# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1944


## Legion Activities

Of more than ordinary interest are the reports and resolutions adopted yesterday by the Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion in annual session here. The efforts of the Legion during the past year have been devoted to straightening out difficulties in the interests of the service men and women of this war, and of their dependents. This is a very important work indeed. Only the Legion, with its Canada-wide organization and long experience in dealing with such matters, could hope successfully to grapple with such a task.

Some day, when this war is over, the whole story of what the Canadian Legion has done and is doing for its younger soldier comrades will be told, and it will be a story well worth the reading. In the meantime, it will go on fighting bureaucratic negligence and red tape, and prodding those in power and authority. The Legion can do this all the more effectively by reason of being a strictly non-partisan body, with an indisputable right to speak from experience on behalf of our fighting forces.

While the latter are winning battles overseas, it must be a source of great satisfaction and comfort to them to know that the veterans of an older generation are fighting *their* battles back at home.

## Secession Whisper Again

The *Halifax Chronicle* (Liberal) notes that a "considerable stir" was caused recently in the House of Commons banking committee when Mr. W. A. Tucker, Liberal member for Rosthern, Sask., bluntly stated that "there is a growing feeling in western provinces against the continuation of Confederation because of the discrimination by interests in the central part of the Dominion." Mr. Tucker was told by another Liberal member that his statements amounted to "downright stupidity."

The Chronicle evidently does not agree with the last mentioned speaker, though it is not prepared to go as far as Mr. Tucker, who linked the Maritimes with the western provinces as tending to dally with isolationist sentiments. "There is undoubtedly a tendency to think of secession as the solution for Maritime problems. In some circles it is a comparatively strong sentiment which it would be unwise to ignore. Yet the idea of secession is not what one might call a primary desire of anyone. It is one that has been induced by conditions. In the west, according to Mr. Tucker, it has been the lack of facilities offered by the banks that has produced it. In the east it has been the obvious neglect of industrial opportunities and the difficulties that have been placed in the way of local development of natural resources." The Chronicle thinks this tendency to disunity is one of the most vital problems facing the people of Canada today. It deplores the pettifogging attitude in politics, the tendency "to examine every proposition for improvement from the provincial and local point of view" and suggests that it is time "our political thinking caught up with the mechanical and scientific advances of the times and began to see things as a whole."

These are good words, but with Provincial and Federal elections in the offing it is doubtful if they will be seriously heeded by the powers that be. There is no doubt that the central provinces have gained the lion's share of the industrial and financial advantages under Confederation, and it is to be feared that they will continue to do so until we send men to Ottawa with sufficient brains and intestinal stamina to stand up successfully for our rights both east and west.

## Suspicious Haste

Doubt as to the legality of the Government's Family Allowances Bill is not just a bit of froth raised by opponents to the plan of cash grants. This Mr. Diefenbaker was able to show in his speech in the Commons last week. Since there is a doubt, and it goes further than Mr. Diefenbaker and the others who have spoken in the debate, the Progressive Conservative member's suggestion to test the bill in the Supreme Court was not out of order.

As the Government is postdating the cheques until July, 1945, before which time there surely will be another session of Parliament, and before which time there surely will be a Dominion-Provincial conference where some effort might be made to relate the scheme to social security planning on a reputable basis, there could be nothing lost by testing it. Nothing, that is, suggests the Globe and Mail, unless Mr. King has some reason other than social betterment, such as an election in Quebec on Aug. 8, for giving it the veneer of legality which passage by Parliament will do.

The Prime Minister's refusal, his ill-tempered haste to cram the bill through Parliament 11 months before it is to take effect, only heightens the political complexion of the measure.

## The Last Lap

Quebec and Alberta are now on the last lap of their Provincial elections. It is generally conceded the Social Creditors will win in Alberta, but in Quebec the situation is different. In 1939, the Union Nationale went down to defeat in Quebec through the very forcible intervention of some Federal Ministers, the issue being as much a question of Federal politics as it was of Mr. Duplessis's administration. The present Provincial elections, even more than in 1939, are being fought on Federal affairs, despite the efforts of the Liberals to keep the struggle limited to Provincial politics only. The leading opposition speakers—Union Nationale and Bloc Populaire—charge the Quebec Premier with being the henchman of Mackenzie King, with never making any protest against the Mobilization Acts, which according to the *"Devoir"* are "systematic" blackmail." Platform speakers and anti-Liberal papers are making the most of the complaints uttered by the draftees who lament that they have been forced to "sign on for active service." And of course, much is being made of the Guenette affair, a young conscript of Saint Lambert who, having failed to answer his calling-up notice, was killed by police officers whilst trying to make his getaway from his father's house in the middle of the night. The Liberals are therefore facing a difficult situation: their opponents refuse to discuss Provincial administration, harp on about Federal matters. There are observers who even say that conscription, which after 1917 was a great help to the Liberals in their triumph over the Conservatives, is now playing against them, while Nationalists are asserting that the English-speaking population of the country would be opposed to conscription if French Canadians approved of it, that the Imperialist elements make such a shout about it just to annoy Quebec Province. The Nationalists papers claim that the present system of voluntary enlistment is only conscription in disguise and that the conscripts are frequently the object of harsh treatment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES —

It is understood a large delegation is expected from Saskatoon to canvas New Brunswick in the interests of the C. C. F. for the Provincial election on 28th inst.

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The Provincial Legion "did itself proud" yesterday. And that was only the beginning of greater things to follow, when the new veterans return to swell the depleting ranks of the "has beens" of the previous Great War.

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St. Paul's, Charlottetown, is to be congratulated on being so speedily settled with a rector in succession to the greatly loved departing incumbent, Rev. Mr. LeDrew Gardner. Rev. Mr. Abbott is rector of the famous old Garrison Church of Halifax, where he has done much to restore it to its former greatness.

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The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has set up a Council for Religious Affairs to maintain contact between the Government and the Armenian, Georgian, Old-Believer, Greek, Catholic and Lutheran Churches, the Moslem, Jewish and Buddhist religious communities and the sectarian organizations on questions relating to these religious bodies on which the decision of the Government is required. I. Polyansky has been appointed Chairman of the Council.

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Rt. Hon. Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, K. G., P. C., LL.D., British statesman, born this date 1867; educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge; was Unionist Member of Parliament for Bewdley, Worcestershire, from 1908 to 1937 when he was raised to the Peerage; was Prime Minister from 1924 to 1929, and again from 1935 to 1937; he guided the nation successfully over the crisis connected with the abdication of King Edward VIII; he visited Canada, including Charlottetown; his publications include: "Peace and Goodwill in Industry", "The Classics and the Plain Man", "On England", "Our Inheritance", "This Torch of Freedom", "Service of our Lives", "An Interpreter of England".

* * * *

Many of his friends and admirers here will regret to learn that Hon. Capt. Rudolph J. Berlis, Presbyterian chaplain, has been wounded in France. Son of Rev. H. A. Berlis, associate minister of Dovercourt Road Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Capt. Berlis was born and mainly educated in Ontario. He took his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Toronto, then went to Union Theological Seminary, New York, for his degree in Bachelor of Divinity. Later he studied in Germany at Munich University and then took a year's advanced study in St. Andrew's University, Scotland. When in Scotland he took duty as acting minister at Crail, Fyfeshire. Prior to enlisting he was student missionary at Hunter River, and later he was assistant minister of St. Andrew and St. Paul of Montreal. Capt. Berlis arrived overseas in December, 1940, with the Canadian Forestry Corps after transferring from the Victoria Rifles in which regiment he first served as chaplain, and several of his letters and addresses have appeared in our columns.

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Despite the violence of German resistance to every thrust made in the Caen sector (writes Mr. L. B. S. Shapiro) feeling grows among all ranks in this portion of Normandy that the war in Europe may fold up quickly. The notion that the war has reached the stage comparable to August 1918, becomes more firmly fixed even as the German defensive reaction becomes more stubborn and effective. Events inside Germany, the phenomenal Russian advance, and Prime Minister Churchill's pointed observations—all these help to make firm this expectation. But the real explanation may be found in the battle situation on the Normandy front. Men fighting on this front base their calculation on three points. The first is that the whole line from southeast Caen to the western shore of the Cherbourg peninsula contains a single battle which now is in process of being fought. The second is that Marshal Rommel has brought almost everything he has into line for a last-ditch stand and has very little else to back him. The third is that General Montgomery is firmly holding the initiative and is fighting the sort of battle of which he is an undoubted master. The actions fought here and there along the line are still jigsaw pieces in General Montgomery's main plan, which is yet to be revealed.

## Notes By The Way

**We can all recognize in the post-war world**—the British Commonwealth, the U.S.A., Russia and China — but it is hard to see just where all the other 70-odd countries will fit in.—London Free Press.

**Arrangements are being made so** that sportsmen may secure reasonable amount of ammunition for the hunting this fall. The bow-and-arrow marksmen haven't any worry in this respect. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

**An indignant woman called the** city editor of The Illinois State Journal at Springfield recently demanding, "Why weren't the pictures of today's draft group in the paper?" "It might have been because our photographer was one of them," sighed the editor. — Wall Street Journal.

**Human imagination does not extend** to the point where we can see war in all its cruelty and ruthlessness. Only those who have lived through it can have understanding. And when they come back home with those eyes so used to death, what are we going to say to them? — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

**A land girl working on a farm** where Italian prisoners of war were also employed was often accompanied by the small son of the farmer. She asked him one day what he would like to be when he grew up. Expecting him to say, "A farmer, like daddy," she was surprised when he replied enthusiastically, "O-oh, miss an Italian prisoner!"—Manchester Guardian.

**The other evening we listened** to some announcer telling about a patriotic song written by a great and patriotic Englishman. It was quite a build-up. The so-called patriotic Englishman seemed of more importance than the fighting men in Italy or Normandy There was just one flaw in the whole affair This chap who was described as being so super-patriotic had recently finished serving a term in jail for driving his car with gasoline obtained wrongfully and in contravention to wartime regulations — Clark in Windsor Star.

**Right on our main street we encountered** a young woman wearing shoes, an abbreviated skirt, and some kind of a backless affair above which left, in front, what we may delicately refer to as her midriff exposed to view. A few moments later we encountered another young woman—not a child—wearing sandals, a pair of very short shorts and what we believe is called a brassiere; nothing else whatever. Our steps took us indoors at that moment, else we might have proceeded a few yards farther and come upon another young woman in the sort of costume that Ave wore.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

**Never advocate needless suffering** as a spiritual discipline, if only because the fact that it is needless make it psychologically phony. But there is real truth in the old belief that a man who has been tried by fire is likely to achieve a greatness beyond that of someone to whom everything has always come easily. It has been said, and rightfully, that from a cold scientific standpoint, the men who have returned "handicapped" will be the supply from which some of the noblest leaders will spring. One of these may be that same man of yours, whose future you were tempted to despair of when you first heard what had happened to him.—Home Economics Department of the National Grange.

**A popular hymn has bidden us** "Count our blessings one by one." But during these war years we have not been in a mood to count our blessings. On the contrary, we have naturally been concerned with the many disadvantages the war has inevitably brought. For the time being we are not our own. We are all at the call of the State. But even so, all have much to be thankful for. There is not a country in Europe the majority of whose inhabitants do not envy us our lot. There are 30,000,000 who do not know what it is to have a good meal a day in other countries. Yet in Britain, after nearly five years of the grimmest war, not even the most needy goes without his daily portion.—J. Hugh Edwards in Empire News.

**"If we were able to assemble a** thousand typical homes from the farms of western Canada and arrange them on a rural street say out, we should probably find that we had on our hands a community which in most of its physical respects was just another slum." The above statement was made by an architect with an intimate knowledge of farm homes in western Canada. Most farm families are housed under conditions far below modern standards. Two out of every five farm dwellings in Canada are in need of repairs to foundations, wall, roofs, chimneys, and doors. Four out of five have no electricity. In every hundred farm homes ninety-three lack bathing facilities or flush toilets. A subcommittee of the federal government has been studying farm housing and community planning. It recommends that 94,000 farm homes be built in Canada in the first ten years after the war, also in the same period the repairing of 188,000 farm homes.—Alberta Wheat Pool.

**The flying bomb which is being** used by the enemy against Southern England may represent one of the last devilish resorts of a doomed dictator seeking to escape retribution, but is there any reason, ethical or military, why murder of civilians should be tolerated for a moment longer without reprisals being undertaken after due warning? A stern answer should be returned. Let the German people—who have hailed the flying bomb as a means to victory through terror—be warned quite definitely that if mass murder by indiscriminate bombing continues, we shall take reprisals which will bring them swiftly to a realization that murder does not pay. In an article quoted recently, Mr. Sydney Carroll asks if, in addition to a carefully directed onslaught upon the bomb-discharge platforms, there should not be attacks upon all the principal German cities, obliterating every building—not upon the civilians, but the towns and cities in which they live. Let the Germans consider that. They know we have the means to do it. — Sheffield Telegraph.

## PUBLIC FORUM

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

### NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sir,—As a demonstration of harmony and unanimity, Major Eisenhardt's meeting last evening was all that could be desired. No difference of opinion is possible upon the question of the desirability of physical fitness for all Canadian citizens. A second World War had to be brought on with its years of conflict and its demonstration of the large proportion of physical unfitness on the part of the country's defenders before it was realized that the physical development of its people may be a prerequisite to a nation's survival. All that was said last evening about nutrition, health, education, training as prime requisites to proper physical development, cannot be over-emphasized. The National Physical Fitness Act is an outcome of the recognition of this need

While the subject is in its infancy is really no time for divided responsibility. Whether we regard ourselves as citizens of the Province or of the Dominion we should give our undivided support to Major Eisenhardt's splendid program and back up in every way possible the objective he so clearly and comprehensively expressed. It is farthest from my purpose to do anything which would impede this program in any way. Let the Province join with the Dominion wholeheartedly, in every way, to bring about the desired result, even if it means the Province should for the present assume an obligation which I regard as a national one and not merely a provincial one.

**The time is arriving** however, when a shake-up of national and provincial responsibilities must be effected ,and it is desirable, as I see it, that there be a clear understanding upon whom the responsibility lies for effecting this very desirable aim. Peace, order and good government, in relation to matters not exclusively assigned to the provinces, was regarded as affecting the nation as a whole, and was never intended as having a mere provincial or parochial aspect. Matters of national import were above provincial differences. The status of the citizens of Canada has always been regarded as a matter of national concern.

Who shall be regarded as a Canadian citizen, is a question for Canada as a whole to decide. Therefore ,"Naturalization and Aliens," are matters for federal legislation. Who shall enter or leave Canada, is a matter for the Dominion; immigration and passports are regulated at Ottawa, not in provincial capitals. Status of Canadian citizens is affected by marriage, likewise by divorce. These, accordingly are subjects of federal jurisdiction. It is fitting that this should be so, for the status of a citizen of Canada has international import.

A person's status, his capacity to enter into business relationships with others and to fulfill his civil obligations is affected by his bankruptcy or his insolvency. These are therefore matters for federal legislation, not for provincial

A citizen's obligations to society, in matters affecting welfare, personal rights and freedom from personal injury, is a matter affecting society as a whole. Crime, therefore, and the criminal law, are matters of federal jurisdiction. Likewise the maintenance of penitentiaries which interfere with the status of those citizens who violate the status or personal freedom of other citizens.

The defence of Canada in time of war, submission of its citizens to discipline, the quality and qualifications of persons who are to serve in the Forces, are properly federal matters, since they are of national interest. The personal qualification of its citizens is thus the concern of the nation. It is not a parochial or provincial matter. Lack of health affects personal qualifications. It affects fitness of status. Likewise education. It is a matter of national interest that Canada's citizens should be healthy, that they should be fit to serve Canada and that they should be educated. Why should these be left to provincial jurisdiction?

In the National Physical Fitness Act the responsibility for the fitness of Canada's citizenry is sought to be placed to a large extent upon the provinces. The Province must submit and enter into an agreement with the Dominion before it may share in the benefits. The Dominion will "assist the province," (section 8), by providing financial assistance to the province, the province supplying an agreed-on proportion of the cost.

By all means let us assist in bringing about fitness in our people, but let us not blind our eyes to the national responsibility for all these matters. As the Sirois Commission declared: "The quality of education and welfare services is no longer a matter of purely provincial and local concern. In Canada today, freedom of movement and equality of opportunity are more important than ever before, and these depend in part on the maintenance of at least minimum national standards for education, public health and care of the indigent."

While therefore we welcome any and all movements for the amelioration of conditions of malnutrition, unfitness and lack of education, let us see to it that when opportunity offers, the full responsibility for these services is placed where it belongs, with the nation; not with the provinces Meantime, however, let our Province unite with the Dominion in relieving the situation, whoever may pay, temporarily ,for doing so.

I am Sir, etc
W. E. BENTLEY.

### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF P. E. I.

Sir:—"How are the schools of this Province getting on in these war years?" I asked a merchant of a flourishing store in a good-looking rural community. He seemed an up-and-coming chap, middle-aged. (It was interesting to a stranger to notice how in this Province most of the thriving country stores had an egg-grading station in connection).

"Bad"—he shook his head mournfully. "No decent teachers, or very few. They're not what they used to be. Ambitious girls are not offering for school-marms now. Most of them are just young chits, in no way fitted to be leaders of young people, apart even from teaching, and they don't seem to take the same interest in the pupils that the old teachers used to take. There's no doubt about it, something has to be done about getting a better-type of teacher, particularly for our country schools, otherwise the present generation of kids is going to suffer."

To make it more emphatic he gave the string he was tying on the pound of sugar such a vicious snap that it cut through the paper.

I discussed it with him awhile and then asked, "Have you a shortage of teachers in this province too? I've just come from New Brunswick and it's pretty desperate there."

"I should say we have a shortage and getting worse—where it's going to end I can't say—or it seems, anyone else."

"Do you think it's the small salary that's the main reason for the shortage?" I questioned.

"No, I don't. It's the age we live in. Different kind of young people now. They want excitement and a chance for a good time. A job that has some glamour to it, with people about, and a chance to go interesting places—and all that. Country schoolteaching, even apart from the small salary, is too drab a life for the young people of today."

"So what? Not close the schools I hope."

* * *

I should not have quoted my merchant-acquaintance at such length, if I had not had the same opinion expressed over and over again throughout the Province. I was really surprised at the concern for the present condition of the schools expressed by so many, even from unlikely quarters.

Then, I had made a special point of asking every teen-age girl I had met during my stay in the province: "What are you aiming to do after you leave school? Be a school teacher?"

A decided "no" was the answer in every case. "Not on your life!"—or its equivalent, usually spoken in a tone of disgust, as though such a vocation had nothing in common with their ideas of any kind of a congenial existence.

They intended, usually, to be stenographers. In some cases nurses. Now and then it was, "I'm going to try and get into a bank." Then there were those who were "going into a store". Of course there were many of the older girls, just about ready to leave school, who had no doubt but "if the war lasts I'll do some sort of war work."

Never once did I find a girl who said, "I'm going to be a school teacher." When I suggested it to some, they just shrugged their shoulders and answered:

"Why should I take a long Normal School course when I can go to a city and get a better job "right off the bat, without any extra training, more money, too. And right away in it I start earning. Then after hours I own myself. Not everyone in the district think they have the right to have a say in everything I do. Besides, I want something doing around me—shows to go to, a dance somewhere every night, lots of other boys and girls about, big stores where I can buy the things."

So, that was about the general opinion amongst the young folk. And it's about the same in all the provinces. And, after all, can you picture that kind of an eighteen-year-old girl doing the right kind of work in the public schools of the Province? Though I don't blame them for wanting an interesting life.

Even before the war many of our young teachers were leaving the profession to enter banks, take civil service jobs—even at Ottawa, to become nurses, telephone girls, clerks in stores, etc. Then, with the advent of the war and all these glamorous young men about in uniform, a wave of matrimony swept away many of our best female teachers.

* * *

Well, what's the answer?

No doubt raising the salaries will help. But that is not enough.

Fewer schools and better schools will go deeper in solving the problem, not only for this Province, but for the whole of Canada.

I discussed this with many persons in various parts of the Province. There's nothing slow about the women in Prince Edward Island. I soon found that out. They just seemed to lap it up.

"That's it! That's it! Now that we've got better roads, and motor cars, and buses in most parts—what's to hinder? Our schools and settled communities are not far apart, particularly in this Province. If five or six districts united we could have a decent, modern school and equipment, instead of the meagre, neglected places we have now. And if school-teaching were placed on the same basis as the other professions we'd have a better class of teacher."

Then I unloosed a pet idea of my own:

"I'd drop the old name 'school' altogether. Call 'em 'educational centres—or something like that. And put in a telephone in every school—that would do more than anything else to, solve the attendance problem. Children are not attending school as they did, parents don't seem to take the same interest as they used to. With a telephone in every school, if a child was absent a day, then the teacher would just phone the home and find out the reason—report it to the Inspector or some authority who would get after them, if there was no proper reason for the non-attendance."

"Grand idea. But, do you know there are only three personal phones in this district?" laughed back my new acquaintance.

"Well, with all these reforms in the air, surely Prince Edward Island, as well as the other Maritimes is going modern after the war: telephones, electricity everywhere—and all that. And you women have to see that it does. Let's really live in a new age as well as just talk about it. If Germany was intelligent enough to think out a "Robot" surely we can accomplish the absolutely essential things for a civilized community in this modern age: Better schools—with telephones; how to secure better educators; electricity and telephones in every home in the Province."

"That's what I say."

I am, Sir, etc.,
M. W. F.

Moncton, N. B.

### PREDOMINANT FAITH

Ninety-seven per cent of the Italian people are Roman Catholics.

YES SIR! You must keep fit these days—to do your best. Eno can help keep you fit in three important ways. First, Eno assists nature in removing food wastes that often cause constipation and headaches. Second, Eno helps neutralize excess gastric acidity, sometimes the cause of so many upsetting attacks of indigestion. Third, Eno helps maintain the alkaline constituents of the body.

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## The Poet's Corner

### THE LOST HEIFER

When the black herds of the rain were grazing
In the gap of the pure cold wind
And the watery hazes of the hand
Brought her into my mind,
I thought of the last honey by the water
That no hive can find.

Brightness was drenching through the branches
When she wandered again,
Turning the silver out of dark grasses
Where the skylark had lain,
And her voice coming softly over the meadow
Was the mist becoming rain.

—Austin Clarke.

### COATS FROM CHUTES

LONDON —(CP)— Government plans are being made for selling surplus stocks as soon as the war ends and already parachutes, no longer usable, have been converted into attractive-looking coats for barbers.


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