

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1941.

The Laval Incident

The attempted assassination of Pierre Laval, most odious of all the pro-Nazi politicians responsible for France's betrayal, will not occasion much sympathy. The implications, however, may be very serious for many innocent persons who are on the Nazi black-list.

This rash act will, it is feared, be followed by a typical Nazi purge. Death decrees have already been announced for French hostages should "sabotage, assassination and violence" continue in the occupied zone.

In defiance of these courts, and of the 1,000 policemen and 20,000 German troops who are doing police work in the Paris area, railway sabotage is said to be continuing on all sides, and the streets are being flooded with anti-Nazi tracts.

Meanwhile at Vichy it is said that more than 100 members of the Parliament which Pétain is attempting to abolish have met in "rump session" and formed themselves into an opposition to the Pétain regime.

The Germans are finding that it is one thing to overrun France with the aid of traitors and fifth columnists, and quite another thing to subdue a nation which has been nursed in democracy and freedom.

Iran Brought To Terms

With characteristic hypocrisy, the Nazi press denounces the Russian-British invasion of Iran as a case of "brutal attack on a neutral state which has done everything to prevent war and respect the interests of third parties."

Vital Factors On Russian Front

Though written several weeks ago, the following comment on the Nazi invasion of Russia, appearing in the London Spectator, still holds good:

"Their main goal is not territory, valuable as it must be to a nation so short of some of the essential supplies of modern warfare: it is the destruction of the Russian army. Conversely, the Russians' objective is not so much the conservation of territory as the maintenance of their army in full fighting vigour."

this conclusion; and it may yet prove the vital factor in the offensive. There are few, if any, positions that cannot be taken if the assailant will pay the price. The question is how far Hitler is prepared to go; and we may rest assured that having taken charge of the offensive he will pursue it to the end, even if it should mean his own."

Farmers' Cooperation Urged

The urgent need for more hogs, at strong prices to the producers, is emphasized in an advertisement by the well-known local firm of Davis and Fraser. These hogs are needed to supply product to regular customers and to employ local help, and farmers who truck or have their hogs trucked to the Charlottetown plant can effect a saving by avoiding all rehandling expenses, delays and shrinkage in transit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

These are sad black days for this Province with sudden deaths and inequities.

A report from Ottawa states that so far only two-thirds of the returns collected by enumerators in the decennial census have been sent in.

The Wednesday half-holiday excelled itself in good weather yesterday—the last for the summer, Monday being Labour Day.

Our summer visitors are taking their flight—it has been the best season so far as numbers are concerned and reports are that most of the seaside hotels have been well booked up for next year.

Commenting on the "mixed cheering and booing" which greeted Prime Minister Mackenzie King on his first visit to Canada's overseas army, the Sydney Post-Record says drily: "The booing was regrettable, the cheering incomprehensible."

Troubles are not in the habit of coming singly, as the Purvis family experienced on Saturday, when word was received that the late Rt. Hon. Arthur B. Purvis's nephew was seriously injured at Dunkirk, N. Y. in an auto smash-up, in which his companion was instantly killed.

Lady Meredith has just presented the Royal Victoria Hospital her splendid mansion on the corner of Peel and Pine St. Montreal for use as a nurses home, to be known as the Meredith Memorial Residence, in memory of the late Sir Vincent Meredith, the distinguished President of the Bank of Montreal as well as of the Hospital.

General Louis Botha, first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, died this date, 1919. He was a member of the first Volksraad of the Transvaal; succeeded General Joubert as Commander of the Transvaal Boers during the South African War, in which he greatly distinguished himself. Created honorary general of the British Army, and warmly espoused the cause of the Allies in the Great War, commanding the Union Forces in South West Africa, receiving the surrender of the Germans in 1915. He represented South Africa at the Paris Peace Conference, which was his last public service before his death.

Here is generosity and public spirit for you! Henry N. Solomon arrived in Cleveland from Hungary 17 years ago with some capital and had the door closed in his face repeatedly house-hunting when he admitted he had two children. Since then he has prospered, and now owns several apartment houses. Before the war he offered a bonus of \$5 to parents having children born as his tenants. Since the war he is doubling the amount, as he thinks children are worth at least twice as much these days. The rate jumps from the present \$5 to \$10 for first-born sons, from \$10 to \$20 for second sons and so on. Baby girls stay at the old \$5 rate. Solomon says he has paid off to parents of 50 babies since 1927. If the 51st is a boy, he will pay double rates. He will give an entire apartment house to any tenants who become parents of quintuplets. That risk is covered by a \$5-a-year insurance policy. "I don't see why apartment house owners should discriminate against babies," he declares. "If everybody did that, America wouldn't have any babies."

The speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington has ordered that the official record of debates shall not include the parenthetical mention of "applause" and "loud applause." Such noises, he has ruled, are not part of the proceedings. His opinion is that consistently held by our own Official Record, commonly known as Hansard, and that brings us to the peculiar, the possibly unique, occurrence that has occasioned the decision of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, says the London Times. A Representative complained that the report had credited him with winning applause when there was no applause. The opposite objection would have surprised no one—no Parliamentary reporter or newspaper editor, at any rate in our own country, where now and then this or that member has "shown himself conscientiously eager to see that his constituents shall miss no thrill of the effect of his words on an enthusiastic House. Parliament itself has now and then been exercised about the difficulty of deciding whether the records—in Hansard of the Press—should give (in their correct English) precisely what the member did say, or whether he should be allowed to substitute what he meant to say, or wished he had said, or thought he remembered having said. But it must be very seldom that any report is blamed for overdoing the applause. Perhaps the Representative, like "this quiet Mr. Brown" of Bret Hart's, was being sarcastic and was naturally annoyed at least taken in earnest.

Rome Cabinet Minister advises the people to think of the war in terms of ten years. That's a different story to the propaganda about the quick clean-up, when Italy stabbed France in the back.—St. Catharines Standard.

We don't mind merchants redecorating our car with advertising bills while it is parked on the back street, because it is really no trouble to toss the bills away as we climb into the car. But we wish they would place those small white blotters under the windshield wiper. It always gives us a nervous shock whenever we see one against the windshield of the puddle-jumper. That's just what those advertising blotters look just like department parking tickets.—St. Thomas Times Journal.

Singapore authorities learnt that a certain Japanese was trying to snop out the hiding places of large British aircraft reserves. Instead of arresting him, they drew a gaudy herring across his trail: That hangars were being used which could be sunk 50 feet under water by a large lift made in Birmingham. Tokyo swallowed the herring hook, line and sinker.—London Sunday Chronicle.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We did not get to hear about the Avia ... rise until it was all over. It might be a fair question to ask the government why many other pilots have been closed by like occurrences, on which the censorship has not yet been lifted.—Woodstock Sentinel.

A daily paper tells of a woman on her way to jail to "boil out her husband." We don't know whether the word should have been "bail" or "baw"—Chester Enterprise.

An acre of soil on typical farm land contains an estimated one and one-half tons of potash salts in some gardens where the ratio is much higher.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

If we do not win this war—and we are a long way from winning it yet—then it will not make much difference whether a man belongs to a union or not. The things we have at stake; our property, homes, jobs, freedom of action and all else. If we are going to knock off work meantime we are inviting disaster; yes, asking for it. It is a simple case of finding out what kind of citizens we have. If Ottawa has actually taken over the direction of the war in the Dominion, and it has, then we look to Ottawa to see that men in war plants keep on working.—Peterborough Examiner.

If the Ontario Liquor Control Commission makes it obligatory that grapes be used in the manufacture of wine, the will cavil at the permit granted to increase the price of grapes from \$40 to \$50 per ton. There were some hemicidal concoctions on the market last year labelled wine in which the liquor was of grapes was said to be absent.—Renfrew Mercury.

The kind of logic by which members of the American Fifth Committee seek to give themselves courage in their losing fight against the national policy can be illustrated thus: All dogs have tails. A cat has a tail. Therefore a cat is a dog. The way American Fifthers put it is: Eighty per cent of the people are opposed to war. Therefore America First represents 80 per cent of the people. The truth is as shown by the polls that while 80 per cent of the people are opposed to going to war, only 20 per cent, nearly 80 per cent are supporting the administration's foreign policy, obviously on the ground that the administration will not let us get into war unnecessarily.—Chicago Daily News.

A soldier on the march felt something in his boot. His toe became painful and he was limping badly by the time he got back to camp. He took out his boot and sock to bathe his blistered foot and found lodged in the toe of the sock a pellet of paper, on which was written: "God bless the soldier who wears the sock!"—Montreal Gazette.

The horse and trap are coming back into fashion. Just lately in parts of the country, and particularly in the Leamington district, I have seen some smart traps, and one local horse-brake seems to be particularly busy these days. In the town and country, and in one rural area city evacuees are having the unusual experience of taking a ride to school in a government car. At the moment we can still take a taxi from the station in most Warwickshire towns, but it is only a few years since we saw the return of the old horse-drawn cabs outside Leamington station. But even in this petrol age there are many who would like to see the return of the old Victorias in which they could drive through the streets of the Spa town net so many years ago.—Coventry Daily Telegraph.

If there is scarcity of some food-stuffs in towns where the population remains more or less normal, the difficulties will be greatly enhanced in reception areas. Evacuees moving into new homes are usually without any resources of stored food that many households try to maintain against emergencies and temporary scarcities and their arrival in a town must inevitably make abnormal demands on shopkeepers who still have the needs of their own customers to meet. Lord Wolton has not been long in implementing his promise to do what he can to improve distribution, but he might usefully examine the machinery provided to enable the Division Food Controller to be permitted to adjust the flow of supplies in their areas to meet the needs of movements of population and to ensure that such adjustment can be made as expeditiously as the circumstances warrant.—Glasgow Herald.

More than 37,000 telephones were left "off the hook" in Montreal during 1940, reports the Bell Telephone Company. As the number included many on party lines it is evident that the good neighbor policy is not practised by the telephone users in question.—Montreal Gazette.

Our American cousins who have looked on Canada as "Our Last of the Snows" and a land shrouded in deep in snow and covered with glaciers are slowly recovering from sunburn after their first visit here.—Sarnia Canadian Observer.

Rome Cabinet Minister advises the people to think of the war in terms of ten years. That's a different story to the propaganda about the quick clean-up, when Italy stabbed France in the back.—St. Catharines Standard.

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War Without Romance

One fact the very young generation may not realize when it reads its war news. That is that it has had the good luck, whatever else in the way of bad luck, it may have had, to be born and reared at a time when military glory has no meaning except for those who are in madhouses or ought to be there. Even Mr. Hitler can't make his spoiled public delight in bloody victories. From 1938, when war threatened, down to the last dispatches from Berlin it has not been possible even for the dictator and his skillful liars to convince any one that the German people are glad to have their sons wounded or killed for Hitler's sake, or wouldn't be glad of any peace that would leave them enough to eat and keep their families from starving. We don't know much about the interior of Germany, but we do know that much.

In Britain the war has been from the beginning a necessary chore. It has been a hard job done under dangerous conditions and therefore invoking an admirable fortitude and heroism, but not a form of life that any one would willingly choose. In this country there has been what is, after all, a natural divergence between the acceptance of policies that require force to make them effective and the acceptance of war itself. It is safe to say that there is not one individual who believes in full aid to Britain because he likes the excitement of the war menace or because he loves war itself.

The glory has departed. Mussolini had more than two decades, but that for any further acts of insubordination hostages will be shot by the Nazi authorities in "occupied France." From August 23, this order announces, all French held in state arrest by the German authorities in France or arrested for them will be held as hostages. In carrying out a new criminal act, a number of hostages corresponding to the gravity of the act will be shot.

Getting even with one alleged offender by shooting an arbitrary number of other persons who, being in prison, cannot possibly be parties to the act complained of, is about as yellow a patch as the Nazi pattern of vindictive enforcement of law and order" contains. Nevertheless there are precedents, although more than 1,000 years old, in the sometimes unreadable chronicles of the military barbarities of the savages from whom these modern Hunns are descended. Many a city was razed and its people murdered or sold into slavery by the Teuton hordes in the dark ages, because of the resistance to their vandalism evoked from heroic patriots. Hitler's gangster rule is a necessity for the extinction of the odious system Hitler is endeavoring to impose on the world. While the barbarous war lasts there can be no isolationists among red-blooded men in any country.

An Oasis of Liberty

(Hamilton Spectator) Earlier in the month a picturesque ceremony took place on that beautiful green meadow perched on the banks of Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, where, six hundred and fifty years ago, the representatives of the cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden raised the banner of revolt against their Austrian overlords. Every year since then the great national festival has been enthusiastically celebrated. A big bonfire is started at the hour of midnight and the mountain patriots come to kinle their torches and march in procession through the sacred precincts. Surrounded by warring nations, the brave little republic has contrived to preserve its democratic privileges inviolate. Day bloody warfare rages throughout Europe, but Switzerland is not involved. She stands aloof, being in a position to offer stubborn resistance to any aggressor. Ideally situated topographically for defence, she is capable of nothing but pastoral tasks. She has a million well-trained men in the field with another 750,000 in reserve. Here is a significant fact about these Swiss troops. Just recently the government demobilized some three hundred thousand of them, sending them into the field to gather the harvests. This would not have been done if the situation on the borders was regarded as menacing. Germany is proceeding elsewhere at present, and Italy no longer counts; so the peace-loving natives go quietly about their pastoral tasks. Should the challenge come, however, they may be depended upon to meet it valiantly and effectively, as did their forefathers of old. Switzerland is a land of harmony, a paradise of natural beauty. But Hitler would not spare it on that

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR
We are determined on the destruction of Hitler and his regime and all it stands for. For we know that until this is achieved, no foundation will exist whereon lasting peace can be built.—Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary.

account, if it suited his evil purpose to attempt to bring it into his selfish "new order." May the country be preserved from the horrors of the blitzkrieg and enabled to continue uninteruptedly its independence festivities from year to year! Switzerland survives as an example of what men of high purpose and courageous resolve can accomplish. Sooner or later, tyranny must succumb to ideals of human justice and freedom. The gallant little republic stands as an enduring emblem of men's noblest aspirations and of the power of the sacrificial spirit in achieving them.

A Throw Back

(Exchange) A "high German officer" having been assassinated in Paris, a German military order decrees that "for any further acts of insubordination hostages will be shot" by the Nazi authorities in "occupied France." From August 23, this order announces, all French held in state arrest by the German authorities in France or arrested for them will be held as hostages. In carrying out a new criminal act, a number of hostages corresponding to the gravity of the act will be shot.

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