

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, June 3, 1940

Wanted An Administrator!

The political barrage which the King Government members laid down last week in Parliament to defend their lack of success in prosecuting Canada's war effort, failed to impress the Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post. Here, according to this writer, are what the people have been asking: Why had thousands of Canadian men been refused a place in the Canadian fighting forces? Of what use was an air training plan which would not begin to turn out pilots in a large way until 1941 or 1942? Why were not Canadian factories mobilized for war long ago? Why were our industries not going full blast on munitions, mechanized equipment, aircraft and other essentials of war? What have the Government been doing all these months? These questions flooded in upon Ottawa. Telegrams, telephone calls, thousands of letters—from every direction the Government found itself under fire.

Mr. King's defence took, characteristically, the form of an alibi—an alibi at Great Britain's expense. He did not seek to justify his own war programme as adequate. He said, in effect, that Canada had done all that Britain had asked Canada to do. His key ministers made similar declarations. They claimed it was impossible to get our industry going at top speed because the British Government would not award contracts in Canada and the British manufacturers would not give Canadian manufacturers the plans and specifications without which production, here, was impossible.

"This," says the Financial Post correspondent, "was the alibi; but it would be well to reserve judgment on it until the reaction in Britain is clear. The Government's case rests solely upon the statements made by ministers. If the British Government cares to take issue with some of these statements, the position of the King Government might become less tenable."

The Government followed up its defence early last week with enlargement of Canada's direct war effort. It was noticeable that all phases of the fresh programme were steps that can be undertaken without being dependent on British war orders, or necessarily affected by consultation with Britain or the other Dominions.

Most of the promised action, however, is still on paper. Equipment, organization and trained leaders are all lacking due, as the Post puts it editorially, "to the incredibly lackadaisical attitude that the Prime Minister and most of his associates have previously displayed toward the prosecution of the war."

Before any of the new armies of Canada can be transferred from paper plans to reality, there will have to be 100 per cent mobilization on the economic front, and in particular of industry. Without guns, tanks, ammunition, armies are useless. Without planes an air force could be a million strong and never stop an enemy bomber. There is still doubt, says the Post, that the Government fully appreciates this. A survey made last week among the country's major industries reveals little new progress in getting industry going.

The chief difficulty, in the Post's opinion, arises out of lack of co-ordination. Getting action on blueprint plans fails because orders are shunted back and forth between defence officials, purchasing officials, treasury board officials, and other officials and ministers. An industrial defence co-ordinator is needed who should be answerable to no one but the Prime Minister as the fountain-head of cabinet responsibility.

Mr. King himself, unfortunately, is no executive or administrator. "He is," says the Post, "hopelessly bogged down in his own scholarly temperament, his own compromising attitude in politics, his own inertia." He cannot give Canada the results that are needed now.

The American Enigma

The attitude of the United States towards the war presents an enigma which even the historian of the future may find it beyond his powers to understand or unravel. He will note that public opinion in the United States, as measured by accepted tests, was nearly ten to one in favour of the cause for which the Allies were fighting, and also by the same tests that it was opposed, to an almost equal degree, to taking any active part in the war.

This contradiction between thought and action, the Winnipeg Free Press urges, is due to wishful thinking. The American people have deemed their attitude of friendliness enough, since they have thought, in their simple idealism, that right is might and that therefore the Allies were in no danger of failing to stem the tide of primitive savagery that threatens to engulf the world.

"Clinging desperately to this belief, so necessary to the easing of their conscience, they have been able to adorn their attitude with the garb of noble, idealistic purposes," says our Winnipeg contemporary. "They would keep their minds clear from the warping influences of hate and revenge, unfortunately inseparable from taking part in war, in order that they may intervene the more effectively in the peace negotiations in the interests of justice and the future pacification of the world. They would

save their money and credit so that they could help the nations ruined by the war to get on their feet. There have been many variations of this theme but they all rest upon the unchanging assumption: the peace at which they were to play this role and which they were to benevolently dominate was to be made by the victorious Allies with a defeated Germany. In making such a peace the United States, as the most powerful neutral in the world and the first among the democratic nations, would see to it that the mistakes of Versailles; so plain in retrospect would not be repeated. All this has been wishful thinking on a scale quite unknown in the Allied countries. No serious-minded, intelligent person in those countries has been able fully to share the cheerful confidence either as to the war or the peace which has been the foundation for the attitude of the great majority of the American people. . . . Victory indeed is looked for; but at best by a narrow margin and only after incredible sacrifices of property and life, judged even by the standards of the last war."

The past few weeks have brought about a decided change in the American attitude. The need for cooperation to the utmost extent with the Allies is being realized. This will be a factor of growing importance as the war develops, and the mechanized power of the neighboring republic—whether or not it enters the war directly—is brought to bear with increasing weight against the common foe.

Still Playing Politics

"Politics first" continues to dominate the Mackenzie King Government's war effort, which is the reason for the furious attack by Government spokesmen on those members of the Opposition in Parliament who are insisting that the Government be reorganized on nonpartisan lines. One Government member has even suggested that the Opposition be interned as "fifth columnists." Meanwhile behind Liberal caucus doors the old party shell-game goes on. With Britain and the rest of the Empire grimly throwing everything into the scale to stem the Nazi hordes, this is how Canada's efforts are being sabotaged. The following revealing excerpt from Hansard of May 28 needs no further comment:

"On the orders of the day: 'Mr. J. S. Roy (Gaspé): Before the orders of the day are called I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). My question is based upon a news item published in yesterday's Le Canada, Montreal Liberal paper, wherein it is reported that the hon. member of Mercier (Mr. Jean) stated at a public banquet that Liberal members of this house, at a secret caucus of the party, have been given the assurance by the leaders of the party that conscription will not be enforced and that no national government will be formed. Is the hon. member's statement based on truth?'"

"Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Prime Minister): Those of us who have been in parliament for some time have been accustomed to regard the proceedings of caucus as matters wholly confidential to the parties concerned. If it once became the custom to disclose what had been said at a caucus, or to deny or confirm what it is alleged to have been there stated, I am afraid that very erroneous impressions might readily get abroad. I will say to my hon. friend that proceedings of caucus are private and I intend to set an example to members of all parties by doing my utmost to keep them so."

The Herald has pointed out on different occasions that the south Alberta towns and school boards which borrowed heavily 20 to 30 years ago to provide the requirements of new communities on the Prairies, are now paying out, getting out of debt and paying out, getting out of debt and paying out, getting out of debt and paying out. This is not for debt service payments. This is not for the 1940 obligations, but also the payments for three years not matured. The board is now free of debt. Would that the Government of Alberta would do the same. It is throwing money away on useless banks, useless boards and commissions and take a leaf out of Charles H. Johnson's book, "Leithridge Herald."

EDITORIAL NOTES

From everywhere overseas comes the same demand: "Give us more planes and we'll lick the Jerries to smithereens." What can Mackenzie King's conscience be like these days?

Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet born this date 1840: "Poor soul! All her shining keys will be taken from her, and her cupboard opened, and little things a' didn't wish seen anybody will see; and her wishes and ways will all be as nothing."

The Trans-Canada Air Line Act is to be extended to enable the Government to gain better knowledge of its effectiveness. Although Charlottetown and Summerside are not on the direct line, being supplied by a subsidized private line, they will be included in the proposed extension measure.

"Save me from my friends" may well be the prayer of the Prime Minister in comment on the speeches in his behalf in Parliament. Mr. King is in a jam and is looking for a way out. He is a politician whose tactics are unique in their effectiveness in piping times of peace, but alas, altogether ineffective and even disastrous in time of war, whether he admits it or not he realizes it is time for a change.

During the Great War 1914-18 it will be recalled many individuals and organizations contributed field kitchens, guns, and field ambulances for the benefit of the great cause at stake. But ultimately the Borden Government discouraged such generosity, declaring the whole nation was at war and it was the duty of the Government and not individuals to foot the bill of costs.

Friendly as is the Toronto Saturday Night editor to the King Government, he declares: "The charges which are being currently made and widely believed in Canada in connection with the Dominion's war effort have been rendered a great deal more precise and a great deal more intelligible as the result of the discussion which has taken place during the first ten days of the session of Parliament; and there is not the slightest doubt that they could have been similarly rendered more precise and more intelligible long ago, if the closing session of the last Parliament had not been scuttled by the Government. The Government is now paying the penalty of the very grave suspicions which were inevitably roused by that scuttling." Unfortunately it is not only the Government that is paying the penalty, but Canada and the Empire.

NOTES BY THE WAY Italy's War Strength

A girl who is on pretty good terms with a young Frenchman writes that a letter from him the other day. Well, maybe not a letter, but a note from an official source saying that the young man was well, well equipped. It has a big air force with most of the planes old. Nor is that all. Italy has no oil of her own; and as long as the Allies command the seas has no way of getting oil. Italy has no way and no iron. Thus an Italy in the war, using vast quantities of gasoline for her air force, might bring more harm than good to a Germany which is itself short of gasoline.

This is not to say that an Italy in the war, and menacing France through Switzerland, would not mean much to the Allies. It means merely that neither sea nor air would Italy's intervention be of decisive character.

Importance Of Narvik

Attention of war observers yesterday centered on two great achievements of the British forces, one the final capture of Narvik, important Norwegian ore port besieged by Hitler launched his Scandinavian invasion seven weeks ago. Not for naught has Britain persisted in keeping closed to Germany access to the economically strategic port of Narvik. During the first six months of the war Germany was obtaining huge daily shipments of Sweden's rich iron ore through this port. The volume of this traffic, amounting to shipments of ore to Germany of 1,500,000 tons per year before the war, had risen to more than 200,000 per month at the beginning of 1940, and was still rising steadily when the British mine-laying operations at the Narvik fjord extended the blockade to Scandinavian waters. It was this action that Hitler seized upon as an excuse for the German invasion of Norway. Narvik is, rather, a town with a population of about 10,000 people. It was reduced to ruins by the British after and attempted to hold Narvik ore shipping operations, and its civilian population has long since been evacuated. Its port is thoroughly modern, and has an extensive system of quays, through which ore from Kiruna, in Sweden, the world's greatest iron ore field, is shipped to outside countries, the chief importer being Germany. The output of the Kiruna ore mines, Sweden's greatest producers, has been cut in half since the port was besieged by the British, and Sweden normally supplies ninety per cent of Europe's iron ore requirements. Thus Britain's persistent effort to gain possession of Narvik and Germany's desperate attempt to hold the port, the siege of Narvik lasted nearly two months.

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A remarkable record for consistent effort has been achieved up to the present by the Kirkland Lake branch of the Red Cross Society of Ontario. It is stated branches of the Red Cross have run short of funds, but in Kirkland Lake the women prepared for every demand made upon them. Headquarters in Toronto. Much of the credit is given to Colonel R. J. James, chairman of the branch who has done a great deal of work and has established a complete and workable system. Kirkland Lake has no fewer than 5-7 regular contributors to its Red Cross, who are ready to help in any one-tenth of one day's pay each month to the branch. These contributions have remained steady from month to month and represent no small measure for the spending which has been made. —Hamilton Spectator.

I disagree with the verdict that decency has been given a good trial and found guilty. So far we have not had too much of it, but not enough of it. The fact that it may be noisy and untidy does not worry me at all. My own happy family is inclined to be noisy and untidy. Most persons are quiet and neat. So thoroughgoing is my democracy that I dislike all critics for a leader, preferring my greatest to be thinkers, artists, scientists. Great men of action are nearly always power hungry corrupt; and we must especially beware of those who know how to our cost—those men who have enormous ambitions but no regard for the common good. It is much better for the common good that assemblies and committees of ordinary men should be allowed to argue and muddle a bit than that megamans, even though they may have a tendency to be more than necessary, but to induce them to organize themselves and to work in conjunction with the Export Council who will recommend to the Government any measures that may be considered desirable. —The Scotsman (Edinburgh).

British manufacturers and merchants traditionally are averse to organizing themselves, preferring to retain their individual freedom and exercise their individual enterprise. That may be well enough in normal times, but in times of increasing organization in combines and cartels. But under war conditions the effort to organize themselves, even if it imposes certain restrictions. The aim is not to impose these from outside the industry any more than is necessary, but to induce them to organize themselves and to work in conjunction with the Export Council who will recommend to the Government any measures that may be considered desirable. —The Scotsman (Edinburgh).

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.

ALL SHOULD CONTRIBUTE

At no other time in history has the security of the British people been so threatened as today. Already the brave inhabitants of the Mother Country are expecting and awaiting an attack from the ruthless hordes of the leader of the Reich. This is their hour of trial, and the destiny of all civilized nations hangs in the balance. No sacrifice is too great for these people—and no sacrifice should be too great for the "children" of Canada, whose ties with the Mother Country are knit so tightly.

Are we, as proud subjects of a righteous king, doing our part as we should? Are we making enough sacrifices to unquestionably affirm our loyalty toward that monarch? Here in this province, our small plot of the Empire, there are numerous ways to contribute to the success of right over wrong. I should like to state three so-called "projects" which I feel would help considerably in our war effort.

1. Part of the proceeds of the patriotic Bingo games which are given are well attended could be given toward this very worthy cause. An extra card at five or ten cents could be played toward the liberty which we now enjoy. No one, unless he be that man with a soul so dead," would object to this. Probably better methods could be devised by those in charge of these games. At any rate, let us have some effort here.

2. A small percentage of the proceeds from every dance and card party in this island would be another method of raising war funds.

3. A small collection box placed at the entrance of all public buildings would quickly gather the copper, nickels, and dimes.

Why not try these suggestions? Remember that the poisonous vander of Europe's dictator can fill the clean air of freedom which we now breathe, only when he allows our glorious heritage to slip into the background.

I am, Sir, etc. —F. A. B.

FARM BEAUTIFICATION

The following letter has been received at the Prince Edward Island Travel Bureau Office, and we would be glad if you would kindly publish it.

This year, when there is such keen competition for tourist traffic, we hope that everybody in Prince Edward Island will try to make their residence and their buildings as attractive as possible.

THE IMMORTAL

Beauty is still immortal in our eyes. When sways no more the spirit-haunted pine, when the wild grape shall build no more her canopies, when the moon-greys of the sky shall be lulled by the white flocks home, when the last eve has stilled the wandering wind and touched the dying foam, when the last moon burns low, and spark by spark the bit of Florida die out along the dark.

—Marjorie Pickthall.

EXAMINATION

Fitting and Supplying Glasses Etc. H. J. MABON

OPTOMETRIST Montague, P. E. I. Office Hours: 10 to 12 A. M. 2 to 5 P. M. Holdovers, by appointment. Office connected with DRUGSTORE

SEMESAN BEL

THE NEW IMPROVED QUICK DIP SEED TREATMENT FOR SEED POTATOES

One pound will treat from 60 to 80 bushels. One pound tin — \$1.50 Five pound tin (300 to 400 bushels) — \$7.50

CERESAN

NEW IMPROVED DRY DISINFECTANT FOR WHEAT — OATS — BARLEY One pound tin — \$1.00 Five pound tin — \$3.50

POTATOES

Hunter River Starch Factory is now open to receive potatoes paying 50c per 100 lbs. at the factory for potatoes grading number one small or for scabby potatoes and slightly less for culls. GEO. E. FULL & SON

Largest Sale in the Maritimes! SUSSEX GINGER ALE Big Bottle - Serves Five - Now 15¢

For a Delicious Cup of Orange Pekoe Tea Mr. Tea Pott Says: Use BRAHMIN Full Flavoured Tea

Impounding for Auto Tax The City Police have received instructions to impound motor vehicles of all citizens in arrears as at January 15th, 1940, for Personal Property tax wholly or partly assessed on motor vehicles. This action is taken under Civic By-law passed by authority of statute of the Provincial Legislature 4 Geo. VI., Cap. 68, and will be proceeded with without further notice.

A. BIRTWISTLE, Chief of Police. Charlottetown May 31, 1940. L-72-6-1-3-4.

Exactly the same consideration coming from one side or the other, that is, none at all. The matter suggested that the matter having been mentioned publicly in the House of Commons, the names of the members who concerned themselves with the well-being of interned enemy aliens should be given. Not content with that, we endeavored to secure the names of the individuals whom Mr. Lapointe referred to. Our request brought this despatch: "Ottawa, May 30—Department of minister won't disclose names of members who have made representations regarding enemy aliens. It would not only embarrass some members but also cramp Mounties' work."

The Widow Of Dollfuss (Ottawa Journal) Frau Engelbert Dollfuss, widow of the Nazi-Sain Austrian Chancellor, is coming with her children to seek haven in Canada. It is something to bring tragic memories. The great patriot of Austria's history, on January 25, 1934, a group of Nazis, Hitler's "Fifth Column" in Austria, burst into his chambers, shot him dead. Adolf Hitler denounced this murder, swore to the world that he had nothing to do with it. The world, which had not yet probed Hitler's career, knew that he elevated falsehood into a principle of strategy, took him at his word. So the Nazi campaign in Austria went on, culminated when Hitler marched into Vienna two years later, and was only when this came, and when Planetta and Holzweber, the men who murdered Dollfuss, were declared to be heroes and martyrs, all but canonized in the Nazi calendar of saints, that the world realized the meaning of the crime. The tragedy is that, even then, the world did not awaken fully to Hitler's aim. The world was still under the spell of those, young sincere intellectuals who in post-war years turned out those bitter, desolating books about the evil of Hitler's aim. The world was still under the spell of those, young sincere intellectuals who in post-war years turned out those bitter, desolating books about the evil of Hitler's aim. The world was still under the spell of those, young sincere intellectuals who in post-war years turned out those bitter, desolating books about the evil of Hitler's aim.

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