

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1857)
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail in P.E.I., \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months
\$1.25 for 3 months; 50c for one month
City Delivery \$5.00 per year; \$3.00 for 6 months
\$1.75 for 3 months; 60c for one month.

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the
Weakest Ink."
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1942.

Despicable Double-Dealing

The King Government is again at its old despicable game of double-dealing in Quebec. An amazing revelation of the cynicism with which this game is being conducted was given in the Canadian Press report of the House of Commons debate on Thursday.

"During the question period," says the report, "Mr. King refused to enter into a discussion when Conservative House leader Hanson asked him if Justice Minister St. Laurent spoke with government authority when, it was reported, he said in a radio speech that conscription would harm the war effort."

As Minister of Justice, Mr. St. Laurent is not only a member of the King Government but a member of the Cabinet War Committee, responsible for formulating the Government's war policies. He was undoubtedly interpreted by his hearers as speaking with full government authority. The evidence of this is that Paul Latouche, Liberal anti-conscriptionist candidate, has withdrawn from the contest in the same riding. Only a few days earlier the Premier of Quebec, Mr. Godbout—whom Prime Minister Mackenzie King took occasion to eulogize in his speech dealing with the forthcoming plebiscite on conscription—publicly stated that "he knew Mr. King to be a confirmed anti-conscriptionist."

The people of Canada have a right to know how much credence to place on Liberal campaign statements in Quebec. In the case of Justice Minister St. Laurent they have a right to insist that Mr. King either indorse or repudiate his statements on behalf of the Government. Mr. King himself refuses to make "any fresh commitments" with regard to his action following the plebiscite; but what of his Cabinet colleagues and supporters, who are still carrying on their mischievous campaign, posing as non-conscriptionists in one province, as neutrals in other provinces, and as converts to conscription elsewhere? What kind of "national unity" may be expected to result from these tactics, and what motives, other than political in the worst sense of the term, can have inspired them?

Grave Questions

The veteran old war-horse, Hon. C. H. Cahan writes as follows to the Press over the Hong Kong mishap:
"Colonel Ralston stated, in the House of Commons that on September 10th last a message was received from the British Government asking the Canadian Government to furnish one or two battalions to strengthen the Hong Kong garrison. He adds that ten days later, on September 20th: 'After due consideration of all the factors, and, on the recommendation of our military authorities, who had studied the subject, the government authorized for dispatch to Hong Kong a Canadian force composed substantially of two infantry battalions, or approximately 2,000 men. Did 'our military authorities' in making this recommendation, realize:
1. That war with Japan was then imminent?
2. That the district of Kowloon, on the mainland, on the opposite side of the harbor from the City of Victoria, was not fortified to resist a land attack?
3. That the Island of Hong Kong had no adequate air force and no adequate protection against enemy assaults from the air?
4. That the water supply of Hong Kong was pumped from Kowloon?
5. That, with Kowloon in the possession of Japanese artillery forces, the fate of Hong Kong was inevitable?
6. That the British naval forces in the Western Pacific were utterly inadequate to resist aggressive action by the superior Japanese naval forces?
7. That, in case of war arising, there would be no possibility of increasing the British military forces at Hong Kong, nor of increasing the supplies of the forces already stationed there?
8. That, in fact, in case of war arising, these two Canadian battalions were being dispatched to their inevitable doom?"

Today's War Pigeons

This is a mechanized war, as we are reminded daily in the news despatches; yet the carrier pigeon is still on the job. A writer in "Our Dumb Animals" describes some of the services rendered by these valuable birds.

certain period of time, the metal rings part, allowing pigeons and baskets to descend gently to earth. Within each basket is a message asking friendly French, Dutch, Czech or other allies for definite information valuable to the English. The finders are instructed to slip the answer into a container on the pigeon's foot and release the bird. The bird nearly always does its part, and the next morning English bombers may be unusually fortunate in locating ammunition factories, airdromes and troop concentrations.

British mine sweepers and trawlers, not equipped with wireless, carry pigeons along for emergencies. When danger threatens in the North Sea or English Channel, the birds are sent winging from 50 to 100 miles to shore for help.

Since the last war, the United States Army has devoted considerable attention to raising carrier pigeons.

Over a period of years methods of breeding and training have resulted in striking improvements of speed and stamina. At one time a sustained flight of 200 miles a day was considered excellent, and a mile a minute was thought to be the limit of speed. Today, however, the pigeon that falters at a 500-mile-a-day stretch is not considered worth keeping for war purposes. Some fast Army birds have breasted the breezes at over 70 miles an hour.

Trainers are proud, too, of the progress in night flying. Formerly, a pigeon would fly from sunrise to dusk, then pick out a convenient tree or pole and wait for the break of dawn. Trained fliers now can be relied upon to carry messages either by day or in the darkest of nights.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Members of Parliament are doing more to develop or intensify division in our ranks than any foreign quislings in our midst.

Tomorrow let our thoughts and prayers be influenced by the heroism of those of our kith and kin in Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt, Libya, at sea, in the air, and holding the fort in Britain.

In duty bound, all the civic candidates for election or re-election will be in church tomorrow; while those returned unopposed will no doubt join them in thanksgiving for favours received.

Rev. Dr. D. J. Fraser, of Montreal Presbyterian College, who is being nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, would have been Moderator for the current year but for a mishap. His proposer did not turn up at last assembly in time, with the consequence that Rev. Mr. Skene, to his own and almost every other body's surprise, had a walk over.

The curlers speak very highly of the magnificent reception they had in Quebec, where they were the only representatives of the Maritime Provinces to participate, in the bonspiel. At a great banquet in the Chateau Laurier, at which the Mayor of Quebec presided, and the Lieut. Governor and Premier were present, this Province was singled out for special praise, and that doyen of curling and scouting, Mr. S. C. Moore, was called upon to take the bow. Good publicity this, which should be appreciated.

A welcome reversal of policy for waging the second Victory Loan campaign is made known in the official release announcing the plan to have at least 2,000 beacon fires lighted across the country. It was to be a blackout, but, thanks be to somebody, this strange notion has evidently been basketed. It is proper that the nation should be lighted, not darkened, when the citizens are reaching for their money to invest in Victory. Just think of the psychological devastation of a nation-wide blackout,—citizens having to use flashlights to get home, flashlights to find their way about in the most familiar places on earth, which are their homes, and flashlights to find their check-books when the canvassers call. The objections to this plan were too numerous to mention. Nationally, locally, psychologically, politically, financially, nothing could have been worse.

Dealing with the Imperial War Cabinet issue, Lord Bennett in his maiden speech in the House of Lords said: "The difficulty is that a war cabinet here is responsible to this Parliament and not to the dominion parliaments. Representation of the government and the Parliament of which he is a spokesman." He referred to Prime Minister Curtin's speeches in Australia, and added: "I pray you to remember that strong language is one of the hallmarks of new democracies as moderation in language is one of the hallmarks of this old Parliament." There is no need to be under a misapprehension as to Australia's loyalty to the Crown or her willingness to make sacrifices until the end." Lord Bennett said the problem was how to guarantee that the dominions should be able to express themselves on the policies before they become effective. There are four methods of doing this, he said—Imperial Conference, inter-government dispatches, use of direct cable and telephone communications and occasional consultations.

Charles Dickens, English novelist, born this date 1812; his childhood in its general outline, may be studied in the early chapters of "David Copperfield."—his masterpiece, had he written nothing else, his place would have been little lower than that of Fielding—also in his picture of young Pip in "Great Expectations," and perhaps in some traits of Little Dombey; he must have been the most observant of children, vice beyond his years, things already striking his perception and appealing to his sense of the grotesque; his list of novels etc., reaches to over 40, and besides many of the volumes of "Household Words" were to all intents and purposes his own production; his fault, if it be a fault, was an over abundance of energy and overflow of life; he poured his treasures forth with too lavish a hand, in too many fields—theatrical, social, philanthropic, as well as literary; of rest in his work he knew nothing, not because he either needed or coveted money, but because his spirit drove him to be always doing; "The men who learn endurance, are they who call the whole world brother."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The announcement made by the Department of Munitions and Supply at Ottawa that \$175,000,000 is to be expended on the enlargement of the plant of the Algoma Steel Corporation in the next two years is the most important news the Sault Ste. Marie has seen in many months. The project is a war project to make up for the depletion of scrap iron resources and to help meet the increased demand for iron in the Dominion. The project is a part of the general expansion of the Government's war program, this new construction will be the most part of a type which will be carried out in the west coast here and will go far to realize the dream of Sir James Dunn, president of the corporation, to make the Sault the "Steel City of Canada."—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Hitler is undoubtedly planning fresh invasions. He is making an enormous number of gliders, each capable of carrying several tons. He can find in Europe, and he doesn't mind who knows that it is intended for parachutes. It is all this meant for invasion of Britain. It is likely as the invasion of anywhere else. Hitler has made three big divisions to scatter British strength outside Britain. He expected a Wehrmacht to disperse Empire forces in large numbers: (1) to meet a German sloop through the Caucasus or across Turkey to the Mediterranean. A strong invitation was issued to us by an almost complete withdrawal of German forces. We declined the bait. Despite German harshness, German weakness of war in better climates. In fact, many lower-rank German officers are reading their Bibles and guarding from this. Crete. Nazi schooling was intended to make them like that.—Daily Express (London).

The battles of the Atlantic of the Mediterranean, of Europe, of Africa and of the Far East have yet to be won, and it would be the greatest misfortune for the world to take a complacent or lackadaisical attitude. So far from having "turned the corner" we have not yet reached the realistic appreciation of the long, hard stretch ahead. But we have this consolation—that our position in December, 1941, and our position in January, 1942, is better than that of December, 1940; that while we have not yet won the war, we have slaved the rush which Hitler and his gang have never been able to make. If they were, might have overwhelmed us. Now the formula for winning this war for destroying Hitlerism and Nazi tyranny, for ever and ever, is simple. Fight in union, work in union, give in union, to the very utmost of our strength and resources.—Royal Gazette and Colonist Daily Bermuda.

Hitler wanted to unify Europe in one sense, he is succeeding. He is making friendships between peoples who once thought there was nothing worse than each other. He is making treaties, and national quarrels look petty indeed. He is deflating historical enmities. He is educating nations to the necessity of unity. In London the Governments-in-exile of Greece and Yugoslavia have just signed an agreement looking to union between the two countries after the outbreak of the Greco-Yugoslav conflict with each other, producing major wars, and because Balkan jealousies have provided opportunity for aggressive Powers. The Nazis Germany, to divide and conquer. The Greco-Yugoslav agreement, though academic until Allied victory is achieved, is a useful precedent. It is marked preparation for solution of problems which after World War One, remained to plague the peace conference in 1919; and which, in fact, were never solved. It also proclaims that Hitler is not the only one busy with plans for unification of nations. While Allied armies and navies are preparing to take the offensive in the military field, an Allied offensive in the diplomatic and political fields is already under way. While these plans are being worked out, any constructive inspiration from Hitler, the chief Nazi has contributed to their ultimate success. If peoples are ever again tempted to recoil from the temporary self-defence required for building a better world, they need only compare these with the sacrifices imposed on them to build the Nazi world.—Christian Science Monitor.

Collected inmates and influential members of the community from public attention one consideration which might point to the solution of the entire "Japanese problem" in Canada. The government in Canada has the right to remain unweakened by criticism, free from above attack, whether political or general, while all other war activities of the country have been subjected to a constant, unrelenting attack since the rest of the R.C.M.P. activities are viewed as virtually irrelevant. Why should its work in dealing with the "Japanese problem" and its work that the problem is under control, be diminished, or much less, overlooked in the track and and loud debate on the matter?—Vancouver News-Herald.

A boy who lost twenty-five pounds in ten days to become eligible for enlistment in the A.R. Corps has much to teach his fellow-citizens.—New York Sun.

Now, having rejected the more honourable course of candid admission of past mistakes and immediate remedial action on the man-power question, the Government embarks on this perilous and astounding plebiscite scheme. Apart from the waste of time and money involved, the scheme is a complete failure, had it not been for the administration—the anticommunism and factionalism that may arise from this poll of the people will be far more damaging to us than anything that might arise from a Government taking its political fate in its hands and boldly leading the way.—Ottawa Citizen.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

"DO WE NEED IT?"

Sir—Your editorial regarding the subsidizing of canned grapefruit juice and your censure of the Commodity Price Stabilization Board for so doing sounds not altogether unreasonable. Grapefruit juice is a delightful and beneficial beverage, something that I am sure we would not wish to deprive any person, from being able to obtain, but for those of us who are well it is just another luxury we can easily get along without.

There is another beverage that is using up millions of bushels of valuable grain and a large amount of labor in its manufacture which could be devoted to an all out war effort without anyone being any the worse off, that you devote very little space to in your editorial page. The elimination of this beverage would not mean the giving up of a luxury that we enjoyed, but the lifting of one of the greatest curses that is to be found in the nation. One does not have to spend many hours in the laboratory to see its evil effects, not only on the civilian life of the community, but the young men in uniform. I am sorry to say, are not untouched by it. I think I speak for very many parents, when I say we fear what the war will do to the characters of our boys far more than what it will do to their bodies. How the government of Canada can ask us to support a conscription measure, deny policy that benefits our boys, and go to church and pray for victory, while this liquor is used to flourish in our midst is something I cannot understand.

I think it is time Christian people everywhere get out and fight this evil and insist that if our young men are to be taken for military service the government will see to it that they are not taken for anything else. When the church and Christian people stamp out the curse of liquor, they will do more to answer their own prayers for victory, both by raising the moral standards of the people, and the efficiency of all their efforts for right in the cause of democracy.

I am, Sir, etc.

LAWSON E. CROSBY West Royal.

(The Federal Government says this is a matter entirely in the hands of the provincial governments; if the conditions in this province be such as Mr. Crosby states, then the blame lies solely at the door of the Campbell government, which has the prohibition law to enforce.—Ed. G.)

An Unnecessary Pretext

No pledge from Mr. King was accepted by the millions of Canadians who labour on the farms and in the factories. How can they vote to relieve him of any pledge he may have made. These and many other Canadians can only view with futile anger and profound contempt the living suggestion that any vote is necessary to give the Government a pledge against the introduction of a conscription for overseas service. The Government, as such, gave no pledge of this kind in the election of 1940; the only pledges given were the personal pledges of W. L. M. King and the late Ernest Lapointe. Mr. Lapointe's pledge has been revoked. Mr. King's pledge can be abolished by the simple method of stepping out of his office. Any pledges given by the Government to Parliament can be abolished by asking Parliament to relieve the Government of those pledges and the undertakings. Is there any doubt that Parliament would agree?

Mr. King's determination to force a plebiscite upon Canada can only be interpreted as the triumph of his personal ambition over his care for the best interests of the country. He prefers the risk of seeing Canada torn by dissension and laid open to the assaults of enemies from abroad to the risk of imperilling his party's future by action that might find some opponents. It is a dangerous course, and one which may eventually lead to the rising of another William Lyon Mackenzie to lead a movement for responsible government.

Mr. King's preoccupation with the retention of office is as complete in this time of terrible crisis as it was when he engineered to prevent any other government directing a newly elected Parliament which he was afraid to allow to vote on the Customs scandal issue. The survival of party supremacy at this time is a crime against Canada. For months the King Government has fought the rising demand for conscription for overseas service. Its ministers have gone about the country declaring that conscription was not necessary. Now the Government is forced to admit that it is necessary and uses the plebiscite as a pretext to explain its failure to provide and train men who are necessary for Canada's defense. It endeavors to lead the country to believe that it has not had the power to do so. Such a misrepresentation of the position brings political morality in this country to a new low.

STOP TRAIN FOR DOLLY

PITSEA, England.—(G.P.) Because a little girl was heard crying, a train was stopped soon after leaving Pitsea. The girl had dropped a doll on the track and the train was held until it was found.

COULDN'T SLEEP COULDN'T WORK

What a relief to settle down to a restful night's rest, and awake fully refreshed, ready for the day's duties. Was tortured by fretful nights—tossing, turning—never comfortable. Half awake days—ever-tired, driving body and mind to work when they needed rest. "Try Dodd's Kidney Pills," said a friend—"it may be your kidneys." I'm glad I followed his advice as now I'm sleeping like a top—thanks to Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Fewer Western M. P.'s

(Winnipeg Free Press) Attention was recently drawn in these columns to the very slight increase in Prairie population as shown in the census taken last year. There was actually a loss of 250,000 people from these three provinces because the natural increase was not retained. Now it is learned from Ottawa that the result of the census will be the loss of three members of Parliament by Manitoba—a reduction from 17 to 14—and the loss of four members by Saskatchewan, which will have 17 instead of 21.

This is because Quebec, the vital province in the matter of Parliamentary representation has been increasing in population much faster than these western provinces. Quebec's increase was 454,866. Saskatchewan's increase was only 22,108, and Saskatchewan suffered an actual loss of 34,653 in population.

The very slow increase in Manitoba, and the more serious net loss in Saskatchewan, together with the resulting loss in Parliamentary representation, reflect the highly unfortunate economic position of the Prairie Provinces in the past decade and the desperate problems which they have had to contend. This situation has been the concern of the rest of the country to a considerable extent and it must be an even greater extent and in a more enlightened way in the future if the Prairie Provinces are to have a chance of overcoming their difficulties.

They do not wish to be dependent on assistance from the Federal Government. They wish to help themselves and improve their production as far as possible. They object most strongly to any national policy that benefits other sections of the country at their expense. They expect the Dominion Government to remember their vital need for export markets and to do the best to secure them. And they require a permanent readjustment of their financial relations with the Dominion based upon their economic position and their needs. National policies that are rational and just will give the Prairie Provinces a more equitable share of the kind and the census report is the strongest evidence that they need it.

It is reassuring to read in a prominent eastern journal that the prairie country must reconcile itself to lose at least half a dozen members of Parliament to carry less weight in the formulation of economic and other policies at Ottawa than it has exercised in recent years.

All that need be said about that is that the West will expect to see enlightenment at Ottawa and that the economic conditions in these parts, and that if it should be disappointed, the result would be a political realignment of the kind that has been insisted upon in the recognition of legitimate western claims. But restraint in other parts of the country should make that unnecessary.

Parliament At Its Worst

(Montreal Gazette) The Liberal majority in the House of Commons on Thursday of last week was guilty of an extraordinary exhibition of bad manners. Hon. Dr. Herbert A. Bruce of Toronto was speaking in the debate on the Address in reply to a Canadian citizen of unusual distinction. As a surgeon of exceptional skill he was instrumental in saving the lives of many Canadian and other British soldiers during the war. He is a man of high character and high office in his profession. His only son is overseas. Not many members of the present House of Commons are better qualified to discuss the question which is in issue in the debate on the Address.

The House of Commons is, in theory, a deliberative body. In practice it can imitate, faithfully, the rough-and-tumble of a school yard. The Government is in an unusually critical position, ought to be seeking the advice of any parliamentarian qualified to give it. Followers of the Government ought to be no less anxious to have the plebiscite position clarified. But what happened on Thursday? According to the account given in some Ontario newspapers, Dr. Bruce had been speaking only a little while when the Prime Minister left the House, taking the Hon. P. J. A. Cadin with him. Other Ministers followed, leaving only four. Thereafter, Dr. Bruce was repeatedly and persistently interrupted and heckled. Members on the Liberal side of the House appear to have made as much noise as they could and the hubbub is described as having been so great that upon more than one occasion the

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War
"And we shall march forward together in comradeship until those who have sought to trample upon the rights of individual freedom are finally overcome."—Winston S. Churchill.

PROTECT SIGHT

More attention is advocated to eye-strain prevention. Light should be right to favour the sight. Eyes will serve a lifetime only if they receive proper care.
"Do you smile at your office troubles as I advised you?" "Yeah, and the boss warned me three times to wipe that silly grin off my face and get to work."

How Are Your Eyes?

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