

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1939.

Sinister Business Afloat

Under the above heading the Globe and Mail calls attention to the sale of Canadian icebreakers to Soviet Russia for use in the Siberian port of Vladivostok as a transaction that merits prompt investigation by the Dominion Government. It is announced from Montreal that two icebreaking tugs are to leave shortly by way of the Panama Canal for Seattle, where they will be delivered to Russian crews. The condition that they are not to be used for any war purpose is of no more value than a stipulation that bombing or pursuit planes shipped to Germany must not be used for military purposes.

B. W. I. Agreement

Announcement comes from Ottawa of the "indefinite extension" of Canada's long-standing trade agreement with the British West Indies. The agreement, negotiated in 1927 by the King Government, for a twelve-year period, was definitely to the disadvantage of Maritime fishery and potato interests. In the Speech from the Throne at the last regular session of Parliament it was stated that notice had been given terminating the agreement Dec. 31, 1939, and that a new agreement would be negotiated in the meantime. Outbreak of war interfered with negotiations and now, it is understood, arrangements are being made to extend the existing agreement indefinitely or until international conditions are such that a new one may be negotiated.

Building Societies

The sensational success of the building society movement in Great Britain has caused many Canadians to wonder why the movement should not also be a great stimulus to building in Canada. The fact is that several building societies, modelled exactly on the British society, have been launched in Canada but, with one possible exception in the Maritime Provinces, all have failed. There are many reasons for the failure of the building society movement, as such, in Canada. The first reason is that their sponsors have usually been Englishmen, or men guided by Englishmen, unaccustomed to Canadian customs and conditions. The second and more important reason is that Canada has already developed a system of its own, possessing all the advantages of the building society method but none of the disadvantages. In Canada for the past decade prospective home builders, and others, have been encouraged to save through the purchase, on the monthly payment plan, of saving certificates maturing in five, ten, fifteen or twenty years. Under this system, through the use of compound interest, purchasers may deposit as little as \$3.20 per month and, at the end of twenty years, draw out \$1,000. These savings, in many cases, are applied to home building, the savings certificate holder also borrowing from the company the balance of the cost of his home and repaying that to the company over a twenty year period.

New Zealand's Example

The danger of permitting politicians a free hand in running a bank is evidenced by the latest development in connection with New Zealand Reserve Bank. The Labour Government has introduced and had passed an amendment to the Reserve Bank Act which requires the governor and board of directors of the bank to have regard to any representations in respect of the bank's business or functions that may be made by the Minister of Finance, and to give effect

to any decision of the Government relating thereto. The bill also gives the Minister authority to modify or suspend absolutely the statutory reserve, and to revalue the bank's gold coin and bullion and transfer to a special account any profit obtained in this way, which may be used as the Minister thinks fit. On the introduction of the bill, the Minister admitted that "it would be wrong to say the governor of the bank acquiesces in its provision." The bill was put through after two days debate, still in face of the opposition of the governor of the Bank, and the criticisms of the opposition, which claimed that the Government had mismanaged finances by having a hilarious time for four years, and was now proposing to create money in the mistaken belief that that would create wealth. There is only one form of wealth, and that is the production of goods. Democracy today is threatened, and unless democracy can prove that it can discipline itself and govern itself wisely it will fail.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The battle of the Falklands was fought and won by Admiral Sturdee this date, 1914—"it was luck fairly won on Nelson's golden rule of never losing a wind."

The Junior Board of Trade is stirring up civic interest in the forthcoming election—evidently anticipating a number of vacancies by retirement to be filled.

Sudden deaths have been frequent here recently with consequent shock and distress to the unexpectedly bereaved. The sympathy of all goes out to those left to mourn, whose loss is all the greater coming as it does at the time ordinarily of family reunions and rejoicings.

Hon. J. L. Ralston will have a busy, if not hectic, time when he visits here next week. Not only must he get acquainted with the party leaders and attend the Prince County Liberal convention, but he must give time for receiving deputations and individual interviewers having particular axes to grind. Under such circumstances all the hours of the three days and part of the nights as well, may be easily accounted for.

It is so easy to see how the Allies could defeat the Germans, and send the Russians and Japanese about their own business, that one hates to point it out. War, of course, is one of the few games the onlookers do not see most of, but that does not prevent them proclaiming from the grand stands and ropes how it should be effectively conducted. The trouble is that those in the fray take no stock of the onlookers or their advice, so what's the use of worrying?

Our trade with Australia is threatened to be cut down to a sixth of its present volume, viz. \$32,000,000, because that Dominion has decided to have as little trade as possible with non-sterling countries, at most one-sixth of its present volume. Our imports from Australia were \$9,000,000, so that if these be maintained it may be our exports will range to about \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 as Australia needs our lumber, paper, and auto chassis, which total about that amount alone.

A Ministry of Supply is required at Ottawa to concentrate on Canada's war effort because there is not sufficient co-ordination of work between the different boards set up under the War Measures Act, the Cabinet and the departments concerned. Mr. Grattan O'Leary, associate editor of the Ottawa Journal, suggested in an address before the Advertising and Sales Executives Club of Montreal. Four or five of the Cabinet's best men, divorced entirely from their ordinary administrative occupations, should compose this Ministry of Supply which would concentrate on nothing else but war work. Mr. O'Leary believed, comparing the ministry he proposed with the war board Lloyd George created during the last war.

There has been a virtual cessation of oil-seed imports into Germany, this importation having formed the main source of the 340,000 metric tons of fats consumed annually by German soap-producing plants. Official regulations now require all German manufacturers to make more extensive use of fatty-acid and waste fats and to incorporate in the soap a large mixture of kaolin as filling material. These measures are calculated to reduce national consumption of fat by the soap industry, although admittedly at the disadvantage of considerable deterioration in the quality of the national soap supply. All trade names have disappeared from German soap, since the manufacture of the product has been standardized and made uniform for all producers.

Some more hardware and allied commodities have been affected by their first increase in price since the war started. Paint, varnishes and enamels have been advanced to retailers by from 15c to 30c a gallon. Paint manufacturers state that increasing costs on their raw materials have made this advance necessary, according to the current issue of Hardware and Metal, Toronto, Ont. Prices on paint and varnish brushes have also been raised, and household brushes, including scrub brushes, floor brushes, etc., are higher in price. An anticipated advance in pipe products, including wrought iron and steel pipe, wrought couplings and pipe nipples has become effective. Files are quoted at higher prices and certain carpenters' tools are advanced. Manufacturers are booking rubber garden hose for 1940 delivery, without further change from prices established in September, when an advance of 10% came into effect. Delivery must be specified before March 31, 1940 on booked orders this year. Enquiries made among retailers indicate that many hardware stores are having a busy fall season. This is especially so in rural areas, where farmers have more crop money to spend this year. City business is spotty, with some dealers very busy and others doing their normal fall trade. Most hardwaremen are looking forward with enthusiasm to business between now and the end of the year. Christmas trade is developing already, and will become heavier as the weeks pass. Most hardwaremen have Christmas merchandise on display, and some indicate that early enquiries and buying are very promising.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A friend who was calling at Ambleside tells me that two small avacuee boys called at Grassmere church the other day and asked to see "Mr. Woolworth's grave." When it was explained to them that it was Mr. Woolworth's grave that was there, they lost interest. — Manchester Guardian.

War in Europe and in the Orient has created a broad export demand for soy beans which has helped to put and keep their price above the prices of wheat and corn. Would anyone have believed all this twenty or even ten years ago? — Pennsylvania Farmer.

"If Canadian soldiers have difficulties with sweethearts, wives or lawyers, they will have the benefit of expert advice under a scheme now being launched by the Canadian Legion." News item, One more reason to join the army. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Another congressional widow, Mrs. Thomas S. McMillan of Charleston, S.C., has won election to succeed her husband in the United States House of Representatives and by a landslide vote over her two opponents. This has happened in enough cases now that one is almost forced to conclude that the lady must have had something to do with her husband's election in the first place. — Christian Science Monitor.

Canada has the craftsmen in the Maritime Provinces speedily to build wooden ships for minesweeping and patrol purposes, as well as steel ships to defeat the blockade of raiders, aircraft and submarines. Canada has also a great reserve of seafaring men and fishermen to be drawn upon to man the ships. There is hazardous work ahead. Training of crews should be under way during the winter months, even before the ships are ready, to prepare Canada's toilers of the deep for defensive service on a vulnerable front. — Ottawa Citizen.

About fifteen inmates of the Zoo now have "fairly godparents" under the Zoo's new adoption scheme by which members of the public adopt an animal by paying for its keep. The protege may not be taken away from the Zoo, but the adopter has his or her name being cage and the right to interview him. Canada has the most expensive proteges, the sealions keep being thirty shillings a week and the elephant, ant's is one pound. — London Sunday Times.

When Hitler got through with slaughtering Poland he told the world that Germany had defended itself against Polish attack. When Premier Molotov spoke to Russia last week he said that "our troops entered Poland only after the Polish state had collapsed and actually ceased to exist." When War Commissar Voroshilov spoke to Red troops this week he said they had fought gloriously, both in the Mongolian "defence" and against the Polish aggressors. Remembering the Polish messengers asked Goering why he didn't bomb the Allies, he said: "Because I'm humane." That Liar's Club down in the United States should sign up these boys and really start studying the art. — Vancouver Sun.

The Albertan believes that the Britanic people have a destiny to fulfill — a destiny which has not from having been discharged, has hardly begun, in terms of cosmic "time." But can we suppose that the British Commonwealth should reach out, century by century, until it took in a quarter of Earth's land surface and a population of five hundred millions having a common ideal, tempered by or adapted to local or racial mores of view, only to dissolve it and start building a new civilization ab initio. One might presume to judge that the Divine Plan did not contemplate anything so wasteful. — Calgary Albertan.

All pretense that the Communist party is a Canadian party must now be abandoned. That Stalin and Hitler have made monkeys of Communism and Nazism means nothing to the Winnipeg marionettes. Hitler swore undying warfare against Communism and all its works. Our local Communists breathed undying defiance to Hitler and all the works of Nazism. Yet a thieves' bargain cooked up by conspirators in Moscow and Berlin for Polish and Baltic booty suffices to make Communists in Winnipeg tear up every shred of creed and abandon the last rays of principle. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Two public men have made speeches in Ontario concerning Canada's war effort. The one was a calm dispassionate review of what the Dominion is doing, such as might be expected from a man of Hon. C. D. Howe's capacity. The other was an attack upon the Canadian Government in its prosecution of the war and was remarkable only for its reckless and malicious statements. It was an attack which might easily have produced action by Ontario's Attorney-General if someone else had made it. The man who did make it was the Attorney-General's chief, Premier Mitchell Hepburn. In doing so, he exposed the hollow-ness of his pretence that he has dropped his personal vendetta against the King administration. It was an address which once more emphasized his unfitness for the position which he occupies. — Toronto Star.

Shop - Keeping In Pioneer Days

THE STORY OF BEDEQUE'S FIRST STORE By E. S. D. From the Day - Book of William Schurman, merchant on the Island of St. John, begun 1784 (Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

The harvest of the Sea never counted for much to Bedeque folks in comparison to the field crops. Hay from the marshes was the first crop garnered by either French or English pioneers in Bedeque. Schurman evidently had mown wheat the late summer of 1784, for on Feb. 15th 1785 he sold a stack and a half of hay for fifteen shillings (\$3.00). This is the only mention of hay in the early years. In 1810 and 1812 however it sold for six dollars a ton, to decline some years later to \$3.00. Wheat, first listed in the account book in 1791 when it sold probably for seed at 6s (\$1.20) a bushel, held around five to six shillings until the war of 1812—14 when it was seven and more at times, and in 1820 sold for as high as eight shillings the bushel. One interesting wheat item in the account is the following: "Where his father in May 29 1801 charged him with '2 bu. Farrow wheat 0: 13: 0.'" Farrow wheat is a rough headed variety which one of the early Farrow men grew. Wheat was often taken on account, as the entries of March 15, 1802 show.

Reserved from David Murray on my account: In wheat @ 6s 3: 0: 0 Tom Wells do @ 5s 0: 7: 6 From Benjamin Coal 1: 6 From Richard Price Patrick Quinn 6: 6 Daniel Woods 13: 6 John Letting 6: 6 William Murray 9: 9 Mr. Baker's 3 bushels 19: 6 1 bushel Peters 6: 6 Mist in Peter's Wheat 3: 3 1/2 bus. 6: 15: 3 This statement of wheat receipts is followed directly by the following: "May 26, 1802 Credit by wheat delivered at the Bay Varts 6: 12: 0 2 bushels now for 12: 0 things there 6: 0: 0 From all of which it is seen that Schurman at this time was doing a small export trade in wheat. Unhappily his accounts are not complete enough to show how much he would make on such transactions. There is no doubt Bedeque folks raised a lot of wheat. In the Island Gazette of 1793 there appears the following paragraph: "Though the season this year was not apparently favourable the produce has been very abundant. In the small settlement of Bedeque alone upwards of three thousand bushels of winter and summer wheat have been gathered in, beside a great quantity of other grain." The summer of this bumper harvest was the same in which Schurman charged seventy-two gallons of rum to twenty-seven of his customers in the city. The year 1795 must have been a bumper harvest too, not to take the rum consumption as an index, but from a subsequent entry in the account in full it may be seen that Schurman had five or six men working in his harvest fields:— "August 1795 French harvest work at 2/6 (50c) per day. Each man 3 1/2 days—8/9 each. Supelungo Arano fidel strings 12 Lorain Dush 2 hanketcheaf 3 1/2 days Sharlo Perre 6 nives and forks 6 nives and forks 1 hanketcheaf Jo Derosh daughter 1 pair shoes John Gallong blue cloth John Gallong to quart rum 0: 2: 0 Jo Derosh son rum one pint (To be Continued)

In Ontario there are eleven consumers per farm. In all cases the figures above are not entirely correct because of the fact that in the census returns the residents in unincorporated villages are not included in the urban population, nor are the fishermen. As, however, the same rule applies to the several provinces, the comparison as shown above is fair and in our case it means that the farmers' home market in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is three times greater than in Prince Edward Island, while in Ontario it is seven times greater.

Once again this is but part of the story; for, with their many ocean ports including the splendid harbours of St. John, Halifax, Yarmouth and Sydney, the farmers of the two adjoining provinces are enabled to export by sea a tonnage many times greater than has been the case from Prince Edward Island. Here are the figures for 1938:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Number of farmers, Urban population, Number of consumers per farm. P. E. I. 1,285, 20,285, 16/10; N.B. & N.S. 73,409, 360,594, 5.

A difference of 13,794,895 tons in favour of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which is 42 times greater than the water shipments of Prince Edward Island. The above figures are taken from the Ottawa shipping report for the year 1938, in which, however, the shipments are not sub-divided into the products of the farm, and mine and the industries. The figures, therefore, are of value only to show the superiority in ocean shipping of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to which the farmers of course have had full access, particularly the apple growers in the Annapolis Valley.

Swine Breeders Attention Now is the time to guard against FIG-WORM By using the most effective remedy on the market MACS FIG-WORM TONIC POWDER It will thoroughly abolish all traces of worms and improve the health of your herd. PRICE 35 CENTS PER LB. We carry a complete line of Cattle Remedies. Gassy Stomachs Relieved Every person who is troubled with gas in the stomach and bowels should get a bottle of Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture and see how quickly it will relieve all distressing symptoms. Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture taken at meal time, not only prevents all bad effects from gas, but it promotes the functional activity of the stomach, assists digestion and improves the appetite. Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture is sold only at The Two Macs at 85c per bottle. Get Your Bottle Today.

KELLY & MacINNIS Old Time Dance Broadcast Ask your friends over to the house on next Friday night, December 8th, because there's going to be a lot of fun. Here's what's up: KELLY & MACINNIS have engaged Jack Webster and his orchestra to give you a real bang-up dance over C.F.C.Y. next Friday night from 8.00 to 9.00. The very best music obtainable for lots of Lancets, some Waltzes and Fox Trots. Make this a big night. It's one you won't soon forget. You do the dancing and Kelly & Macinnis will pay the fiddler.

The 2 MACS 149 Great George Street

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.

FARM REHABILITATION

Sir,—Your correspondent "One Who Knows," in referring to the markets for Island produce places no share of the blame for the distress of our farmers upon the Island's marketing system "because, he says, "The product of our soil is pre-eminently guilt-edged commanding more ready demand at top prices than any products east of the Niagara Peninsula." He is of course correct regarding the quality of our produce, but what about the price? At what point are these prices paid? Certainly not on the farms of this Island. In the Government's potato report of December 5th 75 bags of P. E. I. Mountains are quoted as being sold to the store keepers of Toronto at \$1.15, which is equal to 92c per bushel of 60 lbs., and for which 45c was paid to Island farmers for these very potatoes before their shipment to Toronto. The spread of 100% was caused mainly by heavy rail freight charges. On the same day Ontario farmers were paid an average of 72c for their inferior potatoes while in Montreal the Province of Quebec farmers were paid 65c to 80c per bushel.

Potatoes, although one of our most important products, are but one item. Ask the P.E.I. Co-operative Livestock Marketing Board whether our farmers are being paid as much for their hog as are the farmers of Quebec and Ontario. The fact of the matter is that, although an Island surrounded by the sea, this Province is compelled to export the bulk of its produce by rail instead of by steamship; and, to make matters still worse, the railway company is able to deliver our goods only to Eastern and Central Canada where the farmers are producing similar goods to a great surplus; so that when accepted at all, our produce has to be sold at sacrifice prices, notwithstanding its superior quality.

But even the above is only a minor part of the story. Of far greater importance is the fact that, while the soil and climate of this Island can produce a large range of fruits and vegetables of a quality higher than in any other part of per acre, no attempt has been made by our farmers to do so because there is no demand in Canada either in the fresh state or processed. The loss borne by our farmers in this regard has been very great indeed.

Your correspondent, however, is not simply satisfied with the Island's markets but he apparently regards our marketing facilities as equal to those enjoyed by the farmers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Here are some figures that show the value of the respective home markets.

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land's markets but he apparently regards our marketing facilities as equal to those enjoyed by the farmers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Here are some figures that show the value of the respective home markets.

Member of Parliament. Lad Astor writes: "I THANK YOU, agree." I am Sir, etc. (MRS.) A. CAROLYN BAYFIELD Charlottetown. P. E. I. Dec. 7/39. Eczema Itching Here's Quick Ease and Comfort Go to any first-class drugstore today and get an original bottle of clear powerful, penetrating Moone's Eczema Ointment and apply a few drops over the affected area. The itching torture is quickly soothed and you'll find there's nothing better to relieve the distressing soreness of most externally caused skin troubles. Moone's Eczema Ointment is greaseless, does not stain, promotes healing. Money cheerfully refunded, if not satisfied. Hughes Drug Co., Ltd., Reddin Bros.

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