

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1940.

The Coming Session

Reviewing the issues pending at the session of Parliament which opens today the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) takes note of the growing adverse comment on the manner in which the King Government has been prosecuting Canada's war effort.

"Probabilities are, too," says the Chronicle, "that some of the cabinet ministers will be under fire. Retention of the Hon. Ian Mackenzie as a member of the cabinet lacks approval."

"People in Nova Scotia and in other parts of Canada," continues our Halifax Liberal contemporary, "have lost confidence in the operations of the department of fisheries under the Hon. J. E. Michaud. There are demands that he resign, demands which are plainly phrased, far beyond the stage of delicate hinting."

The Chronicle emphasizes that the emergency which Canada faces in common with the other Allied powers "brooks no selfishness, inefficiency, or stupidity. The people of this country, therefore, will demand a thorough discussion of Canada's program for the prosecution of the war."

In similar vein, the Hamilton Spectator (Independent) says the growing feeling of dissatisfaction with the King Government is not always articulate, but is unmistakable to all save those who wilfully blind themselves.

"We came into this war woefully unprepared. We were at once committed to it—as every Canadian knew and believed we should be—by a government that refused to face realities up to the last minute. Its political compromise and lack of aggressive leadership were excused in wartime, but they cannot be excused in peacetime."

Effect Of Bacon Exports

With Canada bound by agreement to ship 4,480,000 pounds of bacon and ham each week to the Old Country, an Ottawa correspondent predicts there will be a large surplus in Canada of the pork products that are not included in the British Wiltshire side.

Bacon for the British market is quite different from the bacon Canadians demand. It is the whole side of the hog with the spare ribs attached. The British butcher cuts it up to suit the taste of his customer. Back and side bacon are part of one piece.

In the last year Canadian bacon was so well salted that it didn't matter how much longer it took to get to the English breakfast table. This time the pickling process only lasts a few days, and if the shipment is held up, quality suffers.

Only part of the curing is done in Canada. The side is moved in refrigerated space overseas and goes into cold storage immediately. Then it is taken out and smoked in England and moves on to the customers.

As Canada has agreed to keep an even weekly flow of bacon going to Britain, there are times when a great deal of uncured bacon has to be put into storage here to fill the demand in the slack season. At present, hog deliveries are heavy. In the early summer they will be light.

A Gloomy Picture

How are we off compared with conditions prevailing in the country to the south of us? Mr. Darwin J. Meserole, writing to the New York Times paints this picture: "Harry L. Hopkins, in his book 'Spending to Save,' published in 1936, said: 'In more places than could be believed, families had been asked to live on two dollars a month... As to clothing, we are supposed to supply it. Yet whole families of children have been kept out of school for lack of shoes and stockings or winter coats.'"

"Edith Abbott, president of the National Conference of Social Work, speaking to 5,000 social workers in May, 1937, described 'homes

without food and without fuel in bitter weather, children too hungry to go to school, whole families without warm clothing and bedding.' "Finally, to bring this situation down to date, the Chicago City Club last fall reported after investigation that 'over 100,000 families in the city of Chicago who are on direct relief are actually hungry most of the time.' The headlines of the press during the past few weeks have described similar conditions in the cities of Ohio.

"Parents in starvation homes do not have money to buy shoes for their children, so thousands of American boys and girls do not go to school at all because of these conditions."

EDITORIAL NOTES

So the million bushels of wheat will not go to Russia after all. But what about the ice-breaker which the King Government allowed to be sold to the Soviets?

Disillusionment. It has just been discovered that Benjamin Franklin, the apostle of thrift, had his account at the Bank of North America overdrawn nearly half the time.

Robert Burns born this date, 1759. Be Britain still to Britain true Among ourselves united; For never but by British hands, Maun British wrongs be righted!

Souris district Conservatives are full of fight, and positively decline to let the vacant seat go to the enemy by default. Such a spirit is highly commendable, and deserves to be rewarded by victory at the polls. The time is short and the roads bad, but the Cause and the Candidate all that could be desired.

According to recently released U.S.A. Federal Reserve Board estimates, the United Kingdom and Canada together had on Aug. 31, \$1,235,000,000 on a market value basis of "securities readily negotiable" in that country. Of this total \$735,000,000 was United Kingdom holdings of American securities and \$500,000,000 Canadian holdings of these securities.

In the last year of the World War the German armies drove into the Russian Ukraine in what was called a bread campaign. Russia's abounding food stores were to supply the answer to Great Britain's "hunger blockade."

U.S.A. Congress has just been advised of the extent to which Alaska has abandoned the dog team for the airplane. A House Appropriations subcommittee was told that on a population basis there were 116 times as many commercial airplanes in Alaska as in the United States. There are seventy times more miles flown there per capita than in the United States, twenty-three times more passengers carried, forty-eight times as much mail and 1,034 times as much freight.

Interest is warming up in connection with the forthcoming civic election. So far there are three "slates" in the field, the present Councilors, City Management supporters, and Mr. John Anderson's list. Then there will no doubt be some independent Candidates. For Mayor the names mentioned are Mr. B. Roy Holman, Mr. J. P. Simmonds and Dr. Heath MacIntyre. If the City Management candidates obtain a majority they will immediately proceed to put their reforms into effect. If they be a minority they will resign, as they have no intention of supporting the present system.

Britain's £43,500,000 loan to Turkey at once symbolizes and strengthens Turkey's vital position as the guardian of the Near East against international brigandage. Unlike other losers in the last war, Turkey has not brooded over her lost territories and has not fished in troubled diplomatic waters. All the weight of her diplomacy has been used to bury old quarrels in the Balkans and to keep the war from spreading to the vast area between the Danube and the Persian Gulf. When one thinks of the savagery of Balkan emities and of the political and social trials her people have endured in the last generation, Turkey's record is a marvel. She has taken rank with the Scandinavian kingdoms as a model of a "good European," even though the geographers would hardly classify her as a European nation at all.

The gross farm value of production of field crops in 1939 is now estimated at \$634,130,000 an increase of 15 per cent over the value of \$550,069,000 on the basis of finally revised estimates of the 1938 field crops. Higher farm values are shown in almost all of the individual field crops. The farm value of the 1939 wheat crop is estimated at \$262,779,000, an increase of \$41,514,000 from 1938. The effect of increased wheat production on the value of the crop was partly offset by lower farm prices. Coarse grains prices, however, were improved this year. The farm value of the oat crop is \$16,628,000 higher, while the barley value is \$4,701,000 higher. The 1939 potato crop is valued at \$39,040,000, an increase of \$5,957,000 compared with the farm value of the 1938 crop.

The Mackenzie King Government has decided to establish in Ottawa a shipping board with a director under the supervision of the Canadian Shipping Board, with the main object of obtaining space in neutral ships to maintain Canada's export trade. This is vital to the national economy, which has been seriously handicapped by the lack of adequate shipping facilities. The government is also understood to be contemplating the raising of the status of the present War Supply Board, which is now subordinate to the Minister of Transport, to a Ministry of Supply, with its head a member of the Cabinet. One of the objects of this move would be to have a responsible Minister ready to meet the onslaught upon the administration of the war program that is expected when Parliament meets.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Cattle growers in Central Australia are now facing a serious problem caused by camels breeding in a wild state and interfering with the grazing lands. Camels are not native to Australia and domestic beasts from Arabia and Egypt were first introduced to Australia in the 1860s. They were used for exploration and survey work. Now many camels have gone wild and breed, the herds are a nuisance and settlers fear that they may, like the rabbits, become a menace.

In the high and exclusive reaches of Harlem there are 75,000 West Indian colored men and women who dwell in a squalid slum with their dusky brethren from the South who owe allegiance to Uncle Sam. These gentlemen from the islands are partial to cricket. On Saturdays and holidays they wend their way to a certain cricket field where amid the traditional dignity and cultured poise of the game they play and bat. Field and hit, bounce, "stump" and all the rest of the intricacies of England's traditional pastime. This is as it should be for the West Indians are essentially British. Their dark-skinned ancestors are proud of their British connection. — London Free Press.

Obviously speaking with the approval of the government, Lord Lothian insists that an Allied victory must result in the creation of a new world organization which will be a system of federalism for Europe. How that great aim is to be carried out is not yet clear. Before it can be carried out, many dark days are ahead. Lord Lothian has lived through the opinion that by next spring Hitler will launch a terrific land, air and naval attack on the Allies. He looks upon this country as properly asking whether its country is also concentrating attention on the post-war world and what it proposes to contribute to a civilization that is to be a new world order. — Washington Post.

Britain is better situated than any other to obtain supplies for Europe to economize shipping space. Food is being rationed there. Sugar, butter, bacon and ham are now on an allowance permitted per person. The amounts permitted are: one ounce of sugar, four ounces of butter and four ounces of bacon or ham per week. A Canadian sometimes asks what that much bacon or ham at a meal is. The answer is: a boy can dispose of four ounces of butter in a day. But perhaps this only means that we eat more of these things than he should. It is to be supposed, the British ration is determined with knowledge of how much of each eatable the human system requires. Canadian rationing is to permit them to eat pretty generally and pretty much as they like. But that doesn't make the official restrictions look any more attractive. We would like to see what we could do if these things were used in the quantities stated, with no second helpings allowed. No doubt life in Canada has some drawbacks, but also has some very substantial and nearly unappreciated advantages. These official restrictions on the menu will help Canadians to sense how much and in how many ways the people in the old lands are enjoying interference with their liberties in order to save their political liberties and those of other nations. — Edmonton Bulletin.

What sort of a man is von Ribbentrop himself? It would be easy to dig out a biography of von Ribbentrop. It has been done many times. One illustration, however, is often more convincing. When von Ribbentrop arrived in London as German ambassador, he bought a fine and expensive Chateau dog. The German embassy left London. The dog was the break of the war. The dog was just abandoned, left behind in the same way as heartless people leave their pets in town or country to fend for themselves. The dog goes: When he was left behind by the departing embassy staff, Baerchen wandered for two days about the streets of the deserted building, howling miserably. A sympathetic policeman fed him with biscuits, but found it impossible to get on friendly terms with him as he was a German dog. It began to look as though the dog would have to be destroyed. Then an Englishman who had been a servant at the embassy came to the rescue. He knew enough German to be able to deal with Baerchen, and he could find a home for him. This man was a member of the British Legion the English-Canadian organization for disabled war veterans and his local branch needed a mascot. So Baerchen was "naturalized" and now lives happily at the headquarters of the Legion's branch in London. He speaks English quickly. — Telegraph Journal.

It is impossible to avoid concluding that since the original aggression (against Poland) something has occurred to alter French and British calculations as respects Russia. For one thing, those governments are no longer so nervous and nervous as they were formerly over the extent of economic aid Russia can give Germany. No matter how friendly the two countries may become, they will be less fearful also of the kind of military aid Russia could give, if she would. Or they may be convinced that—as the British have appeared to suspect—strong real collaboration is impossible for these nations, whose interests clash so radically in the Balkans and in the Baltic. Whatever the reason, the new indifference of the Allies to growing confidence in their own military and diplomatic situation. — Detroit News.

The gallant Canadians who are now undergoing intensive training in England will be fighting for the defence of Canada on the Maginot Line just as truly as if they were opposing Germans advancing up the St. Lawrence Valley. They will require reinforcements—the kind of eager patriots who are now offering their services in Toronto and elsewhere across the Dominion. Some of these men, through no fault of their own, have been on short rations and have known what it was to seek work in vain. They are offering to defend a country which was not too kind to them in the dark days of depression. All honour to them and to those who are giving up steady work to go and

P. E. I. Election Case

(Sydney Post-Record) The legal fight for the representation of the Second District of Queens, Prince Edward Island, by the Council in the Provincial Legislature, has struck a deadlock, by reason of the contradictory decisions of the two judges of the Court of Appeal. The appellant's right to obtain a review of the case by the full Court, following a recount before the County Court, has been refused. The majority of the ballots marked for the Liberal candidate, Hon. B. W. LePage, now Lieutenant-Governor, the Conservative candidate, R. R. Bell, C. C. appealed to the Chief Justice, who rejected a number of ballots from which the counterfoils had not been detached, with the result that the appellant headed the poll. Mr. LePage in turn appealed this decision to the Court en Banc, consisting of two judges, one of whom, Mr. Justice Arsenault, held that in the absence of statutory provision, no appeal lay to the Full Court whereas his brother judge, Mr. Justice Saunders, made a contrary finding. It is interesting to note that all three of these Chief Justices, Mr. Justice Matheson, Mr. Justice Arsenault, and Mr. Justice Saunders, were previous Premiers of the Island. The ruling in the present case is named, Judge Duffy also, of the County Court, who held the original recount, was formerly a member of the Legislature which he represented the City of Charlottetown. Each of these jurists, therefore, should have some knowledge of the law, but unfortunately they seem irreconcilably divided on the question at issue.

That question is whether the secrecy of a ballot is violated in such a way as to render it invalid, if the counterfoil is not removed by the Presiding Officer in the booth before the ballot is placed in the box. The County Court judge has answered this question in the negative, and the Chief Justice in the affirmative, while the dissent in the Court of Appeal leaves the Chief Justice's decision as the final judgment, unless the case is now carried to the Privy Council in Canada. If it goes there, it will go merely to get a nice legal point decided, for the appellant, Mr. LePage, lately elevated to the dignified post of Lieutenant-Governor, is obviously not now seeking a seat in the Legislature, but simply a legal vindication of his conduct. The first judge rejected his appeal, and not his Tory opponent, in the general election of May, 1939. There should be authoritative judicial decisions as to whether or not an undetached counterfoil spoils a ballot. The point looks like one on which eminent counsel in the case could be called in, so as to obviate the need of a costly appeal to Ottawa. But such amicable agreements are not usual in the law. The probability is that this case will be kept alive till the Supreme Court has finally decided what it will say in a bill of costs.

The Privy Council

(Fredericton Gleaner) The judgment handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada to the effect that since the enactment of the Statute of Westminster in 1931, the Parliament of Canada has the power to appeal to the Privy Council in London, undoubtedly will revive discussion of the highly controversial subject, British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have expressed opinions contrary to the view taken before the Supreme Court of Canada. The Federal Government which sought the opinion of the court as to whether the Parliament of Canada was competent to enact laws which were presented to Parliament by Hon. C. H. Cahan, Conservative member for St. Lawrence-St. George's, Montreal, in 1931, although a majority of the members of the court have given the decision to the effect that Parliament possesses the power to abolish an appeal to the foot of the Throne, there was dissent. Hon. O. S. Crockett, formerly of Fredericton, held that if such power to abolish an appeal resided in the Dominion it was in the Provincial Legislature. Hon. H. H. Davis, another Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, also held that the Federal Parliament had no power to interfere with the rights of the Provinces in cases where the appeal is coming under provincial jurisdiction. There is a humorous feature in the fact that the judgment although it is in line with the powers of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, will be taken before that very Committee on appeal in a case which is the right of the Parliament of Canada to abolish such appeal. The four provinces named, having expressed their views on the abolition of the right of appeal to Westminster, are not likely to permit the matter to rest. New Brunswick has already indicated its intention to proceed to refer the matter to the present in a by-election, is not able to discuss the situation. The latter is one of extreme interest, as it is one of importance in the assertion of provincial rights.

A Bull Can't Be Trusted

(Peterborough Examiner) It has happened again and this time Melvin Mitz, 34, a farm worker near St. Thomas, has become the victim of an attack by a bull. He was driving the animal—a Holstein—into the barn when it turned and charged against the doorway. Then it proceeded to ram him, trample him across the yard. The bull was driven off and the injured man taken to the hospital. But there was little life in him and he died in the evening. There was the added information that the bull had never been considered cross, as it had no horns, and had given no trouble previously. Almost without exception there is the same thing said following the death of a farmer elsewhere. The fact that the bull had never appeared ugly would be the reason why people on the farm would not suspect an attack. As far as we know, and we have sought the information many times, there is no explanation for the attack of a bull. It is something which may come today and it may never come, but the danger is there just the same. There was never a bull in existence which could be trusted.

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fight "over there." It is such men who make it possible for Mr. Chamberlain to say the powers of wickedness will fight in vain. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

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.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGES

Sir,—On numerous trips to Charlottetown from this fair western town, I noticed along the highway several flocks of Hungarian Partridge, feeding on whatever they might chance to pick up in order to survive the winter. Coming from a country where these birds are plentiful, I know habits and that they are of great value to the farmers, as they feed on various insects during the summer which are destructive to crops. They are also excellent game birds.

Farmers have in their barns and feed floors such things as seed cleanings, clover seeds, etc., especially where the hay is thrown down. These seeds and cleanings (of very little value to the farmers) would make ample feed for our small feathered friends.

These birds depend on the farmers for their living, especially during the cold winter months when frosty ground makes scratching for feed impossible. Our folk, as well as the birds of our country, rely mainly on the agriculturists for their "daily bread"; we sometimes omit to acknowledge this fact, but the birds might do so but lack our ability to express their gratitude. I therefore appeal to our country heroes, namely, the farmers, to feed these birds any time they happen to see them at the back of their barns and thus help to preserve the bird life of our country. I am, Sir, etc., INTERESTED.

Thackeray's Monthly

(New York Times) Publication of the monthly magazine has been suspended until further notice and more prosperous days. It was a little more than 80 years old. The first issue, published in 1859, began with Macmillan's, St. James' followed the example. Good old Thackeray, who had died in 1863, appeared in 1860. In 1863 Thackeray joined the sixties and lightened its tone. Its later price was one and six. Even in its decline it was a pleasant magazine, hospitable to writers not yet famous. Old friends will miss that year. Thackeray, who had long dreamed of conducting a successful periodical, was editor until April, 1862. He was far from a good editor. He was not orderly enough. Though it would be absurd to call a man who did so much work lazy, he liked to put things off, and his activity was manifested by fits and starts. Besides, it was painful to him to reject contributions. He felt too keenly what he called "Thorns in the Cushion."

The 300-Mile Limit

(Globe and Mail) With customary restraint and convincing logic Great Britain in 1939 has announced that she will not recognize the Pan-American neutrality belt, except under stringent conditions. The British Navy contributes to the security of the American Republics, and although no recognition for this service is requested, the fact remains: That an agreement disabling to British naval activity should be the aim of the American Republics is not suggested. At the same time the necessity for this precaution loses much of its conviction when German ships are in refuge at various American ports without infringement. When Great Britain made it clear that the so-called "Safety Zone" was in effect, a "vast sanctuaries" for German ships, and no precautions were taken to implement the alleged necessity for creating this zone, the fault of the agreement was there and there revealed. John Bull means that "pulling the lion's tail" is a historic fetish, but he never loses his temper about it. He doesn't have to. Neutrality is not a theory; it is a practice. Consistency of aim and purpose is inseparable from the state of mind which creates neutrality. The American Republics arbitrarily decreed a 300-mile safety zone. That was in violation of international law. The observance of this arbitrary agreement would militate only against Great Britain and France. Why would the American Republics, whose independence and

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Integrity are the result of the influence and statecraft of Great Britain, endeavor to compromise or hinder the prosecution of British war effort by harboring German shipping in its ports, and simultaneously objecting to British cruisers, acting in accordance with international law, ensuring German raiders in the South Atlantic? This is a tawdry tribute to "the spirit of Canning." Great Britain pointed out that without adequate safeguards against enemy shipping the 300-mile zone might bring war nearer to the Americas, and lead to friction between the Pan-American nations and the Allies. In making this statement no threat was implied, but only a hope that the cordial spirit which has characterized the relations of Britain and the Americas in the past should continue.

RETIRED CLERGYMAN DIES

SYDNEY, N. S., Jan. 23 (CP)—Rev. John MacKinnon, 75, retired United Church of Canada clergyman, died today after an illness of two months. He held his first pastorate in 1897 at Dalhousie Mills, Ont., after his graduation from Queens' university, Kingston, Ont. He was a native of Lake Ainslie, N. S.

T. C. A. CARRIES 22,332

MONTREAL, Jan. 24 (CP)—Trans-Canada Air Lines reported today it carried 22,332 passengers in 1939. Mail carried totalled 451,631 pounds and air express 49,899 pounds. During the first three months of the year, passenger service was in effect only between Vancouver and Seattle. In April, the first month of the Montreal-Toronto-Vancouver schedule, 1,416 passengers were carried. The peak figure of 3,180 passengers was reached in August.

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