

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1939.

Cabinet Representation

It is interesting to note, on the authority of our local contemporary, that this Province suffers an "injustice" when it is deprived of representation in the Dominion Cabinet.

Well, we had cabinet representation continuously under the Meighen and Bennett Governments, in the person of one of our own Island members, Hon. John A. MacDonald; and it was not until the King Government came back in 1926 that "injustice" was perpetrated, and we went without a cabinet member until the dying days of the Government in 1930, when Hon. Cyrus Macmillan was appointed Minister of Fisheries in the pre-election cabinet shuffle. This eleventh-hour gesture of repentance didn't impress the electors, and so the new Minister as well as the King Government went down to defeat. Our cabinet representation was then restored by Premier Bennett and we continued to enjoy it until the Conservatives were defeated in 1935.

It was thought, in view of the emphasis placed on Hon. Cyrus Macmillan's unquestioned ability that he would have been renominated as Liberal candidate at that time; but he was double-crossed. The convention was sprung two years before the election, while Dr. Macmillan was recovering from a serious illness, and the result was the nomination of Mr. Peter Sinclair in his place.

What happened our cabinet representation then? Did Mr. Sinclair obtain the coveted place? Did the deserving and experienced Mr. A. E. MacLean get a look-in? At the time there was strong representation made by the Fishermen's Union as well as by prominent Island Liberals to have Mr. MacLean appointed Minister of Fisheries in the new King Government. There was no question as to his qualifications for the job, but Mr. King turned him down cold. (That was his gratitude to the County which harbored him when he himself was looking for a seat!) Not only did we get no portfolio appointment, but no representation of any kind in the King Government. And it was argued by our contemporary at that time that cabinet representation didn't matter much, after all, and that a representative would really have more time to devote to his constituents if he were out of the Cabinet.

Be that as it may be, we remained the only Province unrepresented in the King Cabinet until it became necessary to find a seat for Finance Minister Dunning. When Mr. Dunning relinquished his portfolio we heard nothing further about Cabinet representation until a seat had to be found for his successor, Colonel Ralston, who has accepted nomination at the hands of the executives of the Prince County Liberal Associations with quite understandable alacrity.

We have no concern with how Liberals run their nominations, but one thing is as clear as a pike-staff: The whole record of the King Government in the matter of P. E. I. cabinet representation has been one of political expediency, without the slightest regard either for the claims of local talent or the interests of the Province. Why otherwise have resident Liberal members failed repeatedly to "make the grade," and been turned down in favor of necessitous outsiders?

Premier Hepburn's Example

A patriotic example has been set to other government leaders, federal and provincial, by the formerly much-criticized Premier Hepburn. After announcing that the Ontario Legislature would meet on Jan. 10, Mr. Hepburn at once got in touch with Colonel George Drew, Conservative leader in the province, and disclosed to him "all major legislation so far considered by the Government."

This gesture undoubtedly will make for smoother legislative action and more intelligent co-operation from the Opposition party in Ontario. It does not mean, of course, that Premier Hepburn has rid himself of any part of his responsibility for government legislation and administration. Nor does it mean that the Opposition leader has surrendered any of his right or duty of criticism because he has been given a pre-view of the sessional programme. But it shows a "laudable desire on the part of the Government leader to lay his cards on the table; a desire inspired, no doubt, by the gravity of the war-time task which Canada has assumed and in support of which all the provinces have pledged their loyal support and co-operation.

The Polish Conquest

A special article in the Globe and Mail describes what actually happened to bring Poland so speedily to defeat. The individual details are not new, but taken together they make a striking picture. With only thirty-five divisions to man her virtually unfortified frontiers, Poland was prevented from rallying her forces by the swift and widely spaced Nazi motorized offensive. Planes worked with tanks to sever communication lines and the bulk of the Polish forces never did get into position. Authoritative sources estimate that Germany used sixty divisions, having fifteen times as many motorized units as the defenders. These were supported by 2,000 aircraft, more than 55 per cent of which were bombers. In the first ten days of the war, those bombers had raided fifty-two different towns and cities, reaching almost to the Soviet frontier. The Poles had 300 planes, only 40 of which were bombers, with which to

fight back. Yet for all the superiority of the German forces, and without discounting the precision with which the machines rolled forward, it was Russia which smashed the Polish defense. Sending an estimated 100 divisions against the defenders' rear, the Reds cut off all possibility of retreat to those areas where the Polish forces might have managed to dig in and drag the war out a few weeks, and possibly months, longer. From the estimated cost of the campaign to the invaders can be drawn at least a partial explanation of Nazi hesitancy on the Western Front. The German casualties are said to have been 180,000 killed and wounded, 1,000 pilots, 400 aircraft and about 1,000 tanks. The figures are all credited to Italian sources, and although not as high as some estimates, are taken as reasonably accurate.

Short though Poland's struggle may have been, it was not as ineffective as it may have seemed. Those four weeks allowed the Allies to prepare their defenses and choose the initial positions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Andrew Carnegie born this date, 1835. "Put all your eggs in one basket, and then watch the basket."

Dr. Fred W. Routley, national commissioner of the Red Cross has gone to England to direct the establishment of the Society's overseas organization in advance of the arrival of the first Canadian troops.

This from the New York Times speaks for itself: "Copenhagen, Denmark, Nov. 20.—The fur business has proved a good investment for Norway. One silver fox farm declared a 140 per cent dividend for last season and today an offer of \$9,000 was made for one animal of the finest silver fox breeding type, but the bid was not accepted."

A workman, having finished his job on the Westwall, was taken to the Telefonkum Station at Berlin to broadcast a little speech. According to The London Times' interceptor, he said: "We are trembling for the safety of our Führer. If something should happen to him through the fault of Britain, then we should have no one left in Germany to keep us calm. That, Mr. Churchill, might cost you your life."

The Rt. Hon. Alfred Duff Cooper, former British First Lord of the Admiralty now says the British people have confidence in the Chamberlain government. This he attributes to the fact that Ministers Churchill and Anthony Eden are in the Cabinet. Mr. Chamberlain's appeasement policy was costly, he declares, as it lost to the Allies the Czech army of thirty-five divisions, the best equipped in Europe. But he neglected to add that it saved the invasion of Britain and France while still suffering the consequences of pacifistic disarmament.

Dr. George D. Porter, veteran director of the men students' health service at the Toronto University, says from his measuring and weighing experience of freshman classes since 1920 that the average height has jumped 1.34 inches—from five feet eight inches to five feet 9.34 inches—and the average weight has increased 6.1-2 pounds—from 138 to 144.1-2. Upper Canada College provides practical proof of this upward trend. It has replaced the usual six-foot bed by a seven-footer because the boy's feet were hanging over the ends.

The danger of bacterial wilt infection from potatoes and used potato bags imported from the mainland, to which reference was made in these columns recently, is being given serious consideration by the Provincial Department of Agriculture in consultation with representatives of the inspection and fruit and vegetable divisions, and growers generally. It is not too much to say that the future of the potato industry in Prince Edward Island depends upon prompt action being taken to combat this menace, and on the authorities receiving the fullest cooperation from all concerned.

Mr. W. J. Cameron of Ford's organization has been lambasting what he called the destructive assaults on business made by the new breed of demagogical politicians. These "fanatics," he said, framed a "planned economy" that would regiment business and the people in general and at the same time bring about redistribution of wealth by taxing the rich to the point of ruin for the benefit of the poor. This Mr. Cameron called a clever vote-getting scheme which the politicians believed would keep them in power long enough to achieve their purpose of making over America. He added that the people had learned that this plan meant "soaking the poor" rather than the rich, by increasing unemployment and that as a result they had turned against it.

A British Officer returning from Tibet reports that he saw a group of Tibetans cutting up a corpse and cooking and eating it. On another occasion the officer came across a large flat stone which was surrounded with bones and skeletons. There were a lot of hungry-looking dogs hanging about. Several Tibetans who were with him became wildly excited. They flung themselves lengthwise on the stone and rolled along it, chanting a peculiar hymn. These proceedings naturally excited his curiosity. He was told that the slab was used by the Tibetans of the locality to cut up the bodies of dead persons. The flesh was then thrown to the dogs.

One of the important steps taken by the Canadian Government since the outbreak of war has been to establish an Agricultural Supplies Committee, says Canada's Weekly. Working in co-operation with the Provinces, the purpose of this body is "to mobilize the Canadian agricultural industry in order to facilitate the maximum export of agricultural supplies to Great Britain and her Allies and to insure domestic requirements." All the Provinces have joined in placing their agricultural resources at the disposal of the Federal Government, in order to assist the allied cause. Furthermore, the recently organized Western Committee on Markets and Agriculture Readjustment has offered its services with a view to securing the mobilization of the resources of the Prairie Provinces and their most effective use

NOTES BY THE WAY

France is bound to Great Britain by the closest bonds not only of friendship but of self-interest. Happily there is not the slightest indication that the French will listen to the siren voice, urging a separate peace, for the people of France are realistic enough to know if such a course were followed and resulted in the destruction of Britain, it would be only a matter of time ere France also would become a victim of German aggression. — Niagara Falls Review.

No peace without victory over Hitler can stop this war. It would be the peace of the graveyard and the concentration camp. It would be a peace in which no one could take off his uniform. It would be a peace in which Britain and France would fall apart, and in which a home Fascism would arise to hold them together, and to whip their heartbroken people into line for the even greater armament programs that would be necessary for the cold war. It would be a peace in which the human spirit shattered in its great effort, would find only a few crannies in which to hide, batlike in a chill world. — New York Post.

Ceylon is the land of gems and what poetry is in their very names: Corundum, Spinel, Zircon, Tourmaline, Topaz, Garnet, Ruby, Saphire, Chrysoberyl, Peridot, Beryl, and Emerald. A whole glittering family is gathered under the name of Corundum. It includes Ruby, Saphire, Star Saphire, Oriental Amethyst, White Saphire and Emerald. There are gems which are precious, others which are only semi-precious and yet others shiny pebbles which carry away on the belief that they are of fabulous worth. Precious are the Ruby and its star varieties, Cat's-eye, Topaz, Aquamarine, Alexandrite, Yellow and White Saphire, Semi-precious are Amethyst, Beryl, Chrysoberyl, Rock Crystal, Cinnamon Stone, Garnet, Monstone, Rose Quartz, Water Sapphire, Spinel, Tourmaline and Zircon. This catalogue of gems conveys some idea of the wealth that is hidden in the soil in parts of Sabaragamuwa, the Southern Central and Western provinces. Not many persons outside those directly interested in gem-mining know much of this industry. — Times of Ceylon (Colombo)

When hostilities started in Europe, French newspapers rallied swiftly to the defense. Not only did they take the obvious precaution of canceling immediately their subscriptions from Berchtesgaden and points east, but they also cut out crossword puzzles to kill all chance of having them used as mediums for cipher messages. Not through the aid of the press would the enemy solve thirty-two horizontal keyed with sixteen vertical and learn that there was a hole in the Maginot Line big enough to drive a tank through, if the chauffeur was tired of life. At first the puzzles were not missed. Readers who enjoyed being puzzled merely switched to comments on the war but in time the fans came to realize that there was no answer so they put in a crossword or two for the restoration of their favorite pastime. Beginning this week, they get their way. Not only may they exercise their wits on such puzzles as that old standby, the large Australian word with three letters beginning with E, in a spirit of utter recklessness, the censors allow even the publication of brain-crushing sixteen-letter words meaning an anthropophagous dinosaur of the Paleozoic era. The puzzles are getting better too. Many of them have a six-letter definition for a better word, and are double-crosser, with the fourth letter L which makes it difficult to tell whether the answer is Hitler or Stalin. — Washington Star.

A Canadian writer dealing with some of the economic and social problems of the day, expresses the opinion that the acquisition of a small farm is one of the most desirable forms of life insurance. His suggestion is that it ought to be a goal on the part of all to acquire a small farm, one acre to twenty acres, so that the individual may have a haven in the declining years of life or, in the case of serious economic depression, a source from which to obtain an existence. In view of commercial and industrial developments, there are now a considerable number of persons who retire at the age of 65 or even earlier. Many of these individuals find their newly-found freedom from the orthodox daily tasks decidedly monotonous because they have nothing to occupy their time. In such cases, possession of a small farm is a great incentive to continued interest in life and it is a well established fact that the outdoor activities in the development of such an estate is conducive to good health and long life. There are many examples of persons in indifferent health at the time of the retirement from their lifetime jobs, being rejuvenated by activities on a plot of land. There are now so many ways in which a country estate large or small, can be developed that there is no likelihood of the resourceful owner being short of work. Planting of trees, construction of rock gardens, drainage tiling, terracing the landscape, growing of vegetable and fruit crops provide endless work. In these activities, the owners are not only giving themselves physical and mental recreation but they are creating beauty spots that contribute enormously to the attractiveness of the countryside. — Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

No legislation can anticipate or protect us against every possible future development, particularly in a world at war. If events show the new Neutrality Act to have important gaps or flaws, those who approved it must be ready to recognize these promptly. We may count ourselves highly fortunate, meanwhile, that the neutrality de-

The Christian's Dilemma

"It is Not a Case of Black or White, but This Gray or That Gray"

(Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead of the London City Temple)

"I think pacifism is wrong, and I think non-pacifism is wrong, too. If I gave this sermon a title it would be 'The Christian's Dilemma', and it is the nature of a dilemma in logic that you cannot escape from it, for neither way will work—that is what 'dilemma' means.

"I am quite sure that war is wrong; let us wage it as cleanly as we can. But however cleanly we may wage our war and call its cause righteous, all war is a damnable craft.

"Twenty-five years ago we said that War would end the intolerable domination of one State over another. We said it would end Prussianism. We cut off one head of the hydra only to find that another head is raised from the same place.

"War cannot be called right. But the alternative cannot be called right to my mind. Would it have been right when our country was committed to that brave little country called Poland to have withheld from Poland the only thing she would have regarded as assistance?

"I am indebted to some words of the Dean of St. Paul's for an illustration from the life of Socrates. When Socrates was face to face with the cup of hemlock and death, he had a dream, and in his dream there came to him a symbolical figure which he recognized as his country's liberties. When he was tempted to run away this figure rebuked him for even being tempted to disobey the appeal of his country when it would have been easier to have labelled her action wrong and thus escape its consequences. I hope that is clear to you; it means a very great deal to me.

Duty to the State

"I am absolutely certain that you cannot honourably escape implication in the activities of the State to which you belong. You cannot take the bread and the privileges — and they are very many — and the liberties of the State which has fostered you and nourished you and nursed you, and from whom you have taken more than you know, some of you, and then, when the country is in peril, when the country is in need, when the country asks for your help, say, 'I will take no part in this.'

"Why, if your mother were set upon by some person you would get between your mother and her opponent even if you thought your mother was in the wrong; you would do so just because she was your mother.

"It is consistent to say: 'My country does such evil things that I will have nothing more to do with her,' and leave her, and belong to another country. That is logical. Go to a desert island or a neutral country—that is logical. But to say: 'I will stay and accept defence from my country, accept the food for which other men are laying down their lives at this moment, accept the protection, and the culture, and the friendship which my country makes possible, but I will do nothing to help her'—no, that is not the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, I am sure that is wrong.

A Righteous War?

"No one can suggest that war can be an expression of the mind of Jesus Christ. We do not need to take individual texts of the New Testament and work out whether they are authentic or not; we know in our hearts that the whole thing is hostile, and must always be hostile, to His spirit.

"That is one side of the dilemma. But neither can the only other alternative which the Government might leave open for us be reconciled with Christianity, that is to say, going back on our word, leaving someone to perish to whom we are committed.

"It is no way out of the dilemma, in my view, to say, 'Let the country do what it likes, I will take no part in it.' You have been taking things out of your country all your life. There is no way out of the dilemma by throwing away the obligation.

A Vital Difference

"There is a word of comfort if you can receive it. I am certain it is true myself that there is a difference between guilt and evil.... God who is eternally righteous knows that there are certain situations in which your decision is not between good and evil, black and white.

"He knows that you are sometimes thrust into a situation when either of the two courses one of which you must take, is evil: when both are evil, it is not a case of black or white, but of this grey or that grey. And the man who chooses the lesser evil is not guilty of that evil in any personal sense.

"Let me say that again in one sentence: the man who is confronted by two choices, both of which he thinks to be wrong, will not be held by a righteous God guilty of personal sin, if he chooses the lesser of two evils.

Comfort to the Small Nations

"I know that if I were the father of a Swiss family to-day I should feel grateful that Britain and France had taken up the job of being the world's policemen and were trying to restrain international crime.

"I mean this, that our action with all its implications and complications does give us some little glimmering of comfort in that in Holland, in Belgium, in Switzerland, in any neutral country, life has been made safer, the fears of men and women have been gathered to the breast of Britain and France. I think there is some reason for thankfulness in that, however, much we suffer, the spread of this evil doctrine of Nazi-ism is likely to be restrained.

"I think it would be wrong to settle down—to let our minds settle down—to the idea that there is nothing for it but a long, long war of exhaustion. I do not think that

In a Little Town

"If a madman in a little town did one-millionth of the damage that Hitler has done, the whole community would rise up to restrain him and you would defend such action. It would be intolerable to you that in any little town the criminal forces at work in it should be in command and should be encouraged to spread further to other towns.

"You say the figures does not hold because in this mad universe we do not restrain the criminals, what we do is to kill a number of German people who share the same ideals as ourselves.

"That is the dilemma of the Christian. That is the damnable poignancy of the situation. That it is which tears one's heart in two. But is evil to go entirely unrestrained because we have perfected no way of restraint? If this dreadful method of war is the only method by which evil can be prevented from spreading are we to eschew it and let the evil spread?

"If you can see the right and the wrong in that I should like to hear about it. Force has never turned evil into good, Force has never turned a bad man into a good man. I am not optimistic that the present use of force will crush the forces of evil in Germany. All that I think we can hope—and some comfort can be found for some of us in this—is that force can localize, limit the area over which the evil has its terrible sway.

"You must decide whether it is justifiable for that reason. You said that in your little town you would not let evil spread. There would be restraint. If there are unideal things about the manner of restraining, which is better, the restraint with the evils involved, or such a lack of restraint that the evil infection spreads throughout the whole world, and the idea of men, especially in regard to truth, liberty, freedom, the rights of small nations, are further hindered from realisation in the world?

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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.

POTATO PRICES

Sir,—About three weeks ago our daily newspapers were publishing a series of anonymous letters about prices being paid to the farmer for potatoes.

These in my judgment are the most erroneous statements that could have been put in circulation because at that time we had an exceptionally good wire enquiry, prices that the farmers were receiving, those who did not accept contracts, were profitable from the growers' standpoint. Nevertheless this daily hobnobbing through the Press made it quite difficult in some cases for produce dealers to explain to the consumer why they were not in the low prices.

We have read nothing for the past few days in any of the local papers about potato prices yet we have experienced a much weaker market and for the benefit of those interested I ask permission to publish in your valued column records that are authentic and up to date.

Last Fall during the months of September, October and up until the 30th of November there was a total of 379 cars of table stock potatoes shipped from the Province. The average price until Nov. 23 there is a total of \$20. A year ago to-day the Island was blessed with a very heavy snow-storm which tied up transportation by road as well as by railroads. This helped the potato market and if we could only hope that tomorrow morning in reading our newspapers the paper-boy would be a couple of hours late on account of a blockade of snow, I think before very many days that we would have a much better potato market.

Our market is low because the movement has been unusually heavy. The price has been profitable to the farmers and as long as the trucks can run daily and haul from the barns during the time when it is not possible for him to finish his Fall ploughing there is nothing else to do but grade potatoes. So my advice is to try to sell all one's potatoes in the next couple of weeks.

The movement of Seed is exceptionally heavy, much greater than any other year at this date. The exact figures are not available at the present time.

At the present time I can see nothing that will guarantee to us exorbitant prices but I do see an improvement over to-day's market if we could collectively realize that we are likely to have a little firmer potato market if we do not try to ship everything at one time.

This year the movement to the Caribbean area has been greater than ever before because we are not faced with competition from Holland and other places across the water, such as we faced for the past number of years. The Canadian crop report shows less potatoes in Canada on Nov. 17th than any year since 1910 at the same date.

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The 2 MACS

149 Great George Street

The movement of Island potatoes to Northern Quebec and Ontario has exceeded any year, for in this district we usually have competition from the Prairie Provinces. It is hoped that before Spring we will be shipping cars of stock to them because it is in that section that absolute shortage of potatoes will develop.

I am not advising farmers to hold all their potatoes, or that prices will be exorbitant. That is impossible because freight rates are higher than they used to be by water; the cost of bags is much higher; the cost of insurance by water is greater. Nevertheless there is hope that these potato markets can be brought back in excellent shape if dealers and farmers read carefully the figures as above set forth.

I am, Sir, etc.
 FRANK B. CLARKE

I said

to my insurance agent the other day—look here, Mister Agent of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, isn't it a nerve racking job trying to sell insurance all day to a lot of people who don't want it? He said—'Why no! I don't try to sell 'em anything they don't want. I show 'em what they need—and they can take it or leave it. Most of 'em see that I'm doing them a real favor.'

"Well, sir, I realized then that my agent has done me a big favor in giving me an intelligent picture of my common sense, without high-pressureing me. That's why I say—'Go to an agent you can trust—and be guided by his judgment.'"

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