THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2 1943

Loss Of The St. Croix

The sinking of the Canadian destroyer *St. Croix* with loss of all but one of her 147-man crew is a grim reminder that the war is by no means over. This heavy toll of casualties is the worst experienced by the Royal Canadian Navy in the war, and brings to thirteen the number of R.C.N. ships lost since the hostilities began. The St. Croix, like many of her sister ships, was on convoy duty in the North Atlantic when torpedoed. This is one of the most arduous and dangerous of all wartime tasks. Due largely to the magnificient work of our naval and air forces, losses from enemy submarine action have been greatly lessened in recent months. But the menace still exists. The St. Croix and her gallant crew were playing their part in subduing it when the disaster occurred.

All parts of Canada are represented in the casualty list. Two Prince Edward Island names, those of Able Seaman J. E. Burriault, Wellington, and Leading Cook J. W. Smith, Emerald Junction, are included. The sympathy of all our citizens goes out to the families of these young men, as of course it does to all who have lost loved ones in the war. On this occasion it is a matter for nation-wide mourning. But there will be pride, too, in the fact that death was met so bravely, and in the cause of freedom and justice for all mankind.

More Ontario Advice

A Port Arthur exchange notes that with a population of under 100,000 we have in this Province a Lieutenant Governor, a Legislative Assembly of 30 members, or one to about every 3,000 people, a Premier, three active ministers, five without portfolio, and a whole set of provincial government officers, courts, etc. "A lot of government for a few people," it says, adding: "The other two Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, population 554,000 and New Brunswick, population 431,000, are in much the same class. All three together have only about one-third the population of Quebec, less than one-third that of Ontario. As, furthermore, the interests, industries and outlook of the three are much the same, it would seem that one government for the three would be sufficient."

The old dead-and-buried arguments for Maritime Union, dug up and resuscitated at every opportunity. The fact that the Rowell-Sirois Commission investigated these arguments and found them to have no merit whatever, hasn't discouraged the wishful thinkers in Ontario. They are still hoping to have us joined, willy-nilly, in political wedlock. All, of course, in the interests of economy!

Why do not these wiseacres take a case nearer home. There are, for example, the twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William, with populations of 25,000 and 30,000 respectively — situated only a few miles apart, and still with duplicate services and civic governments. Why not combine them into one city, twice as big, cheap and handsome?

The citizens of Port Arthur and Fort William would doubtless say that this is their own business, and that they prefer to retain their identity. With much more reason can Prince Edward Island argue that if any place should have a provincial government setup it is surely the Cradle of Confederation. Our historic legislative building, our colonial tradition long antedating Confederation, surely mean something. They mean much to us in this Province; all the more so because, strange as it may seem to our Port Arthur contemporary, this little Island has always had a smaller per capita expenditure than other provinces, and would undoubtedly find both her debt and her taxes increased if Maritime Union were consummated.

V. A. D. Work

Throughout Canada an appeal is being made by the St. John Ambulance Brigade for young women to join Voluntary Aid Detachments, now an integral part of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps nursing service with many of its members already serving in military hospitals in Canada. V.A.D. work attracted hundreds of Canadian women in the last war, but, largely as a result of the many other calls on women by the armed services and industry, voluntary hospital work has not been much to the fore in the present conflict.

Those who sponsor the V.A.D. appeal do not claim there is any shortage of graduate nurses to staff Canadian military hospitals, here or overseas. Rather they point to the ever-growing shortage of nurses in civilian hospitals, a shortage which has become acute and a serious problem in many cities, and claim that if V.A.D.'s cannot be obtained for the military hospitals more nurses will have to be called up. The results for civilian hospitals might well become desperate.

For women thinking of joining one of the women's Auxiliary Services, especially those with an inclination towards tending the sick, the Voluntary Aid Detachment offers many attractions. The need is for girls and women between the ages of 18 and 44, without dependent children. It is first necessary to obtain a St. John Ambulance First Aid Certificate and the Red Cross or St. John Home Nursing Certificate. Arrangements have been made for initial training and, after a three months probation period, the applicant signs army attestation papers. There are liberal allowances.

The need for V.A.D.'s has increased now that the Canadian army is in action and casualties are coming to hospitals here

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The ban on canned vegetables is to be lifted at an early date.

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Commerce Minister James A. MacKinnon has given the assurance that the railways will provide sufficient facilities for carrying coarse grain to the East and Maritimes for the purpose of feeding dairy and other livestock.

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The Charlottetown Board of Trade and City Council will have the unanimous approval of citizens in their action re our airport. It may not be generally known, but all the airmen who take courses here comment adversly on the inadequacy of the runways. Surely the worst possible advertisement to pass round the world for after-war trade developments.

* * * *

Canadian airmen are serving everywhere. There are 32 Canadian squadrons overseas but for every Canadian in those squadrons there are 11 others with the R.A.F. Thus Canada added its might to every air blow struck against the enemy. Recently the R.C.A.F. had assumed guard of patrolling the west half of the North Atlantic and sometimes clear across. To Canadian airmen went a share of the credit for the fact that no ship was sunk in four months this summer.

* * * *

The Liberals in caucus were loud in their criticisms of ration controls and controllers, especially with regard to exceptions made and concessions offered due to high-pressure stunts. There would have been little complaint, it was claimed had the controllers, when they clamped down just stood their ground, for then all would have been on the same footing. In Ontario and in Western Canada the people have been taught to believe that the controls are being administered either by or on behalf of the nation's financial interests, not for the better prosecution of the war effort, and it is easy to surmise that many of the teachers are of C.C.F. or Social Credit persuasion or of both.

* * * *

Senator Connally in U.S.A. Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressed fear of intemperate and troublemaking debate in the Senate, which prompted the Buffalo Courier Express to think in not too cautious terms that the U.S. Senate ought to be abolished. In support of this suggestion it argued that in Britain the democratic process was accelerated when the House of Lords was turned into "a polite debating society with only a few vestiges of legislative power." True, it added, the House of Lords is hereditary and undemocratic, but if anyone raises that point it respectfully refers him "to the Canadian Senate, probably the world's most innocuous deliberative body." This is too bad, but the Express should have added the words "when the Liberals are in power."

* * * *

Cordell Hull, U.S.A. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Chief of Foreign Relations, born this date 1871; as Democratic leader strong supporter of President Roosevelt though not over enthusiastic on the question of the New Deal; at present engaged in building up a department of Foreign Affairs that will control the whole situation; hitherto several bureaucracies have been running their own show to the detriment of U.S.A. foreign policy generally; and which led to the resignation of Mr. Hull's assistant, Mr. Sumner Welles; the appointment of Mr. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., as successor to Mr. Welles is considered admirable; the new Under-secretary is one of the most successful Government administrators developed during the war, having particularly distinguished himself for his handling of the $10,000,000,000-a-year Lend-Lease program; that is one of the few important war agencies on the domestic front which have been so administered as to win virtually unanimous approval in U.S.A.

* * * *

We are very much left to ourselves if we delay building our car ferry and any other essential structure until after the war. We should take a leaf out of the Russian's book. A conference of leading Soviet architects held in Moscow recently discussed the two main problems of war construction—new housing and reconstruction of liberated towns. It was stated that although the main work of Soviet architects during the first year of the war was concerned with camouflage and construction of military objectives, more than 10,000 new buildings have been built in the Soviet Union since the beginning of the war. As each town is liberated, a group of architects is assigned to work on its reconstruction. All architectural colleges and the building industry in general are studying United States methods of construction of apartment blocks, while we here are waiting with aggravating patience on our petty politicians to make a move in the direction of a new car ferry, and Charlottetown harbour improvements.

* * * *

"The far-seeing gentlemen who manage Toronto's Fair, which in recent years has been known as the Canadian National Exhibition, never miss an opportunity to make their annual show bigger and better" says theGazette. If a prince or other notability is in the spotlight, they immediately bid for his presence, generally with success. They have learned a lot about exhibitions in their more than half a century of practice and they apply the knowledge to their truly great show. At present South America is attracting a lot of attention in North America, just as it did in the last years of the former World War. Then there was a movement in Toronto business circles to have young men learn Spanish, in order that some of the South American trade might be captured. Quite recently the Toronto City Council gave a dinner to twelve visiting South American newspaper men, at which Mayor Conboy called for the free exchange of professors and students between Canada and the lower American republics. That was in the interest of the good neighbor policy which President Roosevelt has been preaching. More than that, Mayor Conboy said that the first post-war Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto's own, would be called "the World's Fair," to which South American countries would be invited to send exhibits. This is a good example of enterprise and initiative on the part of the Fair's directors."

Notes By The Way

Siberian collective farmers are experimenting with deer as draft animals. Andrei Abanov, a Siberian collective farmer, has been very successful in training the animals for plowing, averaging six and a half acres a day. — U. S. S. R. Bulletin.

Canning's story of the three tailors of Tooley Street who began a petition to the House of Commons with the words, "We the people of England," is recalled by the present battle of Savile Row on the issue whether men's three-piece suits can have eight or ten pockets. The limitation to eight is denounced as "government bureaucracy and needless restriction." As, according to reports, the Englishmen refuse to abandon trousers cuffs, it may be that the tailors of Savile Row are in effect "the people of England." —Montreal Gazette.

Hitler's sentries may strut for a time in Vatican City. But the dome of St. Peter's has, during three centuries, looked down before on the short-lived strange flags of men ambitious in evil. Today it needs no Nazi "protection" to be certain of outlasting that boasted thousand years a renegade Austrian planned for a Germany his gangster leadership has ruined and decimated — a Germany he is soon to see slip broken from his wretched hands. —New York Herald Tribune.

There are writers and publishers in the United States, mostly though not exclusively, conscious and deliberate purveyors of cheap filth that is more noisome than the outpourings from a sewer. Some of this finds its way into Canada. Censorship does not appear to prevent their sale in this country. The authors of filthy literature and plays are steering a course that sooner or later will absolutely force an official curtailment of their activities so that an intolerable nuisance may be abated. —Guelph Mercury.

In developing a vocabulary, as in everything else, quality is to be preferred to mere bulk. There is little to be said for knowing thousands of words if the words themselves are such bastard growths as "finalize," "motivate," "keynote" and the like. Eloquent men are those who use good words with skill. Shakespeare wrote many of his finest passages in the simplest of language, but he knew how to use plain words with exquisite art. If any man seeks to improve his chances in life by building up vocabulary let him remember that quality in words is far more important than quantity. — Peterborough Examiner.

Just what ill effect on rationing can follow the giving of rationed foods to others than the immediate members of the family of the coupon holders is hard to see. If one family uses no tea and another no coffee, and the former has coupons to spare, why should it not buy tea and give to the latter? Nor does it appear criminal or even economically unsound for families to trade surpluses of rationed foods with each other. The reason for the prohibition is not clear. Possibly the board thinks that if a housewife is permitted to give away rationed goods, she might decide to sell spare coupons, and that thus one form of black market would be encouraged. If this is the board's view we think it is too concerned with possible abuses. —Edmonton Journal.

New York's Daily News, while paying somewhat grudging tribue to Churchill as "a great orator, diplomat and patriot," harps on the old broken string that the United States went into the last war "to preserve the British Empire," and goes on to say that "it is becoming increasingly clear that this war is being fought for the same purpose." In that case, it is "clear" only to the News and others who are equally shortsighted. It would be a good thing if some of our good helpful if they would come to the heads that the purpose of the Axis was not to destroy the British Empire but to conquer the whole world, including, believe it or not, the United States. It might also be helpful if they woud come to the realization that had it not been for Britain's lone stand in 1940, the enemy's evil purpose might easily have been accomplished. —Brantford Expositor.

Lovely Isle of Capri, opposite Naples, once the playground of millionaires and honeymoon couples, has become the refuge of destitutes. About 250,000 refugees from Naples have crowded into the sunny isle; few of them have more than the clothes they wear and some have only overcoats over their nightclothes. The refugees have made their camps in the lemon and orange groves of the upper part of the island; the little town of Capri has been converted into an administrative centre and hospital base. All the famous hotels have been commandeered. The estates of Anacapri, such as that of the German industrialist, Krupp, are billets for the refugees who were lucky enough to be there first. Food is so scarce that bread is rationed on a 50-gramme slice per day and community kitchens have been set up to feed the crowd with the only food available — polenta, which is a form of ground maize cooked in porridge form. —London Evening News.

Clip These Coal Tips

Keeps Registers Clear

Chairs or other pieces of furniture placed in front of hot air registers and hot water radiators hinder the circulation of heat through the room. Keep them clear and take off all covers from radiators.

Plain Speaking on Election

(By A. E. O'Neill, Principal, Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Oshawa, Ont., prepared for publication by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.)

The emphasis placed on education in the recent Provincial elections and its prominence in plans for a post-war world should deceive no one. What is disguised under the name of "education" is only the "fitting" of people for earning a living; and valuable as this may be, it has little more to do with real education than has the conditioning of a race-horse or the preparation of a pugilist for a championship bout. In reality, old-fashioned learning with its stress on the humanities — which was pursued as an end in itself but generated power, cultivated wisdom, kindled the spirit, warmed the heart and steadied the emotions in the process—is languishing in disrepute and neglect. The vigorous and reckless campaign for the promotion of vocational training by direct and oblique attacks on all education which is not immediately, obviously or financially useful, has just about done its work— the blotting out of liberal education.

Even a casual glance at the educational scene proves my assertion. During the Provincial election campaign what did the reformers of education advocate or demand? What do the planners of post-war education for our returning soldiers propose? Gloss it over as they will, dress it up as hopefully as you can, it is cold stark, angular, sinewy training to fit people for jobs.

This is the "education" that is being heralded, lauded, advertised, demanded up and down the land. It is also the education which if persisted in, will send our vaunted civilization crashing to its deserved doom. That such a complete surrender to the practical, the material, and the immediate passes without challenge is a measure of the depths to which we have sunk intellectually and spiritually and for which we propose to make amends by neat, concise, harmless courses in religious knowledge and democratic citizenship. At length, in our day, "soul" has become synonymous with "stomach." And to their everlasting disgrace our educated men and women—nay, infinitely worse! our professed and accepted educationists—either approve and promote or acquiesce by silence.

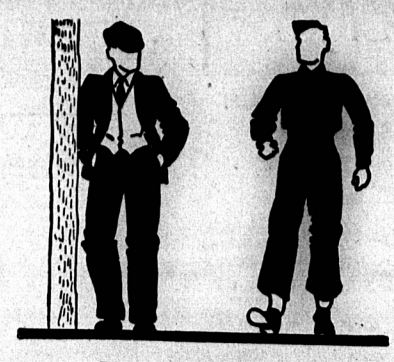
* * *

The champions of strictly utilitarian training will, of course brazenly deny their hostility to liberal education. Backed up against the wall and put on the defensive, they will even profess their admiration and enthusiasm for it—but "only for the select few who are capable of profiting by it." The evidence against them, however, is written in the educational history of this province. By the twin baits of job-training and job-finding, students and parents have been lured away from faith in, or desire for, the more difficult less spectacular and less immediately useful and remunerative education Industry and business, sedulously cultivated, have been "sold on" the specious advantages financial and managerial of using narrowly trained workers for the simpler skills into which operations of factory and office can be broken down. Naturally public approval goes to the institutions which "deliver the goods"—which give the people what they want rather than what they need. Consequently, useful education, education for a job, vocational education, is enjoying a vogue and support out of all proportion to the contribution it can make to man's fundamental needs, democracy's requirements or humanity's betterment.

If education hasn't a higher function than preparing our youth for jobs, we are wasting public money; for common sense tells us and statistics show that 90 per cent of all occupations require only a very elementary education. Efficiency in most jobs can be best attained, even as in the days of our forefathers, by working at them under the direction of the "older hands". Our intensive mechanization, instead of complicating the business, has simplified it by breaking down operations into petty skills and reducing problems to rules of thumb. Fool-proof checks and automatic gauges eliminate the necessity of thought, calculation or judgment. Our large expenditures for education, therefore must be justified on other grounds than the need of training youth to earn a living.

* * *

Of course, the education of our citizens, young and old, ought to absorb a large and even larger portion of the national income. But this can be predicated only on the assumption that education will be something far broader, less immediate in returns and more idealistic in aims than practical training. To justify the demand for more education it is imperative that we return immediately and decisively to liberal education—the education, as the words signify, suited to free men. It is imperative that educated men and women who have the welfare of their country at heart—and especially those professional educationists who have deserted the ranks of the faithful to preach the false doctrine of utility, immediacy and expediency —turn from their apostasy and boldly proclaim the true gospel that education is the culture of souls, minds and bodies.



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CHECK UP ON DEFAULTERS

OTTAWA, Oct. 1—(CP)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police in co-operation with local police have recently been checking up on draft defaulters and idle men across Canada, an R.C.M.P. official said today. Results of the check-ups were described as "patchy," but the checks are continuing.

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And heaped in the bin
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Is holding the scent of its clover—
The sibilant yarn
Of the wielded scythe is over.
Each widespread field
Has ceased to trouble
Under the tread of the reapers;
The golden stubble
Lies open now
To the little runners of fall;
Summer has stacked her plenty,
Every wall
Breaks out the red of the creepers
The separate bright leaves pause
In a first flight earthward—
And at sunset we close the doors.
We wait—we know you will come—
And we know, wherever you roam,
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And we love you—late and soon!

—Edna Mead.

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