THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1944

A Fine Report

The post-war reconstruction committee of the Charlottetown Board of Trade under the chairmanship of Mr. S. A. MacLeod has presented a timely and valuable report to the Board council. The text appears in today's Guardian. The report deals, among other things, with obtaining implementation of the Federal guarantee of "continuous communication" with the mainland, with the need of up-to-date wharf and drydocking facilities here, with rural electrification, paved highways, lengthening of the runways at the Charlottetown airport, technical training, improved housing conditions, and reforestration. It constitutes an excellent blueprint of work which should be started as soon after the war as possible. As such it has been adopted unanimously by the Board council. It is to be hoped that our Federal, Provincial and Civic representatives will also get wholeheartedly behind it. Let politics for once be forgotten, and the interests of the city and province given right of way.

The Legion's Warning

The Canadian Legion has reason to believe that after December 1 no more naval craft will come to Charlottetown for refitting. This will mean a layoff of from 150 to 200 men and loss of a weekly payroll of $10,000, most of which is spent in this city. As the Legion resolution puts it, Charlottetown, the last city in Canada with ship-repairing facilities to be given war work of this kind, will be the first to cease operations if the present intention is carried out. If this be correct, it constitutes another glaring example of unfair discrimination. The war in Europe may last until next spring or later, and the war in Japan for a year and a half longer at least. We shall need our Navy; and if there is any scrapping of repair plants to be done let it be in Central Canada, where most of the fat contracts have already gone.

Essential Appeals

Only those directly associated with the work of our hospitals are aware of the tremendous difficulty of carrying on under war conditions. These institutions have continued to serve the public with outstanding success and efficiency in this Province, despite higher maintenance costs and shortages in staff and equipment. They could not do so without generous voluntary contributions. The Prince Edward Island Hospital, which is making its annual collection appeal next week, is one of the most deserving institutions of its kind in all Canada. The way to insure its maintenance is for our citizens to meet this appeal promptly and generously.

Also making its annual appeal next week is the Protestant Orphanage, an institution equally well known and appreciated for its work in connection with the care and upbringing of orphaned children. Many children fostered by this establishment are today gallantly fighting in our service forces. The job of turning out worthwhile citizens is surely one of the most important in the community, and that is precisely what our orphanages are doing. It is hoped, therefore, that next week's appeal will meet with generous response.

Farm Price Floors

What are farm price floors, and how do they work? There seems to be some misunderstanding on the subject, which the *Monetary Times* seeks to clear up. It should be clearly understood, says the *Times*, that it is not the intention to fix minimum prices below which agricultural products cannot be sold. The market price of an article may fall below a level which the Agricultural Prices Support Board considers adequate to ensure a reasonable return to the farmer. If this occurs there will be two alternatives open. The Board may decide to bonus the farmer the difference between the market price and what is deemed to be a fair price for the article. The other alternative will be for the commodity board to step into the market and buy up the surplus to be held for resale at a later date either at home or abroad. In this way stocks overhanding the market with depressing consequences on the price will be removed. The $200,000,000 fund which parliament has placed at the disposal of the Agricultural Prices Support Board is available for financing either of these alternatives.

British Potato Market

Great Britain used to be a great potato importing country before the war. Many will recall the delegation sent from this Province and New Brunswick, some years ago, to endeavor to persuade the British authorities to lift their embargo on Canadian potatoes and thus give us access to their vast and profitable market. But the authorities were adamant. They refused entry to our potatoes because of the Colorado beetle. Even after it was demonstrated that our potatoes could be thoroughly cleaned before shipment the embargo remained. The late Mr. A. E. MacLean, M.P., was among those who tried unsuccessfully to have this barrier removed.

Since the war, Canadian potatoes in dehydrated form have been sent to Great Britain in large quantities. How much of this product was required for the British people, and how much for the huge armies of invasion which were being marshalled on her soil in preparation for D-Day, has not been revealed. It is interesting to note, however, according to the *Leeds Yorkshire Post*, that Britain "is the only country in the world which has had no potato shortage since the war started." The *Post* quotes Captain J. Mollett, Director of the Food Ministry's Potato Supply Division, as its authority. Britain's estimated potato crop this season is in the neighborhood of 7,000,000 tons. The amount of land under potato cultivation is now 950,000 acres.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Patrick Duff, deputy high commissioner for the United Kingdom, who visited here with Lady Duff sometime ago, intends returning to London soon to undertake new duties there.

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"A Christmas card, bearing the signature of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, will be sent to Canadian prisoners-of-war in Germany." So says our evening contemporary. Is it possible these unfortunate patriots in durance vile have a vote?

* * * *

Lady Grey, widow of Earl Grey, who was Governor-General here from 1904 to 1911, died last week at her home, Lorwood, Melrose, Scotland. Both the Earl and Countess proved to be the most popular vice-regents Canada has ever had, the Earl's term being extended twice at the request of the Federal Government. He died in 1917, after a retirement spent in public spirited work of a character that appealed to him.

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Here is a German priest's prayer in his church at Munich which resulted in his execution by the Nazis on August 7. The patriot priest was Father Alois Niebaur: "Our arms are cursed by God. Neither the Fuehrer nor the army is able to change God's decision. I pray to God to end the war so everyone, even women and children, will not be slain in this war provoked by ourselves."

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The Canadian Press directors, as in duty bound, have endorsed the movement for the restoration of a free, independent press in the following resolutions: "That this board express its belief in the world-wide right of interchange of news by news-gathering and distributing agencies, whether individual or associate, and in the right of free access to news sources by any newspaper or any country; and that these rights should be protected by international compact."

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Mrs. Payne Whitney, multi-millionairess and "the first lady of the turf", has died in a New York hospital at the age of 68. Her husband left her $250,000,000 in 1927. She was passionately fond of horses, owned two Kentucky Derby winners, and managed two stables, one her son's, who is with the forces in Italy, and the other her daughter's, Mrs. Charles Shipman Payson. Mrs. Whitney had also literary tastes, and published no fewer than 12 books of verse.

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Earl Roberts of Kandahar, V.C., soldier and seer, born this date 1832; after a distinguished career as a soldier in India, Africa and at home, he devoted his latter years to the advocacy of national service on the part of all citizens; his only son and heir, Lieut. Fred Roberts, was killed in the South African war; he died, as he would have wished at the front, on Nov. 14, 1914; he predicted that the philosophy, designs and policy of Prussianized Germany would ultimately lead to a European holocaust unless the other nations, especially Britain, armed and trained their citizens to repel the onslaught.

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The Quebec Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Laurent Barre sees no necessity for any embargo on the export of hay which would result merely in depriving farmers of legitimate profit. He said that, as a farmer, his opinion was after inspecting several sections of the province "that in 1944 hay crop is better generally speaking than was the case in recent years." Hay shortages were probably more serious in Ontario than in Quebec. If the Federal authorities should take a stand in the matter, Mr. Barre said, the Quebec government would "intervene if it were discovered that the interests of Quebec farmers and settlers were suffering thereby."

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Says the *Labour Gazette*, a Government publication: A study of the discharges which have been carried out in recent months indicates that approximately 50 per cent of the personnel at present being discharged are returning to their former employment or are self-employed. In effect, this means that approximately half of the people being discharged do not require any particular service from any Government department. Of the remainder, from 10 to 15 per cent require further medical treatment, take vocational or educational training, settle themselves on small holdings or take advantage of the provisions of the Veterans Land Act. This leaves from 35 to 40 per cent who want jobs. It is with these that the Unemployment Insurance Commission is directly concerned.

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Canadian troops were pressing against a Channel port. The German garrison were cut off, their position hopeless, but they continued to fight grimly. The Canadians sent an officer with a white flag to demand that the Germans surrender. Moving safely through perimeter defences, the officer found the town strangely deserted. He asked a German soldier to take him to the commandant. But the commandant and all the senior German officers were at the movies. "Go away" the German commandant told the British officer. "We don't want to surrender. Anyhow the big picture is just beginning." The envoy returned and the Canadians took the town by storm.

Notes By The Way

Largest shoe carried by the Army is size 15 1-2, EEE. Soldiers with larger feet than this are equipped with caterpillar treads.—Grit.

The request made to motorists in 1942 for the voluntary saving of gasoline reduced consumption by only 36,000,000 gallons. Rationing was then adopted and consumption was lowered by 156,000,000 gallons. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Indications point to a revival of interest in fall fairs this year. They are local institutions that ought to be preserved for the sake of sociability, the one feature not possible in the crowds that attend national fairs.—Guelph Mercury.

Out of 28 names in the active service death list in a recent issue of The London Times, exactly half were of only, or last surviving sons. That means so far as these families are concerned the line will completely disappear when the parents pass on, and in not a few cases the fathers of these sons now dead in France, in Italy or the dozens of other places British armies are fighting, were killed in the First Great War.—Amherst News.

Natives of New Guinea are fast becoming radio crazy. Not only do they listen by the hour, but the No. 1 Boys are practising to be announcers. Hillbilly stuff and the cruder jazz has a special appeal for these simple folk. The New Guinea natives are known as "Boongs". One of them is known as "Boong Crosby". Beach loafers wail out "Pistol Packin' Momma" until the white soldiers on the island have threatened reprisals. The Australian Broadcasting Commission is establishing branch stations in New Guinea.—Vancouver Province.

Louis N. Parker, noted play-wright and composer, has died in England at the age of 91. The world had forgotten this excellent craftsman, but his plays are remembered by many, particularly his Disraeli, which he wrote for George Arliss; his Rosemary, Pomander Walk, Joseph and His Brethren and other works which enriched the English-speaking stage of a generation ago. He knew the theatre when it enjoyed its best days and he contributed substantially to its best traditions. —Hamilon Spectator.

There is not much danger that Americans on this side of the international boundary will fail to appreciate the part the Canadians played in Normandy. Gen. Eisenhower and others of the Allied command have taken care of that. And if there is still some chance that we may fail to give adequate voice to that appreciation, let it be known here and now that Minnesota, as one of Canada's nearest neighbors, is proud to salute the Canadian 1st Army as one of the key cogs of the Allied military machine. — St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Of all the liberal arts that of music would appear to be the most widespread in its influence on humanity. Like painting and sculpture it speaks a universal language, but speaks it more nearly to the soul. From the earliest ages and in its crudest forms music has been invoked to stir men in war and soothe them in peace; and today its appeal, ranging from jazz to oratorio, reaches all sorts and conditions of men. The strains of bands and pipes can arouse the martial spirit and drive men, with renewed courage, into the fight. I can set the feet dancing, it can slow them down. Set to fitting words it can soothe the weary and encourage the distressed. — From the Victoria Colonist.

There is no justification for granting votes to those who have not acquired a knowledge of public affairs. These persons become an easy prey to demagogues, and their votes offset those of native-born Canadians who have intelligently studied the duties of citizenship all their lives. No one can be a true citizen of Canada who has not the ability to follow the course of events through reading of newspapers and other matter published for the information and guidance of the public. To insist on ability to read and speak English before naturalization papers are granted would be one of the best ways of making good Canadians out of settlers from foreign lands.—Brantford Expositor.

A curious searching of home-town consciences is in progress throughout the land, to judge by perusal of the papers. The soldier boys will soon be coming back, and the older, established citizens, who have never been away, are growing worried. They wonder if the town is as clean and beautiful as it should be, and if it offers as many forms of amusement and as fine opportunities for earning a living as it might. They wonder, accordingly, whether their native sons, after seeing the attractions of the greater world, will not be dissatisfied with the home town when they return, and view it with distate and scorn, and quickly shake the dust of it from their feet forever. And the said citizens are everywhere resolving to do what they can to modify this probable bad impression, if only by erecting a band-stand in the square, putting another loafers' bench on the grocery porch, and establishing a pumpkin cannery. — Detroit News.

Three years ago now Hitler was boasting to the world. He boasted that he Russian armies would be completely wiped out within another six weeks. He almost wept when he pleaded that the Russians or the Allies send against him a general who was not an amateur and who would be worthy of the Nazi mettle. Hitler isn't boasting any more. He has been outgeneraled on the East and on the West, in Africa, in Sicily and in Italy. He has been outgeneraled, too, on the diplomatic front. He promised the people of Europe that, under the wing of the Herrenvolk, they might occupy an inferior place, but they would have peace and plenty. Now the dominated peoples are rising up all about him, and he has nowhere to turn for help. He is the most hated man in the world, and nowhere is he more hated than in the countries which he invaded for their protection, as he put it. Hitler today, is, as they say on the sports page, a busted phenom. — Lethbridge Herald.

Juvenile Punishment

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The Canadian Bar Association has rendered a service in calling attention to the antiquated criminal laws of this country which still, in many cases, allow children under sixteen to be sent to the common jail or to other prisons for adults where their association is all with older criminals. It is even possible, in many parts of the country, under the law as it stands, for a child of eight or nine years to be tried for murder like an adult, by a superior court judge and jury and, if found guilty, to be hanged, unless the sentence is commuted.

For 45 per cent of the population of Canada, the Juvenile Delinquent Act does not apply and there are no juvenile courts, no detention homes for children. The right spirit was shown in that Act which said that a child who had broken the law should not be treated as a criminal or offender, "but as one in a condition of delinquency and therefore requiring help and guidance and proper supervision." But each province is left to decide in how much of its area this Federal law shall be in force, and it is not in force for nearly half the population of this country.

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A juvenile court judge can send a child over fourteen, who is charged with an indictable offence, to be tried in the ordinary courts if he believes that the good of the child and the interests of the community demand it. In such cases, the procedure against the juvenile is the same as against an adult and the law assumes that the child is as fully responsible for his acts as an adult.

Where the Juvenile Delinquent Act is not in force, there is a very slight protection for juveniles under Part 17 of the Criminal Code. This has to do only with charges of theft. A child who has been convicted "shall be committed to the common gaol or other place of confinement" — for adults, since this will be a district where there is no industrial school—or the judge can impose a fine up to $20.

Under the Prisons and Reformatories Act, a judge or magistrate can send a boy convicted of a criminal offence to a reformatory prison (for adults) and the sentence must be for not less than two years and not more than five years. A child can be sent to a penitentiary for a crime for which the term of imprisonment is fixed by law at more than five years.

A child not over sixteen cannot be tried and hanged for murder in some parts of Canada, but in other parts the law allows it.

* * *

These facts are contained in a report of a committee of the Bar Association headed by J. C. McRuer, K. C., who was a member of the Archambault Commission on penal reform. Dealing with offenders between sixteen and twenty years, it says that the statute law of Canada "is devoid of provision for anything that remotely approaches the Borstal system which has been in operation in England in developing form since 1908."

To correct all this, sweeping measures of reform were recommended by the committee and endorsed by the Bar Association—that the law should be amended so that juvenile offenders under sixteen shall be specially treated as juveniles and not as criminals; that no such juvenile should be committed for punishment to any place where acult offenders are held; that the law should not allow the hanging of any person under sixteen; that immediate steps should be taken for the adoption of the Borstal system for those over sixteen.

The Bar Association also renewed its previous recommendation for the adoption of an adult probation system throughout Canada. This is a main feature of penal reform in Britain, and it has gone far toward emptying the prisons of that country.

London's Roman Wall

(Exchange)

London.—London's Roman wall has been revealed in new places by Hitler's bombing. It goes back to 43 A.D., but there is a long blank in the story of London from 410A.D., when the legions left the city, to 600 A.D., when the blackout of history was lifted.

The course of the wall can now be traced plainly from the Thames, near the Tower, to the site of Ludgate, and doubtfully from there to the Thames again just east of the mouth of the River Fleet (which has gone underground to leave its name in a famous street). New views of it have been brought to light near Cripplegate by the Battle of London. Other parts have been revealed near the Tower. These belong to the most impressive of all the remains still above ground, and to the authentic beginnings of Roman London.

One of these new views is just north of Tower Hill, at a point where the wall was pierced by the Tower postern, and where, until December, 1940, a house stood directly on it. The southern end of the wall now stands clear of buildings, a stout and commanding piece of masonry. It is held to be mediaeval on a Roman sub-structure. But a large worked stone near the top is thought to indicate the original height of the wall.

All the history of London from the first century can be imagined here.

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One fragment of the wall carries London's story back to the time of the rising of Boadicea, or Boudicca, in A.D. 61, when there was no wall. Archaeology has here supplemented history and tradition by two remarkable finds. At widely separated modern dates, 1852 and 1935, two inscribed slabs of stone were found built into a bastion. On examination at the British Museum they were found to be the upper and lower parts (the middle stone is missing) of a monument to Gaius Julius Alpinus Classicianus, procurator of the province of Britain, set up by Julia Pacata, "infelix uxor."

This means that the sorrowing wife of Julius Classicianus has left the memory of a happy conjugal partnership. It compares with another first-century inscription found near Ludgate Hill, "to his most devoted wife," "conjugi plentissimae," the 19-year-old Claudia Martini, by one Anencletus, slave of the province.

Thus across the centuries come hints of the love stories of governor and slave in the heyday of Roman London. Classicaanus was a real person. The historian Tacitus mentions him as having been appointed procurator at the time of Boadicea's rebellion, when the military governor, Suetonius, was held to have been at fault. His father-in-law, Julius Indus—also mentioned in the epitaph—is recorded by Tacitus too.

BROUGHT WIFE ALONG

LONDON — (CP) — A German prisoner captured by the British 2nd Army in France arrived at the prisoners' enclosure with his wife

Keep Minard's in the Home.

The Poet's Corner

EXPEDITION

The willows sprouted whips of fire,
Green gold and golden-green and tall:
I looked and coveted them all.
The ridge was steep enough to tire
A younger heart than mine; a rush
Of snow-cold torrent off to sea
Swept from the hills and eagerly
Pale wicks of life pierced through the brush.

I cut with sharply slanting stroke
The supple polished wands that stood
Against the sky; the pungent wood
Was moist with sap, the smooth rind broke
Into long spirals soft as suede;
Yet dropped beside me on the earth
Poor common withes of little worth
The yseemed. I saw the colour fade
And thin to something less like flame.
It was a pigment made of frost
And wind and wildness that is lost
In gathering. Slowly I came
Down the rough slope, not unaware
Of half-acknowledge guilt, as if
I had cut gentians from the cliff
Or left a glade of trilliums bare!

—Leonore A. Pratt, in The Montreal Star.

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