

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 1945

Old Year And New

As 1945 draws to its close, we see it loom- ing as the most momentous year in human history. Time will place it in truer perspective, but by any reckoning it will surely be of enduring importance. It was the Year of Victory for the United Nations, both in Europe and the Far East; the year in which a world war ended in the crash of atomic bombs, and a new peace era began. We can only hope and pray that this time peace will endure, and that the New Year will mark a quite definite beginning in building a better world.

This little Province shared fully in the hopes and anxieties of the old year. There was scarcely a Prince Edward Island home that was not represented by some member of our armed forces on land, sea or in the air; few homes, indeed, where some near friend or relative did not figure in the casualty lists. And as these grew shorter and the lists of returning veterans lengthened with each successive month after V-E Day, there was scarcely a home on the island untouched by the joyful thrill of a loved one's return. That was the greatest and most marvellous thing about the year 1945—its many heart-beats!

The year brought us a lot of changes provincially, including a new Lieutenant Governor in the person of Hon. Mr. Bernard; a new Senator in Hon. Mr. Robinson; two new M.P.'s in Messrs. McLure and MacNaught; three new Legislative members in Messrs. Macdonald, Morrissey and Bell; a new C.N.R. superintendent in Mr. Montgomery; a new R.C.M.P. head in Inspector Anderson; a new education director in Mr. Lloyd Shaw; a new inspector of Customs and Excise in Mr. Gallant.

It brought us new federal departments of Veterans Affairs and Family Allowances; new provincial departments of Reconstruction and Public Welfare; a new Provincial Council of Education; a new Social Service Council; a new Fisheries Federation; a new X-ray survey for T.B. tests; a new fund for rural beautification; a new Divorce Court, and new liquor regulations.

For Charlottetown it brought a new property tax, a new airport housing scheme and a new vote for railway wharf improvements. For Summerside it brought a new Mayor in Mr. Arnett, some new Councillors, and a new building zoning system. For Souris it brought a new hospital; for Montrose a new church; for Kensington a new town planning board.

The year brought many things to all of us, some good, some bad; but best of all it brought new cause for thankfulness with the safe return, as above noted, of thousands of our overseas veterans.

In the year-end reviews published at this time, one thing is lacking, most important of all. That is a list of all our gallant dead, of those who during the past year, and during all the years since September 1939, made the supreme sacrifice. Let us hope that in the coming months this omission will be remedied, and that the honour roll of our illustrious Island dead will be published officially, and made available to all.

In bidding Guardian readers the customary good wishes for a Happy New Year, it is fitting to end on a note of poetry. The anthologies have many gems, but most of them are too familiar. The following translation of a Mediaeval French poem is perhaps old enough to be new again, and true enough to hold good for all the year:

Old Year is out.
Laugh and make merry!
When you have had your heart's desire,
Turn about,
Remember the very
Who have no food or fire.
New Year is in.
Eat and be merry!
After you have drunk and sed,
Then begin
To think of the very
Who want for meat and bread.

Many Divisions

Things politically happened while Prime Minister Mackenzie King was absent in London. Many divisions, a total of 13 from the beginning of the session, were forced and on one of these the government majority was cut down to a new low of eleven votes, all those sitting to the left of the Speaker voting against the Liberals. More than once, writes an Ottawa correspondent, both John Bracken, opposition leader, and M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F., warned the administration that because of its new political and mathematical position in the House it must walk warily. International projects of enormous importance to this nation's economic position in the world were approved by Parliament, including approval of the Bretton Woods pact which calls for a total contribution of over \$625,000,000 from Canada, approval of enlarged lending authority under the export credits Insurance Act and a loan to France of nearly \$250,000,000. Then near the end of the session came acceptance by the Canadian government to attend the first of two momentous trade and

tariff conferences at Washington. In announcing this, Mr. King properly reminded Parliament and people of the tremendous stake this country has in the speedy restoration of economic order and normal trading in the world. But while the government did move impressively along the international road, the record of its domestic policy doings was not auspicious for there were at least three notable retreats during the session. There was the backup on Bill 15 as a result of criticism from provincial premiers and the opposition party in the House which produced what was in effect a brand new measure.

The well known columnist, Mr. Arthur Krock, makes the following interesting commentary on the Anglo-U.S. loan. The total amount involved represents only the cost of waging the recent war for about fifteen days. While that money was all for destructive purposes, this is to construct a free and productive world economy

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today's issue is "hail and farewell" to the coming and going years.

After today we must remember to date our correspondence, etc., 1946.

Mr. R. L. Cotton's magnificent contribution to the province might quite appropriately be termed a "face-lifting" proposition, to enhance the beauty of our appearance.

So far the weather has not contributed largely to the success of the outdoor skating projects, but there is a long time ahead before April's sun "plays heck" with the ice.

Four out of every thousand apparently healthy people in the average community in Prince Edward Island are likely to be suffering from tuberculosis. The best way to find these people is through an X-ray survey.

The Islanders will soon all be back, and the new year's problem will be to find suitable jobs for them. "The happy warrior" of pre-peace-time must be made to realize that there is an important place for him in winning a lasting peace—at least, in our time.

The number of pleasure vehicles crossing the international border into Canada on vehicle entry permits in October, 1945, was 84,933, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is a drop from the 145,968 entries in September, but a gain from the 38,036 entries in October a year ago. For the first ten months of this year, there were 773,140 entries, compared with 44,559 for the same period last year, and 1,088,490 for the first ten months of 1941, so we still have a lot to make-up before we are back to pre-war international joy riding.

McGill University authorities hope to see work on the memorial hall and swimming pool begun this spring. Mr. G. McL. Pitts, chairman of the committee on implementing the war memorial writes in McGill News: "If at all possible," the swimming pool will be started during the coming spring months, so that it will be available for use during the 1946-47 session. A rink-auditorium to be built immediately to the east of the swimming pool wing is recommended as a worthy method of utilizing any surplus war memorial funds. "The sub-committee strongly recommended . . . expansion of the war memorial project to include a rink-auditorium," the writer states.

The last day of the year, called Hogmanay in Scotland, and Hagmena in the north of England, is supposed to be derived from Homine est Trois Rois la, (A man is born—Three Kings are there) an allusion to the birth of our Saviour and the visit to Bethlehem of the Wise men, who were known in mediaeval times as the Three Kings. In Scandinavia on the other hand, old year's night is known as Hogu-nott or Hog Night, so called in reference to the animals slaughter on the occasion for sacrificial purposes — the word hog signifying to kill. There are many quaint observances of the day, including the collection of oatmeal cakes and other gifts by children, and the burning of the "clavie" by the fishermen of Burghhead, Morayshire. At midnight throughout Scotland, North of England, Norway and Denmark, all household doors are supposed to be left open till after midnight, to permit the old year to "pass out and the new one to make entrance." Ring out false pride in place and blood, Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.

The trends of the Moscow Conference (says Montreal Gazette) make it imperative for Canada actively to reconsider its foreign policy. Under the direction of Prime Minister King, who is also Canada's Minister of External Affairs, this country, throughout the years of war, has been placed in opposition to the suggestion that the British Commonwealth should draw together as a unit in foreign affairs, and has been placed in a position of claiming a role as an independent nation in the international scene. This claim was made in a particularly extreme form by Mr. King in his statement in the House of Commons on December 17, when he declared that he could not "emphasize too strongly the right of this country to be one of the principals in any matters that relate to the drafting of the peace, and that have grown out of the war." Now Russia has definitely turned this down, saying if the British Dominions are to be represented individually so also must the 16 Soviet Republics. To this the U. S. A. adds, so must each State in its Union. The claim emphasized is that the British Empire is one body politic just as the Russian Soviet and must have but one representation. Thus, concludes the Gazette, the questions now before Canada are these: Are we still to continue our campaign to be ranked among the principals? Or are we to use our resources for the strengthening of the unity of British influence in the councils of the Big Three?

P.E.I. Divorce Law

(Calgary Herald)

Residents of Prince Edward Island who seek a divorce will no longer have to bear the heavy cost of proceeding through the Senate at Ottawa for release. By order-in-council the Island Government has proclaimed an act passed in the reign of King William IV in 1833 which gives the courts jurisdiction as a court to hear cases of divorce.

This act was operative for a term of years, but few cases came before the courts. It was abandoned in 1871. Since then any cases from the Island were heard in Ottawa. However, last year a resolution of the Legislature, a delegation from the Canadian Legion urged that Prince Edward Island should have its own divorce court and has been keeping the subject alive ever since.

The Government resorted to the order-in-council method to satisfy the demand. The Charlottetown Guardian predicts that there will be a row in the Legislature over this action and its constitutional-ity may be challenged. The order-in-council remains in effect, Quebec will be the only province where a divorce can be dealt with in the Federal Parliament.

Notes By The Way

Fifty years ago there was no such thing as a plane, thirty-two years ago they still had to witness their First World War. One year ago, that for some of those who thought they were safe as an atomic bomb. Just how much time have we left anyway?—London Free Press.

Ottawa is fixing January 1, 1946, as the end of World War II. It means that for some of those who thought they were safe as an atomic bomb. Just how much time have we left anyway?—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Perhaps what we have failed to recognize is that the law of supply and demand—drugged during the war years by price floors and ceilings—is beginning to stir in its sleep. It was a touch of law and whether it will be possible to keep it shackled indefinitely will be to be seen.—Edmonton Journal.

The development of a new varnish which does not require the use of imported ingredients has made possible the rapid recovery of the varnish and paint industry. The discovery of a cellulose varnish for automobiles, is held to be of permanent significance for the industry. The new varnish is made from a mixture of products all but disappeared during the Nazi occupation. For many months the industry has been through the war practically intact and most of its pre-war workers are still available. Pipelines that were built during the war to carry gasoline under the English Channel from England to Holland and France are being used to transport to the Netherlands where it is mixed with other basic ingredients of paint and varnish.—From Netherlands News.

Soon or later, matches lead to fire. A progressive citizen, yesterday divested a group of boys, ranging in age from three to nine years, of their "safety" matches. They were using them to set off sulphur flares in the roadway, out of toy chemical sets sold in the Christmases. Being a fan of these chemicals and for matches, but the combination in this instance was not a happy one. The possibility of a human eye being hurt by a little Christmas fun, surely there is a lesson to be learned by the community.—Victoria Colonist.

Three children were burned to death in a home here, and previous to that a little boy was killed when run over by a farm tractor, and a farmer was killed by the tractor. Lightning struck the house, and the children were always dead in the ranks. Being a fan of these chemicals and for matches, but the combination in this instance was not a happy one. The possibility of a human eye being hurt by a little Christmas fun, surely there is a lesson to be learned by the community.—Victoria Colonist.

The Scotch Crown Jewels, which were brought back from the hiding place where they have been in safe keeping during the war, are once again in view of the public in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle. Included among the jewels shown was the "Crown of St. Andrew" which has on its reverse side, a miniature of Maria Clementina, which is the Sovereign's Badge of the Order of the Thistle and which was given by the present King and by King George V on ceremonial occasions at Holyroodhouse. The total intrinsic value of the jewels is as far as is known never been computed but some years ago the Crown was valued at \$5,000.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Surely no Christmas (or Hogmanay in Scotland) will ever have been celebrated with deeper feeling than this present one, when glasses clanged with no matter what "safety" beverage will be raised to toast those who have at long last come home, or those whose speedy return is pledged with a new hope. May all for which they have striven be realized in the fullest measure! Some toasts there are which, though they lack the intimate touch of a home-made toast, have an all-embracing significance for our land and life. Among today the impressive and historic one proposed by Lord Lytton on being granted the freedom of Edinburgh for his prowess in the Peninsular war. He explained it was a repetition of one given by Blucher at a dinner in Paris to which the Duke of Wellington had invited all the state officials in that city, and its extremely sensible wish was: "May just before the attack went in. During the five days at Boulogne, the 'North Novies' captured three

The North Nova Scotia Highlanders

IV

It was very fortunate during the next few weeks that they were not involved in a real engagement, though in practically continuous contact with the enemy. It gave them a chance to shake down into a fighting unit once more.

The brunt of battle during the next phase of the breakout from Caen was taken by 2 and 4 Divisions, and the North Novies were employed in taking over positions on the right flank and pushing out slightly along the line of advance on the Caen-Falaise road. When 9 Brigade was exhausted on the ridge short of Fontaine le Pin, 9 Brigade was switched over to the left to participate in a divisional attack to break through the line held on a ridge north of the Lisieux River and to cross the river. The North Novies were used for the first time in the division and at noon on 16 August, 8 and 9 Brigades moved off with a regiment of tanks and two battalions each. The third Battalion in each Brigade followed on foot in the task of clearing up some three or four miles through which the leading troops had motored without stopping. 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