

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1938

Encouraging Factors

About the most encouraging factor in Britain's armament speed-up, notes an exchange, is that the Government no longer has to persuade the people of the need for its program. The crisis has convinced them that preparedness is the minimum price of peace.

Perhaps this factor, more than any other, is responsible for the "irritation" in Berlin and Rome. Munich worked a chance they could not have expected. There is no underestimating the strength which Germany was able to muster behind her demands.

Russia's Armed Forces

In view of the complaints of the U.S.S.R. against Colonel Lindbergh, to the effect that he has depreciated the military value of the Russian air forces, certain facts given by General A. Niessel, in the Revue Universelle, published in Paris, are of much interest at this time.

Dealing with the Russian army in general, General Niessel says expenditures for military purposes from 1933 to 1937 increased by 400 per cent. The effective force has grown from under 600,000 to 1,300,000; in 1937 there were twenty-two army corps and seven cavalry corps, the infantry consisting of 87 divisions and the cavalry thirty-two divisions.

Amazing Revelations

Here is how the Sydney Post-Record sums up the revelations at the Bren Gun enquiry: Without ever having seen Major James E. Hahn, President of The John Inglis Company Limited, Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Canada's Minister of Defence, gave him a letter credential to the British Government, on the strength of which he obtained an order from the War Office for the manufacture of 5,000 Bren machine guns.

Those who are not addicted to the circular method of reasoning, sometimes called "begging the question," will experience considerable difficulty in reading sense into Hon. Ian Mackenzie's statement. Because the British authorities believed the credential Mr. Mackenzie gave Major Hahn, Mr. Mackenzie ultimately came to believe it himself.

To add to the difficulty in rationalizing the statement of the Minister of Defence, it has come out at the hearing,—on the testimony of the Deputy-Minister,—that it was the Canadian

Government who gave the first machine gun contract to Major Hahn's Company, and that the British Government's order was not placed with that Company till 4 months later.

The whole thing looks like an intricate Chinese puzzle, but perhaps it can be worked out in some such way as this:

Mr. Mackenzie, never having seen Major Hahn nevertheless valued him on the word of his solicitor, Hugh Plaxton, M.P., (Liberal), commended him as a trustworthy contractor to the British Government; believed the British Government would, in consequence, get him to manufacture machine guns for its Ordnance Department, and on the strength of this expectation gave him a Canadian Government order for 7,000 such guns.

Without attempting further to dissect this extraordinary series of transactions, or to explain their chronological sequence, or otherwise to correlate their baffling ramifications, one feels constrained to the conclusion that Major Hahn owes a staggering debt of gratitude to Mr. Hugh Plaxton, M.P., whose word in season to the Minister of Defence resulted in orders for 12,000 machine guns, to be manufactured by a concern which had never made a gun, through the expected operation of a plant not yet in existence.

Did political patronage ever before produce such a phenomenon?

Ottawa Follows Suit

The Ottawa Board of Control is following the example of the Charlottetown City Council and has announced that next year and thereafter city taxes in Ottawa may be paid in four instalments instead of two. It is a change, says the Ottawa Journal, which most people favor, because it is quite clear that for great numbers of property owners it is easier to pay \$25 or \$50 every quarter than to pay \$50 or \$100 every six months.

Editorial Notes

First train left Montreal for Toronto this date, 1856.

The King and Queen are coming to the Island. They will find no more loyal people anywhere in their broad dominions.

Whether or not there is to be a Fall opening of Parliament depends entirely on whether or not the new U.S.A. Trade Treaty has been definitely agreed upon. There have been last minutes snags which have delayed negotiations.

Another Royal Bank official has been added to the Bank of Canada staff in the person of Mr. D. G. Marble, former supervisor of the head office in Montreal, who has been appointed secretary in succession to Mr. Donald Gordon who was recently appointed deputy-governor.

The September export of eggs amounted to 180,387 dozen compared with 20,389 in August and 110,338 in September last year. The export of eggs to the British market was 162,330 dozen. During the six months ending September the amount was 634,293 dozen as against 234,238 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Evaporated milk exports in September were valued at \$157,963 compared with \$274,450 in August and \$216,146 in September last year. The export of evaporated milk has increased somewhat over last year. In the six months ending September the value was \$1,422,484 as against \$1,068,877 in the same period of 1937. The whole milk powder export in September was valued at \$65,142 and the skim milk powder at \$228.

The most miserable Province today is Ontario, where Premier "Mich" Hepburn disposed of Chorley Park, leaving the Lieut.-Governor no gubernatorial home in which to receive and entertain Their Majesties. The Globe and Mail, which is primarily responsible for giving "Mich" his second term, is kicking itself and all sundry because of the disgrace which has come upon the chief English-speaking province in our loyal and patriotic Confederation.

The story of the heroic labours and martyrdom of the Prince Edward Island missionaries, George and James Gordon, on the lonely island of Erromanga, in the South Seas, is retold in an inspiring manner by the Rev. John McNab, M. A., B. D., in a booklet just issued by the Women's Missionary Society (E. D.) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Fresh interest in the narrative has been created by the decision of the church to erect a suitable cairn to commemorate the martyrdom of the Gordons.

Pope Pius in a speech to 300 professors of Christian archaeology gathered in Rome compared Chancellor Hitler with Julian the Apostate and recalled Nero and the Apostle Judas in denouncing in strong terms recent Nazi tactics. He said that it was a lie to attribute to the Holy See the pursuit of political aims and he denounced the efforts being made in Berlin to present what happened in Vienna during the attack on Theodor Cardinal Innitzer's residence as to make the assaulted Catholics appear almost as the authors of the aggression. In conclusion, perhaps of the learned nature of his audience the Pope compared Chancellor Hitler with Julian the Apostate (Emperor Flavius Claudius Julianus) of whom he said, his persecution of Christians was not the most sanguinary but certainly the most obstinate, most double faced and astute in history. It is an insult to human dignity, exclaimed the Pope, to apostate the road of duplicity so far as Julian the Apostate did though he was not the first to attribute to Christians responsibility for the persecutions of which they were the victims, Nero having already set the precedent.

NOTES BY THE WAY

John L. Lewis's C.I.O. is now reported to be opposed to the sit-down strike as a weapon. That makes it unanimous. — Montreal Gazette.

"There are more people in the East, but Westerners travel more," says Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Transport, in reference to the passenger prospects for the Trans-Canada Airlines. Briefly, this explains one difference between the said old East and the newer and more restless West.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

A Rome newspaper, in the new Nazi spirit of intolerance, tells Italians that they should restrict their laughter when Charlie Chaplin, the Marx Brothers or others with Jewish characteristics are on the scene. Soon the Italians will have nothing to laugh at but Mussolini's frowns.

Scientific explorers have just returned from the wilds of Venezuela to report what they found on a high plateau. The plateau is isolated by high rocky precipitous sides. On it anti-eaters, opossums and rats have been marooned for thousands of years, and the object of the expedition sent there by the United States Navy was to study the animals differed from their modern representatives. — Eastern Chronicle.

Canadians are awaiting with interest, if not anxiety, for the trade agreements between the United States and the one hand and the British Commonwealth of Nations on the other. If advance U. S. statements are to be taken literally, there will be considerable shifting of the cards between the countries involved, and it may take a long time to find out whether in the long run they are hurt or benefited. — St. Catharines Standard.

An Italian friend yesterday told what he said was a true story about a Canadian citizen of Italian birth who had married a Canadian girl and went to Italy for the honeymoon. He had a thousand dollars and figured that it would be safer to travel with the money carried about. That is a reasonable assumption, so, anyway, he put it in an Italian bank, only to discover he had lost control of it. After a deal of trouble he was able to withdraw \$150, so that, when he left Italy to return home (fortunately he had returned tickets) he also said farewell to the balance of his money. He had no understanding why there is a falling off in the hero worship of Mussolini by Canadians of Italian origin. — Niagara Falls Review.

It is possible that someone who needs to see this, and who may see it here, failed to notice it in the news columns previously. The reason enough for reprinting the following description, by Dr. Andre Crotti of the International League Against Cancer, is the "lingering" cancer: "Any sore on the skin and especially on the lips which does not heal, any lump in the breast or elsewhere which persists, any abnormal discharge, bleeding from any of the natural orifices of the body, and persistent indigestion and loss of appetite, which resists medical treatment." Cancer can be cured, if taken in time. Do not neglect a warning sign. Seek medical advice at once, if you have any of these symptoms.—Detroit News.

The Mexican Government is buying in our country 3,000,000 bushels of wheat at less than the market price. Our Government—i. e. our taxpayers—will take the loss. We cannot buy from our own producers silver at a price much higher than the market, and we continue to buy from Mexico and other countries silver that need not be sold at a price much higher than the market price and buying other people's goods that he did not need at prices higher than there was any need to pay, the authorities would begin to look into his sanity. The same policies, when we follow them as a nation, are hailed as masterly economic manoeuvres.—New York Times.

After fourteen years of residence in France Mr. Louis Bromfield, the noted, long established, and well known, came back to this country and settle down on a farm in Ohio. He is the latest of a long list of novelists, playwrights, artists and other distinguished people who, after sampling life in New York or abroad have been drawn back to the soil. Some were products of the farms or very small towns others were not. Although Mr. Bromfield during all these years has been a part of the French literary scene much of his work deals with the life of the farmer, and he writes of the farm with fondness, understanding and fidelity. The pull of the farm is not a mere sentimentalism. Americans are on the march. The affairs of nations pass through one crisis only to approach another with the inevitability, apparently, of doom. The nation factories are busy; there is a sense of apprehension everywhere, and taxes are going up. This country, at the moment, looks like the safest place, and of all places the farm seems how seems most secure. This idea may be partly illusion, but it exists. We may deceive ourselves with the notion that a tranquil way of life is possible in such a city as New York, but to almost every one, sooner or later, comes the yearning to get away from the glare of the city, to find a little place in Connecticut, the secluded farm on the Eastern Shore, the stone house hidden among the trees of Bucks County, Pa., or that small ranch in Wyoming. All these places, and others, are being taken over by sensible persons who, while not exactly attempting a retreat from reality, are possessed with the perfectly sane and laudable desire to get a measure of peace out of a threatening and unsatisfactory world.—New York Herald-Tribune.

This is important for the future of the Commonwealth. Now, that formal bonds no longer unite the different parts of His Majesty's widely-scattered Empire, the symbolism of the Crown has a significance which is important in the eyes of public opinion in this country. It remains the only outward and visible token of the fundamental unions and bonds which today hold the British Commonwealth together. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Borden's Memoirs

By R. K. CARNEGIE, Canadian Press Staff Writer (Copyright 1918, by the Canadian Press)

OTTAWA, October 27 (CP) — British Empire united in international relations yet in which each Dominion would have complete control over its own affairs was envisioned by the late Sir Robert Borden. Canada's war-time prime minister.

His memoirs, to be published Nov. 1 by the Macmillan Company of Canada, make it abundantly clear he believed representatives of the dominions should sit with representatives of the United Kingdom to decide foreign policies in which they had a common concern.

Started in 1926, eight years after he retired from active public life, the memoirs disclose that even before the Great War Borden urged that Canada have a say in the foreign affairs of the Empire and declared that when Britain was at war Canada must either be at war or become independent of the Empire.

During the War he clashed frequently with British ministers, taking the stand that while Canadians were playing an important part in the fighting and the casualties, Canada was being ignored in the direction of the campaign. Finally heed was given to his demands, the Imperial war cabinet was set up and he became a member.

The memoirs disclose that David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, came to have great confidence in Borden's judgment. He successfully supported the Canadian prime minister in the latter's insistence the dominions should have direct representation in the peace discussions. They also disclose Lloyd George offered to make Borden British Ambassador to Washington. Sir Robert declined.

Dealing with the establishment of the Imperial cabinet, Borden, who died in 1937, wrote: "An amazing development had been initiated by Lloyd George shortly after his accession to the premiership. He had virtually answered the appeal or challenge of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1897: 'If you want our aid, call us for your counsel.'"

"The emergency of the Empire's fierce struggle kindled into flame the imagination, courage and initiative which Lloyd George possessed in an remarkable degree. Under his leadership Britain led the Empire to her council. For the first time the Mother Country and the dominions met in the great Congress of the Commonwealth, which for convenience was designated as a cabinet. In the cabinet Great Britain presided but the dominions met her on equal terms."

"To take part in the deliberations of the Imperial war cabinet was an immense privilege, but at the same time, a tremendous responsibility. Moved by the premier dominion I had naturally a conspicuous place and much was expected of one occupying so high a position in a period of such unprecedented significance."

Throughout my political life I had sounded the note of Canadian nationhood and from time to time I had somewhat chafed under the control and domination which the British cabinet arrogated to itself in determining the scope and destiny of foreign policy, even to the direct issue of peace or war.

Thus, there was in my mind a fixed purpose to see for myself that could not be misunderstood and by authority that must be respected a new conception of the status of the dominions in their relationship to the governance of the Empire."

In consultation with the representatives of the other dominions and with the agreement of the British cabinet, the Imperial war cabinet a resolution was proposed before the Imperial War Conference (a body inaugurated to consider general affairs of the Commonwealth) moved by Borden and seconded by General Jan Christian Smuts, representing South Africa, it urged that a special imperial conference be called as soon as the war was over to deal with the "readjustment of the constitutional relations of component parts of the Empire."

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"This resolution," Sir Robert wrote, "was the basis of the development that has since occurred and that has entirely transformed the old colonial office conception of the British Empire. He referred to the results of the Imperial Conference of 1926 and the Statute of Westminster in 1931."

"But one difficulty noted with emphasis in the concluding portion of the 1917 resolution still awaits solution. It may be doubted whether there have been established as yet, 'effective mechanisms for continuous consultation in all important matters of common Imperial concern and for such necessary concerted action, founded on consultation, as the several governments may determine.'"

The memoirs relate that during peace discussions in Paris Prime Minister Botha of South Africa separated physically and economically, there are many forces at work which tend to disunion. Above them all stands the Crown impersonal and unifying in its influence. It is important both for him who wears that symbol and for the people who lie in contentment under it that no step should be missed which will bring about a fuller and more complete understanding of the nature of the bonds which today hold the British Commonwealth together. — Winnipeg Free Press.

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Advertisement for Hickey's Black Twist Chewing, emphasizing 'Good Cooking Demands Real Skill' and listing ingredients and the manufacturer's name.