THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1945

Political Radio Suppression

Says the *Gazette*:

"The comedy of errors and confusion which culminated in last-minute cancellation of a CBC national network talk from here Saturday night, on direct order of Maj.-Gen. the Hon. L. R. LaFleche, War Services Minister, is less funny than it may appear at first glance. There is altogether too strong a suggestion of political suppression, in the arbitrary manner which has led to such dire results elsewhere, of freedom to discuss something that might be politically ruffling to friends of the Government.

"From published reports, it appears well established that General LaFleche himself telephoned to the CBC studios here the order that barred from the air, only a few seconds before it was to have been delivered, the scheduled talk by Kenneth Johnstone, a *Montreal Standard* writer. He was to have summarized and discussed observations he made while acting as an attendant in a mental hospital in New Brunswick, and which he has already reported in articles in the Standard.

"Objection to the broadcast seems to have come from Hon. F. W. Pirie, acting Premier of the Liberal Government of New Brunswick, which is responsible for the support and administration of the mental hospital where Mr. Johnstone found abuses and negligence. The objection was on the ground that the broadcast would be improper in view of appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate Mr. Johnstone's reports.

"Since these reports had already been published and the broadcast would have done little more than review them, it is difficult to see how the radio talk would have affected the Royal Commission's proceedings one way or another. But it is not at all difficult to see that General LaFleche was responsible for direct and unwarranted Government interference, at the behest of a politically sympathetic provincial politician, to suppress an address of legitimate public interest. Radio listeners are as much entitled as readers of the *Montreal Standard* to know what Mr. Johnstone learned while working in the New Brunswick institution, what it was he charged that was of sufficient importance to bring about appointment of a Royal Commission, and how he feels the care of mental patients generally could be improved.

"Dr. Augustin Frigon, general manager of the CBC, apparently had cancelled the broadcast earlier but had then withdrawn the order after further discussion of the matter. As the top administrative head of the CBC, Dr. Frigon's judgment on such matters should be final and should certainly not be overridden by pressure from cabinet ministers, members of Parliament or others with political axes to grind.

"If this is a typical example of what state ownership of national broadcasting means in the shape of political control and direction, it is high time that the whole policy and set-up were given a thorough overhauling."

Premier Maitland's Claim

The British Columbia Coalition Premier, Hon. Mr. Maitland is boasting that the Conservative-Liberal policy in his province is more progressive than that of the C.C.F. in Saswatchewan. In the Legislature he claimed that monthly old age pensions payments were $30 a person in British Columbia, compared with $25 in Saskatchewan. "One would have thought" that at its special session last fall one of the first acts of the Saskatchewan Legislature would have been to increase old age pension payments but "they met in Regina, passed their legislation and adjourned, but never increased it a single dollar." "Social allowance" for a single person in British Columbia was $27.50 a month compared with $18.30 in Saskatchewan and the B.C. allowance for a family of five was $62.50 compared with $46.35 in Saskatchewan. Speaking of finance Mr. Maitland said the Saskatchewan government had provided $5,000,000 "to meet the change over from war to peace," British Columbia had provided $50,000,000. "The point is not so much the amount, but the credit of the government and that credit depends very much on what kind of government it is and whether or not it adheres to a tried economic system, or even if it doesn't intend to do so, preaches the destruction of those things upon which we depend for our economic development today."

By-Election Writs Recalled

Over two months ago writs were issued for 9 Federal by-elections. The constituencies to which these writs related were Montreal-St. James, Kamouraska, Portneuf, St. Hyacinthe, Bagot, Terrebonne, Kenora-Rainy River, and Weyburn. The date fixed for polling was April 23, six days after the demise of the present House of Commons by effluxion of time.

In the circumstances it is clear that the Government, in directing the issue of these writs, could have had no intention of having the by-elections take place. Polling would in fact be impossble, because there would be no House of Commons in existence on the scheduled election day and therefore no vacancies to be filled. The writs were simply issued because the law requires that procedure within a certain number of months after the Speaker or the Chief Electoral Officer has been notified of the vacancies.

It is easier to understand this seeming shadow-boxing, says the *Sydney Post-Record*, than the action of the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Jules Gastonguay, in recalling the writs and thereby cancelling the by-elections. There is of course no question of his authority under the law to do this when the date of polling falls beyond that of the expiration of the House of Commons, as the present case. The question is why events were not simply allowed to take their course, that is why dissolution, certain to come sometime in the next few weeks, was not allowed to operate in killing the by-election writs without the necessity of recalling them by a formal order of the Chief Electoral Officer.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

In 1944, British Coastal Command Aircraft sank 120,000 tons of enemy shipping, 3 destroyers and 40 other vessels.

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During the summer of 1944 there were 50 harvest camps in the county of Herefordshire, England, attended by over 1,300 schoolboys.

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Rev. C. MacLean of Johnstown, N. S., and Mr. Angus Ramken, agronomist of Richmond County, N. S., are on a tour of Quebec to study Quebec's agricultural system. They have been keenly impressed by what they have seen and heard, and so expressed themselves to Dr. Adrien Morin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

* * * *

Prime Minister Mackenzie King intends proceeding to the sunny South for three weeks vacation to recover, no doubt, from the effects on his nerves of recent political events. It is said he may visit President Roosevelt to find out why he has not been invited to the San Fransancisco Conference with the Big Three.

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Gen. Eisenhower declares that the new Allied offensive is aimed at reaching the Rhine and that it is progressing satisfactorily in coordination with Red Army operations on the Eastern Front. The Allied leader makes it clear, however, that he has no hope of an imminent German collapse and anticipates a hard fight which will end only when Allied armies meet the Russians "in the centre of Germany."

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For the last two years Canada's parliamentary Social Security Committee has been studying the draft of a health insurance bill, providing for a scheme to be administered by the provinces. All but the financial details have been worked out and they are awaiting approval by a Dominion-Provincial conference. The scheme would be on a contributory basis, with $12.50 a year for each adult being the likely contribution.

* * * *

Salvation Army head has time extended. General G. L. Carpenter will continue in his position as general for at least another year, it is announced by Commissioner B. Orames, commander of the Army in Canada, Bermuda and Newfoundland, in a letter received by Brigadier Green, divisional commander for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. General Carpenter was elected commander of the Salvation Army in 1939, succeeding General Evangeline Booth, who retired because of the age limit.

* * * *

A new synthetic building material which combines the properties of concrete and wood has been evolved in Britain. It is made by mixing sawdust with concrete. Hitherto no way of "marrying" sawdust to concrete has been found—but British scientists have discovered a chemical process which successfully blends them. The new wood-concrete can be produced in bricks or sheets of any shape or size. It is especially suitable for interior walls or panelling, since it can be sawn, drilled or nailed, exactly like wood. Unlike wood it does not warp, takes a high glaze and can be stained any colour.

* * * *

After consultation with Mr. Roy P. Steeves, architect for N. B. provincial department of education, Saint John Board of School Trustees, having received his opinion that the walls of the old King Edward School could not be utilized for a new modern school have voted to construct a new school as soon as possible and authorized its own building inspector, Mr. J. Leonard Heans, to approach the city architects and find out which of them would be available to undertake the work of drawing plans.

* * * *

Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, English author, died this date 1797; his correspondence, which was widespread, has rendered his name famous in three continents, his letters being distinguished for their ease, gossipy style, playful wit, racy description, anecdote, and lightness of touch; his publications, *The Castle of Otranto, Memoirs*:

"How frantically have the French acted, and how rationally the Americans! But Franklin and Washington were great men, none have appeared yet in France. . . . Liberty has still a continent to live in. . . . The next Augustine Age will dawn on the other side of the Atlantic. There will perhaps be a Thucydides at Boston, a Xenophon at New York."

* * * *

The Government politicians, according to the *Montreal Gazette* Ottawa correspondent, are in a chaotic condition. Contact between the leader and the led in the Liberal party seems to be lost. Signals began to weaken last fall; static tangled communication during the Ralston-McNaughton episode, and the final silencing of signals came with the calamitous candidacy of General McNaughton in North Grey. Things haven't been the same since. A sort of electoral black-out has seized the Liberal circles. "Don't ask me" is the invariable reply to profoundly innocent enquiries about the next session, the general election date, how drastic will be the ministerial shake-up and other matters about which Canadians have an excusable curiosity.

Notes By The Way

Perhaps we are lamentably ignorant of such technical matters, but we have never been able to understand why the thing lawyers refer to as a "brief" is always at least ten written pages in length. —From Windsor Star.

With the important exception of the British Columbia salmon fishery, the fishing industry had a highly productive year. The catch in the Eastern Maritime area was over six per cent greater than that of the comparable period of 1943 and its landed value, nearly $22 million, was sixteen per cent greater. During the last quarter of the year operations were hampered by intermittent storms, some periods of bad weather being of fairly long duration, but no abnormal loss of gear is reported. Higher average prices, however, enhanced the value of a good catch.—Canadian Bank of Commerce.

In Scotland, in many areas, there are many men and boys with exactly the same names, so that there may be a dozen John MacDonalds in one community and usually some nickname is given to them so that they may be more easily identified, says the Niagara Falls Review. Thus there may be a John "Red" MacDonald or "Mary's John" or something else along that line. Something similar has been found in Prince Edward Island, where a large number of the people have names beginning with "Mac." Indeed, the problem has become so acute in some localities that, in connection with the new family allowances, a boy or man may be known by his own and his mother's name, so that one may hear of Donald "Sheila" MacPherson, or Donald "Margaret" MacDonald, so that a way will be found to distinguish them in Prince Edward Island as in Scotland.

King Leopold of the Belgians and former French Premiers Edouard Daladier and Paul Reynaud have been interned in the Hotel Dreesen in Bad Godesberg since mid-November of last year, it was revealed recently when semi-official German quarters began putting out feelers for negotiations for the creation of "open districts" in Northwestern and Central Germany, News From Belgium reports. Those three men are reported "safe and well." Admission were forthcoming that "others in their suites" had been either killed or wounded in recent Allied aerial attacks in that area. An eyewitness vouched for by refugee German Socialist circles here stated that the Hotel Dreesen, which was the scene of the Chamberlain-Hitler meeting of September 22 to 24, in 1938, is surrounded by electric barbed wire, guarded inside and out by armed SS. King Leopold's wife is believed to be with him.

We wonder whether the members of the local church congregations bring the same enthusiasm to bear on the duties of such membership as do those who are interested in more mundane matters. Just a few days ago, when the roads and city streets were certainly not a great deal better than they were on Sunday night, there was a hockey game in the local Arena. Those who were interested filled nearly every seat, and the majority of them lifted their voices both lustily and enthusiastically. On Sunday night, however, many seats were vacant in some city churches, and comparatively few voices were lifted either lustily or with a great deal of enthusiasm. Priests and ministers often upbraid their congregations for not attending as regularly as might be, but on these occasions they are talking to the wrong people. They are talking to those who are there while they should be talking to those who are not there.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Enlistment in the Women's Army Corps of the United States becomes more alluring all the time, for this year the W.A.C. is settling down to recruiting mainly specialists in the various needed fields of work, says the Christian Science Monitor. The first Negro unit was formed January 16, and is already setting about making the history for itself which it is expected to establish for all time the prestige of the Negro woman in her country's army. Wacs also are being trained as civil-affairs officers, so that they will be prepared to handle the populations of captured territories, as the occasion arises. Only one training centre for Wacs now remains, that at Fort Des Moines. But at that one centre there will be special training offered for girls who are fitted to become clerical workers, typists, stenographers, dental technicians, pharmacists, medical and surgical technicians, and specialists in other lines. Some graduates of the training centre will be sent on to army specialist schools in colleges throughout the country. Fifteen thousand Wacs are serving overseas; there are 90,000 in service. This is a good backlog and the days of all-out recruiting for as many Wacs as could be enticed into the army are over. From now on the quest is for women trained for special kinds of work. But for these special recruits the opportunities seem even better than they have ever been before.

An item of week-end reading which delighted us—and doesn't necessarily point a moral—is an interview with a travelling actress, Martha O'Driscoll, published in the serviceman's paper "Midpacifican." It asked this young lady what happened when she met servicemen in the remote areas, where she has been entertaining. Actually, she said, most of the men she sees haven't seen an American girl for years. Their first reaction—and she told of climbing aboard a submarine at Dutch Harbor, Alaska—is complete dis-belief. It just isn't so. It can't be a girl on their submarine. She isn't there. But on this particular submarine, explained Martha "they took me below to show me what the inside of a sub looked like. A little kid was asleep in his bunk. "'Go ahead—wake him up,' they urged. I didn't have the heart. He looked about 16, sleeping there like a little angel. 'Aw—go ahead,' they insisted. "So I leaned over and kissed him on the forehead. He awakened slowly and opened his eyes. He stared at me for a moment and then closed them again. Guess he thought he was dreaming. Then his eyes opened again. "'Golly—' he said, 'a girl'!" And that, according to Martha, was all that he said. He just followed her around as long as she was aboard, looking and staring. And that was about all 99 per cent of the G.I.'s in the Aleutians ever did or said. They just stand there shyly and stare. —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.

COAL OR SLATE

Sir,— Every day we read something about coal and coal strikes, or about weighing loads on the city scales. We are warned in the press to save coal; and when out of it to accept whatever kind of coal the dealer has to offer. True enough.

But I wonder if the Government has taken any steps to see that when a man, a woman or child orders a load or five loads of coal, they get coal and not slate.

Slate weighs pretty heavy, and when one shakes the furnace or stove and finds large hunks of that whetstone-like stuff that won't go through the grates, it is time something was done about it.

I do not put any blame on our coal dealers, as I believe they are doing their best for us and are only selling what was sold to them. But the point is, the Government is paying a bonus on different things, such as eggs; why not pay the working people who are getting along on their weekly pay envelope a rebate on their coal to pay for the slate they get, ...pay also for the broken furnace and stove grates that those hard lumps caused.

Maybe the time is not far distant when this city will not want any coal if this keeps up. Everyone is crying now for oil and electric stoves and many are getting them.

The time has come for something to be done before another winter. Our local Legislature will go into session shortly, and this would be a good item for their books.

There may be no way of separating this slate from the coal, but there is a way of rebating the consumers through the coal dealers on the amount of coal each one of us buys in the year.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WALTER A. O'BRIEN
26 Spring Park Road,
Charlottetown

Case Of Rich Girl

(Financial Post)

Normally, not having married one, we wouldn't give a second's worry to a thirty-year-old girl with a trust fund of $500,000.

But H. V. Laughton, general manager, National Trust Co., has reported the case of one such young lady which stirs our solicitude for her. Much more important, it arouses our indignation because the same sort of thing may well happen to people who are not thirty years old and do not have $500,000 in their trust fund.

This thirty-year-old was to get the income of the $500,000 estate, the capital to go on to others at her death. The young beneficiary immediately found herself saddled with federal succession duties of $72,000 and Ontario succession duties of $110,000 or a total of $182,000.

This total tax has to be paid in four years, or $45,500 per year.

Assuming that the fund earned four per cent, the young lady's total annual income is $20,000 of which she has to pay $12,000 income tax. That leaves her $8,000 a year out of which to pay the $45,500 succession duty installment. (And remember, she couldn't chip into her capital. It isn't hers.)

Say she devotes her entire income, after income taxes, to trying to pay those succession duties. After four years she will owe the governments $161,250. The annual interest on that at five per cent is $8,062.52 so that even if the tax authorities were to settle on that basis, the girl would still owe the governments $62.52 a year as long as she lives or until drastic income tax reductions change her net income from the estate. As Mr. Laughton observed:

The only sensible thing for the girl to do would be to refuse to have anything to do with the estate ...While we all know that parliament by law can declare that black is white, I think the public as a whole is completely unaware of the development of this new process in technicolor which not only turns black figures into red, but leaves the poor beneficiary entirely out of the picture.

While the effect is more spectacular in connection with a large estate, there is the same effect in proportion in the case of any moderate estate. I could give you example after example of actual cases where the results of the application of succession duty taxes particularly when combined with income taxes, are simply absurd—and also tragic.

Here the devious conspiracies of the avaricious tax gatherers in our disreputably tangled fiscal system, provincial and federal, glow with their most infernal luminosity.

The Poet's Corner

LADY LOST

This morning, there flew up the lane
A timid lady-bird to our bird-bath
And eyed her image dolefully as death;
This afternoon, knocked on our window-pane
To be let in from the rain.

And when I caught her eye
She looked aside, but at the clapping thunder
And sight of the whole earth blazing up like tinder
Looked in on us again mose miserably,
Indeed as if she would cry.

So I will go out into the park and say,
"Who has lost a delicate brown-eyed lady
In the West End Section? Or has anybody
Injured some fine woman in some dark way,
Last night or yesterday?

"Let the owner come and claim possession
No questions will be asked. But stroke her gently
With loving words, and she will evidently
Resume her full soft-haired white-breasted fashion
And her right home and her right passion."

—John Crowe Ranson.

GIVE !

A Suffering World Calls to You!

On all the war fronts, and in the countries torn by war, suffering is greater now than ever before. Your Canadian Red Cross brings relief and comfort to prisoners of war, wounded and sick on the field and in hospital, refugees and victims of the Nazi hordes, besides a host of other services to Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen and their dependents at home and abroad. Your dollars are needed as never before. Give generously!

National Appeal, 1945

CANADIAN RED CROSS

This space contributed by

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Federal Nominations

(Sydney Post-Record)

Although even the approximate date of the coming Dominion elections is still unknown, it is interesting to note that no fewer than 419 candidates had been named by the various political organizations, up to the end of last week. This total is made up as follows: Progressive Conservatives, 111, Liberals, 90, C.C.F.-Socialists, 134; Labor Progressives, 66; Social Creditors, 14; Farmer Labor, 2; Independents, 2.

Beginning with Nova Scotia, there are already three Progressive Conservatives, [illegible] six C.C.F.'s, three Labor Progressives, and one Farmer Labor candidate either selected, or formally placed in the field by nominating conventions. This Province will elect 12 members in all to the House of Commons. At least 30 more nominations will be made in Nova Scotia.

In Prince Edward Island, the Progressive Conservatives have formally nominated all four of their candidates, while the Liberals so far have placed one candidate in the field in that Province. Colonel Ralston has announced he will not seek re-election in Prince. C.C.F. candidates may or may not run for exercise in the Island.

New Brunswick's total to date shows one Progressive Conservative, one Liberal, and four C.C.F. candidates in the field. Three-cornered contests are expected in most of the New Brunswick constituencies.

Nominations in Quebec have been slower so far than in any other province except New Brunswick. In Quebec four Progressive Conservatives have been placed in the field as compared with ten Liberals, seven C.C.F.'s, six Labor Progressives, and one Independent. New Brunswick returns ten and Quebec 65 members to the House of Commons. There may be upwards of 200 candidates for Quebec's 65 seats.

In Ontario the Progressive Conservatives are well away to a start and are ahead of all other parties, having so far nominated no fewer than 60 candidates out of the full quota of 82 for that Province. The C.C.F. group come next with 52 nominations, the Liberals follow with 30, and the Labor Progressives with 26, one Farmer Labor candidate has also been named and will stand for election in Welland, where the Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labor, faces Progressive Conservative and Liberal opposition as well.

Manitoba's quota in the House is 17 members, and the C.C.F.-Socialists have already nominated no fewer than 16 candidates. The Progressive Conservatives follow with 8, the Liberals with 6, the Labor Progressives with 2, Social Creditors with two, the Independents with one. It is probable that there will be either three-or-four cornered fights for every Manitoba constituency when all the nominations have been held. For Saskatchewan's membership of 21, the C.C.F. group have already placed 19 candidates in the field, the Liberals 18, Progressive Conservatives 13, Labor Progressives 3, and Social Creditors 1.

Alberta's total House representation is 17 members, and already 47 candidates have been formally nominated in that province. The C.C.F. group although almost wiped out in the recent Provincial elections, has already named a Federal candidate in each of Alberta's 17 ridings. The Progressive Conservatives and Liberals are neck-and-neck in Alberta with 11 candidates already nominated by each of these parties. British Columbia's quota is 16 members in all. The nominations to date show 14 C.C.F. candidates, 11 Progressive Conservatives, 9 Liberals, and 11 Labor Progressives in the field. Several B.C. Liberal M.P.'s including Jerry McGeer, have announced their retirement from politics.

It is interesting to observe that the Labor Progressives, who have absorbed the former Communist political movement, are making an unexpectedly strong bid especially in some of the provinces where the C.C.F. has made its best scores in the past. One of these provinces is British Columbia, and another Ontario, where these two radical groups will scramble for the detached industrial or Labor vote in nearly all the constituencies. It is difficult at the moment to form any idea of the effect the reformed Communist movement is likely to have in cutting down C.C.F. prospects across the Dominion. This question is, however, little more than an academic one, as neither the C.C.F. nor the Labor Progressive group is taken seriously in more than two or three of the nine provinces. A Progressive Conservative or Liberal Government is virtually certain to emerge when the next House of Commons is returned. The results of 6 Provincial general elections since the middle of 1943 place this beyond reasonable question.

ATTENTION
TRUSS WEARERS

To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a truss we ask the question. Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style—out grown its usefulness so to speak thus causing untold agony then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up-to date one. All sizes and styles at prices to suit everybody.

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