THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1946

A New Departure

A new departure in civic government was inaugurated on Monday when the City Clerk of Charlottetown, Mr. James Fullerton, appeared before an exclusive club to give an account of the Council's stewardship, and, it must be said, excelled himself in the part. Previously, and ordinarily, it is the elected representatives of the electors who discharge this duty, for it is they, and not the paid officials, whom the taxpayers hold responsible for the faithful discharge or otherwise of their civic duties. The fact that the present City Council has allocated to the City Clerk the privilege of speaking on their behalf is indicative of two things (a) the growing tendency to bureaucratic control, and (b) the confidence and esteem in which the City Clerk is held by the Mayor and City Council. It is certainly an innovation in civic government for an official to be put forward on the eve of an election to submit to the electors an account of the stewardship of the retiring Mayor and Councillors.

But this apart, Mr. Fullerton is to be congratulated on the review of the city affairs which he has submitted. It gives the average citizen and taxpayer an insight into city administration and problems, which, it is safe to say, no individual City Councillor could have given in the brief time at his disposal. He has shown that notwithstanding, aud probably because of criticisms, for criticism is the life-blood of sound administration, the City Council during the past four years has made very considerable headway both financially and progressively. Judging by the high place City bonds hold in the esteem of banks and investment brokers, certainly Charlottetown has no reason to be ashamed of its civic government, rather to be proud of the fact that it has attained a Canadian-wide reputation among investors as a municipality whose bonds it is worthwhile to possess among gilt-edge investments. But do not allow ourselves to be carried away with the idea that there is no need or room for improvement. Were it not for the roused public interest in civic affairs inaugurated some months ago by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, it is unlikely we would have got the official information on civic affairs given by the City Clerk, and one may feel assured that as the result of the forthcoming election, some representatives will be elected who may be able to express as clearly, effectively and cogently "the case for the defence," when next the Council is called before the bar of the electorate.

Election In Newfoundland

In 1933 the Newfoundland Parliament voluntarily renounced its Dominion status in favour of Government by a Commission appointed by the King. Now the island is once more to be given the opportunity to decide what form its administration will take, according to a statement made to the United Kingdom House of Commons last month by Prime Minister Attlee. This promise carries out the policy stated by the Coalition Government in December, 1943, now endorsed by the Labour Government. Mr. Attlee's connection with the welfare of Newfoundland is close, since, in September, 1942 he visited the island in his capacity of Secretary of State for the Dominions, in order to discover how the people there felt about the restoration of their constitution.

Newfoundland, which previously was a fully, self-governing Dominion, experienced financial difficulties during the depression. After borrowing heavily for some years, she found herself unable to pay interest on her debts. A financial crisis developed in 1933, leading to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry. It was after this investigation that the Newfoundland Parliament asked Britain to take responsibility for her administrative and financial problems until she could herself develop financial stability. Since that time the island has been administered by a Governor and six Commissioners, three of them Newfoundlanders, and three from the United Kingdom, appointed by the King.

During the war the island assumed importance as a naval and air base with consequent improvement in economic conditions. In 1941 she balanced her budget without a grant-in-aid from Britain for the first time since 1933, and in 1942 she had a surplus of $7,000,000 from a total revenue of $23,000,000. It may be, of course, that this wartime prosperity is only temporary.

Mr. Attlee announced that as early in 1946 as the Newfoundland climate permits, a Convention is to be elected, with all adults voting. The Convention is to consider and discuss changes that have occurred in the financial and economic situation of the island since 1934, "bearing in mind the extent to which the high revenues of recent years have been due to wartime conditions." It is also to "make recommendations to His Majesty's Government as to possible forms of future government which should be put before the people (of Newfoundland) at a national referendum." Mr. Attlee said: "In order to assist the Convention His Majesty's Government will make available to it when it meets, the services of an expert adviser who could give guidance on constitutional forms and procedure; and they will also prepare for the use of the Convention a factual and objective statement of the island's financial and economic situation."

He wished the fairest possible start to any new Government which might take over, but warned that Britain must be careful about making financial commitments which, in view of the special difficulties of the next few years, might be difficult to honour.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Remember the Legion Drive and be prepared.

* * * *

It is not probable the Federal Government will be called before March, so there is reasonable prospect of the Leader of the Opposition being here before then.

* * * *

A reader draws attention to the fact that smelts are fished in the North River, where quite a harvest is reaped by farmers in that vicinity. He says he and his partners have in the past cleared from $40 to $700 in a season.

* * * *

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, died this date 1942; former Governor-General of Canada, 1911-16, he was the third son of Queen Victoria; his tact, geniality and devotion to duty made him exceedingly popular at a crucial period in the Dominion's, as well as the Empire's history.

* * * *

There has just passed away in New York at the age of seventy-three, an old-time composer, Harry von Tilger whose songs for two generations have rejoiced the hearts of many concert-goers and social entertainers. Among them are: *Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie, Down On The Farm, Sweet Jennie Lee,* and *I Want A Girl Just Like The Girl That Married Dear Old Dad.* It seems ages since these first tickled the ears of music hall and theatre patrons.

* * * *

Evidently Alberta does not anticipate a long session of the Dominion-Provincial Conference, called for the 28th, as it is announced that Thursday, February 14, has been set as the opening date of the 1946 session of the Alberta Legislature. Originally it had been intended to open the session in January, but the choice of a later date was made necessary by the Dominion-Provincial Conference.

* * * *

"Apparently reluctant to be towed to the 'bone yard' at Sorel, P. Q., (says *Maclean's Magazine*), the gallant H. M. C. S. Assiniboine broke her towline and drifted to the clean, soft sand off the eastern tip of Prince Edward Island. Efforts to free her failed. The skeleton crew was replaced by two watchmen. Charlottetown residents would like to have her brought to their city as a training ship for R. C. N. V. R and Sea Cadets if she can be salvaged in spring. There are difficulties. Perhaps the Assiniboine has found herself a home for her old age."

* * * *

The newly appointed Ontario Minister of Health, Hon. Russell T. Kelley, has a Canadian-wide outlook and programme. He says Canada's greatest need is a truly Canadian national spirit, and towards that end offers $500 as a reward to anyone who can produce a national anthem to replace the singing of "O Canada." National spirit could be improved, he says, if Canadians concentrated on native sports and social activities rather than on those of other countries. A super highway from Halifax to Vancouver would go far toward promoting relations between Canadians in different parts of the Dominion.

* * * *

There will be no general election this year as has been suggested in some quarters. The general picture is, says *The Letter-Review,* that there can be little doubt that a majority of public opinion could be mobilized against the Government, if the largest Opposition group, the Progressive Conservatives, had the nerve to come out and fight for a restoration of liberty, without leadership from an active political group this mobilization will not take place; the Administration will continue to have more support than any other group, or combination of groups which might be likely to defeat the Government. In such circumstances, there seems to be nothing which the Prime Minister can grasp, as yet, to offer to the public as evidence that there should be an election, and his administration be returned. It is only against an Opposition which is visibly on its way up that the Prime Minister has ever thought it worth while to spring an election ahead of time; to evolve one of those tricks, such as the Byng episode, which might stampede a lot of voters. He is sitting pretty at present, and it would be only if the Opposition puts up a more skilful fight in the next House that there will come up any question of a general election.

* * * *

A C. N. R. request that the City of Saint John take over the cleaning of snow from sidewalks for which the railroad is responsible has been referred to the director of works and the chief of police. They are to confer with Mr. J. H. Swetnam, terminal superintendent, on the subject, and have power to act on their decision. A letter from Mr. Swetnam called attention to the recent action of the city police force in enforcing the snow removal bylaws and estimated that the C. N. R. would have about 1,500 feet of sidewalks from which to clear the snow. As the railroad has no snow-removing equipment to handle this, and as every available railroad man is required to keep the road in operation when a snow storm has struck, Mr. Swetnam asked if the city could take over the snow removal job for the railroad with the city's up-to-date snow-fighting equipment, for a nominal charge. Works Director Smith pointed out to the council that the city itself has about 5,000 feet of sidewalks from which it must remove the snow, and has enough difficulty keeping up with this. Councillor Wasson suggested to the council that if it entertained this request from the C. N. R. it would have other similar ones to face. The chief of police had done a fine job in keeping the streets cleared of snow, he thought.

Notes By The Way

A Kansas contemporary wants to know how a Russian can learn English when he is told that apple-sauce and baloney mean the same thing. Or soft soap and banana oil. —Christian Science Monitor.

Professor A. M. Low, distinguished British scientist, has invented spectacles or glasses which can be trodden on, dropped or bent without being damaged. Now if he can attach some gadget that will prevent the things being mislaid, all will be well. —Brantford Expositor.

Josef Kramer and ten others found guilty by the court investigating the crimes committed at Belsen and other German murder camps have been hanged. They were the people directly responsible for the offenses charged, but it is to be remembered that the German system and the German people were and are guilty too.—Brantford Expositor.

The subsidy on broom corn is being removed and prices of the indispensable corn broom in consequence will be going up. That puts a premium on the new broom sweeping clean right at the beginning of the post-war era; but presumably good housewives will be equal to the situation even though it means making the old broom tackle the job instead of the new one.—Ottawa Citizen.

War Department records list eighteen general officers killed or mortally wounded in action during the war besides five more who have been "missing" after combat air operations for so long that there can not be much hope of their survival. Among these twenty-three high-ranking casualties are three lieutenant generals and three major generals. Nine more general officers were killed in airplane accidents; one brigadier general died of exposure suffered on a combat flight over Europe when he replaced a dead machine gunner at a post which had been opened to the icy windstream. Fourteen others, including six major generals, are listed as wounded in action. In this war generals did not by any means always die in bed. — New York Herald Tribune.

It is curious to note that Ralph Waldo Emerson, "the Sage of Concord," who foresaw so many things, foresaw atomic energy also, and it is interesting to note that his confident optimism made him certain that it would mean the end of war. In a lecture on The Fortune of the Republic, delivered in the Old South Church on March 30, 1878, he spoke these words: "Our sleepy civilization....is very scornful about bows and arrows and reckons Greeks and Romans little better than Indians and bow-and-arrow times. As if the earth, water, gases, light and caloric have not a million energies, the discovery of any one of which could change of the art of war again, and put an end to war by the exterminating forces men can apply."—Montreal Gazette.

The clothing trade has announced that women have grown larger during the past years. This is particularly the case with their feet and waists and it suggested this is due to heavier types of work executed by women and to a confirmed habit of informal and loose-fitting fashions. To disguise what is regarded as a disfigurement the clothing trade announced that its newest designs will include bustles flounces and furbelows. The Ministry of Food said that the middle-aged spread has practically disappeared in Britain during the war. Normal weight curves show an increase up to the age of 55 after which a gradual loss sets in. Wartime curves show the increase to cease at 33. —Winnipeg Free Press.

If the earth's multiplied populalation were distributed evenly all over the earth's surface, only three out of each 10 would ever see a snowfall. Snow never falls upon 70 percent. of the earth's surface. It is a novel thought that the majority of the world's population does not know what snow is except from hearsay. To read, as most of us have, the lines which tell of the first snowfall and of the snow which began in the gloaming, we conclude that a snowstorm is one of the world's most familiar sights. But any impression that a familiarity with snow is universal would be a profound mistake. It just happens that most of the world's littrature is produced in that part of the world where snowstorms are common.—Daily Oklahoman.

Another symbol of wartime restrictions disappeared from the life of London on New Year's Day, when the Tower of London was again opened to the public, says The Toronto Globe and Mail. It is said that visitors took great advantage of the opportunity and flocked in crowds to see the ancient fortress. Not all the sights were there —the Crown jewels will remain in their hiding place in the North of England until spring—but the collection of armor and the instruments of torture were to be seen, and of course, the colorful Yeoman of the Guard, the famous Beefeaters, stod forth in all their glory. The Tower suffered a little from the bombing, but the damage was relatively superficial, and mainly in the more "modern" parts. The Keep, which is the most familiar feature of the group of buildings which are fort, palace, prison, barracks, museum and tomb of many famous people is one of the chief links with the earliest foundation of the British nation. It is said Julius Caesar had a fort on the site; Alfred the Great may have built another. The present Tower was founded by William the Conqueror in 1087. Some claim that it is the oldest continuously occupied military establishment in the world. For many centuries it was used as a prison for distinguished persons who fell afoul of the displeasure of the Sovereign. Sir William Wallace, the "Little Princes," Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Thomas More, Anne Boleyn, Princess Elizabeth, later the great Queen and many another were imprisoned within its storied walls. In recent times traitors and spies have been incarcerated there. Lt. Norman Baillie Stewart, the Guardsman who was accused of selling vital information, was there for a time a few years ago. In this war only one spy, Josef Jakobs, was executed in the Tower, as against 11 in the last war. This week it was revealed that Rudolf Hess was there for three days after his historic flight to England in 1941. They kept him in a loft which was above a cow stable of Henry the Eighth's day.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

JAPANESE RESIDENTS

Sir,—"Fair Play in a recent letter in your column asked for more information regarding the Japanese-Canadian question. The enclosure, taken from "The Vancouver Daily Province," indicates the unwillingness of those who asked for transfer to Japan. The record of the Japanese-Americans, who served in the American army is enlightening as to the services our Canadian government declined to accept.

I would appreciate it if you have space in your column for these.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LOUISE CALLBECK.
Central Bedeque.

(Enclosures)

The percentage of persons of Japanese ancestry applying for transfer to Japan was three times as great in Canada as in the United States. What was the reason?

"Does the Labour Minister know that there was no willingness whatever about the choice the Japanese were required to make? These people were confronted with an alternative that was no alternative at all for many of them though it had the appearance of being one. They were told by the officials who made the enquiry that if they refused to ask for repatriation they would be certified as 'non co-operative.' They did not know what that meant. But it sounded sinister, as it was, no doubt, intended to sound."

—The Vancouver Daily Province.
November 26, 1945.

Copy of letter indicating American experiences and policy.

United States
Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority

Washington Dec. 11, 1945

"Mr. W.H.H. Norman,
"Vancouver Consultative Council,
"Vancouver, Canada.

"Dear Mr. Norman,

.....We have learned emphatically that requests for repatriation or expatriation are by no means a significant index of disloyalty or disaffection....I believe you may be interested in the attached copy of a letter which the Acting Director of the War Relocation Authority recently sent to Mr. J. M. McDonnell, a member of the House of Commons.....

M. M. Tozier,
Chief, Reports Division

(From enclosure):

"The War Department has released an official listing of all persons of Japanese ancestry....who served in the Army of the United States between July 1, 1940, and June 30, 1945....Hawaii: Officers, 100, and Enlisted Personnel, 10,606; Mainland: Officers, 142, and Enlisted Personnel 11,783....The record of the Nisei in the Army, in both the European and Pacific theatres, is superlative. A Report from Italy stated that there were only about five boys ever AWOL from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (composed almost entirely of Japanese Americans) and that those five were men who left a hospital without permission to go back to the front lines! Furthermore, the 442nd Regiment is said to be the most decorated unit in the American Army....On November 15 the Navy reversed its former practice of not accepting Nisei and announced that they are now eligible for naval service. This announcement followed a statement by Admiral Nimitz concerning the Nisei, 'I am fully aware that the majority of Americans of Japanese stock are loyal Americans, willing to serve their country in any capacity, and I am sure that naval personnel everywhere recognize this fact....' ....No restraint whatever, that does not apply to other citizens, is placed upon American Citizens of Japanese ancestry. However, aliens of Japanese ancestry....are still under some surveillance.....However, there are no specific areas from which they are excluded....It should be emphasized in this connection that only approximately 50,000 of the 112,925 who were evacuated have returned to or are expected to return to the four states from which they were evacuated."

JAPANESE CANADIANS

Sir,—In the Forum of Jan. 3rd, there appeared two letters written in defence of Japanese Canadians who are now threatened with expulsion from their native country without just cause being shown, the Prime Minister of Canada having announced on the floor of the House of Commons that no person of Japanese origin in Canada had been guilty of a single act of disloyalty, during the recent war with Japan. Alongside of these two letters there appeared a third one written by L.V. Hudson, R.A.A.F., Sydney. In this letter he vividly describes cruel treatment which he received at the hands of Japanese soldiers while he was a prisoner in Burma.

Now I am not going to accuse Mr. Hudson of falsification, nor yet of exaggeration in his description, unless indeed it is in his persistent effort to dub himself a coward for his meek behaviour towards his persecutors, and even here I can easily imagine there is a touch of shrewd irony for his readers. But nevertheless I do protest that Mr. Hudson's letter is untimely and unfair when placed alongside of the two splendid and reasonable letters written in defence of justice for Japanese Canadians. For whether or not Mr. Hudson intended it to be so, the appeal of his letter is mainly to the already over-wrought emotions of your readers, and the emotions of a people when unrestrained and undirected by reason may be capable of disastrous results to the cause of justice.

Too many of these are all too prone, I fear to be carried away to the conclusion that the treatment received by Mr. Hudson at the hands of his Japanese captors, in war is entirely typical of the normal heart and mind of the whole Japanese people. But surely this conclusion is unreasonable. For what would become of the reputation of all places and all races if they were submitted to a similar judgment? Halifax for instance would in this case be in the popular mind as a city of house-wrecking hoodlums and cut-throats and Chicago a city of sex-perverts. The proverbial chivalry of the Southern States of America would be just a nigger-lynching, nigger-burning mob. Even the fair name of British justice and British fair play would be hopelessly tarnished. By this manner of judgment too, all husbands would be wife-beaters, and all mothers murderers of their children.

It was a great British statesman who gave birth to the maxim that "one cannot indict a whole people". In normal times of peace this maxim is widely accepted especially among British people. But in times of racial strife and war, alas! it is not so. Now there are "no good Germans," "no good Japs," —not even relatively so! And it is, I fear, in the spirit of this slogan that too many Canadians are now ready to cry "Away with the Japs, not only from Canada, but from the face of the earth!", and they perchance consider themselves superior patriots and even zealous Christians for doing so. As for myself, while I am not an active supporter of the C.C.F. party in Canada, I feel compelled to give my whole-hearted support to the words of Angus McInnis, C.C.F. member for Vancouver, when he declared on the floor of the House of Commons that this proposed expulsion is neither British nor Christian It comes to me also as something like a great relief to learn that several of the leading papers of Canada are now outspoken opponents of a proposal that they consider not British justice, and much less Christian charity,—a proposal which if put into effect might well give occasion for mockery among the heathen nations of the world.

I am, Sir, etc.
M. McKENZIE
Canoe Cove.

ENTENTE CORDIALE

LONDON — (CP) — The ministry of education has prepared plans to bring French and British youth closer to each other. It plans to encourage boys and girls in both countries to exchange correspondence and provides for the pairing-off of schools with the same background and interests.

The Poet's Corner

SNOWMAN

One zero hour, lord of a wintry bluff,
Like Lot's wife pillared samite, or a rough

Grotesque, a polar robot, starkly blind
To faggots for the bonfire, intertwined.

By callow hands that moulded him for this:
To meet the flame of schoolboy Nemesis.

His snowblood melted earthward in a stream
As Time melts in Eternity's white gleam.

Oblivious to fire, he visioned space,
Ghost glimmers of a smile upon his face—

The smile of godmen, fleeting mortal breath,
When first unfettered by the sun of Death.

—Gordon LeClaire, in The Gazette, Montreal.

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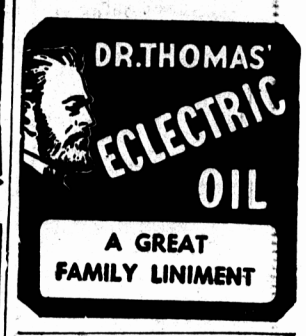

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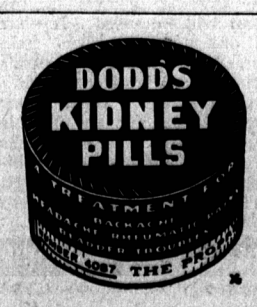

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