THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1939.

War And Farm Prices

"Only the outbreak of a world war could have so suddenly altered the businessman's estimate of 'the shape of things to come'", states the current Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia. No longer is the central theme of economic discussion the problem of finding export markets. For the time being, the emphasis has shifted and now centres upon our capacity to meet the demands of war.

"In other words", says the Review, "for so long as the war lasts, there can be little question as to the demand for many of our export products. The task of today is to produce more of the materials needed to prosecute the war—to adjust and to expand our productive capacity to this end."

The most significant of the war's immediate effects was the sudden rise in commodity prices In the first few days of the war, prices of commodities rose sharply, and although more recently there has been some reaction, quotations for most primary products are today considerably higher than before the outbreak of war. This is shown by the net advance of 21% over the past four weeks in the official index of the prices of sensitive commodities. Prices of farm products have increased substantially. As at September 30th, wheat had shown a net rise of 19% and other grains had advanced appreciably. The prices of butter and cheese are now more than 25% higher than before the outbreak of war. Quotations for cattle and hogs and livestock products, e. g. hides, have also increased considerably and certain other farm products, such as potatoes, have shown notable gains.

It should not be assumed, however, that commodity prices are off on a runaway course. On the supply side, world stocks of many primary products are large and in a number of cases a considerable amount of idle capacity exists. On the demand side, steps have already been taken to prevent profiteering and to avoid unnecessary advances in prices with the primary objective of limiting potential increase in the cost of living. Moreover, it can be taken for granted that the Allied Powers will buy as carefully and as efficiently as possible.

While it appears that we stand on the threshhold of a period of unusual activity, the Review points out that there should be no illusion that war will offer a permanent solution of our basic economic problem.

Rule Britannia

Next year is the two hundredth anniversary of the first public presentation of "Rule Britannia." This song, recalls an exchange, was the finale of the masque "Alfred," its music by Dr. Thomas Augustine Arne, libretto by James Thomson, the Scottish-born poet best known for his poem "The Seasons," and David Mallet. While the words are usually attributed to Thomson, there is no certainty about it. Mallet rather ran to invocations, and Rule Britannia is an invocation presumably, for there is fair agreement that the fifth line is "Rule Britannia! Britannia rule the waves" rather than "Rule Britannia! Britannia rules the waves."

Rule Britannia was not a war song after the fashion the other Britannia songs. "Oh Britannia, the pride of the ocean, The home of the brave and the free" was identified with the Crimean war, and "The soldiers of the Queen" with the South African. By the time the Great War came along, "Tipperary" was chosen and this time, while there are several favorites, the final selection is likely to be something as irrelevant, this being evidence of nonchalence rather than lack of patriotism.

Prof. Laski On Hitlerism

Professor Harold J. Laski of the University of London has written on behalf of the British Labor Party, to the *New York Times*. His letter is too long to quote in full, but it sets forth clearly why there is unanimous determination in England to fight Hitlerism to a finish.

Prof. Laski writes as a strong Socialist, and in the following six paragraphs he gives his reasons for supporting the Chamberlain Government's war efforts:

"We of the Left," he says, "have no sympathy for British imperialism; and we do not propose to become its instruments. We have none of Mr. Chamberlain's faith in the constructive possibilities of capitalism, British or any other; and we shall seek its transformation at the earliest possible opportunity because we are completely convinced that only in democratic socialism can the road to a lasting peace in Europe be found.

"But we are not less certain that our principles have no prospect of life before them if Hitlerism triumphs. It would mean the end of our socialism, of our trade union movement, of that great cooperative movement built by the workers' toil of one hundred years. Whatever the defects of our British system, the common man there is (as he is not in Hitlerite Germany) an end as well as a means.

"Our tolerance of opinion, political and religious, is wide; our faith in constitutionalism and democracy is still a living thing (as it is not, once more, in Hitlerite Germany), which no Government in this country may deny and yet live.

"Opposed to us is a system that has annihilated these principles and these habits. It governs, avowedly, by the jackboot and the concentration camp. It uses the instrument of war quite deliberately and brutally to expand its power. If it were to be victorious, there would end for us, as Socialists, all that makes life worth living, as it has ended for our German comrades since 1933.

"We therefore conceive that we have no alternative but to aid in the task of its destruction. Only then are the conditions present in which, both nationally and internationally, we can go forward to our own goal.

"We therefore, fully and without hesitation, share the view taken by the British Government that Hitlerism must be destroyed. We do so with no bitterness against the German people; we recognize that they, hardly less than we, are the victims of their rulers. We know the dangers t oany movement which accepts the challenge to conflict; how could we not know them who experienced the grim tragedy of the last war? But we say with emphasis that there is no room in the world for our principles and those of Hitlersim. The destruction of the one is the necessary prelude to the victory of the other."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The mystery—where on earth is Premier Campbell hiding?

* * * *

The next statutory holiday takes place on a Saturday, November 11.

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Lloyd George may have grown in years and in grace, but has not outgrown his capacity for intrigue.

* * * *

Beech Grove Inn should make splendid barracks for the artillery, especially as the Sterns residence can be converted into officers quarters.

* * * *

Admiral Duncan won a famous naval victory over the Dutch at Camperdown this date 1799—memory preserved in the battleships, Camperdown and Duncan.

* * * *

Our boys at Sydney, Sydney Mines, Mulgrave, etc,. are enjoying the best of health and are as happy and carefree as the proverbial lark. Long may it continue so.

* * * *

It appears the proposal to purchase $25,000,000 of new equipment for the two major railway systems will be financed by the Government, and the orders placed through the War Supply Board at Ottawa instead of directly by the railway companies. After buying the rolling stock in behalf of the railways, the Government will resell it to the railways, in accordance with their needs, under a rental purchase plan spread over 15 years. A similar basis was adopted for purchase of equipment for the railways in 1936 and 1937, as an unemployment relief measure. Decision to purchase at this time arises in part out of the desire to make way for possible munition orders later for the railway equipment companies.

* * * *

Three Montreal firms are now working on 61,000 pairs of boots for Canada's armed forces, under contracts awarded to them by the War Supply Board. While operations are being speeded as much as possible, it is understood that two to three weeks will elapse before initial deliveries can be made. The firms are: Corbell Limited, 435 St. Paul street east; Eagle Shoe Company Limited, 2083 Beaudry street, and MacFarlane Lefaivre Limited, 1690 Papineau avenue. These firms were successful bidders on a straight tender basis, when the federal agency recently called for figures on 100,000 pairs of boots, urgently needed to equip the armed forces. There was no question of a cost plus basis, it is understood, but it is believed in the trade here that subsequent contracts will probably be awarded on this latter basis. Three types of boots are involved in the first contracts—for use in the army, the Royal Canadian Air Force and for naval purposes.

* * * *

Mr. John A. MacDonald, writing from Charlottetown, under date of October 3, has the following letter appearing in the Montreal Gazette:

"Sir,—Speaking in Parliament during the recent special war session the Prime Minister made this declaration: Then there is the matter of favoritism. May I say this to my own following in this House of Commons: If any of you desire to have persons put into positions, in connection with this war, simply because they are favorites of yours; if primarily for such a person you want to have him given some special post, keep away from me, for I will never listen to you, I say the same to every honorable member of this House, and I say it not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of the Government. We want no favoritism in this war. We want the name of this Government and this country to be honorably sustained, and the man who seeks to profit indirectly by having his relatives or friends gain this contract or get this commission simply because they are among his favorites is no true friend of the Administration.'

"It is true we are in the midst of a war, a gigantic struggle between freedom and slavery, yet the Prime Minister of Canada, who is supposed to be a statesman and above petty politics, a few days after making this declaration dismisses from office the representative of His Majesty the King in the Province of Prince Edward Island, a gentleman who has filled the office more efficiently and in a more acceptable manner than any other Lieutenant-Governor since Confederation. I was born in Prince Edward Island 65 years ago and although I have resided in the United States for the past ten years, I am still a Canadian to the core. I have travelled through the island from one end to the other and I know what I am saying when I state that if a vote had been taken 98 per cent. of the people of the province, Liberal and Conservative alike would have cast their vote in favor of Lieutenant-Governor DeBlois remaining in office; but no, the Premier of the province; and the Prime Minister of Canada, said 'no'. DeBlois is a Conservative and out he must go. What a tragedy! to think our public men should adopt such small tactics when the Empire is calling upon the flower of our manhood to give their life blood for Canada and the Empire. How can we expect a united Canada under such circumstances? God give us men—real men—to be our leaders at a time like this."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Bismarck, while bound to Russia by the Three Emperors' League, went behind her back and concluded a secret treaty with Austria at her expense in 1879, and eight years later repeated the operation by making a secret treaty with Russia at Austria's expense. But these transactions were wrapped in profound secrecy, and Bismarck, when brought to book, gave them the polite name of "reinsurance." It never occurred to him in his most daring moments to invite the emissaries of one Power to negotiate with him in Berlin, and while they were still his guests and negotiations seemed to be nearing completion, to invite their opponents to come to the same place at the same time, and arrange with them to administer a public rebuff to those who came before. — London Sunday Times.

The certainty that however long the task may take it will be accomplished, ringing across the Continent and round the world, heartening to all free nations, will hardly be kept by the worst brutality of the Gestapo from the knowledge of the German people. Through the bombast of Field-Marshal Goering's speech, its strange amalgam of brag and whine, may be read doubt, distraction and fear. Whatever Herr Hitler's monomaniac faith in his star, his heir-apparent has clearly become uncomfortable about it. Field-Marshal Goering is unable to conceal his qualms about the enterprise into which the Fuehrer has plunged. It must be depressing to the German man in the street, however, dulled by propaganda, when he learns that though Poland is to be crushed in four weeks, he will for an indefinite period be short of meat, short of clothes, without any soap, and that is the best which the regime can promise him. —London Telegraph and Post.

The colleges plan to carry on. Military and educational authorities agree that, for the present, young people will best serve their country by continuing their education. The complexities of this modern world, which create such a demand for trained minds, are increased by the war. The progress of the war and the readjustments which must be its sequel will present major problems, with which only clear thinking can properly deal. And so young people are returning to their colleges. Life on the campus will proceed about as usual. The same round of studies and sports and social events will obtain. The one noticeable difference will be the unusual prominence of the Canadian Officers Training Corps. Activities of the C.O.T.C. will expand. The enrolment will be greater. Its operations will play a much greater part in university life now that the country is at war.—Halifax Chronicle.

If, as some predict, The Beer Barrel Polka should become the "Tipperary" of the Allied forces in the present war, then the Czechs, now under the Nazi heel, will have something of a smile on the Nazi. As might be suspected this rollicking tune was written by a free man living in a free land. As a matter of record, it was composed by a Czech named Jaromir Vejvoda and published in Prague in 1934 when Czecho-Slovakia was still a free and independent nation. Its original title was Skoda Yasky, which means Wasted Love. Early this year, before the Germans marched into Prague, an American music firm heard a record of Skoda Lasky. It commissioned one of its lyricists, Lew Brown, to write new words for it and The Beer Polka was the result. Thus British and Canadians come to learn an immortal melody. There is no sorrow in the tune for the gay Czech spirit is in it. In it is the prophecy of a song and a people freeing themselves from the bonds of tyranny. — Windsor Tribune.

No Dalai Lama has ruled in the sacred city of Lhasa, Tibet, for the past six years, the country being administered by a council of lamas since the thirteenth "reincarnation" of Buddha left this troubled world in 1933. About a month ago, however, it was reported that a likely-looking candidate for the exalted office had been found in a little village, who would be submitted to the traditional tests by which the divinity of the claimant is identified. Now this little lad of five, whose name is Tanchu, has survived the long ordeal of omens and auguries by which the yellow-robed priests arrive at a decision. The last "proof" was given a week ago, according to reports, when Tanchu was placed on a table and surrounded with toys and other articles, from which he was told to pick. By selecting a sacred relic he convinced the lamas that he was the rightful successor for whom they had been diligently searching. He will have to wait some time, however, before he ascends the throne, for the religious duties he will be called upon to discharge are extremely complicated and a hard period of study lies before him. For thirteen years he is to live in a gold-domed temple, familiarizing himself with the ritual. It is cynically asserted that Tanchu "stands one chance in five" of living to maturity. The last Dali Lama manged to survive to the age of sixty, but he was a conspicuous exception to the usual order of things. His four predecessors passed from the scene at the ages of 18, 11, 17 and 20 respectively. So it is a precarious glory which little Tanchu has had wished upon him. If he comes through safely he will be the fourteenth reincarnation to reign, and if he follows the example of his immediate predecessor he will take steps to protect himself from his "advisers." The comparative longevity of the last high priest was attributed to his prudent distrust of obsequious underlings, and the employment of an official foodtaster. The world will wish Tanchu well. After all, there is a fascination in these rites and inaccessible region, which, whatever one may think of the a glamour about this remote and spectacular superstitions surrounding its administration, goes complacently on its way, unaffected by the impact of "civilization" and its recurring cataclysms. — Hamilton Spectator.

Hitler has told five of Europe's little nations that he will respect their neutrality. That makes just five more countries that had better start building air raid defences. — Victoria Times

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

GAS ATTACKS

I have spoken before of the brilliant hockey player who, during a rest period, always complained greatly of indigestion and terrible gas pressure The trainer tried to point out to him that his gas pressure was caused by swallowing air, not by any gas due to fermentation of food in his stomach. To ease his mind, as well as his stomach, the trainer usually gave him a couple of peppermint candies which helped bring up the gas and he was able to play the balance of the game without much stomach disturbance.

In older or middle-aged individuals who are excitable and swallow air to some extent, gas symptoms—pressure, pain, and belching—may be due to gall bladder disturbances or it may be due to excitement and the swallowing of air.

Dr. T. A. Kean, in Medical World, states that the most common symptom of gall bladder disease is flatulence — gas, and in many cases it is the only symptom. The feeling of distension or pressure comes on immediately after a meal, especially a heavy meal or one containing fat—cream, egg yolks, fat meat, nuts. The patient may seek relief by belching up the gas or by loosening his clothing. This belching up air is practically odorless and tasteless and is in fact air that has been swallowed.

When the gas is belched up "soon" after a meal, it is not an alkaline or other remedy that is [illegible] the patient should not eat when excited or upset and he [illegible] as avoid the swallowing of air and the pressure symptoms caused by this swallowed air.

However, when the gas pressure and belching occur some hours after eating, the gall bladder (sluggishness in emptying) may be suspected as the cause.

Thus the simplest way of telling whether it is nervousness (and swallowed air) that is causing the symptoms is that swallowed air causing belching up of gas has no odor whereas gas due to a slow emptying or sluggish liver has a foul smelling odor, due to the fermentation which occurs hours after eating.

If, then, you are bothered with gas, you should note whether it occurs without odor soon after meals, or some hours after meals with odor. In the first case, calmness and no hurry at meals is the method of prevention; in the second case small meals or not much fat in the meals should prevent gas attacks.

Bargaining With The Bear

(Exchange)

Stalin's swift liquidation of the neutral Baltics recalls some of the difficulties he had in negotiating an anti-aggression pact with Britain and France. The talks dragged monotonously through the summer, ended promptly in the agreement with Hitler. There were persons in Canada, as well as in the British House of Commons, who were rather harsh about the failure of the Allies to buy Stalin into the alliance. Mostly they were the people who criticized Premiers Chamberlain and Daladier for selling out Czecho-Slovakia.

To these persons the strict neutrality of the Baltic States was only a stall. The "reactionaries" of Downing Street and the Quai d'Orsay were using it as a blind to avoid coming to terms with the Soviet. More certain of Stalin's integrity than his record warranted, they refused to believe that Russia had any designs on her "insignificant" neighbors. It was easier to believe in "tory treachery." Undoubtedly it was that which changed Stalin from a "peacemaker" into an assassin.

Baltic neutrality may not have been the only barrier to a British-French-Soviet agreement. In view of Poland's back-door massacre, it was not. But there no longer can be any doubt that the non-aggression negotiations failed because London and Paris refused to double-cross the Baltic. They would not be a party to a deal which Hitler, willingly or otherwise, agreed to in payment for help he may or may not get. By those terms three independent States, and probably a fourth, have virtually disappeared. True, Russia has not openly annexed them. But there are several ways, as Hitler has demonstrated, of skinning a cat. It would be utter nonsense to pretend those nations can exist as anything other than serfs of the U. S. S. R.

MAY WAIT SOME TIME

SYDNEY, Australia —(CP)—Two of the Duke of Kent's horses—Greenwich and Moonray—have arrived here, although the governor-general-designate will not take up his post because of the war.

I. Ins. Fully Says:

A NEIGHBOR'S house caught fire the other night, and he nearly lost his senses. He ran around getting in every one's way, and shouting: "My stamp collection! Get my stamp collection out—it's worth more than the house!' Well, they saved the house, so he didn't lose his stamps—but he learned his lesson all right.

"He did what I had told him to do many times—went to the agent of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford and got a Stamp Collections Insurance Policy that protects his valuable collection at its actual value. If you have a stamp collection that's worth money, don't depend on luck to save it from theft, loss or damage. See the National Fire agent now—and take a load off your mind."

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Division Of The Loot

(Globe and Mail)

The border by which her butchers have dismembered Poland probably has more military than economic significance. In actual territory the deal was not far off an even split. On the market value of the resources the Nazis might claim to have got as good as they gave. But actually, and particularly in view of Reich shortages, the Soviet fence got the long end of the stick. Russia got virtually all the resources the Reich lacks and has had greatest difficulty in obtaining, leaving the Nazis those raw materials which, if valuable to a nation at war, in no way offset the shortages. While they will do something to appease the appetite of the German war machine, they fall far short of satisfying it.

To Germany goes the 36,000,000 to 38,000,000 ton annual output of the Silesia coal fields. Large as it seems, this will be poor compensation for the 13,500,000 tons of highgrade Saar coal which Germany stands to lose by the French push. From the same area along the old Slovak-Moravian borders she will obtain some 870,000 tons of iron ore, between 110,000 and 190,000 (peak) tons of zinc annually. Polish steel mills, all within the German slice, turn out 1,440,000 tons of steel, with a potential of approximately 2,000,000 tons. In addition Germany gets the total output of the salt mines, estimated at 642,000 tons annually, roughly 19,000 tons of lead, upward of 1,720,000 tons of cement, and the small Polish chemical and textile industry.

To the Soviet have gone Polish oil wells, now out of production but capable of 500,000 tons a year; virtually every stick of commercial timber, including the wood-pulp industry with an annual production of 185,000 tons. Quite as important to underfed Russia as they would be to Germany are the 1,100,000 tons of Polish wheat, virtually the entire barley, oat and sugar-beet crops, estimated at 700,000, 1,350,000 and 1,300,000 tons, respectively, in the last crop year. All the honey and most of the 17,500,000-ton potato yield of the Tarnopol-Kowel district are now Russian.

Germany did get the Radom-Kielce territory, which raises a fair percentage of the country's 3,200,000 ton rye crop, the major pig-producing country, and better than an even split on the dairying industry. Yet most of Poland's 11,000,000 head of cattle, all the 3,200,000 sheep (last census), and more than a fair share of its 4,000,000 horses went to her Soviet Ally. To the Reich will be added about three-fifths of Poland's 15,300 miles of railways, including most of the improved lines, divisional points and shops. Also to Germany will go the best of the country's estimated 45,000 miles of roads, none too good as modern highways go.

What makes Russia's share so much more profitable is the division of population. Not only did Stalin avoid the political headaches of a dissatisfied minority by taking only the Ukrainian and so-called White Russian peoples, but he settled for that third or less of the population which is best equipped to sustain itself. In fact he can count on a surplus of agricultural production in payment for the cost of his "rescue" expedition. Hitler, on the other hand, has the added burden of finding food for another 23,000,000 or more mouths, whose hatred for their conquerors is not likely to subside easily or quickly under the added suffering of war rations. Even if the Kremlin will agree to "New Russia" selling its farm surplus to "new Germany", it will not help much. Poland never was self-sufficient in foodstuffs.

It may yet be in Poland that Hitler will lose the war.

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Glad partner of my home and fare,
My shadow in the street;

I look into your great brown eyes,
Where love and loyal homage shine,
And wonder where the difference lies
Between your soul and mine!

I scan the whole broad earth around
For that one heart which, real and true,
Bears friendship without end or bound,
And find the prize in you.

Ah, Blanco! did I worship God
As truly as you worship me,
Or follow where my Master trod,
With your humility.

Did I sit fondly at His feet
As you, dear Blanco, sit at mine
And look to Him with love as sweet,
My life would grow divine!

—J. G. Holland.

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