

**THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**  
 Morning Daily (Founded in 1837)  
 Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1946

**Government Running Wild**

A severe castigation is administered to the King Government for abuse of wartime emergency powers by the Government's leading newspaper supporter in Western Canada, the *Winnipeg Free Press*. The case, recently discussed in Parliament, of a Canadian citizen who, within a few months of his return from lengthy overseas service, was arrested and threatened with deportation to the United States to answer a charge of army desertion 16 years old, is taken as a text.

Regardless of the disposition of this case, says the *Free Press*, "there is something else that can only be settled by the immediate withdrawal of the iniquitous order-in-council, P.C. 6577 under which the proceedings were instituted. That is the careless, indiscriminate and culpable use of the special powers, apparently possessed by the Government under the War Measures Act and its successor statute.

"This order-in-council embodies the terms of an arrangement apparently worked out between the Canadian and U. S. Governments whereby Canadian deserters apprehended in the United States would be handed back to us, while American deserters apprehended in Canada would be turned over to the appropriate U. S. authority. Rounding up deserters may be a reasonable enough business as between two nations with relations such as those existing on this continent. Desertion is not, generally speaking, an extraditable offence. Deserters crossing a frontier have been able to get off scot free. Whether it should be made extraditable is something on which rational argument is possible. But, certainly in time of peace, it is both curious and reprehensible to do so by secret order-in-council.

"As a matter of fact the existing Immigration Act provides normal machinery for the deportation of aliens illegally in Canada. If that were not considered adequate, an amendment to the Extradition Act could easily be passed, adding desertion to the schedule of extraditable offences, and Parliament was actually in session when P. C. 6577 was passed last October.

"Instead, however, of employing these normal methods, the Government, in secret, put into force the extraordinary provisions of an order-in-council which pays not the slightest regard for the liberties of the subject. Its terms have to be read to be believed. In its preamble it states that it is deemed necessary, by reason of the war, for the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada that provision be made for the arrest and deportation of persons in Canada "suspected" of being deserters from the U. S. forces. Not deserters as such, be it noted, but persons "suspected" of being deserters.

"Having got off to a flying start the order-in-council bestows the right to all peace officers, immigration officers, or members in uniform of the Canadian armed forces (numbering at the time some hundreds of thousands) to arrest, without warrant, "any person whom he believes on reasonable and probable grounds," to be an American deserter. Above the power of arrest without warrant, they are all also given the right to hold the arrested persons in custody. Places of custody are not defined; nor is the extent of the custody in time.

"Under these provisions a perfectly innocent person can be arrested by any soldier he meets in the street and held indefinitely in the cellar of the soldier's house. If he escapes the victim could be sent to jail for two years. If anyone helps him to try to escape, a similar penalty hangs over him. Further provisions of the order provide for hauling the suspect before an immigration board of inquiry. If the board is satisfied that the suspect is a member of the U. S. forces, he is to be forthwith handed over to the U. S. authorities.

"This treatment is more summary, more arbitrary and, to put it mildly, more liable to abuse than the treatment a suspected American murderer gets at our hands. If such a person is arrested, he is brought into court and he cannot be extradited until the court is satisfied that it is reasonable to do so. But what is considered just for a suspected murderer is a right denied to a suspected deserter in time of peace. This surely is a Government running wild."

**Taxes Too**

When we in Canada boast about how we have kept down the cost of living, says the *Ottawa Journal*, there is one thing we shouldn't forget. That is that price tags on goods aren't the only factor in living costs. Goods are paid for in more ways than one. They may be paid for, for example, through subsidies—subsidies that come out of people's pockets through taxes, and which are so much a part of the cost of

living as money paid directly to the merchant. Canada's taxes are as high as any in the world; higher, if anything, than taxes in Britain, much higher than taxes in the United States. Moreover, while the United States appears to be getting down to cutting government costs, clearing the way for still lower taxes, Canada is going on with deficit spending, shows little sign of reducing taxes.

Any Government, conceivably, could keep down price tags by heavy enough subsidies; could boast about keeping down prices. It wouldn't be keeping down the cost of living—not while heavy taxes for subsidies, plus other deficit spending, took the consumer's money in some other way.

**The Butter Situation**

Wartime Prices and Trade Board are doing their level best to allow retailers to have a fair share of the butter quota for their customers, but are severely up against it, so much so that in larger cities and towns there is a line-up every morning on the part of housewives. Why should this be? is the question. Canada always provided enough butter for her own requirements, and even during the war when carloads were shipped to the Army. The Liberal Leader in the Senate let the cat out of the bag. Answering questions, Senator Robertson gave figures of butter export to the British West Indies showing that it rose from 670,000 pounds in 1941, to 4,471,500 last year. This export was based on an agreement among the British, the West Indian and Canadian Governments originated in 1941 to save shipping space in overall Empire production. And now, though the need in this respect is gone, the trade developed has remained.

The latest news is that gradual improvement in the butter situation can be expected from this month onwards, according to officials in the foods division of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board here. The officials point out that the butter shortage resulted mostly from the seasonal drop in production during the winter months. The production was always heavier during the summer months, they state, and information obtained by the foods division officials point to an increase in production during the next few months. Increase in the butter from four to six ounces a week about May 1 is expected in Ottawa as a result of increased prices and a seasonal upturn in production, although Prices Board officials said they saw little hope of increasing the ration beyond that figure.

**Nuremberg Reactions**

From the general tone of discussion amongst intelligent observers, says a London correspondent, it is apparent that opinion about the Nuremberg trial is changing. A great many of the firm sticklers for formal legal procedure are now coming round to the view of those people who emphatically favored trial by drum-head court-martial.

Under the latter procedure these Nazi desperadoes would have been either hanged or shot long ago. As it is they are being afforded a unique opportunity of playing up to the Junker-Nazi gallery, indulging their overweening sense of exhibitionism, and doing all in their power to encourage the German underground movement. Goering is obviously bidding his utmost for a halo of respectable martyrdom, and the proceedings, at the present rate of progress, look like dragging on until the Greek kalends.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

A. C. Swinburne, English poet and essayist, died this date 1909: At the door of life, by the gate of breath, there are worse things waiting for men than death.

For the first time since the start of the last war, every penny of Dominion Government expenditures for the coming fiscal year will appear in detail in the estimates presented to Parliament.

"It is the unsuccessful people in the world," says Gertrude Stein, "who want to discipline everybody." This, comments an exchange, is an adequate explanation of most of the totalitarian and semi-totalitarian planning of the Hitlers; the Communists; the business men who like to use Governmental authority to put them into a better competitive position; the Socialist agitators; the persons who feel that they have failed to Christianize the world, and want the State to do it; the civil servants who like to boss their masters.

The schools, school commissions and the Province of Quebec generally are again breathing freely as the result of the Provincial Government's decision to wipe out the Commission's indebtedness and allow them to start anew, through the issuance of new bonds guaranteed by the Quebec Government, and also by \$2,800,000 of the revenue of the Quebec Hydro. The amount involved is approximately \$90,000,000 including the sinking funds. The bill will relieve the school commissions of all past obligations as regards interest and amortization charges.

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board spends \$4,431.78 a week to produce and broadcast a radio program, "Soldier's Wife," it is revealed in a return to the Commons. Information in other returns included: Over the last five years, individuals having incomes of less than \$2,500 have accounted for 46 per cent of total government revenue from income tax on individuals. For the calendar year 1944, this group paid \$248,000,000 in income taxes. Wartime Housing built 1,618 houses in 1945, and in the past four years it has built 27,173 houses. The total of monthly benefits paid to unemployed persons by the unemployment insurance commission was nearly seven times as great in February, 1946, as in September, 1945. The total paid out in February was \$5,000,000.

**Notes By The Way**

The world may be falling to pieces, as some persons fear, but the breast of the early robin is still as red as ever, and the soft fluting of his enchanting song is still something to implant hope anew in the human heart. — Hamilton Spectator.

Natural scientists are reported in London to be perfecting a shell which will travel at right angles a few seconds after leaving the muzzle of the gun. The comment of the British humorist, Punch, is that this is too bad for world peace which is said to be just around the corner.—Christian Science Monitor.

During a lecture by the famous Professor Harold Laski to a group of American soldiers in London recently, the laugh of the evening came when Laski, in the course of a drawn-out speech, said: "I wouldn't trade my shack in our mountains for life in any regimented state. I just wouldn't." He then asked, "Am I being an isolationist?" — Hamilton Spectator.

We are again having a mild spot in the weather. Frankly the fruit growers don't like it in this month, nor in April. They prefer a moderately cold Spring season for the obvious reason, that frost after too early development of buds and leaves is a sub-Arctic pest of the crop. But there are hazards all over this northern climate, hazards on which millions of people in Europe and Asia depend for their existence. — St. Catharines Standard.

From a legal point of view, the installation of parking meters establishes a couple of important points. It implies, first of all, that a fee for parking is not a tax, but a proper method of traffic control. Ontario municipal council already has decided this point, and is ruling which permits installation of the meters by municipal council. The meters also should make it clear to one and all, that unlimited curbside parking is not the intention of the law. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Canada has at last achieved a reasonable balance between crop land and fallow land and it cannot be said that the balance is in the interests of agriculture. While such a program is essential as a long-term plan, it can and should be modified to meet a sudden and special emergency this year, the most serious famine and hunger of recent times. If fallow land is cropped, the soil will be exhausted, and the full understanding that this is an emergency measure only, that when the emergency has passed, the fallow program should be re-established. Also, when world danger has eased, Canada can return immediately to the expansion of its livestock output. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Production of wheat and vegetables in the muskox country of Soviet Russia's northland is a development that might be studied with interest by the authorities. According to a recent despatch from Moscow, farms in the north have been experimenting in growing grain, potatoes, cabbage and melons. In addition, experiments in stock-breeding in these regions are being carried forward. In Canada, the development of such varieties as Marquis and Durham turn open new avenues to settlement. But any scheme for settlement of the Canadian north would be a failure unless it is based on more careful planning, and far more knowledge of the possibilities for agricultural enterprise than in these areas. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Winston Churchill has acknowledged the fact that he is a man composed and dedicated to him by a priest who was dying when he pledged a foreign correspondent to deliver the document to the former Prime Minister, William H. McDougall, Jr., of the United Press Associations, was initially written by the Rev. E. B. Bakker, a Roman Catholic Dutch priest. McDougall was on his way to the Indian Ocean. He reached Sumatra in a lifeboat, and was interned at Palembang jail, where he met Father Bakker. Nearly 60 per cent of the original internees died during the ensuing three months. Father Bakker himself succumbed at the age of 43. Before he died, Father Bakker commended McDougall to deliver the message when the war ended. — United Press.

Few people will frown upon the use of an apt, colorful slang expression in a sentence which would be deflated by the use of more prosaic words. However, it takes no literary mastermind to discover that the average conversation heard these days, particularly among younger people, is a pitiful thing of wedgies to a battleship. These, of minutes of talk with the average man on the street is bound to produce at least one of: "Gosh," "heck," "gee," "screwy," "scram," "back to the kitchen," "it wets," "oh, yeah," "see you" or "nuts." Not to be overlooked is that greatest of all "swell," which may be applied to anything from a pair of wedgies to battleship. These, of course, are merely a cross-section of the coarser phrases. Not to be overlooked are expressions such as "bye now," which are quaint when first heard, but which rouse homicidal urges after the fourth repetition. — North Bay Nugget.

The scientific development of sporting equipment has been very pronounced during the past half century. Firearms and ammunition have been so improved that it is now comparatively easy to shoot with accuracy and deadly effect. In the days of the sling-shot, the bow and arrow or the old muzzle-loader the odds against game were not so heavy. If the first shot was unsuccessful the quarry had a better than even chance of getting away. It took time to prepare the sling, fit the arrow or tamp the powder. Today these antiquated weapons have given place to automatic firearms, pump guns, fast bolt action magazine rifles and other modern equipment. These rapid-fire weapons are deadly and have greatly increased the advantage of the sportsman. Game, on the other hand, has been unable to strengthen its defenses to meet the new forces arrayed against it. It still depends upon its wits to protect itself, as it did in the era of the bow and arrow. Pitted against modern equipment, therefore, it is greatly handicapped. — Fish and Game Bulletin.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**ANOTHER LANDMARK GONE**

Sir—Dominion Day has been celebrated for the last time. Along with other antiquated conceptions it is to be thrown into the discard. That the Fathers of Confederation "modeled better than they knew" is just another of these idle fancies. July the 1st this year and I suppose for all subsequent years will be known as Canada Day with the accent on the last syllable. The term has a pleasing connotation. It is not only Canada Day and Acan, the new political name for the Alaska Highway. A few months ago it was the Union Jack that was particularly obnoxious. It needed to be rehabilitated. It did not just suit a country, it suited a people. Next it will be our National Anthem. "God Save The King" does not quite express the national aspirations of the powers that be.

Dominion Day was good enough for Sir John A. Macdonald, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Sir Robert Borden, and R. B. Bennett, those great names in Canadian history. But they saw the folly of Canada only as a part of the British Empire. This new idea: Canada grown up; Canada going alone had not yet taken shape.

In the presence of problems of statesmanship that baffle men of wisdom one would wonder why so much time is spent on trivialities. When Mr. Winston Churchill saluted the intention of presiding at the liquidation of the British Commonwealth of Nations he was seeing further into the future than most of his illustrious contemporaries. Come what may there is one Province in the Dominion of Canada that will celebrate Dominion Day on the first of July as usual, and that is Prince Edward Island. I am, VERNON CROCKETT, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

**Research and Defence**

The estimates for the three armed services of the United Kingdom, which have been presented to the House of Commons, have one conspicuous feature in common: they recognize the need to rest military power upon scientific research. In the proposed estimates, a smaller proportion than ever before will be allocated to the actual manufacture of armaments, and a greater proportion to an effort to keep abreast of the scientific advances that may be applied to warfare. For this reason the First Lord of the Admiralty, though declaring that the navy could remain the primary line of Britain's defence, announced that only one battleship, already under construction, would be completed. The money that would otherwise be spent on actual construction will be spent in investigating new forms that naval shipbuilding may have to take in the future.

In the estimates for the army and the air force there was the same expressed conviction that if there is to be any scientific coordination of the scientific and military resources, the armaments of the nation must be efficient. They may be used, will become relatively, and perhaps critically, obsolete. Yet the estimates embody a striking recognition of the transformation that has come over military thinking. It is a great change from the policies of other days, when British soldiers went to the Crimean War in 1854 with the equipment of the age of Waterloo.

LONDON (CP)—Tea will be scarce for years, said H. J. Welch, tea and rubber expert, in a statement to shareholders of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust.

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**The Salaried Man**

(Sydney Post-Record)  
 Is the white-collared salaried man doomed under the burden of income taxation? He seems to be, as far as relief is concerned, the real forgotten man in the picture and the country has real need of this group as a spending force and integral part of the national economy. The Toronto Financial Post, taking up the case of this tremendous group of Canadian citizens, has this to say about his present plight. Quite justifiably the salaried man looks ahead with deep foreboding. Plans for enormous new and old government expenditures make the hope for tax relief dim indeed. He suspects that what lightening of the tax load can be realized will be felt mainly by the low income group and very little by the medium income group.

Though he approves income tax in principle, the salaried man wonders if income tax at anything approaching present levels can be effectively administered. The form of payment means that income tax has about 100 per cent success in detecting and taxing all salaried individuals. How, he asks, "am I going to keep meeting members of other groups who boast about the unreported and untaxed dollars they have to spend on themselves, their wives, their cars, their homes, their hobbies, who boast of untaxed dollars which are building up savings for their own and their families' future security?"

Results of the economic and social destruction of the white collar, salaried group cannot be safely ignored in democratic societies. Our modern civilization and high standard of living, were, to a very substantial degree, built on the past capacity of this group to consume—to buy homes, furniture, cars, entertainment, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc. It is this group whose ready and generous support for churches, education and cultural institutions—for every kind of community effort—is taken for granted and demanded.

**Farm Income Tax**

(Saskatoon Star Phoenix)  
 The Saskatchewan Legislature has unanimously approved a resolution asking the Federal Government to revise the basis of the farm income tax system. There are several faults in the present system which need to be corrected, principally, dissatisfaction is felt that the tax should be based on the returns of a single year. The board fluctuations of farm income in this province, especially, make this feature a matter of considerable concern. But there are many other faults in the present farm income tax system which need to be corrected. Business, too, is handicapped by some of the regulations of taxing authorities and the manner of their administration. And the system itself is badly in need of overhauling.

Income tax reform suggested at the last session, but was delayed pending the outcome of the conferences to open the Federal and Provincial Governments. The outcome of these conferences is still uncertain and it is not clear whether a delay in consideration of the whole income tax problem, a lot of work must be done to devise a better and more equitable system and it is not a bit too soon for the Federal Government to open its investigation, probably through a parliamentary committee. Since the nation will be relying heavily on income taxes in the future, the matter is of paramount concern to a great majority of Canadians.

BATH, England (CP)—Ald. T. Sturke Cokerell, 82, a former alien, died yesterday. He belongs to one of the longest-living families in the west of England.

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**By Ken Reynolds**

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