

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City. \$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to F. E. Island. \$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U.S. Members Audit Bureau of Circulations

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1939

"Selling Us Out, Eh?"

Mortally afraid of going to the electorate on their record at the end of their legal term, Premier Campbell, on behalf of the Government has been investigating how long, legitimately or by subterfuge, he could possibly hold on before dissolving the legislature, and reports that according to his figuring, the present Misfits could carry on till mid-August 1941, an announcement, we are told, which was received with loud applause from the Government benches.

The Premier's strategy evidently is to anticipate this by enjoying the fruits of office as long as possible, by taking an extension of his lease until the ordinary revenue and borrowing of the Province have been fully exhausted, leaving not only the usual empty Liberal Treasury, but a depreciated Provincial credit as well.

The Premier had better change his tactics forthwith, for he must know he is playing with fire. The electors will not tolerate the abuse of the election act to deprive them of their control over the legislature, merely to give the present occupants an opportunity to hand us over crippled and disabled, to the tender mercies of a Maritime Union.

This seemingly is what Premier Campbell's elaborate investigation portends.

Mussolini's Way Out

The evil day for civilization apparently has been delayed, not obviated. Thanks largely to Mussolini's previous diplomacy, his seizure of Albania could not be construed as a casus belli under existing circumstances, that country not having been specifically mentioned in the agreements entered into in 1936 and 1938, although the context properly interpreted could be made to include it.

It is understood, says The Times, that during the conversations at Rome Signor Mussolini reaffirmed the assurance already given in the Mediterranean Agreement of December 31st, 1936, and in the Rome Agreement, where it was recorded that the Italian Government had no territorial or political aims and sought no privileged economic position in Spain proper or in the Spanish possessions in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, and did not intend to keep armed forces in these territories. No mention was made of Albania, and indeed these assurances were not made to the French Government at all. They satisfied the British Government, whose Spanish policy is still based upon the principle that any foreign control of the Iberian Peninsula is contrary to British interests.

Mr. Stewart's Protests

"It will therefore be the first policy of the Liberal party, if returned to office, to make such reduction in expenditure, particularly on ordinary account, as will bring about a balanced budget, and will restore a condition of sound financing and confidence."

These were the words of Premier Campbell in his presentation of the Liberal manifesto previous to the election of 1935. They were recalled to his notice in the Legislature this week by one of his own supporters, Mr. W. F. Alan Stewart, First District of Queens.

"Some members of this Legislature," added Mr. Stewart drily, "appear to be subject to lapses of memory. Some have forgotten that they ever endorsed the Balanced Budget plank in our platform."

He continued: "Some of the members of this Legislature have forgotten that it was then obvious to our people that the affairs of administration can be carried on just as effectively by abolishing many of the new offices created by the Conservative Government, and perhaps combining or reducing the number of officials employed."

Mr. Stewart also cited Plank No. 4 of the Liberal election platform, indorsed by "every member now sitting in this House," which reads as follows: "Purchase of supplies and letting of contracts on a proper competitive basis, by the Executive Council or Falconwood Trustees." "But," said Mr. Stewart, "we find on looking over the Public Accounts that members of the Executive who are also Falconwood Trustees—we find the firms of which these gentlemen are managing directors—selling supplies to themselves, a practice which, while it may be technically legal, is to say the least unethical and would not be tolerated in any other Parliament."

Mr. Stewart also called attention to the fact

that "our blue books—and this year they are very 'blue'—show an immense expenditure of money on road work during the season of 1938." Nevertheless, very little work had been done on the south side of the 1st District of Queen's. The machine which was supposed to attend to the wants of these sections was employed for nearly two months in the 2nd and 3rd Districts. The large, hilly road districts did not have any machine work done on them, and less than one-quarter of a mile of road was subgraded and gravelled on the Borden Road from Strathgarny corner westward.

It is at least a strange coincidence that the most outspoken Liberal critic should have most reason to complain of his district being neglected. Patronage is the whip which the Campbell Government holds over the heads of its party followers, and when they refuse to jump through the hoop the whip cracks ominously. Mr. Stewart's protests are in refreshing contrast to the spineless attitude shown by many of his legislative colleagues.

Worthless Pledges

Every Provincial Government now in office, notes the Sydney Post-Record, won its electoral mandate on promises to reduce administration costs, and everyone of them, without a single exception has spent far more money per year than its predecessors, and has added enormously to the public debt.

"What, it may well be asked in the circumstances," concludes our Sydney contemporary, "are the pledges worth of a politician who goes before the people and appeals for their electoral support? Where is this orgy of spending to end? How long can these exactions be increased on the scale of the last half dozen years, before the point is reached when the taxpayer will perforce cease to supply our official spenders with imposts which already absorb nearly a third of the income of the average citizen. Considering the record, is there a Government in office in Canada at the present time that deserves to be kept there? Every Provincial budget is a record of extravagance and incompetence."

Editorial Notes

Matthew Arnold died this date, 1888. "Minister of Welfare" is not so incongruous for a lawyer as Minister of Health.

If we are to get \$1 ferry rates for cars and trucks to and from Caribou the transfer of the contract to a local syndicate will be well worth while. It is for the Board of Trade which has been so vociferous in regard to the Borden Car Ferry, and the Provincial Government, to see to this, and make it part and parcel of the subsidy contract.

His Majesty the King is expected to officiate at the prorogation of both the Quebec Legislature and the Federal Parliament. Now, if Premier Campbell desires a similar honour for the Island all he has got to do is to call a special session and have it prorogued while Their Majesties are here. The poor hard worked members would not object to an additional \$400 indemnity for their trouble.

In his book Mein Kampf Herr Hitler insists that what was wrong with Germany and brought its downfall was corruption and graft in the ruling classes. The only cure for the grafters, he agreed, was to put them where grafting was an impossibility, so he lined them up against a wall and shot them. Rather ruthless, no doubt, but in Germany's case most effective.

There are but four lawyers in the Legislature, including the Speaker who presides and does not vote, and they constitute the sole and ineffective Opposition to the amendment to the Legal Profession Act allowing appeal to the Supreme Court in the case of a lawyer from another province being denied leave to practice here. Now the onus is on Supreme Court, which of course, will have to hear evidence in public, as to the why and wherefor of the Law Society's action. Perhaps the cure may be worse than the disease.

For the first time in any part of the world, a Sydney, N.S.W., police dog has been equipped with a radio. Zoe, as she is called, is an Alsatian. Concealed in a shed in a public trial, her trainer, a constable, issued commands through a portable wireless transmitting set, which were picked up by a receiving set strapped to Zoe's back. The constable told her to climb a ladder, pick up a billy-can, fill it with water, fire a revolver, and do a number of other tricks. Each time, the dog obeyed. Later Zoe was the "guest of honor" at a novel luncheon in the city.

Australia could not again send an army to a European war, declared the Postmaster-General in the Federal Cabinet (Mr. Cameron) in a speech in Brisbane. Britain might be so fully occupied that Australia would have to depend on her own resources for an indefinite period. Australia's first duty therefore was to defend herself and her second was to supply other British countries with the means of living and waging war. "We have neither the resources nor the inclination to attack others, but we are mightily determined to defend our own, with apologies to nobody," he declared.

Satisfactory progress is being made with Australia's \$315,000,000 defence programme. Acceleration in munitions production was reported to a meeting of the Federal Cabinet in Hobart early in February and it is planned to reach a point where manufacture will permit export to neighboring parts of the Empire. A register of man-power on a voluntary basis was agreed upon after a strong demand for compulsion had been made. This decision is regarded merely as a prelude to and a compromise with a bigger issue which must soon be faced—compulsory versus voluntary military training.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Ireland, according to the Government census report for the decade 1926 to 1936 just released has the unenviable record of having the highest percentage of young unmarried men and women in the world. The report also makes the disquieting disclosure that while the child population is falling all over Ireland, the population of individuals 65 years old and over is rising. Church leaders, particularly the Most Rev. Michael Browne, the Catholic Bishop of Galway, social workers and economists in Eire have been sounding warning notes for the last two years on the decline of rural population and the flight of the people from the land either to towns and cities or to Britain. Government spokesmen have tried to make light of this serious development, but the report now issued brings this urgent problem to the forefront in a way it cannot be ignored.—Moncton Times.

There is no question as to the vital necessity for an adequate air defence. The Minister of Defence himself told Parliament he was aware of the necessity. It was said more than a year ago: "A well equipped and efficient air force, is in my opinion, of primary importance for the protection of Canadian territory and waters, and in view of the rapidly increasing performance of modern aircraft the possibility of attack by such means today is a probability." What has the Minister of Defence done in three years to give Canada that "well equipped and efficient air force" where are the "plans"? Where are the trained personnel? Where is the competent staff or the capable engineering branch? These are questions Canadian citizens and expectant answered on the answers may depend the safety of the lives of the people of Canada and the protection of the Dominion. If this protection is not being given, why not? If those now entrusted with providing that protection have failed utterly to provide it, why is the Quebec resurto to other and more capable hands?—Winnipeg Free Press.

The Danish Ministry of Justice has ordered the expulsion of three Nazi youths accused of secretly posting propaganda bills in Denmark. The 3,700,000 Danes, whose country is on Germany, and others no more afraid of Berlin than they are of Moscow, whose propaganda is even more active in Europe than the Nazis are. They boot subversive activity in their own country, why, then, should 130,000,000 Americans with 3,000 miles of ocean between them and Europe, and the assistance of the United States to overthrow their form of government lying down? The Danes, too, are democratic, and they welcome well behaved foreigners to their country, but they stand for no foolishness. We have much to learn, if we wish to maintain domestic peace and preserve the American system of government, from Scandinavian self government, courage and determination to uphold the institutions that Scandinavia has found by experience to be suited to its peoples.—Detroit Free Press.

The four-mile stretch of the Corinth Canal, connecting the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic and links the Adriatic with the Aegean, is to be modernized to provide a two-way passage for vessels. The waterway, the longest and perhaps of local interest. In very ancient times there was a sort of tramway, or diolkos, by which ships were dragged across the isthmus. It is possible that H. G. C. Ketchum, the Frederick-born engineer, got the idea of the seventeen-mile Chignecto ship railway in the classical After the Romans conquered Greece, Julius Caesar and others planned a canal, but a canal was not dug until August 1893, under plans of French engineers. After eleven years work, incidentally contemporaneously with the work on the Chignecto ship railway, the Corinth Canal was got so far as to begin the canal. The most famous fiddler in history came over from Rome for the inauguration ceremonies. He removed the first sod with a golden spade presented to him by the local Governor, in quite the modern fashion except for lack of candid cameras and broadcast. Curiously, when the French engineers with modern instruments had completed their plans in 1892 for the best route, it was found that they agreed exactly with the plans of Nero's engineers. Nero had drafted six thousand prisoners from the captured Pudea for the heavy work but digging ceased when he hastened back to Rome because of revolt there. Remains of the ancient "tramway" are still to be seen near the present cutting.—Moncton Transcript.

Recovering from an illness, a Detroit patient found his death certificate had been signed in a hospital. But it was not a relapse was the discovery that relatives had already collected his insurance.—Sherbrooke Record.

Oliver Stanley, president of the Board of Trade (for so the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the British Cabinet is known) is said to have been one of the members favoring a "stop-Hitler" alliance. He declared it a tragic mistake to think that Britain was like Jericho, whose walls would fall if only the trumpets were blown "loud enough."—Moncton Transcript.

The democratic nations of the world still control most of the world's resources. They need not despair of the eventual outcome if they can but see the necessity of removing the trade barriers which still hamper commerce among them. The German conquest does not make Secretary Hull's trade program useless; it makes it adoption more imperative necessarily.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

It will be a great day for Canadian youth when it forgets about Governments and realizes that its most hostile foe is itself. It is folly to wait for something to turn up; for work provided by public funds. With the exception of boom periods during the last forty years youth always has found early difficulty in getting work—certainly in getting the kind of work it wanted. True, for the adventurous there were opportunities in other lands, but that time is past. Looking about the world, the logical conclusion is that Canada remains as the land of opportunity for young men, but they must get out and hustle for it. There isn't any authority, organization or institution to turn to for assistance. Goble and Malt, Toronto.

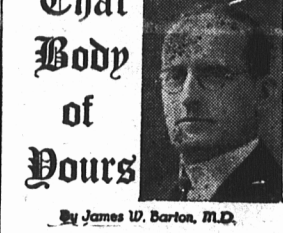
PUBLIC FORUM

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

A GRAVE MENACE

Sir—Those of us whose farms are near properties with wild mustard in them are being threatened with the weed, which is taking a lot of work to keep in check, and in spite of vigorous pulling they appear to be on the increase. In places where the Hungarian partridge settle for the night, round yellow patches have been showing up in our grain fields. Mustard is readily eaten by the birds, but having a thick oily shell passes through the intestinal tract seemingly scarified enough to make germination easy. Although we like to see them in the color weather, they add a bit of color to the landscape, we do not enjoy the extra work they entail pulling weeds, and we fear a great mistake has been made in their introduction. History teaches that the extermination of native species, or the introduction of foreign ones, is a great mistake. The introduction of the English sparrow, starling, not to mention the European rat.

I am, Sir, etc., FARMER.



That Body of Yours

THE TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION

It is now known that there are many individuals who have three bowel movements daily and others who have a bowel movement about once in two days, yet both these groups of individuals enjoy good health. Because many animals and the members of some more or less wild native tribes have a bowel movement after each meal, some may think this should apply to all men, but Dr. Walter Alvarez, Mayo Clinic, was able to show a few years ago that an individual could remain healthy with a bowel movement just twice a week. However the general opinion that the normal individual should have at least one bowel movement daily is a deep rooted prejudice. The constipated individual is, however, quite common and constipation slows him up both mentally and physically.

After mentioning the forms of constipation due to obstruction, to a sluggish gall bladder with lack of bile, to anaemia, to poisons of the abdominal organs, to painful piles or tiny tears at lower end of bowel, Dr. T. F. Reuther, Chicago, in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, gives the following common sense suggestions to prevent constipation:

- 1. Arise one-half hour earlier than usual.
2. Drink a glass of warm or hot water.
3. Spend 10 minutes doing exercises that will exercise chest and abdomen—bending and twisting exercises, keeping knees straight, and deep breathing exercises.
4. Eat a good breakfast including fresh or stewed fruits. The undernourished patient should take cream and butter with the meal.
5. Sit down and read for a while. This gives time for desire to go to stool to occur before going to work.
6. Take a lunch and dinner with fresh salads or cooked vegetables or fruits.
7. Go to bed one-half to an hour earlier to make up for getting up earlier.
8. If a small amount of paraffin oil is to be taken or put up into rectum, this is done at bedtime.
9. So live during the day that there is no constant worry or mental strain or excessive physical fatigue. Don't take an hour or more of hard exercise one day and then sit for a week. Spasmodic exercise and evening engagements are unwise.
Constipation is an ailment which lowers vitality and requires the most patient treatment as other ailments.

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National Film Board

(Winnipeg Free Press) In spite of the expenditure of substantial sums of money in the past, Canada has to some extent fallen behind in making good use of the moving picture film for the purpose of instruction and propaganda (using that mis-used term in its best sense). The Government has, however, passed a useful little bill this session which has for its purpose setting up of a National Film Board which is to be charged with the task of rectifying this error, if error it can be properly called.

Up to now there has been no proper co-ordination of the film-making activities of different government departments. Not only the Film Bureau itself, but other departments on their own have been making films, hundreds of thousands of feet of them, without adequate supervision and expert care in production. Over-lapping took place. There were on one occasion two separate teams of film-makers operating on the same film-making activities of the Dominion Government, taking films in Prince Edward Island at the same time. The purpose of the new bill is to see that proper supervision is exercised in the future.

If properly handled, this new scheme offers a chance of doing most important and valuable work. The moving picture is one of the great interpretative instruments of the century. Its importance is sure to increase in the future. It can be made to serve a wholly admirable purpose in helping the world to understand Canada. It can also be used for the even more important purpose of helping Canadians to understand each other. We can, at comparatively little expense, bring closer together the new farm immigrants of the prairies with the old fisherman stock of Nova Scotia. It can tell the North Ontario gold miner how the intricate growers of the Okanagan live. It can help the Bay Street broker to understand the New Brunswick potato farmer. It can bring the Quebec habitant before the Turner Valley oil man in such a way that both will readily appreciate the common citizenship that binds them together.

Other nations have done striking work of this kind. Documentary films, imaginatively produced by such men as John Grierson (who was the expert brought from England to advise the Government as to its new set-up) and Pare Lorenz in the United States, have performed inestimable services to their fellow citizens and at trifling cost. In England short films describing the work of the herring fishermen and the Post Office have actually stimulated the economic strength of the fishermen and the postal services, besides performing the great service of helping the growth of mutual understanding. In the United States such films as The River, and

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The Poet's Corner. CLOUDS. Because a million voices call Across the earth distressedly, Because the thrones of reason fall And beautiful battalions die, My mind is like a madrigal Played on a lute long since put by. In common use my mind is still Eager for every lovely thing— The solitudes of tarn and hill, Bright birds with honesty to sing, Bluebells and primroses that spill Cascades of color on the spring. But now my mind that gave to these Gesture and shape, color and song, Goes hesitant and ill at ease, And the old touch is runt long. Because the continents and seas Are loud with lamentable wrong. —John Drinkwater

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