THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1939.

The Late Mr. A. E. MacLean

Few men in public life owed more to their own inherent ability and conscientious attention to duty then did the late Mr. A. E. MacLean, M. P., whose death occurred Saturday after a lingering illness.

For many years Mr. MacLean's name has been a household word, not only in his own constituency of Prince County but throughout the Province. He was regarded as a tower of strength to the Liberal Party, in whose interests he had fought three provincial and five federal election contests, seven times successfully and with substantial majorities in his favour. Such achievement was due, first and foremost, to Mr. MacLean's undoubted popularity with all classes. He had the faculty of making and retaining friends on both sides of politics. Whether at home or at Ottawa, he was industrious in the interests of his constituents, and shirked no time or trouble in this connection. He had made the farming and fishery industries of the Province a subject of intensive study and could speak with authority second to none on these important matters. He was one of the most regular attendants in his place in the House of Commons, following every debate with painstaking attention. At the same time he kept up a voluminous correspondence, and responded promptly to every inquiry and solicitation addressed to him. He was invariably courteous and moderate in his language, even of the heat of a political campaign. All who had anything to do with Mr. MacLean found him to be a gentleman. The Guardian says this from long contact with Mr. MacLean as a political opponent. We do not know of any higher tribute we could pay to any man in public life.

Following the last federal election contest, it was hoped and expected that the portfolio of Minister of Fisheries would go to Mr. MacLean, in recognition both of his ability and of his long and successful public career. There is no doubt that he would have filled this position creditably as he did that of private member for so many years.

His loss will be keenly felt by a host of friends, with whom The Guardian joins in extending sincere sympathy to the bereaved widow and relatives.

Where Silence Is Golden

An article in the October issue of *The Navy* dealing with the U-boat campaign stresses the fact that the destruction caused by these undersea raiders is insignificant compared with the black days of 1917, when U-boat sinkings were at the rate of ten to twelve ships a day, and Britain lost 400,000 tons of shipping in a fortnight.

In this war anxiety is increased by the secrecy observed regarding successes gained against Nazi submarines. The Admiralty is commended in *The Navy* for taking this course, however. The information given reveals that the hunting flotillas are not just thrashing about the ocean looking for the elusive underwater enemy, but are actually making contacts with them. That is a great advance on 1917 and 1918. In those years it was no rarity for a U-boat to cruise in the Atlantic attacking shipping for three weeks without once being attacked though she had to dive occasionally to dodge a patrol that was getting nearer than she liked.

Another difference between the news of the war at sea now and in 1914 is the complete secrecy Britain maintains about captures of merchantmen. There is strategic reason for this. It is known that Germany has acquired a number of oil tankers and other ships which were to act as supply ships to submarines and any surface raiders in the Atlantic. The warships and their depots were to meet at a secret rendezvous. It was a vast plan on which Germany had built great hopes. Yet at the end of the first fortnight of the war the U-boats were wirelessing Berlin that their fuel was running low and they could not find the depot ships. If announcement of all captures of German merchant ships was made by the British Admiralty, the raiders would have known before they set off for the meeting places that there was no hope of finding fresh supplies.

People often ask what possible reason there can be for suppressing this or that item of war news. There is generally a perfectly sound naval or military reason—and this case of the German merchantmen perhaps illustrates the point as effectively as any that could be quoted.

The Farmer And War

Stressing the necessity of warning Canadian farmers against repeating mistakes made in the Great War, the *Financial Post* says:

Twenty-five years ago Canada was inexperienced in war conditions. The world situation in regard to agricultural commodities was very different from that of today. As a result Canadian farmers did some things they afterwards bitterly regretted.

Wheat acreage has doubled without regard to future peace time requirements for wheat or for the type of soil on which these new war crops were produced. Later on when the war and post-war period had passed, Canada found itself with a first-class wheat marketing problem on its hand, and serious soil blowing in the light land areas of the West, which should never have been plowed.

Farmers forgot about their valuable pre-war cheese market in Great Britain and turned to other dairy lines which the war had made more profitable. After peace had been restored they found New Zealand cheese firmly established in the Old Country and Canada had to content itself with second place.

But our greatest war time mistake was the let-down in quality. Under the stimulus of soaring prices a ready market could be found for practically every staple farm product, regardless of grade. Sole emphasis was on volume. As a natural result, years of painstaking work of agricultural authorities to build quality markets at home and abroad was jettisoned. At least a full decade was needed after the peace of 1919 to rebuild.

Canadian farmers have already been warned against repeating these mistakes this time. They have also been encouraged to heed these warnings by the relatively sluggish action of farm prices so far in this new war. If these warnings are not heeded, it is difficult to see what corrective steps can be taken to control the situation short of dangerous and, in the end, usually futile, regimentation.

Bible Society Campaign

Starting today and continuing till Thursday, the annual fund-raising drive of the Charlottetown branch, P. E. I. auxiliary, British and Foreign Bible Society, will take place. Emphasis is placed on the fact that the Bible Society since its foundation in 1804 has ever had as its sole objective, whether in peace or war, "the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment." The Society in Canada and Newfoundland, through its fifteen auxiliaries, is appealing to all to contribute to a war emergency fund for the joint purpose of maintaining and if possible increasing the circulation of the Scriptures throughout the world, and of providing an adequate supply of New Testaments to all Protestant members of the enlisted forces in Canada and Newfoundland. It is hoped that this week's local campaign will receive prompt and generous response from the public.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bonar Law died this date, 1923.

* * * *

"Carry-on" is the second slogan of the Boy Scouts, the first being "Be Prepared."

* * * *

Evidently Germany is practising a telephone "black-out" in preparation for her compulsory isolation.

* * * *

Alabama seems to be the best marriage market in the U.S.A.—Twenty-five per cent of the girls marry before they are nineteen, and the men go on seeking spouses till their dying day—eleven men who were past eighty years of age marrying last year, one to a widow of sixty-nine.

* * * *

In Burmada strong opposition has been offered to a bill recently introduced into the House of Representatives by a private member to suppress stone-throwing at any house in which a marriage has been celebrated. It appears the custom originated in a desire to drive out evil spirits and to ensure that the union should be blessed with children.

* * * *

As from January next Australia has revived compulsory military training, which was abolished in 1929. The first draft, consisting of unmarried men becoming 21 years old by July 1, 1940, will be called up by January. From then onward training will consist of three months' camp life. Calling up a fresh draft yearly will progressively put the militia on a compulsory basis, though for some time the majority of men will be volunteers.

* * * *

Montreal faces an acute shortage of domestic workers. This shortage, according to Mr. F. R. Clarke, director of the Protestant Employment Bureau, is so marked at the present time that the Bureau has approximately 200 calls a month for domestic workers which it is unable to fill. The situation has now come to the point where supplying domestics to Montreal homes is a service to the employers rather than to the girls, for a girl who is willing to do this type of work has no difficulty in securing a position.

* * * *

Too much hard liquor has been the cause of a national headache in Yugoslavia's northern province of Croatia, which received partial autonomy last August. This year Croatia had the best plum crop in half a century. At the same time, the German fruit importing market collapsed because of the war. The practical Croat peasants therefore used up most of the crop in brewing the powerful national drink, schlivovitza. The price of this hard-hitting plum brandy fell to 16 cents a gallon, and there is a shortage of barrels and bottles. The result has been a mighty effort to drink up the surplus. During the Autumn there have been many fights, some twenty murders and the mutiny of 3,000 reservists.

* * * *

Assurance that there will be plenty of all foods in the United States for the year that began last July 1, even allowing for increased exports, appears in the current issue of Consumers' Guide, issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. A round-up of food supply statistics leads to the conclusion that no shortages whatsoever are in prospect, and that supplies of several foods will be above the country's usual requirements. Lard and other domestic edible fats, wheat, rice, sweet potatoes, and fresh, dried and canned fruit production will be above that of two of the last three years; production of fresh and canned vegetables, milk and manufactured dairy products except butter will be above average; meat, poultry, egg and butter production will below average but above what was turned out in two of the last three years; supplies of potatoes and dried beans will be below average, the survey says. There will be more meat than for any year since 1934, with supplies of pork and beef particularly heavy; 200 millions more pounds of poultry than the preceding year; 2 per cent more eggs than 1938; less milk than recent record years; a million more pounds of butter than the consumption figure of 1938; a 20 per cent higher lard production than the previous year, according to the survey.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Germany is prepared for war to the limit of her resources, but these resources are much less strong than those of 1914, points out Dr. J. Cody, president of the University of Toronto. The Germany of 1914 was a country which had enjoyed a long period of unexcelled prosperity. She had been at peace for more than 40 years. Her three previous wars had been comparatively easy victories over Denmark, Austria and France. She had an empire from which to draw raw material. She had a powerful navy, an army that did not know defeat. She had huge gold reserves, included in which were the indemnities which had been paid by France after the war of 1870 and which had been conserved for the purposes of another war. The Germany of today was a defeated and broken nation two decades ago. Her industrial strength is a development of the past six years. Her navy is small compared with that of 1914, relying mainly on submarines. Her armies, while huge, have been thrown together and equipped since the advent of Herr Hitler. Most important, her soldiers know that Germany was defeated only 21 years ago, and have some idea of what they are up against now. Insofar as gold is concerned, Germany has practically none, compared with 1914 standards. To import war needs she must depend on credits or exports. But a wartime Germany has little, if anything, to export. Her industry while running at maximum capacity cannot be as efficient as that of 1914. And the more men she puts into the army, the more she weakens all sections of industry, upon which the troops must rely for food and materials. — Windsor Ont., Star.

We are as faithfully pledged to the cause of Poland as we ever were to that of Belgium. Now as then, there can be no peace without restitution. After all, there are immortal examples. Despite the slavery and ravage of 1914 and onwards, Belgium is free today; as she would not have been—nor Holland, nor Denmark, either—if the German violation of the "scrap of paper" and the Schlieffen plan to break France for ever, had triumphed twenty-five years ago or later. — The Observer, London (J. L. Garvin.

Kansas, a pioneering state in the cause of prohibition, is made the butt of many jokes because of its dry attitude. It is no joke, however, what Kansas has reaped as a result of its bone-dry law. In Kansas there are: Fifty-four counties without any insane; fifty-four countries without any feeble-minded; ninety-six countries without any poorhouses; fifty-three countries without any person in jail; fifty-six counties without any representatives in the State Penitentiary. — Christian Observer.

Canadians must be on their guard in these testing days lest they say and do unwise things. Many of us will be greatly irritated by the neutrality of our American neighbors as we get deeper and deeper into the war. When our boys are dying at the front for the cause of human liberty we shall find it increasingly difficult to appreciate the United States viewpoint. We feel that the battle is as much theirs as ours, and we naturally resent the apparent intention of the American people to keep out of a war which means as much to their future as it does to ours. Our experience in the last war had quite prepared us for the fact that we could not count on American help at the outset should the democracies again be in peril. We had scarcely expected, however, that our big and friendly neighbor would refuse to sell us arms and munitions with which to defend oursetlves from Hitler's armies. That does stick in our crops not a little. Fortunately there is a good prospect of the embargo being lifted. We must keep our heads level and refrain from showing irritation It will not help our cause to say bitter things concerning Uncle Sam. In all probability we shall need his help before the war is over and it will come all the more quickly if we are patient. There are millions of people in the United States who are intensely sympathetic to the allied cause, and who believe that America should line up with Britain and France. As the days go by and the issue between the democracies and Hitlerism becomes clearer the demand for American participation in the war for human freedom will grow. Uncle Sam will be with us evenutally. We shall only delay that happy day by rash words and acts now. — Midland Free Press.

It is more and more apparent that the present war, if it continues—and there is little chance of peace—will be won by economic pressure. It was the breakdown of the morale of Germany in the last war which led to its defeat. One must take with a grain of salt stories that already the blockade of Germany is being severely felt in the Fatherland. There were similar stories last war and yet it was four years before Germany collapsed. Yet there is growing evidence that life in Germany is becoming increasingly grim. The Time Magazine, which is usually well informed, claims that food is scarce and hard to get. It writes that housewives have to spend hours daily standing in line for supplies. It is no longer possible to entertain for guests unless they bring their own food. Germans have to get along with one cake of soap a month and men have to make a tube of shaving cream last five months. Germany is looking to Russia to save her economically. However, this source of supply for blockaded Germany may be deceptive. J. Anton de Hass, noted economist of the Harvard Business School, has just returned from Europe and made some succinct remarks in an interview on the subject. He said: "The relative internal strength of Germany is less than any other major country. She is much less prepared for war now than in 1914. With Russian troops in Poland her (Russia's) transportation system cannot bear the additional strain of sending appreciable amounts of war supplies to Germany. And there is little reason to believe that Russia will demobilize for some time to come. "Are there enough tank cars for it (Rumanian oil) to be shipped overland? "We know there have been food shortages in Germany. Is this the result of natural causes or because she has been storing up great quantities for war use? Oh, there are so many unknown factors. So many, we cannot be sure about anything, but the evidence we have points to Germany's economic weakness." — London, Ont., Free Press.

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.

THE POTATO INDUSTRY

Sir:—I have read with interest the discussion re: Potato Prices, by "Victim", "One who Benefited", "Economist" and the letter by "Citizen" who so ably laid down facts that all too few know regarding the Potato Growers' Association, also for his knowledge and sympathy with our farmers.

Victim's letter gave us all a viewpoint, that of the farmer and one that is so often overlooked by the consumer. The facts as he knows them to his sorrow are not pleasant reading.

Following this letter came the one written by "One who Benefited," supposedly some genial farmer. I wonder if he was one of the many farmers who contributed some of his "benefits" back to the Association about four years ago, when the farmer members were asked to pony up and help out this Association, although many could not understand at the time, why it should need this help.

It certainly was a **co-operative** then, I wonder if any of the farmers who helped them out at that time and are asked to sell a major part of their potato crop below market prices, to pay for fertilizer, are so sure now that this Association is really a co-operative.

To me, viewing this matter, from an outsider's viewpoint, the name Potato Grower's Association is a misnomer. Would it not more correctly read Potato Buyer's Association?

A considerable part of all this disagreement between grower and buyer rigthly belongs back on the Government shoulders; for are they not active members of this Association, after having backed them to the tune of $100,000 to protect the Bank of Nova Scotia from possible loss? Mr. LePage was appointed to an official position, a most unusual thing to be sure, and two members of the Legislature were directors of the Association also Last spring the Government certainly knew, who should have known the farmers were agreeing to sell potatoes at a fixed price. The Government is interested in protecting the Association, the Bank and the taxpayers, but how about protecting the interests of our largest group of citizens in our Province, our hard working farmers, who really are the backbone of Prince Edward Island?

I am, Sir, etc.,

PRO BONO PUBLICO

Gambling On Pearl Blisters

(P. D. Rogers in the Phillipine Magazine)

The greatest gamble in pearls and shell lies in the speculation on pearl blisters. The blister is a lump formation on the side of the pearl shell, and inside this lump there may be nothing. The only way of finding out is to cut the blister, and have it peeled down by a person skilled in this business.

I will relate the following occurrence in Jolo during the boom days of the pearling industry, which shows the highly speculative nature of the blister business.

A Chinese trader bought a sack of pearl shell from a fisherman from Tawi Tawi. On one of the shells, near the hinge, was a large lump or blister. The Chinese trader was new to Jolo and did not know much about the pearl business, but he cut out this blister. He took it to another Chinese trader, who was just a little wiser, and this Chinese offered a sack of rice for it. As an Oriental trader will never accept the first offer made for anything, the owner asked for two sacks of rice. Finally the trade was made for one and one-blister to another Chinese trader, half sacks of rice.

Chinese No. 2 then took the blister to another Chinese trader, and without any dickering at all it was sold for 1,000 pesos. During the next couple of days, this blister changed hands three or four times, until the last trader sold it to a syndicate, formed for the purpose, for 20,000 pesos. This syndicate prepared to trim down the blister.

They sent for the best pearl doctor, or skinner, lit joss sticks, and offered up prayers to some Supreme Being and the Four Winds, and then the exploration work started. Many prospective buyers and spectators were present. The pearl doctor very dexterously began to peel. After the removal of one layer of skin, it was passed around, and one buyer offered 500 pesos more than the purchase price. The owners laughed.

The pearl doctor peeled again. After a couple of hours of work, the pearl seemed to be taking on good shape and to be of a good luster. A buyer offered 25,000 pesos to take it as it stood. But the owners were not interested.

After another hour the prospect looked brighter, and an offer of 30,000 pesos was made. Still the owners were not interested, and instructed the pearl doctor to continue his work of trimming. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the pearl looked still better, and 50,000 was offered. The owners conferred a few minutes, but again declined to sell.

At 4 o'clock the pearl had been whittled down to one-third its original size, an was perfectly round. This size and weight, according to an expert present, would have made it worth at least 100,000 pesos. But, on one side, a small speck had appeared. Now no offers were made, for if the speck continued, the pearl would be of no value.

The pearl doctor continued. The speck grew, and in a short time, what had appeared to represent a fortune a few hours before, showed itself to be utterly worthless.

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That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

IRRITABILITY, TIREDNESS AND DEPRESSION RELIEVED BY FOOD

One of the bits of knowledge wives and mothers have learned by experience is that if any serious matter is to be discussed, particularly something unpleasant that has occurred during the day, it is better not to discuss it until the husband and father has finished his evening meal. Of course, nothing serious or unpleasant should be discussed just before any meal as the upsetment interferes with appetite and digestion.

It is not alone for this reason—interfering with appetite or digestion — that the wife and mother postpones the discussion, but because she knows that a hungry man (or woman) is more apt to be cranky or irritable than one who is not hungry.

Physiologists tell us that hunger feelings are caused by the contraction or movements of the walls of the stomach. As the stomach becomes empty, the walls contract for a number of times — 10 to 25 — after which they become quiet for a while and then start the contractions again; then a quiet period, then contractions again. The "quiet" period lasts from 10 minutes to one hour in the child and from one to three hours in an adult. These contractions of the stomach walls are accompanied by more or less painful or uncomfortable feelings in the stomach. While these hunger pains may disturb an infant and wake him from a sound sleep, they pass unnoticed by the average healthy adult.

Instead of pain, the adult has feelings of weakness, tiredness, and disinclination to work. He doesn't know he is hungry until he sees or smells food.

Drs. Howard W. Haggard and Leon A Greenberg in their book Diet and Physical Efficiency state: "The feeling of fatigue and irritability that shows the need for food is not relieved by rest but it is relieved by food." These research workers were able to relieve "tiredness" and get from 10 to 15 percent more work from shoe workers by dividing the "usual" amount of food into five meals instead of three. Food was thus given before the tired, irritable feelings occurred.

"The man returning to his home in the evening tired, irritable and dispirited from a 'hard day' at his work, finds no satisfaction or relief in rest obtained by waiting for his evening meal. Relief from irritability, fatigue, and depression comes only when the meal is eaten."

The Poets' Corner

THANK GOD FOR LANES

Thank God for lanes! for quiet narrow ways
That devious wind
By field and farm, within whose leafy maze
Peace dwells enshrined;
Mossed underfoot, a tangle of wild growth
Upon the banks,
Green canopy o'erhead where tall elms stand
In stately ranks.

Thank God for lanes wherein no traffic whirls
In deadly line;
Only slow-rolling wains or plodding herd
Of homing kine,
Or huddled sheep, soft-pattering to the fold
Beneath the hill.
And croon of trickling water where there runs
A tiny rill.

Here may the harassed spirit find relief
From rush and blare;
Thankfully linger in the healing balm
Of hay-sweet air;
Search its own heart, and cleanse its anxious mind
Of griefs and pains;
Then calmed, assoiled, and strengthened, grateful breathe
"Thank God for lanes!"

—G. E. Merrick.

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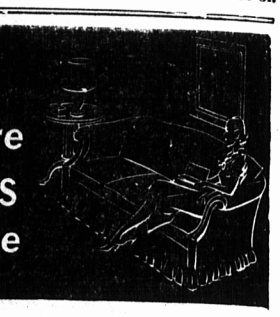

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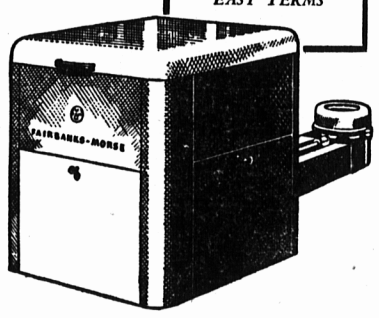

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