# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1945


## Arrant Hypocrisy

In his recent radio speech Prime Minister King declared with resounding emphasis:

"Throughout the years of the war, we have sought to keep down party strife. We have sought to avoid giving even the excuse for unnecessary controversy. We have felt that with all arms of the fighting services facing a terrible ordeal of battle, they should, if at all possible, and for as long a time as possible, command a united front at home."

Is it conceivable that Mr. King imagines he has fooled any intelligent person in Canada with such clap-trap? As the *Ottawa Journal* disgustedly remarks: Here is a Prime Minister who has tried to keep the waging of this war as a private party enterprise. Canadians of all political faiths and creeds have fought and given their sons and paid taxes and contributed to loans and other war drives, but Mr. King has insisted throughout that only Liberals can have a say in the war's direction. A Progressive Conservative may go to the front, or organize a Victory Loan drive, or put up all the money he can lay his hands on for taxes; he must not be a member of the Cabinet, and he must not be appointed to the Senate, and he mustn't be appointed to the Bench. Such things are only for Liberals — part of the patronage which from the beginning of this war to the present hour Mr. Mackenzie King, as a dispenser of patronage, has controlled for his friends and partisans precisely as he controlled it for his friends and partisans in days of peace.

## The McNaughton Fiasco

Prime Minister King used loudly to complain about the Progressive Conservative leader, Mr. Bracken, not having a seat in the Commons. The party is competently led there by a House leader, Mr. Graydon, but that did not satisfy Mr. King. He claimed it was undemocratic for Mr. Bracken to make political speeches without having a seat. What excuse therefore can he give for the McNaughton fiasco? It is now over four months since General McNaughton replaced Colonel Ralston as Minister of Defence, and he continues to administer the business of his Department without having a seat in either branch of Parliament. Overwhelmingly defeated in Grey North on February 5 the General has done nothing since of public note except to scold the electors who rejected him, and to threaten to carry on the fight against "the reactionary Tories" when the next occasion presents itself. Meanwhile this seatless Minister of Defence in Canada's War Cabinet, continues complacently to exercise all the duties and authorities of an office which the constitution says may only be held by a member of Parliament.

To make the case even worse, Prime Minister King has coolly intimated to the people of Canada in a nation-wide radio address not only that this intolerable situation is to remain unchanged, but that the defeated General McNaughton will run the Department of Defence without a seat in the House for another four months or till sometime next June or thereafter. Nothing comparable to this, says the *Sydney Post-Record*, has been known in the self-governing British world in the era of responsible government. And yet Mr. King and Mr. McNaughton have the effrontery to jeer at "Tory reaction." There has been no such a sample of "Tory reaction" since Canada became a Dominion.

## Why The Rhur Is Vital

With the capture of Cologne and the general Allied advance along the Rhine, the battle of the Ruhr, which has been carried on by air since 1943, is now entering its final phase. Not even the tremendous blows struck by Russia are as vital, in deciding the fate of Germany, as is victory in this area. On it depends the effectiveness of the Nazi war machine to a quite essential degree. Here are some statistics worth noting:

The Ruhr and the adjacent area of the Rhineland contain a concentration of industry without parallel anywhere in the world. The heart of this area consists of a belt ten to fifteen miles deep from North to South and forty miles long from West to East lying behind the deep protection of the Rhine, Germany's greatest river. The area is almost continuously built up, and contained in 1942 nearly 3,500,000 inhabitants, a considerable increase over the 1933 census figures, significant of the Ruhr's overriding industrial importance. The centre of the belt around Essen is mainly devoted to coalmining and also contains the Krupp works, the most famous of Germany's large armament and heavy engineering plants. Essen's importance in the transport network is indicated by the fact that 25 per cent of the total freight traffic of the Reichsbahn is despatched from there, while Duisberg, closely adjacent, is the largest inland port in Europe. Here are centred most of the steel works and important synthetic chemical plants. To the south lies a mixed industrial area, notable for accumulator factories (Hagen), textile manufactures (Wuppertal), and fine steel fabrication (Remschaid and Solingen), it includes the Duesseldorf headquarters and administrative centre of the German steel industry. The Ruhr possesses the finest deposit of coal in Europe; in 1938 it produced 127,000,000 metric tons, 68 per cent of the entire Reich output, and even more important is the production of coke, essential in the manufacture of steel; the Ruhr provided 33.6 million metric tons, 70 per cent of the Reich total, and exported 59 per cent of its output to other parts of Germany. It produced nearly 13,000,000 tons of pig iron, 72 per cent of the Reich total, 16,000,000 tons of steel, 70 per cent of the Reich total. The Ruhr has a very large electric power output and its gasgrid is the most extensive system of its kind in the world.

## —EDITORIAL NOTES—

Next week our Legislature meets, to be followed later by the meeting of Parliament, though no date has yet been announced for the latter.

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The puzzle is—what constitutes a Canadian force? Twenty-five or thirty per cent originals and seventy-five or seventy per cent British reinforcements? Or what?

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Nobody would be surprised were Prime Minister King to manoeuvre to have an extension of Parliament with the connivance of the C. C. F.'s. He has pledged himself there would be no extension, but the C. C. F.'s haven't, so what more natural than that the latter should "persuade" him to change his mind. Both are in bad with the electorate, and neither has any immediate prospects of surviving a general election.

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Mr. S. E. Stewart, of Smiths Falls, Ont., was re-elected president of the Young Progressive Conservatives of Canada. The election of officers took place at a meeting held at the conclusion of the annual convention of the Dominion Progressive Conservative Association. Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Robert Hodge, Montreal; Miss Gwen Ward, Calgary, and E. G. Peterson, Kirkland Lake, Ont.; secretary, Neil MacDonald, Ottawa; treasurer, John Trimble, Hamilton.

* * * *

An act providing for the insurance of veterans of this war by the Dominion now is in effect, having been proclaimed in the *Canada Gazette*. The act, passed at the last session of Parliament, enables veterans to obtain insurance at low rates, in multiples of $500 up to $10,000, without medical examination. It is administered by the Veterans Department through the Civil Service Commission, and application for such insurance must be made to the department.

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*The Liverpool (N.S.) Advance*, which was founded on March 1, 1878, issued a birthday number last week, which was a credit to the institution and its editor-proprietor, Mr. Cecil Day, formerly of this city and Little York. It consisted of eighteen pages, all set in new and readable type, well made up, and with numerous advertisements all well and artistically displayed. Mr. Day learned the rudiments of his profession on the *Charlottetown Guardian*, which he followed up on the *New Glasgow Evening News* before going to the *Liverpool Advance* in 1931 as its third editor, and ultimate proprietor.

* * * *

Jules Cardinal Mazarin, French statesman, died this date 1661; born in Prescina, Italy, educated in Paris where he won the favour of Richelieu, and became a naturalized French subject in 1639; created a Cardinal in 1641; on the death of Louis XIII, two years later he became chief adviser to the Queen Regent, Anne of Austria; concluded the Thirty Years' War by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648; his home policy was hampered by his Italian birth, his oppressive war taxation and personal avarice, all of which led to Civil War; on the triumph of the Royalists he allied Protestant Europe against Austria and Spain, in conjunction with England defeating the Spaniards in the battle of the Dunes, Dunkirk being ceded to Cromwell; his greatest diplomatic triumph was the League of the Rhine, placing the Rhine states under the patronage of France; the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659; and the marriage of Louis XIV to a Spanish Princess closed his career: "Time and I against any two. . . . They sing! They will pay!"

* * * *

The *Winnipeg Tribune* carried the following letter the other day from Mr. Hemming: "It will probably be a matter of surprise to readers of *The Tribune* to learn that the cost of growing feed grains in Prince Edward Island is materially higher than the figures at which the same Western grains can be brought down to the Island from Port Arthur and Fort William by boat in peacetime. In addition to the above fact Western grains are government inspected and can, therefore, be guaranteed not to contain more than a small average percentage of noxious weeds per bushel. In Prince Edward Island there is no government inspection. In most cases grains are grown by the farmers and by them fed to their livestock. Apart, therefore, from the lower cost of Western grain is a decided advantage in keeping the farm lands free from weeds, particularly wild mustard. It is generally admitted that to increase the market in Eastern Canada for the Western grain is in every way desirable. There are, however, two disadvantages from which Prince Edward Island suffers, namely, first, that the docking facilities in Charlottetown harbor are not capable of accommodating the largest grain vessels, which, of course, would require up-to-date mechanical unloading facilities; and, second, that there is no grain elevator in Prince Edward Island, which would be required both for storage and distributing purposes. As this is a matter of mutual advantage both to the West and to the East I trust that it will be broadly discussed in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in order that the Federal Government may realize its importance."

## *Notes By The Way*

**A pat on the back will work wonders** with an obstreperous child — if placed low and hard enough.—From Kitchener Record.

**When Joseph Paxton (later Sir** Joseph), gardener and greenhouse builder, came to London a century ago and proposed that the first great international exhibition to be held in Hdye Park be housed in a vast conservatory, he started something which apparently will go on forever. The Crystal Palace of 1851 is renowned in verse and song. After the exhibition was over it was moved some distance south and east of London, where it stood until destroyed by fire a few years prior to the present war. The great exhibition of 1851 was notable, among other excellences, because it turned in a surplus of nearly £186,000. Down the years this sum has been used for scholarships. They are known as 1851 scholarships and have been won by students at Manitoba and other Canadian universities. The news, now, is that the Crystal Palace is to be rebuilt and on a grander scale than ever. It will be different, however, because glass will not be used. The new palace is to consist of an amphitheatre, large and small theatres, concert and dance halls, swimming pools, ice rink, exhibition halls and so on. Prizes from £2,000 down are now being offered for the design of the new palace. It will be erected on the old site at Sydenham.

**It is interesting, if irritating, to** observe that, while the nervous coughers perform frequently in lecture halls or in churches, they are seldom heard in moving picture theatres. Now a psychologist might explain this as being due to the fact that people are more interested in talkies than in lectures or sermons, that their attention has less disposition, therefore, to wander, and that they become so absorbed in a playhouse plot that they forget to cough.—Brantford Expositor.

**In today's paper I came across** a fashion note. It described an outfit "with a matching shirred bib to glamorize a basic dress. The bib can also be used as a bustle or peplum." This had me stymied! I had always thought of a bib as somethings to keep infants from messing up their clothes. The last adjective I would ever think of applying to a bib would be "glamor." I think I know what a bustle is; but I didn't know women were wearing 'em nowadays. And certainly I didn't know that bibs and bustles were interchangeable. "Peplum" threw me for a loss. I had to inquire of Mr. Webster. He says that this word comes from the Greek peplos or peplus: "a shawl-like upper garment worn by women in ancient Greece." In the Latin form, peplum, he says it is "a kind of kerchief or shawl." All right, so far. But how the dickens does a peplum become a bustle? By stuffing, I suppose. — H. V. O'Brien in Chicago Daily News.

**Intermittent night frosts have** held back its arrival, but Victoria's Spring triumph, the flowering plums and cherries of Cornwall, Burdett and other streets will burst into bloom in the next few days. Then will come the rich crown of blossoms on slender brown trunks, ethereal snowballs tinged with pink, that transform so many streets into avenues of fancy. And when the winds blow, down will shower the soft petals to the young green grass. Then a foliage of shining bronze will grace the boughs which bore them.—Victoria Times.

**A young woman's nightgown** touched the glowing coil of a small electric heater, she was instantly enveloped in flames, and died of her injuries. A pathetic tragedy which illustrates the danger that can lurk in familiar objects of our comfort and convenience.—Ottawa Journal.

**George Clemenceau, who was a** knowning old man, once said "war is too serious a business to be entrusted to generals." That is why two civilians, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, have been helping Marshal Stalin make decisions as to the last days of Germany.—Vancouver Province.

**They were wrong about Mr.** Churchill and the Greek troubles, those cocksure and incorrigible leftists but don't nourish the delusion that any of them will have the sportsmanship to admit it.—Vancouver Province.

**Exchanged prisoners-of-war told** us long ago that people in Germany feared a Russian invasion more than anything else that defeat could bring to them. For the reason that in no other country have Nazi soldiers committed outrages on the scale they did in Russia. Crimes as black were perpetrated by them elsewhere, but not in such numbers.—From the Eumonton Bulletin.

**During the five years of war,** Canada has produced enough steel to build a double track railway round the world; enough lumber to build 2 1-2 million homes; enough armored vehicles to equip the whole German army; enough bullets to fire two into every living person on earth. She has gone into new businesses such as production of synthetic rubber, planes (including the first plywood plane in the world, the Mosquito), radar, precision instruments, warships and super-explosives. Her scientists have led the world in many fields, notably in dehydrated foods, the famous anti-seasickness pills, bacon-curing without heavy salting —and hundreds of others, many of them military secrets for the duration. In addition, Canadian farmers, who have lost half a million of their younger people to industry and the services since war began, have upped production by over 40 per cent and in the fifth year of war raised crops that totted up an all-time high for farm cash income of $1,500,000,000. — Drumheller Mail.

**The Registrar-General's return** for the September quarter of 1944 gives no sign that the rising trend of the birth-rate is yet coming to an end. A rate of 17.6 per thousand is the highest for any third quarter since 1926, and 44,843 more births were registered in the first nine months of last year than in the same period of 1943. Marriages recorded are only just over half the number recorded in the same quarter last year. It compares badly with the 191,426 marriages recorded in the same period of 1942. So sharp a decline in the number of new marriages must sooner or later show itself in a downward trend of the birth-rate. —Says the London Economist: :

**Minard's relieves sprain**

## Equality Of Sacrifice

**(Text of an address delivered by Hon. John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Association in Ottawa, March 2, 1945.)**

IV

Canadians are sick and tired of the Government hiding behind the excuse of security reasons whenever it suits its purpose to do so. That game has been overplayed.

I take back nothing of what I said in Grey North. And I challenge the Government here and now—for it is within its power to do so—to appoint a Royal Commission composed of three Supreme Court Justices, preferably with military service, to enquire into and report on the whole matter of reinforcements, desertions and discipline since General McNaughton became Minister of Defence. That enquiry must be held in public, open to the people and the press. The Royal Commission must have powers to enquire into every circumstance of calling up, compulsory allocation, desertion, discipline, disturbances, and movement of reinforcements overseas, since the present Defence Minister took office. Anything less will leave the people in doubt and our lads overseas uncertain as to how the strength of their units is to be maintained. As long as a real effort is made to do this quickly, and the enquiry is kept free from political interference, all the essential information could be obtained in a very short time. Not only the welfare of the men overseas but the whole future of Canada demands a complete public airing of the facts behind the course followed by the present Minister of National Defence and the whole truth and nothing but the truth about the reinforcement situation.

* * *

Let us not have the answer that this cannot be done for security reasons or that it will give comfort to the enemy. That is only another way of saying it will not give comfort to the Government. Let us see once and for all who is guilty of untruths, diabolical or otherwise. That is all I ask. That is my challenge, made on behalf of our fighting men, the people of this country, and, least of all, myself.

For far too long this Government has been permitted to hide behind security regulations. When facts the public had a right to know were demanded, the Government kept them shrouded in secrecy, using the excuse that it was not in the public interest for them to know the truth, or that there were reasons of security for keeping them in the dark.

There is a purpose for security regulations. Protecting the party in power, or any other party, is not the purpose of those regulations. And any government which will so misuse war regulations as to keep the people, who have every right to know, in ignorance,—deserves the condemnation of all who believe that under the British democratic system the people must know the facts, for that is the only way they can judge the issues.

At the beginning of the war, when troops went overseas without proper equipment, the Government refused to permit the facts to be revealed. The reason for that secrecy was not the welfare of our troops, but protection of the Government that had bungled.

* * *

The same was true of the expedition to Hong Kong. In that expedition, men were sent to fight a vicious and crafty enemy without even their basic training completed. And when the people demanded the truth of the lack of training and of the sending of men without proper equipment, once again the censorship regulations were misused. What information could the Japanese have obtained about our men who fought and died so nobly at Hong Kong that they did not already know? What could the Japanese have learned about the lack of equipment and the lack of training of our men that they did not already know? Yet the Government blocked the facts. And the only reason that they did so was to hide their failure, their inefficiency, their mishandling of an expedition that cost so dearly in lives of young lads and in the even greater numbers who now lie in a Japanese prison camp. Had the Government permitted full light on the whole situation of the Hong Kong expedition, incompetence would have been exposed, faults would have been earlier remedied, and hazards to young lives would have lessened.

Oh yes, it will be easy for the Government to say: We can't tell the facts, we can't let you, the people who are most concerned, know the truth because security measures are involved. But that is not good enough when the real situation is that the door is kept closed to protect public men who have bungled, either in policy or in administration or in both.

No, there is no excuse of security that will do. Canada is aroused. Canadians want the facts. They have every right to know them. No dark cloak of suppression can be tolerated. For too long the unfair army call-up, the discriminating two-army system and the inadequacy of reinforcements have been shrouded in secrecy by a government which on this matter has been weak and vacillating and which has hidden its faults by the use of censorship and the excuse of security regulations.

Mr. King and his whole Cabinet must be made to realize that we are living in a free country, based on the rights of free speech and a free press. This is not Nazi Germany, where no one dare express his views for fear of the death penalty or of the concentration camp. It is time the Government realized that Canada is still a nation of free men, bred in the tradition of democracy,—a tradition to which they mean to adhere, in spite of the temporary lease of power to a government which is fast taking on the hues of dictatorship.

(To Be Continued)

## 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.

### "ELLEN'S DIARY"

Sir,—I want to write a line to you now, have been intending to do so ere this, but time does have a way of flying by. Here is why I write. I want to thank you for "Ellen's Diary", its beautiful, every line of it; so realistic and homey—very, very nice. It makes me sad though and lonesome for to be down home and really live those kind of times again. I have done so, as I was born in the "Garden of the Gulf." I hope Ellen never gets too tired to write, some night —then what will I do? I won't sleep that night. I wish "Ellen's Diary" could be bound in book form later. Oh! its fine.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A READER IN METHUEN, MASS.

### GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Sir,—The day that Government control of the liquor traffic is inaugurated on Prince Edward Island will be the blackest day in the history of the Province. The thing called "government control" is not control or regulation of the liquor traffic; it is government sale of alcohol for profit, for revenue purposes. Witness the sale last year in a neighboring province of $9,000,000 worth of liquor with a profit to the government of over $4,000,000.

One has only to live a few years in a province where this vicious system is in operation to see the futility of trying to raise the economic standard of a people by employing a system that lowers the moral status of every community where it obtains an entry, impairs health, debauches youth and fosters an utter disregard for law and order.

Selling out to the apostles of government control puts our Province into the hands of a vested interest, one of the most gigantic, and one of the most unscrupulous interests that ever sought to ingratiate itself with an unwary public.

Establishing government control is an easy matter—just a legislative enactment. The same model does for all the provinces. Brewers and distillers incorporated is a Dominion wide organization. It has connections in every part of the habitable globe. Once a province puts itself into the clutches of that octopus all freedom of action is lost.

The deterioration of the moral tone of a community under government control is the most alarming phenomena of modern times. Legalizing the sale of alcohol for beverage purposes puts the stamp of approval upon the traffic. Offering for sale in unlimited quantities a commodity and advising young people not to touch it seems to be about the stupidest form of remedial action ever devised. It has even been suggested that the virtues of total abstinence should be taught in the schools, when, at the same time, provision for the legal distribution of alcohol is being made by the government for every home.

What are we going to do about this matter? What are the churches doing? What are our educational institutions doing? Are we letting this matter go by default? The complacency of the public in the face of this threatened invasion is the most alarming symptom of our inability to think logically and to think constructively on questions where social ethics and character building are concerned.

I am, Sir, etc.,
VERNON CROCKETT.
Charlottetown.

## The Poets' Corner

### SONG

From "Any Loves, Any Lass"

Her little hands are soft, and when
I see her fingers move
I know in very truth that men
Have died for less than love.

Ah, dear, live, lovely thing! my eyes
Have sought her like a prayer;
It is my better self that cries,
"Would she were not so fair!"

Would I might forfeit ecstasy
And find a calmer place.
Where I might undesirous see
Her too desired face:

Nor find her eyes so bright, so bright,
Nor hear her lips unroll
Dream after dream the lifelong night,
When I would love her soul.

—Richard Middleton.

## Historic Cologne

The capital city of the Rhineland is the richest prize that has fallen into the hands of the Allies since the opening assault on Hitler's fortress and marks the close of another episode in Cologne's dramatic history. Its name —Koln in German—dates back to 50A.D. when the Roman Emperor Claudius established a colony for war veterans and called it Colonia Agrippina in honor of his wife. Agrippina's name was eventually dropped from the city's title which was shortened to Colonia and later changed to its present form. At one time it was a great religious centre of Germany and contained more than 100 churches. Most famous of these is the great Cologne Cathederal, which though relatively modern, is rich in German folk lore and legend. Within the cathedral is the famed memorial to the three kings of Colonge, who according to legend were the three Wise Men—Melchior, Kaspar, and Balthazar—who came from the east to place their riches at the feet of the Christ Child. Foundations for the cathedral were laid in 1248 but it was 642 years before the edifice was finally completed. Around this fact too, was woven a strange legend. The story goes that it was prophesied that the building would never be completed. Within it hang seven great bells, cast from guns taken by the Germans from the French in the war of 1870-71.

It was in Cologne that William Tyndale began printing his translation of the New Testament in 1525. William Caxton lived there from 1471 to 1472 and many claim it was during this time that the Englishman learned the art of printing. Before the war a visit to Cologne was not complete for the tourist without a purchase of a bottle of the celebrated eau de Cologne which is said to have been invented in 1709 by Johann Maria Farina. Secret of eau de Cologne in the original Farina process is said to consist in its blending. This involves a process which combines flowers, herbs, spices and drugs steeped in alcohol then distilled and mixed with vegetable essence.

Cologne's prosperity came with its development as a German city. Fortified by the Romans before the Christian era, it became one of the chief towns of the Franks and in the 9th century was sacked by the Romans. When the French took over the old free city in 1794 they found only 40,000 inhabitants, most of them destitute. The cathedral was converted into a hay barn during the French Revolution after the Waterloo-Cologne was incorporated with the Kingdom of Prussia, and under the Germans it became a thriving export centre as well as one Germany's greatest manufacturing centres.


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