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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24, 1940.

Wholesale Murder

Cold-blooded murder is the only term that can be applied to the sinking of a British refugee ship last week by a German submarine. No military purpose was served by this act of ruthlessness which caused the death of 193 persons, including eighty-three children who were en route to foster homes in Canada. The details of the tragedy as related in yesterday's despatches will have been read with horror throughout the civilized world. The mentality of the men responsible for such an act places them in the category of monsters rather than of human beings. The effect in the United States as well as throughout the British Empire, will surely be to strengthen the conviction that world peace and security can never exist until Nazi Germany has been crushed.

Do Beliefs Matter?

A School of Theology will be held in Charlottetown next week. What useful purpose is served by hearing lectures in a School of Theology?

We cannot separate conduct from belief. Deeds and actions are undeniably important. In fact many men are quite sure that so long as they live fairly decent lives, do their work honestly, and provide for their families, then they need not trouble themselves about God, or religion, or the Church. But the things that are not seen are very real, and it is dawning on the world once more that beliefs cannot safely be left out of the account. The more concerned a man is with living an honorable life, the harder he will find it if he has no convictions in regard to the rightness of good and the wrongness of evil. We do not lessen the emphasis on service when we place equal emphasis on "the faith which is the source of all true service and the inspiration of the fullest sacrifice." Our beliefs concerning the meaning of life, and of our own spiritual natures, are the basic motives of all actions that are above the level of instinct. It is significant that Micah concluded his triad of virtues required by God by insisting on walking humbly with God. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God." Requirements one and two are well nigh impossible without the observance of number three. Walking humbly with God certainly involves some beliefs about Him.

It thus does matter what a man believes. That is why the School of Theology which commences in the Heartz Memorial Hall next Monday evening is of particular interest to those concerned about their duty to God and man.

Postal Holidays

There is good ground for the complaint against the long postal holidays like that at the Labor Day week-end, when there was no mail delivery anywhere in Canada (except special delivery) from Saturday morning till Tuesday morning—72 hours. The postal department has failed to march with the times, declares the Kingston *Whig-Standard,* and it points out that airmail letters posted in Vancouver on Friday might have arrived at Kingston Saturday noon and they would not be delivered until Tuesday. The Ottawa *Journal* says that the same could happen to letters from Canadian soldiers overseas.

Some years ago, mail delivery on Saturday afternoons and on most holidays was inaugurated, but it was abolished later for the sake of economy. With the acceptance of a certain working week for the postal employees, the holiday deliveries meant taking on more men.

Important as economy is in government administration, it should certainly not be practised to the extent of unduly restricting a service so indispensable to the public as that of the mails.

The long lapse at present when there is a holiday on Monday or Saturday (there will be another at Thanksgiving time) is clearly impractical. So is the Saturday afternoon postal holiday. The public can afford to pay for a full postal service when it is so valuable to them.

Fair Rent Control

The sudden influx of population in some cities, due to the war preparations, has caused increased demands for home accommodation and in some places landlords and agents have profited by the war need. If they have unduly increased the rents it will be corrected, so the war prices board asserts. Rents are a basic factor in the price of living. If they start rising unduly the plain citizen feels war chiseling at once. The householder's salary is never increased in war time. And increased rents start a vicious circle of rising costs in rush periods, nothing more so in the list of needs anywhere. The powers of the war prices board should have been made to embrace rents as a basic factor at the beginning. They can see what is done in Britain where homes are demolished by enemy action nightly. No rent profiteering is possible in Britain. All prices are controlled there. The problem for rent control is the word "unduly." They must decide on a fair return for investments as well as fairness to all, but in an emergent wartime. Moreover, the controllers must see that the increase in rentals does not start a surge further upwards as demands increase in those cities and places affected by war services. That is the danger that must be curbed. Undue increase in rents threatens an upward swing in the cost of living and a train of economic demoralization. Just that is what has been avoided in Britain by everybody being called upon to make sacrifices in the Battle of Britain.

Easy Guessing

A New York paper quotes from Proverbs as follows and offers three guesses as to whom the reference fits:

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

But why give three guesses. Is not one guess enough?

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Out of the depths cry childish voices for revenge on "The Baby Killers'. He that hath ears let him hear.

* * * *

Men employed at the airports are being let out; will our representatives get busy and see there is something else for them to do. We understand that certain New Brunswick and Nova Scotia government contracts, such as our Harbour Improvement one, which were cancelled at the time of the budget, have been since revived.

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In securing the approval of the New York Times, Republican Willkie has deprived Roosevelt of his chief newspaper support in New York State. For many years independent, The Times in the last two presidential elections went Democratic, remaining a supporter of his policies up till the present when it has swung round to Willkie and the Republicans.

* * * *

Mr. A. P. Herbert, M.P., barrister, humourist, novelist, editor of "Punch", born this date, 1890. Served with the Royal Naval Division at Gallipoli, 1914-17, mentioned in despatches, wounded in France, 1918. Publications include "The Bomber Gipsy," "The Man About Town", "The Old Flame," "The Blue Peter" (Comic Opera) "Plain Jane," "Misleading Cases", "The Trials of Topsy" "Topsy M.P.": "A highbrow is the kind of person who looks at a sausage and thinks of Picasso."

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The passing hence at Glasgow of Mr. Edward H. Bostock, former circus man, will recall pleasan memories to many. When boxing kangaroos were all the rage he trained them. Later, to outdo his rivals, he produced a wrestling lion. But his favorite animal was Lizzie, an elephant from the African jungles. Lizzie got the colic one day and a Tenbury chemist, who knew little of elephants, nevertheless mixed a bucket of medicine which Lizzie swallowed. Four years later, Mr. Bostock liked to recall, the circus went back to Tenbury and Lizzie recognized the chemist watching the parade and nuzzled him affectionately with her trunk.

* * * *

What happens when the bottom drops out of your business through no fault of your own, and you are left with the problem of finding something to take its place? asks a correspondent, and cites the case of the tourist business, especially with regard to shipping facilities. The employees have had to seek pastures new. For instance, one of them is now a beer salesman, another is helping to build airplanes, another has a post in Ottawa and still another has gone back to a first love and is studying law. For some, the fighting services offered an opportunity particularly for those who were experienced in handling people. There are steamship men today who are serving as transport officers in the army and air force.

* * *

First conscientious objectors have been heard from by Montreal headquarters of the National War Services Department, now busy sending out notices to men in the 21year class to report to a physician for examination, preparatory to serving a period of 30 days' military training. Two such objectors have written to headquarters. It was not divulged what religious doctrine the objectors profess, or what grounds were given for objecting to taking the prescribed training. It is specified that applications of this nature shall be filed with the divisional registrar of the administration division in which the applicant lives not later than 12 days after the issue of a proclamation calling out men of the age class to which the applicant belongs. The Dominion proclamation calling out men between the ages of 21 and 24 was issued September 14, which gives until September 26 for the filing of applications. The applications come before the divisional board in due course.

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Provision has now been satisfactorily made for the members of the air force who are here to do guard duty at the airport. The men arrived last week under charge of a corporal. They got in touch with the air force recruiting officer in Charlottetown, on whose advice they proceeded to the Queen Hotel where they were accommodated for the night. The next two nights they were billeted at the Armouries, in quarters equivalent to those which they will be occupying at the airport. On Wednesday night Corporal V. R. Merithew arrived from Montreal to take charge of the men, and made arrangements for them being boarded in private quarters where they will remain until the airport is ready for occupancy. There is nothing in the regulations limiting to one dollar per day the amount to be expended on board and lodgings, and the Guardian is informed that provision in this regard is quite adequate. At Summerside the air force guards were attended to on their arrival by Mr. Brewer Robinson, M.L.A., and comfortably accommodated at the Clifton Hotel.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Still Hitler has overlooked announcing he wants to protect Britain from the British. — Brandon Daily Star.

The Fuehrer, says Lord Halifax, is incapable of telling the unadorned truth. Still, an old interior decorator can do a little varnishing, can't he? — Winnipeg Tribune.

One can only realize, as this utter barbarism grows and fills our world, how much, for all of us, depends upon the people who are staking their lives to stop it. —New York Herald Tribune.

"Many a motorist who didn't hear the horn of the approaching car is now playing a harp," says the Toronto Telegram. Right or wrong, it's darn nice of the Tely to let him have the benefit of the doubt. — Ottawa Citizen.

Turkey has come a long way in recent years. Now the women are no longer bound by the restrictions of the old-fashioned harem but are holding jobs in government services and nearly everywhere else. They secured these rights and privileges without a fight. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A powder has been produced from materials readily available in this country which, it is claimed will extinguish incendiary bombs within a couple of minutes. A Birmingham man, well-known in the steel industry, Mr. J. A. Eversden, made the discovery, and a test has been made of the powder's efficacy before an official of the Home Office. An incendiary bomb was smothered with the powder after it had been burning for 90 seconds, and was extinguished in another 60 seconds. — London Times.

With construction of a large plant extension begun by the McLennan Foundry and Machine Works Limited, and more money in circulation than at this time last year, the general outlook for the fall season is considerably improved. Numerous jobbers have already begun woods operations, and the coming season promises to be a more active one than the corresponding period of 1939. With a shortage of labor probable in some districts, wages may show an upward trend, and since foodstuff prices indicate no sharp advance money will be the more easily encouraged into circulation. — Campbellton Tribune.

Malpeque oysters from Prince Edward Island are on the Montreal market and those from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will soon be here. The oysters now come by express, rather than by schooner as in former days. Old-timers who used to go down to the wharf when a schooner arrived, sit on a barrel before a plank counter, open oysters with their own knives and eat all they could for 25 cents, may lament the change, nevertheless they can comfort themselves with the thought that Maritime oysters are as succulent as ever.—Montreal Gazette.

Whoever has charge of editing and disseminating the Nazi High Command reports these days must be having a jolly time, for there are few occupations so easy and pleasurable as building castles in Spain or indulging in flights of fancy. Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of America's early authors, was quoted as saying that he derived great delight from writing his famous "Tanglewood Tales," because he then dwelt with the fanciful rather than the factual. Yet his joy must have been as naught compared to that of the Nazi High Command fictionists, for Mr. Hawthorne was transcribing mythological stories and was constrained to remain true to the original narratives, whereas the Nazis have no restraints of truth or fact whatsoever. — Bermuda Royal Gazette

In the old-time winter, boys of ten or a dozen to 14 years had to saw and split the wood for a cook stove and a big heater in the "sitting-room." And they had to heat the mash for a cow, if they lived in a country town, and see that the chickens were fed and the pigs had warm slop on a cold zero morning. In that day, a town put up its own ice under private enterprise and rugged individualism, in which sawing there on the mill-pond or a deep place in the creek, men worked from dawn to night with no eight-hour day nonsense. Half of them tried to keep warm by drinking whisky and got colds and often died of pneumonia, and the other half just froze through it and ran the same risks. In the old-time winter, there wasn't a furnace in one house in 50 in Kansas. Generally you had to thaw the pump in the morning, or melt snow to get water for washing, and there wasn't a midweek winter bath in 50,000 population. — Emporia Gazette.

Some months ago we noted in these columns our information that in official quarters of The Netherlands the word "Dutch" was out of favor. Holland, it was said was admissible, although The Netherlands was preferred, but "Dutch" was being ditched. We have tried to govern ourselves accordingly, in references to that country and its people. But we have decided there is no longer any point to the argument. The London newspapers use "Dutch" freely and as a matter of course. The Times in a half-column article uses it both as noun and adjective—"most Dutch," "Dutch people," "Dutch coal," "Dutch labor," etc. The Manchester Guardian talks of the Dutch radio. Both speak of the news from Holland, not from The Netherlands. Moreover a journalist from Holland speaking recently over BBC spoke of the Dutch people, not as Netherlanders or Hollanders. Habit is strong, and apparently the old custom is not ready to die. We are not going to insist any longer that we are right and the London Times is wrong.—Ottawa Journal.

What with the Government's defense problems and revenue problems, it's open season on freak ideas in Washington. And the weather has been pretty hot lately. So the latest suggestion for getting funds is probably accounted for. Briefly, it is this: A tax of $1 per letter on the possessors of all names of more than six letters. This master-piece is connected by a Mr. Mickey (six letters) of Los Angles, who forwards it to Senator Nye (three letters) for action. Well, at least the sponsor of this notion isn't so misguided as to expect Senator Schwellenbach to conduct a whirlwind crusade in its favor. — St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Navy Ways

(Special To The Guardian)

"JOLLIES"

Marines have been called "Jollies" ever since the Admiralty decided to raise a corps of sea soldiers in 1664. The original regiment was recruited largely from the Trainbands and the militia of London. These citizen soldiers—especially the militia—had come to be considered a joke. They were called the "Lame Jollies" and sometimes the "Tame Jollies." Hence the newly formed Marines were dubbed the "Royal Jollies." Although the Marines were enrolled in the first place to supplement the fighting strength of ship's crews, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that a century later their chief role was something of a more sinister kind. They were regarded as the chief means to keeping the ships' officers from being assaulted by the seamen. It is very noticeable to the student of naval history that from the moment Marines appeared on warships naval discipline grew harsher until toward the end of the eighteenth century it reached a degree of sadistic brutality that culminated in the Mutiny of the Nore. For instance, it is doubtful if any Captain would have dared countenance among his officers men who gave thirty lashes with a rope's end to the last man down from the rigging or beat the unfortunate over the head with a speaking trumpet, unless there had been several Marine sentries with bayonets and shotted mustkets to guard the officer's quarters. Not unnaturally, the Marines, who had many privileges, were hated by the seamen. At the Nore Mutiny the Marines stood by the officers. It must be admitted, however, that if the Navy became more brutalized with the coming of the Marines it also became vastly more efficient. In justice to the once-hated sea soldiers it can be stated that in the hundreds of naval actions in which they fought they invariably covered themselves with glory.

Education For Soldiers

(K.M.H. in the Winnipeg Free Press)

It appears that the Canadian military unit commanders are not enthusiastically playing ball with the educational section of the Canadian Legion War Services. Dominion Field Secretary Andrew Moore reluctantly admits this in his article in "The Legionary," and immediately begins to find excuses for this attitude. To the ordinary lay person who hasn't been very closely associated with military unit commanders the attitude doesn't look quite bright. It is reliably reported that this is a mechanized war —some rumor of this must have reached the unit commanders —and one has to be educated in what to push and pull and when, if the machine is not to turn an orphan on one's hands. And expereince, building up every day in every branch of the services, indicates that by and large the man with the best education is the man who will learn the most quickly and will remain the most reliable Immediate speeding up has been indicated when the so called "white collar" men joined the ranks.

* * * *

There is a second feature not so far divorced from this first consideration as may appear, and that is that an educational programme sensibly conceived and sensibly carried out will be an outstanding factor in winning the battle of b edom. All this is quite apart from the after the war increment.

"If Commanding Officers" (the capitals are his), says Mr. Moore, "were in a position to incorporate into their regular training schedules even one hour per day during which Service-men would have the option of availing themselves of our Educational Service the result should be much more satisfactory for all concerned." How does one go about getting things over to O. C.s? Mr. Moore had made previous mention of several sub-committees. Couldn't there be one set up on this? A Committee for the Approaching, Gradual Mollifying, and Perhaps Getting an Idea into the Heads of Officers Commanding. True the initialling of such a committee would use up a lot of the alphabet, but after all we are in this war to the last letter.

* * *

However, even without the sunshine of the O.C.'s smile, the Educational Services Committee has been going ahead. It has got committees appointed, and has set up local boards, these being a nice blending of local educational authorities and of organizations of service men. It has got provincial departments of education at least to place its letters on file, and it has the approval and even the assistance of universities. Besdies that it has come to grips with a curriculum. This might seem a not very difficult matter to persons who have not come in contact with the various provincial authorities on education. It may seem to this sort of inexperiened folk that if the angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal in Winnipeg, they are likely equal in Toronto. Perhaps, but there has to be a different text book to make it legal.

The Educational Services Committee knew all about this. It knew too that soldiers didn't stay put any too well and therefore it was essential to set up the isosceles triangle on something like a permanent across-Canada basis. So the year's work has been divided into four parts and for each part there is being issued a small text booklet. This booklet will be the same for Halifax and Vancouver and all points east and west. English and Social studies will take up rather more room so travelling libraries are being got together.

Several of these text booklets are already in print; among others one got out in this City under the chairmanship of Mr. J. T. Thorson, M.C., M.P., on "Icelandic for Soldiers."

* * * *

It appears further that the Maritimes have gone right ahead with this educational stuff, a fact which is not going to cause a ripple of astonishment at the meeting of the Maritimes Association. Down there they have got both training camps and active war stations and they are trying education on both, it seems with quite good results. "Practices and procedures are being tried out in the Maritimes which may well provide information that will be of great value for the whole of Canada," opines Mr. Moore. Well, it won't be the first time.

Of course other parts of Canada haven't just been waiting until the text booklets are printed. Last winter there was quite a line up of classes and volunteer teachers. There were numbers of students also —at first. One city started with a 250 member class which suffered casualties until only 25 answered the roll. Some had been transferred, some got stuck for night duty. Some, we strongly suspect, after a few sessions, just couldn't recapture that first fine careless rapture. After all, though 10 per cent isn't an altogether discouraging proportion. Isn't it possible, not to say probable, that every city streets across the world and every rural township has its 10 per cent—and its 90?

The Poets' Corner

BOMBS OVER LONDON

They have lashed the wings of the dove
To the obscene tearing claws of the vulture.
They have profaned the blue stillness above,
With the shriek of their implacable Culture.

They have battered the fair house of Life;
Untouched stands the love-built foundation.
The white pillars pulled down in [illegible]fe,
[illegible]e brute hordes of aggression!

— Scheinfeld Frank.

Conscription Of Wealth

(Toronto Telegram)

No new ground is broken by the C. I. O. directed Canadian Congress of Labor in the demand that no great war fortunes shall be allowed to be accumulated in this country. Canadian sentiment is overwhelmingly against war profiteering, and all political parties have recognized that fact. There has been a demand that the excess profits tax should be increased from 50 to 100 per cent.

Nor is the C. C. of L. entirely original in its suggestion that since there has been conscription of man-power there should be an immediate conscription of wealth. Just what steps it proposes should be taken it does not indicate, though it did set an example in conscripting the wealth of its members to raise the salary of one of its secretaries from $3,000 to $5,000 a year.

As a matter of fact wealth has been conscripted these many years. It has been conscripted municipally provincially and federally in the payment of taxes. Wealth has not been given any option in this regard, and has not been permitted to elect out of enforced service to the state.

It is true that wage earners pay taxes as well as men of wealth and workers are both subject to conscription of man-power. In both cases taxes are conscripted from the wealth of the assessed, whether it be little or much. If the C. C. of L. has some other form of wealth conscription in mind, it should specify what it is, and a good way of introducing the subject would be a definition of the wealth it means to conscript.

The proposal is so vague that it is impossible to know whether the intention is to adopt the plan which Russia has found somewhat unworkable. Do its sponsors propose the taking over by the state of all property including industries, dwellings, farms and utilities? That would imply also the conscription of labor, and labor bosses would supplant the people as governors of the country.

Such a proposal would be scarcely compatible with the democracy for which labor is fighting as well as the rest of us. It almost suggests that the C. C. L. is asking for something the Canadian workingman has no use for.

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.

BACTERIAL RING ROT

Sir:—Prince Edward Island has always had an enviable reputation for her farm produce and particularly is this so in connection with seed potatoes. This has been brought about by careful attention to varieties, production, inspection and grading for market. Potato production is our main cash crop and it is of the utmost importance that the recognition which has been given to our potatoes be maintained at all costs.

During the past year or two, a new disease has appeared in potatoes, called Bacterial Ring Rot. This is said by experts to be the worst disease attacking the crop in the whole history of potato growing. Fortunately, the Province of Prince Edward Island has been singularly free of this menace. Through the prompt action and co-operation of the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Services, machinery has been established through which it is expected to effectively maintain the Island's reputation in potato production and provide for control against this new and serious disease.

Elsewhere in today's issue an advertisement appears outlining the main provisions of an Act passed at the last session of the Legislature and entitled "An Act Respecting Bacterial Ring Rot." The attention of producers, dealers, and all who have the interests of this industry at heart by constant vigilance on the part of our people, by the application of fullest possible co-operation by all concerned and the observance of the provisions of the Act above cited and of the regulations laid down by the proper officers that we may hope to keep Prince Edward Island a disease-free area insofar as Bacterial Ring Rot is concerned.

Within the next few days a school will be held at Charlottetown and Summerside at which potato inspectors and representatives of the Department of Agriculture will be trained to detect this disease if it appears in the growing crop and in the seed bin. Meetings will also be arranged with dealers and others in various parts of the country and the fullest possible information will be given to our people in relation to this important matter. The program now initiated if carried into effect and supported by our producers and dealers will undoubtedly be effective in preserving this important industry. If this can be done, the value of Prince Edward Island potatoes will be very much enhanced and an increased demand for our seed will be attracted to our shores.

Further particulars in connection with this whole situation may be secured on application to the office of the District Inspector of Production Services, the Supervisor of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Services, or to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. R. SHAW
Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

"Reasoned Courage"

(Exchange)

British courage under the German air threat is aw inspiring, but it is not blind. It may transcend reason, but it is based on cold facts and cold logic, and maintained by clear heads as well as brave hearts. This point is brought out in a recent article by Walter Lippmann in the New York Herald Tribune.

Mr. Lippmann states that the British last ditch fight, and their avowed aim to carry on the fight from abroad if the Battle of Britain should be lost, is as commonsensible as the "realistic" French surrender was shortsighted and foolish. The French leaders succumbed to the wishful thought that they could "ingratiate themselves with the victors by rendering themselves entirely helpless—hence they handed over nation, army, fleet, empire and honor to the Nazis. For what? Up to the present, for more kicks than half pence.

Furthermore, remarks an exchange, the American commentator contends that what little mercy the Vichy regime does enjoy—immunity from the ghastly horror inflicted on Poland, for instance—is due not to "Hitler's magnanimity toward Marshal Petain or his admiration for M. Laval, but simply and solely the power of the British resistance,' and as long as Britain holds the sea—which she can do, whatever befall the British Isles—this different deterrent force will be effective.

The French did not see that trust The British see it clearly, and it confirms their courage and resolution. Mr. Lippman believes the American people see it too. "This conviction may be dulled now and then by partisanship and the trivialities of politics," he says. "But it will persist and, put to the test, it will prevail.

SPIRIT STILL SHINES

LONDON, Sept. 23—(CP Cable) —After a visit to the bomb-scarred east end of London where he saw devastated streets and rubble where once workers' houses stood, Vincent Massey, Canadian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, said today that "some of the scenes of deliberate desolation were unbelievably tragic." He added: "But against the background of broken homes, the spirit of those we met shone all the more splendidly."

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