THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
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Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Burnett, F. J. I.

Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Ian A. Burnett.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY, 5, 1946

Britain's War Effort

On the 1st of January a visual picture of Britain's war effort was made public — a selection from the charts prepared for the use of the British Chiefs of Staff during the war. Some of the diagrams reproduce in graphic form information already published as statistics, for example the mobilization of manpower, the high proportion of United Kingdom casualties, Britain's enormous munitions production, her drastic reduction of exports and imports and the great increase year by year in the quantities of home grown foodstuffs. One diagram underlines the fact that in the United Kingdom consumption of all foods was drastically reduced during the war, except for milk, potatoes, vegetables and grain.

Perhaps of the greatest interest are the diagrams presenting facts hitherto not available. Britain's heavy burden in maintaining the freedom of the seas for Allied shipping is shown in a diagram of new building and losses of major British war vessels during the war. Five battleships, totalling 175,000 tons were built, but five battleships of almost equal tonnage were lost. Twenty-eight cruisers were built, twenty-eight lost. 271 destroyers were built, 133 lost. 157 submarines were built, 71 lost. The grim story of the Allies' merchant shipping losses, which exceeded new construction in almost every month of the war till May 1942, is the subject of another series of tables. In one month, losses exceeded new construction by 650,000 tons. But from mid-1942 the tide rapidly turned, and British shipping during the last year of the war remained steady at a total of about fifteen million tons, though as result of the concentration of merchant shipbuilding in America, U. S. tonnage was more than double.

Another series of diagrams compares the weight of bombs dropped on enemy and occupied territory by R. A. F. Bomber Command with the tonnage dropped on Britain. In September 1940, the Germans dropped nearly ten thousand tons on Britain, compared with just over two thousand dropped by the R.A.F., but this German peak effort pales into insignificance beside the nearly seven times as great tonnage dropped by the R.A.F. in August 1944 and March 1945. And in the latter month the U. S. Eighth Airforce bombers dropped almost as heavy a weight as the R.A.F.

A diagram of the flying bomb attacks on Britain emphasizes the severity of the first eleven weeks of these attacks, from June to August 1944, and the increasing proportion destroyed by Britain's anti-aircraft guns. The cumulative totals show six thousand people killed in Britain by flying bombs. The diagram for the long range rockets shows over two thousand seven hundred killed by this weapon between September 1944 and March 1945. From another diagram, it is clear that more civilians were killed and wounded in Britain than the numbers of killed and wounded in either the Royal Navy or the R.A.F. Finally, one interesting diagram shows the steady increase in both the cost of living and the weekly wage rates in Britain up till the beginning of 1941, when the cost of living began to assume a fairly constant level, maintained until the end of the war at about thirty per cent above the pre-war level, while wage rates continued to increase until at the end of the war they were about fifty per cent above the pre-war level.

Banffshire Makes Progress

If one looks at a coloured map of Scotland, one finds in the hump that sticks out into the North Sea a county shaped rather like a Santa Claus stocking—that is Banffshire. It is one of the smaller counties, and it lives up to the promise of good things in its geographical shape. For instance, it is the premier fishing county. It is the principal distilling county. Its agricultural production has always been large and out of all proportion to its area and population. It is one of the three chief counties in the breeding of black cattle, and of the three historic homes of that breed, Ballindalloch Castle of Banffshire is the only one that remains still in possession of a herd. It has given birth to an extraordinary number of famous men—not only industrialists, pioneers, and men of business like Lord Mountstephen and James Gordon Bennett, the founder of thet *New York Times*, but also scholars and students like Thomas Ruddiman, who was the *doyen* of humanists in the eighteenth century, and John Strachan, who can lay strong claims to be regarded as the greatest classical scholar of our time. And just recently there died Sir John Ledingham, the head of the Lister Institute and one of Britain's leading medical figures. There is a passion for education in the county. For 56,000 inhabitants there are no fewer than seven secondary schools, probably the highest proportion in Britain, if not in the world. One of these schools, set in the midst of a business community, specialises in higher commercial subjects; another, also in a big centre, pays equal attention to commerce and culture. In the others, classics and the sciences are taught. It is interesting to recall that one of the earliest Scottish books on Rhetoric was dedicated to the provost of Banff. In the country, the schools lead direct to agriculture and manufacturing industry. There are distilleries, fish-curing yards, wool mills, lime kilns—the biggest lime-burning plant in Scotland is in Banffshire—and engineering works. There is a strong link with Canada; and there is a Banff in the Rockies. That happened because a Banff man suggested to Lord Mountstephen, when he was building the Canadian Pacific Railway, that there would have to be a Banff on the line. Mountstephen, being a Banffshire boy himself, jumped at the idea. Banff artisans like to turn out what might be called industrial precision work, and, previous to the war, there was a big demand for such tools as their cutting machines for steel plates and bars. Since the war they have had contracts for many hundreds of these for Government Training Centres all over the country.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

With the addition of the Magdalens for Income Tax collection, we will soon be a bilingualist province.

* * * *

Tomorrow Epiphany, or Old Christmas Day; as late as A.D. 194 January 6 was observed as Christ's birthday in Bethlehem; and in the Oriental churches, including that of Russia, it is still so observed.

* * * *

Gordon College, Khartoum, founded this date 1899, as a memorial of General Charles George ("Chinese") Gordon, who gave his life in 1885 for the defence of Christian ideals in the Madhi rebellion in the Sudan; Gordon lives as a national hero, both in Britain and Egypt, thanks to his gallantry as soldier and explorer, his integrity as administrator, his piety as Christian, his chivalry as a knight-errant, and his tragic fate.

* * * *

An increase of $2,000,000 in our farm income in the year just finished is something to boast about, a per capita addition of $20,000. Is it any surprise our Income Tax collections are on the ascendant? In 1943, they totalled $2,274,882; for 1944 there should be a considerable addition to this. No wonder the Income Tax staff which is paid $43,000, considers itself entitled to an increase.

* * * *

In the last war 11 per cent of all surgical casualties died and in this war only 1 per cent, Dr. T. C. Routley, general secretary of the Canadian Medical Association told members of the Alberta division. There were 10,000 cases of tuberculosis in the last war, 26 cases in this. Last war 10,000 soldiers contracted typhoid; 30 in this war. Typhus, rampant in the last war, was non-existant in this war. Trench fever and trench mouth were also non-existant and shell-shock had been virtually mastered.

* * * *

A beautifully illustrated booklet has been issued by the international committee which was promoting Navy Island at Niagara Falls as headquarters of the United Nations Organization. It is a copy of the case for Navy Island as presented to the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, and is signed by the American and Canadian sections of the Executive Committee of the International body set up by business men of Niagara Falls, N. Y., Niagara Falls, Ontario, St. Catharines, Welland, Buffalo and Lockport. It is pointed out that Navy Island has 315 acres, that its location would give the United Nations headquarters seclusion, a tradition of peace and of international co-operation, and that it is easy of access, by modern communications, from any part of the world. Among the illustrations is a magnificent photograph in colors of the great cataract of Niagara.

* * * *

Canada is the most fortunate of nations. No country in the world should be so readily able to make the New Year one of great expansion of production. It may be necessary for Canada to give away much of her production, or to sell it on terms of easy payment over long periods, in order to restore the productive power of the nations with which Canada has traded in the past, or wishes to trade in the future, but it still remains a fact that, by industry and thrift, by the most rapid possible removal of all Government interference with private enterprise, by intelligent co-operation between capital and labour, by devoting first attention to the expansion of agriculture and primary industry, by a cessation of increase in the national debt, and by the general return of common sense, and a general abandonment of the nonsense preached to the Canadian people for the last two generations, this country should be able to prosper greatly, to add desirable immigrants to the population, to increase the standards of living, and to expand international trade.

* * * *

From next Autumn a comprehensive, free National Advisory Service will be available to the farmers of England and Wales. Before the war technical advice was provided by county councils who handed over to the War Agricultural Executive Committees. Now the Ministry of Agriculture will be able to coordinate and direct all the advice given to farmers and stimulate activity where necessary. In this work the County Committees will continue to play a vital part, and close collaboration will continue with the agricultural education staffs of the county councils and with the agricultural departments of the Universities and colleges. The plan for the new service is based on the division of England and Wales into eight provinces. At the head of the team of some fifteen hundred specialists to be enrolled in the new service will be Mr. James Scott-Watson, the well-known writer on British agriculture, who was, during the war, British Agriculture Attache at Washington after having been Professor of Agriculture at Edinburgh and Professor of Rural Economy at Oxford. In each province there will be specialists to advise on entomology, plant pathology, soil chemistry, bacteriology, as well as nutrition chemistry, animal, crop and poultry husbandry, grassland management, farm machinery and farm buildings. Under provincial specialists will work county scientific experts who may be described as the "general practitioners" of the scheme. The scheme also includes a programme of experimental work with experimental farms and horticultural stations throughout the country.

Notes By The Way

It is a terrible commentary on America that in a few short years we shall kill more people on the roads than are represented in our dead of the war.—Altoona, Pat., Mirror.

If Canadians were shot at General Meyer's headquarters without his knowledge, it's strange Hitler never had him executed for incompetence. —Toronto Telegram.

More than scenery and bracing air are needed to satisfy tourists in Ontarios' summer playground. Comfortable beds are one of the first considerations and straw-filled ticks should be out.—Hamilton Spectator.

A man who unlawfully carries a gun is a potential murderer—with no reservations. Unless gun-toting is punished much more drastically than it has been, Canada is certain to see a sharp increase in homicide. Now is the time to make it very tough for all who are caught carrying concealed weapons unlawfully. —Edmonton Journal.

Mr. LaGuardia goes Dick Whittington one better. Dick rose to be mayor of his home town, and that was all for him. There, as far as the encyclopedia knows, he got off. At that, he was a good mayor; he built welfare agencies, he put down crime, he encouraged underprivileged youth to aspire just as Fiorello has done. He was a bit of a showman, too, with a winning platform manner. But he had no future. He antedated the radio by 500 years.—New York Times.

A new loom which has no shuttle but which lays the weft across the warp by a carrier moved to and fro by a special spring device has been developed by a United Kingdom firm. The head of the firm believes that the loom may lead to a revival of home weaving because it can be installed in a spare room, can produce a wide variety of fabrics and is without the clatter made by the ordinary loom. It is claimed that one skilled operative and an assistant could "mind" twenty-four of these looms without difficulty. —United Kingdom Information.

Like all mental attitudes, laughter can and should be cultivated. Laughter is a two-edged weapon—valuable as a tonic, but deadly when used as ridicule. Therefore let us develop as a tonic this most contagious and helpful asset in these bad times. Spread happiness. Go about your daily duties seeking to cheer yourself and others. Laugh! and the world will laugh with you.—Sunday Express London.

The war-discovered "bulldozer," whose exploits U. S. Army Engineers describe in tones of reverence, is pushing its way toward new conquests in Norway. During the past weeks several of these machines have been clearing experimental tracts in the Aamnes district with such success that the Norwegian Agricultural Ministry is contemplating the clearing of 1750 acres of rough, unbroken country in the vicinity of Torpa. This clearing of stumps and stones from as many as two acres per day per machine is revolutionizing the "pioneering" of new districts in Norway and will call for a sharp revision of the premiums once awarded to farmers for clearing new areas.—From Norway Digest.

To enjoy life as fully as possible, and to be an asset, and not a danger, to his country, a man must know more than the details of a trade or profession: he must know how to use his mind, and he should know as much as he can assimilate of the wisdom of the human race. If he does not know these things, it makes no difference how able a technician he may be—he is still on the level of the medieval peasant when he turns his mind to matters which do not come within the scope of his "practical" training; indeed, there is no training so woefully impractical as that of the narrow specialist. Peterborough Examiner.

A new thing to worry about is the short-term, or sample, strike in which the employes tell the management, "For a week we are having a walkout. See how you like it." Such a thing is familiar in domestic life and has to be expected and endured, as when the wife says to the husband, "From now till Christmas I'm not speaking to you." In such cases it frequently works, and the victim is a model husband for a long time afterward. But in the larger field of industry we don't know. We wonder whether there will be sample wars next. —L. H. R. in the New York Times.

Don't go at this business of shovelling snow as though the whole walk had to be cleaned in a couple of seconds. Take the job in stride, realizing that it does not take long, if the shovel works steadily. So many men forget they are not as young as they used to be. They see the sparkle of the snow and feel the tang in the air. They take it as a challenge to their physical strength. They want to make the snow fly just as they used to do when they fired snowballs at their pals, or possibly tried to knock off the derby of the town dude. Take it easy. Far better to do that shovelling slowly and have a nice, clean walk, than to make too great haste and have to have someone else clean the walk so they can carry you out feet first to the hearse for your last ride.—Windsor Star.

The romantic atmosphere of the country school becomes visible only to those who view it from the vantage point of distance—actually it was, and is, essentially practical. Those who have attended a typical one-room school will recall that it was totally lacking in "frills"—the teacher had in that room classes from beginners to high-school entrance, and had no time for theory, for experiment, for anything but straight instruction in the prescribed subjects. That sort of instruction, with all its faults, its shortcomings, may have to "pass from the scene" but not because it is a bad system—rather because better ways now are within reach. The one-room school perhaps is least fair to the few students slower than the average to learn, because a teacher has no time for coaching and coddling. Now the trend is toward fewer, larger and more diversified schools, and that is possible because good roads and the motor vehicle have taken the country school out of its old isolation. Perhaps the Little Red Schoolhouse is on its way out of the picture, but not because it failed. —Ottawa Journal.

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.

WOODSMAN REPLIES

Sir,—The letter of Canadian in Saturday's Guardian, for misrepresentation is in a class by itself. The writer having nothing whatever on which to base his tirade, has resorted, after the manner of his kind, to the old trick of setting up a man of straw in order to knock it down.

It opens with the misstatement that "Woodsman has blasted the returned men for refusing to work in the woods." As these premises are false the arraignment that follows is of the same nature.

"Woodsman" did nothing of the kind and, as a reference to his letters will show. But that is nothing to "Canadian" who has a capacity for finding such things where none exist. Besprinkled over his letter are such accusations as that Woodsman "slurred at the veterans", "derided the veterans", "chided them", etc., etc., and finally we are told "that a letter such as Woodsman's would make them (the veterans) wonder if decency was not taking a holiday." One would conclude, after such a statement, that there was something shockingly improper in Woodsman's letters. I therefore quote from them the strongest expression of opinion contained therein, as it presents the whole point at issue: "Work of any kind is not compulsory in this country, and may be accepted or rejected at will according to the inclination or necessity of the individual, but to express resentment at the offer of good useful employment, is not an enviable state of mind." And further: "If we have entered on the making of a brave new world, we can help to make it so by recognizing the value of honest work whether in the bush or elsewhere."

These very moderate views which are the whole gist of Woodsman's letter, are the fount and head of our offending. This is the voice of the "ingrate who publishes his ingratitude in print," and from whose unworthy presence "decency is taking a holiday," and who can be belabored and stigmatized as an ingrate and the Lord knows what. I sometimes wonder if "Canadian" is someone with a perverted sense of humor, for if taken seriously no greater disservice could be rendered the returned men than such a letter as he has written.

I am further accused of "lecturing the returned men on their duties as citizens." Nothing of the kind is to be found in the text, and must be set down as another fabrication, used in the absence of fact.

A lengthy paragraph follows full of declamatory rant, and which has as much bearing on the issue as the wind that bloweth where it listeth, and which good old Thomas Carlyle would describe as being "barren as the east wind itself."

A great part of "Canadian's" letter is taken up with the subject of draft dodgers, which while foreign to the subject, affords a splendid opportunity for covert underhand thrusts. Anyone as well informed on this subject as "Canadian" pretends to be, has no occasion to ask "Woodsman" or anyone else to undertake the part of recruiting agent among them. As for the personal slur implied by this suggestion, we can afford to treat it with the contempt it deserves. "Every community on the Island, he says, had its quota of these rotters." Let us see. According to statistics, 12,000 men and women enlisted here for war service of one kind or another. The Guardian stated the other day that 7,000 went to work at war industries. Take this great number from our small population and what is the result? The rural areas have been so stripped of their working population that only with the greatest effort have they been able to carry on, by working long hours, and to their utmost, with the assistance of the aged, and of immature youth. The Department of Labor has been calling for men to work in the woods; thousands are still required, and "Canadian" tells us "that sufficient draft dodgers can be found to fill all requirements." Previously he had told us that lumbermen "will hire men from the rural areas only."

The number of these draft dodgers must be very great, if sufficient can be found to fill all requirements in the woods, as "Canadian" asserts. The inevitable conclusion is that the farms have afforded the hiding place for these evaders, and no greater slander or affront than this could possibly be offered to the men and women of the farms who did their part so nobly during the great conflict.

And now, in conclusion, as we enter on another year, with its hopes and uncertainties, to all people of good will, to veterans returned to take up the thread of civil life, to all soldiers of the common good who fought the battle on farm, in forest, factory or elsewhere, I wish a happy New Year; and cherish the fervent hope that through the troubled years that lie before us, our beloved country may at last reach the goal of peace, prosperity and plenty.

I am, Sir, etc.,

WOODSMAN.

CLINTON SCHOOL

Results of mid-term examinations of Clinton School:

Grade IX—1. Mary MacKay.
Grade VIII—1. Leah Pickering.
Grade VII—1. Eric Heaney; 2. Shirley Woodside; 3. Weirum MacKay.
Grade V—1. Robert Heaney; 2. Allen MacKay; 3. Dorothy Doucette.
Grade IV—1. Louise Woodside.
Grade III—1. Geraldine Woodside; 2. Gloria Heaney.
Grade II—1. Roger MacKay.
Grade I—1. Jean MacKay.
Highest average in senior grades—Eric Heaney, 87%.
Highest average in junior grades—Geraldine Woodside, 91%.
The following pupils made 75% or over: Mary MacKay, Leah Pickering, Gloria Heaney, Roger MacKay, Jean MacKay.
Teacher—Vivian A. Sullivan.

The North Nova Scotia Highlanders

VIII

The Brigade plan for the capture of the Leer was for the H. L. I. of Canada and the S. D and G. Highrs. to assault across the river Ems to seize the ground between the river and town and the first blocks of the town. At the same time D Company, North Novies, was to cross the Leda river on their right to protect their right flank. The remainder of the Battalion was to cross later and take part in clearing the town.

In preparation for this the Battalion crossed the Ems farther up and moved up to the Leda after it was cleared by 7 Brigade. A vital part of the fire plan was 3 inch mortar smoke to cover D Company's crossing, but when it came down the wind had changed and it was not in the right place. The company immediately put its 2 inch mortars in action and went across in assault boats. The crossing was made so quickly that the far dyke was gained with complete surprise and a large number of enemy taken in their slit trenches. There were four 20mm guns and many light machine guns in position, but the company lost only two wounded. Later in the day the remainder of the Battalion crossed and cleared a large area in the centre of town through the night, and the remainder was cleared by the other units in the morning. Major K. N. Webber was awarded the D. S. O. for his work commanding D Company in this action.

The following day the advance toward Emden was started with the North Novies on the right axis. Demolitions caused a great deal of difficulty as all vehicles were road bound but Neermoor was reached the second day and about thirty prisoners taken without difficulty.

The next two days were spent trying to get vehicles through a maze of back roads and canals, and on 4 May, 1945, the rifle companies reached Timmel by crossing a river in a rowboat.

It was decided against bridging so the vehicles were brought back around by Leer and joined the Battalion after a long day's struggle with mud.

At 1700 hrs, 4 May, 1945, a message was received to the effect that no further offensive action would be taken and the B. B. C. at 2100 hrs informed them that the war in the 21 Army Group sector would be finished officially the following morning.

On Sunday, 6 May, 1945, the Battalion proceeded to Norden, Germany, where it spent about ten days disarming Germans and organizing displaced persons. It then proceeded to Baarn, Holland, where it was responsible in part for 6 Airborne Division until its removal to Germany. With the movement of the Germans in Western Holland to Germany, the Battalion finished its work, one year almost to the day from its arrival on the beaches of Normandy.

Cos cheum nach gabh tilleadh.

Honours and Awards Since D Day

DSO and Bar

Lt. Col. D. F. Forbes

DSO

Lt. Col. F. A. Sparks
Maj. L. C. Winhold
Maj. K. N. Webber
Maj M. G. Clennett
Maj J.E.W. Wright
Maj J. D Learment
Maj. C. Kennedy

Military Cross

A-Maj E. S. Gray—K-A 8 Jul 44
Lt. R. M. Grainger
Lt. W. A. Myers.
Capt. K. A. Campbell—RCAMC
Lt L E. Fraser.

Silver Star (American)

Lt. G. A. Gibson—K-A

Croix De Guerre

(With Gilt Star) Maj A. W. Jefferson.
(With Silver Star) Lt. J. D. Campbell.
(With Bronze Star) F. 50268 Sgt. Hurley, L.G.

MBE (Military Division)

Maj. H. M. Cunningham

DCM

K.74053 Sgt. Russel, L. E. K-A 22 Feb. 45

MM

F.45939 Pte. Fraser, H. L.
F.55261 Sgt. Martin, J. J.
F.60272 Sgt. Noonan, R. J.
M.39528 Pte. Smith, N. E.
K.4035 Pte. Moraes, C.
F.44705 Sgt. Dudka, S.
F.53800 CSM Bishop, H. J.
B.142026 Pte. Scott, G. F.
C.120647 Pte. Shanks, D. I.
F.50197 RSM Baillie, W. A.
F.50377 Cpl. Harrison, R. M
B.155191 Sgt. Prokopchuk, J.
F.60341 CSM Stewart, G.

BEM

Sgt. Arseneau, A. J.

DOUBLE BREATHERS

The species of fish called Dipnoi have lungs as well as gills.

The Poets Corner

RETURN, INHABITORS

Fly, birds, fly; streak back into your sky;
Replace the metal wings with sun-tipped feather.
The sky is yours again, its meadows clear;
Soar, soar again, all soft-winged things, together.
Swim, fish, swim; reclaim your coral deep;
The sea is yours again, the star-spun foam;
There are no periscoped Leviathans
Trespassing now in your translucent home.
Grow, grass, grow; the soil belongs to you;
Emerald the land; hide all its twisted scars;
Return, inhabitors, resume your true abode
On land and sea and air; an end to wars!

Mae Winkler Goodman,
in the New York Herald Tribune.

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