

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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Subscription Rates
By Mail in P. E. I. \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months, \$1.25 for 3 months; 50c for one month
City Delivery \$5.00 per year; \$3.00 for 6 months, \$1.75 for 3 months; 60c for one month

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1943

Aviation Research

Establishment of new aeronautical laboratories by the National Research Council just outside of Ottawa has provided improved facilities for research on the multitude of problems arising from modern trends in aviation, says an official publication.

Horizontal and vertical wind tunnels enable tests to be made on model aircraft of all kinds to determine their characteristics, good or bad, which are likely to affect their behaviour in flight.

Experimental work required in connection with scientific problems under investigation in the National Research Laboratories is often carried out co-operatively with the R.C.A.F.

During the year the Radio Section continued to work on the development of Secret Radio Locator equipment with considerable success.

There are already in the hands of the Services numerous different equipments which have been developed in the National Research Laboratories. Some of these have already been used successfully against the enemy.

Canada's Blind

The twenty-fourth annual report of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is cheerful reading with the assertion that last year was the most successful and progressive period in its history.

There has been a marked increase in the employment of blind persons during the war. Details are not given as to what form this employment is taking, but a comparison of statistics indicates that a considerable portion of it is in cafeteria service in factories and that type of concession work.

Although no accurate statistics are available, says the report, it is probable that at least a quarter and perhaps a much higher fraction of those now receiving pensions could be removed from the classification "blind" if arrangements could be made for surgical treatment for their defective eyes.

A Dangerous Tendency

Mr. Walter Lippmann, noted American writer and war commentator, has reached the conclusion that the smooth working of the American system of government is being impaired, to the detriment of the war effort, by an unfortunate divorce between the activities of the representatives of the people, thereby meaning the politicians, and those of the administrative

and executive officials, otherwise styled the bureaucrats. The separation of powers under the American political system has always created certain difficulties, but in his view these are now being aggravated by the tendency shown by many of the bureaucrats to ignore the people's representatives. The same tendency may be noted in Canada.

Mr. Lippmann is particularly severe regarding the growing disposition of members of the Cabinet and high officials to resort to the radio for sudden announcements of important changes of policy, arguing that, under a system of representative government, this method is unsound in principle and unsatisfactory in practice.

"The radio," he writes, "has the great defect that you cannot talk back to it and that you cannot ask questions, and therefore it is the most undemocratic of all ways of inaugurating a new program which requires popular support, if the program is to work."

So he cites with disapproval the plan adopted to inform the public on the Administration's new program for rationing canned goods, which is a novel experiment with many complicated features, not easy to understand. Mr. Elmer Davis, the Director of War Information, and Mr. Claude Wickard, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, each made an announcement about it, and left the public to make the best of what it heard.

Mr. Lippmann thinks that such things are done in a much better way in Britain, and points out that Mr. Churchill, in offering reports on his stewardship and making important pronouncements of policy, never neglects to use the House of Commons as his first forum.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Presidency of the Board of Trade these days is not altogether an enviable or desirable position for a busy man to hold and efficiently discharge its onerous duties for it is no sinecure.

Alas, there will be no sequel to Ft. Lt. Richard Hillary's book "Last Enemy" or "Falling Through Space," the story of an R.A.F. fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain. Lieut. Hillary, who had been working on a second book, was killed in action this month at the early age of twenty-three, one more addition to the next missing generation of leaders.

Who constitute the Treasury Board which turned down the vote of Parliament regarding our railway wharf improvement? The Minister of Finance and several officials! What right has such a bureaucracy to defy the will of Parliament on the pretext that the necessary outlay lawfully voted by Parliament was not a war measure? It is simply preposterous, and our province will be writing itself down in history as supine and gullible if we submit to it.

As might have been foretold by experienced newspapermen, Rev. J. L. Thomson is having a perpetual headache over C.B.C.'s Labour Forum, which is the equivalent of the newspaper correspondents' column. Mr. Howe, the Minister of Munitions, Mr. Drummond Wren, Secretary of the Workers Educational Association, and Mr. George Bart, of the United Automobile Workers of America have protested vigorously against particular contributions, and at present the reverend manager is conducting an investigation of statements broadcast. Strict control of the correspondence discussions is an essential, otherwise endless trouble is apt to ensue, the average contributor having no sense of responsibility for what he writes or says.

Sir Henry Morgan, British buccannier, born this date, 1635; native of Glamorganshire; became "Admiral" of the West Indian buccanniers at the age of thirty-one; two years later he ravaged Cuba, and crossing to the mainland, carried Porto Bello by assault, sacked the town, and brutally tortured the inhabitants, withdrawing only on payment of an enormous bribe; for three years he continued this course of rapine and cruelty, till at length he was captured by the British Navy and sent to England in chains; there, winning Charles II's good graces, he was knighted and made Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica where he died in 1688; he was the prototype of the ruthless high financiers and monopolists of the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries who accumulated hitherto unheard of wealth by the exploitation and ruin of others, and then sought and obtained royal honours in the guise of philanthropists by expending part of their ill-gotten gains for the public weal.

Britishers have been warned once more to tighten their belts in the current year in another step in that progressive development toward world war in which consideration for civilians grows less and less. It should be interpreted as another indication that Britain is preparing to throw its last reserves into the struggle against the Axis powers. As far as shoppers and housewives are concerned it is not any longer a question of "you pay your money and you take your choice", it is a matter of producing coupons and taking what the shopkeeper has on hand. That goes for almost anything.

The development of the points system, which was designed to allow housewives something above a subsistence rations in the past year gives an idea of how little margin there is left for further tightening restrictions. Each individual is allowed to spend twenty points a month either on one can of luxury or such a dish as five cans of baked beans. At the beginning of the year the only foods included in the scheme were canned meats, fish and beans. In the past two months, however, rice, sago, tapioca, dried peas, lentils, dried fruits, canned fruit, vegetables, condensed milk, breakfast cereals and crackers have been added to point rationing.

NOTES BY THE WAY The French Forces In North Africa

Who wouldn't be a teacher! When school opened after the holidays, a Fort William kindergarten teacher called little Billy to the front. The youngster started to cry. Teacher took a sturdy little chap by the hand and put him beside Billy. "See Billy, that makes the first crying when Jackie started to cry. In a few moments half the class was crying. It was their first day at school!" -Fort William Times-Journal.

Hiller's latest newspaper photograph shows him with tousel hair and sagging cheeks and neck, which may well be physical signs of worry about the Russian and African situation. The warden seems to be getting into his hair to such an extent that before long he may have none at all. -Montreal Gazette.

You always can depend on a bus having seats when it's coming back from where you are going. -Sherbrooke Record.

The United States may run out of castor oil in 30 days, but that's a long time for little Willie to keep his teeth clinched. -Toronto Star.

There has been a lengthening of the average life in Canada. This does not mean that the maximum span of life has been increased, but only that more people live to a greater age. Child mortality has been greatly diminished. This is the best achievement of the century. But there has been an extension of life at the other end. This means that more people are living in old age. The greatest vigor of easy adaptation and of adequate earning ability. Thus the lengthening of life does not mean that there is more scute and difficult. It makes more imperative too, some friendly provision for the care in that period when if there is increased saving against old age and its severities. -Guelph Mercury.

Because troops are leaping instead of tramping, says Signald Rosenberg, no good marching songs are being written. There's a sour note in phut, phut, phut, the boys are marching. -Toronto Star.

Marshal Timoshenko, with his epic defence of Stalingrad followed by the drive of his troops against the thwarted Germans, is again the hero of the hour in London, where he is familiarly and affectionately referred to as "Old Tim". Actually his military career is only 47 years old. When a young man he worked as a peasant in the fields of his native Pessarabia. Now he is one of the famous military figures of all time. -Toronto Star.

There has been hoarding of butter and the offenders are not all wholesalers or retailers. It is very serious given out show that there were several million pounds of butter purchased in the month of November that is, in the month of the year. Anticipating a shortage, people, particularly in cities and larger centres, have been purchasing butter in bulk. It is not the actual needs and storing it away for future needs. It is greed and self-interest and nothing but that that does not meet the present butter situation. But there is one other factor, and that is if it is left unchecked, some one, and that one is always the poorer class, has to do without butter in some of its daily life. -Huron Expositor, Seaforth.

When the history of this war comes to be written, it will show, undoubtedly, that control of the seas by the American and British fleets was the essential element of victory. Hitler and Hirohito could really communicate by means of air or land, the military's tuition would be far different from what it is. part, and Russia holds them apart, and then, the Allied fleets. -Chicago News.

John Bracken was once a teacher of field hockey and a cultural agent in the United States. He has had plenty of experience in teaching in universities and elsewhere. He is listed in Who's Who as a school teacher. So is John H. Blackmore, leader of the Social Credit party in parliament. Arthur Meighen, who has just relinquished the Conservative leadership, taught in the Caedonia High School in 1897 and 1898. Viscount Bennett, another former Prime Minister of Canada, taught school in Douglastown, New Brunswick. The late J. S. Woods, worth of O. C. F. fame, was also, as a teacher, in the schoolmaster. -Brantford Expositor.

The Chins Up Fund, operated by Canadian Boy Scouts to assist British Scouts who have the misfortune to lose their homes or equipment, has now passed the \$31,000 mark. In Calgary one Troop donated \$200 to the fund. In another Troop would do the same they would donate a further sum. A second Troop responded with \$62, and the third Troop with \$100, along the additional \$50 -Moncton Times.

A locomotive just completed at the Doncaster works of the L.N.E.R. is the 1942nd to be built there. Thus the number plate fixed to the smoke box of the engine combine the registration number and the year of completion, a coincidence that is unlikely to occur again. It was in 1867 that the first engine was built at Doncaster, and there is a very marked difference between it and the 1942 model. For example today's locomotive is twice as heavy, the total weight of the 1867 engine in working order and including tender being 83 tons 13cwt, while the modern one is 130 tons 13cwt. -Glasgow Herald.

That Herr Doctor Goebbels and his staff suffer sadly from lack of balanced imaginations has seldom been so clearly demonstrated as in the line of propaganda with which they followed up the announcement of Admiral Darlan's assassination. Using the radio, they asserted that Prime Minister Churchill had plotted Darlan's murder at the recent secret session of the House of Commons. They fabricated some sensational "last words" for the murdered admiral. They even declared that President Roosevelt had been present at the session, the killing was "first degree murder" was actually directed at Mr. Churchill himself. Following this the Nazi propaganda agency subsequently sent out a Morse-code transmission for use in the United States, elaborating more fully the main points in the original Goebbels

Parliament Won

(Judith Robinson in "News") Announcement of the appointment of Lord Cherwell of Oxford as Britain's Paymaster General marks the end of a long quiet truce between Winston Churchill and the British Parliament. Parliament won.

On the face of it, a Professor of Experimental Philosophy at the University of Oxford is not a probable choice as Paymaster General. But that is Lord Cherwell's post in Mr. Churchill's reconstituted cabinet and the House of Commons can now sit back for awhile.

It probably means that American effective had to be scattered all through French North Africa, not only for the sake of the British troops fighting in the same theatre, but such is the statement which has just come from "Bernard" that ground troops and four-nationist, now living in exile in America. To quote from Fernatin's review of the North African situation: "At the present hour the French troops that are fighting in Tunisia are nearly as numerous as the British and they greatly outnumber the Americans. I speak of British and Americans engaged in that theatre of operations."

There were none. The articles were silenced. But Lord Cherwell was added to the British Cabinet last week. Winnie, having won the battle, gave Parliament the right on the matter of principle. For the questions about tanks that had kept turning up at Westminster were not really about tanks at all, they were about the British Constitution, representative government, cabinet responsibility and things of that sort. And they were all aimed at the experimentally philosophical head of Lord Cherwell of Oxford, who was not and did not want to be a member of Mr. Churchill's government.

Lord Cherwell, as Professor Frederick Alexander Lindemann, a man more at home in laboratories than in government, has been Winston Churchill's personal adviser on tank design and other matters for quite a long time. He is a brilliant scientist, an authority on astrophysics and the same on the consideration of tanks by way of airplanes. After serving through the last war with the old Royal Flying Corps, Frederick Lindemann stayed on with the R. A. F. as an experimental pilot. Then he took charge of experiments in the aviation laboratories in Farnborough. Then he went to the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford to continue his experiments. Then he was called and Professor Lindemann turned his scientific mind from the abstract problems of astrophysics to the concrete problem of beating an enemy armed with every implement of scientific warfare. He and the Prime Minister of Britain got together on tanks, which have been an obsession with Mr. Churchill ever since last war when they were called "Winnie's Polities". On tanks the Professor and the Prime Minister found they had a lot in common, but that is not what was worrying back-benchers in the House of Commons.

As a tank expert, Lord Cherwell's qualifications were not questioned, but as a confidential adviser responsible neither to cabinet, parliament nor people, he came in another category, and one that British Parliaments have had to deal with before.

Britain did not have so much luck out of the last personal and confidential adviser a British Prime Minister took, and Members still sitting at Westminster haven't forgotten him. Sir Horace Wilson, the real and secretive mystic who rose from the rear rank of the Civil Service to become the directing whisper in Neville Chamberlain's decisions, may not look much like Lord Cherwell of Oxford, the eminent scientist. But he was a personal and confidential adviser too, and that's enough for the British House of Commons. It isn't having any more.

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J. A. FULLERTON, City Clerk

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