THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1944.

Good Fishery Prospects

A general rise in Canadian living standards, combined with efficient methods of catching, preparing and distributing fish-food products, might result in Canada's present domestic consumption of fish being doubled after the war, according to W. H. Lanceley, chief of the fisheries and animal products branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, writing in the Commercial Intelligence Journal. The industry could be expanded to produce a much larger supply for export as well, he adds, but export outlets will depend upon welfare and trade policies in the international field.

Wartime need for increased production, Mr. Lanceley observes, has led to some attempt to rationalize the fishing industry on the Atlantic Coast for the first time. The Dominion Government has subsidized trawler (dragger) construction by firms and groups of fishermen and has undertaken experiments to perfect other high-efficiency techniques for catching groundfish.

The war has provided the Atlantic Coast industry with a greatly expanded demand for its products, and the need of ensuring equitable distribution of food supplies among the Allied countries has resulted in the rationing of the exportable surplus of salted fish among the countries whose need is greatest. Less rigid restrictions have been placed upon the trade in pickled fish. Large quantities of fresh and canned fish have been ear-marked for the United Kingdom or for relief and rehabilitation purposes. So far as possible, however, the market contacts of the trade have been preserved.

Improvements in the ground-fishing industry on the Atlantic Coast may be extended after the war to the pelagic industry, with the possible establishment of floating factories equipped to handle both ground and pelagic species. The salt-fish industry will probably continue to decline, with the emphasis shifted to the production of fresh and frozen fillets; while the wartime improvements in canning sardines may permit of greater competition with the European market.

When the effects of the removal of the obstruction in the Fraser River are fully realized, the Pacific fisheries will probably be able to produce a greater pack of salmon and should be able to maintain the position of this product in the United Kingdom market against any likely competition, Mr. Lanceley continues. Wartime production of canned herring will presumably be reduced but may be replaced by the production of salted herring if conditions in China improve. Expansion of the herring-meal and herring-oil industry will depend upon the absorptive capacity of agriculture and the chemical industry. Wartime production of vitamin oil may continue, but any expansion of the halibut fishery is limited by the demands of conservation.

Service Men's Viewpoint

A resolution has been passed by the British Columbia Canadian Legion executive council, urging that V-Day plans be based on the spirit of "thanksgiving rather than jollification." Celebrations, the resolution suggests, "should be avoided because of the many who have made the supreme sacrifices."

So far as our fighting men are concerned, there seems to be little desire for flagwagging, at least until final victory is achieved. This is the view expressed editorially in *The Maple Leaf*, published in France and Italy for the Canadian armed forces by the Canadian Army Public Relations. It is worth being reminded of some of the facts stated in this editorial, which we quote in full:

"Canadian soldiers lay sprawled beside the road. They were dead. They were men who, in the initial assault on the German Gothic Line in Italy, had successfully moved through minefields under cover of darkness but, at first light, were observed and caught in a sudden storm of mortar bombs. They had tried to find cover. There was none. They were blown to pieces.

"The men who fight Canada's battles, who know what it's like to be on the receiving end, don't need to be reminded that Canadian soldiers are being killed and wounded. But, in the enthusiasm prompted by continued Allied successes, others there are who would forget the bad, think only of the good, figure the war is just about over, there's nothing to worry about, it's in the bag.

"So long as Canadian soldiers die on the battlefields of the world, the war must remain a grim reality to all Canadians. This may be a time for optimism but the optimism must only produce greater effort by Canadians, at home and abroad, to hurry the success, put an end to casualty lists, to the sacrifice inevitable in front-line action.

"Any indication of a let-up along the line that leads to military gain must be pegged immediately. Premature celebrations are only born of refusal to face facts. The time to celebrate will come with peace."

Liberty Of Speech

Accepting re-election as president of the Institut Democratique Canadien, Senator T. D. Bouchard declared that freedom of speech exists in the laws of Quebec, but it is far from existing in the habits and customs of Quebeckers. When an individual finds himself refused the mouthful of bread necessary to sustain himself and nourish his family if he dares to publicly express his opinions, individual liberty has been sacrificed to the tyranny of those who dominate the masses, he said. Referring to the manner in which he was attacked and castigated by French-Canadian leaders in the province after his sensational maiden speech in the Senate, he said: "My comparatively tough experience has proved, among other things, that the creation and maintenance of the Institut Democratique Canadien was a necessity of the past and a duty for the present. Our principal objective is to establish in this province the liberty of opinion of which the corollary is the liberty of speech. I do not infer from this testimony of your confidence which you have given me that you approve of the opinions which I expressed in my speech in the Senate; I simply conclude that you have recognized my right to express those opinions, and that is sufficient."

EDITORIAL NOTES —

On the last lap of another great month added to one of the best seasons ever.

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No sooner were the important changes announced in the Air Department than the Assistant Minister betook himself to Ottawa.

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According to Attorney-General Leslie E. Blackwell of Ontario, there are no fewer than half-a-million amateur bootleggers in Ontario due to restrictions in liquor supply. "Bootlegging exists", he said, "because those who are church-goers on Sunday provide substantial custom for bootleggers during the week.

* * * *

It is realized today that no city can be called a fine city, however gay may be its principal shopping streets, however well kept its "select" residential areas, while a vast section of its population is hidden away in dark hovels and airless tenements, says the London Daily Herald.

* * * *

The Siege of Paris by the Germans began this date 1870; Paris capitulated on January 28, 1871; it has been the centre of European civilization since the reign of Louis XV, and has been the scene of many important peace treaties, including those of 1814, 1815, 1856, 1871, and 1919; the probability is that the new peace treaty will be signed there also.

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Giving the devil his due. Mr. J. Fournier de Belleval, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, told the 34th annual meeting of the body in Quebec he hoped the "essential elements of the Wartime Prices Board will be maintained after the war. Without the board, without the discipline and order it introduced into the retail business, without the constraints it imposed upon the public as well as upon the manufacturer and merchant himself, all would be chaos today," he added.

* * * *

The S. S. Prince Edward Island is expected back on the Borden-Tormentine route this week, which will be a matter of satisfaction to all concerned. When she left here in June the anticipation was that she would be again ready for service before the middle of August, and already she is over a month behind time. If it takes as long as this to replace four steam boilers by oil, and do other necessary overhauling, how long will it take to complete the new car ferry on the keel of which, we are told, Senator McIntyre has been standing?

* * * *

Names of British Army formations are familiar to all newspaper readers. But how many men does it take to make up these formations? Numbers of men vary from time to time according to varying roles which the unit has to play. In general the figures for British (and Canadian) units are as follows: Company, Eighty-160 men; battalion, 1,000-1,500 men; brigade, 3,500-5,000 men. (The Germans do not have brigades. Instead their regiment, roughly corresponds to our brigade, although rather smaller). Division, 12,000-15,000 men; corps, two or three divisions; army, three corps; army group, two or more armies.

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Vichy chickens are coming home to "roast." The Paris police announce the arrests of Admiral Jean Abrial, the Vichy government's governor-general of Algeria, and Admiral Rene Platon, secretary of state under Pierre Laval. Others whose arrests were announced by police include Pierre Caziot, who organized the Vichy farm union "peasant corporation" which resistance leaders charge really was an organization for facilitating German seizure of the French agricultural output; Joseph Barthelemy, professor of law and former editor of Le Temps who served as minister of justice in the Vichy cabinet; and Xavier Vallat, Vichy secretary of state, whom resistance leaders hold responsible for the application of many anti-Semitic measures.

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At the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, the Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, is replacing the pendulum clock by a quartz-crystal clock. This revolutionizes the measurement of time. Greenwich Time by the pendulum clock was accurate to 1-100th of a second per day, which meant that a watch kept tuned in to Greenwich, would gain or lose only one-third of a second per month. The new quartz-crystal clock is accurate to 1-1000th of a second per day—a variation of less than one second in two and one-half years. It is hoped to reach an accuracy of 1-10,000th of a second per day. The new clock has a small quartz-crystal which is kept always at the same temperature and vibrating continuously by electrical means. Time is measured from it by counting the vibrations of the "quartz-crystal instead of the swings of a pendulum. The pendulum vibrates once a second, the quartz-crystal 100,000 times a second. Therein lies the improved accuracy. The immediate value of this to wartime astronomers is that it provides a high-precision standard of frequency for electronic devices, such as radio-location. When counting a million vibrations of an electric current per second, 1-10,000th of a second makes a big difference.

Notes By The Way

If a feller has a good wife, a good digestion and a clear conscience he can have about all the happiness there is in this world.—Detroit Free Press.

For Hitler on the day of reckoning, the embarrassment begins with the first question put by the Allies' attorney: "Is that your right name?"—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Word from the north says some of the Eskimos believe we are still in World War I. Not an inexplicable error, since to the Eskimo keeping a thing 25 years on ice is common.—Ottawa Citizen.

The rasping, bulldog voice of Prime Minister Churchill remains the most eloquent in Europe. In his stocky, muscled figure, cigar in mouth, still stands the leading people's advocate. — New York Times.

Why, it is asked for the thousandth time—why can't our radio announcers just be themselves, their own English-speaking selves. Why can't they take a leaf from Mr. Churchill's book where he says?—"It is not customary to quote a term in a foreign language, a capital town, a geographical place, when there exists a perfectly well-known English equivalent." But some of our radio commentators and announcers do not even stop there: repelling the English equivalent, they achieve a vernacular monstrosity that never was on land or sea!—Halifax Herald.

One of the only places known to me personally where rabbits are a worse plague than they ever have been is over a wide space reserved for gunnery practice. Nobody cares to take the risk of flying bullets, and it is extraordinary how crooked some recruits can shoot. There is a suspicion that some of them make stray rabbits their target. It is odd that neither rabbits nor pheasant seem to object to target practice, however loud and long. I have seen pheasants strolling unconcernedly across a range while bullets were whistling over their heads. — London Spectator.

A hundred-kroner bill doesn't go very far these days, if you want to invite your friends to a little party in a restaurant in Copenhagen, according to Berlingsaze Tidende. Four open-faced Danish sandwiches, two with lobster and two with smoked salmon, cost 22 kroner. In Esbjerg a night club charged 40 kroner for three sandwiches, one beer and one Akvavit (no a bottle, mind you, just a little shot). For an empty Akvavit bottle the Danes pay up to 35 kroner. The explanation is this, that you cannot buy a bottle of Akvavit unless you have an empty Akvavit bottle. A sandwich with roast duck is priced at four kroner and 50 Ore (just about $1). — Scandinavian News.

All of France's art treasures, including the famous "Venus de Milo" and Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," of the Louvre, are safe and in good condition, it was learned authoritatively. For whatever reason, the Germans left the treasures of the Louvre and most of France's great chateau museums behind them in their hurried retreat from France. Not a single painting or sculptural work of national importance is missing, it was stated by Second Lieutenant James J. Rorimer, of the art and monuments division of the American Army's civil affairs section.—New York Herald Tribune.

Perhaps science is arranging for a more comfortable and convenient world, but it threatens to take much of the spice out of living. Predictions of stockings that will not run and suits that will not shine are not to be hailed with unalloyed enthusiasm. The removal of such annoyances is likely to make the dullness in our existence. Consider, for one thing, the blow that will be struck at the humor business. Runless stockings and shineless suits may be just the fore-runners of umbrella that cannot be stolen and tools that cannot be forgotten by plumbers. The possibilities are appalling. Before science gets through, we may be almost entirely out of joke material.—Windsor Star.

There are still many people here who think they can predict changes in the weather by observing the change of light on the surface of the moon If the crescent of the new moon is tilted downward, it will let down the rain, but if upward like a cup, it will hold it and it will be dry. Likewise, there seem to be warm moons and cold moons. In view of the fact that the same old moon changes over all the world at the same time, it is interesting to inquire just how much rain a wet moon brings to the Sahara Desert or the shores of Peru? And how much drought the dry moon imposes on the Amazon jungles and the Aleutian Islands? Just how much heat does a warm moon bring to the Arctic Circle, and with how much chilliness does a cold moon refresh Death Valley or the Dead Sea plain?—Victoria Colonist.

Gent is purged of Nazis after a captivity of more than four years, comments The New York Times. When we are old enough to read Shakespeare we soon make the acquaintance of "old John of Gaunt, time-honored Lancaster," third son of Edward III of England, born at Gand, or Kent, in 1340, in the Abbey of St. Bavon, already 709 years old. Charles V, also a native, is supposed to have said punningly to Francis I of France: "I will put Paris in my glove" (dans mon gan). Unlike most English manufacturing cities, Gent is both ancient and industrial. It was a famous commune like Ypres and Bruges. Its greatest days historically were in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, but it has preserved its old energies devoted to new purposes. It is rich in monuments, such as the Cloth Hall, the Belfry, the Cathedral of St. Bavon. The Oudeberg, or Castle of the Counts, founded more than a thousand years ago, was a cotton mill from 1789 to 1864, and is now a choice specimen of a medieval fortress. Of the Old Port, the guild houses, the museum, let the guide books tell you. But we must not forget that Gent is also a city of flowers, another Haarlem. If the people of The Netherlands remember the Pacification of Gent, signed in 1576, Americans remember the Treaty of Gent, signed in 1815.

The Victoria Cross Through 90 Years

(Lieut.-Col. R. S. W. Fordham, K.C., E.D., in The Legionary)

V

Few things are more certain than that those who devised the Cross in the second half of the last century could have had little idea of extraordinary acts of heroism that were to occur. Some of the most remarkable ones arose in the First Great War. Here are a few examples: In August, 1918, a Lance-Corporal of The Devonshire Regiment, aided by a private soldier, completely broke up a counter-attack launched by several hundred German troops. Happening to be in "No Man's Land" on observation work, he suddenly noticed their advance. He and his companion stealthily placed themselves on the flank of the line of advance and opened rapid fire with their rifles when the time seemed most opportune. The Germans advanced to a point about 100 yards distant and then wavered. Some threw up their hands. The two British soldiers bounded forward and took about 200 of the Germans prisoners. These they then conducted back to company headquarters for viewing by an astonished company commander.

September, 1918, witnessed a remarkable feat on the part of Lieutenant (now Brigadier) M. H. Gregg, M.C., near Cambrai, in France. The brigade to which his unit belonged was endeavouring to advance. Fire from both flanks and thick, uncut wire stopped all progress. Gregg crawled on alone and reconnoitred the wire in which he ultimately found a narrow gap. Returning for his men, he led them through and got into the enemy's trench. The Germans launched a strong counter-attack and Gregg's men soon found themselves in dire straits through lack of bombs. Although wounded, Gregg obtained a further supply under heavy fire. He then led his men—whose number had become considerably reduced by casualties — against the Germans position again and succeeded in occupying it. During this operation he personally killed or wounded eleven Germans and captured twenty-five prisoners. Twelve machine-guns were also taken.

This enterprising officer remained with his company despite his wounds and two days later led his men in another attack when he was wounded again, his wounds this time proving severe. His remarkable courage not only made the brigade's advance possible, but also prevented many casualties occurring.

In 1917 a Canadian Captain who had already received the D.S.O., aided only by two runners succeeded in capturing two German officers and 75 men, as well as two machine-guns. By making them think that they were surrounded by superior force and shouting orders to purely imaginary troops, this venturesome officer bluffed the enemy into surrendering and allowing themselves to be disarmed. This has rightly been described as one of the best V.C. awards of the First Great War.

Another Canadian soldier, an acting Corporal, performed what seems like a super-human feat, in the same year. In some mopping-up operations following an attack he became a host in himself. In a cellar entered he disposed of 19 German soldiers single-handed, with rifle and bayonet, killing the lot. Later in the day he rushed a machine-gun emplacement, killing the crew and capturing the gun. The next day he attacked another machine gun emplacement alone, killed three of the crew and then blew up the gun and emplacement with hand grenades. In two days' happenings he was credited with killing at least 16 of the enemy. He is now employed in the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa.

(To be Continued)

Newsmen Who Received Little News

(Montreal Gazette.)

There is an historical echo to these recent days when Quebec presented the curious picture of a city crowded with newsmen who were receiving little news. It was just eighty years ago—in the autumn of 1864—that another Quebec Conference was held. Then, too, newsmen crowded the city, and then, as recently, they had to be content with the crumbs from under the diplomatic table.

The Quebec Conference of 1864 was held to decide whether the colonies of British North America might not, through the efforts of statesmanship, be welded into a single great dominion. Since it was one of the leading questions of the 19th. century, the principal papers sent their correspondents. There were representatives from the London Times, the London Morning Herald, the London Daily Telegraph—even from Punch. Some of the American papers, notwithstanding the fact that they were concerned with the job of reporting the Civil War, also had their correspondents at Quebec. There was, of course, a large number of Canadian newsmen, among them Brown Chamberlain of The Gazette.

* * *

As soon as these correspondents had found rooms in the city's crowded hotels, they went about searching for news. But very little was forthcoming. The days passed and their impatience rose. Finally they decided to sink their rivalry and present a joint-memorial to the delegates. Their firm but plaintive plea, makes timely reading today:

* * *

"The undersigned, representatives of English and Canadian newspapers, find it would be impossible for them satisfactorily to discharge their duties if an injunction of secrecy be imposed on the conference and stringently carried into effect. They, therefore, beg leave to suggest whether, while the remarks of individual members of your body are kept secret, the propositions made and the treatment they meet with, might not advantageously be made public, and whether such a course would not best accord with the real interests committed to the conference. Such a kind of compromise between absolute secrecy and unlimited publicity is usually, we believe, observed in cases where an European congress holds the peace of the world and the fate of nations in its hands. And we have thought that the British American Conference might perhaps consider the precedent not applicable to the present case. Such a course would have the further advantage of preventing ill-founded and mischievous rumors from obtaining currency.

* * *

This ingenious appeal brought no result. Every day the doors closed on the delegates, and the newsmen were left in the silence without. Indeed, this exclusion would at times be made all the more exasperating, when a sudden burst of cheering could be heard, concerning the meaning of which they could learn nothing. As the delegates had silently convened, so did they silently depart; and the newsmen were left to go home to explain their ineffectiveness as best they might.

One of the Fathers of Confederation, John Hamilton Gray of Prince Edward Island, later defended the decision taken by the conference delegates. He explained that they "had there met to determine what was best for the future guidance of half a continent, not to fight old party battles, or stand by old party cries, and candour was sought far more than mere personal triumph." Certainly the policies discussed in secret in Quebec were later shouted from the housetops, and brought achievements beyond the best of hopes.

Once again an historic Quebec conference has met in secret. Though the Allied chiefs gave a press conference on the last day of the conference, it is clear that only the months to come will really unfold the decisions reached. Like the Conference of 1864 it has met in secret, but like the Conference of 1864 its decisions may be written plainly on the developments of history.

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Progressive Conservative Polls Meeting

There will be a meeting of all the Progressive Conservative Members of the Poll Committees of the under mentioned Polls at Eldon Hall on Tuesday evening, September 26th in Eldon at 8 P. M.

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Both Federal Progressive Conservative Candidates for Queen's County will be present and will be pleased to meet the Committees of these Polls.

MAJOR T. B. ROGERS, President,
J. A. McDONALD, K. C., Secretary.

9-23-2i.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET

Deem not, because you see me in the press
Of this world's children run my fated race,
That I blaspheme against a proffered grace,
Or leave unlearned the love of holiness.

I honor not that sanctity the less
Whose aureole illumines not my face,
But dare not tread the secret, holy place
To which the priest and prophet have access.

For some are born to be beatified
By anguish, and by grievous penance done;
And some, to furnish forth the age's pride,
And to be praised of men beneath the sun;
And some are born to stand perplexed aside
From so much sorrow — of whom I am one.

—George Santayana.

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