THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
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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
By Mail in Canada and U.S.A. :$5.00 per year
Saturday Weekly: $2.00 per year; $1.00 for 6 months, 50c for 3 months.

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at Hotaling's News Agency, Times Square, New York; Old South News Agency, Corner Milk and Washington, Boston; Metropolitan News Agency, 1248 Peel St., Montreal; J. Fine, 354 Bay St., Toronto; News Stand, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa; Wolfe's News Stand, Sudbury, Ont; Hub Tobacco Shop, Moncton, N. B.; Ellen Robertson, Amherst, N. S.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1941.

Mr. Gardiner's Maritime Tour

Maritime newspapers are interpreting differently the assurances given by Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, with regard to meeting the problem of lower hog feed costs. He is reported as stating at Kentville that he "will immediately take action on his return to Ottawa with a view to having the present impossible situation remedied," and as offering two alternatives—pegging of hog prices or absorption by the Government of the extra cost of transportation of feed grains to the Maritimes—in the event of the railways continuing to refuse lowering of freight rates. Other reports of the same meeting indicate that the Minister's statements were of a less positive nature. In any case, pegging of hog prices, which Mr. Gardiner also mentioned while in Charlottetown, is not regarded as a satisfactory solution.

Just why the Government cannot exercise control over railway rates in a matter of this kind, involving production which Mr. Gardiner states is vitally important to Britain's war effort, is something our farmers cannot understand.

Mr. Gardiner points out that the Maritimes are producing only one third of the hogs required for home consumption, and only one-half enough grain to feed the hogs produced. In Prince Edward Island, of course, we do produce hogs for export, but here too the situation is unsatisfactory. There was a considerable decrease in our hog production during the first six months of this year.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gardiner was himself something of a "wet blanket" to our hog producers during the early months of the war. He issued several warnings, cautioning them against the danger of overproduction. Now that there is an urgent and practically unlimited demand in Great Britain, he sees the situation differently, and also the problems of production with which our Maritime farmers are faced.

An analysis of the Minister's statements on his Maritime tour, however, shows that he is stepping pretty cautiously so far as committing the King Government to any remedial action is concerned. He has promised the fullest consideration of the suggestions tendered him; but these same suggestions, in the form of resolutions and petitions from farm organizations and from our provincial governments, have been tendered many times to Mr. Gardiner's department, only to fall on deaf ears. Let us hope with the Minister's attention concentrated at last on the problem, that more satisfactory results will follow.

Checking Nazi Plane Losses

The quesion often arises, how the Royal Air Force verifies German losses before the figures are published. A convincing answer is furnished in a recent English publication which gives views of the wreckage of Nazi planes in the momentous "Battle of Britain" which resulted, up to last January, in 3,000 enemy aircraft and more than 7,000 trained Nazi airmen being brought down over Britain and round her coasts. This achievement now justly ranks as a major victory of the war. It proved to the world that Britain was unconquerable. But here is how the count was made before publishing enemy losses. The same system is followed today, and gives authenticity to British communiques which is notorously lacking in enemy statements:

The victorious British pilot who returns to his aerodrome after intercepting German raiders makes his report to the station intelligence officer who subjects each claim to have shot down enemy aircraft to a searching examination. The pilot's statements are carefully investigated and checked by reference to others who saw the fight. In the absence of corroboration no pilot is allowed to count an aircraft as "certainly destroyed" unless he is prepared to pledge his word of honour that he saw it break up in the air, crash or go down enveloped in flames. A raider may be badly damaged or be seen to be on fire so that its chance of reaching its base is remote, but unless it is seen to fall into the sea or its wreckage is found on land it is not counted in the official figures. The figures, when tabulated, are forwarded to command headquarters, which is in the position again to correlate them with detailed reports from other squadrons and with information from ground observers and coastal watchers. The final figures are then forwarded to the Air Ministry where they are again carefully checked before issue to the public. British insistence on confirmed figures was demonstrated with the official "count" of 184 German aircraft brought down on Sept. 15, 1940 (the Nazi's blackest day of air fighting and the day of Hitler's promised entry into London) was personally checked by Brigadier General Strong, United States Assistant Chief of Staff. In his report to the Secretary for War he stated that he was himself satisfied that this figure was an understatement.

So when we read of further British air victories, we have this assurance: only certainties are included in the British totals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The commercialized Victory "V" has put the Victory Torch idea somewhat in the shade.

* * * *

One of the most popular novelists of our day was the late Sir Hugh Walpole, whose will discloses he died worth $191,000.

* * * *

Why do not the Federal Government avail themselves of some of the competent mechanics over military age, who would be an asset to their mechanical units? A reader advises us that there are not a few too old for ordinary enlistment, who would still be glad to join as skilled artisans, etc. We commend this to the consideration of the powers-that-be.

* * * *

An exceptionally good Canadian fur harvest has placed the fur industry in a strategic position to make the most of the Christmas trade, says Marketing. Wartime conditions have not interfered with production and there are no imports to worry about. Higher prices are not expected to discourage Christmas buying and reduced purchases of the higher grade furs are expected to be outbalanced by increased purchases by the smaller income class group.

* * * *

Mr. Walter P. Zeller of Montreal who has been appointed executive assistant to War Services Minister Thorson will devote his attention to development of the tourist business in Canada. Mr. Thorson says Mr. Zeller, who will serve without salary or living allowance, will retire as director at large of the War Savings Committee to devote almost his whole time to the tourist problem. Mr. D. Leo Dolan, director of the Canadian Travel Bureau, will continue in that post, working under Mr. Zeller's direction.

* * * *

George Canning, English statesman, whose father claimed descent from the famous British merchant, William Canynge, died this date 1827. Made his reputation as an orator by his speeches in support of the abolition of the slave trade; held various cabinet positions, and ultimately succeeded Lord Liverpool as Prime Minister; one of the most brilliant and witty orators of his time. In the King's Message to Parliament he made his Majesty say:

"I called the New World into existence to redress the balance of the Old." This was admittedly a joke, but today it seems as though it were literally true.

* * * *

Agriculture Minister Gardiner appealed again at Kentville to Maritime farmers to increase their production of livestock. He spoke to a mass meeting of fruit growers and farmers. "I do not ask you to increase your production to a point where you would have an exportable surplus," Mr. Gardiner said. "I am asking you to put forth your efforts to produce enough to feed yourselves, because every additional hog that you grow in the Maritimes means that we in the rest of Canada will have one more hog to ship to war-torn Britain." In other words, the Maritime farmers must feed themselves, and let "the rest of Canada" feed Europe on a "cash and carry" basis.

* * * *

A revolutionary invention in the field of anaesthetics, perfected by the Nuffield Institute of Research at Oxford, has been adopted by the British government for use in the services. The invention, an automatic machine which shows an anaesthetist the exact percentage of anaesthetic vapor his patient is getting, is known as the Oxford Vaporizer and it replaces the present bulky cylinders used in administering anaesthetics. To mark this development in anaesthesia, which ends a century-long medical search, Lord Nuffield has offered to provide 1,000 of the machines for the use of the services. The vaporizer is practically foolproof and is usable in the roughest conditions of warfare, in improvised field hospitals, in shattered ships, or in air raids.

* * * *

It is announced by the diplomatic correspondent of the British Press Association that Russia will participate in a meeting of the Allied governments to be held in London shortly when "problems of the future, including economic difficulties that must arise when peace comes, are likely to be discussed. He wrote that a June 12 public meeting of the governments, before the Russian-German conflict started and Russia became a co-belligerent with Britain, was the first of its kind but "there have been private ones of various matters of concern to the Allied governments." He added that the next meeting "probably will mark the beginning of consideration of post war problems as well as ways in which the countries now engaged in the struggle can strengthen each other."

* * * *

Our harvest is more than likely to be late but the reverse is the case in the West. Closer to normal summer temperatures across the Prairies during the past week brought partial relief from the intense heat and dryness of the previous ten days and further serious crop deterioration was checked, states the crop report of Lake of the Woods Milling Company Limited. Rainfall, while quite heavy in south-eastern Saskatchewan and across Manitoba, was disappointing over the remainder of Saskatchewan and in all but a few localities in Alberta, and with temperatures ranging in the 80's all week the crops are maturing too rapidly with the result that harvesting will commence at a much earlier date than was expected and both grades and yields will be somewhat adversely affected, the report continues.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A donation to the Navy League is to help keep our Merchant Marine and Navy guarding us and helping England. Any sacrifice we can make will be small enough indeed. — Winchester Press.

After four years the outlook in the mysterious East seems roughly to be as follows: China can keep on losing longer than Japan can go on winning.—Sudbury Daily Star.

Despite the fact that stories of the Nazis atrocities, in particular the ruthless destruction of religious institutions and the killing or imprisonment of religious leaders, have become almost commonplace, each new report arouses in the hearts of those of us who still enjoy our freedom and security a feeling of revulsion and a great sadness. — Timmins Daily Press.

This war is verily the bursting of the bonds of a myth and superstition that had grown up in all our world; that you could explain everything by a materialist conception of history and that the lessons learned by the men who went before us had no more meaning for our time. And we on our side are going to win this war, despite all our own sins, by virtue of a faith that had not altogether been destroyed in us, the meaning of which is that nothing that can endure has ever been built upon force and fraud. — Vancouver Province.

Benito Mussolini's "invincibles" have not proved to be invincible, but Il Duce has still enough strength to yell his head off. At a time when the fortunes of his country are at their lowest ebb he yells "On to Moscow". His goldiers do not want to fight, and they refuse to fight whenever it is possible for them to surrender. But this matter still retains all the pristine strength of his vocal cords, if nothing else. If all reports are true, the condition of the Italian people becomes more pitiable each day. Few of them are now able to eat meat, and they are most severely rationed on their favorite spaghetti. They are taxed to the limit to carry on a war that was one of their own choosing, and they perceive that all the money that has come from their purses for the purpose of carrying on the war has gone up in smoke, with nothing to show for it. Virtually all of Italy's colonial possessions have been lost to England, and the Gestapo rules their land. But in spite of defeat and disaster, in spite of the loss of virtually all his colonial possessions, and in spite of the starvation of his people, Mussolini still has the brazen audacity to yell: "On to Moscow." — The Argonaut.

Away up in the far corner of South Australia is one of the world's strangest schools. Its pupils are members of the Pitpantpara tribe of aborigines. They wear no clothes and they come or stay away as they please. The school is not yet a year old but it has 100 children on the roll and the average attendance is 40. All instruction is given in the native language but reading, writing and arithmetic form part of the curriculum. School opens each day with a communal talk during which the children are thoroughly bathed and dried. After school the children return to their parents who live the life of the true Myall native eating what the bush affords and sleeping under the stars between two fires. "For the most part the children are fair-haired, some golden, others even snowy", says their only teacher. "Brown-skinned and healthy, they are free from any disease. They have attractive features, are quick-witted, sensitive, well-mannered, affectionate and easy to control. Drawing is their favorite subject and singing comes second. — Australian Press.

Whether cupid has taken to bomb and blitz instead of his traditional bow and arrows we do not know, but in any event he scored more victories in 1940 than ever before in the history of the United States. Marriages last year totaled about 1,500,000 which is a greater number than ever before, and almost as high a percentage of each 1,000 of population as that of 1920 when the A.E.F. returned from France and rushed straight for the altar. Incidentally, Cupid last year got a lot of help from his former triumph. There were many babies born in the years right after that marrying spree of 1920, and it is those babies, now grown up, who are now marrying. Further, a lot of people who have been putting off marriage on account of poor economic conditions have apparently decided to chance it after all. Neither Brauchitsch, Keitel nor any of Hitler's generals was responsible. It was General Cupid. — Victoria Daily Times.

It's never too late to do a good thing. Sometimes it's too late to achieve maximum good by the good act. Nevertheless, better late than never. Jakob Nabel feels that way. He's applying for American citizenship, though he's 106 years old. Nabel went to Cleveland in 1864, fought with the Union Army, was wounded, returned, and lived in the United States until, at 106, he has lived there longer than most people who are native. Now he wants to become a citizen. Well, why not? He reads without glasses, walks, drinks, eats, and is a sprinkler on a hot day. Personally, we think he's taking the step not a day too soon. After all, he has the future to consider. — Calgary Albertan.

Sunday was V Day Day. Europe saw V's eVerywhere, Vegetable Venders arranged their wares in V's. Belgians were reported Vigorously stamping V's onto the backs of Nazi uniforms Via pseudo-friendly slaps on the shoulder. V's Vied for wall space, were Voiced on the air waVes, were tapped out (....—) in Morse code were Vi-Vid in the sky where searchlights signalled the symbol of British Victory. Did the Nazis notice? Yes. They noticed with sufficient apprehension to try to adopt the V for their own uses. They radiocast it to Poland—of all places!—as the symbol of Nazi "Viktoria". One can imagine how the Poles will decipher it. The Nazis explained to others that it meant "Veni, Vidi, Vici": "I came, I saw, I conquered". Knowing something — but apparently not all—about mass psychology, Berlin is aware of the T.N.T. in the V campaign. But in their attempt to sow confusion among the oppressed peoples, they have unwittingly provided a screen for those who are rebuilding European morale. Imagine a Frenchman writing a V on a wall, He is accosted by a Nazi officer. "What are you doing?" the officer asks, "Ha, ha", laughs the Frenchman agreeably. "I am writing a V for Viktoria. Ha, ha!" The officer may feel Vexed. Vague, Vaunting, Vengeful, Vehement. But the V will probably stay, at least until the Nazis admit that it does not really stand for "Viktoria" at all, but bespeaks the disgust and hatred most of Europe feels for Nazi Violence. — Christian Science Monitor.

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.

BUS AND TAXI MONOPOLY

Sir,—I have just received a letter from O. W. Campbell, Acting Provincial Secretary, threatening me if I continue to taxi airmen to and from the North St. Eleanor's airport I will be prosecuted. The letter says:

"Provincial Treasurer's Office,
"Charlottetown,
"August 6, 1940.

"Dear Sir:

"This office has been informed that you have been carrying passengers over a route covered by an exclusive franchise.

"If you persist in this, action will have to be taken and you will be dealt with as the law prescribes.

"Yours truly,
(Signed) "O.W. CAMPBELL
"Acting Deputy Provincial Secretary"

I have run a taxi for the past seven years. I am a returned soldier; tried to join the Veterans Guard but was turned down. Now what good has it done me to fight for this country and when I am broken in health to be deprived of my living for the sake of would-be monopolists? I would like to ask them, did they ever try to join the Army and what have they ever done for our war effort?

I am going to continue taxiing as usual and I will continue to fight for my rights as I fought for this country in the last war.

I am, Sir, etc.,
DANIEL V. SAVIDANT
Summerside.

Sir,—With regard to a bus and taxi company's advertisement in the Summerside Journal I might ask why this company is afraid to meet open competition and must seek government aid to monopolize business. Is not this interference with the airmen's freedom, to make them ride by bus or walk? At present a single fare to the airport is fifteen cents by bus while taxis can take them out at that price and make money. Why cannot this company put their price at a dime for a return trip and thereby cut out taxi competition, without trying to seek a monopoly from the Government?

We have taken passengers to the airport long before a monopoly was thought of and we will continue to do so.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AUSTIN H. CURTIS
"Reliable Taxi,"
Summerside.

Sir,—I have been in the taxi business for the past three years and this is the first time my livelihood has been threatened.

Is this democracy, when a man who makes an honest living is threatened by a monopoly with special exclusive rights? We have been asked by hundreds are we going to sit down and take it, and our answer is No. We are going to continue our business as usual.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CEDRIC PERRY
"Perry Taxi,"
Summerside.

MR. GARDINER'S VISIT

Sir,—On August 1st, the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture held a conference with some Island farmers at Charlottetown, most of whom were officers or members of the newly formed P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture, and who are all practical farmers as well.

I was very much surprised to see in your editions of the 4th and 6th two "Editorial Notes", referring to that meeting and to a photograph taken afterwards, which do not serve any good purpose.

As one of the original promoters and organizers of the P. E. I. F. A., I strongly object to the substance of those "Notes". The officers of this organization are all farmers of ability and integrity to whom the name "bureaucrat" is neither fitting nor proper.

I am, Sir, etc.
DONALD A. MacDONALD.

(The photograph to which we referred appeared in a mainland daily and the letter-press read: "In the picture above he (Mr. Gardiner) is shown with several officials. They are, left to right, Front Row: Premier Thane Campbell, D. DeWaal Meyer, Commissioner to Canada from South Africa; Hon. Mr. Gardiner, Lieutenant-Governor B. W. LePage. **In the back row are a group of representative farmers who gathered to meet Hon. Mr. Gardiner.** The picture was taken in front of the historic Provincial Building." Those in the back row described as "representative farmers" were —Mr. Gardiner's secretary, Hon. H. H. Cox, Hon. Horace Wright, Federal official accompanying Mr. Gardiner, Hon. J. P. McIntyre, Hon. W. H. Dennis, and his deputy, Mr. Walter Shaw. We made no reference to the officers or members of the Federation.—Ed. G.)

LIBERAL COMPLAINT

Sir,—I cannot refrain from saying a word or two regarding the unfair and undemocratic system of the Liberal party in making appointments to various jobs on the Island.

There have been men placed in jobs who were eligible for military service, while men unfit and turned down for military service have got to walk the streets unable to secure a day's employment. If that is what they call Liberal Democracy, little wonder so many people are clamoring for a change. I and many other Liberal workers shall not forget when the election rolls around the unfair consideration shown.

Thanking you for your valuable space.

I am, Sir, etc.
LIBERAL WORKER.

CANADA'S NORTHWEST

Much of Canada's Northwest Territories is still unexplored.

"A man in love is a stupid thing but a woman in love is fascinating."
—Leslie Howard

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The Poets' Corner

THE ECHOING GREEN

The Sun does arise,
And make happy the skies;
The merry bells ring
To welcome the Spring;
The skylark and thrush,
The birds of the bush,
Sing louder around
To the bells' cheerful sound,
While our sports shall be seen
On the Echoing Green.

Old John, with white hair,
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the old folk,
They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say:
'Such, such were the joys
When we all, girls and boys,
In our youth time were seen
On the Echoing Green.'

Till the little ones weary,
No more can be merry;
The Sun does descend,
And our sports have an end.
Round the laps of their mothers
Many sisters and brothers,
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest,
And sport is no more seen
On the darkening Green.

—William Blake

LOTS OF WATER

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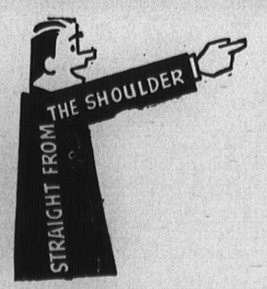

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