

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1940.

Italy's Intervention

The seriousness of the situation on the western front has been aggravated by the entry of Italy into the war on the side of Germany. Prime Minister King, in announcing this fact in the House of Commons, fittingly described Mussolini's action as that of a carrion bird of prey, waiting the opportune moment to satiate his lust for conquest and "for such glory as calculated duplicity and treachery can bring." During the past few weeks, however, Mussolini's intentions were well known. Only the fear of what Italy might suffer from her vulnerable position in the Mediterranean has kept him back from open conflict with France. Now that he has taken the plunge, his chances of success remain as desperate as ever. France, though hard pressed, is not beaten; and Great Britain has yet to be reckoned with. Premier King ventured to predict that retribution will overtake all tyrants, and the dictator of Italy among them. One might add that even Hitler gains somewhat in stature in comparison with a foe like Mussolini, to whom loot is the supreme objective. "As for Canada," said Premier King, "this new peril to the Allied cause will only increase our country's determination to stand resolute at the side of Britain and France until the powers of evil which threaten the freedom of all mankind are vanquished once and for all." These words have the right ring. They have in them something which has been lacking in Mr. King's utterances heretofore. They carry the message for which the people of Canada have been waiting. There will be no doubt as to the response.

A Shocking Tragedy

The death in a plane crash of Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Defense in the King Government, was learned with the deepest regret throughout Canada yesterday. Mr. Rogers was making a rush flight from Ottawa to Toronto to address a service club meeting when the accident occurred, which cost also the lives of the three members of the crew. A veteran of the last Great War and a former Rhodes Scholar, Mr. Rogers had a notable career as a university professor and specialist in economic and constitutional questions before entering politics in 1935. He first held the portfolio of Labour in the King Government and became Minister of Defense in the cabinet shakeup in September, 1939. As such he was considered the key man in the prosecution of Canada's war effort. His death at the comparatively early age of forty-six will be felt as a loss by his cabinet colleagues and the country at large.

While in his capacity of Defence Minister Mr. Rogers was subject to considerable criticism, none doubted his loyalty and devotion to duty. It was in the course of duty—just as much as if he had been on active service overseas—that he met his death. The Prime Minister's touching tribute to him in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon is a reminder of the fact that they were very close personal friends. Mr. Rogers had consulted his chief about leaving Ottawa in view of the serious news of Italy's declaration of war, and Mr. King had advised him to fulfill his engagement to speak in Toronto. Mr. Rogers' last words to the Prime Minister were, "Very well, I will carry on,"—words which have a pathos and significance for all of us at the present time.

It is announced that Air Minister Power will be acting Minister of Defense until the Cabinet vacancy is filled. "To Mr. Power," says the Canadian Press dispatch, "went the task of bringing back to Ottawa the remains of his friend and fellow worker." One can imagine no sadder duty.

U. S. Opinion

The United States stands now where Great Britain stood when the Germans marched into Prague a year ago, says Hamilton Fish Armstrong in the Atlantic Monthly. After Prague, Britain and France undertook the most effective action of which they were capable, realizing at last that their own security was at stake. They have been handicapped and have suffered terribly because of their delay.

What should the United States do, in face of the present situation? If it gave the Allies all the aid it could, short of going to war, and if even then the Allies were overcome, the United States would next be confronted with the necessity of deciding whether it could live in a world dominated by Nazi force—which would react in a thousand ways on the United States, restrict its democratic freedom, and reduce its living standards—or whether it would mobilize all its strength to fight and destroy the Nazi power. There has been increasing enlightenment of late regarding Nazi aims and the utterly barbarous Nazi character.

The United States now recognizes that it has made far too little defensive preparation, just like the Allies, and for the same reason—a failure to appreciate the enormity of the Nazi menace. It could not give the Allies any great immediate aid, though any that it gave would be gladly accepted. But if the United States believed that its own interests were best served by an all-in effort along with the Allies and served notice that it was taking this step, the effect

would be very great and perhaps decisive. It would give invaluable support to the morale of the Allies, even if active participation by the United States were delayed, as it would have to be through lack of preparation. It would affect the reckoning of neutral countries everywhere and would give Italy something to think about, if it came in time.

In simple terms, the question for the United States seems to be whether it would be satisfied to live in a world in which Nazi Germany, with all the tyrannical, ruthless characteristics it has displayed, would be the dominant influence, or, if not, whether it should help the Allies to defeat that power now, or wait—ignoring the whole lesson of Munich—and risk having to take it on afterwards and alone.

There is a rapidly lessening distinction between the interests of the United States and those of the Allies, and not only the fate of the latter but the fate of the United States also, to an incalculable degree, may depend on the action taken by that country with full appreciation of the meaning of the desperate situation in Europe. It will be a hard decision to make in time, unless the mistake of hesitation and delay, so costly to the Allies, is kept well in mind.

Why The Delay?

Are the authorities at Ottawa yet awake to the gravity of the situation facing Canada as well as Europe in this war? Making haste slowly still seems to be the watchword, as instanced by the following excerpt from Hansard of June 5: "On the orders of the day: "Hon. W. Earl Rowe: In view of the steadily increasing crisis inside as well as outside this country, will the Government state whether they will give consideration to the advisability of an immediate national registration of every man and woman in Canada?"

"Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King: That question is one which will be duly considered." Note that Premier King does not say this important question has been considered; it is one "which will be duly considered" when the King Government gets around to it. Why the delay, in a matter which should long ago have been attended to?

EDITORIAL NOTES

John Constable R. A., one of England's greatest and most individual landscape artists, born this date, 1776.

The British Colony of Hong Kong has notified all Germans that they must leave by June 11. They may go anywhere, they were told, except to Canton or Macao. But will "anywhere" except Germany receive them?

The Legislative Council, Quebec upper house, has given first reading to a bill requiring use of "non-shatter safety glass in automobiles and forcing automobile drivers involved in accidents to identify themselves to witnesses of the mishap if a policeman is not present. The measure also authorizes the Government to demand proof of financial responsibility before issuing automobile owners' or drivers' permits to persons under 21 years of age and more than 65.

The new Montreal Commission hopes to reduce civic expenditure by \$2,000,000. Of this sum already \$1,200,000 has been realized already by the abolition of "extras" which have been added to the dole by an over-generous board of aldermen. The remaining \$800,000 is presumed to represent the savings from dole patronage.

It is announced from Madrid that General Franco has awarded the collar of the Order of the Yoke of Arrows to German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, and the grand cross of the same order to Ettore Muti, secretary of the Italian Fascist Party. We don't like such a gesture at this particular moment.

To rid the national war effort of a major source of sand in the machine, says the Financial Post, the view is growing that thorough house cleaning of the Canadian Department of National Defense is essential. There is evidence that vital jobs in Canada's mobilization suffer from the direction of men long out of touch with the needs of modern warfare and lacking in the ability or authority.

The question of extending aid and harborage to some of the French and Belgian refugees driven from their homes by Nazi aggression, referred to in these columns yesterday, has recently been the subject of discussion between representatives of the Dominion and Provincial Governments. Every province, we understand, has offered to cooperate. This Province may be called upon to adopt three or four hundred refugees, which is regarded as the maximum number that can conveniently be accommodated. The Provincial Government has signified its willingness to assist, and it is proposed to ask the Children's Aid Societies of Charlottetown and Summerside to act directly in the matter. The plans, however, are still indefinite. The Government is awaiting further word from Ottawa.

Their graft on a large scale down in Florida, but their methods are no different from the pickers. James Thomas, a Baton Rouge business man, testified in the mail fraud trial of former Governor Richard W. Leche that he paid Mr. Leche \$31,000 in commissions on trucks purchased by the State three years ago at prices alleged to have been excessively high. Mr. Thomas' testimony—in which he said that he was the pay-off man, on Mr. Leche's instructions, for the \$116,571.38 which the Federal Government charges was collected in excessive prices—was given on the third day of the trial of Mr. Leche, who resigned as Governor last June 26. Mr. Thomas said he gave Mr. Leche \$16,000, \$12,000 and \$3,000 in cash in 1938 as the former Executive's share in the profits pool agreed upon at a 1937 conference in the office of L. P. Abernathy, then chairman of the Louisiana Highway Commission. Mr. Abernathy and George Younger, local truck dealer who sold the State the trucks, both indicted with Mr. Leche, have pleaded guilty.

NOTES BY THE WAY

President Roosevelt's choice of one of the highest officials in the State Department at Washington to succeed Mr. Stimson as Minister to Canada is a most welcome strengthening of the relations between Canada and our neighbors at this time, an appointment which will do much to reassure and steady public opinion in this trying period. — Winnipeg Tribune.

The Telemaque, a French brig sunk in the Seine off Quilleboeu 150 years ago, which was believed to have been carrying part of the personal fortune of Louis XVI and other treasure, has been raised after a salvage operation lasting nearly a year, but the only object of interest recovered was a barrel of rusty hand-forged nails. — London Times.

The Italians dislike the Italians for the Germans is deep, traditional, and sincere. They are entirely different from us, who only dislike Germany most because of its ambition and often brutal force to force us to fight them. It is all the more pitiful, therefore, that they have let Italy see a great show of friendship for old enemies. They were far happier abusing them, as can be seen in their newspapers for the piping days of 1934. — Manchester Guardian.

It is this sort of outrage—an outrage on the dead—coupled with atrocities against the living that is going to help the allies win the war. German bombing of graves and monuments is a vile act, except as an expression of hate, but the bombing of people from the air, along the high roads over which allied troops were retreating had an object in view. There was method in this apparent madness. The idea it seems was to spread the population streaming through the streets, mostly women and children, so as to impede the passing of troops toward the coast. — Glace Bay Gazette.

How many use their cars to reach some of the many beauty spots that lie a little bit away from the highways? The truth is that this section of Ontario abounds in scenic beauty, much of which is being overlooked because we stick slavishly to our main roads and thus throw away our chances of seeing lovely spots in all its loveliness. It would richly pay some of our motorists in planning their week-end outings to stray away from the highways and explore the minor roads where, if a little more care may have to be taken in driving, there is a splendid recompense in the wealth of scenic enjoyment unfolded to the eye of the visitor. — Guelph Mercury.

Sir Douglas Haig, hero of the late World War, considered the soldiers' profession the greatest on earth and all others quite unworthy of serious attention. While inspecting a cavalry troop he found one major on some particularly neat repairs made on the saddles. Upon being told that the work had been done by two troopers, he remarked, "You are not seeing these such expert saddlers in your troop." As a matter of fact, sir," replied the sergeant-major, "they're not saddlers, they're lawyers." "Well," exclaimed Sir Douglas, "how men who can do work like that could have wasted their lives over law is something I cannot understand." — Christian Science Monitor.

The baggy trousers and the moan of the colporteur call attention to the outbreak of the annual dandelion war. (The moan results from the fact of his wearing the plaid of one of his wife's silver knives.) The war's effects—upon the household—have been pointed out unerringly to what Editor Wharton might have called the elaborate futility of the unending penmanship. What's a miserable lawn-mower to do with leaves across the way from a golf course, a public park a meadow, or indeed a neighbor who has a depraved fondness for the things? One answer that suggests itself is to remove the apartment—is likely to be rejected if the householder has a brood of youngsters. But it seems to be the only way of escape. Of course, if we call it a dent in the lawn, had to import the seed, most of us would be proud to have a border of the bright yellow beauties in the perennial beds. But don't men continue to have an excuse to get away from spring house-cleaning. — Christian Science Monitor.

Whether it is quite so, as one sometimes sees advertised, that familiarity with the world's classic literature is an open sesame to rapid promotion in the world, and to gratifying popularity in society, translation of these classics into Turkish will no doubt invite readers to read and contribute to Turkish culture. Hitherto Turkish acquaintance with English literature has been limited to the translations of Cruse, which of course is good as far as it goes. The wider literature of survival open to English-speaking readers in modestly priced editions, is now on the way in translation. A beginning has been made under the sponsorship of the Turkish Ministry of Education. Bacon may have been responsible for the relationship between classic literature, corporation management, and social popularity when he wrote that histories make men wise; poetry, witty; mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral philosophy, grave; and logic and rhetoric, able to contend. Possessed of these qualifications early enough, Turks may go for their money to the customers and becoming big business executives. But fortunately for all of us, including Turkey, that is more in the classics than that. — Christian Science Monitor.

Canadian pilots and those who come here from other Dominions for training are assured of one thing at least, the finer the instruction they have had, for Canada has men who know the game, who have learned it in the hardest possible school, and who have proved their skill and daring in the face of terrific difficulties. Nothing exceeds in romance the story of the opening up of Canada's great Northwest by these bird eagles. In soaring far into the Arctic wastes, they learned their flying "the hard way," and now they stand ready, as a body, to hand on to the new recruits the knowledge and skill they have gained. In more ways than one, Canada was a happy choice as the focal point of the Commonwealth Training Program. — Windsor Star.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

PLEBISCITE CANNOT BE DELAYED

Sir,—I notice in Saturday's Guardian a letter signed by Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, proposing that the Provincial Plebiscite on Prohibition should be postponed and the money appropriated for the expenses of the Plebiscite should be donated to the Red Cross for war purposes.

In order to appreciate the merits of this suggestion, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the expenses of a Plebiscite or Election fall into two categories:

(a) Expenses of conducting the polls on election day, the counting of votes, the collecting and custody of the ballot boxes, and other proceedings carried out after the holding of the polls; (b) The preparation and printing of ballots, copies of the Election Act, election writs, minute books, Returning Officers' oaths, notices of holding Plebiscite, poll notices, directions for guidance of voters, qualifications of voters, receipts, poll books, envelopes, instructions to Deputy Returning Officers, certificates and oaths; as well as the fees and travelling expenses of the Returning Officers in distributing and posting the various documents.

Those who have had to do with elections realize that the total cost of items (b) is approximately the same as the cost of items (a). Practically everything which requires to be done prior to the opening of the polls has already been completed in the course of a month's intensive work by printers and election officers and almost half the probable cost of the Plebiscite has already been incurred.

With this in mind, it will be seen that the discontinuance of the Plebiscite at the present stage would involve a complete waste of the money already expended in pursuance of the vote of the Legislature. It would seem preferable to allow the polling to take its course and to have a decisive vote of the electors of the Province on this much vexed subject.

I am, Sir, etc., THANE A. CAMPBELL, Premier.

Canada's Participation

(Toronto Telegram)

When W. L. MacKinnon introduced Ernest Lapointe as his inseparable co-worker in the great cause of Canadian unity, many sentimental people were doubtless moved to see in them the French and English in Canada marching nobly along to a common destiny. That was obviously what Mr. King intended them to see. And the C.B.C. broadcast along in its overseas broadcasts the exact same impression that French-Canadian are sharing a proportionate part of the country's war effort.

This was reassuring, since it suggested that we had not borne the yoke of bilingualism for nothing, and that our French-Canadian compatriots had responded with a full acceptance of their obligations as Canadians. It tended to warrant the impression that there might have been something in the suggestion so often made, that it was only because they were not sympathetic to the French-Canadian cause that they did not enlist in numbers in the last war.

Yet in figures presented by Hon. Norman Rogers in response to a question by T. L. Church, M.P., it appears that Quebec is not proportionally represented in the personnel of the First Division. The national unity so eloquently propounded by the French-Canadian party, Messrs. King and Lapointe is represented on the battle-line by a force of which nearly half comes from Ontario and one-sixth from Quebec. The exact figures are 166 officers and 3,992 men from Quebec and 482 officers and 10,616 men from Ontario. How many of the officers from Quebec are English-speaking Canadians the figures do not indicate.

It may and probably will be said that to comment on the fact revealed by these figures, is to stir the fires of racial controversy. Yet there are French-Canadian who feel just as strongly on the subject as any English-speaking Canadian. It is necessary to face the fact if it is hoped to determine whether the kind of unity espoused by King and Lapointe can ever make Canada one.

J. Sasseville Roy, M. P. for Gaspe, threw some light on the King-Lapointe method in Quebec when he said in the House of Commons.

"No one should mistake the real meaning of the vote given last March 29. During that campaign, every Liberal candidate stood against Imperialism. The Liberal party's campaign rested on the issue of limited participation in the war. The same government made the very same declaration, and undertook the same commitments. They warned the people of Quebec against a national government meant to be a national government. The Minister himself stated over the air that the national government had been set up by imperialistic honorable members of this House in favor of greater participation for we all admitted."

Then, after having been called to order by the Deputy Speaker for talking about conscription, Mr. Roy went on.

"My object is to offset what has been said by imperialistic honorable members of this House in favor of greater participation for we all admitted."

The Two Macs. Euclid alone has looked on Beauty here. And lay them prone upon the earth, and cease to ponder on themselves, the while they stare At nothing, intricately drawn nowhere In shades of shifting lineage. Let Gabbie and hiss, but heroes seek release From dusty bondage into luminous here. Oh, blinding hour—oh, holy terrible day— When first the shaft into his vision Of light anatomized! Euclid alone Has looked on Beauty bare; fortunate they Who though once only, and then but far away Have heard her massive sandal set on stone. —Edna St. Vincent Millay.

HELP LICK HITLER. What have you done so far to assist Canada's War Efforts? Sympathy alone is not enough, Canada's War Services need funds badly, and need them now. The Charlottetown Kinsmen are at present sponsoring a "Help Lick Hitler" campaign in order to raise funds for Canada's War Services. In this they ask the wholehearted co-operation of all our citizens. Order your "Lick Hitler Stamp" today and place these on the back of your mail. Each time you lick one of these stamps, in doing so, you are helping to lick Hitler, for you are contributing to Canada's War Services. These are being sold in lots of 100 each for \$1.00. Send in your dollar to-day and help lick Hitler. Proceeds to be divided as follows: Red Cross 25 per cent, Salvation Army 25 per cent, Canadian Legion 10 per cent, Y. M. C. A. 10 per cent, Knights of Columbus 10 per cent, Other War Activities 20 per cent. Address your subscription to KINSMEN WAR SERVICE CAMPAIGN, P. O. Box 219, Charlottetown, Registered under the provisions of the War Charities Act 1939 at Ottawa.

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