THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1944

Japanese in Canada

What is to be done with Japanese residents of Canada when the war is over? British Columbia, judging by outspoken press comments, is by no means desirous of receiving back the Japanese removed to other parts of the Dominion, and it is doubtful whether they would be encouraged to stay where they now are, even if willing to do so. Tribute is paid to the industry and thrift of these people, but it is commonly asserted that they do not inspire confidence as a race. Apart from those strongly suspected of disloyalty, the different standards of living make successful competition with them almost impossible, it is charged. Moreover, their fanatical belief in their mission as a superior race destined, under a divine ruler, to subjugate the world. East and West, cannot be reconciled with the status of loyal Canadian citizenship. It is not fair, however, to judge all Japanese by the example of extremists, for whom little sympathy need be felt

The problem is not easy of solution, and it is one which is also exercising American public opinion, especially in the state of California, where it is apparently becoming a heated political issue. Mr. Kimmis Hendrick, writing from Los Angeles to the Christian Science Monitor, says it is impossible to escape the conclusion that "some California politicians hope to ride to power on the crest of war-stirred hatred of the Japanese."

All are agreed that strict surveillance will be necessary for the duration of the war. Christian Japanese, not suspected of disloyal sentiments to their adopted country, should not be made the victims of prejudice; but many are of the opinion that none brought up in the Shinto faith can ever be regarded as wholly trustworthy.

Looking to War's End

Proficiency in reading the stars is not necessary to discern a growing belief in official, well-informed circles that the end of the war with Germany is approaching. It may be three, six or twelve months off, and the Allied leaders are justified in warning the public that terrible fighting and heavy sacrifices lie ahead, but these warnings do not negative the conclusion that the ministry at Ottawa foresees the end and is talking in sail here and putting on more sail at other points to meet the change in circumstances that will arise with the end of the German war.

There have been significant developments in recent weeks. War contracts are being cancelled in increasing numbers. Steel and aluminum which are the flesh and blood of the modern fighting machine are now again being made available for civilian uses. The political weather vanes in the Liberal party have also swung in the direction of a general election which Prime Minister King has intimated will come at the conclusion of the war, though he laid no prohibition against an election prior to the war's end. Finance Minister Ilsley has said the time has come to rebuild the ramparts of Liberalism, and Senator Wishart Robertson, President of the National Liberal Federation, has called on the faithful to organize in every constituency and province in Canada. These and other signs of the times are cited by the Monetary Times as indicating that an appeal to the electors is not farr off.

A Catch In It

As quickly as the headquarters of Wartime Prices and Trade Board moved out of a sizable office building in the heart of Ottawa to the block-long structure erected for its purposes on Sussex street the National Liberal organization moved in. Those who are swift on the draw, alert to seize on the symbolism of the situation, might see something hopeful in the picture of democracy having ousted bureaucracy from a permanent office, but there's a catch to this — the price controllers have taken up living in what looks mighty like permanent quarters. True, what the controllers left uptown was the kind of building shoppers regard as a fixture, but the floors and stairs of the new control offices are of the solidest concrete, the stairs protected with iron railings, even though the super-structure is of wood.

The New Tyranny

Walter Lippmann, in "The Good Society," which is a book for these times, gives expression to his astonishment at the craving of men to re-establish the state controls that the reformers of yesterday succeeded in breaking after a struggle lasting for generations. He writes:

"Nearly everywhere the mark of a progressive is that he relies at last upon the increased power of officials to improve the condition of men... The only instrument of progress in which they have faith is the coercive agency of government. They can imagine no alternative, nor can they remember how much of what they cherish as progressive has come by emancipation from political dominion by the limitation of power, by the release of personal energy from authority and collective coercion... The assumptions of this whole movement... are, in fact, contrary to the assumptions bred in men by the whole long struggle to extricate conscience, intellect, labor and personality from the bondage of prerogative, privilege, monopoly, authority. For more than two thousand years the main preoccupation of political thinking has been to find a law which would be superior to arbitrary power ... This is the meaning of a thousand years of struggle to bring the sovereign under a constitution, to establish for the individual and for voluntary associations of men, rights which they can enforce against kings, barons, magnates, majorities and mobs."

Mr. Lippmann seeks a justification for "the gigantic heresy of an apostate generation" and comes to the conclusion after a lengthy examination that none is to be found. Explanations of various kinds are offered; and these can be readily supplemented by other observers of the phenomenon. One such explanation of this eruption of would-be leaders, calling loudly for chains and whips is that in the new world which they are so keen to bring about, they see themselves as the wielders of the whips and the bestowers of the chains. They are to be the barons and the magnates in the new tyranny.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The labor front of today, says Canadian Press, is relatively peaceful with a partial settlement of the strike in the mines at Springhill, N.S. The three examiners who were suspended by the company and whose suspension forced the miners to be idle have been given other duties.

* * * *

The British Export Association revealed in New York Saturday that it "prevented Germany from buying woollens in Spain and Turkey for Nazi soldiers on the Eastern Front by buying it all." Those countries demanded industrial machinery and not money as payment for the woollens and "Britain was able to fulfill these demands."

* * * *

Year-end reports of Vatican activities occupying several columns in the Spanish press shows there are now only 43 cardinals of whom 26 are Italian. The number of cardinals has been fixed at 70 since 1586. There always are a number of vacancies but the death of six cardinals within the last year has reduced the present membership of the Sacred College to its lowest point in centuries.

* * * *

A ripple of excitement was caused in Britain Friday when Mr. Hugh Dalton, president of the Board of Trade, told Belfast factory girls that early next month they would get more clothing coupons. Yet, when pressed for greater detail, he took strong evasive action, refusing to say precisely when it would come about, how generous the increase would be or whether it would apply to the general public. It appeared to some commentators to be a bit of characteristic blarney, forgivable under the circumstances.

* * * *

The lower St. Lawrence and Gaspe dimout, applied in May, was lifted December 15, it is now disclosed in Canadian war orders and regulations. The lifting of the dimout means there are no restrictions on lighting in the area. Government sources were inclined to belief that it was a new assessment of risk, rather than the seasonal slackening of shipping activity in this area, which resulted in the dimout order being rescinded. Naval sources have declined to comment.

* * * *

Baron Georges Eugene Haussmann, civic engineer and town planner, died this date 1891; while prefect of the Seine he devoted his attention to the improvement of Paris, widening its streets, constructing boulevards, destroying old property, opening new streets, constructing children's playgrounds, improving the lighting system, bringing Paris at the time (1870) to be the model city of Europe; the tremendous cost, $175,000,000, led to a controversy which resulted in his resignation, and he died without his plans reaching their completion; owing to the distruction wrought by the Huns 1914-17, another opportunity of reconstruction on model lines presented itself, but there was no Haussmann to take advantage of it.

* * * *

U.S. Director Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information still believes Germany probably will make "a last-ditch fight" because the military and political leaders know surrender will be "condemning themselves to the hangman's noose". "Even when the German people have cracked, as they may be beginning to do now, they probably will be unable to prevail upon their leaders to give up." Davis says. He adds that both the military and the public recognize the fight against Japan will be a long one, but that the successful aerial assaults on Germany and the recent conference of high United Nations leaders have aroused the talk of early peace in Europe.

* * * *

Informatoin from Ottawa to Canadian Grocer is that the pack of canned tomatoes this year will not exceed 1,400,000 cases compared with 2,200,000 last year and 3,000,00 in 1941. This means one of the lowest packs on record and doesn't begin to be sufficient to cover the domestic trade alone apart entirely from the armed forces. The Department of Munitions & Supply has reserved 50 per cent of the total pack, leaving only 700,000 cases to be distributed through the grocery trade to consumers. The tomato juice pack is estimated at something above last year when it was over 2,000,000 cases —maybe close to 2,500,000. Many canners turned to juice this year because it requires less labor.

* * * *

The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph having said that "the Latin temperament attaches particular importance to posts in Government service," the Devoir draws from this one more time-honored parallel between the situation of English Canadians in Quebec Province and the fate of the French Canadian minority in other provinces: "We draw the attention of the Chronicle-Telegraph to an article recently appearing in L'Action Catholique (Dec. 2nd). This paper can certainly not be charged with a policy of one hundred per cent nationalism. In the said article, initialed G. H. D., it is asserted that "twelve federal boards share in the direction of Canadian maritime affairs, in which there are 102 responsible officers and high-grade officials"; and that "of these there are four French Canadians." If the Chronicle Telegraph calls four out of one hundred and two a perfect equality of treatment, it is not difficult. It should herefore check up on the list of provincial commissions where the small English minority of Quebec has not one representative out of three, where they do not happen to have two out of five."

Notes By The Way

Howard Dietz tells the story of the secretary who came to Samuel Goldwyn and said: "Our files are getting so crowded that I'd like your permission to destroy all correspondence over ten years old." "O. K.", said Goldwyn after some thought. "But make copies!"—Saturday Review of Literature.

A government order-in-council has authorized the early issue of a new Canadian nickel, or more accurately a new five-cent piece since it will be made of steel with a chromium finish and contain no war-vital nickel. It will be a welcome replacement for the last two issues of wartime "nickels," made of bronze copper composition with a gaudy gilt finish that tarnished to make the coins look like cents.—Montreal Gazette.

Today we have a tremendously expanded national income. Our problem will be to keep that income nearly as high as at the present time. Certainly it must be higher than pre-war levels. The wise use of the accumulated buying power can be the chief factor in supporting it. This money now being saved can go to buy merchandise. This in turn will keep industry operating thus keeping people gainfully employed and earning good wages. The total result will be support of the national income and a definitely higher standard of living than in the past.—Windsor Star.

Without magnifying out of proportion the significance of Stalin's epaulets, we can see in them one more evidence that the fierce ideological hatreds of the Russian Revolution are burning themselves out. That does not mean the Russian people are disposed to abandon their collectivist economy and government — probably their success in war has convinced them more than ever of its rightness for them; but they are steadily less intolerant of the ways and ideas of the capitalist democracies. Let's put it this way: the epaulet has replaced the chip on the shoulder.—Minneapolis Star Journal.

Unfortunately we haven't much confidence in our ability to rule the world. We do our best to rule Calgary and Alberta and Canada — this being our inescapable responsibility as a voter in this city and this province and this country. But the result isn't what you might call heartening. And we do our best to rule ourself: our work, our finances, our desires. But there, again, we haven't done too well. Indeed, we often doubt if we have enough gubernatorial capacity to rule a goldfish bowl. But now we must rule the world, on account of having a divine mission to do so. Well bring it on: not right now, though: about a week from now. We need a few days to clean up the house, and answer the Christmas mail, and fix one of the windows. Oh yes, and we must compose a carefully-worded cable to a certain gentleman in Moscow, telling him that we fellows in the British Empire are taking over, and that he can go roll his hoop.—R. J. Needham in Calgary Herald.

Can you remember the days of the red flannel shirts and nightgowns and the red flannel petticoat? There was a time when they flourished and in Winter they brought more warmth than any other piece of wearing apparel. Red has always been associated with heat and red flannel certainly had a warming effect. In these modern days red flannel has been seen very rarely, though the woodsmen of Northern Ontario and Quebec like the color and the material and wear it in shirts and underwear. It is because of the warmth of this kind of clothing that those men go through the stiff Winter of the north with little complaint. The Prices Board was wise in making more red flannel available to battle the fuel shortage, for if you wear red flannel clothing close to your body you won't need as much coal in the furnace, or wood in the stove.—Lethbridge Herald.

Necessity, that well - known mother of invention, has been up to her prolific tricks again according to the American Merchant Marine News. This time she has led salvagers to the boilers and fire-boxes of cargo-carrying vessels and revealed a source of vanadium In addition to this hardening agent for steel, flue boxes are yielding large quantities of lampblack needed in the manufacture of paints, varnishes and printer's ink. Vanadium, apparently, is found in the fine dust from oil-burning engines, and this dust is in greater quantities if the vessel uses oil drawn from California, Venezuela. When a ship arrives in port these days its boiler tubes are cleaned and the fire boxes are scraped. The dust is then packed into bags and sold to the highest bidder who extracts the vanadium. Before the war the United States imported most of its vanadium from Northern Rhodesia, South Africa and Peru. The stacks and boilers of countless merchant ships are no wadding substantially to our stocks of a material so badly needed.—New York Sun.

The first Pullman sleeping car was a remodeled coach, built in 1858 and named "No. 9," and a subsequent car was "No. 19", but numbers conflicted with railroad car designations, so it became necessary to give each car a definite name, says The Toronto Telegram. The first complete sleeping car, built by George M. Pullman in 1865, was aptly called the "Pioneer," but as the fleet grew rapidly in size, a systematic nomenclature plan became necessary. As the plan developed, a special series of names was devised to enable railroad and Pullman men to identify certain cars quickly as to their accommodations. For example, all Pullman car names preceded by "Mt." or "Mountain" are observation cars containing 10 sections. The "Lake" series contain 10 sections, a drawing room and two compartments. The 10 section—two drawing room and two compartments. The 10 section—two drawing room cars — are named "Points," such as "Point Hope," etc. Parlor cars originally bore feminine names of flowers and birds to distinguish them but today manw of these cars are named after the cities and towns along the lines of the railroads on which they serve. When the Pullman Company bought Wagner Sleeping Car Company years ago, it was discovered that about 300 of the Wagner cars bore names duplicated among the thousands of Pullmans. Richmond Dean, then a vice- president of Pullman, took a corps of clerks to the Chicago Public Library, delved into ancient Greek and Roman history and there was a wholesale rechristening of Wagner cars within 24 hours, which accounted for such Pullman names as "Diogenes" and "Sophocles."

P.E.I. FOXES

Fox farming began in 1894 on Prince Edward Island.

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.

RURAL HOMES

Sir,— I was interested in reading the Guardian's leading editorial, covering a "Survey of Farm Homes" made in Saskatchewan by the economics division of the Federal Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan.

This reader concurs in your view that "the hoped-for better day for the farm population must include an improvement in housing conditions, and the national housing scheme to be undertaken after the war will undoubtedly provide assistance for rural homes."

Your urban readers may be interested in a glance at the following paragraph from a brief prepared by the organised farmers in the west spotlighting this same theme of "Rural Housing."

"There are rural slums which are as black a blot on our civilization as our city slums; but, because unwholesome and substandard farm houses are not congested in one spot as they are in our cities, the serious defects of rural housing in many parts of Canada are not recognized. Less than 5 per cent of our prairie farm homes have bathroom facilities. Less than 2 per cent have flush toilets; between five and seven per cent have electric lights; the average number of rooms is between four and five in the prairies; and only between seven and sixteen per cent of our Canadian farm homes have furnaces — a serious hardship during our long cold winters. . . . The elimination of unsanitary and uncomfortable farm shacks should have a prominent place in our post-war planning."

It seems to me that the foregoing facts indicate the need of something in the nature of a "New Deal" for the farm home, following V . . .—

I am, Sir, etc.
A WESTERNER.

Montgomery

(Ottawa Journal)

General Montgomery is by no means the conventional soldier. Thus he could talk as he did in an Italian theatre to a gathering of officers and men of his immortal 8th Army as he left them for a new and most important command in England, could address to the troops a farewell message personal and touching.

In fact the essence of General Montgomery's successful relationship with his army in this personal touch. He spoke of it himself in that dramatic appearance in the battered little theatre. The human factor, he said, was the first essential to success in war. Men won battles, not machines, he pointed out, and he said that never in his command of the 8th Army had he issued a written order to his subordinate generals.

"Command must be personal and it must be verbal; otherwise it will have no success, because it is wrapped up in the human factor How can a soldier know what is wanted unless you tell him clearly and personally?"

And on this point, General Montgomery quoted from the New Testament words which should guide generals, military experts—and editorial writers:

"Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood how shall it be known what 's spoken?"

It is worth quoting a bit more extensively than did the General. This comes from the fourteenth chapter of the first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians:

"And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

"So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

"Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me."

* * * *

General Montgomery long since took these words to heart. He told his generals, and the word was passed down, so that the last soldier in the ranks knew the general scheme of battle, knew what he was expected to do. Montgomery promised his army victory, and victory it won. He said he would chase the Germans out of Africa, and they were chased out. When he tells the soldiers now that the war is approaching its climax they know these are not idle words.

In this heart-to-heart talk General Montgomery recalled the days when he took up his command. Things "were not good . . . some might say they were very bad." They told him the 8th Army was in imminent danger of an attack by Rommel, plans for a new retreat were being worked out, and a transfer of headquarters to Cairo.

"It was clear the Army required a firm lead. The 8th required somebody to say to it: 'If we are attacked we will find where we are—we will fight here.' And once that had been said there was no further trouble."

Just twice afterwards in the long advance from El Alamein to Tunis were there times when Montgomery had what he calls "anxious moments" — although it was his "great endeavor to conceal that fact from anybody." The first was when Tripoli was the immediate objective, the British lines were thin and extended, and had the Germans been able to hold the 8th Army might have had to retreat, perhaps for hundreds of miles. Again at the Mareth Line the British lines were "very weak and very stretched" when Rommel attacked. Said the General:

"It is interesting to note how everyone had forgotten to fight a defensive battle. I even found generals looking up in their textbooks how to fight a defensive battle."

But they learned quickly, and held, and Rommel again took up the long retreat. Montgomery the advance which cleared Africa of the enemy, which has taken him far towards Rome. Now he goes to a new assignment—to command the British troops, under General Eisenhower, in the invasion of the heart of German Europe. That is a post richly to be served by his experience, (his shrewd competence, his tradition of success, his great quality of inspiring the respect and confidence of those who fight under him—and those of us who are anxiously watching.

ESCAPED PRISONERS JAR GERMAN NERVES

LONDON, —(CP)— A whole German regiment had to be diverted, the Germans themselves have confessed, against British prisoners of war who escaped after Italy's surrender and operated as guerillas behind the German lines.

Anton Weber, German front line reporter, in a broadcast heard here by Reuters told how the German had to seek out the British guerillas in the mountains.

"Our men made a perilous climb up into the mountains, in mist and snow waist deep," Weber said "Their clother froze on their bodies."

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GOVERNMENT PLANS TOURS AFTER WAR

LONDON, —(CP)— The government, in co-operation with the Youth Hostels Association, is working out a plan to give demobilized men and women paid tours in the British Empire, North America, Russia and European countries while Britain is switching from war to peace conditions.

"The plan is for the government to give an educational bonus, perhaps in addition to any demobilization grant, to ex-servicemen and women who want to visit the Dominions and Allied countries," said T. H. Harvey, M.P. and a Hostels Association executive.

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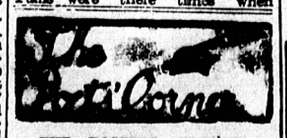

THE PASSING FLOWER

In Baalbec there were lovers
Who plucked the passing flower;
In Sidon and Palmyra
Each flushed, immortal hour

Was gathered in the passing;
In Greece and Rome they knew
That from the living Present
The whitest blossoms grew.

The countless generations
Like Autumn leaves go by:
Love only is eternal
Love only does not die. . . .

I hear the dying nations
Go by on phantom feet—
But still the rose is fragrant.
And still a kiss is sweet!

—Harry Kemp.