

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1944

Soviet Attitude Reassuring

It is reassuring to note the attitude of Marshal Stalin, as expressed in a recent speech, with regard to plans for post-war peace and security.

Declaring that the decisions made at Tehran for joint blows of the United Nations against Germany had been carried out with "amazing precision," Marshal Stalin said:

"There can be no doubt that, but for the launching of the second front in Europe which engaged up to 75 German divisions, our armies would not have been able to overcome German resistance in such a short time and to expel them from the Soviet Union."

"These statements are in line with articles which have been appearing in Information Bulletin, a publication issued by the Soviet Embassy at Washington. In one of these articles, dealing with the results of the Moscow conversations between Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, the Bulletin says:

A Poor Alibi

This battle over conscription for draftees is bad enough, says the Windsor Star, without responsible authorities using sham alibis for failure to make use of the troops.

One of the latest of these is the argument that many of the home defence men are engaged in "sedentary" duties, and so are not in physical shape for active service.

If high category men are in such occupations, an explanation is due. The draft was introduced for the avowed purpose of raising a force to defend Canada, not to perform clerical duties.

Any "A" men who have been permitted to "go soft" in offices, suggests the Star, should be jerked out of there at once. Obviously they would not be physically fit to go overseas immediately, but they should be put in training and hardened up as quickly as possible, so that they will be in shape for active service if and when the decision is made that they are needed at the front.

The Navy Minister's Position

According to the Globe and Mail, there is much speculation as to why Hon. Angus Macdonald, Minister of the Navy, did not resign from the King Cabinet simultaneously with his fellow-Nova Scotian and close friend, Col. Ralston. He has never made it any secret that he disapproves of the retention of the "Zombie" army in Canada, and has long favored the removal of the existing limitations upon military conscription.

If the English language has any meaning, Mr. Macdonald more than two years ago was publicly expressing his disapproval of the anti-conscription pledge by which most of his colleagues chose to consider themselves fettered.

There is no evidence that his views have changed, and his convictions on the subject of military policy must have been strengthened by the reports brought back by Col. Ralston about the situation on the fighting fronts in regard to reinforcements.

It may be that Mr. Macdonald has preferred to delay his resignation until the success of the Seventh Victory Loan is assured. In the end his sense of public duty may assert itself, and he may wash his hands of all further responsibility for a policy of cowardly evasion with which he never has had any sympathy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

During the five years of the war, London's Trunk Exchange telephone operators have handled 150,000,000 calls, remaining on duty during all types of enemy raids.

The Provincial Government having no liquid surplus, borrowed \$500,000 from the Bank to help out the Victory Bond campaign. Why can't individuals, whose credit is good, go and do likewise?

Under British criminal legislation, juveniles are not treated as prisoners, but are sent to Borstal institutions, where their mental, physical and moral development are supervised by experts. According to the latest reports, 63.5 per cent of boys discharged after from one to three years of this treatment never again break the law.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R. A., F. R. I., B.A., D.C.L., British architect, born this date 1880, designed the Cambridge University Library which was opened in 1934; an extension of the Bodleian Library, Oxford; other works included Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, new nave of Downside Abbey, new work at Appledworth Abbey, restoration of Chester Cathedral, and new buildings at Clare College, Cambridge; president of the Royal Institute of British Architects 1933-5.

Le Droit, Ottawa, has this significant interpretation of the situation at Ottawa: "This Cabinet crisis has well and truly been a fight among those who are in favor of military conscription for overseas. Those who want this done indirectly have carried the day against those who favor the more direct method. The defeat of direct conscription, however, will please French-speaking Canadians. Politically, Mr. King could not have taken any other stand than the one he has taken. To have given way would have meant sealing his political fate at the next general elections even before they were held." Again, politics and personal interests before principle and patriotism.

Since the outbreak of war more than 26,000 members of the Dominion Forces have married British women while stationed in Britain. Canadians alone have married 25,000, Australians about 800, and New Zealanders approximately 860. Of the Australians, almost all are airmen, and their wives must wait in Britain until the war is over. Then their passage to Australia will be paid by the Australian Government. The Navy, on the other hand, accounts for 300 of New Zealand's total—an average of a marriage a week—while the Army had 100 weddings and the Airman 462. The 25,000 Canadians include all forces and ranks, but every man must have 200 dollars before he can marry and must wait three months after permission to marry has been granted. Both parties of the marriage, too, must undergo a medical examination.

Canada's butter stocks have been reduced below the level of last month and are much lower than they were a year ago. Creamery butter stocks in nine of Canada's principal cities at the opening of business November 1 totalled 43,052,737 pounds compared with 45,791,805 on October 1 and 48,739,549. Some of the previous reductions were followed by cuts in the weekly butter ration, but the Prices Board has not indicated that new cuts in ration were imminent. Cheese stocks on October 1 totalled 37,869,687 pounds compared with 45,144,235 on October 1 and 40,463,681 on November 1, 1943. Stocks of cold storage eggs amounted to 1,376,800 dozen compared with 3,487,947 a month ago and 195,466 on November 1, 1943. Fresh eggs in store amounted to 1,045,682 dozen compared with 2,310,281 on October 1, while frozen egg stocks totalled 32,590,324 pounds compared with 33,675,181 on October 1 and 11,139,975 on November 1, 1943.

Canada must refrain from national vanity and should, like the poets, learn to think in universal terms of the horrors and sacrifice of war. In this way, said Mr. P. J. Philip, Ottawa correspondent of The New York Times, speaking to the Montreal Douglas Ladies' Literary Society, she will make a better contribution to a post-war brotherhood of man. Canada should find it easy, he continued, to acknowledge the good qualities of other peoples for she has had, in her many overseas contingents, representatives of every Allied nation. He explained that he had, in the spring of this year, crossed the Atlantic on board the Queen Elizabeth with 16,000 other passengers. Quarters being cramped it had been his custom to stay on deck where he and a companion had spent the time discussing and reciting poetry. Mr. Philip read some of these verses which, he said, illustrated the trend of poetical thought during this war is personal rather than national in sentiment. One of the best examples, he claimed, was the soldier's prayer before battle—Stay With Me, God—and he also read others voicing prayers for courage, and for strength not to fail a fellow man in the hour of strife. "There is pride in England," he said, "but no vanity and the people are turning more and more to a personal God." He added that a sense of humor is still outstanding, and read verses and related anecdotes of London establishing this English quality.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the expression of views on the conditions of the Charlottetown Guardian and is not intended to discuss the editorial content of the paper.

HIGH IDEALS AND SCREENS FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

Mr.—As I listened to Dr. J. McMillan's talk on physical and mental health education for the school children of P. E. I. over the radio Tuesday night, it came to me how idealistic even his sensible suggestions were, in face of actual conditions on the island.

Frequent check-ups by doctors and nurses, lessons in nutrition, physical development through exercise and games; good lighting, good heating and school rooms that would be models of beauty and comfort and meanness for our children are entitled to all this—but—?

I remember one day in September when I visited a rural school house. There were no screens and because of that, only one window was open though the air was stifling. Through that window the flies came in droves. They were as thick upon the children as honey comb. I can't forget one little fellow with some eruption on his face—and flies—

I left just a few feet away. The sanitation was appalling! Upon inquiry I found that there are a great many rural schools without screens and with just such toilet facilities.

I say, let us work toward attaining those objects outlined by Dr. McMillan. We cannot hope to do so within the next two or three years, but we can set ourselves a very modest goal for the very next year. Screens in every school-room window—a screened door where needed, and sanitary toilets, are within the immediate reach of every school but without them the health program in our schools is meaningless.

I am, Sir, etc. RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK

Notes By The Way

The dollar is cheaper than it was before the war, but we hope the income tax collector doesn't find that out.—Chatham News.

Churchill warns us that the Nazis may surrender a little at a time instead of all at once. It is a little like the Allies' plans for a big V-day celebration.—New Yorker.

A whirling dithering valled through an open window and fell to the street below. Fortunately he landed on his head and consequently will not ill effects.—Ottawa Citizen.

Some enterprising manufacturer of women's handbags will soon turn out one just a little bit larger than the others. It will be made of a strong material, can be carried over the shoulder, and will have an inside pocket.—Winnipeg Tribune.

"The old lady, as I've said, was very devout, and she said, shaking her head, 'I'm afraid this war may have been put on us because we haven't been all we should have been in the past.' 'How,' I asked, 'and got a surprising reply. 'Well, for one thing, she said, 'we didn't finish off the Germans as we ought to have done when we had the chance last year. Tom Clarke, in the BBC overseas Letter From London, is responsible for this gem.

The struggle for freedom is a fight to the finish until the gangsters are knocked out. That will take stamina and weapons. Canadian fighting men are contributing their share to the victory. We need cause, and Canada's civilians can help to provide the weapons against the enemy.—Hamilton Spectator.

English racing stallion Zalmis arrived in Australia after a long and stormy voyage. In his box, which was lashed to the deck, was smashed to matchwood, and washed overboard, but Zalmis was found by the crew on the open deck balancing himself like an expert as the ship pitched and rolled.—Australian News Letter.

Oranges from South Africa are beginning to arrive in this country. Colonel Llewellyn, Minister of Food, expects there will be sufficient supplies to give a distribution of 1 lb. of oranges for each ration book between now and Christmas. At present oranges are being distributed to holders of children's ration books in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England.—London Times

Perhaps the 'healthful' New Brunswick climate has something to do with it. We aren't sure. But we are sure that if you want to live to be a hundred years old you have a better chance in this than in other provinces. We say that because so many people in this part of the country do manage to attain great ages. There was one of our citizens, for instance, who took a new job as harbourmaster of Charlottetown on his 100th birthday, and celebrated his 104th birthday by playing his fiddle at a dance. We can boast the oldest lighthouse keeper, the oldest active steam-driver (he's driven logs every spring for 55 years).—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Poets' Corner

FIRST SNOWFALL
Falling, falling, falling,
Soft as the wind of night,
The snow floats down from the
pearl-gray sky,
Leaving a world of white.

Softly, softly, softly,
Soft as the touch of sleep,
It falls in a silent monotone,
On a world in slumber deep.

Drifting, drifting, drifting,
Down through the frosted air,
It drifts with the sigh of the
weeping wind,
Leaving a landscape fair.
—Robert Millar.

The Electoral College

(Winnipeg Free Press)
To most Canadians, the indirect method of electing the president of the United States through the electoral college is always a mystery. That is not surprising when one considers the history of the system, the abandonment of the high-minded purpose that put it in the constitution, and the way in which it now works.

Originally, the electoral college was intended to be a body of men especially chosen for their independence and integrity, to whom was entrusted the great responsibility of choosing the chief executive in the government of the United States. The election was to be taken out of the field of political activity by the framers of the constitution. They did not want the president elected by popular vote with the choice influenced by the excitement of an election and by surging tides of public feeling. The president was to have great powers and responsibilities. He was to represent the nation and to be above politics.

Hence, the indirect system of electing him, or the double election was adopted. The people were to elect men of a high type from all the states, and they were to choose the president, free from political considerations and having no relative grasp of party loyalties. He was to represent the nation and to be above politics.

The individual states were to choose, in any way they preferred, a number of "electors" equal to the whole number of their members of both House of Congress.

The electors never met at Washington, but at first the electors of each state met separately after a presidential election and voting independently, they indicated their choice for president. But in a few years, party lines became clearly marked and the people came to choose the "electors" as well as their representatives in Congress, according to their party affiliations.

The electors were chosen by the state legislatures at first in many of the states; then they came to be elected directly by the people in all states. They are elected from the whole state and not from electoral divisions like the members of Congress. The result is that the party that wins the most votes for that state is cast, solely for that party's candidate for president. This is so, say the states now cast bloc votes for the presidency.

The small states have relatively more influence in the election of the president. That is because the small state has relatively more members in the two houses of Congress than the large state. It elects members to the House of Representatives every state, small or large, elects two members to the Senate. Hence any party that gains the support of most of the small states could elect the president with a minority of the popular vote, and that has actually occurred.

The failure of the original plan laid down for the election of the president was like the failure of the original intention in the establishment of the Canadian Senate. The members were to act in an independent, non-partisan way in dealing with legislation coming from the House of Commons, and they were chosen on a territorial basis to represent the provinces. They were to be out of politics and therefore they were appointed for life. But every one knows how that plan has miscarried.

In his American Commonwealth, noted that the work of the "electors" is merely a far-fetched device of a presidential election under a pledge to choose the president. They were intended to be chosen for their better qualities than the masses, to select an able and honorable man for president. But the electors have become just a cog in the machine of the personal qualification machine. Their decisions are a matter of indifference to the people.

They have no discretion and are chosen to vote for a particular candidate. They are chosen to choose the president, the thing that the men of 1787 tried to prevent.

But the people of the United States think that there is much to be said for the present system. They believe that, commendable as were the intentions of the framers of the constitution, the direct vote is more democratic and therefore preferable to the idealistic system of the double election in choosing the president.

Attention
Truss Wearers
To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a truss we ask the question: Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out-of-date style—merely its usefulness so far as support and causing untold agony, then we can continue suffering when we can afford to stop by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up-to-date one from the large assortment we just received! All sizes and styles at prices to suit everybody.

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Notice of Annual Meeting of Progressive Conservative Association

The Annual Meeting of the Queens County Progressive Conservative Association will be held in the B. I. S. Hall on Grafton Street on Friday the 17th day of November A. D. 1944 at the hour of 8 P. M. The Chairman of each Poll in the County is kindly requested to call a meeting of his Poll and have FIVE accredited Delegates appointed to attend the said meeting. The Delegates from each Electoral District are asked to meet in the Hall at 7:30 to appoint their Executive for the ensuing year. All Progressive Conservative Voters are invited to be present.

MAJOR T. B. ROGERS, President. J. A. McDONALD, K.C., Secretary.

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