THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1867)

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1944

Parachute Padres

The British Army Chaplains attached to paratroop units have dropped with their men into battle behind the lines in Normandy, North Africa, Italy, Burma and wherever airborne troops have seen action, says *Weekly War Notes.*

Like the paratroopers themselves, parachute padres are 100 per cent volunteers, and they go through the same toughening training, wear the same uniform—battle dress, anklets, tinhat and the distinctive long parachute blouse. The only difference is the ecclesiastical "dog-collar" and their lack of arms.

They share completely the lives of the paratroopers, and the men have accepted them like brothers-in-arms. To quote one of these padres: "We do not have to hurl our religion at the men. It is enough that they look at us and say to themselves, 'Well, at least here's a bloke who doesn't have to do it'."

In the midst of battle and in close-quarter struggle they give consolation to the wounded, help to bury the dead, and some give their own lives.

The padres find that they can ease the nervous tension and inspire great confidence in the tense moment just before the drop begins simply by talking "about trivialities, mostly," says one chaplain. "The first half of the men see that we are ready to jump and the second half see us do it. It gives them heart."

When the parachute padres drop into action, they carry in their breast-pouches, instead of the customary spare clips of ammunitions, their communion sets and their first aid equipment. That is all. They are all trained in first aid, and often a padre will act as an on-the-spot dresser or stretcher-bearer.

The terms of all chaplains' enrollment are the same—no arms to be carried, protection under the Geneva Convention, and the privilege of being repatriated if taken prisoner. This last named advantage is never claimed; by an unwritten law the padre always stays with his fellow prisoners-of-war.

In the first twelve weeks after D-day seven Army Chaplains were killed in action in France and twelve wounded—a high proportion to the number serving.

Alibi On Gasoline

The office of the Oil Controller has at last produced an "explanation" of the divergence in gasoline consumption between Quebec and other provinces in Canada. It has done this, complains the *Windsor Star,* by much torturing of figures and the production of some highly suppositious theories.

The statistics are clear and simple. They show conclusively that the consumption of gasoline per car in Quebec is far in excess of that in any other part of Canada. They cannot be controverted. The Oil Controller's office — the reply is not from Mr. G. R. Cottrelle himself — trots out the statement that differences in the proportion of trucks and other commercial vehicles would lead to discrepancies in per capita use of gasoline. That is readily admitted. But no attempt is made to show that Quebec has a proportionately higher number of such vehicles than other provinces. The controller's office, in fact, does not dare even make the statement, much less try to back it up.

The rest of the "explanation" consists of the production of more columns of figures, showing consumption in 1941, and reductions in gallonage and percentage. These are merely confusing, as they are apparently intended to be, and quite pointless. The Oil Controller is charged with enforcement of that law. Canadians would like some indication that he is sufficiently concerned to probe into the situation and seek to remedy it.

Dutch Quislings

The Netherlands will not have many top-ranking Quislings to bring to trial when that country is liberated, the Netherlands News Bureau revealed in a check-up on the Cabinet of Anton Mussert, Dutch puppet ruler. One member was shot and killed before he ever took office; three others have since been shot and killed; one attempted suicide and became an incurable mental case; two were dismissed, one for causing a deficit of several hundred thousand guilders; two resigned. Only one member of the Cabinet, deputy leader of the Dutch Nazi party, is left.

Obituary notices also point out the resistance to the local Quislings. More and more of them tell of Nazi party members meeting "with a fatal accident in the service of the Fuehrer." Most of them killed are group leaders or organizers for the party.

Six Million Words

Maclean's Magazine has lately been analyzing the debates of the last parliamentary session in Ottawa and produces some interesting figures. It calculates that 6,000,000 words were uttered in Parliament in 123 working days, or 49,000 words per sitting. It cost $160,000 to take these words down in shorthand and print them in Hansard, or 2 2-3 cents per word.

Maclean's says that about 100 out of the 123 working days were used in discussing relatively minor matters, while legislation involving billions of dollars of expenditure was "rushed through with the speed of a Mosquito." In 15 days, at the rate of something like $25,000,000 an hour, the members voted for annual tax collections of $1.5 billions to finance family allowances, war service gratuities, farm price and fish price guarantees and housing. Only 34 hours were devoted to debating children's allowances, the largest single social reform ever attempted in Canada. Barely 40 members were present when the new housing legislation was introduced. But 60 hours were used up in debating the generalities of the speech from the throne.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An optimist—a little boy attempting to fly a kite in some of our telephone-wire roofed streets.

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The Battle of Poitiers, France, this date 1356 when the English, under Edward, Prince of Wales, "The Black Prince", defeated the French for the second time, the first at Crecy ten years earlier, when the French army suffered terrible losses.

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At a Grand Falls, N. B., meeting, some 200 representatives of the Victoria and Madawaska Counties Agricultural Society passed a resolution addressed to the Federal Department of Agriculture, asking for a floor price on potatoes of one and one-half cents a pound. Figures were presented to show the cost of production per acre this year at $201.20.

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With fairly good price in the United States now and the ban lifted on the exportation of table stock to that country, potato growers have been given some relief from weak potato market tendencies. The ban removal means that potatoes will begin to move over the border at once after having been stopped Sept. 1. When export was cut off at that time the price began to drop. With issuing of the permit and shipment anew, it is expected that the market price will start to stiffen.

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A woman "who did." The R. A. F. Ministry has announced that a feminine officer, Flight Officer Constance Babington-Smith of the W. A. A. F., was the expert interpreter who first spotted the flying bomb model in reconnaissance photographs of the Germans' Peenemunde Experimental Station 18 months ago. Daughter of the late Sir Henry Babington-Smith, she has been in the W. A. A. F. since 1940. It was her clue which unleashed Allied aerial might against the robot supply centres and bases, set army intelligence workers afoot and led to the building up of the huge organization of spotters and anti-aircraft defences which won the Battle of London.

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The unconquerable spirit of England which has made her great throughout all the ages. Figures for total damage covering air raids and flying bombs in the London area were 107,000 houses destroyed representing accommodations for 500,000 people; 170,000 seriously damaged and needing repairs; and 700,000 which have received first aid repairs and still needing further work to make them reasonably comfortable. Sympathizing with the "acute discomfort" in which many hundreds of thousands were living, Lord Woolton said: "The fortitude and discretion with which these brave Londoners have borne their discomfort without complaint is beyond praise. The world ought to know it. The morale of London has never flinched." In the words of Churchill, never "was so much owed by so many to so few" airmen and Londoners alike.

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"Criminal and juvenile delinquents are made not born," declares Dr. S. R. Laycock, western vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Home and School. Dr. Laycock, who is professor of educational psychology, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, spoke in Montreal on "Normal parents—normal children." "That is to say," Dr. Laycock said, "heredity deals the cards but environment plays them," and he cited as an instance of bad child training Byron's mother's reaction to the poet's club foot. She used to refer to him in his hearing as "that lame brat." Such treatment, Dr. Laycock pointed out, is hardly likely to bring a child into proper adjustment with his environment. While broken homes were obviously bad for children, Dr. Laycock said, what he called cracked ones were not much better. He laid great emphasis on consistency of treatment, and the necessity of a degree of harmony in the home.

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Discussing post-war trade, an Ottawa correspondent writes: "The tariff barriers between Canada and the United States were vastly reduced before this war by two far-reaching agreements, but formidable obstacles to a freer exchange of goods remain. American industrialists continue to complain about the restrictive, the discriminatory features of the Commonwealth tariff pact framed here 12 years ago, while Canadian grain growers still protest against the retention of the prohibitive duty against Canadian wheat. Again, Canadian manufacturers and primary producers will want to know how far one of the central clauses of the Atlantic Charter is to be implemented and respected by the larger nations, whether or not there is to be a real attempt at removing the barriers to international trade. They will also want to know how eager and reckless is to be the scramble for international business. Canada's enormous stake in world trade calls for close study of fiscal prospects both in the United States and in other members of the British Commonwealth. This country will want to retain its present high place as third in the list of world traders, and it will want a fair share of the business bound to develop in Europe and Asia. It may be that for two or three years this continent will be so busy filling the void of consumer goods in Europe that its constituent parts won't have time to engage in fiscal arguments, but long-range tariff planning must be considered soon, not before the presidential campaign in the United States but soon after."

Notes By The Way

In Rome, Allied troops were forbidden by military order to indulge in soft drinks, Time relates. Reason: Danger of typhoid from beverages not containing the disinfectant, alcohol.

Flame-spitting dragons of ancient legend were butterflies compared to the Churchill "Crocodile" flame throwers that now advance upon the Nazis. They can melt a cement building from a hundred yards.—Vancouver Province.

Women are holding important positions in this war. It is now revealed that 30 women, specially selected for their mathematical ability, were responsible for the whole of the work involved in calculating what war materials would be needed in the invasion.—Niagara Falls Review.

We have heard too many diagnoses of the cause of juvenile delinquency, and too few cures. Most authorities, self-styled and otherwise, agree that the fault lies with the parents. But the City of San Francisco is doing something about it. Parents of delinquents are "sentenced" by a juvenile court to eight lectures on how to rear children. Perfect attendance may bring them a suspended sentence, other things being equal. But the cause is not disposed of till school is finished. Sounds like a good idea.—Kitchener Record.

It is not accidental that Canada has achieved its high standard of prosperity and comfort under a system of private capitalism operating under democratic rule. The system has its operational faults and abuses, but basically it is strong, popular and successful. What we need now is a sound plan for putting that system back on a peacetime basis with fewer faults and abuses than it had before, and a willing and cooperative belief in it by all of us who must make it work. Fill that need—as undoubtedly it will be filled—and we need not go looking for red bogeymen under the bed.

One of the greatest problems of the future will be how to pool adequate power in an international agency and yet satisfy some sections of public opinion in all countries that national sovereignty is not endangered, but more fully guaranteed, by so doing. There is not enough education on this point emerging from official statements or conferences. But it is possible that when the statesmen of three nations on whose power this policing of peace must be predicated come face to face with the question of fulfilling their responsibility, they will be forced to the conclusion that new concepts of sovereignty must be developed. The more they can talk about the job the better.—Christian Science Monitor.

The heroic Queen of an heroic country is sixty-four years old. For the fifth consecutive year she is not among her own people, people who adore her. Yet, despite all that goose-stepping Nazi bully-boys can do to curb their patriotic fervor, Netherlanders will be out all over their little land wearing the forbidden colors of the House of Orange in tribute to Her Majesty, Wilhelmina, says the Montreal Star. And this year, too, as the Queen reaches another there is a new spirit in the air milestone. Her exile is nearing an end. In a few weeks, or months, Allied troops, including Netherlands soldiers trained in Canada, may be pushing their way through the Lowlands and there is little doubt that on her sixty-fifth birthday, Her Majesty will be able to join personally in the joyous celebration which will resound throughout the country.

The Netherlands will not have many top-ranking Quislings to bring to trial when that country is liberated, The Netherlands News Bureau revealed in a check-up on the Cabinet of Anton Mussert, Dutch puppet ruler, notes the New York Herald Tribune. One member was shot and killed before he ever took office; three others have since been shot and killed; one attempted suicide and became an incurable mental case; two were dismissed, one for causing a deficit of several hundred thousand guilders; two resigned. Only one member of the Cabinet, deputy leader of the Dutch Nazi Party, is left. Obituary notices also point out the resistance to the local Quislings. More and more of them tell of Nazi Party members meeting "with a fatal accident in the service of the Fuehrer." Most of the men killed are group leaders or organizers for the party.

A sinister note was sounded this week by the president of one of the country's biggest shipbuilding companies, says The Christian Science Monitor. We say "sinister", because if somebody doesn't do something about it, the man's proposal may be taken seriously and we shall find ourselves crossing the ocean after the war in ships without portholes. He says future passenger ships may have no portholes, but be air conditioned throughout. There are some things even the electronic postwar world cannot put out of business. The wavering light on the ceiling reflected from sea water is one of them. Another is the mighty swish of green water around a D-deck porthole in heavy weather. Then there is the whip of the sea wind through an open porthole and the sight of a far horizon slowly rising and just as slowly falling when you wake on a morning at sea. We say, let there be no more talk of porthole-less passenger ships.

Early forms of rocket bombs were recorded in 1232 when the Chinese used them against the Tartars. Other examples of early types, having either explosive or incendiary charges, are given in European history as well as in American wars. In 1806, the British attacked the City of Boulogne with a flight of rockets fired from small boats, and one historian quoted in Encyclopaedia Britannica attributes the surrender of Washington, D.C., to this weapon. Rocket bombs used by the British were said to have routed the American forces defending the capital, leaving the city unprotected. Perhaps the most significant example of rocket gombs appearing in American history was the unsuccessful attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor in the War of 1812. "The rocket's red glare" mentioned in "The Star Spangled Banner" did not refer to signal flares as is popularly supposed. Francis Scott Key saw rocket bombs which carried heavy charges of explosives.

Pre-Election Job Filling Now Active

By F.C. Mears.
(Montreal Gazette)

Ottawa, — Departmental rivalry and the itch to enlarge staffs regardless of the need are likely to prove formidable obstacles to any demobilization of governmental personnel.

An advertisement appeared in newspapers last week-end stating that a considerable number of typists were urgently needed, and it carried the sponsorship of the Civil Service Commission.

This came after the circularizing of departments which were asked to detail their staff requirements, and it looks as if the usual fall drive is on to add more names to the public payroll, and this at a time when at least in one department— Munitions and Supply — there has been a steady combing of persons not needed.

There was a personnel of 4,800 in Munitions and Supply at the peak of war activity, but that has been steadily reduced until the figure today is not much above 3,000 in spite of this large release of typists and others from that department, however other departments are going through the motions of asking for more stenographic help.

For many years it has been the practice of some of the departmental officials to add to their staffs and thereby magnify the importance of the work done there. Numbers are looked upon as a criterion of the urgency of that particular organization and the policy of blindly expanding staff is not confined to officials. It often reaches up to the ministerial heads.

There are peace-time and war-time departments that could easily emulate the example of Munitions and Supply without in the slightest impairing their efficiency. One war-time department, that of National War Services, could be disbanded tomorrow, and both the nation and the treasury would not only not lose but probably gain from the move

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Needless staffs are retained and others are expanded, and a few taxpayers wonder why there can't be a substantial saving in non-war expenditures, and that these forms such a large part of the so-called non-war outlay that any saving in personnel would be negligible.

It is true that more than half the non-war budget this session was accounted for by interest on the public debt, but it is also true that at a time when every dollar that can be saved should be saved departmental staff in departments whose essentially does not rate high is being expanded instead of reduced.

An even more important argument than that of financial need for salary economies can be found in a serious scarcity of school teachers in the country and while probably only a few on the departmental staffs would be qualified to teach in rural or urban schools that could release others for this exceedingly urgent service.

Hardly a peace-time industry or business exists that has not been denuded of personnel and is in imperative need of help, but while the National Selective Service is continually having to allocate persons for urgent civilian tasks other branches of the government are absorbing new personnel, many for jobs that need not exist.

* * *

There are over 30,000 employed in government departments in this city and the entire federal public service is not far from three times that number. If some officials and some ministers were to abandon the notion that the chief purpose of departments is to take care of persons the task of manning civilian jobs across the country would be made easier.

Many in the public service, who came in full war time jobs and who came at a time when their help was needed, are reluctant now to leave the public service, for they are being paid attractive salaries, much better than they received back home, so this reluctance to leave, combined with historic departmental rivalry, will be a real hurdle for demobilization to take.

When the fighting is finished in Europe and even before the war in Asia is won the taxpayers will feel they have an undeniable claim to relief. The production of civilian goods will be asked by the government, but without tax relief, and the easing of the financial burden on business and industry a peacetime production almost as great as the wartime output cannot be expected, and tax relief cannot come unless and until dollars are saved by the government itself.

OLD AND LARGE

The Dominion Arsenal in Quebec, oldest war plant in Canada, is one of the largest, employing at peak 12,500 workers, 60 per cent women.

The Poet's Corner

THE PITY OF IT

I walked in loamy Wessex lanes, afar
From rail-track and from highway, and I heard
In field and farmstead many an ancient word
Of local lineage like "Thu bist," "Er war,"
"Ich woll," "Er sholl,' and by-talk similar,
Nigh as they speak who in this month's moon gird
At England's very loins thereunto spurred
By gangs whose glory threats and slaughter are.

There seemed a Heart crying: "Whosoever they be,
At root and bottom of this, who flung this flame
Between kin folk kin tongued even as we are,
Sinister, ugly, lurid, be their fame;
May their familiars grow to shun their name,
And their brood perish everlastingly."

—Thomas Hardy

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