

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1945

A Maritime Ballad

Some time ago it was our pleasure to review a stirring narrative poem by the Maritime Superintendent of The Canadian Press, Mr. Andrew Merkel.

The Tallahassee was a Confederate cruiser under command of Capt. John Taylor Wood, which played havoc with U. S. Federal shipping during the Civil War.

Interspersed with this and other naval episodes are descriptions of Halifax and the North Atlantic seaboard in the years immediately preceding the Union of the British Provinces in North America.

The spirit of re-birth was everywhere. And everywhere the joyousness of life. The builders' yards rang ever with the clatter of the adze and whine of knife.

There are lines which for descriptive beauty would be hard to surpass: "The beach lay like a sickle, east and west, Fronting the grey Atlantic. At one end, A gapling headland thrust its barren crest."

Then, as now, Halifax harbour appeared in martial trim: "The roadstead teemed with shipping and the docks Topped by a grove of masts and tangled spars."

The poem has many references to the prosperity which the Maritimes then enjoyed, and which we lost at Confederation. Mr. Merkel need not have gone far for his basic facts. He could have dug them out of the Sirs Commission report itself.

This reads almost like a prose transcript of Mr. Merkel's opening verses, proving the authenticity of his background. But such proof is irrelevant to the enjoyment of a very fine poem. It is literature, not a text-book.

The author of Sir Philip Sidney, its author "be-

ginnett not with obscure definitions, which must blur the margin with interpretations, and load the memory with doubtfulness; but he cometh to you with words set in delightful proportion, either accompanied with, or prepared for, the well enchanting skill of Music; and with a tale forsooth he cometh unto you; with a tale which holdeth children from play, and old men from the chimney corner."

The book runs to over a hundred pages, is attractively printed and bound, and is illustrated with black and white drawings by Mr. Robert Chambers.

"How Drunk Is Drunk?"

The following editorial is from the Ottawa Journal. The coincidence of a similar case to the one noted having occurred in a magistrate's court in Charlottetown gives it added local interest:

"The decision of a Toronto magistrate that a man in a drunken sleep over the wheel of his stationary automobile could not be convicted of drunken driving and sent to jail under the Criminal Code, for the reason that the accused 'was so intoxicated that he was incapable of having control of the motor car' within the meaning of the act, raises some interesting speculation."

"Apparently this means that a driver can be convicted of drunken driving if, at the wheel of a parked motor car, he can keep his eyes open and retains some capacity for the motions necessary to operate a car. But, if he takes that last drink, parks the car and goes into peaceful sleep over the wheel, he is not in 'care and control' of the vehicle and liable to seven days in jail—he is just taking a nap in the open air, and could anybody object to that?"

"There does come a time, of course, when the alcoholic haze begins to lift, and the drunken sleeper stirs. Once able to wiggle a finger but presumably still far from sobriety, our driver forthwith loses the legal benefit of his unconsciousness and the police can nab him and make a charge stick. Once more he is in 'care and control' of his vehicle, and the jail door yawns for him."

"It is clear that this section of the Code should be clarified if the law is not to be made ridiculous. One judge has held that an intoxicated and sleeping man can be in charge of a car within the definition of the law, and that seems reasonable to us, but other judges have agreed with the magistrate's ruling. It is absurd that before the potential menace of such a situation the police should be helpless—that they should have to wait quietly for the sleeper to awaken so that they will have legal grounds for gathering him in."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Transfiguration of our Lord.

Welcome to the delegates to the C. W. I. holding their annual convention in our midst this week.

This will be a more-or-less fateful week for both Provinces and the Dominion, when the future of each will be at stake at the Conference at Ottawa. Anything is liable to happen, either to lead to further consolidation and progress, or separation and disaster to the smaller provinces.

When the British election was announced, within four days over forty tons of ballot paper and miniature copies of appropriate election addresses for voters in the British forces and the Merchant Navy throughout the world were dispatched from the United Kingdom to areas ranging from Iceland, the Channel Islands and Western Europe, to India, Burma, Ceylon, Canada, U.S.A. and South Africa.

Boy Scouts from all over the Province returned from their annual outing Saturday having thoroughly enjoyed the experience of fourteen days Scout training under canvas at Camp Buchan, that ideal rendezvous provided by the generosity of the Hon. George D. DeBlois a number of years ago. The Wolf Cubs will now have their chance and it is to be hoped they will be favoured with as fine weather and profitable experience as their seniors.

Mrs. William Shakespeare, Anne Hathaway, died this date 1623; he was nineteen and she sixteen when they married; there were three children, Susanna, married Dr. John Hall, twins, Judith, married Thomas Quincey, and Hamnet, their only son, who died at the age of eleven; in his will Shakespeare wrote: 'I give unto my wife my second best bed with the furniture'; buried at Stratford, a brass plate on her grave-stone reads: 'Neere lyeth interred the body of Anne, wife of William Shakespears, who departed this life the 6th day of August, 1623, being of the age of 67 years.'

Quebec election rumour probed. At Ottawa, Mr. Godbout, leader of Quebec Opposition declared: "I don't think Mr. Duplessis will want to face the House again with the small majority he has." At Quebec, Premier Duplessis replied: "It is ridiculous for a public man, former premier, to launch rumors like this one. I think he was sick when he made that declaration, and I hope he regains health as soon as possible."

A novel process marking a new departure in high-speed welding has been developed by a United Kingdom. Its outstanding advantages are rapidity and simplicity of operation combined with one hundred per cent efficiency. The process constitutes a method of attaching studs or rods to steel structures by means of a gun, which shoots the studs into the molten metal formed in the steelwork. The apparatus is fully automatic and has the important advantage that the drilling and tapping needed in other welding operations are eliminated. It also dispenses with sealing for watertightness since holes are not required in the plating.

Notes By The Way

The old story recurs of Japs being reported as fighting under the influence of a dope preservative, ably Hirohito. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The architect covers his mistakes with ivy, the physician with sod and the bride with a number of things—principally misnomers. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Boy Scouts of Kangra, India, spent two weeks killing coon snakes prior to a religious festival. As a result, only one person was killed by snake-bite at the festival, as compared with an average of more than 100 at previous festivals. — Amberst News.

Moonsshine held as evidence in an Alabama case ate its way through a metal safe as noted the sheriff's office. That stuff may not be a beverage, but it could be a secret weapon, or perhaps that super-fuel we've been hearing about. — Windsor Star.

As the story of those great ships, the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, through the war becomes more apparent that during the years of their construction when Britain thought it was building for peace it was, actually, building for war. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

The Duchess of Windsor is following closely all accounts of the troubles of King Leopold, whose marriage to a commoner is at least a precedent for the Belgian Parliament's opposition to his return from exile. She sees a parallel to her own marriage, which cost her husband the British throne. — Newsweek.

"Weekly Newspaper Editor Reaches Age of 85." And is doubtless as spry as one on a daily at 85. But we'll say this for the daily fellows, that they have to consider the world's woes six times as often. And that kind of a load is not one of soft-stuffing, but more of a hod of brick.—Ottawa Citizen.

It may be that with the return of the automobile it will be possible for people who work in town to live in the country. This will help, but until transportation is improved it is hardly feasible to expect people who work in town to live outside. However we must remember that about the only empty houses now available for occupation are outside cities. Could

Fifty years ago R. Collamore offered his services to the people of Arkansas as "architect and undertaker," says The Arkansas Gazette. But undertaker was used for "contractor" much more than when an old English volume recorded two worthies as having become undertakers for a do-should project, and when Diarrhoea mentioned in 1666 that a Sir and a Lord had "signed deputations for undertakers" to furnish the portions of some needed saltpetre.

Unquestionably there is a housing problem in Canada which makes it difficult for returned persons to become quickly and permanently established in the country. This difficulty is creating serious problems for governments on all continents. The housing problem must be provided but no one yet has been bold enough to say that the towns and cities are over-crowded, and the country's urban population should not be thus maintained. — Farmer's Advocate.

It is not possible to induce families which had no actual financial resources to take on a mortgage on the available houses, at least until others are provided; or could some means be found to furnish the empty empty be used, transferring them if necessary. This would not be a final solution, any more than Mr. Lister's idea that houses must have new houses and must have them soon. A start must be made in immediate building them.—London Free Press.

The restless spirit of G. G. McGeer has seemingly not been affected by his elevation to the Senate. Back in Vancouver, of which city he was once mayor, he has again been devoting his thoughts to the betterment of that metropolis. The Pacific coast Senator, McGeer's latest ambition is to make Vancouver "the wonder city of the world." All he would need to perform this miracle is \$50,000,000. But it would be worth it, he says, for spread over a number of years it would give steady employment to large numbers of men and transform the city into a dream city to furnish them with dividends.—Ottawa Citizen.

Someone is always taking the joy out of life. To ordinary mortals the pea shooter is a deadly enough weapon perched in the hands of a world expert, but a pea shooter with a sight! Well, that is something else again. When the range with a pea shooter it will be a miniature machine gun and will magnify the target's temper plenty-fold. Alvin D. Brown, of Los Angeles, a discharged marine, is the inventor. Unfortunately for the victims, Alvin is not far enough away from his kid days to forget the devastating effects of a pea shooter expertly handled and while in the Marine Corps he got few ideas about sights that bore ill for many of us. At any rate he has added a rear peep sight to the pea shooter and a front sight with crosshairs at various levels not unlike cross-hairs in a telescopic sight.—Kitchener Record.

It is to reduce the burden of the tanker fleets that Allied forces are struggling to win the oil fields of Borneo. The fields are closer to recent scenes of action than any other source of supply, and the invasion of Borneo already has produced some of the needed results. High-quality fuel suitable for ship fuel without refining, is being obtained at Tarakan, and there soon should be production at Balikpapan. Netherlands oil experts waded through the surf at Balikpapan close behind the Dutch and Australian soldiers who made the landing. They were assigned not only to restore production but to try to repair the Balikpapan refineries, which once made octane-thing from grease to high-octane gasoline. The experts have enthusiastic co-operation from the natives in the oil regions. Mistreatment convinced the Indonesians in Borneo elsewhere, that no worse masters could be found in the world than the soldiers of Japan.—New York Herald Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

OTTAWA DELEGATION

Sir,—In your editorial column of Saturday morning's issue you speak of the P. E. I. delegation now on their way to attend the Dominion-Provincial conference at Ottawa as "Funny." My dictionary gives the meaning of the word funny as: "Inferior in size or strength; weak; feeble; petty."

You, Sir, cannot be acquainted with all the persons making up that delegation. After looking over the names of some of the delegates probably your assertion is bordering upon the correct. I do know each and every one of the delegates personally over a period of years and I wish to state that I believe that one man in head and shoulders above the rest. I refer to Mr. J.F. Connolly, the Deputy Minister of Reconstruction.

Here is a young man worth watching in my humble opinion who is destined to go far. He has ability in abundance, a razor-edged mind which can grasp detail in a split second, a desire to be of service, a remarkable memory, a sense of duty, coupled with aggressiveness, determination, and a will which has received a tempering in the school of hard knocks and practical experience.

Again in my humble opinion he is the only one of those attending this conference who has an over-all grasp of the situation. He will have to carry the burden of preparation and coordination of all efforts which are to be put forth at Ottawa.

I am, Sir, etc., OBSERVER.

Grand Tracade, P. E. I.

Brave New World

(Vancouver Province) In recent months there has been increasing use of the term "brave new world" to indicate the post-war promised land towards which we all can look if we build enough houses, radios, automobiles and washing machines.

While it was never satisfactorily explained why the new world is to be electrically and scientifically advanced, it is now slowly beginning to realize why inhabitants of this new world will have to be supremely courageous.

Mothers who fondle their little ones and read with horror of developments of giant flying bombs which can travel across the oceans to reduce unsuspecting cities to rubble. Censors are permitted to disclose that the Germans are trying to break the atom and, if they had been successful, the resulting atomic might have destroyed the globe.

Communication companies gleefully announce they have perfected a telephone which will be used to confiscate all privacy. When a tired executive tries to get a few days rest at some backwoods resort, the radio-telephone will follow him with insistent demands from home or office.

With only a portion of this scientific chamber of horrors disclosed, adults heave a sigh of relief that they will not be the victims of the new world's terrors. They look back gladly on the "good old days" that era of outside plumbing and the horse and buggy.

The younger generation, which will have to so jet-propelled planes and be shot at by rocket-propelled bombs, should swiftly and realistically adjust its thinking with regard to ready acceptance of the products of the laboratory. The San Francisco charter is the best example of an attempt to shake the use of force between years of arbitrating international differences.

Perhaps it can be extended to provide for a world organization to take charge of any citizen, in any country, who begins to look like an inventor. These ideas could be segregated on an island, an international St. Helena, where they could work out their kinks. But the products of their minds could be kept from the reading world until it was proven they would help, not hinder, human progress.

Then our new world would not have to be so jet-propelled. It could relax and enjoy the trill of science without living in terror of its horrors.

In the exhausting heat of the potatoes strewn on the sidewalk along a shopping stretch of Portage avenue, the potatoes lay in the little heap into which they rolled from out of a burst brown paper bag, and may have weighed, in all, some six to ten pounds. They were not new, but seemed quite good.

The streams of people moving at that hour from east to west and west to east stopped on suddenly seeing this rare display of the rare and precious vegetable. Why the potatoes lay as they did we could not imagine; but why we hesitated to pick them up, and why nobody else picked them up before we passed on our own way, set us musing on the peculiarities of human character.

Any ownership of the potatoes seemed to have vanished, for no one apparently had made any attempt to regain or reclaim them. Yet most persons who passed them by must have wished to get them to serve on tables on which potatoes might not have appeared for days, perhaps for weeks. The dearth of this common vegetable has brought an acute loss in many

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Washington Spotlight (By C. R. Blackburn) When the United States Senate, with only two dissenting votes, notified the United Nations charter and closed its door for a two month holiday the stage was set for quiet organization of the new world peace mechanism planned at the San Francisco Conference.

This Army "Hey Buddie, kin we borrow yer jack?"

Potatoes On The Sidewalk (E. M. in the Winnipeg Free Press) In the exhausting heat of the afternoon folk were asked to see along a shopping stretch of Portage avenue the potatoes lay in the little heap into which they rolled from out of a burst brown paper bag, and may have weighed, in all, some six to ten pounds.

The Poet's Corner THEY SOFTLY WALK They are not gone who pass Beyond the clasp of hand, Out from the strong embrace, They are but come so close Nor look to see, nor try To catch the sound of feet. They have put off their shoes Softly to walk by day Within our thoughts, to tread At night our dream-dead paths Of sleep.

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