THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1944

Col. Ralston's Policy

Commenting on Col. Ralston's statement in the House of Commons that the overseas army would be better if it were kept 100 per cent volunteer, the Moncton *Transcript* (Liberal) says the Defence Minister was doubtless expressing both his own views and those of overseas army personnel—commanders, officers and men alike. It adds, however:

"This feeling would not exist if conscription had been made the rule from the declaration of war. As it is, the home defense army is a segregation of the men who have had the choice but who have refused to go active, and men whose lives depend on the full co-operation of every man in their unit look dubiously on support from this quarter.

"If the time should come when other reinforcements should not meet the demands, Colonel Ralston has said the draftees would be sent overseas. That would be better than leaving the ranks unfilled and probably the majority of them, when faced with battle conditions, would make pretty good soldiers. In the meantime, sufficient voluntary reinforcements are available to fill the anticipated needs of the next six months, so there is no need to depend on the second best.

"The Defense Minister vigorously opposed the Progressive Conservative proposal that the men in the home army should be discharged and returned to civilian life. They constitute a trained reserve which may be needed, and it would be folly to release them. Furthermore, public opinion would be strongly against such a move.

"Meanwhile, however, it might be possible to find some means of using those not actually needed for coastal defense and other duties in some form of work that would be of greater aid to the war effort, while retaining them in the army under army discipline."

How about putting them to work on the farms? That was the original Conservative suggestion, and it is still a good one.

Liberal Education

"In education," says Aristotle, "it makes all the difference why a man does or learns anything; if he studies it for the sake of his own development or with a view to excellence, it is liberal." The function of education, says Plato, is to teach us "to love those things which should be loved, and to hate those which should be hated." And both philosophers were agreed that a man's true wealth, the only permanent possession of value that he can call his own, the only property of which nothing can rob him, is his education. The liberal education, then, which aims at moulding the complete man—the most important function of the state—is not (says Montreal Gazette) a process which, as some modern theorists believe, can be completed by the eighteenth year. It is not a necessary evil, like the measles or the mumps, to be got through with as early as possible. On the contrary, as Sir Richard Livingstone points out, the Danish experiment in the People's High Schools has proved that the resumption of a liberal education after the age of eighteen can transform a backward country into "one of the most progressive and prosperous democracies in Europe." There about 30 per cent of the agricultural community go back from the farm to residential high schools, where they study, not farm machinery or the chemistry of soils, but history and literature. The system is purely voluntary, the aim a form of adult education which is primarily "a moral and spiritual force, elevating the mind and strengthening the will by the vision of great ideals."

Electoral Reform

In discussing amendments to the Dominion Elections Act the Senate has turned its attention to the benefits conferred by the single transferable vote. Recent provincial election results have no doubt had a good deal to do with the renewed interest in electoral reform, but the political scene has altered so much since the voting system was established that if Parliament is to preserve its prestige it must recognize the changes that have taken place and revise the electoral law to keep pace with them.

The two-party system of government, with which the present method of electing members to Parliament was devised to comply, no longer exists. There are no less than ten political parties now represented in the House of Commons. Under the present voting system a party may fail to elect a single candidate although it may receive substantial support. Senator W. M. Aseltine, of West Central Saskatchewan, told the Senate the other day that in the recent election in his province 47 candidates of one party were elected by 53 per cent of the votes, and he fears that a similar result may happen in the next Federal election.

Under the single transferable vote ballot used in single-member constituencies, all members are elected with the support of clear majorities of the electors. The change is very simply made from the present system. Instead of marking their ballots with an X, the electors indicate their first, second and third choices on the ballot by marking the numerals 1, 2, 3 and so on against the candidates' name in the order of their preference. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice ballots the second choice is taken into consideration, and the process is continued if necessary until the returning officer finds the candidate whom a majority of the voters wish to represent them. Thus an elected member gains his seat only by the wish of the majority.

With three or four major parties in the field in most constituencies, it is not only possible but probable that under the present X-balloting system men who have not the support of the majority of the people in their riding will appear in Parliament as the representatives of their constituencies. Thus, as the Montreal Gazette points out, Parliament fails to represent the electorate, and responsible government is nullified.

Senator Aseltine feels that in the peculiar conditions that prevail in Canada at the present time, and which are likely to be with us in future elections, the government should take the matter up before Parliament prorogues. It has an example before it in Manitoba, where a single transferable vote system has been in effect since 1924. A study of the results of Manitoba elections since that time would do much to clarify a subject which has not been adequately discussed throughout the country.

EDITORIAL NOTES —

Tourists are plentiful again, though not so many foreign cars are to be seen as heretofore.

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Weren't the London censors busy? During the first five days of the invasion, headquarters' censors handled two and a half million words. The total did not include the stories censored in the field. In addition, 106,000 feet of film and 25,000 photographs were censored.

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The Sydney Daily Telegraph devoted four columns of its editorial page to articles by Don Whitington, Australian newspaperman, who recently toured Canada, presenting Canada at war. The articles, published with illustrations of the new Alaska highway and of Canadian warships, gave Australian readers an Australian's ideas about the Dominion. One story told of "the cowboys who man Canada's navy," another of "civilization coming to the trackless wastes of Canada's frozen north as a result of the war."

* * * *

John Clare, English peasant poet, born this date 1793; author of "Poems of Rural Life", "The Village Minstrel", "The Rural Muse", etc.:

"Now musing o'er the changing scene
Farmers behind the tavern screen
Collect; with elbows idly press'd
On hob, reclines the corner's guest,
Reading the news to mark again
The bankrupt list, or price of grain.
Puffing the while his red-tipt pipe
He dreams o'er troubles nearly ripe,
Yet, winter's leisure to regale,
Hopes better times and sips his ale."

* * * *

Military officials say it is unlikely the easing of border crossing regulations between Canada and the United States for civilians would apply for servicemen. Travel by servicemen between the United States and Canada is a matter of military regulations and not of "immigration." At present all Canadian military personnel who wish to travel in the United States must first obtain a military border-crossing pass signed by their officer commanding. This must be counter-signed by the unit paymaster who provides the man with $3 in American funds for each day he plans to stay. Civilian travellers no longer need border-crossing cards, passports or visas.

* * * *

An election provides an enviable opportunity for those having an axe to grind setting wheels in motion. For instance the announcement of the release from internment of Camillien Houde, former mayor of Montreal, has been expected from day to day. A member of the Commons said Justice Minister St. Laurent had told him last week that Mr. Houde would be released. "Apparently he is to be released all right, but where, when - - - I don't know," said the member. Some unconfirmed reports said the releases would not be until after the Quebec election Aug. 8. Mrs. Houde mentioned the reports in a letter made public in Montreal Friday and addressed to Mr. St. Laurent. She said her husband had completed all formalities required of him, and asked why his release was not forthcoming.

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A correspondent at the front writes under date of June 30: "Saw George Keefer behind the lines the other day. By the way he is now a Wing Commander and doing a wonderful job. Among those with him is Charlie Trainor who likewise has a great record. Albert Wilson and John A. MacDonald were also down to see them and it was quite a little Island gathering. Mike McTague was down the day before. Another Island lad still in our unit at the front, and who has done splendid work is Wes Campbell, Kensington. He came over as a Sergeant, but went back to Canada on promotion to a commission, and joined us again sometime ago. During the assault we had Stan T. Thompson with us as contact officer. He has done very well and no doubt will be able to tell his father, Col. C. C. Thompson, of the part we played in the "Big Show."

* * * *

A contracting and prefabricating organization in Hull, Yorkshire, which has throughout the war suffered continual and heavy bombing, has constructed two factory produced dwellings of a new type in record time. One is a three bedroom, two-story house which is entirely built in wooden-framed concrete wall units and was assembled on the site in four days. The other is a cottage comprising living room, bedroom, kitchenette and bathroom which was set up in six hours while the public watched its construction. The work was done by eight men and four girls. The walls, floor, chimney and roof were in position in one hour. All timber and joinery used is kiln-dried. The walls have the same heat-insulating value as an eleven-inch cavity wall. The internal fittings are calculated to make housework easier and there is a utility room in the two-story house which houses a washing boiler and has room for a pram and a bicycle. The construction of the two-story house works out at $3,000.

Notes By The Way

A disclosure that the Chinese were also the inventors of sauerkraut leaves Germany with nothing to its credit but You-Know-Who—and he's an Austrian.—Winnipeg Tribune.

It is not easy to cross a street in Ottawa; females in uniform, driving ugly little trucks, buzz about like hornets, fiercely intent on putting down all nonsense by civilians, renewed my conviction that Ottawa is a beautiful city, and I hope it will some day be a really magnificent capital, with all the proper accompaniments of concert halls, libraries and theatres. — Marchbanks in Peterboro Examiner.

One wonders how those white elephant trainers, the Zombiecasters at Ottawa, feel when they read of Canadian women killed in action wearing the King's uniform, a uniform accorded also to their own Zombie army—with "Canada" patch and all. One wonders whether they will not have to add a word or two to their famous slogan so that it shall read: "Conscription if necessary, not necessarily conscription — and Ladies First."—Winnipeg Tribune.

Endorsing The Expositor's suggestion that there ought to be a "National Sap Week" to honor those who insist on observing Fish, Onion, Apple and other Weeks. The Peterborough Examiner nevertheless warns that it is not so simple to get a Week going. First of all", it points out, "seven days have to be found on the calendar which are not already devoted to the rites of some fruit, vegetable or relatives." That is a bit of a poser.—Brantford Expositor.

As the home canning season approaches, one of the things that figure largely in housewives' conversation is the quality of fruit jar rings. Many of them, perhaps for perfectly valid reasons, left much to be desired last year with the result that preserved fruit was spoiled. With food needed so badly this year as well, we cannot afford to let that happen again. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

In Des Moines, Robert Butterworth was arrested by police and given a routine shakedown, which revealed that he was harboring on his person twenty paint brushes, sixty pens and pencils, seventeen combs, fifty feet of rope, a quart of sauerkraut, five pounds of sugar, three pounds of weiners, a gross of used toothpicks, four flashlights, a hammer, six knives, a grindstone, a tube of shaving cream and four putty knives, says Times. He was charged with "maintaining a fire hazard."

Tomorrow's world will present staggering new perils. The points of friction between nations, races, classes and culture will be greatly multiplied. Here lies the challenge of the Christian Church. In its hands is a book. On the pages of this book lies good news—the way of salvation for men and nations. We who know and love God's Word know assuredly now as well as we will ever know, that the Bible will serve as no other instrumentality we can think of, to build a better world of tomorrow. —Plainfield (N.J.) Courier-News.

An American aeronautical engineer, newly arrived in Sweden, was mystified by the habit his Swedish acquaintances had of never allowing him to light his own cigarette while in their company, writes Stanley Bortner in Your Life. He would strike a match and offer them a light, and they invariably would take the match from his fingers and hold the flame to his cigarette before lighting their own. After this had happened several times he asked them bluntly why they did it—why they apparently disliked to have him light their cigarettes. The answer was that they were simply trying to show him a proper courtesy, since in Sweden it is considered unforgiveable for one to accept a light from a person who is his superior. The fact that he had come all the way from America to advise them on building aircraft, and very probably earned much more money than they did, made it necessary for them to light his cigarettes, and not theirs.

One of New York's department stores has been demonstrating how easily silk can be produced at home. In its greenhouse annex a woman uses an old fashioned spinning wheel as she spun silk thread from a cocoon, and feminine visitors uttered cries of delight as they visioned opportunities for growing their own pure silk hosiery. This New York establishment has been offering six small mulberry trees, 150 silkworm eggs and a pamphlet on sericulture to all interested persons, being careful, however, to suggest that the experiment be started merely as a hobby. One of New York's professional silk growers thinks this effort would be suitable for returned soldiers, especially wounded men who cannot do heavy work. Indiana entomologists admit that a silkworm might thrive on the type of mulberry leaves grown in Indiana, but they hasten to warn that whoever starts silk production in a serious way is almost certain to be disappointed. As a hobby it may prove an interesting pastime, but as a business they advise that it be shunned in favor of carrots, beets or onions.—Indianapolis News.

Make courtesy your chief concern. Regardless of what other talents you may have, you will not achieve success in life without it. —Lord Chesterfield: Letters to his godson. In which connection we're interested to hear that the nation's air lines are applying Chesterfield's advice to the handling of what must be one of the most irritating and thankless war jobs of all, says Collier's. The job is that of "bumping off" non-priority plane passengers—of breaking the news that somebody who has bought his ticket is not going to fly when he thought he was, because some fighting man or official has to have the space as a matter of war necessity. It appears that the air lines' ticket employes take care to be as charming as they know how to be in the performance of this major operation. Writes one bumped-off customer to a New York newspaper: "The girl who gave me my bad news must be doing the same thing all day long, and I am sure she cannot care whether the Joe Zilches get to Cleveland or not. But she made me believe that she was sincerely regretful and sympathetic at my bad luck... It's baloney, and I know it; but it's nice baloney. I like it." Which is about as succinct an essay as could be written on the value of courtesy to business concerns as well as to individuals.

THE NATIONAL LIFE

By

"JOHN OF THE LILACS"

The greatest asset within any nation, is that which is the most important; then within this nation or any other, the asset of greatest value is the life of its citizens. That is the "gold of Heaven" which cannot be recalled or replaced; upon the national life depends the security of the nation itself; all other things monetary or otherwise are secondary; therefore whether it is the party Government in power, a government made up of all parties, or a future means of determining the country's advancement and stability, the national life should be and must be, the first great consideration.

There is a time coming when we will all see the folly of paying too high a price for something that should be everyone's right—"From the Cradle to the Grave"—Protection. That is a big word and covers many aspects in life taken from all angles, though here the writer means life insurance.

Firstly, why should this not be entirely a government function, automatic from the time of birth, to start on a low premium basis and to be stepped up slightly each year until that time when each policy holder coming of a certain age, say fifty or fifty-five years, will go on a pension of moderate size which has been built up by each one through the years and which will never mean despair, destitution or the poorhouse, where instead they will be able to live out the remainder of their lives in security from want and freedom from the dread of poverty in old age.

Secondly, there is this view to be considered: where the policies covering each one within our country begin at birth they could mature within a period of years, say 20 or 25, and could then be held by the government without further payments, with the regular interest rate added thereafter for the use of this money until the time when the accumulation of future security will begin by regular payments to go back to the policy holders.

* * *

Let the writer make this definitely clear, this is security within one generation, and without hardships; no poor houses and all self-supporting in after years.

The exceptions in repayments would be in case of death of a policy holder before payments had been completed or before the policy matured, or any time in such instances between birth and the age limits set for repayment.

This means that each individual whilst providing for himself or herself in after years is investing in the future of the nation as well in the form of gilt-edged securities, with which to carry on development and public works throughout all the years until the day comes to pay back to himself that Pension Insurance Policy in which he has invested since birth.

Let the writer also make this plain: from all the insurance policies under this plan, which at this time would be approximately twelve millions in number in this country, that would open the flood gates of money power for Canadian development in which every citizen of Canada would be taking part; the money for any bond issue, where so desired would be accessible immediately; or, if wanted for rehabilitation purposes instead, it would be pouring in continually, month by month in a steady stream, thus, whilst helping others gain a foothold and build into the structure of this glorious country (who would also be paying premiums under this plan) they would have assured themselves of a future means of security in life through the years, by repayments. At the same time this money would be working continuously for the expansion of the country as a whole.

In this way each individual would be building up a retirement fund which would be paid for by each one through the years instead of drawing on the government late in life for something they never put into it at all. That would sound logical, also sound from a business basis as well.

* * *

What business could last if its entire staff were drawing salaries for something they had not earned or where no efforts were put into it to make it a financial success. This writer feels as if it would be a case of no dividends, and where directors would look like Santa Claus, or in other words the drain of payments would have to come from some other source—a matter of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Certainly no business can continue on a sound financial basis where there is an enormous drain continually without there are huge profits.

It would seem logical therefore, to find a means of eliminating as much of the financial strain as possible and by this means building up through the years by established business principles the sure way of taking care of forseen and necessary expenditures later on.

We are overloaded with debt, billions of it, pyramided by war; we are groaning under the burden of taxation which has kept rising with the size of the national debt; it would seem that a safe expedient is necessary, one which, instead of adding to debt accumulation will help alleviate this condition and build up that reserve for the people, by the people themselves, which will ensure them comforts, and provide for their wants when they have attained the age determined for being carried on a pensions plan.

Insurance as it is today is immobile where the individual is concerned, a condition in hard times where the policy holders have to drop or throw overboard that which they can no longer carry. If they have paid premiums over a period of years they salvage something; if, where under a stated period, there is no return of even part of the money invested, in life coverage.

Then there is group insurance, a blanket coverage where once the individual leaves the firm he worked with this policy is not in effect where he is concerned; in this way he has paid in money for which there is no return, providing he has not had sickness or accident whilst employed with the firm where the policy was taken out, this policy not being continuous where employment has been changed from one firm to another.

Quite true, many benefit whilst all pay into this jackpot, until changing location or business; though as life insurance is a business built for profit by those at the top, where firstly, the agent gets his commission on each policy with a drag on the same policy for a few years after; next the district or regional manager has his commission or percentage on business turnover from all the agents under his control, and the directors or those at the top have their profits or salaries as well—all from the policy holder.

* * *

There certainly should be some drastic changes where life insurance is concerned.

After all this has been summed up, how much does life insurance actually cost in itself without all this expense attached thereto and why should it cost the people what it does?

Let this be definitely clear: the writer wants life insurance and means just that, although does not want to pay through the nose for it, neither does anyone else.

There is no other reasonable plan as a means of making definitely sure that there is something in the future to depend on, except by a real type of ensuring future preservation without hardships, although this should be applied with as little expense as possible where the policy holder is concerned.

When the actual cost is figured out basically and if possible applied through the network of unemployment insurance offices or similar established conveyances throughout the country, a type of life insurance hitherto unknown will exist "without profits" and where each policy holder could have ample coverage at a much lower cost, than now in existence, or that can be had where life coverage is carried on a profit making basis.

There also would come into being the situation where each individual would be providing for future years at a reasonable figure and where the country as a whole would be gaining both in prosperity and stability.

"Protection from the cradle to the grave."

(To be continued)

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FROM "DOVER BEACH"

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The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the Straits;—on the French coast, the light
Gleams, and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.
Come to the window, sweet is the night air!
Only from the long line of spray
Where the ebb meets the moon-branch'd sand,
Listen! You hear the grating roar
Of pebbles which the waves suck back, and fling,
At their return, up the high strand,
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
The eternal note of sadness in.

—Matthew Arnold.

FEDERATION of AGRICULTURE

The Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture will combine with the Prince Edward Island Credit Union League in an educational rally meeting to be held at

PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE
AT 8 O'CLOCK
On the evening of
TUESDAY, JULY 18th.

Mr. H. L. Fowler, Manager of the Consumers' Co-Operative Refineries Ltd., will be present as guest speaker.

Mr. Fowler, who quite recently accepted a position of General Manager of the National Farm Machinery Co-Operative in Indiana and Ohio, is a specialist on co-operative organizations and development and is highly qualified to speak on this subject.

Mr. R. F. Bergengren, Managing Director of the Credit Union National Association in the United States will also be one of the guest speakers.

Member organizations of the P. E. I. Federation and all their branches are invited to send delegates to this meeting. The Federation is today the outstanding farmers' organization of the country and needs the support in all its activities of every farmer.

Organize your groups and join with the Federation and the Credit Union League in making this meeting an outstanding success.

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