THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1945

Colonel Merritt's Reasons

One of the most damning indictments against the Mackenzie King Government was made the other day in an address by Canada's first V.C. in this war, Lt.-Colonel Cecil Merritt, Progressive Conservative candidate for Vancouver-Burrard. Colonel Merritt won his coveted award at Dieppe, where he was badly wounded and captured.

"Why," he asked, "do I stand as a Progressive Conservative? I thought a lot about my choice of Party. I could have chosen the Liberal party under Mackenzie King, why did I not? I did not because I remembered Canada under his Government in the five years before the war. I remembered his refusal to commit that Government to Great Britain's side in the fight for freedom, till, at the last moment, he was driven to it by the deeply-held convictions of the Canadian people. I remembered how the Prime Minister soft pedalled the growing sectionalism in the country rather than face that issue and give a lead toward uniting the people.

"Mr. King, by nature, has always let sleeping dogs lie, even if they were sick dogs. I do not believe that you and I want this any longer. I remember Mr. King always with his ear to the ground, never giving us a purpose, never moving in front of the people, but always lagging behind us and making us carry him upon our shoulders. That was not leadership. I remember, under his administration, a divided Canada, a drifting Canada, whose people were without a clear aim in life. I watched him during the war. Would he lead us on the conscription and manpower issue? Or would we, in the unity of our hearts and minds, have to force these weapons into his unwilling hands? You all know the answer.

"I do not want my great country to continue to be headed by this man without leadership, this man who is the last of the appeasers."

Colonel Merritt added that he might also have chosen the C. C. F. party. "Why did I not? I did not," he said, "because I did not see in their policies any evidence of leadership either; no possibility for team work by the people in the development of Canada's destiny. The C. C. F. party would impose state ownership and state direction on all phases of our economic life. Its leaders hold that the individual Canadian cannot cope with his problems. They would remove from us as individuals the responsibility. . . . They would subject us as a mass to their deparamental decisions; which means, they have lost faith in the Canadian people. That is not my idea of team work in the pursuit of a common aim. Nor does that party offer the type of leadership we want. We must have leadership that has faith in the people and which sets the example, calling on them to follow—not merely men to sit behind and drive us by arbitrary order."

He believes, on the other hand, that a government under Hon. John Bracken would mean for Canada "clarity of purpose, team work and leadership"—a combination which brought success time and again to our forces in the field, and which he maintains can be put into practice just as effectively in peace as in war.

The Infantry's Part

A friend of Lord Wavell's has induced him, as he says, "to write to *The Times*" about the practice of referring to all arms of the service with an initial capital while a small "i" is reserved for the infantry. The arguments with which Lord Wavell vindicates the claims of the infantry, says *The Times* editorially, are not wholly novel. They have in fact often been put forward in this war, which has revealed, in the midst of ever-growing mechanization, that in the last resort it is still the soldier on foot who gains the decision in battle. This advocacy now has the reinforcement of Lord Wavell's authority. It is strengthened by his lively and incisive presentation of it and spiced by his daringly provocative approach to the other arms. The artillery, which in recent times has furnished so large a proportion of candidates for the General Staff at the War Office almost as a right, is told that its functions are relatively simple beside those of the infantry. What are these, in fact, but the loading and firing of guns, a job which the infantry used to carry out but discarded as hampering to mobility? The gunners, the engineers, and the rest may find themselves unable to agree with this distinguished infantryman that it is the infantry which has to take the quickest decisions and to use the greatest initiative and intelligence; but they will freely admit that the infantryman is the man of all trades and that his is the stiffest, the most dangerous, and the most uncomfortable role in war.

Even if it be true that the infantryman has discarded some of the weapons and functions of other arms of the service, argues *The Times*, he has been furnished with lighter and more mobile equipment of the same types and in emergency it falls to him to fulfil almost any imaginable function. In the machine-gun carrier he has his miniature armoured fighting vehicle, in the mortar his miniature howitzer. He has light anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, light signalling equipment, light smoke-producing equipment, and so on. The manoeuvres which are demanded of him are in many cases more intricate than those allotted to tanks, but he has to carry them out without the protection of armour. No branch of planning gives rise to more thought and ingenuity than that of preparing the decisive battle so that the infantry shall enter it in the most favourable circumstances and with every possible chance of success, but it is a rare battle in which it does not suffer the highest proportion of losses.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

It seems more-or-less appropriate in this health-boosting era, that a laundryman and a hygienic cleaner should run as candidates for a City Council vacancy.

* * *

Today, after swearing-in of the Hon. Mr. Bernard as Governor, His Honour and Mrs. Bernard will entertain a select company at luncheon in The Charlottetown.

* * * *

Volunteers for the Pacific are about thirty-three-and-a-third of those called up. Had not a demand been made for special volunteering, the probability is that 75 per cent of those now in arms would have preferred to remain so, and go where sent.

* * * *

Is it any wonder the province is being plunged head over ears in debt, submerging farms and real estate generally, interest on which must be paid in taxes or else, when the government is left so often and so long to look after itself without a Premier on the spot? There is no head or directing force to our government constantly on the qui vive.

* * * *

Sunday evening CBC programme, entitled "Stage 45", has called forth indignant protests by listeners, says the *Letter-Review*. Complaints are that the plays are not only hodge-podge, but that the language used by the characters is extremely vulgar. The worst feature of these plays is that many of them are straight Socialist propaganda, and this at the expense of the general public. It is bad enough to have our young people listening to such tripe, but to be compelled to pay for it out of public funds is adding injury to the insult to our intelligence.

* * * *

An anti-trust suit has been brought against six American and four foreign match companies for allegedly conspiring to keep the "everlasting match" out of the country. Controlled by a Swedish company, the everlasting match resembles a piece of chalk about two inches long and one-fourth inch thick. It is good for about 500 lights, is struck on a special material resembling that used on safety match boxes, is extinguished by blowing, and is water resistant. Cost of manufacture is said to be less than one cent each.

* * * *

Food Minister Llewellin told Britons last week that effective next Sunday their weekly bacon ration would be cut 25 per cent and cooking fats 50 per cent as their part in the struggle against a world food shortage. Britons also were told that they would have to make their clothes last longer and stretch their clothing coupons over an additional month this year. The president of the Board of Trade announced that 24 coupons issued February 1 would have to last seven months instead of six—but generous exceptions were made for men and women leaving the armed forces. Children also will receive a further issue August 1.

* * * *

Findings of surveys have shocked washing machine manufacturers by revealing the number of women who wash hosiery and dainty lingerie in lavatory bowls because they cannot trust some of the new fabrics to the washer. There is little doubt that after the war models of washers are going to do laundry with a new gentleness, in an effort to handle 100 per cent of the family wash, says *Electrical Merchandising*. In the sales field, too, the man who succeeds best is going to have a greater understanding of fabrics than he had pre-war. There are going to be a lot of new talking points and a lot of them will be about laundering.

* * * *

William Penn, English colonizer, who founded Pennsylvania, died this date 1718; son of a British Admiral, he became a Quaker in 1669, and was imprisoned a year later for publishing *Sandy Foundations Shaken;* obtained a grant of land in America as quit-claim for crown debt in 1680, became governor as well as proprietor and called it after his father; deprived of governorship for suspected Jacobitism in 1692, but restored two years later; imprisoned for debt in 1707, and mortgaged the colony upon which he was released; an idealist who was an incalculable moral force, but lacked administrative talents which was the cause of most of his troubles: "True silence is the rest of the mind; and it is to the spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment."

* * * *

"One good thing about our attitude at home here in England," writes Mr. H. V. Morton, "is that we have no illusions this time. We know that Peace is going to demand almost as much from us as war. It was very different last time. How well I remember what it felt like to be demobilized—a queer twisted feeling of wild joy and regret, not unmixed with fear, and how well I remember the strange and improbable reflection in shop windows that was me, wearing a bowler hat!—could it be true?—and how often my hand went up smartly to the bowler's brim when passing a general (for we did a lot of saluting in the last war!). But, above all, I remember the belief, which was shared by most of my generation, that when the war had been won a new Golden Age would automatically open up before us. Well; it didn't. And I think it's a good thing that now, when the war, or the European half of it, is ended, nobody at home thinks that we can tackle the peace without leadership, vision, faith, truthfulness, self-sacrifice, hard work and—oh well, a new moral code.'

Notes By The Way

Lest we forget — it took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to earn those cheers!—Ottawa Citizen.

Oslo reports that Quisling is insane, Goering blames Hitler, and so on. The master race begins to look like a lot of police court characters with smart alibi artists for lawyers.—Detroit Free Press.

Not the least gratifying result of certain events abroad is that we shall be spared autobiographies from prison cells or St. Helenas or yellow-journal interviews on "How I Failed." — Christian Science Monitor.

The bitter irony of the times made the week that brought the Allies to their meeting at the gates of Berlin one of horror and not of rejoicing. No days of all the days of war were more heavy with dreadful meaning than those that marked the certain end of the German might over Europe. For the things that the dawn disclosed are more terrible than safe and comfortable people like we have wanted to believe. And it is no longer possible for the safest and most comfortable to disbelieve them. — Fort Erie Times-Review.

A reader asks if there is still a street in Chicago named Balbo drive in honor of the late Mussolini's late air man. There is. The suggestion has been made that the streets signs bearing this name be hung upside down from the lamp posts to which they are affixed. The prosopal is respectfully submitted to the city council, together with the thought that it is a good rule not to name streets for anyone until he's been dead for at least 25 years. A hundred years is better. At any rate, Seventh street is a pretty good name, and nobody is likely to suggest hanging it by the heels.—Chicago Tribune.

The most encouraging sign for a considerable growth in trade between Canada and China is seen in the visit of eleven members of the Natural Resources Commission of China who have been inspecting the city's industrial facilities and surveying the prospects for trade. Their spokesman, C. Yun, in referring to the unsatisfactory condition and volume of pre-war trading, gives Canada the assurance that China is not going to export cheap labor in the form of goods to depress Canadian prices. If China is able to fulfil her hopes of raising the economic standard then she will have removed the chief obstacle that hitherto has retarded mutual commerce.—Vancouver Province.

There never was a surrender like this one in Europe, because there never was a war like this in modern times. The surrender is unique because it is occurring in a vacuum, left by an abricating gang whose authority has been absolute. Removed from the scene by death or flight, it has left behind some 70,000,000 political illiterates, none of whom has any conception of an organized capitulation, how to initiate it, how to carry it out . . . Unquestionably it is better thus. The Allies are bound to rebuild the Reich from the ground up. It is as well that from the start we be spared the confusion which is all the voices of benumbed Germans could conceivably add to an unprecedented situation. — Detroit News.

Sir Fabian Ware and his colleagues of the Imperial war graves commission are able to give a gratifying account of the state of its cemeteries and memorials in France and Belgium after the German occupation. They were respected by the enemy and, thanks also to the care of the French and Belgian authorities, can soon be restored. Our cemetery at Cologne is also found to be in good condition. All this greatly lightens the work of repair and will hasten the work of making new cemeteries for the dead of this war, the commission's latest charge. It is a melancholy task performed with reverence and attention to architectural and horticultural beauty, and some of our best architects contribute to making these memorials worthy of our fallen. Happily the commission has not been stinted of funds; the governments of the Commonwealth have contributed in proportion and there is no fear that the memorials will fall into neglect. — Manchester Guardian.

Apparently many people are amusing or bemusing themselves with speculations as to what has become of Hitler and some members of his despicable crew. The human mind loves a mystery. It seems almost disappointed when facts end its titillating uncertainties. Possibly Hitler hoped that this tendency would build a legend around his disappearance, or at least lead his enemies into a labyrinth of lies. But we need not assist in that enterprise. The world has been too much occupied with der Fuehrer. We can well insist that "the wicked shall not go unpunished," confident that justice will catch up with him — if it has not already. We should be alert to prevent Hitler or any imposter gaining power to trouble the world further. But for the rest we would do well to refuse to be mystified by evil and instead affirm that other statement from the Scriptures: "There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."—Christian Science Monitor.

The bell on the United Press ticker in the anteroom of a high Washington official rang shrilly the other day—signal that important information was about to come over the tape. "Gosh!" exclaimed an irreverent underling. "I hope this isn't some more good news to upset the boss." The jest grew out of an odd paradox in Washington, which is that nearly every development these days that hastens the successful finish of the war seems to disturb some officials more than it pleases them. This is because these particular administrators of the war program long ago formulated the theory that hairshirts, apprehension and current pessimism are indispensable prods for the American people, if the war is to be won in the shortest possible time and at the lowest cost in life and national resources. They do not trust the public to receive and assimilate the good tidings they have steadily promised without an adverse effect on what they call the war "effort." At the same time they require that current pessimism shall never undermine belief in total ultimate triumph. —Arthur Krock in New York Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

JAPANESE FOR P.E.I.

Sir,—According to some of the letters in The Guardian, it would seem that there is some idea of allowing Japs who were expelled from British Columbia to settle on Prince Edward Island. In one of the letters it would appear that reports of Japanese attrocities should be investigated by an impartial tribunal "if such a tribunal is to be found at present", before these reports are to believed. It is strange that there is any one who has not seen the actual photographs of the horrors and suffering found there by the American forces. Possibly the writer might approve of a party of the "Good Germans" to investigate the matter in an impartial manner. Possibly Pearl Harbour is only a rumor!

On this Island we have a population of the descendants of French, English, Irish and Scotch settlers who thought that Canada was a good country to come to. Why in common sense should we want those little savages to mingle among us? We speak of all we should do for our boys who are fighting for the world. To find those Japs here would be a poor return. Will they approve of bringing those kind of people here? Possibly the people of British Columbia who expelled them are not as enlightened as we are here. They do not have Prohibition there. Every service club, labour union, men and women should rise in protest at once. Do we want to lower wages and standard of living? All honor to the Summerside branch of the Canadian Legion for being the first body to protest against this insane scheme. The writer signed "British Citizen" is the target of personal abuse with the usual intolerance shown to any one who has different opinions than the writer of one of those letters on the subject.

I am, Sir, etc.,
VETERAN,

Bedeque, May 28.

PROHIBITION, ETC.

Sir,—I wish someone would tell me who the Premier of Prince Edward Island is, as I seem a bit confused. I would like to know if it is a preacher who leaves the pulpit to engage in Prohibition, or is it the temperance society, a man from Bedeque, or is it the Hon. Walter Jones from Bunberry who is sincere about the welfare of Prince Edward Island and tries to do what is right. We all know that Mr. Jones is a good man but how can he make a success of legislation when his best bill passed was vetoed without his advice. I ask those who believe in Democracy this question: Why do we pay a Governor $7,000, a Premier $2500? Besides that we pay with our hard earned money 29 members $11,600, a Speaker $600, a leader of Opposition $600 that gives us the total salary of $23,300 yearly to pass a bill that was vetoed. That bill had a majority of 20 members for it with the advice of Mr. Jones, and eight members against it, and the Governor vetoed it. I would like to know who is the Premier as I understand when the bill was vetoed it wasn't with the advice of the Premier. Within a few days a new Governor will be sworn into office, who is a good man. He has proved himself a good business man not only in his own business, but also in the House. Let us all pray that this Governor will have wisdom and understand the people's needs, and that he will not veto a bill that has the majority of the people's representatives behind it like the amendment to the Prohibition Act.

I ask our people of Prince Edward Island to also consider the debt of $9,123,613.98 and the fact that we have no raw materials of any kind. We have only in this Province seasonal labor, and on top of all this consider Prince Edward Island is only a million acre farm and our only export is potatoes. We export meat but it comes back already canned. There was a clause in the Confederation pact that Prince Edward Island was to have suitable transporation. We all know on Sept. 1, 1864 a great historic event happened in Charlottetown when Prince Edward Island became the Cradle of Canada. We know now by our transportation system, that we have been stored away in the attic and not used anymore.

Why don't we start in Prince Edward Island by having Government Control and receive the revenue of liquor like the other provinces of Canada? With this revenue we could help pay off this enormous debt instead of going behind $600,000 last year with the Prohibition Act.

I thoroughly denounce Prohibition on the grounds: 1st. It is not Democracy if Democracy means equal rights to all and privileges to none. This Prohibition law is not Democracy, because it allows a man who is a friend of the doctor to get all the liquor he wants, and supporters going in for their so-called bottle of medicine. People who do these two things are nothing more or less than hyprocrites. Prohibition most of all causes moonshine. Nero of old fiddled while Rome burned. Truly does the Government fiddle while the youth is burning from poison moonshine. I quoted before that I did not believe in Prohibition and in this I am not alone. To prove it to you I am going to publish a letter I received from England congratulating me on my letter of April 4 to the Public Forum.

The letter reads as follows:

"England
"May 3-45

"Dear Sir,—This maybe a surprise to you, but just can't help expressing my opinion along with thousands of other Islanders overseas. The other day I was idly looking through a stack of old newspapers ran across the Charlottetown Guardian, dated around the first of April, noted your letter on the sale of liquor. Well I just could not resist the temptation of expressing the Islanders point of view over here. We agree fully with you, and often wonder why our little Island cannot adopt the system of the other provinces, as you say we certainly are the laughing stock of our brothers in arms, and wonder how we can be right and the rest of the world wrong. After three years in England, where you are free to drop in any of the public houses or bars for a pint if you are so inclined, we must certainly admit it has greatly helped the tension of long separated years, means to cheer a "guy" up a bit when loneliness seemed unbearable, result: many a happy hour has been spent over a table with maybe not any more than one glass of beer, so through these years overseas, we are accustomed to see many married couples of all ages, dropping in for a pleasant chat. Now where else could a person find such cheap harmless entertainment, certainly not back on the Island, where if you desire a glass of beer (and that we shall after years overseas) we have to sneak through some dark alley at the risk of being raided any time. There are certainly no better means of driving the boys in the forces to patronize the bootleggers and speakeasies. Therefore we wonder why the Government could not at least do the little favor in return for the bloody battles and sacrifices another man who cannot afford $2 for a script has to drink poison liquor if he wants a drink.

2nd, I denounce Prohibition on the grounds that it cost $100,000 to administrate the Act in one trial and it proved a failure. It also costs money to keep these jails up, it costs money to feed the bootleggers while they are in jail.

Some of the people go to bed with the hens, think Prohibition is the best, but if they were to go out around at nights they would see the people drunk. Some of them workers in church, some of them strong temperance supporters and yet they'll go so far as to call themselves Christians. And if you watch the vendor shop you will find these good temperance we Islanders have faught so that we may all be free from tyranny and aggressions.

"On behalf of an Island Regiment.

"An Islander."

In liquor control on Prince Edward Island we have advanced only as far as we did in the early automobile days when cars were allowed to travel only on certain days of the week and on certain roads we were the laughing stock of all Canada. And in spite of Government limitation the automobile triumphed as Government Control finally must.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ALBERT ARTIMAS VINCENT
110 Ottawa St.,
Summerside, P.E.I.

The Poets' Corner

FROM A SONNET SEQUENCE

Quickly and pleasantly the seasons blow
Over the meadows of eternity,
As wave on wave the pulsings of the sea
Merge and are lost, each in the other's flow.
Time is no lover; it is only he
That is the one uncomfortable foe,
He is the sudden tempest none can know,
Winged with swift winds that none may hope to flee.

Fair child of loveliness, these endless fears
Are naught to us; let us be gods of stone,
And set our images beyond the years
On some high mount where we can be alone;
And thou shalt ever be as now thou art,
And I, shall watch thee with untroubled heart.

—Robert Hillyer.

HOW TO COMBAT Rheumatic Pains

Rheumatic pains are often caused by uric acid in the blood. This blood impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Treat rheumatic pains by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 102

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BOAR BONUS POLICY

The attention of the boar owners in the province is directed to the Boar Bonus Policy for the year 1945. Copies of this Policy may be secured from the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture on application. This should be done immediately so that boar owners may be fully informed regarding the provisions of this Policy.

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

5-28-3i.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

"Mother called and said she'd take the room we offered for rent in the Guardian Want Ads!"

TRUSSES

To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a Truss, we ask you the question, Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style. If so, then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up-to-date one. All sizes and styles at prices to suit every body.

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