THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1942.

Nurses Go To Church

One of the most deserving organizations in the community, second only to the Red Cross, is the Provincial Nurses' Association, which looks after the interests and welfare of that not inconsiderable body of self-sacrificing women, graduate nurses, who, in turn, attend to the interests and welfare of suffering humanity in our midst. The Provincial Association is linked up with the Canadian Association, and, with it, will participate in the celebration next week of Nurses Rededication Week. The celebratoin will begin on Sunday next with Vesper Services in the chapel of the Charlottetown Hospital for the Catholic members of the profession, and in St. James Church for the Protestant nurses. The service in Summerside will be held on the following Sunday. Those participating in these Rededication services will include the Overseas Nurses and V. A. D. of the last War, all graduate nurses and nurses in training at the different hospitals, including Falconwood, and the Nursing Sisters of the Red Cross. These women will, for the most part, attend the service in their uniforms, and should make a pleasing as well as a reverent spectacle in their respective places of worship.

Tuesday, May 12, is the anniversary of the birth of the "Lady with the Lamp," Florence Nightingale, and it is fitting that the celebration should annually be held at this time. From the Atlantic to the Pacific Nurses' Week will be held, and the opportunity taken to draw attention to the incomparable service women render in peace and war in entering upon and remaining, in this profession of love and healing. It will be recalled that Florence Nightingale's soubriquet was bestowed by the war correspondent of The Times, London, in a letter after leaving Scutari in the Russian War: "When all the Medical Officers have retired for the night, and silence and darkness have settled down upon those miles of prostrate sick," he wrote, "'She (Florence Nightingale) may be observed alone, with a little lamp in her hand, making her solitary rounds." Longfellow immortalized the phrase thus:

"A Lady with a Lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land,
A noble type of good,
Heroic Womanhood."

It is well in this time of stress that the nurses should be given the place of honor to which they are richly entitled, and that the people at large should join them in their acts of worship and rededication which will mark the celebrations here between May 10 and 18.

A Hamstrung Committee

What is the value to the taxpayers of the special War Services Committee set up at the last session of Parliament to examine into expenditures incurred in services directly connected with the War? The Committee, preponderantly Liberal, has presented a number of more or less innocuous reports, and Government members and supporters, from the Prime Minister down, profess to be quite satisfied with the results. Not so the members of the Opposition. They maintain, with a good show of reason, that the work of the Committee has been so circumscribed as to nullify all its value as a guarantee that war revenues are being spent to the greatest advantage. For example it is complained that the Committee, though empowered to investigate contracts in the Department of Munitions and Supply, only does so behind closed doors, and, having investigated, reports nothing but economies consistent with government policy. Any facts it unearths it is apparently not permitted to discuss, or even divulge.

When objection was taken in Parliament the other day to the secrecy of the Committee's proceedings, Hon. Mr. Thorson replied that it "did not sit *in camera* for the purpose of hiding anything; it sat *in camera* for the purpose of finding things out." Yet it was Mr. Thorson who objected, not long ago, to a member repeating in the House of Commons a statement of fact made before the Committee which, Mr. Thorson claimed, "must be regarded as privileged" inasmuch as the Committee was not sitting in public.

Mr. Thorson further maintained that it was better to have the sittings *in camera* because the members "will give more direct and more concentrated attention to the subject that is at hand than they would if the sittings were in the open with the press present. There will be fewer speeches made by members; there will be fewer efforts made to catch the head-lines." This argument would apply with equal force to the abolition of Parliament altogether and the substitution of a Star Chamber. It throws a revealing light on the attitude of the man who was himself chairman of the War Expenditures Committee before being taken into the Cabinet as Minister of National War Services.

Even if the Committee had a free hand in its inquiries, and full freedom to report the results, it would still be hamstrung by its political makeup and the immensity of the task confronting it. Previously it used to receive, each month, a record of contracts awarded; they were listed in a big book of about 500 pages, and the information was about five months old. Now the Government, "by international agreement," has undertaken not to publish any more lists of contracts, and only the files of the Department are open to the hapless Committee members. The situation was thus summed up by the member from Yorkton (Mr. Castleden): "I believe at the present time our contracts probably number about half a million. If the Committee were to spend fifteen minutes on each contract, which it won't; and if it were to work ten hours a day, which it won't; and if it were to work 300 days in the year, which it won't, it would take the Committee forty years to get through the contracts. The Government had better put some young members on the committee!"

Actual aggregate time spent in work by the Committee since its inception, according to the computation of another hon. member, Mr. Diefenbaker,—280 hours!

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Will Laval reap the fruits of his treachery, or will *la grande nation* repudiate him? Madagascar is a testing ground.

* * *

The scarcity of oil is due, as was anticipated long ago, to the difficulties and risks involved in getting it by tankers to its destination.

* * * *

Red Cross collectors and subscribers are exhibiting wonderful enthusiasm—each for all and all for each—in this drive.

* * * *

Sunday evening will see parades of nurses to dedication and rededication services in the city in uniforms.

". . . . fresher than the morning rose,
When the dew wets its leaves; unstained and pure
As is the lily or the mountain-snow."

* * * *

In spite of wartime restrictions and deprivations there is money still for some kind of luxuries in London. A butterfly collector paid £49 ($220.50) for one of a collection of 400 freaks put up for sale at a London auction. It was a completely white butterfly of a kin normally marbled white.

* * * *

It will be noted that Mr. L. D. Murray, Secretary of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has retired from that position on reaching the age limit. It will be good news to his many friends here to know that he and Mrs. Murray intend coming to Charlottetown next month to take up their residence.

* * *

You are lucky if you have not to buy an electric range these days. The United States War Production Board recently froze all stocks of domestic electric ranges in the hands of manufacturers, distributors and retail dealers. The order prohibits production of such stoves after June 1, except to fill top military priority ratings.

* * * *

In the U. S. A. correspondents writing to people in the Philippine Islands, used to address the envelopes "P. I."—"Manila P. I." for instance. This not infrequently led to confusion, letters addressed to places in "P. E. I." being missent to the distant east. Hope the enemies will not make similar mistake vice versa, with planes and howitzers.

* * * *

Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, theosophist, died this date 1891; claimed to have been initiated into esoteric Buddhism, and to have the power of communicating with the unseen world; converted Colonel Olcott of the U. S. A. to her views, and with him and others she founded the Theosophic Society in 1875; it had a great vogue for a number of years until 1884, when the Society for Psychical Research exposed Madame Blavatsky for trickery.

* * * *

Reports from the potato areas indicate that New Brunswick tubers have enjoyed a steady market during the winter months and that growers have received a fair return. Potato prices in New Brunswick have been abnormally low for several years prior to the war and the industry suffered other setbacks as well as loss of markets. While it is too early yet to make any forcasts of the 1942 crop it is anticipated that there will be some increase in the acreage planted this spring.

* * * *

Experience is teaching war time officialdom —retailers of men's clothing are now permitted to deliver ready-to-wear suits and odd trousers to purchasers without having to finish the bottoms of the trousers. The purchaser may have the bottoms finished at the required length outside the store where the pants were sold, but any alterations made on suit or trousers must be in accordance with men's clothing style regulations. Before this announcement, no retailer was permitted to allow suits or trousers to leave a shop in an unfinished condition, that is without cutting off the cuff length and hemming the bottom of the pant legs.

* * * *

The Saint John Telegraph Journal has reverted to the philosophic editorial which the late Mr. J. E. B. McCready popularized when he edited the Telegraph. One pearl of wisdom bequeathed us by that urbane philosopher, David Harum, it moralizes, reminds us that a moderate number of fleas are good for a dog; they stop him brooding on being a dog. So a moderate number of inconveniences and deprivations — some may call them privations—will prevent our brooding over being at war. It is generally when we are too comfortably at war that we complain most and criticize our leaders for leading or for not leading or whatnot. Of course, a moderate amount of criticism is good for leaders also, because they must not be given time to brood over being leaders, and anyway a healthy grumble clears the air. If we can retain our sense of proportion and humor, inability to buy everything we have been used to buying and do everything we have been accustomed to do will help us rather than hurt us

NOTES BY THE WAY

The implications of the detested phrase "There's a war on" are responsible for turning many a necessity into a luxury. The latest example of this type of casualty is men's braces, which are increasingly difficult to buy. This difficulty will not, of course, worry our allies in the United States, who are so devoted to the belt, the devilish device for compressing the waistline, that their trousers are not only cut level round the top but often have no "suspender" buttons either. It was not always so. In the brave old peaceful days when Mark Twain loomed large on the literary horizon the great humorist mentioned as his idea of real luxury "a pair of braces for every pair of trousers." Many an Englishman would echo that aspiration; but now, to have a single pair on the active list which can be swapped from trousers to trousers at need is almost to be lapped in luxury—or, at any rate, it soon will be. — Manchester Guardian.

The President was so buoyant at his last two press conferences that there was widespread comment about it among Washington correspondents. He had an air of sustained cheerfulness, with no undertone of irritation. The President looked well, too. Ever since Pearl Harbor the President has borne up magnificently, but there were many weeks when he was obviously fatigued. At the insistence of his physician and others in the White House circle he cut down on his night work, and gradually got back into good physical condition. But the high spirits of other days were missing from many of his press conferences. In view of the run of bad news from the Pacific, and off the Atlantic shore of the Western Hemisphere, this caused no comment. But last week the President's meetings with the press infected many, perhaps all, of the newspapermen with a feeling of optimism. It was less what he said than his manner and appearance. — Ernest Lindley writes from Washington for the Minneapolish Star Journal.

The death of the Duke of Atholl has brought reminders of the more magnificent side of life in that family, its private army and so forth, its refusal of Balkan kingships, and its ancient ownership of the Isle of Man. But there was a much simpler side to its history, as is exemplified by a story told by Lord Malmesbury of an agricultural show on July 2, 1862. The published "Diary" entry for that date has two items: eight lines about the Battersea Agricultural Show and a line and a half about the American Civil War. Here is the Agricultural Show entry: "The Duke of Atholl has a beautiful cow exhibited at the Battersea Agricultural Show. The dairymaid who has the care of the cow appears in a sort of costume, very becoming, and is, of course, much admired by gentlemen. The Duke attended upon her and the cow, bringing hay and water for the latter. One day he and the dairymaid sat together on a bundle of straw eating sandwiches, and she and the cow were the admiration of society." — Manchester Guardian.

In the existing tobacco shortage a retailer in the main shopping street of a Black Country town gives notice that supplies will be on sale at certain stated times. This usually results in a queue, mostly of women intent on getting a "whack" for their men. Recently there was a crowd on the pavement outside the shop, regulated by a policeman, who had been told by the dealer that the supply of cigarettes being short he was only serving men. This information was duly imparted, and expressing disgust, most of the women moved away, but one strapping virago stood her ground. "I'm a-goin' to ha' my fakes," she shouted. "Come on; don't be awkward," remonstrated the friendly policeman. "Yo' heard. He's on'y got enough for the men." "I do' care for 'im or yo're blinkin' buttons," the woman declared defiantly, "I'm a-goin' to ha' my fakes; an' I'll tell yer wot. If yo'll goo an' do my job I'll buy yo' a perishin' packet." "Oh, all right," replied the policeman, never blinking. "And what's your job?" I'm loadin pig iron at the railway yard." "Awright: yo' win', said he, with arm extended. "Pass along!"—Birmingham Post.

Now a word or two about these "suggestions" for keeping blades sharp by using glassware as hones. A lot of men are too sceptical to even put the recommendation to a test. But it does work. Even the master barber admits that it does, and so do many shavers who agree that another ten or fifteen close shaves can easily be obtained by this method, even by those who were won't to discard their blades after the third and fourth shave. Simply get a smooth glass tumbler; place the blade, single or double edge, lengthwise inside the glass, which can be either wet or dry. Some shavers suggest that the blade be moved sideways; but the barbar favors a semi-circular movement with the forefinger resting on the blade. A dozen strokes are enough, as these straighten the feather edge and restore the blade's original keenness. — Hamilton Spectator.

Earlier in the war we foretold the day when we should all be sporting beards as Nature intended we should. That was when a shortage of razor blades was threatened. Now it seems the Government is considering the rationing of shaving creams and soaps. For our part we were surprised that those were not included in the general rationing of soap. When we came to Sheffield nearly 50 years ago the City Council had 64 members. Of those 41 wore beards of varying sizes and structure. — Sheffield Telegraph.

The fact is, of course, that a tyrant has power only over men who are afraid to die. If a man really believes in his religion, then he must hold with Saint Paul that "to die is gain," provided he dies in defence of that religion. Quisling can hang the bishops. He might even massacre the clergymen. But what would he gain by it? Only the frenzied detestation of the faithful. Quisling is now facing something, altogether beyond his control, because his power extends no further than men's fears. Where fear of death ends, there the power of tyranny fails, and it is only the stupid tyrants who permit themselves to pass that limit. — Baltimore Sun.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"The situation now is much more desperate than it was at any time in the last war." — Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour.

Toys In Canada

(Peterborough Examiner)

Some interesting remarks were made recently by Harry B. Krug, who directs the manufacture of wooden articles for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, when he was addressing the Canadan Playthings Manufacturers. Mr. King was urging this hearers to forget senseless competition and the continual duplication of articles in their work, and he also drew attention to the fact that the making of toys in Conada was one of the few branches of industry which could improve its position with the war effort.

There seems no good reason why Canada should not develop a thriving toy industry and keep it after the war ends. Until recently the best toys available here have been made either in England or in the U. S. These were clearly superior to the local products in design and execution. Although there is a large market for cheap toys of inferior design and easily broken, many people demand playthings which are pleasing in appearance and sturdily made. The development of good taste begins early in life, and a toy which has qualities of good design and which can be played with for a year or more is certainly preferable to a succession of trashy toys which soon break and which are unsatisfactory because they only amuse for a few days.

Canada can make these superior toys as well as any country in the world, and if she can make them just a little better she will soon develop a profitable minor industry. As Mr. King points out, toys do not interfere with the war effort and if manufacturers seize their opporunity they may soon make Canadian toys as highly esteemed as were formerly those of England, Germany and Switzerland.

"On Dune And Headland"

(New York Times)

Because the imagination rejects catastrophies which it has not yet experienced, few of us will accept the reality of air raid danger on this coast until it actually materializes. This is one of the difficulties civilian defense has had to face. But the submarine danger is already here. Ships are going down and men are drowning or burning to death within sight of our coasts. In one simple way every one living or doing business near the shore can help to cut such losses. He can obey cheerfully the orders just issued for a general "dim-out" from Maine to Florida. If these orders are effective, no more ships silhouetted against the cheerful glow of lights on land will be caught by the Nazi raiders and sent to their doom.

The "dim-out" directions caught most communities unprepared. In the First and Second Corps Areas, in which the New York city region is located, the air raid wardens and the regular and auxiliary police seem to have done their jobs well, and there was willing co-operation from house holders and motorists. It is impossible to imagine how any one can fail to cooperate if he understands that even one bright light on a dark shore may help to sink a ship. Lieut.-General Hugh A. Drum, who will command the new Eastern Military Area, has authority to use stern measures against enemy aliens and against careless or disloyal citizens. As he explained in his statement, this authority will not affect the lives of "those persons whose conduct reflects their patriotic motives."

And so, probably for the duration of the war, the lights go out More literally than Kipling meant the words,

Far-called, our navies melt
away;
One dune and headland sinks
the fire:

To save New Jersey and Long Island we fight in the Indian Ocean. We give up the beach picnic and the glitter of the recreation pier in order that bombers based thousands of miles away may have fuel. We blackout the seaward-looking window to keep the door to victory a little wider open.

The Poets' Corner

WHAT OF THE HOUR?

I know an old cathedral tower
That holds a clock; there one could see
Time disciplined, as hour by hour
The hands went round punctiliously.

For the past decade the old clock
Has failed to tick, yet artisan,
Toiler and thinker turn to look
And find day at meridian.

Is this the time for heart or tower
To let stopped-clocks the eyes hoodwink?
Nay! It is time to know the hour!
It may be later than we think.

—John Richard Moreland in the New York Times.

AUTOMATIC POSTMASTER

A coin-operated mailbox that automatically stamps, postmarks and mails letters is in service in Chicago.

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

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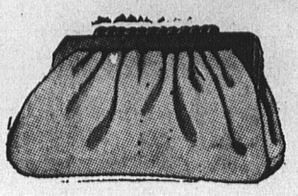

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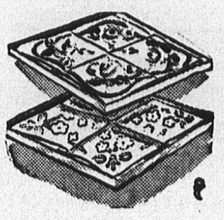

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S. A. MacDONALD

BOOST NAZI COURAGE

ZURICH—(CP) — The Germans have issued orders to soldiers' families that letters to men at the front must contain "messages of optimism and expressions of courage and faith in final German victory."

WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING

Man belongs scienficially in the zoological division of chordates distinguished by having an actual or rudimentary spinal chord.

NAZI PRESS GANG

LONDON—(CP) — Moscow radio said Soviet prisoners of war are being "shanghaied" by the Germans and sent to Gen. Rommel's North African forces.

FERTILIZER BLEND

LONDON —(CP) — A merchant in the Netherlands was fined for selling a "fine brand of tobacco" consisting of oak and beech tree shavings mixed with dried manure.

C. N. R. EARNINGS

MONTREAL, Que., May 6 Earnings the gross revenues for the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways system for the nine day period ending, April 30, 1942, were $9,081,000 as compared with $7,913,000 for the corresponding period of 1941 an increase of $1,168,000 or 14.8 percent.

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