THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1940.

Mr. King's Assurances

Prime Minister Mackenzie King's review of Canada's war activities will scarcely suffice to satisfy the public mind that all is being done at this critical time that it is humanly possible to do. Whatever future activity may be shown, the Government's record to date does not measure up to the fulsome assurances given during the federal election campaign. Denmark, Norway, Holland and the greater part of Belgium have fallen to Hitler since Mr. King went to the people. France and Great Britain itself are in deadly danger. Yet for months past, recruiting in Canada has been at a standstill. We now have assurance that a 3rd Canadian Division will be formed, that a Ministry for Air will be established, that the Commonwealth air training scheme will be speeded up, and that other measures will be taken which, in point of fact, are but a bagatelle to the efforts which this country could and should be putting forth under proper leadership. Mr. King says this is not a time for partisan criticism, but in this category he seems to place all criticisms directed at the Government's dilatoriness and lack of initiative.

As Senator Meighen well said in his speech yesterday in the Red Chamber, the Government should be immediately reorganized along lines, not of party politics, but of maximum efficiency. It is not astute politicians that we want at the helm in this emergency, but men of action and of resolute faith and confidence in the ideals of the Empire which are now at stake. Nothing else counts.

"Feed The Bulldog"

There could be no more terse or apt expression of the feeling of an increasing number of people in the United States regarding the war and its possible effect upon their own country, than that given by Congressman Andrew May, chairman of the military committee of the House of Representatives. Recognizing that, if the Allies were defeated, the Nazi menace would come much nearer to the United States, he said: "If I've got a bulldog in my front yard to scare away burglars, I'm going to feed him."

This particular bulldog, suggests the Winnipeg Free Press, is doing more than scaring, he is putting his teeth deep into the very powerful burglar and engaging in a life-and-death struggle. Since the fate not only of the Allies but also of the United States depends on the result of the struggle, it is not surprising that many people in the United States are now in favor of feeding the bulldog.

They think that this is the least they should do for their own protection, and they would do it by removing the unnecessary restrictions on the purchase of munitions and other supplies by the Allies in the United States.

Newfoundland

While Newfoundland is recruiting men for the war, complaints are heard that the commission which is governing the country is doing little to improve conditions and the lot of the people.

The failure of the commission system, says the Observer's Weekly, might have been avoided if Newfoundland's problems had been fully appreciated in London and if the right sort of men had been appointed on the commission to deal with them. As it is, it says, the commission is "despotic and self-satisfied."

If self-government were restored, there would be a chance for initiative, it is held. If the commission government is to continue, the appointment of an economic council of specially qualified men is urged, to promote the development of the natural resources. The fishing industry is badly in need of modernizing, and it is suggested that the co-operative movement should be encouraged.

The general complaint is that the commission government, besides being undemocratic, is very costly and is not getting results.

Making War On Children

A daily bulletin published in London by the Polish Press Bureau is a tale of cruelty and horror practised as deliberate policy by the Germans in Poland, a tale which would be almost incredible if we did not know from the experiences of Belgium and parts of France in the Great War that it is thoroughly characteristic of modern Huns.

The Germans do not wage their kind of war on men and women only. Children too are victims of their sadism. The London bulletin, quoting an official report of the Polish Government, gives details of the horrible things which occur under Nazi "culture." At one town in Poland 136 children from 12 to 15 years, suspected of belonging to the Boy Scout movement, were assembled in the market place and shot down by German machine guns. Children in many places have been executed for patriotic activities. In many places they have been employed in heavy manual labor. Boys and girls have been torn from their homes and sent into Germany or to other parts of Poland, sometimes forced to travel in cattle cars in extreme weather. In one evacuation train 30 children froze to death. At one point ten children were shot down with revolvers because a window in the police station had been broken.

All Polish schools have been closed, and Poles [illegible] to attend the new German schools are treated with extreme brutality. The whip and the stick are common means of punishment, and if parents complain the whole family is likely to be deported. In spite of everything, we are told, Polish children "display truly heroic resistance to ill-treatment" and they live for the day when Poland will be free again. The Huns have not succeeded in breaking their spirit.

Poland has shown what Britain and France might expect at the hands of the Germans if they lost the war; has given us, too, a glimpse of the sort of world this would be if the Germans dominated it.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

If words mean anything, and with Prime Minister King they usually don't, we are in for a period of speeding-up and aggression. But it will need more than Mr. King's "I say so" to satisfy the public that this is true.

* * * *

Unfortunately we are in for a divided community over Daylight Saving Time which will prove awkward to all concerned. It is bad enough having two times in the province without having two times in the city.

* * * *

The Earl of Ypres died this date, 1925. As Field Marshal Sir John French he commanded the British expeditionary forces in France until the disastrous battle of Loos when he was replaced by Sir Douglas Haig. Sir George Arthur's Life of Lord Kitchener threw fresh light on the matter, justifying French's every action, resulting in his being awarded $250,000 by Parliament, bestowed the coveted Order of Merit ("O.M.") and created a peer of the realm.

* * * *

Here is how Prime Minister Menzies of Australia describes the situation: "Once again I want to emphasize to you the nature of the struggle in which we are engaged—a struggle which may sound faintly in our ears at this distance, but which, nevertheless, has the gravest significance for all of us. War is a dark and bloody business; we have all prayed for peace, but now that war has come we know that our hands are clean; that this war can be to us no matter of insensate slaughter, of innocent sailors savagely torpedoed or mined, or conspiracy against the lives and happiness of people whose only crime is to be weak and relatively defenceless. To us this is a crusade, not against the light but for it; and these thousands of men who will go out from Australia are much more truly crusaders than those whose bronze effigies lie with crossed feet and folded hands in the historic silence of the Templars Church in London."

* * * *

Mail addressed to "The Lonelist Soldier" or "A Lonely Soldier at Aldershot" will no longer be accepted by the Postoffice Department, which indicates that the volume of letters and parcels so addressed has become a nuisance. The practice arose from a new despatch from the camp in Britain where the Canadian troops are training, telling of a lonely soldier who never received any mail from home because his parents were pacifists. A barrage of mail from sympathetic Canadians quickly followed. Afterward, Canadians sought other "lonely" soldiers, but this ultimately created a mild sort of nuisance, not a few jokers in the ranks making regular calls for letters and parcels thus addressed. One soldier was luckier than the rest. He is an American who enlisted in Toronto, got a parcel from a Scottish lassie, acknowledged it, was invited to call, fell in love, and last mail's newspapers contained pictures of his wedding.

* * * *

A farmer named Charles E. McFarland of Mount Pleasant, Washington, together with his family have been treating as one of themselves a "Jim Crow", which now has developed to be really the "bad boy of the family." Perched on a fence, the crow utters mournful cat cries until he has recruited the vocal services of all felines in the district. After leading choral practice for a while, Jimmy, in a clear, rather deep, voice, suddenly shouts "go away." The cats scoot for safety. Then he will meow until they come back. Tiring of the game he will order them off the farm again. The talking crow is the majordomo of McFarland's farm. He bosses the hired help and orders the dogs about. Whenever a stranger enters the property, he is likely to be greeted with a barrage of questions and commands. Without waiting for answers, Jimmy pokes his head out of a hedge and hollers: "Hello, who are you? How are you? G'wan home. Go away. Hello, Mac, peek-a-boo." McFarland, who got Jimmy when he was very small, scoffs at the belief crow's tongues must be split if they are to talk. "We didn't do anything to Jimmy," Mr. McFarland explains. "We just kept talking to him and finally he started talking back."

* * * *

With reference to a parent's inquiry as to the reason for the giving of such a hearty send-off to the members of the 8th Battery, while the departure of the 2nd Battery in January appeared to have been practically ignored, the real reason for a public demonstration in the one case and quiet departure on the other case is given as follows: The 8th Battery is known to be proceeding from the Island to Petawawa for further training before proceeding overseas; the 2nd Battery proceeded directly from Charlottetown to point of embarkation. In the case of the 2nd Battery, therefore, the date and circumstances of departure were necessarily cloaked in official secrecy, and no demonstration was possible which might in any way disclose the secrecy of the Battery's departure. As a partial compensation for the 2nd Battery's secret departure, the Provincial Government arranged to forward to each member of the Battery a flashlight and a carton containing 300 cigarettes, besides making arrangements for the forwarding to the Battery of subscriptions to each of the Provincial newspapers. It will therefore be seen that we are quite correct when we said that the 2nd Battery is as dear to the hearts of their parents and friends as the 8th Battery, and that the only distinction was in the official secrecy necessitated by the method of the former's departure. Perhaps the 6th Signallers and the glorious Black Watch, successors of the 105th Regiment and the good old 82nd Regiment will yet be similarly honored.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Neither age nor experience is a specific against the itch to write popular songs. Over 21,000 are copyrighted yearly in the United States, most of them in manuscript, 9,000 achieve publication, and only a bare 100 emerge as hits....Of the 1,400 who write music for a living in the United States, only 130 write hits. — The American Mercury.

It's not right, says Dr. Bradley, to work a child from five to seven hours a day in a schoolroom, and then ask him to pore over his books for as much as four hours at home. Adults labor but eight hours a day; children from nine to twelve. The younger generation will appreciate the doctor's argument better than their elders, although many a parent will be glad to be relieved from the necessity of helping Junior with his algebra or history. It might be a good idea, though, if the child experts in the education associations get together every once in a while with their opposite numbers in the medical professions. The trend in the schools is to demand less and less work, and more and more play. Now, if homework is ruled out, where are the youngsters to get an education? Or doesn't it matter? — Philadelphia Bulletin.

There are various ways of dealing with a dandelion-infested lawn, the most cowardly of which is to move to another side of town. We come now to the season when this whole question must be a red anew, and plans laid for resumption of the war. We do not advise moving; it bespeaks an attitude of unmanly despair. The first essential is a philosophy. It is years since the Neighborhood Sage remarked, on watching us attack the invader with a weeder of new design, "Never forget, my boy—you're only doing that for the exercise." And as exercise it does very well. It stimulates and strengthens the one who weeds, and the dandelion. Meanwhile, it helps if one reflects that a dandelion difficult to raise would be cultivated by every gardener in town, and shows would be held to its glorification. Taken alone, it is a pretty thing, but whoever saw one alone? There is a school which holds the only cure is to surface the yard with concrete and paint it green. Beyond this, there are the kitchen knife method of extraction, presumed to reduce the hips but which actually breaks the back; that stand-up technique, employing a long-handled gadget with prongs; and the chemical method. Again, there is a strategy aimed to build up the rest of the lawn, as by letting the grass go unmowed for the Summer, or fertilizing it heavily, on the theory that the dandelion will succumb to too rich a diet. The possible directions the war can take are innumerable, and whichever you select you may be sure the dandelion will not care. It is the outstanding exemplar of patience and hardihood, and ability to survive the slings, arrows and patented weeders of outrageous fortune. — From the Detroit News.

Before the war, and for weeks after it had begun, it was common knowledge that Egypt was woefully unprepared to meet a possible Italian or Italo-German invasion from Libya. Young King Farouk was reported once to have crossed into Libya at Italian invitation, and was said to have been horrified at the contrast between Italian mechanized efficiency on one side of the border and Egyptian unreadiness on the other. Egypt pressed the British for money and materials with which to build fortifications and air bases along the Libyan frontier, but the British distracted with multiple calls on their exchequer, delayed with large-scale help to Egypt until only two months before the outbreak of war. Now our Cairo correspondent reports that Egypt is "adequately prepared" for any threat from across the desert. The British, he writes, are "extremely satisfied" with the efficiency of the Egyptian Army, and there have been good results from the co-operation of British, Egyptian and Indian troops during manoeuvres. Apparently General Wavell, the British commander in the Near East, has been making effective use of the eight months of grace since the war started. Troops of the Allied Near Eastern Army guard the Suez Canal; the British Mediterranean Fleet is still based in force upon Alexandria. Censorship has prevented the world from knowing whether correspondingly strong defences have been prepared on the Libyan border; but the atmosphere in Cairo suggests that an invader would meet a deadly reception if he attempted a land attack across the Egyptian sands. —From the New York Times.

Every warring nation has learned at least a little about propaganda since the first World War. The Nazi Government in Germany may have learned faster than some of the others, because it has had the advantage of being able to pound any of its citizens to a pulp, without any democratic nonsense as to freedom of speech, if they ventured to disagree with what was told them. The Nazi agents outside Germany lack this helpful weapon, though in Norway and perhaps in some other countries bribery may temporarily take its place. In the United States, if we may judge by the Nazi propaganda now being sent out to American school teachers and others from the German Library of Information at 17 Battery Place, under the title of "Facts in Review", Dr. Goebbels' boys are as clumsy and confused as were their predecessors of 25 years ago. A good lie starts with a basis of what may be true and then builds on it. "Facts in Review" hasn't learned this simple lesson. We read in the issue of March 11 that "Germany has been steadily trying to prevent an expansion of the war." We read in another issue that "The new order in the relations between the German and Polish peoples turns out to be a boon for Polish agricultural workers." We read a lot about how fine and happy things are in Poland, but we cannot help wondering why, if this is so, the German Government refuses to permit American newspaper men to inspect this new Nazi Utopia. We read that the worker's lot in Bohemia and Moravia has "improved consistently" since Germany seized those countries — same wonder, same doubt. — From the New York Times.

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Sir,—I read in the press a letter signed "Daylight Saving." The writer seems to think that the adoption of daylight saving time is an act of progress. I fail to see where there is anything in the nature of progress about it. By adopting it we are only fooling ourselves and confusing the public in general.

If daylight saving is such a progressive movement, why do not the Railways and Government Offices adopt it too? and why did we not retain it when we had it some years ago. The answer is that it caused so much confusion with the rural districts that it had to be discontinued.

People coming to Charlottetown by train on Saturdays arrive in the City from certain points at 11 o'clock or later, and when they have business to do at the banks will find the doors closed and locked against them, and will be obliged to go home with their cheques in their pockets uncashed which they otherwise would have spent in Charlottetown, and stores which usually close at half past nine on Saturday nights will then be closing at half past eight by rural, or standard time. About the time the people from the country will be getting in to the City.

These are only a few of the inconveniences placed against our rural customers which in many instances are the backbone of our businesses.

I strongly object to the shifting of our time. Old Sol's time is good enough for us.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AN OBJECTOR TO DAYLIGHT SAVING

GARDENS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Sir,—There will, I am sure, be great disappointment and even chagrin when it is learned that the civic authorities are unwilling to grant to the Charlottetown Free Gardens Association the support during the coming summer that has been given during the two preceding years and that as a result the unemployed of the City are to be deprived of the right to grow vegetables for their families in the three Lawson fields between Highland Avenue and McGill Avenue. It can only be supposed that the City Council has not a full grasp of the situation and that they do not realize that, during the past two years, they have expended quite a considerable sum of money in the purchase of garden tools, a tool house, repairing of fences, and in ploughing and harrowing of the fields, not to mention the ploughing and otherwise preparing of the soil last autumn in preparation for this Spring's work. This outlay will be practically lost if the gardens are to be discontinued.

The value of the harvested vegetables each year has been far above that of the City's contribution. Furthermore the vegetables are not only greatly needed by the unemployed as food for their families but they go a long way in preparing them for the strain of the winter months. The gardening work also, which in most cases is enjoyed by a number of members of the family, is not only invigorating but physically and mentally affords an excellent training in the chief industry of this Island.

The chief reason for discontinuing the service appears to lie in the fact that Mr. Ivan Reddin, who in the two previous years arranged for the allotment of the several garden plots, is no longer available having been transferred from the relief to the street department. To the citizens of Charlottetown, however, this reason would appear to be too trivial for consideration. Where there is a will there is always a way and it is certainly to be hoped that the City Council will not allow Charlottetown to be regarded as a backslider in this important matter of affording free gardens to the unemployed, nor should it be forgotten that the City pays only half of the necessary cost, the other half being supplied by the Provincial Government, while Mrs. Lawson generously allows her three fields to be used for the purpose.

Will not Mayor Holman come to the rescue and follow the excellent example of his predecessor in office? Mr. Foster was always keenly appreciative of the value of the Free Gardens.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. K. S. HEMMING.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Sir,—It has been observed that a small number of merchants have signified, through the press, their intention of ignoring the decision of the City Council that Charlottetown shall operate on Daylight Saving Time.

In itself, this can result only in minor inconvenience and annoyance to the public but if permitted to spread it may once again nullify an obviously sensible and progressive movement. The principal reason given for opposing Daylight Saving Time is that it will cause inconvenience to the rural population. This moth-eaten objection is, in point of fact, based on a very weak foundation. The rural population, as everyone knows, operates on Daylight Saving Time in any case, no matter how its clocks happen to be set. In a very short time any imaginary objections would be forgotten, once the new system has been given a chance to operate without bickering and interference. All that is needed is that our citizens should show whole-hearted co-operation. We are glad to see that Summerside has already taken the same step as Charlottetown and very little persuasion would be required to bring the other larger centres into line.

Moreover, if the minds of the objectors were to be analyzed a little more closely, it would be found that their real fear is not that of antagonizing the farmers, but rather the age-old stumbling block that all too often stands in the way of advancement in this province—the horror of trying something new. Not that Daylight Saving is new—as we all know it has been in use for many years in every wide-awake city on the continent, but it is different—and that's just as bad! It does not require a very vivid imagination to see that, if the same men who are thus standing in the path of advancement had their own way, we should still be standing around the town pump debating whether or not to abolish open sewers.

But, apart from opinions on the matter, it would seem that now that the City has, acting on the wishes of the large majority, taken its stand for Daylight Saving Time, there should be some means of compelling all local mercantile establishments to operate on the system adopted by the city, under penalty of fine.

If such action is not possible, it is hoped that every community-minded citizen will do all in his power to prevent this minority from causing enough confusion to impede this very timely move toward progress and enlightenment.

I am, Sir, etc.,
DAYLIGHT SAVING.

WARNING TO NEUTRALS

Sir,—Let us review the situation of the past few months and see what has been happening:

One neutral nation after another annihilated, their territorial and national rights confiscated, their countries dominated, their homes ruined and desecrated, and their wealth and resources commandeered to work for the victorious aggressor.

Neutrals made the mistake of accepting the word or guarantee of a nation who had already proven that weaker nations were only to be used as stepping stones when her militaristic advancement and expansion were concerned.

Germany's word has been proven worthless over and over again; however, even in the face of knowing that, and that their danger was great, the neutrals accepted at par value what they considered was genuine or at least we presume so.

The results are before us, and still they will continue to occur until such time as the remaining neutrals fall in with Great Britain and France, to form an indomitable wall against the invaders who in their greed and terrorist campaign against those nations who stood and stand singly like exposed targets to be picked off, one after the other—and with what purpose in view?

Later in this letter we shall see!

The activities of Germany's espionage agents practically the world over, especially in the invaded countries, and others where future operations are contemplated, have been very noticable for months before the recent brutal attacks; goodwill agents in many cases, engineers, tourists in many guises, and other ways in which to cover up the real motives, together with gaining the utmost in information useful to the enemy; such is the case going on secretly and in other ways in the Balkans, at the present time, which may flare up into conflagration at any moment.

More likely will be the under current regarding old differences stirred up between two countries by outside agents; prematurely? No! premeditated! Yes! Where one of two nations—Germany if she is successful in her present undertakings on the northwestern front, or Italy may overrun the borders of a nation in that direction.

The question to be answered will be much like this,—Germany if you are too busy with present operations, if you consider now that you have penetrated into France in a semi-circular drive through Belgium and Luxembourg and that another such drive through Switzerland will enable you to succeed in partially or wholly isolating the Maginot line, we will throw in our weight in another direction or if your aims are working out successfully we will go ahead with our pre-arranged plan.

Should Germany make this move it will be her greatest blunder, although she may. We hold our breath and wait the outcome of her next move.

It is not only the nations of Europe which are concerned, there are other places throughout the world where they either have other possessions outright, or vital interests, which also would be open to attack and confiscation, should Germany win; when the post war adjustments would take place in which they would claim every possession belonging to conquered territory, in all countries.

We now know of the worthless scraps of paper, meaningless guarantees of immunity from aggression, by very clever diplomacy of a kind which is not only subtle but sinister in its awfulness.

The appalling situation of the past few weeks will no doubt startle the United States into a frenzy of activity of defensive preparation.

They are in a precarious position even with the one hundred and twenty millions of population in these times when the mechanized speed of militaristic nations makes a return trip across the Atlantic not only a possibility but an actuality.

Even having the sanctuary of a free and peace loving country between two great oceans, does not now mean security, when plane carriers from either side of the country could camp outside territorial waters and make a return trip from Atlantic to Pacific across the country or vice versa which is not more than the same distance across the ocean. It is not only coastal cities and towns any longer which are in danger from invasion but every section of a country.

This is one more time when Germany and whoever may go in on her side "never intend to pay" not even the huge and staggering sums they are expending on their own devilish preparations, to over power and overrun the weaker and smaller neutral nations, who are no match for them in any way.

They are to be the "toll gates" or the slaves who are marked out to pay for Germany's awful carnage, her murderous and damnable despolling of peaceable nations rights, their homes—their countries.

It should already seem obvious to others that, should her domination of neutrals continue, Germany has complete control of not only the money wealth of their countries but full access to all their resources and products as well.

When we win the war the ones we have conquered will pay for it, and we will live like lords would seem to be what is in the German minds: an old Roman idea brought to life from the time of Caesar.

But will they win? We think not! Bitter and fearful may be the struggle, awful may be the carnage; Though England and France stand shoulder to shoulder, yes even back to back, they roar this warning, "Not one shall pass." Germany must not and will not win.

Other weight will be thrown in on the side of the Allies later on, a country who was determined to keep out of the war at all costs have not let pass the awful happenings of April 8th, and what has occurred before and since. The eyes of their leaders have not been shut to the dangers that are the outcome, nor do they condone such hellish actions,—too well they know what would be the outcome should Germany win.

The security of the world's peoples to live as peoples, in freedom of action, in their national hopes and aims, to the furtherance of the good of their own subjects, is not in militaristic ambitions or aggrandizement of a sabre rattling few, who have made a military machine like an automaton, without heart or soul—but in all neutrals taking a stand together in unity of action, to smash this usurper of the rights and security of independent and peace-loving peoples.

I am, Sir, etc.
JOHN ROBERT CAMPBELL.
May 17, 1940
The Lilacs
Grahams Road
Emerald, R.R. No. 3.

TO REGULATE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

OTTAWA, May 20—(CP)—Making the first move towards the regulation of highway transport by Dominion Government authority, Transport Minister Howe introduced a bill in the House of Commons today which would bring transport by truck and bus across the international boundary under the control of the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Hitherto all highway transport has been under provincial jurisdiction while water, rail and air transport came under federal jurisdiction. The problem of competition between highway and rail transport has been studied for some time but the bill introduced today is the first federal legislation on the matter.

The Poets' Corner

EPITAPHS
Form the Greek

Telia now but an empty echo
Has come among the ancient dead,
Where over her the darkness passes,
Closing the troubled beauty of her eyes.

Erinna, content with watching
Mirrored beauty in a quiet pool,
Has bound its clustered stars about her head.

Haunted the moon-blurred nights of many lovers
Shall lie content
If only the fragile echo of my music
Linger beneath some whispering cypress bough.

The castanet dancing girl, Aristion,
Who hearing the music of the shrill horned pipe
Could toss her golden hair, skyward among
The pine trees' star-filled branches, she the deep
Drinker of amber, torch-bright wine, has said
Farewell to mystic revels and her throng
Of lovers, and rests on the great Earth Mother's hill,
Her holy hair, with death's flowers garlanded,
Under these quiet elms for ever still.

—Harry E. Foster

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