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

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1941.

Extra Wicket Needed

Some arrangement should be made at the Charlottetown Post Office to give faster service to the large number of citizens who must stand in line at the money order wickets awaiting their turn. Unemployment insurance and war savings stamps which are handled by the Post Office have put an added strain on the present facilities, and delays have caused much annoyance. In view of the amount of work that has cheerfully been undertaken by employers to assist in these necessary steps of government financing and social security, this bottleneck should be eliminated.

Russians Fighting Grimly

All that is clear from the conflicting accounts of the war in Russia is that it is of staggering proportions, with both sides claiming to have inflicted tremendous losses on their opponents. According to Russian sources, the Germans have lost almost a million men in killed and wounded, and their mechanized forces have been checked all along the front. The Germans claim to have penetrated the Stalin line at several points. Turkish advices indicate that the Soviet Government has already made preparations to move from Moscow to Sverdlovsk, fromerly known as Ekaterinburg, a name familiar to the world as the scene of the exile and assassination of Czar Nicholas II and his family. Apparently the Russian Government had realized that the western industrial centres of Russia were vulnerable to attack, and had established a great industrial and munitions centre at Sverdlovsk, which would guarantee a continuous flow of military supplies to the Russian forces should they withdraw from Western Russia and draw the Germans sixteen hundred miles east of Moscow into the Ural Mountains. No doubt the Germans relied on making such speed as to cut off all hope of a Russian retreat by destroying communications behind the Soviet lines and attacking Soviet forces from the front and rear. But they do not themselves claim to have achieved this result.

In the meantime, the R. A. F. is taking every advantage of the war on Germany's eastern front by intensified bombing raids over Germany and German occupied territory in western Europe. Latest dispatches describe the tremendous havoc wrought by the new bombs which the British fliers are using. But this is only preparatory to taking the offensive. If the Russians can hold out and engage the major Nazi forces in a long-drawn struggle, it will give the Allies their opportunity for a land invasion, and perhaps of administering a knockout blow on the western front. The hour of destiny may be nearer than we think. Highly significant in this connection was the recent statement of the United States Secretary of the Navy, publicly urging that the maritime power of the United States be thrown into the scales immediately to offset the menace of German submarines, raiders and aircraft operating in the Atlantic, so that the tools can be got to Britain now, while she can make the most effective use of them.

Picture Theatre Receipts

The increase in the national income of Canada last year, accompanying the stimulation of business activity by the war, has been reflected in the patronage and receipts of the motion picture theatres. The number of admissions has increased throughout the Dominion by nine per cent, while the total receipts have risen by eleven per cent. There was a moderate increase in the number of motion picture houses. In Halifax, Nova Scotia, to which the war has brought a marked increase in population, the admissions rose by 38 per cent and the receipts by 48 per cent. For the Dominion as a whole the motion picture receipts were the second highest on record. Total receipts of the motion picture theatres of Canada in 1940, according to a preliminary report, amounted to $37,589,000. In the previous year the total receipts were $34,010,000. The highest receipts were recorded in the decennial census for 1930, when they amounted to $38,479,500. The number of motion picture houses in the Dominion rose from 1,186 in 1939 to 1,226 last year. The total number of admissions increased from 138,497,000 to 150,812,000. The returns as to receipts are exclusive of provincial amusement taxes. Ontario led the nine provinces of Canada last year in the revenues received by motion picture theatres, with Quebec second and British Columbia third. Receipts in Ontario increased from $15,248,000 in 1939 to $17,331,000 in 1940; in Quebec from $7,033,000 to $7,473,000; and in British Columbia from $3,742,000 to $3,962,000. The receipts increased in all provinces except Alberta, where there was a decline from $2,014,000 to $2,001,000. In Prince Edward Island receipts rose from $112,200 to $114,600; Nova Scotia from $1,420,000 to $1,828,000; New Brunswick from $826,000 to $987,000; Manitoba from $2,182,000 to $2,314,000; and Saskatchewan from $1,434,000 to $1,577,000.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

It is a pity both the Nazis and the Soviets have so many millions of men to fall back on, otherwise the daily losses reported would speedily end in attrition.

* * * *

Isn't it too bad the Provincial Government should imply that their policy is reducing us to the status of "serfs". At least that is what we gather from a tourist who writes us from Moncton enclosing a tourist pamphlet announcing "here then is *Serf*". Of course, we presume it is a misprint for "surf", but the joke is on the Government.

* * * *

The difference. In Camden, N. J. Federal Court, Isador S. Worth, former Assistant U.S.A. Attorney-General was being tried on charges of tampering with the jury. He called a group of 30 witnesses including prominent business and professional men, who testified that Mr. Worth's reputation for honesty and integrity "was of the highest". "Yes," commented Judge Albert B. Maris, "that's past reputation—what we are now investigating is present character."

* * * *

Mr. J. D. Rockfeller, American millionaire, born this date, 1839. He, with his brother William, Samuel Andrews, Henry M. Flagler, and Stephen V. Harkness, formed the first great "trust", the Standard Oil Co., the forerunner of many great monopolies which have restricted competition and multiplied millionaires. In addition to his business activities he showed much interest in educational, medical and charitable affairs, founded and endowed the University of Chicago, the Rockfeller Institute for Medical Research, the Rockfeller Foundation for promoting the welfare of mankind.

* * * *

Every State in the Union, except Delaware and New Hampshire, shares in the production of limestone, the U.S.A. Mining Bureau's report shows. In one year these States quarried about 139,000,000 tons of the rock, or 75 per cent of the quantity of all kinds of stone sold or used during that year. Although limestone is primarily used for road material, for railroad ballast and for other construction purposes, the Bureau states that it is of utmost importance to many manufacturing and chemical industries which play an essential role in the national defense program. More than 25,000,000 tons of this rock are used annually in the processing or manufacture of iron, steel, glass, paper, sugar, alkali calcium carbide, refractory brick and mineral wool.

* * * *

Two hundred million pounds, or about $800,000,000 at the present rate of exchange, is the estimated value of the approximately one square mile area that constitutes the City of London, in which is the great financial district. Experts are studying a suggestion that now is the time for the City Corporation to purchase the entire territory for about that sum. "The City, now extensively laid waste by Nazi bombs, occupies 673 acres, with a rateable value of £8,300,000," writes the financial editor of The London Daily Mail. "It will have to be largely rebuilt after the war. The men who are discussing its future maintain that its purchase by the corporation would provide the finest opportunity for rebuilding on a worth-while scale since the great fire of 1666."

* * * *

A Toronto Italian millionaire contractor, James Franceschini who was interned at Petawawa as an enemy alien, has been released. The release has caused much comment, and the Montreal Gazette sums up the situation thus: "The case is not an ordinary one and there exists, unquestionably, a great deal of public curiosity in regard to it, a curiosity arising from gossip which may or may not be based upon fact. This gossip is doing the Government no good. The Department of Justice has in its possession a report from Mr. Justice Hyndman who went into all the facts and circumstances and whose findings, we may be sure, were not influenced by domestic political considerations of any kind. The Government would be pursuing a wise course in making known the substance of that report, or even the report in its entirety. The Minister of Justice should take it upon himself to prove to the public that Canadian justice has not faltered in this instance, either in the original interment or in the recent release of Franceschini. The man is said to be broken in health and it will be an exceedingly serious thing if through any judicial miscarriage his condition has been aggravated, perhaps beyond remedy. It is not the reputation of James Franceschini that is at stake, but the reputation of Canada."

* * * *

When we recall the sacrifice made of Charlottetown Wharf improvements in the interest of war economy it makes our blood boil to read extracts like this from debates in Parliament: —

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: As respects the Canadian National's terminal in Montreal, not much need be said. I do not think the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) should be quite so sure that the expenditures are within the $12,000,000 estimate.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand: Oh, yes.

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: No. The expenditures are far beyond this, even on my honourable friend's own figures. He gave figures of over $16,000,000, which included upkeep of the property during the period when nothing was going on; that is, from and after 1931.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand: Yes.

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: First of all, I do not know why so much money was needed to maintain a hole. For it was nothing but a hole.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand: There was much more than that. There had been $17,000,000 expended.

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: Not on construction.

Hon. Mr. Dandurand: Yes, partly on construction.

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: I saw it. It did not amount to much.

Hon. Mr. Moraud: It was mostly for expropriations.

Right Hon. Mr. Meighen: It was a hole, a ghastly hole. I cannot see why so much money was needed to look after a hole,

NOTES BY THE WAY

Where is that "Yankee inventiveness?" We'll get nowhere by tooling up to produce the weapons that others used last year. — Buffalo News.

Said Mr. De Valera to the Australian premier during the latter's visit to Dublin: "You'll have a little refreshment before we talk?" "Thanks", replied Mr. Menzies. "I'd like a drop of old Irish". "That's a relief", said his host, "I was half afraid you would ask for one of our old ports."—Manchester Guardian.

Britain, we may be sure, will have to forget past friendships when and if the French collaboration with Hitler finds expression in overt act. The United States, committed to the policy of all-out aid to Britain, may also be forced by the new trend of events to list France among the allies of Germany. — Baltimore Sun.

Every kind of pressure has been placed on the French public in the hope of forcing it to acquiesce in, if not welcome, the policy of accepting a niche in the "New Order." But neither hunger nor the peculiarly cruel form of blackmail which employs the two million French prisoners in Germany as hostages has moved French opinion to abandon hope of a final democratic victory. — New York Nation.

Rhode Island is the most congested of all forty-eight states and it has the lowest rates of fatal accidents. Nevada is the most thinly populated of the states and has the highest accident rate. Nevada has nearly 800 acres for every inhabitant to romp around in, just about the size of Central Park. Rhode Island can spare only one acre to a person, something like half a New York City block. Yet Nevada has four times as many accidents per head of the population as Rhode Island. This is startlingly different from what one would expect. — New York Times.

What has been accomplished by the salvage campaign may be realized from the fact that during 1940 British housewives saved enough scrap metal from their dust bins to build an armada of 16,000 tanks, enough kitchen scraps to maintain an army of pigs many thousands strong, enough paper to fill 100,000 heavy lorries. In all, their efforts have saved the equivalent of 100 ships' cargoes from abroad — ships which have been diverted instead to carrying other vital supplies. — Bulletins from Britain.

If, in the words of the Prime Minister, "Hitler should batter his way to the gates of India", the fighting men of India will give him a fitting reception. Here in England the policy of the Government of offering Indians of all parties the fullest share in the war effort, while making constitutional changes dependent on the support of the leading political elements in India, deserves every support. It is desirable that final decision should await victory. For when the whole energies of both Britain and India are devoted to the clash of arms, it is impossible in either country to devote to the complex political problems of India the care and attention which are their just due. — J. C. French in The National Review (London).

Three or four weeks ago, we learn from London exchanges, a group of newspapermen concerned with British air activity were given a pleasant surprise party. They were called to the office of Lord Beaverbrook, served a luncheon, and given a real inside chat on the state of the nation's air progress. As told by Noel Monks in World's Press News, a precedent was set when Beaverbrook walked into the "lion's den" unattended by the fleet of stooges who customarily shush Cabinet Ministers who might be tempted to indiscreet disclosures. The Minister for Aircraft Production talked for 15 minutes off the record, then for a similar period for publication. It seems to be the same technique which has worked so satisfactorily for Mr. Roosevelt during the past nine years. There are few others in Washington who are similarly at ease with the newspapermen, and according to Mr. Monks, there seems to have been none in London until Beaverbrook cut his way through precedent. We suggest that the idea be extended on both sides of the Atlantic. — Editor and Publisher (New York).

Londoners who travel on suburban trains are now well accustomed to women porters. And the women parters are beginning to be accustomed to themselves in their new role. My own suburban station master reports in glowing terms on their efficiency and activity. Of course they are somewhat highly tried in two emergencies. One, when some unlucky traveller arrives with an assortment of heavy luggage. Two, when calling out the destination stations of an incoming train. The spectacle of a grizzled army colonel, with umpteen monstrous hold-alls, when confronted by a five-foot-four brunette portress is something worth studying. Equally so that of a new-pipped subaltern, with his army gear heaped around, when the porter turns out to be a slim blonde with purpled nails. Of course, as to the announcing of stations, sopranos are at a distinct disadvantage compared with contraltos. What tickles one most, however, is the comic way the portresses pick up the genuine professional porter manner of stalking down a platform or swinging a lamp.—Ottawa Journal.

Hunters, fishermen and vacationists continue their careless practices, annually destroying as much forest as the state can plant. In Maine, apparently, the Government's patience with this appalling and unnecessary waste has been exhausted. Anyone who goes into the Maine woods—no matter how experienced he may be—must confine his use of fire to designated camping places where escape of the flames is nearly impossible; of, if he plans to strike matches outside these spots, he must be accompanied by a hired professional guide. A violation of these laws entails a pretence so stiff that few men ever venture to offend a second time. This seems a severe curtailment of the roving American's right to enjoy himself as he pleases in Nature's domain. But when men, prove unfit for liberty it is eventually taken from them. We hear of very few forest fires in Maine.—Detroit News.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"Under our voluntary system of recruiting, a grave responsibility rests with the individual. Accept that responsibility,and come forward for enlistment now."—Lt Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Commander of Canada's army overseas.

London The Logical Place

(Toronto Globe and Mail)

Thousands of Canadians will be disappointed by the remarks of their Prime Minister at Calgary concerning the proposal that he should confer in London with Mr. Churchill and the Prime Ministers of the other Dominions. We believe virtually all the people of Canada would have liked Mr. King to have said: "Mr. Churchill, having indicated that he very much desires such a conference, I will go by the quickest route." Had he taken that attitude, the Prime Minister of Canada would have delighted Liberals, Conservatives and Independents alike.

Mr. King himself admits that a conference may be helpful: I have, of course, fully hoped that the moment might come when it would be of advantage to Canada, to Britain and the common cause, for me as Prime Minister of Canada, to join in conference in London with other Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth. When the right moment comes, I shall not hesitate to cross the Atlantic for purposes of conference when that can be jointly arranged."

But Mr. King professes to fear his departure would promote disunity, and says "I myself must be the judge of what, in the light of my responsibility to the Canadian people as a whole, is a time which will permit of my absence from Canada, while Canada is at war. This is a responsibility that cannot be shared or placed upon other shoulders."

We do not share the view that Mr. King's absence from Canada would rend the country in twain. Mr. Churchill told the British House of Commons: "We very much desire a conference of Empire Prime Ministers, and had hoped the end of July or the beginning of August might have been a suitable occasion." In view of this Mr. King should have dropped all domestic engagements and said "Ready, Aye ready!"

There is no evidence that the Calgary meeting was completely hostile to Mr. King. According to our staff correspondent, there were audible cries of disapproval on at least two occasions largely from one section of the grand stand. When Mr. King arrived at the stadium and before he alighted from his motor there were cries of "We want conscription." But there was no demonstration to interrupt his speech, and sustained applause was heard at the termination of his remarks. The anonymous demand for conscription might have carried more weight had its sponsors revealed their identity.

The Prime Minister will learn more about the temper and sentiment of the Canadian people by leaving the sycophants and the cloisters of Ottawa and touring the country. He can obviously speak with real authority upon the details of the Canadian war effort only if he makes a meticulous examination of every phase of it But such a task would occupy a long time, and in this war of rapid movement the enemy will not wait while he spends three weeks for an inspection of Western Canada and like periods in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. He surely does not propose to speak with more accurate authority upon one section than another. If he carries out his intention of seeing all our war effort with his own eyes, it will be September before he can reach Britain. By that time the Germans may be in control of the Ukraine and the Caucasus and Japan may have been added to our foes.

Had Mr. King put first things first, he would have gone to Britain before embarking upon a tour of Canada. In London he could learn at first hand how this country can best help to forestall the enemy. He would then be in a position to rally and mobilize all the resources of Canada. As the chosen servant of the people he ought not to question the good faith of those who want him to go to England. He ought not to harbor the suspicion that there is a political intrigue to get him out of the country, but should count it a high privilege to confer face to face with the Empire's great war leader. Mr. Churchill and the leaders of sister Dominions with whom we stand or fall.

The Poets' Corner

A LINNET

Upon this leafy bush
With thorns and roses in it,
Flutters a thing of light,
A twittering linnet.
And all the throbbing world
Of dew and sun and air
By this small parcel of life
Is made more fair;
As if each bramble-spray
And mounded gold-wreathed furze,
Harebell and little thyme,
Were only hers;
As if this beauty and grace
Did to one bird belong.
And, as a flutter of wing,
Might vanish in song.

—Walter de la Mare.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

WHY THE INACTION

Sir,—There are in this Province families which have been existing for a number of years on a mere pittance of unemployment relief, because the family breadwinner has been ill with T.B.

During the 1940 session of the Legislature, the government was urged to make adequate provision for those families. But their only action was to appoint a committee to investigate the matter and to make recommendations at the 1941 session.

This investigation was not conducted. However public opinion, through many societies, demanded action at the 1941 session. The government responded to these demands and the Legislature unanimously agreed to the expenditure of $7000.00 for this purpose, for the balance of the year. This amount would warrant much needed increases in allowance to those needy families.

But it is now more than four months since this money has been voted, and I understand that there have been no increases made in any allowance, and that the recommendations for increases made by competent health and social officials have been ignored by the government

I suggest that the public again demonstrate, as they did last February, that they will not tolerate delay and deceit by the government instead of promised action.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HUMANITARIAN

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PROF ANGUS GETS APPOINTMENT

OTTAWA, July 7 — (CP) — Appointment of Prof. Henry F. Angus, head of the Department of Economics and political science at the University of British Columbia, as special assistant to the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs was announced today. Mr. Angus recently was a member of the Rowell-Sirois Commission which inquired into Dominion Provincial relations. Mr. Angus will be the liaison officer for the department on the joint economic committees recently established by the Canadian and United States governments.

First meeting of the committee will be July 14 in Washington for organization purposes.

SWAMPED METEOR

Site of a giant meteorite which hit Siberia in 1908 is located but swampland prevents successful drilling for it.

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