THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1944

A Sordid Travesty

Commenting on the travesty of democratic leadership at Ottawa, Hon. H. H. Stevens writes in the *Vancouver Province*:

"One can not help recalling the words of Victor Hugo when describing the contemptuous government of his day as "puppets strutting their Lilliputian way across the stage" of life, and he added, "behind the assasin came the cringing wretch that carries the sponge."

"The political assassination of Ralston will not be forgotten or readily forgiven, nor will the vain efforts of McNaughton to clean up the horrid mess satisfy the people of Canada.

"We now know that Ralston was right and that King and McNaughton were wholly wrong. What is alarming is that Parliament apparently will allow the political crime to go unavenged. It is true some minor efforts have been made, but Mr. King through the Speaker calmly tells the opposition that they are "out of order," and they subside.

"There is not a day passes in Parliament without some suspension of the rules for even trivial things. Yet in this hour of great crisis, when our casualty lists are growing to ominous proportions, Parliament submits to narrow and unnecessary interpretation of rules of procedure.

"Oh, for the voice of Arthur Meighen at such a time. He would have torn the mask of hypocrisy from the face of the government leader, and bared to the public the duplicity, the cowardice and the chicanery that permeates this whole sordid matter."

On Their Own Financially

Our 222 parliamentarians attending the special session at Ottawa have other worries besides how they are going to vote on the Zombie issue. It looks as if they may have to foot their own bills this time. The members have already drawn their $4,000 sessional indemnity and used up allowable travelling expenses. By the rules, they may draw only the one indemnity for any session, and as the current gathering is only a continuation of that which adjourned last August, they have nothing coming under that heading. The rules also specify that members may have but one set of travelling expenses, although to cover personal expenditures ot going home and returning in the Easter recess a special grant was voted. There is, of course, the possibility of a money bill for compensation being introduced before the session adjourns, also a chance that the Government, under the War Measures Act, might cover the members' expenses by order-in-council. But according to the *Ottawa Journal*, members who did not wish to be quoted theorized that the Government's dictum of no extra pay was part of the strategy to limit the debate and get them on their way home in a hurry.

Britain's Achievement

The White Paper recently issued by the British Government is a moving summary of the magnificent contribution of the people of Great Britain in blood, sweat, tears and blasted homes to victory in this war.

One-third of Britain's dwellings have been damaged by enemy action in the blitz of 1940 and by the robot bombs of this past summer. One-half of her population has been shifted to meet the war-time production of weapons and supplies. There are five and a half million persons in the armed forces, including half a million women. Total casualties, embodying killed, wounded and missing, number 733,030, of whom no fewer than 136,115 were civilians killed or wounded. The total of British merchant seamen who lost their lives in keeping the sea lanes open is 29,020.

Britain's export trade has virtually disappeared, as the nation's capacity was devoted to forging the implements of war. Her oversea gold reserves and other holdings have been exhausted in purchasing the needs of her troops, air force and navy. Her people have lived, until recently, in a dismal blackout, toiled throughout two savage air assaults and kept the tools of victory rolling to the fighting fronts. Their taxation has been extremely heavy; they have paid 18 billion dollars in income and other levies, and placed 21 billion dollars at the disposal of their country in response to war loans. Thus they have enabled Britain to increase her expenditures from about four and a half billion dollars in 1939 to 27 billions a year, and these outlays are steadily rising.

Despite the Nazi air onslaughts, Britain succeeded in turning out a prodigious volume of war equipment. This included 102,000 planes, 25,000 tanks, 35,000 guns and 5,700 ships. The production of the shipyards is all the more remarkable when it is realized that eleven and a half million tons of British merchant shipping were sunk by Nazi submarines, which represented about two-thirds of her peace-time cargo tonnage. Her agricultural lands have been increased from slightly under 13 million acres to approximately 19 1-2 million acres.

Great Britain has about reached the bottom of her purse, but she is not complaining, nor is she dispirited. All she asks for is an equal chance to recover and get back on her economic feet when the war ends.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ex-Mayor Houde having entered the mayoralty contest in Montreal, sparks are already flying.

* * * *

Our preliminary snow flurry is appreciated, and our sympathy extended to Quebec which was not only blanketed but almost swamped.

* * * *

We are to have a double train service with the mainland between December 18 and January 2, 1945. A Sunday service as well.

* * * *

The inquiring mind. Little Boy: "Mummy, why does it rain?" Mother: "To make things grow. To give us vegetables, fruit and flowers." Little Boy: "Then why does it rain on our footpath?"

* * * *

It was not Prime Minister King, but Prime Minister Churchill who inaugurated leave for soldiers serving five years overseas. In the British House of Commons, he announced benedicts in the British armed forces in the Mediterranean and the Far East will have to take their chances with the bachelors in the matter of home leaves because among other things "unmarried people have feelings as well as married people." The reply, which drew laughter from the House, came when he was asked why married men couldn't be given preference in leave regulations. Mr. Churchill said some commanders were allowing their men to ballot on who should come home first, and that this method was giving "great satisfaction."

* * * *

With both Senator Bouchard and Pastor Shields on the rampage, there is not much prospect of undisturbed peace and quiet in certain sections of the Dominion this winter. That stalwart bulwark of Presbyterianism in the Maritimes, *The Eastern Chronicle*, New Glasgow, opines: "Canada's biggest trouble is centred in Toronto, and publicity-seeker Pastor Shields and the *Toronto Telegram* vie for honours in disturbing relations between religious peoples across Canada. Toronto holds second place in the city list of Zombies, with 3,225. Judging by the blatant Shields and the *Telegram*, it might have been thought that the figures would not have exceeded 3 decimal 225. But there you are! This disturber of public opinion had better confine his efforts to his own backyard instead of his unwelcome excursions into other sections of Canada. There are more Zombies around his church-door in holy Toronto than in all Nova Scotia."

* * * *

The secret of the "Mickey", a radar device which permits bombing through dense clouds and smoke screens, has at length been disclosed. The device was officially described as a triumph of Anglo-American teamwork. With it British and United States airmen have bombed German targets through cloud cover three miles thick. Called the "Genbox" by R. A. F. airmen, the instrument transmits radio waves which strike surface objects and rebound to a receiver on the bomber, giving him an outline of cities, coastlines, ships, brought into focus. British inventors developed the first such instrument when the Germans began the Battle of Britain in 1940. As British cities, including London, were battered and blasted by German bombs, the "Mickey" which was to help take the war to Berlin and Germany took form. Since then it has been highly developed. Post-war use of the instrument is expected to be extensive. With it airliners could operate over treacherous territory with the "blind" removed from blind flying.

* * * *

The Canadian Meat Board now has purchased 103,000,000 lbs. of beef for shipment to the United Kingdom, the equivalent of 234,000 head of cattle. The purchase means that the Dominion has met in about a year the minimum beef requirements asked by the United Kingdom for the two years 1944 and 1945. Agriculture Minister Gardiner in July announced the agreement under which 100,000,000 lbs. of beef as a minimum would be exported in 1944 and 1945. Shipments of some 50,000,000 lbs. had been made at that time and were included in the 100,000,000-lb. total. Officials said that the United Kingdom had agreed to take all Canadian beef surpluses which could be shipped and it has been estimated that final shipments in the two-year period may be three or four times the minimum. The highest shipments of beef cattle to the United Kingdom in a pre-war year totalled about 40,000 head. Gordon Taggart, meat board chairman, said that purchasing for the United Kingdom market is continuing, with major marketings of cattle reported across the Dominion. Actual shipments of the beef overseas is well up on the purchasing by the board, he said.

* * * *

Thomas Carlyle, author and philosopher, born this date 1795; intended to enter the ministry but became a teacher instead, drifting into a literary life by slow degrees; was an eminent historian and biographer, and excelled as an essayist on questions of paramount public interest; according to his biography his work is remarkable for its qualities of humour, sarcasm, and profound insight, and his vivid and picturesque style is distinctly characteristic of the man; that it is faultless no rational being would contend, that it is powerful, few would deny; he had great faith in the freedom and independence of the Press, again and again referring to its influence in moulding and developing opinion: "The true Church, at the present moment, lies in the Editors of its newspapers. These preach to the people daily, weekly." . . . "Is not the newspaper an open Forum, as never Forum was before, where all mortals vent their opinions, state their grievances?" . . "A Parliament speaking through reporters to Buncombe and the twenty-seven millions; mostly fools." . . . "All history is an inarticulate Bible."

Notes By The Way

After 47 years of marriage, a couple in Los Angeles have been divorced. Apparently just one of those experimental things that didn't work-out.—(Windsor Star.)

The butter ration in neutral Eire has been raised from 6 ounces to 8 ounces weekly per person. Britain's ration is 2 ounces.—(London Daily Mail.)

An ordnance general reports 37 percent of bombs dropped recently by the Nazis on England are "duds". Slave labor in Germany is now showing clearly where it stands.—(Ottawa Journal.)

"It is estimated that American women use enough lipstick every year to paint 40,000 barns." Add what's used by our Canadian women and perhaps the silos could have a coat, too.—(Ottawa Citizen.)

The British Housing Committee, reporting a decline in the Scottish birth-rate, says "the Scots are a dying race." It's true enough in one sense—they die nobly on all of Britain's battlefields.—(Ottawa Citizen.)

Common sense, though she is by nature the gentlest creature living, when she feels the knife at her throat, is apt to develop unexpected powers of resistance, and to send doctrinaires flying, even when they have bound her down and think they have her at their mercy.—(Samuel Butler, from Encore.)

Families of wealthy Japs are reported to be fleeing to Russia to escape the expected bombing of the Japanese mainland. But there is a chance they may be jumping from the frying pan into the fire. What, for instance, will be their position if Russia should declare war on Japan after the Germans have been licked?—(Niagara Falls Review.)

The American public had faith in Kenesaw Mountain Landis. The old gentleman was cranky, often illogical, and possessed of his full quota of imperfections, and yet the simple fact that he had a high integrity—and, fully as important, that the people believed he had this integrity—was enough to bring him over the years a full measure of respect and affection. He grew into a sort of symbol of honesty.—(New York Herald Tribune.)

Studies of the Winter flounder prove that the eye of this fish is the organ which enables it to take on the color of the sea bottom on which it lies, in order to deceive prey. When the head of the fish was placed against a black background, its entire body turned very dark, and vice versa. The uncanny ability of this fish to copy a varied background was also shown by putting it against a black-and-white checkerboard which it reproduced well enough to make itself indistinguishable at a distance of ten feet.—(Collier's.)

The Greek drachma is the first money unit to be killed in World War II. It died with its boots on too, holding the all-time record for inflation, when it was quoted at eight trillion to a dollar, just as it bit the dust. The German mark and the Russian ruble, leading money casualties of World War I, never hung up a record as high as two trillion to the dollar, although to those deceased currencies must go the honor of first transferring trillions from astronomy to finance.—(Chicago Daily News.)

One of the most curious animals in Australia is the platypus, which seems to be a mixture of several animals. It can live either on land or water. It has the fur of a seal, the bill of a duck, and is web-footed. It has short legs with five webbed toes on each foot, and the male has a horny spur on his heels. Unlike the duck, it has nostrils at the extreme end of its bill. Although clumsy on land, it is a fine swimmer, and snails and shell fish compose its food. It lays eggs like a turtle, but carries its young in a pouch and suckles them.—(Our Dumb Animals.)

Modern Japan has been one of the world's great traffickers in drugs. She steadily resisted the efforts of the League of Nations to suppress or limit the traffic, both because it was extremely profitable and because she considered her own people immune to the habit. After withdrawing from the League, she threw all pretence to the winds and openly employed opium as a military weapon. It was turned first against Manchuria. Twelve out of the eighteen provinces were planted to poppy crops. Since 1931 millions of the inhabitants of China's northeastern provinces have become hopeless opium addicts.—New York Times.)

With the cigarette famine several days old, more pipes per capita protrude from Chicago faces than at any time since the Indians moved away. Even some of the ladies are taking up tasty briers. Alert tobacconists offer small and dainty pipes, together with delicate blends of the weed. One advertisement goes so far as to level this selling point: "No Need to Envy Men and Their Fragrant Pipes!" This notion will amaze those husbands whose wives, envying neither their calabashes nor the odors thereof, shriek: "Keep that alfalfa-burner away from my curtains!" or "That thing smells like you'd caught your toupee on fire." A season of pipe-smoking for these ladies themselves might help to blunt the sharpness of their tongues.—(Chicago Sun.)

After four years of German occupation the physical condition of the French is really alarming, in spite of erroneous impressions gained from hasty visits to France. "Statistics are just reaching us which show that between 60 and 75 per cent. of the population manifest a considerable state of deficiency," said M. Francois Biloux, Minister of Health. "Of course we have not experienced the very worst. There have been no epidemics, and apart from some typhoid and diphtheria, and a great many cases of mild influenza, that is all. But what causes us anxiety is the general state of undernourishment of the people. The average Frenchman weighs less in 1944 than in 1939. This is true of adults, but still more true of children. Very few adolescents have reached the normal height for their age. Nearly all children, particularly those in towns, show signs of rickets; fortunately there are few bad cases, but there are alarming symptoms. In children's hospitals fracture cases take an interminable time to mend because of permanent and advanced decalcification."

PUBLIC FORUM

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

OYSTER FISHING RIGHTS

Sir,—No doubt every reader of The Guardian read a letter which my husband had published some weeks ago in connection with oyster leasing at Pownal Bay and in the Cherry Valley area, where we reside. Up to the present his letter has not been answered either by leaseholders or members whom he declared had taken our rights and liberties away from us. Let us see how true this is.

We have had to visit us here more Mounted Police than I really could believe ever lived in Prince Edward Island. At first they told me, for my husband, not to go near the shore, and after that there was a summons to Court, and so on; till finally, last Wednesday night, he was asked to go to jail, leaving me and eight children, the oldest of whom is only fourteen years old. I now ask the public, whom do you think should have been taken to jail, the husband who asked Hon. Cyrus MacMillan for justice in order that he might earn an honest living for his family, or the two men who were in that car with the member from Belfast at the shore, taking our oyster beds?

Would it have been a manly think for those men to have gone into our barn and taken our four horses? We could have replaced those horses, but we can't replace our oyster beds. Why? because after this rich syndicate from the city of Charlottetown, along with a few relations from Cherry Valley, had secured leases on our producing beds they got an order-in-council passed to close the whole of Pownal Bay, where there are hundreds of acres of shore, and hundreds of barrels of oysters, and which at the present time is closed to every person except themselves.

My husband and three of those small children fished 6 1-2 barrels of oysters in two hours one morning this fall, for which he got a cheque for $52 at $8 per barrel. Is this worth fighting for? Is it worth going to jail for? I am proud to know that I have a husband who stands for justice. Do I want a fish warden to be after my children every time they visit this shore, and then Mounted Police after that? Should not Hon. Cyrus MacMillan and Mr. Lester Douglas M P be proud to have such an order-in-council passed to protect a rich syndicate which has got lots of money to pay for its own protection?

Since they got this protection from the government some leaseholders fish Sunday and Monday. Who ever saw this taking place here before? Is this not a disgrace to the Belfast District where at one time our members made the rafters ring with the words: "Oh, what a free country!" Are our rights and privileges worth anything to us? I have resided here for the past twenty years, and many a time I sent the children to the shore to fish oysters for my father, who is one of the most widely known and respected citizens of the good old Belfast District. I will also state that we fished oysters off this shore every year since I moved here, though now we can fish no more.

When my husband comes home I expect he will write another letter and go into the details of the policy of oyster leasing more fully than I can.

I am, Sir, etc.,

MRS. LEO PRAUGHT

Cherry Valley, P. E. I. Dec. 2.

NAVAL BARRACKS

Sir,— It is to be hoped that since a petition was presented to the City Council against the erection of a naval barracks near the Government Pond, the matter of obtaining a site in the City has not been lost sight of. The main point of the petitioners was that the proposed site was too close to the P. E. I. Hospital. In that there is some degree of truth.

Some mention Victoria Park as being a suitable site. It would be admirable, but the Park was handed over to the City by the local Government on 14th June 1873, for the sole purpose of a park and pleasure ground, the Provincial Government having previously received it from the Dominion Government.

One would think that a Naval Barracks would be the better situated close to the water. If so, I suggest the following sites:—

Riverside Apartments and the land south of it.

Land south of Water Street between Queen and Pownal Streets.

I am, Sir, etc.,

LANDLUBBER

ST. ANCHEL SCHOOL

Following is the report for November:

Grade IX—1. Lorna Keating; 2. Walter Lord; 3. Shirley MacLean.

Grade VIII—1. Iona Keating; 2. Beryl MacLean.

Grade VII Sr.—1. Joyce MacLean; 2. Lillian MacLean.

Grade VII Jr.—1. Violet Aiken; 2. Sheila MacLean.

Grade VI—1. Harold Coakes.

Grade IV Sr.—1. Edna Todd.

Grade IV Jr.—1. Jackie White; 2. Alberta Todd; 3. Roma MacLean.

Grade III Jr.—1. Mary Kelly; 2. Vivian Keating.

Grade II—1. Marcellus Trainor.

Grade I—1. Audrey Cameron.

Amount purchased in War Savings Stamps, $20.00.

Teacher—S. M. Halliwell.

The Poet's Corner

BROWN NOVEMBER WOOD

When you have seen the brown November wood
Naked and drab and aching for the snow,
You will not wonder that my spirit should
Be glad to feel the winds of Winter blow.

When you have heard the whispering of leaves
Holding last meetings in November streets
You will not think that lingering reprieves
Are anything but tragedies and cheats.

So do not speak me fair when in your mind
Hate and affection struggle undecided;
The executioner who is most kind
Indulges not the neck to be divided.
Let me not suffer drably, hold fast meetings,
Or with a prayer put off the headsman's greetings.

—Nancy Bickel, in Harper's Magazine.

HOW TO COMBAT Rheumatic Pains

Rheumatic pains are often caused by uric acid in the blood. This blood impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Treat rheumatic pains by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 102

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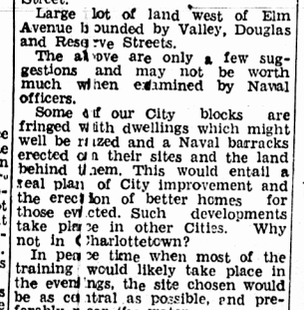

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SOUTH KILDARE SCHOOL

Report of South Kildare School for the month of November:

Grade VIII—Hillard Bell, Gordon Ramsay.

Grade VII—Arnold Hardy, Marion Hardy.

Grade V—Verna Rayner, Pearl Oliver, Theresa Gallant.

Gade IV—Anna Ramsay, Wendell Weeks.

Grade III—Eleanor Ramsay, Myrna Arthur, Roy Bell.

Grade II—Reta Gallant, Mervin Wells, Hazel Wells.

Grade I—Roy Cotton, Roy Reddy, Jean Wells.

Perfect attendance: Gordon Ramsay, Anna Ramsay, Wendell Weeks, Eleanor Ramsay.

G. Patricia Corcoran, teacher.

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