THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1945

A Shameful Record

Asked last year in the House of Commons why he was continually advocating the claims of this Province for better transportation service, Hon. R. B. Hanson, Progressive Conservative member for York-Sudbury, made an apt reply. *"I speak for the people of Prince Edward Island,"* he said, *"because their own members are consistently silent."*

That was the case before and ever since the loss of our car ferry in 1941. Mr. Hanson, Mr. Graydon, and Mr. J. R. MacNicol—Opposition members from other provinces—were our only champions. Our Liberal stalwarts not only gave them no assistance, but did everything they could to belittle their statements, and to pretend that all was going satisfactorily. Delay after delay in preparing the plans for the new car ferry brought no protest from our members, and had not Mr. Hanson and his colleagues spoken as they did on our behalf, Parliament would have known nothing whatever about our difficulties.

It was not a question of Parliament as a body being indifferent to our claims, as was evidenced by the report of the Reconstruction Committee in January, 1944, which among other things recommended "improvements designed to make communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland constant, reliable and adequate." Had this recommendation been followed up, as it should have been, there would not now be need for Hon. Mr. Bracken to promise this Province some measure of belated justice.

Nor can it be said that the press of Canada was unfavorable to our claims for a new car ferry. Outstanding newspapers came to our support, including the *Ottawa Journal*, the *Sydney Post-Record* and the *Montreal Standard*. Even the manager of the *Sackville Tribune*, a strong Liberal partisan, was moved, as long ago as February, 1943, to write indignantly on the subject. This is what he said:

"Island people have worried and you can hardly blame them, for if you were in their places you would be worried too. Frankly, I think the Federal Government should have awarded the contract for a new ferry steamer. If this had been done at the proper time the steamer would likely be on the route by this time. Ordinarily considerable time might be required to build a ferry, but in these days of rapid construction, a boat could likely be built in five or six months at the most, perhaps not in Canada, but surely in the United States, where they do things in a big way. . . . If a ferry steamer had been built I am quite sure that no serious setback would have been given to the war effort, while more adequate service would now be given to The Island."

That, we repeat, was written early in 1943—two and a half years ago, by the gentleman who conducted the Liberal publicity campaign here in the last election.

Such editorials, coupled with the strong presentation of our claims made by the Conservatives in Parliament, might have carried the day had they not been sabotaged by our own Liberal members. As every delegation that went to Ottawa can testify, they acted as wet blankets instead of live wires, and seemed anxious only about soft-pedalling every complaint, so as not to embarrass the Mackenzie King Government.

Of course, they will do the same if re-elected. They will even consider that they have a mandate to act as rubber stamps in the next Parliament, as they did in the last. It is now apparent, however, that the electors of Prince Edward Island have no intention of making the blunder they made five years ago. The election of the Conservative candidates, representing the only party in Parliament which sponsored our rights under King Government misrule, is as much an act of justice as the fulfilment of the pledges made by Mr. Bracken.

Churchill's Warning

The warning which Prime Minister Churchill gave his fellow-countrymen in the Motherland against the insidious menace of Socialism in all its forms is just as applicable to conditions in this Dominion. "When we are told to exalt and admire a philosophy which destroys individualism," he said, "and seeks to replace it by 'collectivism,' I say that that is a monstrous and imbecile conception, which can find no real foothold in the brains and hearts—and the hearts are as trustworthy as the brains—of sensible British people. The Socialists put before us a creed of universal self-sacrifice. They tell us we should dwell together in unity and comradeship. But they preach it in the language of spite and envy, of hatred and uncharitableness." Who can deny the justice of that indictment, severe as it is?

No Limit

Apparently there is no limit to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's effrontery. Addressing an Edmonton audience a few days ago he brazenly boasted of having "wiped out politics when this war began." To which the *Ottawa Journal* supplies the only necessary comment. Was Mr. King, it asks, "wiping out politics" when he insisted (unlike Mr. Churchill and the late President Roosevelt) in conducting the war with a straight Liberal party Government? Or when he kept all appointments of judges and senators on the old pre-war patronage basis? Or when, after the plebiscite, which gave him a mandate to bring conscription, he heeded only the vote of Quebec, where he gets his party majority? Or when he appointed (two years ago) Senator Robertson as head of the National Liberal Federation and reopened the Liberal party headquarters in Ottawa? Or when he was keeping 18 vacancies in the Senate so that, on the eve of the election, he might have an additional weapon to compel loyalty among his followers? Election campaigns notoriously produce talk that is foolish. But there ought to be some limit to it.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Provincial election in Cardigan, Monday, as well as in Ontario.

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Another week for campaign oratory and canvassing—then a shut down till the balloting.

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Armed services are now recording their votes in different parts of the province.

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King's County is apparently safe for Mr. McPhee, though Dr. Grant is making desperate efforts to keep his majority together.

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Politics make strange bedfellows. The lion and the lamb of recent prohibition incident in the Legislature are lying down together on the same platform, at Kensington on Wednesday.

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Evidently the Liberals are mortally afraid of losing Prince County after Mr. King's dirty treatment of their late representative, Mr. Ralston, for they are rushing in speakers and canvassers from all quarters to boost Mr. McNaught's claims.

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In Queen's political prophets proclaim that it is a sure victory for Mr. McLure and Mr. McLean, not a few stalwart Liberal party men agreeing that the omission of Hon. Cyrus MacMillan from the Cabinet was tantamount to Mr. King saying he did not expect him back at Ottawa.

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In the event of Mr. Bracken forming a Government this province is certain of having a member in it. The Island, as an Island, has had no representative in the Government during the whole of the Liberal regime. Mr. Ralston was a Nova Scotian.

* * * *

Major John A. Macdonald has created a very favourable impression on the electorate in Cardigan by his evident sincerity and knowledge of provincial politics. He comes of good stock, has a stake in the country, as well as a distinguished military record, and by-and-large is a representative any constituency has a right to be proud of.

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The dictionary defines the word bureaucracy as "government by bureaux, centralization, officialism." There it is as plain as the nose on your face. In Canada, it means: Expansion under the King regime of all the government agencies that have been set up as war-time measures: Complete control of the individual and the setting up of a totalitarian state as preached by the Socialist C.C.F. John Bracken and the Progressive Conservative party stand solidly against any "bureaucracy" whatsoever.

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Sir Edward Williams Elgar, O.M., English musical composer, born this date 1857; was professor of music at Birmingham University, foremost English composer, his more important compositions including *Froissart, Lux Christ, Scenes From The Saga Of King Olaf, Caractacus, The Dream Of Gerontius;* for the last named he was made a Mus. Doc. of Cambridge, the highest honour in the English musical profession. *The Apostle* was produced in 1904, when he was Knighted and *The Kingdom* in 1906; was created O.M. in 1911.

* * * *

Sheep, in Canada increased by 88,500 or 3.2 per cent as at the beginning of December last, compared with the same date of the previous year. According to estimates compiled from information supplied by farmers and prepared by Dominion statistical authorities in co-operation with provincial departments of agriculture, the total number of Canadian sheep on farms at the end of last year was 2,821,500. The most important increase occurred in Saskatchewan and Quebec with very little change indicated in the other provinces. As in the case of cattle, the marketing of sheep and lambs is now reflecting the increase in numbers on farms which has been in evidence for some years and should remain at relatively high levels throughout 1945.

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In the Red Cross *Despatch* for April-May, Sub-Lieut. Walker, R.C.N.V.R., writes in commendation of the work of therapist Miss Gina Raymond and Lieut. George Hart, R. C. N. V. R. (Charlottetown) in Londonderry, Ireland: "In Londonderry, with the assistance of Inst. Lieut. George Hart, R.C.N.V.R., Miss Raymond obtained the use of a large storeroom over the dockyard chapel These two scrubbed and painted the room and opened a handicraft schoolroom that now operates six days a week and four nights. Here the sailors start their projects under the guidance of Miss Raymond. It seldom takes more than two or three trips to "school" before the sailor is able to continue his work by himself aboard ship. Slippers, gloves, belts, toy animals, rugs, embroidered crests, purses, camera cases, paintings and other useful articles are all being made by ratings and officers alike. The success of the project, it is pointed out, probably lies in the fact that it is self-imposed and not forced upon the men."

Notes By The Way

After the war any one will be able to buy a car, but where is he going to park it?—London Free Press.

We can enjoy the Canadian winter; we have endured the English winter philosophically. But when we have a Canadian winter followed by an English winter disguised as a Canadian spring, we feel that nature has gone too far, and that jokes on the subject are out of place. What we should like to see in Canada is something to compare with the matchless beauty of an English spring. — Peterborough Examiner.

A British anthropologist concludes that brunets are brainier than blonds and that blonds are doomed to disappear. That being so, blondhood, like all beauty that must perish, now enters a period of increasingly precious eminence. Down these twilight years, the dark-thatched IQ shall not avail against the brighter charms of wheeten tresses. Why should it ever? Lots of people have brains, and look where they have brought us.—Wall Street Journal.

Like others of their race, the mental operations of these Doukhobors are not always easy of comprehension. There is a broad streak of obstinacy in them. Yet, annoying as they are to their neighbors who do not share their taste for parading in the altogether, the penitentiary seems a harsh remedy to apply to these misguided religionists. Hard cases make bad law, as courts sometimes declare. These nudist parades must make the good folk of Nelson wish at times for a plague of mosquitoes. —Vancouver Province.

By understanding the causes of weather and its actions we have learned to adjust ourselves to its moods. Now we can predict what will happen and when it will come. Frost, rain, wind and flood are foreseen and the necessary defences made. The orange-grower is warned of frost, and he makes ready his smudge pots to blanket the groves with smoke. Airplanes are despatched only when weather is favorable along the route. We have always had the weather with us, but now it is a science and meteorology has become big business.—Calgary Herald.

It is rather strange to find the man who trounced so many German armies on so many fields a somewhat diffident individual now that the fighting in Europe is over. In his recent message to Canada the incomparable Monty said that it was his earnest desire to visit the Dominion—"if you ask me to." As far as millions of Canadians are concerned, Bernard Law Montgomery can drop in any old time and stay as long as he likes. The welcome mat will be out for him from one end of the Dominion to the other. Come on over, Monty, complete with sweater and badge-covered beret. You rate a herd of fatted calves around these parts. —Winnipeg Tribune.

There is a danger in present conditions for boys who are getting a wrong idea of the value of money. Many of them are making as much as their fathers and are demanding high wages for trivial tasks—and getting it because of the scarcity of labour. That condition will not last, for, when the war is over, many of those boys will be ousted from present jobs and their places taken by returning veterans. Parents should impress on their sons the value of money and not to expect that present earning power will be continued, else the readjustment may be difficult. The danger is that boys, by extravagant spending, based on present earning power, have created standards of spending which cannot be maintained after the war. They should be less extravagant now, saving their money, so that the change when it comes, after the war, will not come with too much shock.—Niagara Falls Review.

There are many what are called livery companies in the City of London. They are merchants' guilds. In the 14th century the various workers assumed a distinctive dress. Thus the name "livery" These guilds are wealthy, powerful and benevolent. Indeed they elect the lord mayor, sheriffs and chamberlain for the City of London. Originally they were foremost in advancing the trade interests of their members, all of whom were guaranteed to be accomplished and fully trained workmen. There are 12 main guilds in London, but there are 78 still in existence. The 72nd is the Clockmakers. Some have 500 members but the Clockmakers has but 150 or less. Once there seems to have been a Watchmakers' Guild, but the art of clockmaking in Britain waned to almost nothing. Yet once Great Britain was the centre of the industry. The business was heavily taxed and so clock shops faded out. Later on this original home of the clock had to import clock parts from Germany. The business was really taxed out of existence.—Brandon Sun.

We have been printing some angry letters about cats, for and against. What started them was a letter from a reader who said her neighbors' cats used his garden so freely that the birds were being killed or frightened away. We have heard from the cat-lovers, who tell us of Pussy's loving disposition, striking intelligence and usefulness in killing vermin. We have heard, too from those who think the only good place for a cat is buried under a rose bush. An argument about cats invariably takes this line, because most people aren't indifferent about cats—they either adore them, and can find no fault in their pets, or they detest them and cheerfully would see the tribe exterminated. The controversy has its amusing points, but behind it is the basic fact that when A's cat roams through B's garden it is trespassing, and A has no more legal or moral right to let his cat annoy his neighbor than he would have to turn his children or his dogs into B's garden. It is agreed that cats are harder to control than children, or dogs, but that is the responsibility of their owners—not of the innocent neighbor. It is quite true that one man's pet may be another man's poison, and a cat or a dog which is a nuisance to the neighbors has exhausted its privileges. But of how the situation is to be met at that stage we haven't the foggies idea.—Ottawa Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

FUTURE OF THE HOG INDUSTRY

Sir,—One of the greatest issues facing Canadian farmers today, and one upon which determining judgement must be passed within the next few months, is that of the "future of the hog industry in Canada". The decision arrived at, in gross formation, within that period of time—may, and likely will be, decisive for the next generation or more. The people of this Province will be more intensely affected favourably or otherwise, than perhaps those of any other Province, and the decision must be made here just as definitely as elsewhere. In fact, decisions are being made every day in connection with the question before us. Every farmer who has a litter of weaner pigs in his possession and decides to throw them on the market instead of raising them to maturity, is making an unfavourable decision insofar as the future of the hog industry in Prince Edward Island is concerned. Many of your rural readers, who by virtue of advancing years are no longer able to carry on, will remember back experiences of a most unfavourable nature—occasions when there was no market for either weaners or mature pigs. Our problem then was to find a market for our mature hogs. Apart from the odd carcass of pork that might be stowed away on a produce or potato loading steamer, we had but a locally operated packing plant of rather small dimension, to take care of seasonal or cold weather period offerings, and that easily supplied. When this occurred the price fluctuation was heart rending, and most devastating in its effect upon the then future of hog production. This is probably how and why we developed our "in and out of the hog business" tendency, and it is this practice that is proving so injurious at the present time under a more modern and opportunity provoking set-up.

The past quarter century has brought about tremendous changes. Hog production methods and marketing outlets and opportunities, have been revolutionized. We have the world for a marketing area today, and organized facilities to get into it. We have preference on the world's greatest bacon and ham consuming centre, now taking every pound we can ship there, and begging for more. We refer to the British market, to which our present export objective is six hundred million pounds annually, but which offers practically an unlimited importation capacity to absorb. Practically all British consumers are now using Canadian bacon. They have acquired a liking for it, and their continued use thereof will depend upon, just how well we will maintain the quality and to what extent and how regularly we can furnish supplies.

The situation is this: We are offered a trade outlet for pork and pork products upon which we can capitalize, and from which we can draw immediate and annually recurring dividends and at the same time extend and maintain an export relationship that will prove to be a legacy of rich opportunity to succeeding generations. Contrarywise, we can continue to travel along the road of least resistance, being satisfied with just taking chances and thus sacrifice our opportunities to smaller European countries of a more aggressive type, countries that will readily realize the advantage of getting an early foot-hold and eventually eliminate us from the picture. The issue we must decide is clear. Are we going to retain this market or lose it, probably forever? Our present contract and guaranteed price will continue until the end of 1946. In the meantime and after that WHAT?

I am, Sir etc.

J. A. GILLIES
Secretary Livestock Marketing Board.

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A Shabby Questionnaire

(Globe And Mail)

The Canadian Government is resorting to very shabby tactics to secure a military contingent which will enable it to fulfil its limited commitments about Canada's contribution to the Pacific war. In pursuance of its declared policy of keeping its special proteges, the "zombies" serving in Canada, safely at home and relying on volunteers for this contingent, the troops serving in Europe have been presented with a questionnaire. In it they are reminded that the terms of their enlistment render them liable to serve until the termination of the whole global war, and they are asked to state whether they would prefer to serve in the Pacific or to serve with the forces which will occupy Germany, or to accept "reallocation in accordance with the indicated provisions and requirements of service," which presumably means reasonably early demobilization.

Naturally the great majority of the overseas troops are eager to be demobilized and to return to their homes and families as soon as possible, and place this preference first. But few of them have any liking for service in the army of occupation. Many omens indicate that Germany, with food shortage and administrative chaos prevailing within her bounds, is going to be an unpleasant country to live in during the coming months. Moreover, the sort of police duty which the occupying forces will have to undertake is distasteful to soldiers, and, whereas British troops among them will be able to get home on leave at intervals, this will be very difficult for Canadians and Americans.

* * *

It is natural then that a substantial number of our overseas troops are expressing a preference to serve in the Pacific. Some of them have a preference for the excitements of military life, especially when the lure of special pay is added, and others want to finish the job that they started. But many others feel that if they volunteer for the Pacific war they will at least get home to Canada quickly with a clear month's leave at their disposal, and that the chances of Japan's surrender at an early date are reasonably good.

Accordingly, it is on the cards that the Government will soon be able to make great parade of the fact that the number of volunteers required for the Pacific force has been secured, and that its plan for recruiting has been completely successful. But success will not wipe out the gross injustice. It is very unfair to ask men who already have braved death and wounds for a long period to face further perils when thousands of trained soldiers who have never seen action are being kept in Canada. It is equally unfair to confront them with a questionnaire which has been framed to contain a subtle bait to allure them to the Pacific. The British and American Governments are adopting no such mean policy. They are assigning certain units to the army of occupation and others to the Pacific war, and, unless they have long service records entitling them to immediate discharge, the personnel of these units have no choice but to serve where ordered. But then political considerations do not govern military policy in London and Washington as they do in Ottawa.

We cannot always oblige, but we can always speak obligingly," said a wise man, Voltire.

The Poets' Corner

WILD CRAB APPLE

Here is a tree that no man ever planted,
Set on a hill that has never known a plow,
It stands alone where man has never garnered
The bitter fruit upon the thorny bough.

Perhaps it grew from some far-brought seedling,
Wind-borne from lands uncharted and unclaimed;
This is fruit that holds a tang of wildness,
This is a tree that never can be tamed.

—Adam Robinson Higbee, in The N. Y. Times.

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