

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1940.

Wanted: More Martial Music

A Canadian Press cable from London announces that military bands, sorely lacking in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the Empire since the outbreak of the war, are coming back.

This is an example which might well be followed in Canada, especially now that steps are being taken to recruit men for the armed services on a large scale.

"Our method of recruiting during the present war differs in a number of material respects from the method of recruiting which was followed in the last war.

There are few of us here who cannot remember the recruiting meetings, the marching bands and the recruiting sergeants seeking men to enlist in their units.

The situation existing prior to the outbreak of war has no relevancy whatever today, and the best-laid scheme of officers of the Department based on the kind of war that was envisaged up until the over-running of France and Belgium would be unlikely to fit in with present requirements.

All Ready But The Boat

In his broadcast on Friday night, Premier Campbell referred to the fact that two successive ships which were purchased for the Wood Islands-Caribou ferry service have been requisitioned for war purposes.

The question as to when this service would be in operation was raised the other day in the Senate by Hon. C. E. Tanner of Pictou. Hon. Raoul Dandurand, Government leader in the Upper Chamber, gave no direct reply but referred the question to the Department of Transport.

Mr. Dandurand also stated, in reply to Senator Tanner's inquiries, that the distance by water from Caribou to Wood Island is 16.47 miles, and that there remains \$1,000 to be expended on water services at Wood Islands, and \$16,577 at Caribou on construction works, and \$2,500 on water services and ticket office at the Nova Scotia terminal.

A Surprising Appointment

Not from a Conservative source but from the Winnipeg Free Press, leading Liberal newspaper of Western Canada, comes the following editorial comment:

"The announcement that Maj.-Gen. L. R. LaFleche has been appointed one of two deputy ministers of the new department of national war services will be received with astonishment and dismay.

"As a private citizen, Maj.-Gen. LaFleche no doubt is held in high esteem. But his record as a public servant holds little to warrant his present appointment. He entered the public service in 1930 as a member of the pension appeal court. He joined the Department of National Defence in 1932 as Deputy Minister.

"During his regime the Defence Department did not command the confidence of the public, and it was due to public criticism from one end of Canada to the other that he was removed from office.

"The reasons for his failure, apart altogether from his technical competence, of which the Free Press does not pretend to judge, were of a kind which inevitably will operate in any important post. His contacts with the public were unfortunate. His outbursts before the House of Commons committee of inquiry in 1939 were all incredible. He was intolerant of criticism,

He demonstrated himself to be unsuited to be a public servant of high rank.

"Now he has been recalled to Ottawa to take over a senior position. The duties of the new department have not yet been clearly defined, but of their importance there can be no doubt."

Under war conditions, the Free Press concludes, when large numbers of people, often on a moment's notice, are called into the public service but appointments are inevitable. But the appointment of Maj.-Gen. LaFleche is surprising since his shortcomings as a public servant were well known.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It evidently does not do to let the public think that if any man kills another he may escape the consequences by enlisting as a patriot.

It is really cheering and heartening to see the volunteers marching to the railway to the stirring martial strains of West Kent School Band, under the able direction of Bandmaster Hines.

It is reported, quite unofficially and altogether off the record, that Prince County, having gone overwhelmingly dry in the plebiscite has a right to lose two vendors stores.

We are now in the last half of July, our outstanding summer month. Reports are that the North Shore hotels are being more largely patronized than ever, though the numbers of U. S. A. visitors are fewer.

Field Marshal Lord Plumer died this date, 1932. He commanded the 2nd Army B. E. F. in France during the last War and the Army of the Rhine 1918-19. For his distinguished services he was awarded the G. C. M. G. and G. C. B., raised to the peerage, and received a grant of \$150,000.

Rumour hath it, and of course rumour may still enjoy the reputation of being "a lying jade," that the doctors, in retaliation for reduced scripts, will increase their fee for scripts from 50c to \$2—the latter being the correct, ethical fee charged by doctors for patients who consult them in their own office.

Exports of hides and skins other than fur skins are now subject to license by the wartime Prices and Trade Board, according to another announcement. This action, which brings all export shipments of this class under scrutiny of the Hides and Leather Administrator, Maurice Samson, is taken to ensure adequate supplies both of raw materials and finished products.

It appears that Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, the novelist, spent three weeks huddled with 500 other refugees in a small coal boat before being able to cross from France to England. He escaped from Paris shortly before the German occupation. "We had practically nothing to eat," he said. "Sleep was out of the question. I am too tired and exhausted to tell you much about my experiences for the present."

The British Government must realize that in meeting the Germans in conflict they are not meeting opponents who know or recognize the rules of cricket. The Germans must be fought with any weapon they choose to use.

As a result of rainy and unusually cold weather for the time of year during the two weeks previous to June 28, crop prospects in Quebec province which earlier in the season seemed very promising are now doubtful, according to the third telegraphic report of the season just issued by the agricultural division of the Provincial Bureau of Statistics.

The question of whether a Cabinet Minister's word in the House is to be relied upon was the subject of discussion in the Senate. It was whether the John Inglis Company of Toronto was six months ahead of schedule or not of supplying Bren guns. Conservative Leader Meighen claimed that the Government's information office had been misleading the public when it said the company was six months ahead of its contractual obligations.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Don't forget that every time British troops have come into contact with German troops in this war they have secured the ground, no matter how heavy the odds against them.

The Norwegian hospital ship Brand IV was heavily bombed by German airplanes off Alesund and five persons were killed, including a doctor, while many others were injured. A cinematograph photo was taken of the incident.

One cannot help wondering just what and how great were the emotional satisfactions in Hitler's strange soul as he took his revenge in the dining car at Compiègne. He had waded through the blood of a million men, women and children to taste the sweets of that moment; the shrieks of the dying and the agony of the oppressed had attended every step.

War-time economy may solve a vexed question about the eating of asparagus, now reported to be "as good as plentiful as cabbages," and so it is in a manner which would have had the approval of Dean Swift.

On July 4, 1840 the first of the transatlantic Cinard steamships, the 1,140-ton Britannia, carrying Her Majesty's mails and 63 passengers, sailed from Liverpool to New York.

If the United States can accept with a mere "thank you" the \$150,000 which Finland gave as its June debt payment the American capacity for absorbing shame must be indeed colossal.

The British government may have been adopting a transparent strategy when in the face of fresh appeasement talk seeping into the American press over the week end it placed Mr. Neville Chamberlain in the one man above all others whose name has meant "appeasement" to the English-speaking world.

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While poverty is responsible for a great deal of malnutrition, probably far more results from ignorance of the importance and nature of rational feeding, and unnecessary expenditure on unwholesome or even harmful foods.

ENGLAND

Another year!—another deadly blow! Another mighty Empire overthrown! And we are left, or shall be left, alone; The last that dare to struggle with the foe.

Vanguard of Liberty, ye men of Kent, Ye children of a Soil that doth advance Her haughty brow against the coast of France, Now is the time to prove your hardiment!

The power of Armies is a visible thing, Formal, and circumscribed in time and space; But who the limits of that power shall trace Which a brave People into light can bring.

What if our numbers barely could defy The arithmetic of babes, must foreign hordes, Slaves, vile as ever befooled by words, Striking through English breasts the anarchy Of Terror, bear us to the ground, and tie Our hands behind our backs with felon cords?

It is to be thought of that the Flood Of British freedom, which, to the open sea Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity Hath flowed, "with pomp of waters, unwithstood," Roused though it be full often to a mood Which spurns the check of salutary bands,

That this most famous Stream in bogs and sands Should perish; and to evil and to good Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung Armoury of the invincible Knights of old: That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold While Milton held.—In every thing we are sprung Of Earth's first blood, have titles manifold.

that Ottawa should have deferred action by cancelling the Porter & Sons' contract. It is felt that the actual amount of money that would have to be paid for the completion of the contract would be more than made up in the saving of freight rates to Great Britain by carrying food directly across the ocean instead of by rail to Halifax.

There is, however, another and equally important aspect of this whole question of retrenchment. For Canada to do her share in winning the war will call for the levying upon our people of a very heavy taxation as well as of large loans from the Canadian public.

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