

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLeure
Vice-President: J. E. Burnett, F. J. I.

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

Farm Labor Problem

Taking time by the forelock, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is making a survey to determine the farm labor needs of the province for the coming season, and to determine to what extent, if any, the employment of war prisoners would help to meet them.

Whether or not Prince Edward Island may also have to consider the employment of war prisoners, there is no doubt that farm labor will be a big problem here this year, as it has been in recent years.

Prize-Winning Comments

Prize for 1944's most eloquent and accurate character study of the Prime Minister of Canada goes, says News, to Hon. James Layton Ralston, M. P., for comments made in the House of Commons, Ottawa, November 29th, on statements regarding reinforcements made earlier by Mr. King.

Second prize is awarded, after careful consideration, to the editor of the Western Producer of Saskatoon. The prize-winning entry is this, from an editorial of December 14:

"Col. Ralston did something else in his address which even at this late stage may prove of great value to his country. He completely unmasked Mr. Mackenzie King and exposed him to the nation and to the world as the slippery political manipulator that he is and always has been.

"To welcome the by-product of the crisis is not a personal matter. It is a public, a national question of the first order. For Mr. King has, more than any other man, influenced the pattern of public life in Canada. His influence has been almost uniformly deplorable.

Community Centres For Britain

Advocates of the idea of making war memorials in Canada take the form of community centres, says an exchange, will have their cause reinforced by the measures which the British Government is taking for encouraging such institutions.

The Minister of Education, who endorses the report, has caused it to be circulated to all education authorities and other bodies concerned with post-war plans for education in the widest sense of the term, and has announced the decision of the Government that the provision of community centres will be regarded as coming within the scope of the education service administered by those authorities, although other local bodies will retain power to establish centres for athletic, social or educational purposes under the Physical Training and Recreation Act of 1937.

The policy of the British Government contemplates that, while the purely social activities of the community centres should have precedence, they should also be made to serve some educational purpose, but that there should be a careful avoidance of anything like an institutional atmosphere. It is also proposed that after the community centres have been erected by public funds they should be made self-supporting financially through each person who makes use of them paying some annual contribution

compatible with his means. The guiding principles which the British Government has laid down for the establishment of community centres seem sound. They could be profitably followed in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is the time when the City should be preparing for the naming and numbering of the streets. Repeated complaints have been made of the present unsatisfactory condition, characteristic of a "hick" town.

Finance Minister Ilsley and Reconstruction Minister Howe have informed the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities that cities will have priorities in the purchase of A. R. P. equipment, pumps, rubber coats, hoses and other items, now owned by the Dominion.

Ten thousand bombed-out people from London's blasted, congested East End are to be offered homes in the fashionable West End, Reconstruction Minister Lord Woolton announces. Houses suitable for quick adaptation as apartments had been listed in the city of Westminster, and in the boroughs of Marylebone, Chelsea and Paddington to carry out his rehousing scheme, the minister said.

A British method of colour-photography record, used for the first time in medical history, has given vital help to plastic surgery and influenced the whole development of skin pathology. This method has been developed by the British colour photography specialist, Mr. P. G. Hennell.

H. R. H. the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, died this date 1820; the Earlom and Dukedom of Kent are titles held at various dates by Plantagenets, Hollands, Nevilles, Greys and by members of the Royal family; Edward Augustus, Victoria's father, was born 1707; the fourth son of George III; a soldier, who served in Canada, after whom Kent street here is named.

In its plans for post-war regulation of industry in Britain, the Trades Union Congress proposes a "Control of Engagement Order," which shall, on the one hand, make provision for the worker to appeal against direction, and also lays down that any worker who unreasonably refuses employment when directed by the Ministry of Labour, shall not be eligible for unemployment benefit.

Old sweats will be glad to know that thanks to a new system, Canadian troops in slit trenches along the Maas River have been getting a change of socks every 24 hours. Clean socks come up with the rations and the soiled ones go back to the divisional mobile laundry. Moreover, troops coming from the line for brief rests go directly to bed and when they awaken next morning they find their uniforms have been washed, dried and pressed and clean shirts, socks and underwear are ready for them.

What a present help in the time of an election is that Mackenzie King left border, order-in-council. Anything the government and its friends think would be beneficial to them on election day can be made effective by order-in-council, having the effect of law. Disability pensions for women members of the armed forces have been increased to the same scale as those for men, it is disclosed by publication of an order-in-council. Previously they were on a scale equal to four-fifths of the pension for men. The differential which conformed to the differential in rates of pay for men and women now has been abolished.

"The martyred city of Caen remains a monument to the sacrifice of the French people who, without a murmur, paid a terrible price for liberation," writes Ward Smith in London Calling. "Over 1,000 people were killed in the bombing and shelling there. But perhaps it is not of bombs and death that the townspeople will tell their children, but of a buryal column, a legendary figure in a kilt who, braving shot and shell, used to tour the shelters. . . . Among some fifty graves by the road to Argentan there is one that hasn't a cross and hasn't a name—only a rusty rifle stuck into the earth, a faded label that says 'An unknown Canadian,' and a sweet tin with a piece of shrapnel on top. We shall never know who he was or whose heart breaks for lack of him; and yet, as I stood by the lonely grave of that unnamed stranger who died that freedom should not perish. I seemed to hear a whisper on the wind: 'That's O.K. by me.'"

In a letter addressed to the Mayors of the different cities and towns of Nova Scotia, Attorney General MacQuarrie says: "There seems to be a widespread but mistaken belief that raffles, lotteries and other gambling practices are not illegal if used as a means of raising money for patriotic or other philanthropic objects. The sponsoring of illegal practices, however, deserving the object for which it is desired to raise money, definitely menaces good citizenship and sets a bad example, particularly to the youth of the Province, and particularly where such illegal practices are sponsored by responsible and well-known organizations, composed of citizens who are otherwise law-abiding. May I urge on every city and town its duty to see that all laws in force within its jurisdiction are enforced and obeyed, and that such illegal practices are stopped, in the interest of good citizenship and sound civic government, and that every city and town take aggressive action with regard to the enforcement of law in the area under its respective jurisdiction. It is highly desirable that civic government and citizenship be not undermined, but strengthened and improved, and it is an imperative necessity that both meet their responsibilities in regard to such illegal practices. I would appreciate your bringing this matter once again to the attention of your Police Committee and of your Police force."

Notes By The Way

Noting that a plane flew from Labrador to Scotland in six hours, Toronto Star's Columnist Jones observes that "the Scotch are getting closer." The fellow in Edinburgh doesn't think he doesn't mean "closer than ever"—Ottawa Citizen.

Several of our contemporaries have engaged in mild discussions as to when a woman should be allowed to enter the discussion, we would like to draw their attention to one woman's qualification for leadership, advanced by herself, Mrs. Bernice Faneuil of Chicago accused her estranged husband of breaking three of her teeth to his countenance, she retorted: "I am a perfect lady. Before he bit me, I told him he had better take his glasses off."—Kingston Whig-Standard.

If present plans are carried out (and there is no thought of altering them), the deadweight ship tonnage of the Japanese military during the war will total 50,000,000. And from the present outlook most of this will be on hand when the war "insurance" is called for. This mammoth tonnage is more than we will have any need of, and it will be a heavy burden to throw the balance on the market would raise havoc. Various schemes have been put forward to dispose of the tonnage. But now the Maritime Commission offers a plan in the nature of a "lease-back" arrangement. The maintenance of an idle fleet of Liberty ships, always ready for a call to service if conditions warrant a resort to them.

The United Nations will not do business with military aid. After the years I have spent attempting to safeguard a free American economy against the potential workings of a Japanese military economy, I am relieved to think that we shall never try again to present the people of the world with a deal with a Japan which pursues the course of a robber-state. The financial system which Japan has created is one which violates all concepts of honest dealing—irrespective of the particular epoch.

Strangely enough, peanuts have something to do with the cigarette shortage. It is said that a man contributing cause is that tobacco acreage has failed to keep pace with the demand for it. The Newsweek. (Tobacco consumption is up 62 per cent from 1940 and some nine per cent from 1943.)

They point out that in the three years tobacco growers, partly because of a worker shortage and partly because of government encouragement, have been raising peanuts for which the Government has paid a high guaranteed price. The 1945 tobacco acreage allotment has been set at 1,767,000 acres, an increase of about 10 per cent over 1944 and seven per cent above the 1935-39 average before crop controls were introduced. And it is pointed out that tobacco growers will meet the 1945 allotment.

I wonder whether this stock-in-fashion—for the summer at least—won't persist even after silk and nylon become plentiful. It seems to me to be in accord with a trend of long duration among both sexes. Progressively fewer and lighter clothes are being worn. The suits for the women; for the men, a steady if slow revolt against garments that oppress and constrict. None of them has even known of the soft-collared shirt which has been gradually supplanting the hard collar. In 1920 men's suits were mostly by young men and men on holiday; by 1930 they were almost universal except among the elderly. It was a steady and steady advance of other centres of respectable business conservatism; now they persist in the wearing of suits, except for weddings, funerals and other occasions of pomp and ceremony. The garb for sock-suspenders. Was like to have been abandoned except by a minority. Men go hatless in summer in increasing numbers. For a decade or more, too, each summer has brought out more and more suits consisting of an open-collared shirt, a pair of trousers to match. These curious outfits developed, I believe, in highland Scotland where there was standard warm-weather wear among millions of men though they were highlanders and a little odd on park Avenue in New York or Michigan Boulevard in Chicago.—L. Allen in Transatlantic.

My ship's company are busy making toys for Greek children. We happen to know that the Greek Greek convent, where eighty small children, all orphans, are cared for. The very best that can be done for them is done, but it amounts to practically nothing—they are more than half starved. Many of the babies are red raw—because they have to be washed in water fresh water being so precious that it can only be spared for drinking. None of them has even known of a sweet or seen any sort of toy. The proud possession of the children was a small ring of steel which could be rolled along the floor—no even a tin to beat with a stick—for every tin is required as a cooking utensil, and all sticks are fuel. A naval officer I know happened to have a wooden yellow duck on board—was an intended Christmas present for a niece in England. He presented it to the convent. It caused stupefaction! It was received with wide-eyed silence and gaping mouths—and then solemnly led by a daring young sailor to the main street. In absolute silence all the children followed it, and soon a regular procession was started, with old men, women, soldiers, priests, everyone—and they all followed the yellow duck through the main street of the town. The duck was found in a Union Jack and hoisted on a pole. A tattered, dirty drummer appeared from somewhere, and a crowd of children followed him. The yellow duck, a hideously, was finally led, like the Trojan horse, back into the convent.—R.N.V.R. Officer in London Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of the day's news. It is not intended to discuss the opinions of the editor.

LETTER FROM DR. GRANT RE RADIO LICENSE FEES

Sir,—The following item appeared in a Charlottetown paper of January 20th: "Twelve operators of radio receiving sets appeared before Stenney George J. Tweedy here yesterday and pleaded guilty to operating their sets without a license from the Department of Transport. The penalty for each defendant was \$5.00. Inspectors from the Department of Transport, who were on duty to come up in Court both in Charlottetown and in Summerside."

I think to be correct, the penalty is \$5.00 and costs, and that the cost alone generally averages more than the license fee so here is a tip for all of us in King's County, to save \$5.00 and costs, and a lot of remorse and inconvenience. The inspectors are now hunting in Charlottetown and Summerside, where they can easily get around with their own sets, as soon as the roads are passable, they intend paying a visit to Kings County, to get our receipts for our radio license, at the nearest Post Office of Bank.

We are not in difference whether we "hooked up" in our home, we are liable and there is nothing anyone can do to prevent a fine and costs, if an inspector drops in and finds us without a receipt for our radio license for the present year. It is one of my fondest hopes that this year will be a "closed season" for radio inspectors in King's County.

I am, Sir, etc. THOS. V. GRANT Montague, Jan. 23, 1945.

THANK YOU!

Sir—I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. M. J. Summerside, for the magnificent compliment she has paid the bards of Prince Edward Island.

It is not often that praise comes our way; because to the great masses of mankind the use of poetry and of the human race. Poetry is really the oldest form of literature, dating from the dawn of time. It is a form of writing, and derives its chief charm from its peculiar figures of speech.

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POLITICAL SNAPSHOTS

Sir,—Your evening contemporary recently devoted three columns of a column, of its editorial space to the Grey-North by-election now underway, romancing on a nebulous hypothesis as to the chances of his favorite nockey team in an approaching game, and suggesting that the voters should vote for the candidate who was at variance with Mackenzie King who succeeded in persuading McNaughton to leave out on a perilous and doubtful venture, and after all, he should be in a better position to estimate than the Liberal Press because he is on the spot and knows it. Mr. King must have been rather perturbed over McNaughton's chances—and incidentally his own—some two weeks ago when he issued a personal appeal to the electors of the constituency to support the government candidate. Since then he has threatened them with what dire consequences may result if an unfavourable vote is recorded. Now he has two Cabinet Ministers in the riding, as it were, to "compel" them to take part in the feat for which he is hungering. He warns that if McNaughton is defeated—there will be no "session of the House," but the country may be faced with a general election. This without regard to its effect upon the war situation or the war effort.

What is not ever true with the King Government? Party expediency must always remain paramount to every other consideration, including the war. But the electors of Grey-North will settle the issue on February 5 in their own democratic way, and while it would be nice to know now what is going to happen, we must await the result that will take place on polling day.

Then again the Liberal Press assures us "Mackenzie King is coming back." If that is so, then he must now be somewhere, other than that somewhere to which he is "coming back." If it is back to the confidence of the people, then he must at present be an evasive from last estate. We can readily agree with the deduced confession, but we are frankly skeptical about the fulfillment of the prophecy. Never before have we had any.

The Poet's Corner

SOON

Soon the sky for gulls again, For the swallow and linnat, And for all of their kind— Not for the tracer bullet, But blue for which sky was de-sig-ned.

Soon the earth for grass again, For the prism-colored flowers, And for all of its own— Not for the all-trench and the replanted mine.

Soon man for living again, For a woman, a son, and a daughter, And for all of his brothers— Not for gun-notches, the record of planes flaring down.

—Michael Wilkins, in The Washington Post.

thing approaching the political situation in Canada today, where the governing body is legislating wildly out on suspended sentence. The King government is functioning—if one may call it that—by virtue of the grace of the Minister of National Defence, and that of the House leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, both of whom, in their respective spheres of responsibility, proved to be vastly more concerned about national needs than of taking political advantage of a government in a morass of its own making. They succeeded thus in reducing, and partially becalming the threatening surge of party rivalry within the government ranks, and in curbing the natural tendency and perhaps excusable desire to gain more favorable position on the part of those outside the confines of a doctored administration.

John Bracken was selected leader of the Progressive-Conservative party at a nation-wide convention at Winnipeg about two years ago. As it was and is his prerogative to choose the time and place, when and where, he will seek entrance to Parliament. There was no particular necessity that he proceed with undue haste in this direction. The interests of the party and that of the country was being ably guarded, from the basis of responsibility of the leading opposition party, by the Hon. Gordon Graydon, party leader in the House and his associates, who gave him admirable support in this respect.

It is true Mackenzie King made a bluff gesture, shortly after Mr. Bracken's selection as leader, of offering him a riding to contest—a doubtful one—with the presumed assurance there would be no government opposition. But the Premier of Manitoba was not to be caught napping so with a "colite Get thee behind me" refusal of the wily spider who sought to woo a victim into his web, he steadfastly refused to accept an objective—and he is getting there. In conclusion, it might well be asked: Did one ever hear of an attorney-General of a Province actually functioning for upwards of a year as a Cabinet minister or member of the executive, and yet neither have a seat in the House, nor represent a constituency? Since his surprise appointment, a by-election has taken place in the district vacated by his predecessor in office, but the Government was either too scared to have him called the seat—or he was; Or—the electors of the riding would not have him represent them.

How can a writer be sincere in his contention that the Hon. John Bracken, who is not a private citizen, should have a seat in the House of Commons, and without protest, condone a situation such as is involved in connection with the Attorney-Generalship of this Province? "Bling bling" which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" must be the explanation. I am, Sir, etc. CITIZEN.

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CP)—Jamaican's new constitution, which restores to the island a considerable amount of internal self-government, was proclaimed by the Governor, November 20. The constitution grants universal adult suffrage, and an election to the new House of Representatives will be held next month.

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GLASGOW (CP)—Robert, years' imprisonment after admitting Douglas Thomson, 53-year-old 168 cases of housebreaking involved Glasgow businessman turned, ing more than \$5,000 (\$27,000 "Rattles" was sentenced to five worth of property.

TO-DAY IS THE DAY TO PAY

The day to pay something to the Campaign of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire to Buy Books for our Fighting Forces.

Any of the members of both chapters of the Order in Charlottetown will be glad to receive your subscription. And they will have a booth at

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Outside of Charlottetown payments may be made to any of the following and receipts will be available.

ELDON—Rev. E. C. Evans, Secretary Canadian Legion and at general stores in the vicinity.

MURRAY HARBOR—Mr. Frank D. MacFarlane, of Lee & MacFarlane.

MURRAY RIVER—Mr. F. C. Murray, Manager Can. Bank of Commerce.

SOURIS—Major M. C. West, Manager Can. Bank of Commerce.

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