

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1944

The Tunnel Project

Note is taken in the Sydney Post-Record of the fact that a member of the Prince Edward Island Government, Hon. Horace Wright, has advocated a railway tunnel as the only solution to the Island's transportation problem. It adds: "Mr. Wright is far from being the original author of the tunnel proposal, which figured in almost every Federal election, as a more or less serious issue, from the Island's entry into Confederation in 1873 till 1912, when the present ferry service was authorized by the Borden Administration. While that service has immensely improved the Island's transportation system in relation to the rest of Canada, it has not completely satisfied the shippers of the Province, and the loss in 1912 of the larger of the two boats plying between Borden and Tormentine has rendered the service more inadequate than it was at any period in the preceding 30 years. Since the fomenting of the S.S. "Charlottetown" the agitation for a tunnel under the Straits of Northumberland has been resurrected, and seems hardening into a public demand as of right.

"Nor is this revived tunnel agitation an extravagant request for 'something for nothing.' For when the Island entered Confederation an essential clause in the union pact guaranteed the new Province 'continuous steam communication with the mainland.' That undertaking, in which the Federal authorities made default for over 40 years, was only implemented in part by the Borden ferry after it had begun operations in 1912. It is also to be remembered that the Borden Ministry, when it proposed the inauguration of a car ferry across the Northumberland Straits, assured the Provincial Government and Board of Trade that the establishment of this service was not to be regarded as a substitute for the tunnel, nor as prejudicing in any way the right of the Island to press for other and better transportation facilities, to supplement or replace it.

"This is not to say that the tunnel is the only solution, or the best one, although it would obviously implement literally the pre-Confederation promise of 'continuous steam communication' between the Island and the mainland. But tunnel or no tunnel, the right of the people of Prince Edward Island to a better transportation deal than they have yet received is clear and unchallengeable."

If we could only persuade our Federal representatives to talk like that on the floor of the House, we might get somewhere.

Trade With Britain

In a dispatch from London to the Financial Post, of Toronto, Mr. Kenneth Wilson, says that Britain already is considering its plans for the purchase of Canadian food and other products after the war. In brief, Britain will buy from the countries which are willing to accept payment in British goods. If Canada is not willing to accept such payment, Britain will buy elsewhere. Our British market thus depends on the volume of our imports from Britain.

For seven years before the war Britain was buying from Canada far more than it sold to Canada. It was carrying a heavy adverse balance of trade with Canada which it had to make up by exports to other markets. When not only the trade in commodities is considered, but other factors like interest payments, tourist trade, and freight services, the net balance of payments in Canada's favor during the pre-war years was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1933-1937) and Amount (\$0.5 million to 176.8 million)

According to a calculation recently published in the authoritative London Economist, Britain was running a net deficit on all its foreign transactions before the war of £40,000,000 a year. This was not a large or very alarming deficit. But as a result of the changes brought by the war, the prospective deficit when peace comes will be much larger. Due solely to the loss of interest on foreign investments, Britain will face a net deficit of £200,000,000 a year, about \$1,000,000,000, according to The Economist.

But the situation may be much worse than this. Britain will need to import more goods than before the war if its people are employed and able to buy them; and it must always import more raw materials if it is to increase its exports of manufactured goods. If the world will not export greatly its imports of British goods, Britain's position will be grave indeed, will involve a lowering of its living standard, and will force Britain to reduce its imports.

To Canada such a situation would be extremely damaging. Britain has been for many years Canada's best or second best customer, sharing that position with the United States. A substantial part of our national economic structure is based on our exports to Britain. Our wheat industry, our forest industries, our apple and fish industries, to mention a few, have depended upon and still need the largest possible market in Britain; certainly need as large a market as we enjoyed in Britain before the war.

The war has introduced a new factor. Whereas Canada was a debtor to Britain before the war, it is now a creditor. Britain owes us money. This money can only be paid finally in British goods. For these reasons Canada must face a clear choice: Either to import more British goods or to reduce drastically its exports to Britain. If we refuse to take British goods in much larger volume, Britain, as Mr. Wilson has been warned by leading Englishmen, must trade elsewhere, must seek out mar-

kets which will buy from her as well as sell to her.

Canada's choice, says the Winnipeg Free Press, cannot be long delayed. It should be made well before the end of the war. Once the war is over, once the artificial economic arrangements of the war lapse, Britain must move immediately to adjust its trade and prevent a fatal adverse balance. If Canada is not ready to reconsider and increase its British imports, Britain must turn to other markets without delay. The time to prevent such a course is now when Britain's position is temporarily sound, due in large measure to gifts and loans from abroad.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Winston Churchill's pursuit of clarity and brevity in those embryonic state papers that the British ministers call "minutes," picked up considerably last week. Faced with a long rambling "minute" written on a minor subject by one minister, Mr. Churchill scrawled the following across it in red ink: "This is the kind of tedious nonsense which I will not put up with." Just to make his intention plain, the Prime Minister underscored "up" heavily.

If a dog can help, so can we. "Zip," an Air-dale belonging to Lt. Gerald Mahoney, of Montreal, in the Canadian Army overseas, is to be decorated for valor by a dog society in London. The dog distinguished himself during the height of enemy raids by locating buried victims and saved other people from injury by falling ruins by dragging them to safety.

John Wesley, English religious leader and founder of Wesleyan Methodism, died this date, 1791; an Oxford graduate and member of the University society called Methodists; after ordination came under the influence of the Moravians, and subsequently established societies of Methodists; was excluded therefrom from preaching in Anglican pulpits, but persevered with his societies which ultimately became the Wesleyan Methodist Church, which here later entered into union with the Presbyterians: "Cleanliness is indeed next to Godliness."

In the past he had received second-hand army clothing for distribution to the poor, said Mr. Pouliot, M.P., in the House. It had later been decided to sell this clothing, except for some given to the Indians. "If it is good for the Indians, why is it impossible for the good red-blooded Canadians to have it?" asked Mr. Pouliot. Some had been sold at 12 to 15 cents a pound to Jews and he had heard that some changes had been made in such clothing and it was resold to the government, he said.

A Brooklyn Democrat Assemblyman, Harry Gettleton got a nasty jolt the other day. Like many other men who legislate for others, he thinks women should be barred from barrooms, and, to implement his feelings, introduced a bill which would make this illegal in New York State, but—his wife, at her 28 1/2, St. Home, said: "I see no harm in women drinking at bars if they do so in moderation and are properly escorted. I do not do this myself, but I certainly do not think there is anything wrong about it." What will the sequel be?

A R.A.F. plane swooped down upon an airplane carrier in the Pacific and dropped this message: "We've boiled 'em, stewed 'em, fried 'em. Now how in the hell do you prepare 'em to eat," the message said. The note referred to potatoes—the lend-lease dehydrated variety. They had been flown to H.M.S. Victorious when the British aircraft carrier ran low on food while participating in the New Georgia drive in the Solomon. In response to the message a torpedo bomber flew to the Victorious with 1,100 pounds of dehydrated spuds and chief commissary Stewart Harvard Byron of Los Angeles. Price investigated the British preparation of the waterless potatoes and reported they hadn't been soaked for eight hours nor boiled four. No canned milk or butter was added to the mashed mushies.

Prime Minister Churchill's "young friend"—Lt. Col. Frederick William Dampier Deakin, who parachuted into Yugoslavia and spent eight months at Partisan headquarters—was described as "a man of great guts." "There's no other way of putting it," said Dr. C. M. Bowra, warden of Wadham College, Oxford, where the 32-year-old Deakin taught history. Deakin struck up a friendship with Mr. Churchill when he made long historical researches in connection with the Prime Minister's Life of Marlborough. In the House of Commons Mr. Churchill said this "young friend of mine" had parachuted into the camp of Marshal Josip Broz (Tito), Partisan leader, a year ago and became a friend of Tito when both were wounded by the same bomb. Deakin was a captain then but recently returned with promotion and received the Distinguished Service Order. "It was a complete surprise to us," said his bewildered father, a Bedfordshire farmer. "I can't say he showed a particularly adventurous spirit in his boyhood."

An appeal to the public not to include untanned meats, cardboard cartons of butter and other perishable foodstuffs in parcels destined for men and women serving overseas is reiterated by Postmaster General W. P. Mulock in a press statement. "Postal authorities find it necessary again to remind the public that items such as raw beefsteak and pork butter and such puddings, when mailed overseas, must travel in heated railway mail cars, and be packed with thousands of other parcels in the holds of ships," the statement points out. "Recently a package containing these items reached the Base Post Office en route, packed in a cardboard container, wrapped in brown paper and addressed to a soldier on the other side of the Atlantic. Needless to say, the reception given the parcel by the Canadian Postal Corps, was far from cordial. An unfortunate angle of this case, apart from the waste of valuable time it occasioned at the Base Post Office, was the fact that the sender must have expended valuable ration coupons to purchase the meat and the butter to send to that boy over there," the statement continued.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of any question of interest. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

HON. MR. WRIGHT VS. C.C.F.

Sir—I would like to commend the member for Fourth Prince who in his speech in the Legislature as reported by the Charlottetown Guardian urged people to analyze the C.C.F. policy very carefully. This is certainly good advice. Wherever the C.C.F. policy has been studied carefully and fully analyzed the people have given it their whole hearted support. It is to be regretted that during the provincial election campaign in the Fourth District of Prince the C.C.F. candidates, of whom Mr. Wright was one, refused to take part in joint political meetings, go part as far as to announce in the Press that they would not attend any such political meetings held by some of the voters who near the truth of the C.C.F. upon its anti-How can Mr. Wright be firmly convinced that the C.C.F. policies are wrong when he so flatly refused to discuss its policies on the public platform before the electorate? Some of Mr. Wright's remarks further on in his speech indicate his knowledge of the C.C.F. is very incomplete and inaccurate. He claims that during the depression the industrial laborer received \$50 for every \$75 the farmer received. Had he quoted correctly he should have stated that the farmer who constitutes one third of the total population received one-tenth of the national income, while the rest of the population received nine-tenths of which amount the industrial worker received but a very small portion.

Mr. Wright commended the two old parties on the sincerity of their war effort, but denounced the C.C.F. This is not the attitude taken by the men who are doing the actual fighting as well as demonstrated by the soldiers who in the Ontario elections were the C.C.F. Many soldiers received almost as many soldier votes as the two old parties put together. Mr. Wright questioned the sincerity of the present government in their war effort. Does he dare, for example, to question the sincerity of Mr. Williams who as leader of the C.C.F. in the Saskatchewan legislature enlisted in the war, being wounded and discharged as an Officers' Training School in the West for some time not being able to do a physical job, to go overseas? Or the C.C.F. members who have served out of 11 members serving in His Majesty's Forces in the last Great War?

In looking over Who's Who, among the C.C.F. members of the Ontario Legislature, there are 10 out of the 31 served in the last war, and 2 are serving in this. Mr. Wright, or anyone else, to surpass or to equal their record from an analysis of either of the two old parties.

Among C.C.F. leaders nominated throughout Canada to stand for school in the future are to be found a large number of men of active service, one of whom has been acting at Dieppe. It seems easy to question the sincerity of the four walls of the Prince Edward Island Legislature.

IRVING TOOMBS

Provincial President C.C.F. Albany, R.R. 2, Feb. 29.

EUPHONIC DEFICIENCIES

Sir—With much interest I read the recent contribution of James Pendergast to the subject of euphonic deficiencies. Pendergast can always be depended upon to give the most erudite and scientific treatment to even the most prosaic subject. His learned treatises on such unromantic subjects as prohibitions, vs. mathematics, etc. are classic studies of the art, developed by the art, possessed by few, of being able to exhibit tolerance and civility at the same time. Further, he can always produce from the literary shelves of his well stocked mental cupboard such historical allusions that serve as a reservoir for much ruminative "And still we gaze, and still the wonder grows, that one small head can differ so widely from another."

We must however quarrel with Mr. Pendergast on one point. It's the utmost importance, and which changes the entire course of man's existence, and have the most profound effect on human history and posterity. The point is this: Pendergast, for reason or reasons unknown prefers to predicate masculinity on the basis of a previous writer (in d. p. a sensitive ear). Although not professing to be a specialist, I violently disagree with his conclusion, and base my disbelief and biological findings on the following premise: Now what name, in the zoological euphonic deficiencies of radio announcers, surreptitiously mentions one whose name ends in "tosh".

Now that name, by Macintosh could end in tosh? The reference then must have been directed specifically towards the possessor of the feminine diaphragm, which produces those refulgent tones that daily emit from my loud speaker cadence upon my arrival. We therefore cannot bring ourselves to believe that any individual of the feminine gender would be so lacking in civility as to make this dastardly and unprovoked attack upon Lady Macintosh, and thus are convinced that the whole matter had its unholy origin in the zealous and vagarious mind of a fellow female. We might also point out some additional distinguishing characteristics of "Sensitive Ear." She is a literary pragmatist (reduced beyond her intelligence), is well advanced toward the twilight of maidenhood, and is likely considered by the world in general as a bachelor lady (formerly called spinster or old maid) and finally, still has a hankering for drugged petitions. These details may all be verified by a careful analysis of her letter. And many others also might be disclosed but the exigencies of time and space do not permit.

Now as Mr. Pendergast has well said this discussion of the subject of euphonic deficiencies and its accompanying complications may seem

Lenton Meditations

from The London Times

THE GOOD LIFE

There are few collects better known to Christian people than "O Lord, the will of my faithful people"—the familiar words, with those that follow, in which is described the result to which one lawyer looks forward, the fruit of good work and the pious reward, are a perfect summation up of the character of the Christian moral life. The collect is the more valuable because it expresses in language of what may be called robust common sense, a truth with which over-sensitive souls are ill at ease. True religion is certainly not an affair of barter; here, if anywhere, there can be no assessment in terms of things done that lose the eye and had their price, man cannot open an account with God on the basis of his own merits. But it is quite another matter when it is supposed or feared that any mention of reward spoils the purity of the moral motive and falsifies, even if it is not fatal to, the most earnest of the ensuing action. It appears sometimes to be imagined that any association of reward with the desire to do good works is open to the same challenge of Satan at the opening of the Book of Job, "Dost thou fear God for naught?" If the fear and love of God and all that goes to the service of him, had, as the supposed cause, the desire to receive prizes and to escape punishment, the challenge would be deadly.

But it does not follow that there is something improper in the very mention of reward. That would be the case only if such reward ought not to exist at all, if Goodness should not be followed by happiness that could be the consequence of goodness. At this point the moral scrupulousness which so much of us maintain, which so much of us prize, and which so much of us use to justify the entry of what it conceives to be base metal is fatal to a belief in the just ordering of the universe. No amount of subtlety of theorizing will persuade the plain man that the just ordering of the universe is, in the words of ecclesiastics where, as in Job, the real tension of the matter is felt, "some event happeneth to them all, while death with nothing to come after follows in a sleep, and the distinctions between the righteous and the wicked is an ethically intolerable position.

Whereas, ecclesiastics, the preacher, does not believe that what a man sows he that he shall reap, the farmer is told, "some event happeneth to them all, while death with nothing to come after follows in a sleep, and the distinctions between the righteous and the wicked is an ethically intolerable position. Where, ecclesiastics, the preacher, does not believe that what a man sows he that he shall reap, the farmer is told, "some event happeneth to them all, while death with nothing to come after follows in a sleep, and the distinctions between the righteous and the wicked is an ethically intolerable position.

inconsequential when civilization should be devoting all its energies to the pagan pastime of war. But my Aunt Minnie had her opinions on this matter; and she was a very practical woman. Now, she never said Montreal, or even Montreal, or even Montreal. And Aunt Minnie was always maintained (and her contentions were later shown to be scientifically correct) that the mechanics of laryngeal operation for the pronunciation of such words as Montreal required a more extended opening of the pharynx than the pronunciation of Aunt Minnie's word. And she was too has been proven to be in accordance with the latest scientific data) that the temporary and necessary extension of the pharynx occasioned by the vowel "O" in Montreal, affords in the winter time, unwarranted opportunity for the facile entry into respiratory system of the cold air of pneumonia, and, in the summer time, permits the unimpeded flow into the alimentary canal of such undigestible as flies, are poisonous bugs, yes, Aunt Minnie was a very practical woman. As a footnote I might add that Aunt Min lived to a ripe old age, and was able to boast, as well she did, that three times her men at three different times had fallen from her hands, but the best they got was her slipper. Thank you.

I am, Sir, etc.

UNCLE EUPHONIC

INSURANCE RATE CUT

LONDON, March 1—(OP Cable)—The Institute of London Underwriters today announced new risk rates on cargo between the West Indies and South Africa have been reduced from three to 2-1-2 per cent.

The Beet's Corner

THE EVACUEES

Four years ago they came and in four childhood years The memory shrivels and the mosses grow. The little girl who wept on the platform then Now feels her body blossom like the trees. Discovers tennis poetry and flowers. And under the dripping larches in the rain Knows the first experiment of a kiss. Will they rest. Will they be contented, these fledglings of a cuckoo's egg reared in a stranger's nest? Born of one people, with another bred. Will they return to their parents and the mother-home, or seek the unrented road? Grant that in the future they may find A rock on which to build a house for heart and mind.

—Norman Nicholson.



Without PAY or GLORY the army of RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS carries on! WITHOUT a host of volunteers there could be no Canadian Red Cross—and only the Red Cross can do Red Cross work. Last year, millions of food parcels for prisoners of war were packed by these Red Cross workers. They made tons of surgical dressings for overseas use. They cut and sewed millions of garments and accessories for dressing stations, for hospitals, for civilian relief work. Yet they ask no pay. Their only reward is the grateful prayers that rise from a thousand Red Cross outposts. The dawn of Victory in Europe has intensified the need for Red Cross supplies. Suffering mounts daily as war spreads. Support the Red Cross volunteers in this unselfish work. Give liberally. Local Campaign Headquarters 62 Prince St. — Telephone 432 THE NEED GROWS AS VICTORY NEARS CANADIAN RED CROSS

A Nazi Poker Picture

(Sydney Post Record) A Nazi writer, Dr. Robert Ley, leader of the German "Labor front," claims to have discovered the secret of Prime Minister Churchill's statesmanship. It is attributable to the American game of poker. Ley's article on Churchill was published in the newspaper the "Angriff," and contains some interesting observations. "The whole political secret of this man," the article says, "is his gambler's character. Churchill is a poker player. Then follows a most instructive paragraph on the nature of the game itself. "This curious game," the Nazi writer affirms, "consists of irritating one's opponent into overreaching himself. Thus only a person with an aptitude for falsehood, bluff and hypocrisy can achieve a mastery of poker." Whether it be news or fiction that Mr. Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill is an accomplished poker player is a moot question. But poker being a game of leisure and Great Britain's War Premier being a man almost destitute of leisure, it is doubtful that he has ever had much intensive experience of that kind of thing. In any case if the Germans, even at this late date, still regard Mr. Churchill as a "bluffing" war leader, they are certainly showing some awful discriminations awaiting them just round the corner. But the qualities this Nazi authority ascribes to the successful poker player cannot fail to shock those of us who have never been initiated in that allegedly wicked and corrupting recreation. To the rank outsider, a successful poker player is an individual who pursues the sport with a frozen face, who cares nothing for lasting friendships, who has either more money than he knows what to do with or has nothing to lose, and, still, belongs to his pre-poker past. With these reservations, if such indeed they be, it needs to be said that that poker is not necessarily, nor always, an immoral game. A man who cheats at poker, however, is generally regarded with distrust.

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