

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1940.

The Public Accounts

The financial situation of the Province as revealed by the Public Accounts, tabled in the Legislature yesterday, is decidedly alarming.

It is ironical to reflect that the first plank in the Liberal election platform of last May was the promise of "continued efficiency and economy in the administration of the public services."

The situation is all the more inexplicable in view of the statements made by Premier Campbell in the recent by-election campaign in the First District of Kings.

The Accounts show that the Government enjoyed greatly increased revenues last year. Taxes amounted to \$833,267 as against \$783,581 in 1938, and \$500,581 in 1934, the last full year of the Conservative administration.

Details of the financial statement are given elsewhere in this issue. Attention is called to the enormous increase last year in liquor revenue—\$105,812.15 as against \$58,079 in 1938 which at that time was the highest in the Province's history.

The Lesson Of Denmark

A study of the technique of Nazi annexation methods shows that it follows a rigid schedule, as fixed and unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

The last Great War revealed similar evidences of the rigidity of the German military mind, combined with a total lack of moral responsibility.

Denmark, the last victim of Nazi aggression, is a striking example of the futility of pacifism and disarmament in the face of a militant Germany.

Rural School Attendance

The problem of rural school attendance is discussed at some length in the annual report of the Chief Superintendent of Education, tabled yesterday in the Legislature.

It averaged 68.01 and in the graded schools 80.5. The latest report at hand for all Canada gives the percentage of attendance at 85.9.

"The low attendance made in the one-room schools," says the report, "indicates a great lack of interest among parents in the education of their children or misunderstanding of the importance of regular attendance for successful class work."

The report notes that full time attendance is required in Charlottetown and Summerside and is the law in most of the other provinces.

The number of small schools now in operation, it is emphasized, does not make for economy or efficiency but these can only be reduced by increasing the distance to be travelled to school, and until there is a greater realization of the benefits of High School facilities or some feasible method of cheap transportation is evolved it will be difficult to reduce the number of these schools.

Reference is made to a revision in the courses in agriculture and nature study and to the need of considerably extending the course in teacher training.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Royal Humane Society for recognition of bravery in saving life, founded this date, 1774.

If the proposed amendments to the Prohibitory Law are in the interests of the tourist business, the addition of wine to beer, stout and lager for beverage purposes is more-or-less necessary.

The annual production of canned lobsters in the Maritimes is about 80,000 cases of which 55,000 cases are usually sold in the European market.

It appears that our former fellow citizen, Rev. Victor Osborne, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Moncton, has resigned his charge, though still retaining his status as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Ontario Liberalism is in sorry plight. The Hamilton West Liberal Association has just passed a resolution demanding a house-cleaning. In introducing the resolution, Mr. J. J. Sullivan, Hamilton lawyer, said "it's time to clean house and this seems to be the unanimous opinion."

Canada's depreciated currency, in terms of the American dollar, has imposed a handicap on American exporters and given a decided advantage to Canadian exporters, both doing business under trade agreement, one clause of which provides that either country may give notice of cancellation of the pact should either country feel that exchange conditions were such as to lessen if not destroy the benefits of the agreement.

The three methods open to a government to finance a war—taxation, borrowing and inflation—are in reality three ways in which to curtail both production and consumption by the people.

It will be recalled when war broke out, Nova Scotia had 2,000,000 barrels of apples to export, but the British embargo played havoc with this. An arrangement was made whereby all exports from Nova Scotia were handled by a central marketing board.

In East Anglia the pheasants are acting as air raid detectors. The finely adjusted hearing of the wild birds allows them to know an air raid is coming.

It is almost an accepted proposition nowadays that out of the present world war will come a federation of States, if not of the world, at least of Europe.

NOTES BY THE WAY

I am reminded of a story told to me quite recently by an old Irishman, a neighbor of mine, who told me of an old Irishman of his who, in the last war, was ordered to take a real holiday, so he decided to go and spend a holiday fishing on the west coast of Ireland.

It would appear that Scott's medical studies included a course of practical hypnotism, if certain of the stories narrated of him may be credited. He enjoyed a reputation for the performance of phenomena which were regarded by his contemporaries as miraculous.

A bee-keeper of Mexico, whose honey was kept out of a neighboring state by a high rate of duty, decided to cross over without his duty, taking his bees, which were duty free, with him.

Ostrobrama is in an arched gallery that spans a narrow street, which is the most important artery in Wilno, Poland. No man passed along this street, every day, without his hat. For this reason Jews with orthodox views never go into the street, although the less orthodox do, and remove their hats in deference to public opinion.

On Sunday, December 7, 1939, a new advance in the method of communication was officially recorded at a Buenos Aires, Argentina, hospital. For the first time, a bed-ridden patient, by the use of his hands, was enabled to "correspond" with her relatives via a portable phonopostal set which recorded her message on a small phonograph disk, which was then mailed to the relatives.

WHEAT EXPORTS UP OTTAWA, April 17 (CP)—Exports clearances of Canadian wheat during the week ending April 12 totalled 2,533,987 bushels compared with 2,138 in the corresponding week last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today.

The total from Aug. 1 to April 12 was 113,393,288 bushels compared with 92,145,843 in the same period of the previous crop year.

HEAVEN HAVEN I have desired to go Where springs not fall. To fields where files no sharp and And a few lilies blow

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of current events of the day. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENTS

Sir—Will your kindly grant me space to address a few remarks to the temperance people of this Province at the present time.

LIBERAL COMMITTEEMAN DENMARK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Sir—What does the fall of Denmark mean to Prince Edward Island? It means many things of which the three following are the most important.

Even under war conditions approximately one-half of public expenditure is being met from revenue. That is, the Government is taxing in many directions, and income-tax, which had already been raised to 7 shillings in the pound for the current year, will be increased to 7s. 6d.

Then, again, apart from the many millions annually invested in life endowment assurance policies, there are the British building societies, whose total assets exceed \$700,000,000.

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Britain At War

(By Robert Mackay) An examination of some of the salient aspects of the British economic situation after six months of war shows, not only that much has already been achieved in meeting the buying power of the weekly pay-envelope, but that Great Britain's position, such as to justify every confidence in the future.

As to British industry, its capacity to meet the present situation may be gauged from the position of two of Great Britain's key-industries. The steel output for 1939 surpassed a new high record, surpassing the 1937 peak of about 13 million tons by a substantial margin.

Labour conditions in Great Britain are rapidly improving. The official total registered unemployed is now \$20,130 lower than it was a year ago.

Higher taxation is resulting in the transfer to the State of an increased share of the purchasing power of the individual citizen.

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For a Delicious Cup of Orange Pekoe Tea Mr. Tea Pott Says: Use BRAHMIN Full Flavoured Tea

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WHEAT IN STORAGE OTTAWA, April 16 (CP)—Canadian wheat in store for the week ended April 12 totalled 309,534 bushels compared with 310,995.453 the previous week and 135,893,649 in the same week last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today.

Battleship And Bomber (Ottawa Journal) A seemingly casual phrase used by Mr. Churchill on Thursday must have held, for students of warfare, a considerable meaning.

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ISLAND FARMERS ARE IN THE WAR Even more than in the last War Island farm products are going to be of great assistance in the winning of the present one.

HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST CHEWING 10c Per Fig Straight EVERYWHERE IN P. E. ISLAND Manufactured By HICKEY AND NICHOLSON TOBACCO CO., LTD., Charlottetown.