THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1945

Liberals Re-elected

The re-election of the King Government on the basis of incomplete civilian vote returns was indicated last night, with the expectation that the Government will have an overall majority in the new House of Commons. It is to be hoped that this is the case, as an indecisive margin could mean another general election in the near future, with all its attendant expense and disadvantages to the country.

The chief appeal made by the Liberal Party was not on its record, but on the ground that with its standing of 155 members in the last House of Commons it was the only party that could hope to form a majority government after the election. Prime Minister King stressed this at every opportunity, and there is no doubt that it was his strongest card. The Ontario provincial election gave Liberal expectations a bad jolt, but they succeeded in retaining their hold in the Maritimes and in Quebec.

Provincially the contest was keen, with the Conservative candidates cutting down the Liberal majorities in every case. Indeed, until the votes of our service men and women are counted, the actual result in Prince Edward Island, as well as in other closely contested constituencies, will remain doubtful.

Noteworthy in eastern Canada especially was the poor showing made by the C C. F. candidates. Many of them lost their deposits, and the next Parliament is likely to see them depleted in numbers, and forming but an inconspicuous part of the Opposition.

London Since V E-Day

A year ago the skies over London were spotted with barrage balloons, bobbing and weaving in the wind, or drooping in still air. They were invariably the first thing that struck the eye of newly arrived Canadians for they were so numerous that one homesick soldier gazed at them for a while and suggested that if some one cut the cables the island might sink.

Now, one year later, there isn't a speck in the sky, for the balloons vanished long ago, shortly after the invading forces reached the Continent. They disappeared with the arrival of the flying bombs over London, being moved to the coast in an effort to bring down the V-1 weapons before they reached inland.

Instead of serving as a protection from low-flying aircraft, the balloons over London became a menace, on the theory that if the flying bombs were allowed to run their course unimpelled they might land harmlessly in some outlying field, whereas if they were entangled in the barrage balloons over London they were certain to explode in the City, at which the Germans were aiming.

The melancholy wail of the sirens also vanished from the night long ago, for when the enemy gave up using flying bombs and replaced them with V-1 rockets there was no time to warn the people to seek shelter.

But if there are no longer any bombs on London, there is a lot more bomb damage than there was when the troops departed a year ago. The first Americans to reach England in the Spring of 1942 almost had to go on sightseeing tours to see what had happened during the blitz, and even a year ago they found only a house or two missing from a row here and there, a yawning cellar between two buildings, a vacant corner on a busy street. But, although the V weapons failed to wreck or ruin London, it is now hardly possible to walk four blocks in any direction without seeing some evidence of the German attack on innocent bystanders.

A Mischievous System

A report of what is known as the "Gallup Poll" purporting to give the result of a "poll" of public opinion with respect to yesterday's Dominion election, appeared several days ago.

As an aid to determining the possible or probable result of the election this poll, of course, was wholly useless, this for the reason that it had not "polled" the vote of the armed services, a vote which totals between 350,000 and 400,000 ballots, or an average of about 1,500 for each constituency.

Moreover, it was not a poll at all in the sense of ballots being sent to any substantial number of electors, but merely a loose test of "public opinion" through the process of a few unknown persons interviewing a comparatively few other unknown persons here, there and everywhere. The thing was unscientific and utterly undependable.

But the "Gallup Poll", and all similar "polls" are more than undependable. As the *Ottawa Journal* points out, they can be turned into dangerous propaganda. For example, who were the scrutineers in this Gallup "poll"? The taking of ballots in a democracy is a sacred undertaking; surrounded with safeguards. In this "Gallup Poll" business there were no safeguards. No one checked the returns. No one audited them. The results were computed and put out by people who for the most part were unknown and who were responsive to nobody.

The danger of this is obvious. It is the danger of possibly unscrupulous men using these "polls" to put over a party or a policy or a measure in which they are interested, regardless of its merits. Many people, notoriously, like to vote on the winning side. If, therefore, a group of irresponsible persons are in a position, on the eve of an election, to put out a "poll" purporting to show that a certain party or policy is likely to prevail—this regardless of the facts—then the danger is too obvious to be stressed. We simply leave lying around a dangerous weapon which any sinister group may use at will to prosper their own interests.

The *Journal* suggests that the Elections Act of this country should be amended to prohibit all such "polls." They should be prohibited because: (1) experience has shown that they are unreliable and (2) because they could be constructed into positive peril to proper democratic processes.

How unreliable these "polls" are was shown by the Grey North byelection. If Grey North had voted according to the Gallup Poll, the Liberals would have received approximately 6,900 votes, the Progressive Conservatives 5,500, the C. C. F. 3,900. What actually happened was that the Liberals received 6,099 votes, the C. C. F. 3,136, and the Conservatives 7,338. The Gallup Poll was 800 votes wrong in the case of the Liberals, 750 wrong in the case of the C. C. F., and 1,400 votes wrong in the case of the Progressive Conservatives.

However, the fundamental objection to these Gallup "polls" is the wrong use that can be made of them. Before a Congressional inquiry Dr. George Gallup admitted under oath that in the course of the last United States Presidential election campaign he had thought it advisable to change the results of "polls" from time to time to make a better showing for Dewey. It is easy to see what could happen with "polls" taken by people less honest than Dr. Gallup—of the use sinister propagandists could make of them to help put over some high-pressure proposition on behalf of some special interest. It is a risk no democracy should take.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The new moon did its part for Sunday anyway.

* * * *

The next big event will be, perhaps, Japan's collapse.

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The British elections will be more in the spotlight now that King and Canada know their fate.

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Whether we like it or not, the jury has declared its verdict,—though not perhaps solely on the evidence submitted.

* * * *

The Danish agricultural and dairy produce industry suffered little harm during the war and while under German ocupation, Prof. Mogens Fog, minister for special affairs in the new Danish government and former resistance leader, said in London the other day. "There are large stocks of bacon and dairy produce which will spoil unless exported," he said. "The Danish people want to help Europe by supplying food and are eager to accept further restrictions. Given coal and other fuels Denmark will be able to export again."

* * * *

Rt. Hon. Robert Anthony Eden, P.C., M.P., M.C., LL.D., British statesman, born this date 1897; educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford; elected M.P. for Warwick and Leamington as a Conservative in 1923, and re-elected up till now; commenced his career as private secretary to Rt. Hon. Austin Chamberlain, since which he has passed through the routine of under-secretaryships till he became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1935; he resigned over a difference with his colleagues on foreign policy; went to Moscow, Warsaw and Prague on a special mission; appointed Secretary for the Dominions in April 1939; for War in Aug. 1940; for Foreign Affairs in Dec. 1940; chosen leader of the House of Commons in 1942; looked upon as the successor to the Premiership in the event of Mr. Churchill's resignation.

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For the first time in the history of the Canadian Dental Corps, women of the three services are performing the duties of chair assistants to dental officers at Navy, Army and Air Force establishments, Defence Headquarters announces. When the Canadian Dental Corps was first organized, soldiers were employed as dental assistants and trained as reinforcements for the C.D.C. overseas service. When the Canadian Women's Army Corps was formed, a number of C.W.A.C. personnel were assigned duties as dental assistants, but the majority continued to be male personnel in order to keep sufficient overseas reinforcements available. Today, of the 410 C.D.C. women dental assistants, 212 are members of the C. W. A. C., 75 are Wrens and 80 are W.D.'s.

* * * *

Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, now Defence Minister, told Col. George Drew in 1943, when the Ontario premier was visiting England, that his greatest mistake had been in 1941 when he did not break the King government, as he could have done. During a summary at Calgary of the famous Hong Kong enquiry, which he had precipitated, Premier Drew recalled that Gen. McNaughton had been brought back to Canada to testify and had said that troops could be trained on shipboard. At that point someone in his audience made a jeering remark about McNaughton. The premier stopped, leaned forward and said: "Andy McNaughton is the most pitiful figure in Canada today. That man who on announcing that he was joining the King Government expressed his great pride at serving under such a leader, and in my presence in England in 1943, and he used these words and I quote them, 'my mistake was that when I was home in 1941 I didn't break the King Government as I could have done."

Notes By The Way

A Mississippi mother is reported to have written the Army. "My son," she said, "has taken out $10,000 war risk insurance. So keep him in a safe place as it is as much your interest now as it is mine."—McComb, Miss., Enterprise.

Lt.-Col. Mary Agnes Brown, top-ranking WAC in the Southwest Pacific, says if there is a war 50 years hence women will be on an ev n footing with men. Why 50 years from now? Evidently Col. Brown has not studied the equality of footing among the girls of this town recently.—New York World Telegram.

Commentators seem to like the word, Gotterdammerung, in relation to Germany's present predicament, and they can have it— the word, we mean, says the Buffalo Courier-Express. We don't care much for Gotterdammerung for three good reasons; to wit: 1 —To us non-scholars in the German language, Gotterdammerung sounds sort of profane. 2—Not by the wildest stretch of the imagination could one find the faintest resemblance between the present rulers of Germany and the Wagnerian pagan gods. 3—It isn't twilight for Germany. It's dark.

A motion picture actress is de-scribed as "the most beautiful girl in the world." How does Hollywood know? There are probably many more beautiful females whom nothing would induce to become film actresses even if the opportunity were given them. All the beautiful women in the world aren't in the "movies," nor have they any aspirations whatever in that direction. Laying claim to possession of "the most beautiful girl in the world" is just more typical Hollywood nonsense. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

When the army took over a large hotel in Boston, the operators of the stores, barbershop and other establishments were in great glee. They catered to the troops and told their former regular customers they could not be bothered caring for them. So, the regulars went to other stores and shops and spent their trade there. But, suddenly the army moved right out. The operators of the stores and shops found their service customers had left them overnight. They pleaded with their old customers to come back, but they were doing all right and did not forget they got the cold shoulder.—Windsor Star.

The Hasco Machinery Company of Newark, N.J., is painting used machinery, which it reconditions for war production, in bright colors. Color helps reduce fatigue and eye strain, it has been discovered, according to Nation's Business. Absenteeism drops. Safety lessons stick when color is there as a reminder. In drawing up the color scheme, critical parts of the machine are separated from the non-critical. Orange is used for the danger spots, cream for moving parts and shades of green for the rest. At the start, some industrialists opposed the innovation, but now the glamorized machines have passed the experimental stage with (dare we say) flying colors.

Bees are kittle cattle, and the swarm which is reported to have taken possession of the little church at Rand, in Lincolnshire, recently, compelling the rector to hold the service in the chancel, showed all the obstinacy of their clan. They descended in a cloud from their nest in the roof, and defied all efforts to dislodge them from the pews, floor and windows. I once saw an auction sale brought to an abrupt conclusion by a swarm of bees. Among the lots offered for sale was a beehive, complete with inmates, and the trouble began when some careless spectator knocked it over. The bees rose into the air in an angry black swarm, and made, literally, a beeline for the auctioneer, putting him to ignominious flight. — Leeds Yorkshire Post.

Experiments which voluntary agencies in Britain are carrying out for housing of elderly people with slender means will be very substantially augmented if the London County Council can carry through its postwar scheme for providing one-room apartments for the old folk, says the Vancouver Province. The scheme will be dependent on sympathetic co-operation of the Ministry of Health. State subsidies will be necessary to keep rent within the means of these elderly folk. There will be nothing "institutional" about the L.C.C. scheme. One-room homes will be included in housing estates in London and cottage estates outside, and the tenants, single people as well as married couples, will be made to feel that they belong to a community, and not that they have been segregated because they are old. The apartments will be so arranged that those who are able-bodied can run them for themselves. Other tenants, frail but not in need of "institutional treatment," will be in care of a residential supervisor. Provision will also be made for those who do need institutional treatment.

The Poets' Corner

TIME, LIKE A BELL—

Now time has no more meaning.
Loving, young,
You stand here on the sea wall,
staring West,
Wind moulds your scanty garments
to your breast,
Outlines slim hips your strong
hands rest upon
And all your thoughts and all your
new dreams flow
Seaward- unchecked, having no-
where else to go.

Empty, time hangs above you like
a bell
Suspended without clapper or ring-
ing hand.
You watch the water, forgetting
how the sand
Is patterned with shining weed and
colored shell.
He cannot come yet, but you watch
the ships,
His name and the cold wind salty
on your lips.

—Edna L. S. Barker, in The Washington Post.

White Whale Round-Up

(From C-I-L Oval)

On the east coast of Baffin Island near the Arctic Circle, there is a deep bay 150 miles long, called Cumberland Sound. Extending northwards from it is a long, narrow fiord, with snow capped mountains rising on each side, which is one of the show places of the North. And on the shore of this fiord is the settlement of Pangnirtung, the metropolis of the Eastern Arctic. There every summer the Eskimos are gathered together by the Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company post for the annual white whale drive.

White whales, or belugas, are familiar to many dwellers along the Atlantic coast and the lower St. Lawrence. When full grown they are milk white and average about twelve feet in length. Every year in July they migrate northwards along the coast of Baffin Island, and it is at this time that they enter Kingua fiord, at the far end of Cumberland Sound. Two hundred yards from the end of this fiord there is a shallow bar, and it is the aim of the whale hunters to drive the great mammals over this bar when the tide is high, and keep them there until it falls, and traps them. In the work of herding and dispatching the whales "Dominion" ammunition plays one of its strongest roles.

* * *

On the appointed day, about sixty Eskimos assemble with their whale boats along the shore of Kingua fiord, and wait for the rising tide to cover the bar with a good depth of water. All over the deep blue waters between the bar and the fiord's mouth, the white backs of thousands of whales flash in the sunshine and disappear as they gambol like porpoises at play.

Suddenly at a shout from the angauka — the post manager — the waiting Eskimo jump into their boats and head for the open sea. At the fiord's mouth the boats stretch out in a long line from shore to shore, and at a given signal, they start to move slowly forward, towards the rocky bar.

At once there arises the most deafening uproar, as all the natives who are not busy rowing or steering, begin to shout and yell, and pound on empty gasoline tins, while the tall cliffs hurl back the echoes. In that lonely, silent land, such bedlam is frightening, and the whales, utterly unaccustomed to any sound but the grinding of ice and the slow thunder of waves, flee from it in terror.

* * *

The waters boil as they turn in flight. Anxiously the hunters watch, wondering if some wise old whale, sensing the shallowness of the water over the bar, will suddenly turn and lead the herd in a deep dive under the boats and so out to freedom.

Hundreds do escape this way; but some of the more timid leaders, driven back by the din, and by the sound of bullets cutting the water just ahead of them, turn again, and seek safety across the bar. In relentless pursuit, the line of whale boats surges after them and halts above the bar. The tide is falling, and the whales' chances of escape are growing slimmer every second. At last there is a shout of triumph from a group of Eskimos, whose boat has grounded. No whale can now escape through water so shallow, and all of those swimming round within the quiet lagoon are trapped.

The post manager calls a halt for tea, and for an hilarious hour the natives sit about, chattering gaily of their recent success. Then, as the waters at the fiord's end drain lower and lower, the glistening white bodies appear, threshing helplessly about.

At a signal, every man grabs a gun or a knife, and the work of killing and skinning the whales begins. Each animal is dispatched with a bullet through the head, and then slit from head to tail along both back and belly. In two halves the skin, muktuk, and blubber is peeled off and loaded into the boats. The muktuk is a jelly-like layer between the skin and the blubber, and is considered a delicacy by the Eskimos who swallow bits of it raw as they skin the whales.

Finally the last boat is loaded, and, towed by motor boats, the long line of whale boats heads out for the sound and Pangnirtung post. There the women will go to work on the hides, separating the fat, muktuk, and skin, and rendering the fat into oil. The oil and the skin are shipped out on the annual Hudson's Bay Company supply ship Nascopie, the skin to be made into leather, the oil for the manufacture of fine soaps.

Japanese Suicides

(Toronto Star)

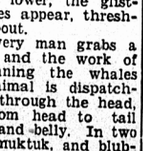
We should not take too lightly the announced intention of Japan to put pilots aboard her explosive-carrying balloons and send them to this continent. It is a fantastic idea, but it can be dangerous. The Japs have already demonstrated that the balloons, unmanned, can reach our shores, even if their sole triumph to date has been the killing of a woman and five children. Their marksmanship will improve with pilots aboard.

The balloons, of course, can be steered only to a limited extent, but once over land, the navigator can pick the spots for the dropping of the charges. That means that strategic targets are in danger. We may take what satisfaction we will from the fact the men are courting almost certain death. Japan looks on them as expendable.

This penchant for epic suicide on the part of our Pacific enemies is not to be lightly regarded. The "banzai" divers disappear, but they take our men and our valuable equipment with them. We do not think we make a bad military bargain when we spend a bomb costing thousands of dollars, because we can manufacture thousands more of them. Japan looks on it as good wartime economy to spend men, because there are millions of them. There is something more than spectacular martyrdom, and we should not look on it as merely crazy fanaticism.

FAREWELL TO BACKACHE!

Her back ached—she felt miserable—no pep—she couldn't be "bothered" to go out—lost contact with her friends and was lonely. Her sister advised her to take Dodd's Kidney Pills. Her backache soon vanished—enthusiasm and energy returned—her eyes sparkled—her step was sprightly—and once again she was her "old self." 115

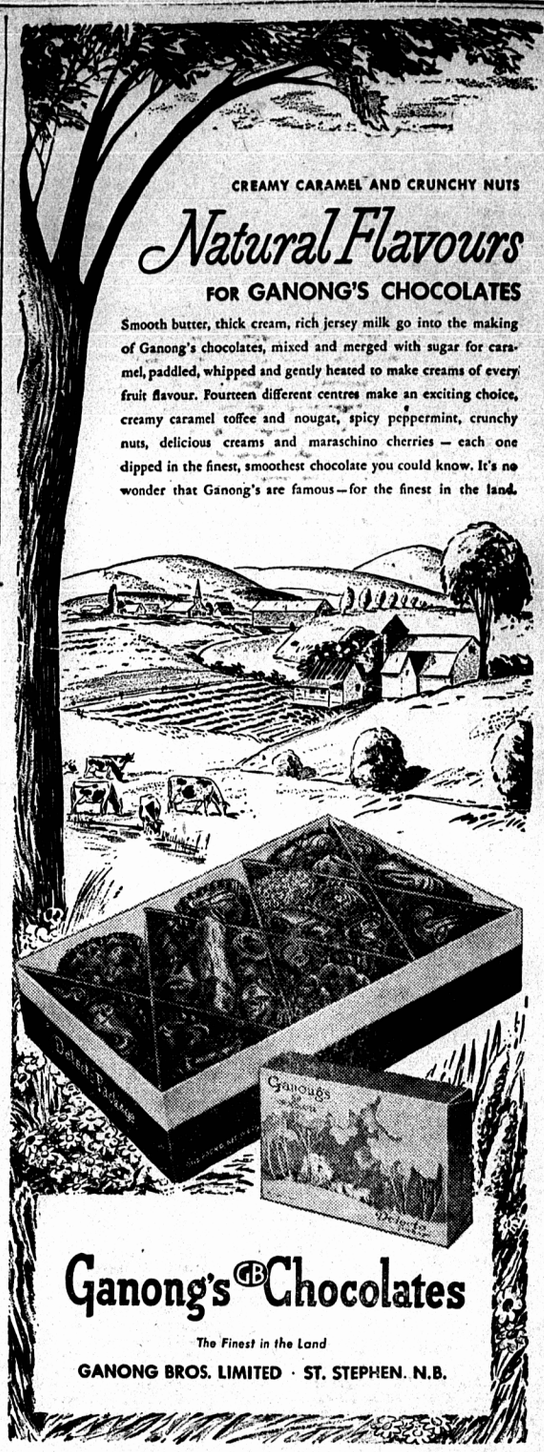


Say GOODBYE TO BACKACHE with

Dodd's Kidney Pills

FOSTER COMMUNITY SPIRIT

BUCKINGHAM, England — (CP) — The best war memorial will be the erection of a club or public hall in every village, in the opinion of Buckinghamshire women's institutes.



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HONOR ST. PAUL'S CANON

LONDON — (CP) — Rev. S.A. Alexander, treasurer of St. Paul's, has been elected an honorary member of the Incorporated Asesociation of Architects and Surveyors in recognition of his 36 years' work for the preservation of the cathedral.

QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds

"Well, at least you could try to get a lawnmower with a Guardian Want Ad'"

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