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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1946

Worthwhile Example

In pleasing contrast to the farm labor situation in Canada is the reaction of British girls to farm employment in the Old Country.

During the war 59,000 girls enlisted or were drafted into the Women's Land Army. This Land Army will be demobilized on March 1 next, and these girls will be free to go where they please, to seek new employment.

But 30,000 of them have declared that they want to stay right where they have been for the past few years—on the farm. They pay for these girls has averaged little over \$9.60 a week. For this they had to work long hours often in the fields swept with wind and rain and cold. The only recreation they enjoyed was weekly dances at the local pubs and very occasional trips to some market town. And all of them had been born and brought up in the city, where recreational facilities were almost unlimited.

But, apparently, the war has uncovered the fact that there is a great and growing dissatisfaction with factory and office work in the minds of young girls, once they have had a taste of life in the country. To them life in large cities is not only drab, but it costs too much and they have come to the conclusion that there is something more important in life than dollars and cents.

It is a healthy and worthwhile example, suggests an exchange, that a great many Canadian girls should consider.

Food In The Far North

According to a recent dispatch from Moscow, farms in the Soviet sub-Arctic regions are experimenting in growing grain, potatoes, cabbage and melons. In addition, experiments in stock-breeding in these regions are going forward.

In Canada, the development of such wheat varieties as Marquis and Durham threw open vast areas of the last great west to settlement. But any scheme for settlement of the Canadian north would, it must be admitted, require far more careful planning, and far more knowledge of the possibilities for agricultural enterprise in these areas, than is now the case. The Russians, however, seem to be making excellent progress in this direction with their own northern areas.

Experimental stations are already widely established, and the attempt to grow food in soil that is nearly always frozen is being advanced from year to year. Here in Canada, nothing as extensive has been attempted, although there have been some instances where vegetables and other foods were successfully grown in the far north. But the value of the Canadian north as an area suitable for agricultural exploitation can never be truly appraised except through long and arduous experimentation. Such a programme of experimentation should prove well worth while.

An Iceberg Ship

The latest in the fantastic projects that were dreamed up during the late war has been made public simultaneously in Ottawa, London, and Washington. It is the iceberg ship, 2,000 feet long, 3,000 feet wide, 200 feet deep and weighing 2,000,000 tons.

It was designed for the invasion of Europe and a small working model was successfully tried out in Patricia Lake near Jasper. The great berg, for it was nothing more than a patch of the ocean frozen into a solid block, would have provided a floating self-propelled and heavily-armed air field. The project was only abandoned when it became obvious that a working model could not be completed in time.

The code name for the project was "Habakkuk," a fitting name, for the prophet long ago told the faithful "I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told to you."

Dinosaur Of The Sea?

Like the dinosaur, the battleship has outlived its climate and its age, according to Admiral John H. Towers, the new commander of the United States Pacific Fleet. Admiral Towers says that only two American battleships ever fired a shot against Japanese ships in the Pacific war. They were useful in anti-aircraft defence and in bombing enemy islands but this could have been done just as well and less expensively by other smaller ships.

In the near future, the Admiral believes, atomic bomb tests in the Pacific will finally show that the battleship is obsolete. If he is right, one of the great legends of the sea is passing—the mighty floating fortress which seemed to be the ultimate safeguard of all maritime nations. The battleship of the future, carrying the fire power of the atom bomb, will fly.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everybody, naturally, wants to know who the member of Parliament is, who has got involved in the spy scandal. Evidently he is from Ontario, and has a home and office in Ottawa, judging by the fact that people are ringing up both there to find out whether he is still at liberty or in the lock-up.

In the revised statutes of the Island for 1780, in the Militia Act, chap. 1, sec. xi, it is enacted that alarm shall be given in case of invasion, at Patterson's Battery in Charlottetown, by firing two guns and by lighting a beacon on the summit of the hill on Queen St., and also by firing two guns from Tartar Wharf. A correspondent asks, "Where was Tartar Wharf, and where Patterson's Battery?"

The King has approved the gift to a million ex-servicemen of twenty-three countries who served in the United Kingdom during the war of free membership in the Travel Association of Great Britain. Members will have opportunities to keep in touch with friends they have made in Britain and will receive a membership card and an annual calendar of events in Britain from the Derby to musical festivals. So far Canadians have made the most acceptances.

John Bull is not an imaginary individual chosen to represent the English character and people, but the name of a distinguished musician who, moreover, composed the music of the British National Anthem; he was born in 1593 and died this date 1628; he became organist of Hereford Cathedral, Queen Elizabeth Chapel, and Professor of Music at Gresham College, London; his reputation was such that he was sought after by European continental countries, and died while organist of the Cathedral at Antwerp.

When the Federal Parliament reassembles on Thursday, it will have just a month for all it has to do before rising again for the Easter recess. Then the Dominion-Provincial Conference will be in session from April 25 on. The question parliamentarians are asking themselves and others will be a summer session, or will Parliament be adjourned till after the "dog days"? The chances are all in favour of a resumption immediately after Easter, and a continuance into August, there is so much important business that must be got through before the 20th Parliament ultimately closes its second sessions.

The table hereunder contains Brazil's production figures for potatoes and other important agricultural products. All figures are in metric tons, except for sugar for which production is given in 132 lb. sacks.

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1939, 1944. Rows include Sugar, Cotton, Rice, Potatoes, Coffee, Beans, Corn, and Wheat.

"Canada has done itself proud" in the financial arrangement it has made with the Mother Country. Materialists, and such-like, who can measure things only by the dollar and cent marks, may think Ottawa has been foolhardy in committing so young a country to so long a commitment, but they forget there is such a thing as a spiritual law which over-rides severely economic laws, and this will result in Canada reaping richly what she has sown. The British Empire will make a great "come-back", as Churchill predicts, and Canada will still be the chief corner-stone in the rebuilt and greatly enhanced edifice.

Mr. C. H. Fortin and Mr. H. C. Thompson, McGill University, in a review of population and immigration in Canada, reach this conclusion: "The Canadian White Paper issued last year stated the Government's intentions of promoting extensive surveys for the discovery, development, and conservation of our natural resources. It is our contention that the greatest proportion of public spending undertaken should be directed with the view to an extensive and comprehensive plan to adapt Canada to a greatly enlarged population by facilitating the development of natural resources with indirect and even direct aid, by promoting greater industrialization and by adopting a planned immigration policy which will direct the immigrants more towards industry, as necessary, as well as towards agriculture. In this way, such public spending as is necessary would be largely productive investment, and the full employment goal will be easier to fulfil."

How our hard-earned money goes to enrich bureaucrats at Ottawa is disclosed by the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette. One of the latest undertakings is the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation established by the government to transplant from the Finance Minister to a separate concern the administration of the Housing Act. For this job D. B. Mansur, formerly of the War Finance Committee and before that associated with a large private concern in Montreal, was brought in at the modest salary of \$18,000 a year, while his assistant is reputed to be paid \$12,000 a year, a sum said to be just twice what he was paid before appointment to the present job. Another recent salary sawp is the \$15,000 salary of A. D. Dunton, new head of CBC. Then there are cases still coming to light of those on the roll of the National Defence headquarters staffs who have been able to get promotions and to retire on pensions much higher than the total of pay and allowances they were paid at the beginning of the war. It has enabled some to retire at such fairly early ages as 42 or 44 with an exceedingly comfortable pension.

Notes By The Way

Courtesy in catching on. Have you noticed? It is the returning soldier, teaching cheerfulness and civility to those who stayed at home and are jaded and fretted. You will find fishermen apologetic for their lack of variety and willing to fill the fish there are taken with war ribbons on giving service with a smile, before the tip. And the returned business-man what a good fellow he is—these cheerful, friendly blokes back from the wars are setting a new standard of manners to the community. —London Express.

A new thing to worry about is the short-term, as sample, which in which the employees tell the management, "For a week we are having a walkout. See how you like it? Such a thing is familiar in domestic life and has to be expected and endured, as when the wife says to the husband, "From now on Christmas I'm not speaking to you," in such cases the quantity works, and the victim is a mousetrap for a while while the mouse is actually being set. We wonder whether there will be any more of these things in the future. —H. R., in The New York Times Magazine.

We must do with less butter because of the nations' survival, for as we cannot manufacture margarine because the entire world is short of it, and international imports are therefore unavailable, and we are actually better off than the people of the United States, where butter is produced and margarine is manufactured. Most Canadians, we believe, realize these things; much as they like butter, they will consider themselves fortunate they are no worse off and will accept the reduced ration of butter. —Kinston Whig-Standard.

The Royal Ontario Museum was recently presented with a long, slender, twisted shaft of ivory which the donor honestly believed was a tusk of an unicorn. The unicorn, the unicorn was described by Greek philosophers as a small horse but with a single red, white and black horn in the middle of its forehead. Our visitor was actually the peculiar, twisted tusk of the narwal, a small Arctic whale, often called the sea unicorn. Although it never existed in fact, the narwal has had a long and persistent life in the public mind, as evinced by heraldry, literature and legend. The donor, who is a collector of such things, has a unicorn. —Royal Ontario Museum.

We have had the experience, as probably everyone, of going into a house in which real living is forbidden. These are the ones where there is a mania for cleanliness and order, amounting to a fanaticism in fact, but where the front door is unused. Expensive rugs must not be profaned by the tread of shoes carrying dirt from the street, even there are bookcases filled with volumes that must not be handled for fear of muddying the pages. The family is subjected to the fumes of tobacco smoke. The family exists mainly in the kitchen, where the hostess, under such a regime, real living is impossible. —Windsor Star.

We have long been told that the very practical Chinese pay their doctors when they are well and stop doing so when they are ill. That is good enough to be true. That formerly the punishment for stealing was so severe that it paid to steal again! Another logical thing reported about the Chinese is an object lesson. The Brandon Sun. Their individualism in strikes is worth noting. It conforms rather to the American code of social justice to all. Recently when the transportation workers went on strike for more pay, in order to continue to operate the buses and cars, but collected no fares. Only the transporters were paid for a little. The public were protected. It is an idea.

Sunday: Took a dish of tea this afternoon with some people who served the strongest mixture that I have ever swallowed under the name of tea. The color of a spangle, the water, but it was powerless against such tea; I estimate that a cup of it, poured into a hot water bottle, might have made an endurable drink for me, but I will not guarantee it. I ventured to remark to my hostess, "Oh, yes," said she; "tea is no good to us unless it will trot a mouse in the last expression, and learned that what they meant was that they liked their tea so strong they put it in their kitchen for testing purposes, and I lost all my thirst at once. —Samuel Marchbanks, in the Peterborough Examiner.

Back in her secluded country home at Henley-on-Thames is the creator of the Scarlet Pimpernel, Baroness Orczy, now in her late seventies, after a five-year ordeal during the wildest adventures of her fictional hero, Bennett Cerr writes in Saturday Review of Literature. She was domiciled at a villa in Monte Carlo; directly next door Gestapo headquarters were set up. Day after day she watched the Gestapo men in sleek black Mercedes-Benz limousines dash out one hour and return the next dragging some unfortunate wretch or questioning and worse—just such civilians as those whom the Pimpernel snatched from the Bastille and the Comptoir. The Baroness, helpless but unafraid, held her ground, and occasionally was able to help prisoners fortunate enough to be released. Just as it was becoming intolerable two things happened: the Nazis collapsed, and just before the town's liberation, an R. A. F. bomb, intended for the Nazi H. C. made a direct hit on the Orczy villa. The Baroness pulled herself unhurt, out of the wreckage, and came home to England as soon as she could negotiate the trip. "More Pimpernel stories" are being reported. "No, no, I will spend my last years in recollection of my own adventures!"

Mr. W.L. Cotton And Rural Beautification

(Maritime Advocate) Perhaps it was because of the size of the gift—a small community where such things are unusual—perhaps because of the novelty of the object in contrast with most charitable benefactions. But in any case much interest has been manifested in the recent announcement by Premier James of Prince Edward Island that Mr. Robert W. Cotton, of Charlottetown, had set up with the Provincial Government a one hundred thousand dollar trust for the encouragement of rural beautification in that Province through the planting of shrubs, trees and flowers. The Maritime Advocate, knowing its readers would be interested in learning something more of the proposal, and about the donor, accordingly sent its representative to have a talk with Mr. Cotton.

Mr. Cotton's first and last suggestion was to emphasize that the thought behind the endowment and his hope for its ultimate success was that it should be a cultural project conducted primarily with a cultural ends in view—to be of help towards a wider realization of rural handicraft and nature appreciation to be derived from living on the land, working on and with the land, the pleasure to be had in developing the trust into a series of beautiful things as well as useful and needful things; and an increasing consideration of farming and gardening as a means of either accumulating great wealth for subsequent redistribution, or as a means of enjoying lavish spending on transitory and passing extravaganzas that return no lasting pleasure.

Naturally when the grower derives satisfaction and joy from the production of beautiful things, that part by all who view them with appreciative eyes. Driving through the rural areas of the Province, Edward Island today produces for many a sense of great satisfaction largely as the result of the beautiful things which are being produced. Mr. Cotton's gift is a bountifully bestowed. It is the donor's hope that the stimulation provided by the Cotton beautification trust will lead to the enrichment of many spots in the landscape, the covering up of bare and ugly districts, the elimination of a stain of added colour and grace along the way.

Mr. Cotton does not forget the power of the example. He feels that if only an odd home-maker here and there is encouraged and persuaded to make the exterior of their buildings more beautiful and attractive and satisfying, neighbors will soon be stimulated to follow suit, and the result will be a general improvement in the beauty which they have seen, may strive to emulate or surpass it in their homes.

The immediate proposal is that a small nursery may be quickly established, with home for a nursery, which will develop and produce a quantity of a few outstanding varieties of hardy perennial plants, flowering shrubs and ornamentals, and both effective and attractive when planted around the home and along the roadsides and in the yards. The plan, so far as it has been developed, calls for the appointment of a full-time or part-time person, whose duties will be responsible for promoting its objects and who may be expected to encourage rural beautification, propaganda and personal contact, to make use of the products of the nursery and to make use of the countryside in which they live.

Mr. Cotton believes that the coming years are likely to see a decided increase in the number of small rural holdings established in the Province, and that the more important market centres, which are being developed along the through highways and adjacent to the landscape. Ranging in size from less than one up to ten acres, they will be developed in the intensive production of vegetables, berries and tree fruits which will be marketed largely in the cities, and raising, possibly, a few other products, such as poultry and other like activities natural to small holdings in rural areas. Such a development and expansion of cottage industries and handicrafts, open a wide range of possibilities for the employment of the rural population of whom might also cater to summer visitors) as well as for those retired or on pension, and may well be a most satisfying and likely to be productive of the highest type of development and progress of the individual.

Mr. Cotton's life has been an active one and his interests are many and varied. He is a shy, retiring, unassuming, and his actions never spectacular. He is a man of few words, and his wife and children are very simple and unassuming. He was brought up in the newspaper and printing business, apprenticeship to the printer, and the first daily newspaper in the Province which was founded by his father, the late W. L. Cotton, in 1873. He began his career at the age of fifteen at \$1.50 a week. Robert worked up to become manager and part owner of the business. He helped in the formation of the Maritime Press Association and was its vice president in 1911. But when the federal government called for a representative to the editorial chair, they sold The Express and the publication of the Maritime Press Association in Charlottetown became a two-paper instead of a three-paper town.

Prior to this Mr. Cotton had engaged in the printing business by the purchase of the book stationery and printing establishment of Esplanade and the name of the name to the Maritime Stationery; and its retail department was rapidly expanded. Following this, in 1914 he in co-operation with a number of the younger business men of Charlottetown, organized the Charlottetown Summer Resorts Ltd., building a number of furnished cottages for summer occupation grouped about a central dining hall on a very beautiful site at the entrance to Charlottetown Harbour. At the outbreak of World War I business expansion was halted and Mr. Cotton enlisted as a Private in the 100th Battalion. After a long period of training in England with the 8th Division, during which he served as machine gun instructor, he went to France early in 1918. He was wounded at Cambrai while serving with the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion. On returning to Canada soon after the Armistice he disposed of

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

APPRECIATION

Sir—The Provincial Council of Girl Guides have asked me to express their thanks and grateful appreciation for all your help during Scout and Guide Week, without which we could never have had the success we believe we achieved.

I am, Sir, etc. E. G. SADLER, Sec'y. The Girl Guides Association.

JOBS FOR VETERANS

Sir—In your issue of March 11th an editorial appeared commending the action of Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour for his action in promising preference to veterans with overseas service for Government positions. It is agreed that such action would be commendable if carried out in action as well as by promise, but the recent appointment to the War Labour Board in Charlottetown would not be out of place. Mr. Mitchell's statement that such a position has been vehemently protested by the Provincial Council of the Canadian Legion and by prominent employers of labour in the City of Charlottetown. So far no reply to write sent to both the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell and his Deputy, Mr. MacNamara, by this Command two weeks ago have been received. Considering the promise given to this broad statement by the Minister of Labour, should not this Command of the Canadian Legion of Trade and Commerce be given with an approximate membership of two thousand, be given the courtesy of a reply?

I am, Sir, etc. T. B. ROGERS, President Provincial Command, Canadian Legion, E.E.S.L., Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The Durham Report

(Vancouver Province) Not one Canadian in a thousand, probably, has ever read the Durham Report, though it deals entirely with Canada. Yet somebody is reading it, and buying it, for the Oxford University Press has thought it desirable to issue a new and abridged edition of the report with a short biography of Lord Durham, the author.

The Durham Report, described as "the greatest state document in British Imperial history" contains about 200,000 words and was issued in two volumes at first—later in three volumes. Now, Sir Reginald Coupland has boiled it down to 45,000 words, retaining everything essential. The report is a remarkable document because it sowed the seeds from which the existing British Commonwealth grew. It was issued as a result of Lord Durham's investigation of the conditions which produced the rebellion of 1837. It sowed the union of the provinces, which took place in 1841 and which led to Confederation. It suggested responsible government which came just about a century ago in Lord Elgin's governorship. And from the Confederation experiment—the combination of the federal principle with the British system of government—came the other features of the Empire.

The Durham Report was a remarkable document in that it was written by himself and his staff—time, too, when transportation facilities in Canada were of the sketchiest. His Canadian experiences broke Lord Durham's health and within less than two years of his return he was dead. But his report goes marching on after more than a century. For Canada, it is a historical document. But some other countries—India is one of them—look on it as containing the outlines of a practical program.

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The Poets Corner

MARCH Crocuses and daffodils, Waken, waken now, Hang your bells, forsythia, On every curving bough.

Little cabbage butterfly, Sit in your cocoon, Hang your bells, forsythia, On every curving bough.

Drill your green battalions, grass, Down the barren lawn, Cuckoo, climb the willows, February's gone.

Willful February's gone— With a flare, O March, Make way, O melting snow, make way, Here comes March! —Ethel Roming Fuller, in Animal Life.

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