

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1944

Christmas 1944

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The Christmas story loses nothing by repetition. Down through the centuries its graceful message of joy and gladness, of peace and good will, has come to men and women harassed with their own cares and anxieties. It comes each year with the same benediction for all.

Christmas bells will peal this year in many parts of a newly liberated Europe. Let us rejoice at that, notwithstanding that the war is not yet won, and that much hard fighting lies ahead. Our thoughts naturally turn at this time to our gallant soldiers, sailors and airmen overseas. Some of them will be spending their fourth, some their fifth—some even their sixth—Christmas on active service. May they too share, in some measure, in the joyousness of the season, in the happiness of knowing that their loved ones are near to them in spirit, in the certain assurance that the sacrifices they are making are not in vain.

Let us not forget at this season the strangers in our midst; particularly those who are in uniform, far away, it may be, from their own homes, and who would welcome more than anything else the warmth of our Christmas firesides. We have with us, as always, the poor and needy, who are especially to be remembered at this time. Through the churches, the Salvation Army, the Free Dispensary, and other channels, there is ample opportunity of following the example of the reformed Mr. Scrooge in seeing that nobody goes hungry, and no child left without some token of the love that glorified a manger, and shone star-like over Bethlehem, in the long ago.

To all our readers, young and old, at home and abroad, we wish a Merry Christmas.

How Far From Ottawa?

"Food for Thought" the monthly magazine published by the Canadian Association for Adult Education, prints a timely leading article in which it asks "How far is your hometown or your farm from Ottawa?"

It is one of the most important questions of the day, for the answer, not in miles but in the degree of people's participation in the processes of government, will decide Canada's future as a democratic nation.

Every national policy, as the association's organ points out, affects some community, large or small, in some way. Every national policy has to be carried out in local situations. The war has outlined this pattern clearly. Rationing, for example, has worked in Canada, not because Donald Gordon made radio speeches, but because in every centre of population a local Ration Board distributed books, handled complaints, checked on supplies.

From our experience in war, it seems obvious that when we turn to the new problems of peace, national planning will fail unless community action translates programs into reality.

To be specific, full employment demands national policies on such matters as inflation, foreign markets, taxation policies, public works projects. In human terms the question is: what can ordinary citizens do to see that when the boys come home they can find jobs which give them some outlet for their ability and promise some security for the future?

It is a problem for business men, for politicians, for farm leaders. Equally, as the magazine points out, it is a problem which educational organizations must tackle if they are concerned about fostering healthy and creative community life. Adult education will matter only if it offers something to the citizens who want to guarantee jobs for the boys when they come home. It will count only if it provides people with the tools to tackle all the other jobs ahead. Its most important task is to ensure that there is no gap between the hometown or farm, and Ottawa.

The German Counterattack

The great difference between the present situation on the Western Front and that which prevailed in the Battle of Normandy is that, whereas in Normandy the Germans had no tactical reserve, now it is very probable that they have one. It is reasonable to assume that it is this reserve which is now being employed for the counter-offensive in the Eifel area, the main weight of which is in the direction of Malmedy.

The Eifel country is suitable for forming

up troops, since it provides good cover from air reconnaissance. On the other hand, it is not good terrain for an advance on our part, and the area has been relatively lightly held by us, as compared with the concentration of forces on the Saar and Roer Fronts.

The latter Front is vital because it covers Cologne and the industrial Ruhr, and it has lately caused the Germans heavy casualties. It may well be that Rundstedt came to the conclusion that he could not afford to hold on indefinitely to his defensive zone along the Roer at the present rate of losing men and equipment, and therefore he staged a counter-offensive in order to relieve pressure. He may also have hoped to reduce our pressure on the Saar Front, an area where the Germans have lately been very sensitive. This reasoning does not, however, lead authoritative military commentators in London to minimize the seriousness of Rundstedt's attack, which apparently is being pressed home with great force.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All set for Christmas.

Tomorrow Christmas Eve.

Bear in mind that winter usually serves the defence better than the offensive.

The most important member of the crew on a ship at Christmas is the telegraphist, and the one on H. M. C. S. Charlottetown is an Islander, of course.

Without the door let sorrow lie, And if, for cold, it hap to die, We'll bury 't in a Christmas pie, And evermore be merry.

—Withers

Shortage of Christmas dolls and toys this year is of course to be regretted. But after all, it doesn't seem to make much difference with the youngsters. So long as they have what other boys and girls have, they are satisfied. What the playthings lack in realism, any child worth its salt can make up in imagination.

W. M. Thackeray, English novelist, died tomorrow's date, 1865; one of the outstanding stylists of the Victorian writers; in all his writings his style is cultured and his craftsmanship mastery; Vanity Fair is his outstanding work: "Ah, ye knights of the pen! May honour be your shield, and truth tip your lances! Be gentle to all gentle people. Be modest to women. Be tender to children. And as for the Ogre Humbug, out sword, and have at him."

Captain Dreyfus of the French Army degraded this date 1894; was charged with and convicted of selling military secrets to Germany; it turned out the whole affair was a plot to ruin Dreyfus because he was unpopular at the Military Academy and a Jew; he underwent three trials in the course of ten years, and at length in 1906 he was declared absolutely and entirely innocent of all the charges, was reinstated in the Army with the rank of Major, and received the Legion of Honour.

Evidently there is going to be something doing in the picture show business in the city as soon as conditions permit. The announcement that a well-known film producing corporation intended opening out here, has been followed by the news that Famous Players Canadian Corporation Ltd. has acquired an interest in F. G. Spencer Co. Ltd., which operates theatres in all three Maritime Provinces. Just recently the F. G. Spencer Co. paid off a \$400,000 mortgage held on their theatres by the Eastern Trust Ltd.

Co-operation Minister L. F. McIntosh of the Saskatchewan C.C.F. Government said in an interview the Scottish and English Cooperative wholesale societies would take between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat annually in the post-war period in addition to other agricultural supplies. Mr. McIntosh has just returned from the United Kingdom when he conferred with co-op officials there regarding prospects of a two-way trade between the Old Country and Canadian co-operatives. The two overseas co-operatives are definitely interested in supplies of livestock and livestock products in the post-war period," he said. We find the Scottish co-op vitally interested in Port Churchill. They indicated if rates of insurance made it feasible they were quite prepared to consider Port Churchill as an avenue for bringing the goods in and taking supplies back.

It has been suggested that the new Car Ferry when it is ready should be named "Regiment D", and for this reason writes a military correspondent: "The only group of men to leave P. E. Island, go to England and to fight in France, Belgium and now Germany and still retain their identity as a P. E. I. group is that of "D" Company of the N. N. S. Highlanders. They were completely representative of P.E.I., having men from all three counties. They were always very conscious of the fact that they were from 'The Island', so much so that everybody else in the Battalion, and the Brigade, were conscious of that fact as well, and as a result they were christened 'Regiment D'. During their training period they were the outstanding company in the Battalion, during the very bloody fighting in France, under the able leadership of Major Kennedy, they distinguished themselves nobly, and lastly they contributed a goodly number of leaders to other companies of their own and other Battalions. A great number of the original company have made the supreme sacrifice, a few are left to carry on the fight and I think that it would be a most fitting thing if our new Car Ferry would carry the name of 'Regiment D'. A really small tribute to a very gallant group of Islanders who have been a credit to their Province, their people and themselves."

Notes By The Way

If it is true, as reported, that Hitler is in Japan, all we can say (Windsor Star):

Women now constitute 99 per cent of the staff of the banks of Canada in contrast to 21.7 per cent before the war.—(Sault Ste. Marie Star).

The Calgary Herald advertises "reliable girl will mend children's clothing. Any volunteers to mend their parents?—(Peterborough Examiner).

As regards relations between tenant and landlord, these days, experience proves the less heat in the house, the more there is in the argument.—(Toronto Telegram).

As one reads casualty lists here and elsewhere, it is seen that no one class has a corner on patriotism. Those who have become casualties are seen to belong to all classes. When we hear politicians talking of their own patriotism, let us look at the casualty lists and see for ourselves how mistaken they are.—(Niagara Falls Review).

Prime Minister Winston Churchill has leaped to the defence of Britain's exclusive "public" schools, which recently were under attack by the newspaper editor by his cabinet colleague, Lord Beaverbrook. Churchill said: "We cannot afford to permit the great beneficent institutions, which helped make us what we were in the last war and to keep us what we are in this.—(St. Thomas Times-Journal).

Big business can help the post-war prospect of industrial research by liberal endowments and scholarships to technical schools. The war has made a three-year gap among students of chemistry and physics who would otherwise be graduating into the country's industrial laboratories. The resultant shortage has to be made up possible for more students to enter these lines.—(Christian Science Monitor, Boston).

Henry Ford, II, believes that synthetic rubber tires have come to stay—least insofar as their use for passenger automobiles is concerned. He finds the present supply satisfactory, and he expects a steady increase in quality. Thus he anticipates the future we'll be independent of imports of natural rubber. However, in his estimate as in the estimate of other experts, there is no suggestion that those synthetic tires will arrive at maturity in time for the demands of wartime transportation—and right now American cars are badly in need of tires.—(Boston Post).

An aspect of the cigarette shortage which has very little attention until now is the loss of revenues from this very heavily taxed commodity. About two-thirds of the retail price of every pack of cigarettes is absorbed by the tax. This is a decline of 18 per cent in the normal revenues from this source announced by the Tax Commissioner of New York State. The shortage reflects the situation throughout the country. If the legal cigarette sales in New York should remain for a year at the level reported for November, 1944, the loss in revenue would amount to about five million dollars a year.—(Washington Post).

There really haven't been many new devices that have stirred the minds and hearts of the world to any degree of good since the invention of printing for the most part, man's better nature has been able to keep pace with the scientific discoveries of cars and aviation, we still have wars, cruelty, ignorance and poverty. Always, however, there have been inventions which have a way of refining and intensifying man's innate goodness. Probably we shall see a television set which everybody else does. But we shall do it in the conviction that the things that are going to depend entirely on the quality of men's minds and hearts, whether those qualities are communicated by electronic means, or tribal drums.—(Calgary Albertan).

London has just announced that the Atlantic has been crossed by air 20,000 times since the war began. A few days ago a British Overseas Airways Corporation plane landed at a Royal Air Force Transport Command field in Scotland. The 5,000th plane to make the passage to the east coast of the United Kingdom. Most of the crossings have been made from west to east and by British Dominion, American and Allied crews. From the fall of 1940 until Christmas Eve, 1943, the Atlantic had been flown 10,000 times. The great majority of these trips were made by planes being delivered to the United Kingdom from the direction of the Trans-Atlantic Air Control, a special organization for overseas traffic. And losses of planes have been less than 1 per cent. Here is a record which gives us a glimpse of what aerial travel will be like after the war.—(Victoria Times).

That contest in the Senate restaurant to which the citrus growers of Arizona and California have challenged their rivals in Florida and Texas, should prove amusing—from a distance. For the old squeeze play undoubtedly will be a chief maneuver. In baseball, of course, this calls for a run to the home plate, but in the pastime of squinting, when the spoon threatens to descend on a nearby grapefruit, a run from the plate is more in order, and the play resembles more than in bridge when one's suit must be surrendered—to the cleaners. Whatever the outcome of the contest, the Arizona-California men have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the western governors that they have tamed the imp of the breakfast table, and have eliminated its squinting propensities. Hostesses may now relax and serve dessert grapefruit for dessert, even when guests attend in their best bibs and tuckers. Any man a guest will now be able to keep both eyes open, even at the breakfast table.—(Christian Science Monitor).

CHRISTMAS—1944

By James MacLean

There's a happiness in giving That is glorified today, 'Tis the story of the Saviour Who was born on Christmas Day. In the manger in the stable In the town of Bethlehem: Where the wise men came to worship Carrying precious gifts to Him.

Led by Herald Angels, singing, To the greatest of the great, Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace, Humbly born to low estate, As estates of men are measured By our mockery of worth, That today defames the Heavens And defiles the face of earth.

But there's Happiness in giving That is ours to sense today; Giving to all mankind freely To sustain their happy way To a higher plane of being, To a nobler way of life Than the grasping way of evil That is author of our strife.

There is happiness in giving That can never know dismay, In the pattern of the Saviour, In the pattern of God's way; Whose the wealth of all the ages, Where the greatest gifts to man— Gifts of mind and gifts of commerce— Are the free gifts of His plan.

What A Weapon!

(Manchester Guardian)

A most magnificent yarn from Bombay announces what is described by almost studied moderation as "quite the newest secret weapon on the Burma front"—as one of O.C.T.U. for aces. In Central Burma according to this story, the Japanese have established "a regular military school for the training of army monkeys, where they enter in the same way as cadets and come out as trained fighters." Their particular job is to climb trees and throw hand grenades, but, in order to supplement what is claimed to be "Japanese military superiority," the monkeys are also "trained to ride mules and give the impression of men on horseback." Nothing is said about teaching them to shout "Banzai!" and wear horn-rimmed spectacles; perhaps it is thought that the resemblance to authentic Japanese is already sufficiently close to make such touches of additional camouflage unnecessary.

When there's never a hope of blooming rose, And never a hint of spring, When the sombre hue of a winter day Has saddened everything, Then over the cities and far away A heavenly message swells, And our hearts uplift to the melody Of bells—the Christmas bells.

And we vision Bethlehem's silent hills, Where wondering shepherds stand, We listen with them to the joyous song, Intoned by an angel band. "Glory to God in the highest" they chant, "Peace, peace to the troubled earth, while the air grows still in the azure sky, And hushed—for the Saviour's birth.

Then we go where the humble shepherds go, Though the way be far and wild, And we lay our gifts, hearts filled with love, Before the Holy Child. —Regina Murray. (The Canadian League) December, 1944.

WHERE SHEPHERDS WATCH

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BRITISH GUIANA MINERALS

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Cordial Christmas Greetings. Among the gifts bestowed by the passing year the most valued one is the Friendship and Goodwill of those we serve. It is a privilege at this happy Season to express our appreciation and to wish you the Season's Greetings. Henderson & Cudmore

WIPED OUT! Ask the man who has had the misfortune to be "wiped out" if you need Fire Insurance, and follow his advice. Your Business and your Home need Insurance protection. For a very small extra premium we can also furnish protection against loss or damage from Windstorm, Hail, Explosion, Impact of Aircraft or Vehicles, etc. Consult our nearest Agent or write or call us. Hyndman & Co., Limited. Established 1872. Charlottetown - Summerside - Montague

SCOTS BACK TO SCOTCH (By The Canadian Press) STONEHAVEN, Scotland—Ten men produced 5,000 gallons of whisky at a Stonehaven distillery one week recently, the first production in Scotland since early in the war. It may be sold to the public in 1947. G. F. Hutcheson & SON OPTOMETRISTS "Specialists in the fitting of glasses for the correction of ocular defects." 53 Grafton Street

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