THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1943

Fertilizer Requirements

As an aid towards increasing food production, Canadian farmers used more fertilizer in the 1943 crop season than ever before and as there is every prospect that the demand will continue to increase, arrangements have been made by the Fertilizer Administrator to have a still larger total tonnage of fertilizers available for the Fall of 1943 and the Spring of 1944. In view of the prospects for this larger tonnage, and with the same total tonnage of mixed fertilizer containing potash, every farmer, the Administrator points outs, should be reasonably sure of obtaining his fertilizer supply. With enough nitrogen and phosphates for the heavier soils, and a suitable range of potash in mixed fertilizers for such crops as potatoes, canning, and truck crops, there should be enough fertilizers of the satisfactory kind to meet the requirements of the food production program for this Fall and next Spring.

It is estimated that there will be about 20 per cent more both of nitrogen and phosphates available. Nitrate of soda will be obtainable only on permit for very special needs in top-dressing certain vegetable crops, and it must not be used in fertilizer mixtures. However, a new form of free-flowing ammonium nitrate made in Canadian munition plants is now on the market. This material, containing 34 per cent nitrogen, will fill the requirements for much of the nitrogen.

As more potash is required in Britain next year, farmers in Canada and the United States will have to carry on with about 15 to 20 per cent less actual potash than they used in 1942-43, the reduction in the use of potash being in the same proportions in both countries. To meet this change in supply, new fertilizer analyses are necessary. The number of analyses of mixed fertilizers had been reduced and the analyses themselves have been changed a little. For example, the popular 2-12-2 has been altered to 2-12-4; and the 4-8-10 to 4-8-8. Until more potash is available it has been necessary to drop the 2-12-10 and the 0-12-10 from the approved list altogether. By these reductions, it is possible to save about 9,000 tons of K_2O, the amount which must be saved to meet the present situation. However, with this cut in the percentage of potash, there will still be about the same total tonnage of mixed fertilizers containing potash.

Farmers who wish to mix fertilizers on the farm can continue to do so but they cannot use potash alone. The amount of potash fertilizer a farmer can now buy must not be more than enough to make one of the analyses of mixed fertilizers approved for 1943-44.

The grades fixed for the five Eastern Provinces for 1943-44 are; for general crops 2-12-4; 4-8-8; 4-12-6; and 0-14-7. Because larger supplies of nitrogen and phosphates are arranged for, a 3-18-0 analysis has been added to the list for use on the heavier soil to help supply any increasing demand for fertilizers, particularly on grain crops, that may develop.

Scylla And Charybdis

When the soldiers of the United Nations start pouring over the Straits of Messina in Italy, as they will one of these days, they will cross a stretch of water that was once sailed in fear and trembling by the ancient mariners of the Mediterranean. In the ancient world, recalls an exchange, the narrow neck of the straits was the home of Scylla and Charybdis, as awesome a couple of monsters as the human brain has invented.

Scylla was a sea monster with six heads, twelve feet and the voice like the yelp of a puppy. She lived in a cave on a high rock on one side of the straits and plucked sailors from passing ships. Under another rock a few hundred yards away lived Charybdis. Three times a day he used to suck in all the sea water and then sprout it out again. Sailing between the two gave the ancient sailors the creeps.

Behind these legends stands the plain fact that the currents in the Messina straits are tricky and treacherous. Whirlpools abound. The main current runs from south to north and the subsidiary currents in the opposite direction. Every six hours the currents reverse themselves. When high winds are blowing the current is often so strong that it scrapes seaweed from the sea floor and throws up fishes with abnormal or atrophied eyes.

If our sea-going fighting men have trouble with the straits, they will be in most distinguished company. Odysseus himself lost six men to Scylla when he tried to navigate it, and Odysseus by all accounts was a navigator of considerable experience.

Wool From Prairies

Under the stimulus of war-time needs, a new co-operative project in agriculture is yielding impressive results in the southwestern part of Saskatchewan, where the wool crop this year amounts to 64,000 pounds. It has long been known that a large area of approximately six million acres in that part of the province was unsuitable for the growing of grain, but was pronounced to be ideal as grazing lands for sheep. The difficulties, however, were twofold —lack of experience and the lack of capital, for it takes money to establish a new farming industry on a scale to bring the desired volume of production.

The people there were eager to make the attempt, and the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture came to their aid by providing both the expert advice and the funds to finance the venture. That step was taken last year, and soon no fewer than two hundred farmers were in charge of ten thousand sheep, herding them from pasture to pasture over the lush field. The first shearing occurred recently, and the thirty-two tons of wool thus obtained will fill a great want that prevails among the Allies. The quantity that was clipped in Saskatchewan may not seem large in itself, but those tons of fleece will give warmth to the fighting men of freedom and to many civilian sufferers of Europe. Best of all, it shows that Canada can produce high-quality wool and that there is more room for the extension of co-operative efforts in agriculture.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Sir John Davies, English poet, born this date 1569; author of "Orchestra", poem in praise of dancing, "Nosce Teipsum", a philosophical poem, and "Hymns to Astraea."

And yet, alas, when all our lamps are burned,
Our bodies wasted and our spirits spent,
When we have all the learned volumes turned,
Which yields men's wits both help and ornament,
What can we know or what can we discern?

* * * *

At the Niagara Falls, Mr. Churchill inquired why no big monument had been erected to Gen. Sir Roger H. Sheaffe who recaptured the heights from the Americans although a tall column had been placed on the heights to honor Gen. Brock who lost his life in the attempt. It was explained to Mr. Churchill that a small marker had been erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board to Gen Sheaffe. Mr. Churchill suggested that no large monument had been erected to commemorate Gen. Sheaffe's exploit, "because he wasn't killed."

* * * *

The Prices Board issued an order, effective Aug. 23, establishing maximum prices for fresh sausages, bologona-style sausages and weiners for all parts of Canada, and said the prices will reflect those of the basic period in 1941. The order sharply curtails the number of types of fresh sausages, bologna-style sausages and weiners or frankfurters which may be manufactured, with only one maximum price permitted for bolcasing, and with the weiner and fresh sausage bologna-style sausage, irrespective of the type of prices varying according to the type of casing used. The Prices Board said a maximum of two cents per pound subsidy will be paid manufacturers complying with requirements of the prices stability corporation, since the meat ingredients of bologna and weiners, principally beef, have been permitted to increase in price.

* * * *

When American food producers started shipping fruits to Great Britain under the Lend Lease program they were surprised by a request from the British to "please just preserve them in sulphur dioxide solution and ship them over in wooden casks." "Wouldn't the British prefer fruits canned in nice tin containers?" "No the British really wouldn't." As the British were the ones that were going to eat the fruit the Americans decided to let them have it the way they wanted it. So the sulphur dioxide process is going on and tin is being saved. Some 250,000 barrels have gone from American canners to Britain in this sulphur dioxide solution during the past three years. The So_2 process is simple. Take strawberries for example. The berries roll straight from the field to the freight loading platform alongside the railroad tracks. They're washed, hulled, and dumped into wooden barrels with a 2 per cent. sulphur dioxide solution. The barrel is sealed, put on the freighat car, and it's on the way to England. The whole thing takes half an hour. Millions of pounds of these sulphited strawberries were shipped to England this season.

* * * *

A visit is to be made to the Province soon by Wing Commander G. P. Gibson, V. C., D. S. O. with bar, D F. C., leader of the low-level bombing attack on Mohne and Eder dams May 17 for which he received the Victoria Cross. He is only twenty-four but already has completed 174 operational flights over the continent. Referring to his trip to Canada, Gibson revealed that 10 days ago he had been doing his regular work at a bomber base in England when he was summoned to London. He found he was due to depart by train for an unnamed destination almost immediately, and "in a very short time I found myself in Canada." The ruddy-cheeked, unassuming wing-commander said the results of day precision bombing over Europe were "absolutely terrific" and balanced night bombing by smashing any targets missed by the night bombers. In reply to a question as to whether Germany could be "put out" by air attack, Gibson smiling remarked that "we are taught that in bomber command."

* * * *

Maj. J. H. W. T. (Billy) Pope, who was killed in Sicily, was the son of Lt.-Col. E. Wm. Pope, C. M. G., who was in command of the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1922-23-24 and is now retired in Victoria, B C. Maj. Pope's wife and two-year-old son are also in Victoria, B. C. Maj. Billy Pope was a nephew of Harold W. D. Pope, 4629 Coolbrook avenue, Montreal, and of Maj.-Gen. Maurice Pope, chairman of the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington. He was a grandson of the late Sir Joseph Pope, Under-Secretary of State; and of Lady Pope, of Ottawa. Maj. Pope was killed by German tank machine gunners after he attacked the tanks with an anti-tank weapon while they were en route to Valguarnera on July 18. He followed his studies at St. Mary's College, Mount St. Louis Academy, and Ashbury College, Ottawa. He then entered the service of the Bank of Montreal at Peterborough, Ont., and later worked as a newspaperman with the Ottawa Journal before he joined the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1934. He was director of training at Defence Headquarters in Ottawa before he went overseas as a Brigade Major in May, 1942. Before going with his regiment to Sicily he was attached to Canadian Corps headquarters in England, and later to Canadian Army Headquarters there. He was well known and popular with most of the officers in the permanent force.

Notes By The Way

One good thing about joining any of the women's uniformed services, says the Lady Next Door, is that it solves the problem of what to wear. —Christian Science Monitor.

Berlin has so far offered no explanation of the failure of the Nazi offensive in Russia. However, the Germans will probably soon point out that this has been the hottest summer in a hundred and thirty years.—The New Yorker.

City folk turning into farm commandos have been warned not to fool around with rams, billy goats and bulls. It's also suggested they have a healthy respect for a pitchfork, hoe, spade, fork, shovel, scythe and mower.—St. Catharines Standard.

Axis squawks about the bombing of Rome, in which one church was damaged, just don't seem to mean anything at all when compared with official British estimates that Axis air raids on the United Kingdom have destroyed or seriously damaged 4,100 churches of all denominations. —Buffalo Courier-Express.

The more we become acquainted with educated Chinese the more we are impressed with the great possibilities that rest with the nation which too many have inclined to think one of the most backward in the world. It is a wrong conception. It is evident that with education China can become one of the great nations of the world, and under enlightened leadership, that is what it is destined to become. —Lethbridge Herald.

Just like in threshing days, Ontario farmers in certain sections are solving the labor shortage by "digging in" and helping each other. This program, agricultural officials say, is proving most successful since each individual knows the nature and requirements of the farm adjoining as well as he does his own. Services of the members of the family from 15 to 80 are being utilized by many farmers in the country these days. All this is reminiscent of the old-time barn raisings. The men of the district on competitive sides vied with a will and maybe the girls who looked after the serving of the meals didn't enjoy the dance which was the aftermath of the joyous occasion. —Renfrew Mercury.

How much is a rainfall worth in dollars and cents? Milady in a brand new hat and frock, caught in a shower without an umbrella, would have a tart reply to that question. But now comes President Milton C. Allen of the Boston Market Gardeners Association to show that last week's rain was worth over $1,000,000 to commercial growers and victory gardeners herabouts and that it cut the cost of living to the general public as well. Take corn for instance. That rain was directly responsible for dropping the price from $2 a box to $1.50 The reason? The rain made much more corn available; it prevented the drought from killing thousands and thousands of bushels. And corn was only one item. Almost every other vegetable was affected for the better.— Boston Post.

In this office we do not commence, we begin. We do not peruse a book, we read it. We do not purchase, we buy. A spade is called a spade. In this town we do not reside in residences, we live in homes. We do not retire, we go to bed. We do not pass away, we die. We are buried in coffins, not caskets. We have no morticians. We are not all gentlemen, but we are all men. All women are not ladies, but all women are women. Our lawyers are not barristers. Our real estate dealers are not realtors. Our plumbers are not sanitary engineers. No beauticians live here. All fires, remember, are not conflagrations. All testimony is not evidence. And if any reporter writes of a body landing with "a dull, sickening thud," he will land on the sidewalk with a jolt, his hat in one hand and his pay envelope in the other. —Kitchener Record.

Paper manufacturers express increasing concern over the precipitate drop in pulpwood inventories, which are declining at a rate exceeding 130,000 cords per month. Pulpwood is the basic ingredient of all paper. One place where the ten percent paper cut already in effect and an enormously increased public demand, have crashed head on is in the production of Bibles. Bible manufacturers are rationing orders already on hand, and many of them are refusing to accept any new orders for the balance of the year . . . One successful publisher figured that he could have eliminated his entire 1943 list, and, by devoting his full paper allotment to the production of simply bound and printed Bibles, made twice the profit that he now expects to show! . . . —Saturday Review.

"The Allied course will be to let the Italians stew in their own juice for a bit and to hot up the fire to the utmost . . ." It will be noted that Mr. Churchill managed to get a whole lot of high policy and grand strategy into that homely phrase and, of course, as for "stew in their own juice," no one whose mother tongue is English needs any interpretation. But when it comes to the phrase, "to hot up the fire, perhaps you have to be, with Mr. Churchill, a Briton born, to get the full flavor of it. Nevertheless, "to hot up the fire" is still in the dictionaries authentic English and perhaps a good many greyheads in Canada can still remember out of their Old Country childhood how their mothers would "hot" anything and especially in the sense of warming over again. —Vancouver Daily Province.

Hamburg, with its twenty-two miles of quays, is the greatest seaport in continental Europe. Its shipyards make it the cradle as well as the chief refuge of Germany's submarine power. As an industrial centre it is a target as important as Duesseldorf or Cologne. It has been raided just short of a hundred times, but the fury of this last attack is unprecedented in the war. Yet the British loss in bombers was less than half the average cost of these full-scale raids in the past. It may be significant, too, that over Norway our flyers found opposition so light that only a single bomber failed to return, and that came down in Sweden for lack of fuel. Attrition has finally clipped the wings of the Luftwaffe for offensive warfare. Now it seems to falter even in defence. —New York Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION

Sir,—I note by an item from Washington, that the "estimated corn, wheat and oats production this season is well up on the 10-year average", i.e., for the years 1932-41.

The item gave this rural reader more cause for concern than complaisance. I have gone to work on the maze of figures and find that the following table gives the clearer and truer picture. The figures cover the aggregate bushelage of corn-wheat-oats for the years shown:

10-year average (1932-41)	4,105,000,000 bus.
1942	5,456,000,000 bus.
1943	4,853,000,000 bus.

It will be observed, therefore, that this season's productivity is just 600,000,000 bushels less than last year's record crops; and the point I would like to draw to the attention of the urban reader is that the Washington authorities called for "an over-all increase of 15 per cent in 1943 food-production, over the 1942 levels". So, instead of going up by something like 750,000,000 bushels this year, we have gone down just 600,000,000 bushels!

I think it faulty and dangerous reasoning to comfort ourselves against that "10-year average," while North American farmers were in the Valley of the Depression!

These are far from normal or "average" times. It seems to follow, therefore, that we will be wise to use a different yardstick than the depression decade?

Two years back the U. S. agriculture secretary (Claude Wickard) declared: "Food will win the war, and write the peace!" That assertion is clearer and truer this minute.

I am, Sir, etc.,
"FIRST THINGS FIRST!"

Collaboration With Russia

(Halifax Chronicle)

Nazi propaganda today tends to wobble between exultation that Mr Stalin is to have no part in the forthcoming conference between President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, and fear that, after all, he may be brought into consultation either by coming over himself, or by Mr. Churchill returning home by way of Moscow.

Especially now that Russian armies are on the move once more, threatening as they are the whole German left flank and looking towards the liberation of the whole of the Ukraine and possibly of the Donets Basin and the Crimea as well, there is definite need for closer collaboration between the Western Powers and the Soviets than has been evident for some time.

There are three main issues on which unanimity between the major partners of the United Nations has not yet been obtained. The first is the matter of the "second front". Ever since the term has been in common use, it has been clear that the Russian definition of it demands a full-scale invasion of Europe across the English Channel. Nothing else, to them, deserves the name of second front. British and American authorities have not dismissed the idea of such an invasion. They have merely been convinced, up to now, that another line of strategy can get them to Berlin—perhaps after some delay, but with less expenditure of men. So far nothing has been able to convince the Russians that the Anglo-American plan is sound.

In the second place there is the question of Central Europe. Russia still feels that there is a possibility of the Western Powers attempting to circumscribe her on what she believes is her own ground by the creation of a Central European anti-Soviet bloc—a new Little Entente.

Mr. Stalin, somehow or other, must be persuaded that Allied interest in Poland and in the Baltic States stems from no anti-Soviet sentiment. But solely from a desire to see the clauses of the Atlantic Charter properly implemented with justice to all.

Lastly, there is the problem of what is to be done with Germany. Ever since the publication of the "Moscow Manifesto" there has been some suspicion that Russia again does not see eye to eye with the rest of the Allies. It is precisely on such differences of opinion and on the discord that can arise from them that the Nazis are depending to gain consideration for themselves, and a peace which will not utterly destroy German military power.

These questions must be settled soon. They cannot await the cessation of hostilities. It is good, therefore, to hear that the British and American Ambassadors are at this time in close conference with Mr. Stalin in Moscow and that the Soviet leader is being furnished with "minute-by-minute" accounts of the conference now taking place in Canada. Yet, even so, one cannot but think that ten minutes of conversation face to face would be worth hours of cabling messages and reports. It is to be hoped sincerely that means will yet be found to bring Mr. Stalin personally into these similar conversations at some early date.

The Poet's Corner

TO THEOCRITUS, IN WINTER*

Ah, leave the smoke, the wealth, the roar
Of London, leave the bustling street,
For still, by the Sicilian shore,
The murmur of the Muse is sweet
Still, still, the suns of summer greet
The mountain-grave of Helike,
And shepherds still their songs repeat
Where breaks the blue Sicilian sea.

What though they worship Pan no more,
That guarded once the shepherd's seat,
They chatter of their rustic lore
They watch the wind among the wheat:
Cicalas chirp, the young lambs bleat,
Where whispers pine to cypress tree;
They count the waves that idly beat
Where breaks the blue Sicilian sea.

—Andrew Lang.

*A timely reminder of Sicily in other and happier times.

Simplicity Of A Great Man

(Exchange)

Canadians in the Niagara district, all too few of them, were given an opportunity to see in an intimate moment one of the great men of this or any age. Mr. Churchill and his daughter roamed about for a little while yesterday, looking at the Falls and the Whirlpool in the gorge of the Niagara River. The Prime Minister was taking a little breathing spell between one momentous conference and another. Like all great men he displays in his leisure moments the simplicity and unself-consciousness of a boy. His relations with his fellow-man are natural and unconstrained by any love of ceremony. He can walk into a wayside lunch room and buy a penny postcard without so much as a thought for his dignity, and will on the slightest provocation, put his hat on the end of a stick and brandish it aloft.

All these traits are part of his character. They cannot be dismissed as the stock in trade of a great showroom. Mr. Churchill is robust in spirit as well as in body, and carries a burden of responsibility that would have broken most men half his ago. He can do it because he is an enthusiast with a great zest for life and a strong love of adventure. He feels strongly, but his thoughts never depress him for long, because he strives mightily and wastes no time in vain regrets.

It seems but yesterday that he was last on this side of the Atlantic, and the world has followed with amazement his lightning journeys to Russia, the Middle East and Morocco. Wherever he goes he is accompanied by experts and advisers. He is never free from the cares and responsibilities of his office, and the need to concentrate on day-to-day developments which must be discussed, appraised and acted upon. Mr. Churchill possesses a vast fund of knowledge and experience in the science and practice of war, and the experience has laid upon him the burden of giving direction to the grand strategy of the Anglo-American partnership.

We can count ourselves fortunate indeed that so large a share of the responsibility for making fateful decisions is carried on such broad shoulders. Even more should we be thankful for the high courage and blithe spirit which have enabled the Prime Minister to choose the difficult and perlous course when lesser men would have counselled caution. It may well be shown, after the war, that the rare combination of audacity with seasoned judgment which Mr. Churchill possesses in such remarkable degree was responsible for turning the tide in the most critical moment of the conflict

Posted Missing

(Globe and Mail)

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Dunning of Montreal will learn with deep regret that their only son, FO. Avery Dunning, is posted as missing after air operations overseas. Avery Dunning had just completed his education by graduation at Queen's University when he enlisted in the air force to do his part in the battle for human freedom. It was the only course thinkable for a lad of his fine character and high courage, and during his period of active service he achieved a splendid record as a daring and skilful flier which earned him appropriate promotion.

The news that this gallant boy is missing will impose a severe strain upon his father, who sacrificed his own health in the service of his country, and upon his mother, who has bravely borne the burden of serious ill health for many a long day. They will now have to endure weeks of harrowing anxiety before the fate of their son is finally determined, and their passionate hope that he will be reported a prisoner of war will be shared by the multitude of their friends throughout Canada.

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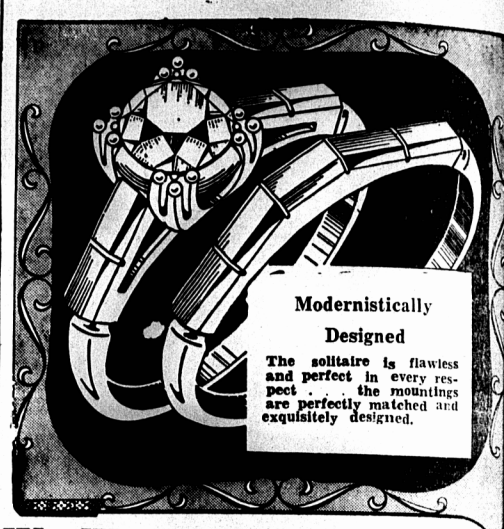

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