THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1945

Boy Scout's Training

From time to time from all over the Dominion unsought testimonials are received and published of the benefits of Boy Scout training both in peace and war. Ever so many ex-Boy Scouts from this province in the armed forces have written home telling how beneficial their early Scout training proved in their naval and military courses and in the discharge of their other duties. Before the war Scoutmaster A. P. Ceretti, Borden, conducted courses in deep sea diving for Sea Scouts in Charlottetown, among his pupils being Don Martin, son of Mr. K. M. Martin, K.C. Mr. Ceretti sends us the following letter received from Don who is now in the Fleet Arm of the British Navy in England:

H.M.S. St. Vincent
Sun., Mar. 4, 1945.

Dear Commodore:

I had a letter from Dad a couple of days ago and he told me you weren't feeling too well. I hope you're on your feet by the time you get this but if not I hope you regain health in the very near future. What's wrong? Surely you haven't swallowed one of those cigars you used to chew.

The station we're at now is one of those old Royal Navy establishments. You know the type, strict as old Harry. Boy, the training I had under you sure has helped me along.. Why every little detail of the diving course is on my official papers and I feel sure it will help me get along in this outfit. As soon as we got over here we all had intelligence interviews with an officer at the station. The idea was to find out what *I knew*, but in the end I was telling him what *he didn't know* about deep sea diving and all things connected. And on another occasion an old guy was telling us how to splice rope and while he was talking I made a perfect eye splice just like you taught me. It really surprised him as most of the boys had never handled rope before. He wanted to know where I had picked it up so I told him all about your course and he was really interested in the whole thing.

Well that's about all for now, perhaps I'll run into Smokey sometime, if so I'll let you know.

Yours, Don (Junior)

Farm Income

Serious concern is expressed in the Speech from the Throne over the fact that while the farms on Prince Edward Island are "in a healthy state", we were yet the only Province in Canada in which cash farm income declined in 1944. An increase in farm income commensurate with the average increase in Canada in that year would have amounted to 25 per cent over $3,500,000.

This is indeed a matter to challenge serious study and concern. The Throne Speech merely beclouds the issue when it suggests, as causes for our position, lack of manpower and machinery. These drawbacks to wartime farm production were experienced by every province, yet farm incomes in every other province were not decreased but greatly improved. The real cause is our transportation bottleneck, and the inexcusable delay of the King Government in providing a new car ferry steamer after the sinking of the *S. S. Charlottetown* in 1941.

The Government might indeed have anticipated this loss of farm income in 1944 had it given heed to the warning contained in the brief presented to the Legislature last year by the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture. "The present is sufficient," said the brief, "to create in the mind of every producer a fear that he may not be able to place his 1944 crop on the markets of the world. May we suggest that immediately you begin investigations as to the best arrangement which can be made that will insure a continuous movement to and from the mainland during the winter of 1944-45. To avoid disaster you cannot allow the annual ice barrier to again close the Strait of Northumberland without having at Borden another boat that will assist the Prince Edward Island in the movement of the freight which under normal crop yields in 1944 will be much greater than it is for the present winter."

For another striking illustration of the peculiar obstacles placed in the way of exporting Island farm products, take this excerpt from the report to the Provincial Government of Dr. Lattimer, farm economist: "In the year of our Lord 1944 there departed from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, a boat bound for Newfoundland. The distance is a very small portion of a round-the-world cruise. Hay, to be used as cow feed, was loaded at $18.00 per ton. The freight by boat, now $22.00, was reported as in this particular case $26.50 per ton. The import duty at destination was $4.75 per ton. The selling price in Newfoundland was reported as between $50.00 and $60.00 per ton, almost three times the buying price."

Dr. Lattimer, who has a sense of irony, adds this by way of comment: "The *Christian Science Monitor* (August 1944) devotes one page to a discussion of the Atlantic Charter on the third anniversary of its proposal. The pictures featuring the page are of Newfoundland off whose waters this important document came into being. It would be fine if the important principles of the Charter such as freedom from want and access to raw materials could be approached right in the vicinity of its inception."

Fine for our Island farmers, too, if our Federal and Provincial members would get together and drive home the facts of our economic handicaps at Ottawa. But instead—and even in the Speech from the Throne—one finds alibis for Federal negligence that stultify the efforts of those who are really trying to get something accomplished.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Purchases of eggs by the Special Products Board for the British Ministry of Food to the end of February were 25 per cent ahead of the same period last year, it has been announced The current agreement calls for total minimum shipments by May 15 of 600,000 cases of shell eggs of Winter and Spring production, and indications are this quantity will be offered "well ahead of schedule". The contract provides for additional quantities if available above the 600,000 cases of spring production to be stored for shipment in the fall.

* * * *

During the celebration of her employer's golden wedding anniversary, a Negro servant who had been with the family about 40 years added her own felicitations to those that had come by wire, telephone, letter and by personal call. The opportunity came while she was assisting in the preparation of the anniversary dinner, when she said to her mistress: "Well, all I has to say is dat you two sho' has fought a good fight."

* * * *

"Canada is rapidly becoming a manufacturing nation, with 25 per cent of its people directly engaged in industrial work, and its status is almost comparable with that of the United States," Mr. A. Herrgen, manager of the manufacturing methods division of R.C.A. Victor Company Limited, Montreal, told the Foremen's Club of Montreal. "Now in the position of having to rely heavily on our export trade, the well-being of our manufacturing industry is of vital importance to our post-war future." Agriculture needs manufactories for its existence or depression follows.

* * * *

Widows of veterans of this war and of the North West Field Force have now become eligible for pensions under the War Veterans' Allowance Act, under which widows of the South African War and the First World War had been included since August 1943. Widows of such veterans, if they have reached the age of 55 or have become permanently incapable of maintaining themselves and are in necessitous circumstances, are now eligible for an allowance of $365 annually if without dependents, or $730 if supporting one or more dependent children. Provision is also made for allowances of $360 for one, $648 for two or $730 for more than two, to be paid on behalf of children of such veterans where both parents are dead.

* * * *

Estimates of the coming season's wheat harvest, prepared by the Australian Wheat Board, show that the crop is expected to total about 66,000,000 bushels. The figures by States are:—

Queensland	6,000,000
New South Wales	25,000,000
Victoria	7,000,000
South Australia	13,000,000
Western Australia	15,000,000

With the exception of Queensland and Western Australia, the crop position is deteriorating further because of the dry weather. The estimate of 66,000,000 bushels compares with an average Australian yield from 1931 to 1940 of nearly 178,000,000 bushels.

* * * *

It is not asked of every screen hero that he be a hero in real life, too. When it does happen, there is a certain satisfaction to his screen fans that they had recognized, in his screen heroics, a note of truth. Take Sabu, for instance. The young Indian boy who ruled a screen jungle until he was called to war, has just been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service as tail gunner with the 13th Air Force, somewhere off Borneo. The action and its reward tops one of the most colorful careers in films. Sabu was discovered in India, where he was actually the son of an elephant man, and chosen for the leading role in Elephant Boy, which Robert O'Flaherty was then filming in India. He was an immediate success and was taken to England for the film, later appearing in other pictures, most of which have been exhibited here.

* * * *

Gaius Julius Caesar, Roman General and dictator, died this date 44 B.C.; bound to democrats by family ties, although of patrician blood, he distinguished himself in the army in the East and in the Mithridatic War; identifying himself with the democrats, he became *Curule Aedile* in 65 B.C., *Pontifex Maximus* in 63 B.C. *Praetor* in 62 B.C.; in 60 B.C. he formed the "First Triumvirate", with Pompey and Crassus, against the oligarchy in his consulate; a quarrel between Caesar and Pompey ended in the latter's defeat; and in 46 B.C. Caesar's victory of Thapsus was the death-knell of the Pompeian cause; in July of that year he was made dictator for 10 years; he extended local government, encouraged agriculture, and reformed provincial administration; but his government gradually tended towards undisguised absolutism, and he was assassinated March 15, 44 B.C.; a brilliant and original soldier, a forceful administrator and a great statesman, Caesar founded the new monarchy at Rome, and his assassination failed to prevent the development of the Roman Empire he planned; *Jacta alea est* ("The die is cast") a declaration made on crossing the Rubicon after coming from Gaul and advancing into Italy against Pompey. The Rubicon has been identified as a brook now called the Fluminico (little river), and Mussolini, in the height of his glory, caused a monument to be erected on its bank near the village of Savignano, to mark the spot where his glorious predecessor crossed it.

Notes By The Way

"Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot harm you, unless you are wanting in character; and if true, they show a man his weak points, and forewarn him against failure and trouble."—Gladstone.

One authority contends that Canada's 15,000,000 rats annually consume as much food as could be transported in 200 freight trains, each of 60 box cars. Some day we may really begin to attack the rat with the idea of bringing all this, and much more, loss to an end. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

To move against the potential enemies of free speech by the methods of coercion is simply to anticipate and adopt the methods they would wish to put into force. Such persons are surely to be opposed. But they are best to be opposed by an increase of responsible democratic citizenship in the individual and the establishment of essential democratic justice in the state.—Montreal Gazette.

Everybody has their troubles — The young worry because they can't grow up fast enough—Papa tries to be young and gay—Momma tries to be thin—Daughter tries to appear sophisticated—The Boss tries to make money—The head of the house tries to fill the coal bin — The evicted try to find a house. The world is trying to find peace. —London Free Press.

"We only know enough about the law," admits a contemporary, "to keep out of serious trouble. We do not set ourselves up as 'counsel learned in the law.' In fact, we are often tempted to say, with Mr. Micawber, 'The law is an ass'. On the other hand we are always ready to learn." Well, it might be a good idea to start by learning that the remark quoted was made by another Dickens character, Mr. Bumble, and that what he said was: "The law is a ass, a idiot." — Brantford Expositor.

How many traps have really been sprung; how many pincers have pinched shut; how many pockets have been buttoned up over the doomed enemy hordes? A few, but not many. Nor have the military commanders, except as an outside hope, ever expected that many would. While newspaper readers thousands of miles away watch expectantly for the jaws to snap, the Germans or the Japanese concerned are not blindly fighting on oblivious to the danger like the villians in the adventure strips. — Christian Science Monitor.

On this return to London after his historic participation in the Yalta conference, Prime Minister Churchill was questioned in the House of Commons on such diverse subjects as goats, anti-shark devices and daylight saving time. This seems to suggest that the interests of British politicians are still as varied and specific as in the days, not so many years ago, when a British election was fought largely on the issue of broccoli. — Montreal Gazette.

Believe it or not, but world-famed Taronga Park Zoo, overlooking Sydney Harbor, is shortly expecting from Canada a pair of "deodorized skunks." "You are not joking?" the secretary of the Taronga Park Trust was asked, when he related this to a newspaperman. "No, really," he replied. And to prove it, he produced a list of what the Zoo is expecting from Britain's neighboring Dominion. Heading the list was: "One pair of deodorized skunks." — Australian News Letter.

Although there has been a substantial increase in farm production, crop prices and net farm income since the war started, recent statistics on the value of occupied farm land show a relatively modest gain, the Kitchener Record comments. The annual figures of net farm income have approximately doubled since 1939, but the average value per acre of farm land across Canada has risen only 20 per cent and last year's gain over 1943 was only seven per cent. The official explanation suggests that the shortages of labor and machinery have discouraged expansion and new purchase of land holdings, thus curbing the price-rising demand.

The English were planners where we were improvisers. They thought in terms of 50 years where we thought in terms of a normal presidential term, if, indeed, we thought that far. They lacked our gusto as surely as we lacked their equality. We were volatile where they were traditional, and unpredictable where they were certain. If we amused them by always rushing off somewhere, even if we had nothing to do when we got there, they could infuriate us by remaining calm and unmoved, in spite of the fact that they ought to have got going long ago. Although their minds appeared to move more slowly than ours, this was not necessarily because they were slower in their thinking. It may have been because they were thinking ahead. Their leisure was as much a proof of their self-control as our energy was of our spontaneity. — John Mason Brown in the Saturday Review of Literature.

It is extremely hard for Americans to comprehend the problems of China when such varied comment on the subject comes from so many different sources. Even without this conflict, however, understanding would not be easy. An example of the difficulties is to be found in the announcement from Chungking that a third of the military personnel is to be dismissed and many military organizations abolished. This might be taken to indicate a weakening of China's war effort, but the precise opposite is the case. The fact is that the decision made was one for a long overdue reform. China has had millions of men in uniform but few under arms. The vast hordes of men in the Chinese army could not be supplied with weapons from the resources of their country nor could guns be obtained in sufficient quantity from America, because of transport difficulties. In addition to this lack of arms, China's enormous military forces could not be properly fed or even clothed, and the pay was so low that many a ricksha puller made more money than the average Chinese officer. The move to reduce the size of the army is intended to make possible improving the treatment—and, thereby, the fighting quality — of the men retained. It is a wise decision. If carried out promptly, it soon should result in an increase rather than a decrease in China's fighting strength. —From the New York Herald Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

ARMY UNIFORMS

Sir, — May you permit me to take a small space in your paper on the Reserve Army.

When the Reserve Army was formed on this Island I was overseas and in 1940 our uniforms were worn out and I for one was six weeks with karki drill pants and shirt before I could get a uniform and was also confined to camp area, for if I had gone outside the area I would be improperly dressed, according to King Rules and Regulations, and would be tried before my O.C.

Now may I ask the O.C. of Reserve Army if their men or at least a great number of them, are not a disgrace to the Kings uniform and all it stands for? When you see men every day with the uniform on working on farms and going to and from stores and villages hauling produce to stations, and all other work in the country, some fully dressed even to the cap, badge and boots. I wonder if some of the boys now in the thickest of battle would not like to have some of those uniforms for a change as some are three weeks without a change of clothes.

I hope that the O.C. of each unit will put a stop to this. If not I think our Legion which I am a member of and proud to be in such a wonderful organization, will take action. Any one who wears the uniform renders himself liable to usual military discipline as if he were on strength of a unit.

I am, Sir, etc.

EX-SERVICE SOLDIER.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND WHAT NEXT?

Sir,—The lid is off. The noble experiment has ended. The appeal to the provinces to restrict the sale and consumption of alcohol in the interest of war and in the interests of humanity has been made, has been heard and ignored. The only limit to the consumption of liquor in the near future is the inability of the vested interests to supply the demand. We are fast approaching the era of the greatest consumption of intoxicating beverages the world has ever known. Men stand aghast at the implications of that indictment. British Columbia $28,000,000 for drink alone. $6,000,000 revenue derived from the proceeds of the liquor traffic. And they hope to do better next year. The liquor controller as he is called, says that the removal of restrictions that did not restrict, is the best news he has heard in a long while. Does he forget that the primary purpose of Government Control is or was to reduce the consumption of liquor to a minimum? The purpose of enforcement as at present conducted seems to be to increase consumption to a maximum.

English brewers and distillers are more straight forward in their methods. A few years ago they put on an advertising campaign in connection with their business. They spent a million pounds. Through their campaign literature they said "we are losing ground. English men and women are drinking less. We are losing our markets and our reputation. If we cannot get hold of the ybung people our traffic is doomed." And this is how they worked it. They, the brewers, proclaimed themselves the friends of temperance. They fraternized with moderation leagues and organized moderation leagues of their own. They favoured temperance education in the school. They would even be willing to write the text-books on temperance for the schools. They would subsidize fraternal organizations that would interest themselves in popularizing the virtues of temperance as the brewers and distillers understood it. They favoured cocktail parties and the serving of alcohol in dilute form for young people. The punch bowl was an invention of the alcohol in moderation league. And it began to appear first stealthily and then boldly and without apology and this was all a part of a cleverly devised scheme to socialize the liquor traffic. Moderation leagues also condemned the open bar for the sale of beverages. They said the open bar was unchristian and uncharitable and sordid. They favoured the driving of the liquor traffic off the streets and right into the homes of the people where it could be regulated. And that is where you have it today. And that is where it does its most deadly work—the ravaging of homes; and when you destroy the home, you have destroyed civilization.

The reason for the temperance campaign sponsored by the Churches of Canada a year ago to lessen the comsumption was the deplorable effect of the traffic upon the successful prosecution of the war. Just recently our leaders have discovered that the consumption of intoxicants has no noticeable injurious effects upon our war effort. One wonders what technique or what standards of measurement are used in arriving at that conclusion. The people charged with raising money for war purposes keep telling us what money will buy in terms of war equipment. Every week or so we get circulars from headquarters telling us what public school and high school boys and girls' war saving stamps will purchase in food and clothing and tanks and bombing planes. But they have not told us what the $28,000,000 British Columbia citizens put into beer barrels and into the liquor traffic would buy in terms of war and peace to follow after.

The statistics from hospitals and institutions for the insane, statistics of venereal disease, the death rate from motor car accidents, all of which are closely linked with the liquor traffic, ought to be convincing enough. The deplorable losses through men and women failing to return to work after the night's dissipation, the millions of work hours lost to industry tell the tale so plainly that none but a blind man could fail to see. The effect of alcohol on the human body; how it accelerates for the moment, then depresses and finally paralyzes human effort. And yet it has no noticeable injurious effect on our war effort.

The truth of the matter is that in dealing with the liquor traffic we are dealing with a vested interest, a vested interest so strongly entrenched, that nothing but the combined effort of the whole Christian Church will ever uproot it. The Government wants its revenue, the brewers and distillers want their profits, security holders want their dividends, and none of these co-partners in the industry will surrender their holdings without a struggle.

It is difficult to work up any crusading animosity against the brewers and distillers. They are a soulless corporation. They recognize no national boundaries. Their profits are immense. Their ramifications are as wide as the world. They cannot be judged by the same standards by which we judge human beings.

The trouble, if we wish to find it, will be found nearer home. The manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages is a provincial prerogative, so it reads in the British North American Act. Only through an amendment to the Act can the Dominion Government take over the control, unless as was done in 1916, as a war measure.

Our Prime Minister fully conscious of the seriousness of the situation put it up to the provinces. The provinces did not respond because the people of the provinces did not respond; and we are the people.

There is a political theory fairly extensively held that in a democracy we get just about the kind of government we deserve. I think there is a considerable measure of truth in that assertion. When the electorate, year after year, returns to power political parties pledged not to seriously interfere with the free flow of liquor, we cannot complain if it flows rather freely.

The remedy then is in our own hands. If the homes of Canada, working through the schools and churches and other benevolent institutions say that the liquor traffic has to go, go it will.

Recent statistics from the United States say that there are 90,000,000 people there who do not touch intoxicants in any shape or form. That is 2-3 of the population. For Canada that would mean 8,000,000 out of 12,000,000. Is it possible that 8,000,000 people will for ever submit to the rule of a minority. That would not be democratic and it would not be common sense.

Mr. Lloyd George was recently discussing the seriousness of the drink problem at the time of the First Great War and said: I quote "It became a choice between alcohol and victory. Only by taking stern and revolutionary measures to restrict the use of liquor were we able to maintain the industrial activity which carried us through."

Listen to these statistics. Decrease in the consumption of alcohol in England 1899-1920.

Wine a decrease of 25 per cent.
Beer, etc., a decrease of 50 per cent.
Distilled spirits a decrease of 75 per cent.

During the same period the increase in the efficiency of the workers has been estimated at between 7 per cent and 17 per cent. Since the outbreak of the present war further emergency restrictions have been made but definite figures are not available.

Within the last 3 years the totalitarian powers, Italy, Germany and Japan have practically put a ban on the production of liquor for beverage purposes. Only the democracies, the United Nations, find the liquor traffic a helpful ally in their struggle to save civilization. In a recent broadcast from Berlin the commentator said that Germany looked upon the increased consumption of spirits in the democracies as one of their most potent allies in defeating the democracies. It has been pointed out that German air raiders seldom or never hit a brewery or a distillery. Our governments at Ottawa and Washington also try not to hit the breweries or distilleries.

What is the liquor traffic doing for our young men and women in the war services? It is not enough that these young people should be called upon to face hell itself every hour of the day to preserve those things which we all hold dear, but they must be exploited to their last dollar by a traffic that recognizes neither honour nor courtesy nor common decency.

The enquiry therefore has forced upon us one conclusion only. This traffic in alcohol must cease. Government control has failed. Nationalization with the profit motive undisturbed would have a similar result. Making it illegal and impossible for any man, corporation or government to make one dollar profit out of the traffic would be a step in the right direction. To that end all our energies must be directed. The traffic unchecked will destroy civilization.

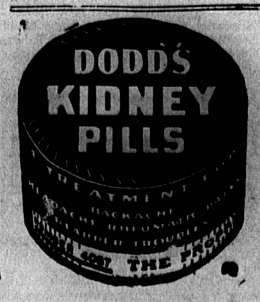
I am, Sir, etc.,
VERNON CROCKETT.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Mysterious Minister

(Ottawa Journal)

Few Canadians know much or anything of Pierre Dupuy, announced as our new Minister to The Netherlands. Yet Pierre Dupuy, a French - Canadian has played a pretty remarkable, certainly an adventurous, role in this war; has earned well the promotion now given him.

After the fall of France, Dupuy, his headquarters in London, used to journey between London and Vichy. How he managed to get in and out of France was something of a mystery. Somehow, he contrived to do it; and Pierre Dupuy would turn up in Lisbon, catch a 'plane for Britain, and soon afterwards be making reports to Canadian and British authorities, including Mr. Churchill His services, according to the highest sources, were invaluable.



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—Kathryne E. Scoville, in The Washington Post.

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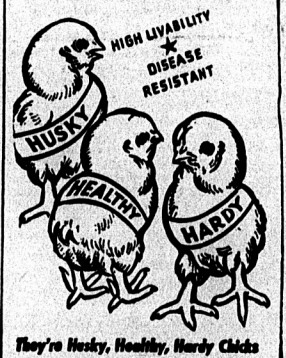

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