

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1941

Transportation Claims

While the Sirois Report is—temporarily at least—a dead issue, there are certain of its findings of an adverse or negative nature to which attention must repeatedly be drawn by way of protest.

For example, the Sirois Report states that our "alleged deficiencies" in ferry communication have been "in large measure made up by an airplane service operated by the Canadian Airways Limited and subsidized by the Post Office Department."

The complacency with which the Sirois Commission dismissed our claim for a double daily train service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland is another matter of regret. It failed also to take cognizance of the exorbitant charges for the transport of commercial motor vehicles between Borden and Tormentine.

With the need of improving our harbor and port facilities, the Sirois Commission concerned itself not at all. Yet it had before it the Duncan Report of 1926, and it must have been aware that the strongly worded recommendation for such improvement, particularly with regard to warlike and storage accommodation, had not been carried out.

With other unfortunate phases of the Sirois Report our sister Maritime Provinces are equally concerned. Its findings on the vexed question of Maritime freight rates are not consistent with the Duncan Report. The gains we derived from the latter report through the Maritime Freight Rates Act have been filched from us, and the whole battle must be fought over again.

The moral to be drawn from these reflections is that all concerned in our transportation claims, including of course our federal and provincial representatives, must exert themselves more than ever if the inertia at Ottawa is to be overcome, and this Province placed in a position to make its full contribution to Canada's war effort.

The Chief Obstacle

From two staunch Liberal papers, representing widely separated sections of the country, come insistent demands for eradication of party favoritism in Canada's war administration.

"The Canadian public is not interested today in party politics. What is wanted is constant assurance that the war is being waged with every ounce of determination, vigor and efficiency that Canada is capable of; and as the strain of war increases, as the problems grow more difficult day by day, and as serious failures develop such as the fiasco of Federal Aircraft, Ltd., it is natural for the public to grow more uneasy."

"This was none of the good Lord's pleasure, For the Spirit He breathed in Man is free; But what comes after is measure for measure, And not a God that afflicteth thee. Is now and evermore shall be. Thou art delivered to thine own keeping, Only thyself hath afflicted thee."

And this from the Halifax Chronicle:

"The people of Canada yearn for leaders who are not interested in personal political careers or in the fortunes of any political party. It would help the war effort and inspire the public to know that the war effort was in the hands of men who were fired only by a desire to win the war."

It is high time that Mr. King gave heed to his responsible party press, which is a faithful echo in this instance of public opinion. His inveterate partyism is the chief thing that is holding Canada's war effort back.

Bengasi Falls

With the capture of Bengasi yesterday, another smashing blow has been struck at Italian morale. Tripoli is the next and last British objective in Libya; when that capital falls the fate of Graziani's army is sealed.

It is only within recent years that Canada has liberalized her divorce laws. The divorcee in the hands of the courts. There are still those who are convinced that the divorcee is a social disgrace.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Are all passenger airplanes inspected regularly for air worthiness?

In the city every block will be canvassed for purchasers of War Saving Certificates.

Quoted from a letter received recently: "As you know we are not emotional but this 'Jerry' raiding has sent us back to our devotions, and you would be surprised to see how crowded the churches are Sundays and week days, even though the authorities do not encourage crowds under single roofs."

In the last war, the Patriotic Committee saw that every dependent receiving separation allowance opened a Saving's Bank account against the day when the husband, son or father returned. The result, in nearly every case there was a nice nest egg waiting the warrior.

Jules Verne, French novelist, born this date 1828; wrote a great number of much read novels, in each of which plot works round scientific or physiological fact; many have forecasted modern developments, viz, gramophone, cinematograph, submarines, airships, etc.

Mr. Bertrand Russell declares in a letter to The New York Times that he has never preached unconditional pacifism. He opposed the World War, but while so doing he pointed out that there are justifiable wars, like the U. S. A. War of Independence. He opposed England's participation in the present war, but Hitler's record since Poland has taught him that Nazi conquest can be worse than war's horrors.

A Canadian Maritimer writing from England recently says: "Far from being cowed and depressed, the morale of everybody is magnificent. Those who have been bombed make light of it and those who wonder whether they may be bombed (because this is present in the mind of everybody) are not dismayed. We are confident that, if the States continue to send the generous help they have given and are promising, we shall put the Germans back in their place. Particularly in the last few weeks since the Italians have had a bad time our confidence has turned to assurance of victory. We know that we cannot achieve victory without American aid which we acknowledge with the fullest gratitude. We don't want any more misunderstandings about war debts and their payment. When we have ended this mess I, for one, hope that the United States and this country will stand shoulder to shoulder in working out the future of democracies throughout the world."

The Definitive Edition of Rudyard Kipling's Verse, just available, will give great pleasure to collectors who appreciate superb book production and to lovers of the poet's work. It contains more than a score of new poems which have not appeared in previous editions and these make worthy company to "The Prelude to Departmental Duties," etc. When Kipling draws a moral it lasts for all time, as when in "Natural Theology," after the line, "the bottom is out of the universe," he writes:—

"This was none of the good Lord's pleasure, For the Spirit He breathed in Man is free; But what comes after is measure for measure, And not a God that afflicteth thee. Is now and evermore shall be. Thou art delivered to thine own keeping, Only thyself hath afflicted thee."

The new poems cover a wide range of subjects and reveal Kipling at his best. This edition is indeed a book to keep and to treasure.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Like other Royal Air Force personnel, pigeons first go through a course of training. To accustom them to sea flying, an aircraft takes off with a basket of pigeons whose home lofts are not far away from the aerodrome. When the machine is well away from the land, the observer puts them out through the hatch. It has been noticed that the experienced birds keep their wings closed, and do a 'dead drop' until they are clear of the slipstream from the air-screws.

If you are a "parlor pink" be careful about joining the Communist party. A teacher in Brooklyn College, Dr. Grebanier, in an inquiry into Communism in the institutions of higher learning in the New York region, told of joining the Brooklyn unit a few years ago. He was a member of the faculty, and his party dues and assessments for "literature" came to over \$500 a year, he said—over ten percent of his salary.

Japan may still hope to collect dividends from the China incident, but the cutting of the melon certainly has been deferred. Beginning January 1, new rationing regulations will be enforced. The government is sweeping everything before them and already have captured thousands of prisoners. A similar situation exists in Italian Somaliland, which has become the hunting ground of British troops, pursuing the remnant of Mussolini's garrisons. All the facts point to complete demoralization of the Italian armies, and to a resulting British victory which will release British land, air and sea forces for effective service elsewhere. This latter factor may prove to be the most important in the African campaign. It is the one in which Hitler is most concerned; hence the expectation that Germany will shortly attempt some desperate measure, either in the Balkans or by way of an invasion of England. The next few weeks are charged with momentous possibilities.

It is true that something has been done to organize a Canadian home guard. But nobody can be better than Messrs. Balsani and Howe, newly returned from the battle front overseas, of the contrast between British preparedness and the Canadian emergency. A major of persons who do not sway one when he goes into print, neither should he attempt to quote statistics, prices and quotations of Mr. Hemming, who has been at great length of time and pains to ascertain and compile from such sources as Hansard, at Ottawa, the Federal Government, the Province of P. E. Island records, the various railway systems, the Department of Agriculture and numerous other sources.

Mr. Hemming occasionally knows that his efforts to help us a more prosperous Prince Edward Island as much as he pleases, but the public will not be so easily deceived.

After the sudden collapse of the Ottawa Conference called to deal with the Sirois Report proposals because of the unyielding opposition of the Premier, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, Premier Pattullo of the latter province found he had business to do in Ottawa, and so he returned home. It may have been an act of prudence on his part, for there appears to be a vast volume of indignation directed at the coast province concerning the part he played in wrecking the Conference. He may have considered it would not be wise to return home; it may have been a mistake. He has been warned by a Vancouver newspaper that he should be ready to face a province which demands a showdown on this matter. — Calgary Herald.

Africa is traditionally the continent of surprises. Elaborating on this, the author of "The Teacher Reads The Odyssey" writes: "Africa is an 'accustomed always to produce new and monstrous things.' It has already contributed a few pictures—Napoleon, the Boer War, the naval clashes at Oan and Dakar, the Gallitits revicts in remoter French colonies—and seems destined to play an increasingly important role in the struggle. The native Arab populations in North Africa, particularly in Tunis and Algeria, are almost fanatical anti-Italian. Their delight at the misfortunes that have overtaken Italian arms in Albania is easy to understand. It would not be hard to enlist them for a drive against the Italians in Libya, and it may be with such a design in mind that General Weygand's presence there is certainly a menace of such a development; and must be a matter of deep concern to Italy, if not to the principal Axis partner. One fact sometimes overlooked is that Algeria is not a colony, nor a protectorate like Tunis and Morocco but is an integral part of what was the French republic, with full representation in parliament. Any French government that might establish headquarters in Algeria would not be a government in exile. This consideration alone makes the Nazis pause before attempting to impose unbearable conditions on the government of Marshal Petain. —New York Sun.

It must be remembered that Confederation, the basis of which is a subject under discussion are approached in the proper spirit and without recourse to bitterness or personal feeling. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

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.

REPLY TO "PRODUCER"

Sir,—In your Forum column of Friday the seventh, appeared a letter from one signed "Producer," who attempted to set things aright regarding the articles of writers. This column, on the feed question, "Producer's" letter is nothing but the complacent soundings of a so-called self-made man, who usually is a horrible example of unskilled labor, anyway, for his words of wisdom can convey little but criticism, as constructive thinking is not one of his assets.

When "Producer" can give an answer to our pertinent question, viz: the very low standard of living, in rural areas, facilities, show us how to improve the farmers' lot and give reason why a deep and permanent depression is economically advantageous to us, then he will be in a position to criticize such a writer as Mr. Hemming.

The writer has noted such criticisms of every effort on the part of our thinkers, and feels it is deplorable that the source of these mutterings usually fails to offer even a substitute.

Moreover, letters of this nature are commonly signed in "no de plume," as the writer often lacks the courage to back his statements with his real name.

I am, sir, etc. ARTHUR L. WRIGHT, Charlottetown, Feb. 7, 1941.

CONSTRUCTIVE VS. DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Sir,—Friday's Guardian contained a letter signed by one "Producer." What a pity he did not feel sure enough of his ground and his statements to sign his name to his letters. However, his style is sufficient to well known as to identify him. The purpose of his letter apparently is not to convey some constructive information on a matter of vital importance to the farmers of P. E. Island, but to hold Mr. Hemming and his efforts of the past several years in the matter of the welfare of our province, up to ridicule. That may be of some service and satisfaction to "Producer," but if he enjoys such wise-cracking and ridicule, he is one of a very tiny minority who hold their pleasures likewise.

Producer's advice: "Shoemaker, Stick to Your Last," with which he holds his letter is merely in other words: "Mind your own business, Mr. Hemming." If "Producer" believes the reading and thinking public will agree with him after reading his letter, rather than weigh the public-spirited services that Mr. Hemming has endeavored to render the citizens of our province, he had better come to his senses and realize that he should be ashamed to adopt such tactics which are small and not worthy of the position "Producer" normally occupies.

A major of persons who do not sway one when he goes into print, neither should he attempt to quote statistics, prices and quotations of Mr. Hemming, who has been at great length of time and pains to ascertain and compile from such sources as Hansard, at Ottawa, the Federal Government, the Province of P. E. Island records, the various railway systems, the Department of Agriculture and numerous other sources.

Mr. Hemming occasionally knows that his efforts to help us a more prosperous Prince Edward Island as much as he pleases, but the public will not be so easily deceived.

I am, sir, etc. JOHN THE LILACS.

same thing can happen at this time as the subject under discussion are approached in the proper spirit and without recourse to bitterness or personal feeling. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

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at least will rate them at least "an honest attempt at constructive advice" and of more service to the community than certain ventures for private gain that have been promulgated recently but ended nowhere.

A letter (unsolicited) found in Mr. Hemming's office from a retired official of high standing in P. E. Island, who still takes a keen interest in our welfare although removed to another city, reads thus: "I read today with interest your article in the Summerside Journal regarding the post of raising oats on P. E. Island. Evidently our farmers have been 'ploughing' the profits derived from other farm products into the farm to offset their losses on 'oats.' You pointed out several of the past farms throughout the Danish farmers now residing in England come to P. E. Island as government overseers attached to the post of raising oats throughout the province? These men are proven successes in developing any agricultural proposition. The provincial government should look into this possibility."

In closing, may I suggest that in future letters which are not of value or of a constructive nature, be not published. I am, sir, etc. JOHN THE LILACS.

WHAT PRICE GERMANY'S LEADERS?

Sir,—In countries where intrigue and subterfuge are rampant, where the policy of dealing with other nations is based on cruelty, trickery and lies, where secret organizations of informants and espionage are super-active, the results are a seething mass of humanity who know not the word friend, who seemingly have no friends they can trust amongst their own people, even in their own families.

This state of sitting over an active volcano has its reaction on those who are the leaders of such countries, and, as they have shaped the policy, which those nations follow willingly or unwillingly, they are the most untrustworthy of the type who have usurped the powers of leadership by crafty and brutal means, and who by their dictatorial powers retain all the offices vitally important to keep them in those positions.

This situation generally results in a purge from time to time in order to do away with those who might be becoming too popular, or who might be a direct threat to the leaders of such nations, who make sure that any who in their estimation, are becoming in any way a menace to their security as leaders, be they friends or only co-workers, when they are no longer of use to them in gaining their ends; or, if through the restrained undercurrents of feeling, unrest, or more apparent, that undeniable status of oppressed and suppressed actions and emotions breaking out into uncontrolled proportions with those peoples who begin to understand they have been duped, and where they begin to see things are not going along so well for them, then, more than ever comes the purge—the quick killing off or imprisoning of the dictator of the very officials who helped build him.

This is the case in Italy now, where Mussolini has been in a continuous shuffle for some time past working those out of reach who might jeopardize his own position as dictator; by sending them to the front, where they will have to take their chances with the rank and file of the army, he has cleaned house for the time being. This move also includes Count Ciano who aspires to the leadership; the army chiefs who have been relieved of their commands, being more or less in disgrace and not any direct threat to his authority when the trouble in his own country arises.

In Germany we have a more subtle situation. We find three there who to be acclaimed as Dictator would willingly do away with Hitler, if they were sure the time was opportune, and who in their own estimation are even more capable of carrying out a Dictatorship if they could successfully perform a coup de grace to his existence.

If Goebbels or Goering could step into Hitler's shoes by exterminating him, they would gladly do so, they are only waiting their time, Goebbels especially, who is the fawning, sycophantic, vicious, and poisonous as any reptile, who with pro-

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THE TWO MACS 149 Great George Street MAIL ORDERS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION See the picture, "A Little Bit of Heaven" at the Prince Edward Theatre February 12th, 14th and 15th, in aid of the C. W. League.

ope, but has lost its own security in so doing. Hitler does not know what day is his last; neither do any of those others. The thieves have lied so often to their own people and to everyone else so often, that they do not trust each other any longer, they are due for a falling out. Thus we leave those who by their scheming, thieving, and planning have created within their own country a maelstrom of awfulness which will lead them—where? I am, Sir, etc. JOHN THE LILACS.

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