THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1943

The Potato Black Market

How the "black market" is adversely affecting the Prince Edward Island potato industry is told in an article in the current issue of the *Monetary Times*. The article gives dealers in this Province a clean bill of health in the matter, but states that in Canada today, "one of the most glaring cases of black market activities" is in potatoes. "Wholesalers," it says, "claim the root of the trouble is in New Brunswick, but from there it spreads to the wholesaler and thence to the retailer, both of whom staunchly maintain it is impossible to sell at ceiling prices without a loss."

One large importer of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island potatoes is quoted as stating that as a result of his refusal to purchase from N. B. shippers and pay a "bonus" of as high as $200 a carload over the ceiling price, he is able to obtain only small supplies from Prince Edward Island. "I find the P. E. I. shippers fair and above board," he told the *Monetary Times*. "It's the New Brunswick shipper I have trouble with. I know for a fact that with Montreal willing to pay through the nose for their potatoes they are receiving seven carloads to each one sent into Toronto," he said.

These are serious charges, and call for drastic action on the part of the enforcement authorities.

A favorite dodge of the leading members in the vicious potato circle, the *Times* alleges, is to beat the ceiling by paying the farmer extra for the potato sack and in some cases buyers give "farmer expenses" to obtain produce for black market sale. One city customer, anxious to obtain potatoes for his evening steak, was charged 43 cents for a half-peck, (seven and one-half pounds) which works out at $4.35 cents for a 75-pound bag. It sounds almost nonsensical to mention that the retail ceiling price on domestic potatoes is now $2.47 for a 75-pound bag.

"When retailers are haled into court—as in Toronto recently—and plead they did not know about the ceiling price and are fined only $30 or one month in jail," says the *Monetary Times*, "it obviously pays the black marketeers to pay up and continue in their depraved business of sabotaging the country's war effort. A leaf out of the British book of control over black markets would perhaps make good study for our magistrates, it is suggested. In London a short time ago a food dealer was fined $1,335 and six months' hard labor for *attempting* to sell canned fruit above the official prices. A man found guilty of buying eggs from a retailer with whom he was not registered was fined $380."

Meat Rationing

The attractive and informative advertisement of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board with reference to meat rationing must have been read with more than ordinary interest by both men and women. It brought directly home to each and all of us the fact that the war affects us vitally, and that we must be prepared to go without some domestic luxuries in order that enough necessary food be preserved for use of our troops, both at home and abroad. After all, we are not asked to make any sacrifice in our ordinary way of life; all we are required to do is to curb our appetities, not to eat too much meat, so that there may be enough left to go round. It will be up to the housekeeper, Mrs. Wife, to see to this, and for the home provider, Mr. Husband, not to grouse but to look pleasant when scrimped of beef at mealtimes.

Male Teachers Needed

Timely emphasis was placed by Dr. Steel on the shortage of teachers at the closing exercises of Prince of Wales College last week. This is not a provincial problem alone, at least so far as male teachers are concerned; it is evidently Canada-wide, as may be gathered from the following comment by the Toronto Globe and Mail:

"If reports are true the war already has depleted to a very serious degree the ranks of the male teaching profession in Canada, and threatens to make the inroads upon it positively calamitous unless wiser and more farseeing policies are adopted. A democracy cannot hope to function effectively for the provision of good government and general prosperity for its citizens unless the great majority of the latter have been supplied in their youth with a reasonably sound education, which has stimulated their intelligence and equipped them with varied knowledge. Admirable and efficient as many women teachers are, a strong leaven of male teachers is indispensable for the provision and maintenance of a first-rate educational system and even before the war Canada had too small a contingent of trained male teachers of high calibre.

"There is general agreement that our educational standards need great improvement, but there must ensue a deterioration if the cream of our male teachers, a class of men whose high intelligence makes them realize the gravity of the issues at stake in this war and therefore impels them to offer their services, leave the schools to serve in the fighting forces or undertake some other form of war work. In the broad interests of this nation's future they should be restrained as far as is possible from such course. Before this war ends it may have taken a very heavy toll of the generation of young Canadians now in their twenties, and it is imperative that the generation of young people now maturing into adult life should receive the best possible educational equipment so they can speedily take the places of the lost victims of the war. But the requisite equipment will not be available for them if the personnel of our teaching profession is seriously weakened by withdrawals for war service; and a wise stewardship of the nation's interest would ordain that male teachers should be regarded as key men whose work was an essential national service."

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Aberhart is the only instance in Canadian history where a non-political preacher preached his way into a Prime Ministry.

* * * *

The Kinsmen were the first organization to hold a convention here this year; many more would be welcome.

* * * *

Do we recall how we laughed at the German's slogan of "bullets for butter?" Now we ourselves prefer "bombers to beef."

* * * *

The double service to and from the mainland is welcomed once more, and we trust will be largely taken advantage of.

* * * *

Sir William Sidney Smith, British sailor, died this date, 1840; served in the French wars; was imprisoned in Paris from 1796 to 1798; successfully conducted the defence of St. Jean d'Arc when besieged by Napoleon in 1799; promoted Admiral 1831.

* * * *

Real gratitude. A group of survivors who were brought to Sydney, C.B., last year after their United States merchantman was torpedoed in the Atlantic have sent cheques totalling $340 to the Red Cross branch there. An accompanying letter said the money was intended as "a token of gratitude" for their treatment by the people of Sydney.

* * * *

Dr. Harold E. Welsh, M.L.A., of Ontario, who was drowned recently in a boating accident while fishing on Lake Opionage, Algonquin Park, was victor in the Hastings East by-election in 1936, which ended one of the most bitter election battles in the history of Eastern Ontario, an election which brought out the heaviest poll in the history of the riding. The defeated Liberal candidate at the time was Dr. Harold A. Boyce. Dr. Welsh was re-elected at the provincial general election in 1937. The other vacancies are Cochrane South, Huron Bruce, Kingston, Lincoln, Toronto High Park, Toronto Bellwoods and Fort William.

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A reduction in the wheat acreage of the Prairie Provinces by slightly more than 17 per cent, is forecast by the Winnipeg Free Press in its first crop report of 1943. The Winnipeg Tribune in a report released simultaneously said the wheat acreage would show a decrease of 15.5 per cent. It forecast an acreage of 17,498,000 acres, the smallest in 23 years. The Free Press said reductions in Manitoba would average about 19 per cent; Saskatchewan 17 per cent and a little under 17 per cent in Alberta. The Tribune placed the reduction in Manitoba at 18.5 per cent, Saskatchewan 14.3 per cent, and Alberta 16.2 per cent. All three provinces reported increased coarse grain acreage, with the acreage seeded to oats the largest since 1921.

* * * *

Mr. Charles Warren, former assistant Attorney-General of the United States, in a lengthy letter to the New York Times proposes that the crime definition be set forth in the peace treaty, that the names of the principal German officers, military or civil, who have been guilty of crimes against the laws of humanity, be listed, and that "the armistice or treaty should by its own terms adjudge them guilty and should determine their punishment, without the need of further proof or trial." The surrender of these persons should be a condition to the signing of any armistice or treaty. Mr. Warren's point is that any punishment, to be effective, must be obtained through direct affirmative action by the victorious powers and not by resort to the law courts after the war. He finds a precedent in the course pursued by England, Austria, Prussia and Russia in dealing with Napoleon. They made him prisoner and kept him prisoner under a formal agreement. He recalls that after the last war, by recourse to the law courts, the war criminals escaped punishment through technicalities stressed by counsel.

* * * *

The U.S.A. army public relations office announces that eight songs may no longer be sung by the men as they march in formation because "in a general way the restricted songs might be interpreted as slurs on women and on the courage of soldiers or as drinking songs." The proscribed chanteys were listed as follows: "Oh, My Feet Hurt", "When the War Is Over", "How Dry I Am", "The Moron Song", "Around Her Neck She Wears a Yellow Ribbon", "Parley Voo" ('Mademoiselle From Armentieres'), "Roll Out the Barrel" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad." Some of the forbidden songs contain recently composed and presumably salty lyrics sung to traditional melodies, as in the case of "Oh, My Feet Hurt", which is rendered with the undercurrent of groans implicit in "The Song of the Volga Boatmen." "The Moron Song" stems from the epidemic of "Moron" jokes all slightly off-color, which have appeared in the manner of the "Little Audrey" craze of a few years ago. Lest the men become downcast at the prospect of marching in silence, the announcement promise that a new song book, presumably replete with well laundered and starched numbers, "will be issued shortly for use in the song-teaching phase of the training program."

Notes By The Way

Three months since the Prime Minister and the President last met at Casablance — and if they can repeat the meetings once every three months with as much effect, they'd better make is a habit. —Vancouver Province.

Sir Samuel Hoare says in an address in Madrid that the British Empire is once more a "great military power." Let's hope we have learned our lesson sufficiently so that future speakers will be able always to say that it is "still a great military power." —Windsor Star.

The defense of Warsaw ranks with that of Madrid. Both were primarily the achievement of working men and women. Warsaw's improvised defence, born out of the spirit and tradition of its people, was an act of magnificent heroism. Thus Warsaw became a battlefield of the People's War. —Unconquered Poland.

It's almost impossible to buy rubber golf balls in most parts of Rhodesia now, so a firm in Bulawayo has started making them out of wood . . . and with very satisfactory results. The wooden golf balls have mesh markings just like the ordinary ones, and you can get a 130-yard drive out of them. —B. B. C. Bulletin.

The United Nations are to set up an organization and administration to take care of starving Europe when that unhappy continent is liberated. This is going to require the highest degree of co-operation and generous assistance from all the members that are capable of supplying foodstuffs. Already the Canadian government, in a fine spirit of humanitarianism is giving the Greeks thousands of tons of wheat to help them in their distress. —Providence Journal.

Mr. Ilsley is surprised that the Prices Board had application for 209,000,000 pounds of sugar for canning when not more than 100,000,000 pounds had been used for this purpose in other years. The explanation is really very simple. Many thousands of homes not in the habit of preserving fruit applied for sugar, hoping to do for themselves what the canners had been doing for years And, probably most women applied for more sugar than they expected to get —quite sure they would not get it all but hoping thereby to get the maximum, at whatever it might be set. —Otawa Journal.

Germans are now seeing movies of fortifications prepared to fend off a United Nations invasion of the continent. Such pictures obviously are supposed to be good for German morale. Possibly they are. One wonders how many Germans can see them without being reminded of other pictures shown a long time ago by boastful Nazis. These films were designed to impress helpless peoples with what Nazis had done to Poland and might do to anyone else opposing them. The new pictures indicate the present need of Germans to think more about what victimized peoples might do to them. In any event, if there is debate about warguilt this time, these pictures with chronological annotations, should offer decisive evidence. —Christian Science Monitor.

On May 13 the following Selected gem appeared on the editorial page with the notation. "Author unidentified:" "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." We are grateful to a subscriber who who has identified the author of the above passage as Sir John Lubbock of London, England.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

With much glee Rome announces that Italians were the last Axis troops to fight in Tunisia. Von Arnim, top Boche, surrendered on Wednesday, while Messe, the ranking Italian, held out for another day. Obviously Rome wanted it made clear to the world that those "invincible" Germans scampered off to the prison camps ahead of the much abused Italian forces. —Amherst News.

Scores of tiny little (Greek) islands are now held by small German detachments, who must be fed mostly from the air and have never really succeeded in liminating native opposition. Even in Crete — conquered at such a heavy price by crack German parachutists — guerillas still hold out, although the Nazis, now fearing an Allied attack have poured in troops. Yet time after time the Nazi press admits that Greek patriots are still active in Cree Though the Nazis are trying hard to link the islands around Greece into a firm belt of first-line defence they are operating on truly volcanic ground. That goes double for the Greek mainland. —W. F. (London).

The Great Western Railway's experiment of selling hot baked potatoes at Paddington Station has proved so successful —20,000 were sold in the first three weeks —that it has been extended to refreshment rooms, throughout the whole of its system. A girl put on trains running between Exeter and Plymouth to sell baked potatoes from an insulated container and sold more than 1,000. Restaurant proprietors and the public are responding well to Lord Woolton's call for the serving and eating of victory dishes, composed of "shipsavers" or such foods as potatoes and other vegetables, dried egg, and cheese. —London Times.

Every business man constantly has the experience of receiving letters bearing a scrawl at the bottom which serves only to arouse the curiosity of the addressee as to the name of the writer. There are many signatures which are completely illegible, and they lead to annoyance and embarrassment. One cannot compel correspondents to write their names so that they may be read, but it would be good business on the part of these scrawlers to do something to remedy the situation. The obvious course is to have the name typed in on the letter. When this is done, the man who goes in for flourishes and hieroglyphics can continue to indulge his strange fancy, but at least those he addresses will not have to engage in a guessing contest every time they open a letter. —Windsor Star.

"This Absurd Impostor"

(Winnipeg Free Press)

In speculations about the next stage in the Allied war against Hitler's "Fortress of Europe" the future of Mussolini bulks large, with general agreement that his career is about to enter upon its final phase. That his own people will deal with him before he falls into the hands of the Allies appears to be the general explanation; but if it should be his fate to be left to the judgment of his foes, there need be no doubt about the justice that will be meted out to him. The references to him which abound in Mr. Churchill's speeches are explicit on this point.

When the German armies overran Greece Mussolini, whose earlier efforts to this end had ended in humiliating disaster, associated himself and his troops with this Axis achievement in a turgid proclamation of triumph and victory. Churchill, in an address to the House of Commons dealing with the disasters of Greece and Crete, and the desperate situation which the British faced by reason of them, took a moment off to speak a word or two about the Italian hero. His remarks upon that occasion were in these terms:

"I turn aside from the stony path we have to tread, to indulge a moment of lighter relief. I daresay you have read in the newspapers that, by a special proclamation, the Italian Dictator has congratulated the Italian army in Albania on the glorious laurels they have gained by their victory over the Greeks. Here surely is the world's record in the domain of the ridiculous and the contemptible. This whipped jackal, Mussolini, who to save his own skin has made all Italy a vassal state of Hitler's empire, comes frisking up at the side of the German tiger with yelpings not only of appetite—that can be understood—but even of triumph. Different things strike different people in different ways. But I am sure there are a great many millions in the British Empire and in the United States who will find a new object in life in making sure that when we come to the final reckoning this absurd impostor will be abandoned to public justice and universal scorn."

Churchill's unshakable confidence in one of the darkest hours of the war that there would be "a final reckoning" on the right side, makes this a very notable passage. The "final reckoning," so far as Mussolini is concerned promises not to be long delayed. Another reference to Mussolini by Churchill is being recalled these days: that in which he said that "one man, and one man alone,' was responsible for Italy's participation in the war; and the inference is being drawn that the elimination of Mussolini would make possible a rapprochement between Italy and the Allies. This deduction goes beyond the actual content of the words, which had to do with the origin of Italy's attack upon France, a decision for which Mussolini was primarily responsible. But much has happened since then: and the fate of more than the "absurd impostor" will be involved in the final reckoning.

Canberra

(Exchange)

On an early autumn day 30 years ago—March 12, 1913—Lady Denman wife of Australia's Governor General, stood on a gum clad knoll, drew a card from a case and named the Australian capital city of the future Canberra, says an Australian News Letter of the Empire Press Union.

Lady Denman saw only brown plains, browsing sheep, a few farmhouses, the willow-lined, meandering line of the River Molonglo, and the turquoise sweep of the rugged Murrumbidgee Range.

Today, from the same knoll, one can see some fulfillment of the vision splendid of a city beautiful planned by the early Federationists.

A stone's throw away the sheep still browse, but now across the lawns of gleaming white Parliament House, the brown plains have been clothed with millions of trees just now beginning to glow with the gold and scarlet and russet of another Autumn. They define the winding avenues that lend beauty to the eye and awe to the strange motorists. Through them you glimpse the red roofs of 2,500 homes that house 12,500 people, chiefly the families of public servants.

There are some public buildings of notable beauty, a noble war memorial, a modern hospital, but many others, including administrative offices—still "temporary" structures after 30 years—and, because of desperate housing shortage, some tenement cottages in which the first construction workers lived, as bad as a city slum.

Canberra has been the victim of the 1930 depression, of hesitant governments, and of petty state jealousies that hampered the original plan to transfer all Commonwealth departments there.

But foundations have been soundly laid. Twenty million pounds have been spent on these roads, engineering works, homes and buildings—and the city pays interest on the capital.

The detailed plans now ready envisage an expansion costing many millions of pounds, with a population of 20,000. Chief lines of development being considered are a housing scheme, transfer of central secretaries of Federal departments from Melbourne, engineering services including a second water storage scheme, a town hall and construction of two new five-storied administrative blocks, instead of one originally contemplated.

When Lady Denman named the city, she called it CAN-b'ra, and this started an argument which still bursts into spasmodic flame as to the correct pronunciation of the name.

When the duke of York (now King George VI) opened parliament there in 1927, the then Prime Minister (Mr. S. M. Bruce) insisted that Lady Denman's pronunciation was correct, and that it was wrong to use Can-Ber-ra.

Today Melbourne people call it the former, and Sydney uses the latter. The other states just curse the place.

FOR GIRL WEIGHT-LIFTERS

LONDON, May 24 —(CP)—With women taking on more and more jobs in war factories the Labor Ministry is considering poduction of appliances to help factory girls who have to life heavy weights. In some factories physical training instructors try out each job before women are asked to take them on.

"SURE there will be changes after the war . . . some are overdue. But I'm no robot. Whatever our post-war plans, I still want to see hard work rewarded and dividends paid on brains and initiative. I want the privilege of going into business for myself if I choose. Above all I want my kids to grow up where success depends on work, native ability and enterprise."

Canada has grown to rich nationhood through the courage, resourcefulness and initiative of individual citizens. These qualities must be preserved in the challenging days ahead.

What is PRIVATE ENTERPRISE?
It is the natural desire to make your own way, as far as your ability will take you; an instinct that has brought to this continent the highest standard of life enjoyed by any people on earth. It is the spirit of democracy on the march.

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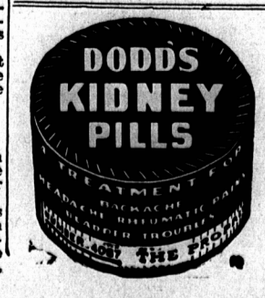
HICKEY & NICHOLSON'S
"BLACK TWIST" CHEWING

War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

May 26, 1918 — Monticello Pass and heights commanding it in the Adamello region captured by Italians; 870 prisoners and 12 guns seized. British transport Leasowe Castle torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean; 92 officers and men missing.



The Kiddies' Corner

MY BOY JACK

1914-18

"Have you news of my boy Jack?"
Not this tide.
"When d'you think that he'll come back?"
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Has any one else had word of him?"
Not this tide.
For what is sunk will hardly swim.
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?"
None this tide,
Nor any tide,
Except he did not shame his kind—
Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,
This tide,
And every tide;
Because he was the son you bore,
And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!

—Rudyard Kipling.

NOTICE TO FARMERS

We have just received a shipment of

FORMALIN FOR SMUT ON GRAIN

a cheap but thoroughly effective remedy.

Grain growers would be wise to act promptly in order to have seed properly treated before sowing.

One pint to every 40 gallons of water. Full directions given with every order.

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A dust disinfectant for Wheat, Oats, Barley. One pound treats 32 bushels. Get what you require at once.

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Dip disinfectant for the control of scab and the prevention of rot in potatoes. It is a quick, easy dip treatment that eliminates labour and loss of time. One pound treats from 60 to 80 bushels.

Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention.

THE TWO MACS

BRAVE WELSH GIRLS

CARDIFF, Wales (CP)— Girls in a Welsh war factory set a British output record for making bombs—while a German raider was bombing the district. They refused to be evacuated when a delayed action bomb fell near the plant and worked at their benches wearing tin hats.

How Are Your Eyes?

If you are having symptoms of strain — headaches, sore eyes or dizziness — consult a specialist.

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