was his shame in the whole episode, his contempt for the character of the orders he felt he must obey. That it will be a shame and contempt shared by many of the German nation, we need not doubt. German prestige and morale — and above all the legend of German courage — will not easily survive this blow. Not again can Goebbels tell the German people that this was a German victory.

And what can the world think or say of the scuttling of the Columbus? No matter how looked at, the story seems baffling. Here was a great liner which, the war over, would have been of great value to Germany. Yet it is taken out of a safe neutral harbor on an adventure which did not have one chance in a thousand to succeed, and then when failure came, as it must, and to come, ingloriously scuttled.

Let us tell that the fatalism of defeat has settled upon Nazi Germany? That, all hope of victory gone, or going swiftly, Adolf Hitler has determined that "German ships in neutral ports will not fall into Allied hands? The Columbus could not have been of war service. Once at home she would have remained in a German port, and more so Germany than the Queen Mary is to Britain, or the Normandie to France. Only that week the British brought the Mauritania to New York, tied her up there, and indefinitely. Let us see those who hold that Adolf Hitler's actions are dictated by astrology; that he puts his faith in the stars. Unless that be the explanation of his actions this week — with Hitler's astrologer desperately wrong — then the only alternative conclusion is that Germany is becoming a victim of the confusion and paralytic of impending defeat. One of defeat's sure symptoms is a passion for blind destruction.

was the large number of 22 rifles. As a matter of fact they represented about 50 percent of the total. There was a miscellaneous collection of fishing equipment; rods, reels, tackle boxes, baits, creels, minnow pails, etc., and other isolated articles as axes, flashlights lanterns, packsacks, duck decoys and a club bag and motor rug. The seizure in this group represented an increase of 35 percent over last year. Of lesser interest but probably of just as much importance from the standpoint of conservation were several lots of steel traps, numbering some 433 in all. — Ontario Fish and Game Bulletin.

Teacher: "Heyton, come here and give me what you have in your mouth." Heyton: "I-I-I'd certainly like to, teacher. It's a toothache."

Drive out ACHES HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST CHEWING THE 2 MACS

The Health League Of Canada

Increasing attention to nutrition makes a recent pamphlet issued by the Board of Education of Great Britain of special interest at this time. It deals with the problem of planning meals for school children, especially those evacuated from the cities to the country. Central canteens have been suggested so that it will be more possible to see that the children are well fed day by day. The Board of Education's pamphlet is intended to help the people faced with the problems of a canteen. Not the least of these problems, it is pointed out, is the fact that the children who have come to live in new homes are trying to get used to new conditions, and the canteen organizers, in their turn are being faced with difficulties hitherto unencountered, e.g., limited and unfamiliar equipment for storing, cooking and serving meals.

Some of the children, they will find, are unaccustomed to regular meals of any kind, and ordinary table manners are unknown to them. They are not familiar with the kind of food which is being given to them in their new homes, and most of all, they are often misjudged, being considered ungrateful for the kindness which is being shown to them, whereas they are really bewildered by their strange new life, and were much happier in the conditions they had left.

This upheaval in the lives of many children is the particular war-time difficulty which they have to face. If they are to be trained as the members of the community later on, the least we can do is to see that they are as well fed as possible now. Children need light nourishing food in good proportions, and un-hurried meals, efficiently prepared, served and cleared. The ideal midday meal for children consists of a little meat or fish, or meat substitute (eggs, pulse, cheese, etc.) generous helpings of two or more well-cooked vegetables with good gravy, or salad, and some nourishing pudding (e.g., containing milk and/or eggs, fat, fresh or dried fruits, etc.), or some raw fruit. As long as it can be obtained, fresh food (fruit, vegetables, meat, suet, eggs, milk, etc.) should be used, and as far as possible tinned or other preserved food should not be used till the time comes when we may be obliged to use it.

The Poets' Corner AT THE AQUARIUM Serene the silver fishes glide, Stern-lipped, and pale, and wonder-eyed! As they glide the deeps of ocean. They glide with wan and wavy motion. They have no pathway where they flow. They flow like water to and fro. They watch with never-winking eyes. They watch with staring, cold surprise. The level people in the air. The people peering, peering there: Who wander also to and fro. And know not why or where they go. Yet have a wonder in their eyes. Sometimes a pale and cold surprise. —Max Eastman.

How Are Your Eyes? If you are having symptoms of strain—headaches, sore eyes or dizziness—consult a specialist. At your service with years of experience and a thorough refracting service. Call in and discuss your difficulties. G. F. HUTCHESON G. F. HUTCHESON, F. G. HUTCHESON.

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THE 2 MACS

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