

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1940.

A Fatal Fallacy

Unfortunately for Europe and the world today, the enlightenment that should have come in the post-war years to the German people, as to the disastrous consequences to them of the war of 1914-18, was effectively countered by the shrewd exploitation of the Versailles Treaty as an alibi for all the misfortunes with which the country was afflicted. It was particularly useful as a protection for militarism which, identified as the cause of the country's woes, would have fallen into popular disfavor. The popular delusion, carefully cultivated, that the German army had never been defeated in the field but had been "stabbed in the back" by traitors at home, coupled with the kindred delusion that all the past-war troubles of Germany flowed from the Treaty, destroyed the effectiveness of the lesson which the war should have given the German people as to the consequences of aggression and conditioned their minds for the revolutionary movement which put Hitler into power and again plunged Germany into war.

The worst effect of the Treaty of Versailles upon Germany was not that it imposed the loss of territory or the weight of reparations. It was that, in fighting the treaty, the German people transferred their whole attention to it, and, by what appeared at the time as a supreme effort of the will, forgot or ignored the effect of the war itself. All the evils which the country suffered in the post-war years were attributed to the machinations of diplomats and statesmen after the soldiers' work was over. It was almost an article of faith that but for the treaty Germany could have recovered speedily from the costs of the war. The belief that the calamities of Germany were due to the peace and not to the war was reinforced by nation-wide organized propaganda.

German belief that the Versailles Treaty was solely responsible for post-war ills was strengthened and supported by the clamor which was raised against the Versailles Treaty in other countries for domestic consumption in the interest of home politics. Dr. Showell deals with the United States "liberals" for the contribution which they made to the attack upon the Treaty because it served them in their pursuit of their own vendettas, personal and political. His survey does not include Great Britain, where the political advantage of denouncing the Treaty as a veritable Pandora box of evils passed from one political group to another.

Soviet Farm Economy

In another effort by Stalin to extract from the collective farmers larger supplies of grain and vegetables for the State, the Soviets have issued a new decree altering the basis of the farmers' enforced contributions. Hitherto the tax has been levied pro rata on the sown area of each farm, but henceforward the contribution will be fixed, in relation to the total area of arable land, whether it was planned to be sown or not. Under this scheme the farmer theoretically will have no choice but to produce the amount of grain, vegetables, fodder and hay required by the State over and above what he may require for himself. The Government declares its intention of providing tractors and other machinery for economic cultivation on a large scale, and pressure is being brought to bear on the leaders of the collective farmers to get better results. Pravda, the organ of the Communist Party, says that the new decree will tend to reduce the prices of food and raw materials. That, of course, is its object—to get a better yield, avert scarcity, and so reduce prices. The change is due to the fact that methods hitherto employed have failed, in collective farming, to produce the supplies which the Government needed.

France At War

France stands mobilized to the hilt for war against a ruthless and well-organized enemy who has ranged himself against her frontiers for the third time within the span of a man's life. In some respects, says an exchange, our gallant ally has gone a great deal further than any of the Allied democracies. She is throwing her full strength into the gigantic struggle. The entire nation is determined to destroy the German menace—to destroy Hitlerism and to stop Hun savagery forever. Five million sons of France are under arms.

Five million gallant Frenchmen are in the fighting line, out of a population of forty-two million. Were Canada making a comparable effort we would have one million under arms instead of one hundred thousand.

Too many Canadians do not yet realize that we are up against the most dangerous challenge to democracy the world has yet seen. We are still going about our business—and our pleasure—as usual.

France's war effort calls for sacrifices from every man and woman in the Republic. With one out of every eight in the population bearing arms, men over 50, women, and youths of 17 and under must shoulder the burden of tilling the fields and staffing the factories. Munition workers—men and women—till at the lathes for ten hours a day, tax burdens are assumed without a whimper, luxuries have been largely eliminated. No price is too great.

Workpeople who struggled so hard to win the forty-hour week have accepted the wartime necessity of returning to the sixty-hour week.

Heavy wartime levies have been imposed on profits, reaching a rate of 100 per cent on profits in excess of 8 per cent on turnover in firms working for national defense. The unemployed are being rapidly retained. Wages are controlled, in the light of the position of the mobilized soldier. Increases in commodity prices have been prohibited. Profits of all concerns, whether working on war supplies or other products, are limited. The Treasury has had no difficulty in issuing National Defense Bonds at low rates of interest to cover war expenditure.

France is an example of a nation waging war in earnest.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Home Improvement loans to Charlottetown to April 30 totalled 955 representing \$233,740.

Henry Gratton, Irish statesman, and orator, died this date, 1825. As a statesman he was broad-minded, disinterested and patriotic; as an orator, brilliant, witty and remarkably eloquent. "At twenty years of age, the will reigns; at thirty, the wit; and at forty, the judgment."

Sir John Simon, abused by Hitler as Foreign Secretary and abused by the Labour Party as Chancellor of the Exchequer, now becomes Lord Chancellor, the Supreme Head of the Law in the British Empire, and a peer of the realm.

War consequences are being felt in the Law Courts, the Ontario Government, having decided to postpone their appeals against the judgments of the Supreme Court on the right of appeal to the Privy Council, and on the Canada Temperance Act as being ultra vires of the Parliament of Canada. The Federal Government has agreed to the postponement till after the war.

It seems entrance into the New York Police Force is to some considerable extent "a means to an end." That is, the average number of suicides in the force during the past six years has been eight. A demand has been made in the City Council for a probe to find out the cause, why so many men sworn to maintain law and order should be so anxious to escape the discharge of that duty.

Hon. Ernest Lapointe is not well enough to go to Winnipeg to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Manitoba tomorrow, but it is hoped will be able "to make" the House of Commons to hear his son in a maiden speech move the adoption of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Such a happy occasion to a proud father will be worth a ton of ordinary medical stimulants and "pick-me-ups."

What is meant by the "Fifth Column?" It refers to General Franco's declaration in the Spanish War that his forces were fighting four columns of the enemy and a fifth column consisting of spies, traitors, international communists, etc., who were playing up to the enemy. Since then, and especially during the present war "Fifth Column" has been taken to mean all those who adversely criticize the attitude of the country and evince a tendency to international tolerance for her enemies.

Let this be a warning. On May 15 Montreal City Council has falling due a \$3,000,000 renewal of credit by the banks originally advanced in May last year as well as a public issue of \$3,949,500. Applicable to the latter obligation is a sinking fund accumulation of \$312,204. On June 1, another public issue of \$2,710,000 matures, for which sinking fund accumulation is \$492,249. It is proposed that recourse be made to the imposition of a special levy on real estate to make up the deficiency. It has been estimated a levy of 92 cents per \$100 of municipal valuation would have to be imposed on realty to realize the difference needed for full payment of the loans.

Reported yesterday from the battle front was the use of a new gas by the Germans, which was dropped in bombs over the fortress of Liege. From the description of the results, it is likely that the new gas is a strong concentration of nitrous oxide. It would probably not be effective against the protection of a gas mask, certainly not in the open air. Even in the last war, when the Allies were totally unprepared for this particular form of frightfulness, German gas attacks proved a failure. The first one was successfully withstood by the Canadian Division at St. Julien. The protection now afforded to soldiers at the front gives them a fighting chance against any form of gas that can be used in practical warfare.

Hon. Mr. Euler's vacating of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce for a seat in the Senate has avoided the immediate necessity for dividing the portfolios of Transport and Supply, now headed by Mr. Howe. It originally was intended to give Mr. J. A. MacKinnon the Transport Ministry, and allow Mr. Howe to devote all his energies and time to speeding up war supplies. But the death of Senator Lynch-Staunton provided a long sought opportunity of ridding the Cabinet of Mr. Euler, who not infrequently failed to see eye to eye with the Prime Minister, and sometimes inconveniently said out loud what he thought. Mr. Euler is of the calibre that the Senate as a whole should be independent and constructive.

The Hon. Anthony Eden has no doubts about the part Canada and the other Dominions will ultimately play in winning the war. He told the National Defence Interest Committee that when the Empire training plan is fully developed its output of pilots, observers and gun crews would be numbered in the tens of thousands every year. He said the Empire war effort was like "the opening bars of a symphony whose theme has been announced but not elaborated. The war is entering upon what all can recognize as an active phase," he went on. "The peoples of the British Commonwealth must now be braced and prepared for the stress of a harsh conflict. Every day the Empire war effort is gathering new force. It is beginning to be proved beyond a shadow of doubt that it will be a factor of immense importance in the achievement of ultimate victory."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Protests have been pouring into Toronto from motorists of Ontario who charge that a speed trap existed in Leaside, Ontario, near the Leaside and Midland roads. Drivers particularly resented the fact that no effort was made to inform them of their offence at the time it occurred; the first they learned of it being when a summons was received several days later. Most drivers expected to be prosecuted when they knowingly violate the speed laws, but it is scarcely unreasonable of them to ask of the authorities that the latter notify them at the time the offence occurs. This enables a motorist conscientiously to say whether or not he is guilty. Speed traps generally are condemned today as unethical practice in the enforcement of the law. — Hamilton Spectator.

Soldiers no more need to be recommended to read novels than do the vast army of subscription library patrons. The man of action likes books about other men of action. Written, if possible, by authors who are themselves men of action. That is why John Buchan's and Ian Hay's novels are always so popular among the fighting forces. A man who has been called to help us forget our own present trouble, and we are lucky to live at a time when the writers of thrillers write so well. Geoffrey Household's "Rogue Male" and Eric Ambler's novels are typical of the high standard of achievement in the spy-story-telling of our time, as Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham and Agatha Christie are typical of the intelligence brought to bear on the writing of detective fiction. And, there are the authors who make us laugh. If ever a man deserved a doctorate it is P. G. Wodehouse, for he almost more than any other living man, has the power to take us right out of ourselves, lightly. Authors who have felt the need for good honest ringing laughter so much as now. — (S. P. B. M.A.'s in the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts).

There is an old story about a row in the gallery of an Irish theatre. Some individual had incurred general anger, and there was a congenial move to throw him over the pit. At this crisis an emergency voice from below was heard shouting: "Don't waste him! Kill a fiddler with him!" This was precisely the policy favored during the late war by Admiral Hall, when our navy engaged and captured the German ship, the Denzla, was actually in wait for a much more ambitious prey. And this may also explain Lord Haw-Haw's excited promise of big news to come. His lordship has side-slipped badly if it is true that he has mentioned the sinking of the Queen Elizabeth. — London Courier, Ottawa Journal.

When Germany perpetrates a black fraud in the form of a White Book, the contents of the volume and the ostentatious purity of the title suggests that the latter has been selected deliberately. Moreover it is natural to seek, as Mr. Whitting has done, some sign of continuity in the titles of the British Blue Books, French Yellow Books and others in the many-lined parade of diplomatic documents issued by the various European governments. The "colored books" is an interesting one, but color symbolism plays a very small part in it. Originally these volumes were intended to acquaint the legislature of the several countries with the state of their relations and to lock their titles—their unofficial titles, at least—from the color of their bindings. Sometimes these colors were chosen for their national significance, as in the Netherlands, whose Orange.

But the British Blue Book, granddaddy of them all and the only one not connected to foreign affairs, apparently has been its books cover for many practical reasons. The British began publishing Parliamentary papers as early as 1641, and a German historian suggests that blue was chosen for the color of the cover because it proved economical. In early times, he points out, before the art of bleaching blue rags for paper making was known, such rags were put aside for the manufacture of covers in which they proved useful, since the blue paper did not show dirt readily. Once started, the custom persisted with true British conservatism. The practice of naming government books for the color of their covers has also come to the Middle Ages. The registers and account books of cities were often designated in this manner—the White Book of London, for example, and the Red Book of Welmarr. — New York Herald Tribune.

Here is our chance to help the Allies in a practical, useful way. We can take steps to enable Britain and France to sell us more of the goods which they are producing in their factories despite the war. Thus we can insure their ability to buy from us all those supplies of farm products, machinery and appliances they must have if they are to win the war. These things by immediate reduction of tariffs under the trade treaties. If necessary, Congress should give Secretary Hull power to cut tariffs lower than the present fifty per cent. — New York Post.

It is to be hoped that the geological studies undertaken by the provincial department of mines in the early days of the present century will result in discovering something of value in the way of mineral deposits. Formations in that locality have led some geologists to surmise that gold-bearing rock may be found there. It is at any rate a policy on the part of the department to make a thorough examination of that and possibly other areas where discoveries may be made justifying development work. Valuable mineral-bearing rock may be found in almost every section of the island. The question always is whether there is enough to justify detailed prospecting. — Glace Bay Gazette.

Canada Must Fight With All Her Might

(From an Address by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen)

I wonder if we who feel a certain security because of the width of the Atlantic have any notion what color of sun would rise tomorrow if the Maginot Line were broken. Only the other day someone told me, and will be telling you almost any day of the week, that we are all right as we have the United States to back us. I do not feel all right. It is not very long ago that I read an article by a former President of the United States, in an American magazine, in which he extolled the security of his nation and said that the leaders of Canada look for Europe go down, the task would so strain Germany that this continent would be safe for a quarter of a century. Has he or have you any conception of the terms of peace in the event of a German victory? Can you imagine a peace which would exempt from domination one single island in the Atlantic? Does not such domination mean immediate war for us all? When peace is dictated by triumphant Germany, South America will be a thousand miles nearer the new war bases of the Reich than that continent will be to the United States. Nazi organizations all over the world will find fertile soil. In the name of reason why don't we take a look at stark realities and think? Can any person of common sense imagine a Europe an Africa, or the grip of Hitler, the one-time British fleet directed from Berlin, and a free continent over here? Talk about wishful thinking! It is stupid. Before that hour strikes, the Nazi flag column will be a tower of glory from Cape Horn to Hudson Bay. There will be a thousand Danzigs all over this continent. In such a plight there would be seen the United States and our cause, or this is it, or, facing European dictatorships in the pride and arrogance of triumph. I beg of my fellow-countrymen to think. We are right now in a struggle which only ends in the collapse of our civilization or in victory for the British Empire.

We take victory for granted—far too much for granted. Just think of Island, there are 35 per cent fewer schools. I am Sir, etc. H. K. S. HEMMING. May 13, 1940. "COMPULSORY CO-OPERATION" Sir.—In reference to your editorial on compulsory cooperation, may I ask since when has compulsory co-operation been introduced into P. E. I.?

PUBLIC FORUM

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

NATURAL PRODUCTS BILL

Sir.—Re letter in your issue of the 7th, instant signed by T. J. Kiekham. A Bill entitled The Natural Products Marketing Act was introduced during the recent session of the Legislature. Many members of the Legislature were opposed to the bill. My friend, General Stewart said his bill was ultra vires and should not be passed. Later said bill was amended and as amended passed the Legislature without opposition. It is now a statute of the province.

FARMERS AND GARDENING

Sir.—At this season of the year all men and women with families are planning to plant and grow, knowing the advantages of same in supplying vegetables for summer as well as winter use. There are many people who have not the means of putting in a garden and I was wondering whether the better class of farmers would be willing to give to the less fortunate, who are anxious to have a patch of land for gardening, a row or two in their turnip or potato field, with the understanding that when the crop is raised, with work, hay to go in and a shortage of help he could say to his neighbor for whom he provided help, I want you to come and help me with my garden. There would be co-operation in this work that would be beneficial to both, and what a boon it would be to the party who otherwise would not have a garden! Of course the party who receives this privilege must not expect the owner of the land to hoe and weed his vegetables. In fact he should be willing to assist the farmer by hoeing or weeding in his potato or turnip field.

W. H. DENNIS, Minister of Agriculture.

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Sir.—When Mr. J. Regina'd MacDonald, Secretary of the P.E.I. Teachers' Federation, in his letter this morning to the Guardian states that the teacher is "the most important cog in any system of education," he does not go far enough, for from the standpoint of economic progress the question of affording the children of the present generation a more enlightened school system than now prevails is of prime importance. With a much higher standard of education it can be expected that the farmers, upon whose producing powers the future of the Island mainly depends, will avail themselves of the many important discoveries continually being made in the field of agriculture and the same rule applies to the fisheries and commerce.

If the Teachers' Federation will offer to the public of the Province some really constructive criticism of the present school system, they can depend upon being listened to by a large percentage of our people. Take just one point upon which their opinion would be valued, viz. the rigid adherence to the district system of the Island to the obsolete system of small school units, in which one poorly paid teacher in all the grades in one room, instead of having the pupils from larger areas assemble in buildings divided into a number of rooms, each in charge of qualified teachers. Perhaps no better proof of the inadequacy of this system can be given than the fact that in England, where the population is 155 times that of Prince Edward

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The Poets' Corner FROM "SUNRISE AT SEA" And shivered like spread wings of angels blown By the sun's breath before him; And a low Sweet rain smooed all the foamflow-ers of this snow As into rainfall of sea-roses shed Leaf by wild leaf on that green garden-bed Which tempests till and sea-wind turn and plough. For rosy and fiery round the running pling Plover the flakes and feathers of the spray And bloomed like blossoms cast by God away To waste on the ardent water; swift the moon Withered to westward as a face in swoon Death-stricken by glad tidings; and Throbbled, and the centre quivered with delight. Air, light, and wave seemed full of burning rest, With motion as of one God's beating breast. —Swinnburne.

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