THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1942

Monday's Holiday

As an annual event expressing "gratitude for an abundant harvest and other blessings," Thanksgiving Day was first held in Canada, Thursday, Nov. 6, 1879. It first came to North America with the Pilgrim Fathers. But the custom is of much older origin. The early Hebrews observed it in their feasts of Pentecost and Tabernacles, and there are references to similar observances in the history of Pagan Rome.

Monday's Thanksgiving holiday thus follows long established traditions. We should observe it in giving thanks not only for a bountiful harvest, as in the past, but for the fighting spirit which will enable us, at whatever cost, to win this war for Christian civilization. Without that spirit our material blessings would be worthless indeed.

There will be emphasis in the church services tomorrow on the spiritual side of Thanksgiving, which should serve as a prelude to Monday's holiday and a reminder — too infrequently given these days — of what the word "holiday" originally meant. It is but a corruption of "holy-day", or day set apart for religious worship and communion.

Centennial

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Calixa Lavallee, composer of "O Canada." Lavallee was born at Vercheres on December 28, 1842. He displayed his leanings towards music at a tender age, and attained mastery over the piano while studying under a blind Montreal artist, M. Letondal. In 1859 he left for the United States, and then toured the West Indies and Brazil, giving concerts in each place. On his return to the United States, Lavallee participated in the Civil War, and then acted as director of the New York Grand Opera House until 1872, when he went to Paris, to study under Marmontel and de Boieldieu. In 1875 he returned to Canada, and gave concerts in Canada and the United States. From 1879 to 1881 he was a professor of piano at Quebec, after which he returned to the United States, living there until he died in Boston, on February 21, 1891, at the age of 48. "O Canada" was composed during his stay in Quebec, and was sung for the first time during the big French-Canadian national congress of 1880. The words to the song were from the pen of Justice Sir Adolphe Routhier, and the song rapidly became French Canada's national hymn.

Farming Throughout Canada

Of timely interest at this Thanksgiving season is the October letter of the Royal Bank of Canada, which devotes considerable space to a review of agriculture. The record crop of all grains in the Prairie Provinces this season is cited as clear evidence of the relationship of precipitation to yields. Land which a few years ago was reported to be nothing more or less than desert has this year produced the highest average yields on record.

The marketing of these enormous crops presents no difficulties in the case of the feed grains and flaxseed as arrangements have already been concluded with the United States for the purchase of our surplus supplies. This plan is now in operation and is functioning smoothly.

The record wheat crop, however, will throw a severe strain upon the storage facilities in the Dominion, which is aggravated by the shortage of lumber for the erection of temporary structures. The Government has contracted to purchase 280,000,000 bushels which will leave approximately 300,000,000 bushels on the farmers' hands. It is not impossible that if there is strong demand in the United States for our feed grains, substantial quantities of lower grade wheat will be fed to livestock on the Prairies this year. According to the United States Department of Agriculture there is a reported deficiency in the United States of approximately 10 per cent in animal feed requirements. The recently concluded trade agreement with Russia and monthly shipments of relief wheat to Greece will absorb relatively small quantities of Canadian wheat during the coming year.

Favourable weather conditions have also benefited the fruit crops and the 1942 apple crop is estimated at 4,050,700 barrels, an increase of approximately 13 per cent over the small 1941 crop, but nearly 16 per cent below the average of 4,813,000 barrels in the 5 years 1936-1940. Other fruits, including pears, peaches and apricots, are considerably above the yields of the previous year. Present reports on the grape crop indicate that with favourable weather and absence of early frost the 1942 crop will be in excess of 70 million pounds, the largest on record and nearly 50 per cent higher than the 1941 crop. The potato crop is somewhat better than last year's short yield, with increases in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. The first estimates of Canadian leaf tobacco indicate a total output of 70 million pounds compared with 94 million pounds in 1941. Lower yields were estimated forall types of tobacco and although acreage was increased by 10 per cent the decline in output was 13 per cent.

In spite of increases in slaughtering of both cattle and hogs increased demand from home and export markets has produced a straitened meat situation in Canada. In order to fulfill our 1942 bacon contract with Great Britain it has been necessary to request the Canadian people to reduce their consumption of pork products. The beef situation has been affected by a number of factors,—increasing demand both civilian and military in Canada, higher prices and a similar increase in demand in the United States which has attracted cattle to the American market up to the full extent of the quota allowed under the trade agreements and a reluctance on the part of the livestock raisers to market their animals under the existing price ceiling. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board is taking steps to ameliorate the situation and all sales of cattle are now under a Crown Company—Wartime Food Corporation, Limited.

The fulfilment of this year's contract for cheese and concentrated milk products for Great Britain resulted in an increase of over 50 per cent in cheese production in the first 7 months of 1942. This increase has been at the expense of butter output which showed a slight decline during the same period. Details of a new contract for the delivery of bacon and other pork products to the United Kingdom in 1943 is now under discussion. This will involve an increase of deliveries from 600 million pounds in the year ending October 1942 to 675 million pounds in the following year.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Savings deposits in the chartered banks at the end of August were up from $1,653,597,000 to $1,699,553,000. Finance Minister Ilsley wants to borrow $750,000,000 from the people who own all this money.

* * * *

The livestock and crop situation in Prince Edward Island is admirably reviewed in today's issue by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Is there a more favored spot in this wide world, at this Thanksgiving season?

* * * *

Is Toronto going to have an ice-cutting ferry? Mayor Fred J. Conboy announces that ferry boats would be kept running across Toronto Bay to Centre Island this winter in an attempt to solve the housing shortage in Toronto. "We are encouraging people with substantial houses to live at the island during the coming winter," Mayor Conboy told the Police Commissioners.

* * * *

Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian scientist, statesman, and explorer born this date, 1861; organized the first expendition to cross and explore Greenland in 1888; subsequently engaged in Polar exploration in the specially built Fram; took a leading part in the movement which led to the separation of Norway and Sweden; appointed Minister to England; was prominent in the affairs of the League of Nations.

* * * *

Ottawa advises that Christmas mail for the men overseas should be sent well before the deadline date of November 10 and if possible during this month. The thousands of Canadians who send letters and gifts to the fighting forces should take heed of this official advice, so that there will be disappointment for none of the boys on the great day.

* * * *

"Perhaps the Dieppe raid was worth the heavy price paid in men and material," writes Commander King-Hall, British critic. "The complete answer to that question can be given only by those in full possession of the facts. But on the basis of the facts which have been published, there is no proof that the way to win the war is to attempt to land a large army on the coasts of western Europe."

* * * *

Is your Thanksgiving turkey cheaper than usual? Wartime Prices and Trade Board officials say that "some consideration" has been given to the possibility of fixing Thanksgiving turkey prices but that no decision has been reached. "Supplies of turkeys are abundant," they say, "with storage holdings in excess of those at the same period last year. It was expected market movements would be observed by the board. Action might only be taken if prices begin to move out of line."

* * * *

Writing to the Montreal Gazette in reference to a letter from a Montreal clergyman criticizing a judgment of Mr. Justice Forest, Mr. J. P. Shaugnessy says: "The reverend gentleman assumes that Catholic authorities do not recognize Protestant marriages. This is a falsity of the most bigoted nature, for the Catholic church, when all the requisite factors of the marriage contract are present, not only recognizes but refuses to dissolve any marriage, Protestant or otherwise. This holds true for the statement that Catholic authorities claim that only their marriages are indissoluble, for, as I have stated if all requisite factors are present in a marriage contract, the marriage is indissoluble, if they are not, and the marriage is a Catholic one, it is subject to annulment."

* * * *

Writes an Ottawa correspondent: "An important step in the direction of getting more men for the armed forces was announced recently by Hon. Joseph Thorson, Minister of National War Services, who made it known that the 19-year old class of young men have been called to report for training. It is important in another respect, and that is that this will be the last of the single classes to be called. It is believed that the next call will be to young married men. The number to be obtained from the 19-year old class is estimated at 107,000. But again only a fraction of these will get to the army unless there is a radical change in the policy of allocation. Defence Minister J. L. Ralston told the House last spring that, in effect, the army got those who remained after the requirements of the munitions and other primary industries were met. Munitions must get another 100,000 persons before the end of this year, and the demands of lumbering and the base metals industry are now imperative. But the manpower needs of the three armed forces are also rapidly mounting. The task of the selective service is not enviable."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Italian petrol, I hear, is being used by Jugoslav guerillas to fight Germans. This lapse in Axis co-ordination is due to an arrangement between the guerilla leaders and the Italian authorities whereby Italian prisoners are bartered for cans of spirit. The standard rate of exchange is: One Italian private or N. C. O. for one can of petrol; one Italian officer (up to colonel) for four cans; one Italian officer (colonel or higher) for 50 cans. —Leeds Yorkshire Post.

In the last analysis, however, long-established and popular custom will give 'God Save the King' an easy precedence (over "O Canada") And if one more word may be added on this subject: in addition to the dignity and simplicity of its melody and the meaningful character of its words, 'God Save the King' is not only a national hymn, but a national prayer. It therefore has a quality superior to any ordinary patriotic composition, whatever the musical or lyrical merits of that composition may be. —Brantford Expositor.

Cables from Britain report with awe that war factories produce more if the work is done to music. It is strange how the world gets so enmeshed in its own mechanical civilization that it can "discover" that primitive fact, and consider it remarkable. Any "savage" people could have told the efficiency experts that long ago. So could the skippers of the old-time sailing vessels. So could the slaves on the cotton plantations. So could the Volga boatmen, when human toil did what mechanical energy now does. —Vancouver Province.

Many who have seen our im-proved relations come to pass with America and Russia have become advocates of a type of internationalism which is not at all to our liking. These people want to strip us of all the benefits of colonies and dependencies which we fought so often to gain, which we worked so hard to improve, and which again we have fought so hard to retain. Such advocates would leave us in a worse position at the end of the war than we were in when we set out on it. And the fate of people of these colonies and dependencies would be all the worse too. For they would likewise be stripped of the enormous benefits which they derive from British rule. The greatest detractors of Britain are often to be found at home. In their mouths you would think that our rule in the Colonial Empire had been corrupt and rotten. In [illegible] brought the benefits of [illegible] and prosperity throughout [illegible] years and even the centuries. It was we who took the rubber tree to Malaya. We look back with pride to such developments. We taught our colonial peoples the ways of peace. We did not turn our colonies into armed camps with forced native levies to fight our battles for us. —London Daily Express.

When one considers the vast quantities of food and other materials the Hun have stolen from their millions of victims, in addition to the agricultural and other labor they have enslaved, the European picture becomes horrifying to contemplate. For the Huns, themselves, undoubtedly receive the most and the best of all that is available, and if they are forced to curtail rations, the belts of the conquered must be tightened close to tourniquet pressure. Whether 1918 will be repeated in 1942 is a question which only Father Time can answer, and he has a habit of answering only in his own time. While an early crack-up of Hun morale is devoutly to be wished, it would be the wildest folly to anticipate it or even to speculate upon it until it actually happens. For the Hun is as wily as a serpent, and his propaganda is as poisonous. —Royal Gazette (Hamilton, Bermuda.

There is something very con-genial between the Chinese and the English. An Englishman was describing the virtues of the Chinese people but he ended with saying: 'Of course, the poor little fellows, they can't help having these ugly cat faces with no eyebrows.' But in talking with my friend, the Chinese said: "What infuriates us is that we have been civilized for thousands of years, and you have only been civilized for a few hundred years, and when we see you we say, 'Look at their great hollow eyes and their shaggy eyebrows; you seem to us like chimpanzees'". We have an uncivilized attitude of calling the Chinese "chinks." Did you know that they call us "chimps"? —Maude Royden, in the Churchman, New York.

Mr. P. Cornelius, the editor of Hansard, has been receiving many congratulations on the triumph of his organization over the difficulties of the late night sitting. Hansard was not delivered with the morning mail as usual, but it was in the Vote Office when it opened at 10 a.m. The whole of the overnight proceedings were fully covered. Never before even in peace time has a 15 3-4 hour sitting been covered in next morning's Hansard. The practice was to close the report at midnight. This time Hansard's staff had to write out the report in longhand after 11 p.m., owing to Whitehall restrictions on typists' hours. They also had to arrange a special van to take copy to the printers after the trams and buses had stopped. Even the horseback messenger of Edwardian days would have been useful. —London Telegraph.

There have always been more or less traditional signs whereby the Weary Willies of the road indicate to other members of their fraternity what reception they may expect when they seek alms at country homesteads. The member of a well-known walking club tells me that lately a new sign has made its appearance. It is that of the swastika, and its appearance on palings or gateposts is appropriately enough, a warning that more kicks than ha'pence are to be expected at that particular domicile. A circle and a cross means that there is hope of a meal, whilst a ragged line implies that it is well to keep a watchful eye on the dog. There are far fewer of these tramps on the road than before the war. Some, no doubt have joined up in the Services, for, though they could readily elude conscription, these wanderers of the road are often good fellows at heart even though they prefer a life of utter irresponsibility. — Ottawa Journal.

GOOD OLD DAYS

Professors in the early European universities were hired by the students.

Nazi Announcement About Stalingrad

In one of his recent articles W. L. Shirer, the famous Associated Press war correspondent, has analyzed the record of Berlin's official announcements concerning the battle for Stalingrad. The result is as pretty a picture of conflicting statement and futile prophecy as the Berlin propagandists have yet produced. The record of Berlin's announcements with a couple added from Vichy and Rome, runs like this:

August 31, From Berlin, "The fight for Stalingrad has entered its final stage."

September 1, From Berlin, "The German troops have entered the city proper."

September 3, From Vichy, "Stalingrad has fallen."

September 6, From Rome, "Russian resistance at Stalingrad is utterly senseless."

September 14, From Berlin, "The taking of Stalingrad is perhaps the most difficult task of this war."

September 21, From Berlin, "There is nothing new on the Stalingrad front."

September 24, From Berlin, "The German High Command does not make predictions concerning Stalingrad."

September 24, From Paris, "The war on the Eastern Front is no longer concentrated on Stalingrad. Stalingrad has no more strategic interest."

Stalingrad's fate still hangs in the balance, but its defence has resulted in the most decisive strategic victory for the Allies to be recorded during the campaign of 1942. When an aggressor has been halted and frustrated at the crisis of his offensive, he is headed for de-

Buried Church Crypt Found After Bombing

(London Daily Telegraph)

The crypt of St. Clement Danes Church in the Strand, which was closed nearly a century ago, was rediscovered yesterday.

Mr. E. A. Young, chairman of the Church Council, and an architect, found the long-forgotten entry to it under a monumental slab in the bombed and fire-scarred shell of the church.

"From old plans we saw signs of stairs," he said last night. "On taking up the slab we found that it covered a flight of steps to the crypt. This had been closed since the passing of an Act in 1851 forbidding further interment in urban areas.

"Our object in searching was to look at the foundations of the church which we hope some day to restore. We found that the crypt extends under more than half the area of the church.

"When Wren rebuilt the church he did not disturb the eastern half, which was an old mediaeval church. He also left the old western tower.

"All the interments made there in the Middle Ages still rest in the crypt. It is probable that city merchants and men whose names were well known years ago are in the crypt. King Canute's son is buried on the site of St. Clement's."

Mr. Young said that the crypt was well built. A sub-church could be made of it in the manner of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

St. Clement Danes was damaged by a bomb in 1940 and burned out in May last year. The following month the rector, the Rev. William Pennington-Bickford died, and the funeral service was held in the ruins.

The church was built by the Danes who remained in England after the Norman conquest and were allowed to live only between Ludgate and Westminster.

Oh! Mr. Cassidy

(Halifax Chronicle)

There is a great deal to admire in the frank and outspoken way in which Mr. Wilkie manages to dash around the world and carry the breeze of the wide open western spaces into the murky atmosphere of war-torn Europe and Asia. There is still more ground for wonder that Mr. Roosevelt can afford to send his most obvious political rival as his personal emissary to the heads of allied nations. In Russia, at least, Mr. Wilkie's position must seem anomalous. In that country, of all others, political opponents do not enjoy celebrity. They do not long continue even to enjoy life.

Yet Mr. Wilkie has appeared in Moscow, not as a diplomatist—no one would accuse him of being that—not even as the representative of a political party, nor of any influential group in the United States. Russian opinion must compare Mr. Wilkie and his mission with the late Colonel House, who, equally unofficial, often appeared, during the last war, as the petrel who heralded the storm. On some such reasoning they may believe that Mr. Wilkie bears with him some authority which may have the power to change the decisions which Mr. Churchill announced to Mr. Stalin on his late visit to Moscow.

There is, indeed, some ground for fear that Mr. Wilkie has unduly raised hopes in Russia that the United Nations are more ready to open a European front than the facts of the case make likely or possible.

Now we have Mr. Cassidy, chief of the Moscow Bureau of the Associated Press, who has gone one step farther, and has obtained from Premier Stalin a written document which, to all intents and purposes, suggests that the Allies are not fulfilling their obligations.

It is extremely difficult at this distance from the scene of activities to assess at their proper value the motives of all concerned in these negotiations. Mr. Willkie, certainly, has gained a great deal of notoriety. Mr. Cassidy has certainly obtained a "scoop" such as comes to few men. Mr. Stalin has seized a fair opportunity of going behind whatever he and Mr. Churchill decided a few weeks ago.

Obviously the whole situation needs some clarification. For most of us, the same thing to do still seems to be to attempt to see this war as a whole, to realize that it must be planned as a whole, and to leave the execution of detail operations to the experts.

Mr. Illsley's Pessimism

(Sydney Post-Record)

Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, made some astonishing statements to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce at Quebec last week, not the least disturbing being his "warning" that the Dominion Government would curtail "less essential uses of labor even if it means business casualties." This obviously means, if it means anything, that, in the process of its wartime economics, the Government complacently contemplates a course of action which will involve a rising ratio of bankruptcies in the field of Canadian business. Nor does it seem to have occurred to Mr. Ilsley that those uses of labor which are necessary to the avoidance of "business casualties" are not "less essential," but, in the very nature of the case, vital to the welfare the proper functioning of the business organization of the country.

No one can deny that the Minister of Finance has his praiseworthy points, but wisdom of utterance was never one of them. The occasion may be recalled when he paused abruptly in the middle of one of his budget speeches in the House sat down, and invited his fellow members to reflect for a moment in silence on the astronomical proportions of the taxes he proposed to exact from the people of Canada in the ensuing year.

There appears indeed to be an element of sadism in most of Mr. Illsley's speeches. He seems to derive an uncanny kind of satisfaction in telling the pople of Canada to stiffen their upper lips and stick out their chins because the worst is yet to come. When Mr. Ilsley was translated from a law office in a small Nova Scotia town to become Minister of Finance at Ottawa, there were few who expected much of him, for his training had not been that of a business man, or a financier, or even of a class one legal practitioner. But he was a young man of good intelligence, a rising politician who seemed booked to go places if given time and opportunity for the development of his unproved talent. Unfortunately the portfolio of finance was thrust upon him before he had a reasonable chance to discover what it was all about. The consequence is that he is more completely in the hands of the permanent officers of his unproved talent. Unfortunately the portfolio of finance was thrust upon him before he had a reasonable chance to discover what it was all about. The consequence is that he is more completely in the hands of the permanent officers of his Department—to say nothing of a wartime dollar-a-year bureaucracy—than any of his predecessors on the job. Perhaps in the circumstances his pessimistic reaction to the whole business is not to be wondered at. But he should divorce his distress from his public speeches, so that they shall sound less like jeremiads and more like sane discussions of practical business problems.

Gallup Poll In Berlin

(From the Ottawa Journal)

Many people who have protested against the so-called polls of an organization flightily calling itself the "Canadian Institute of Public Opinion" and more popularly known as the "Gallup Poll." They have argued, and not unreasonably, that such "polls" may be misleading, likely to cause friction and suspicions between groups and classes in this country.

Such protests apply pretty forcefully to a "poll" that has just been taken and which has been given unfortunate publicity.

Gallup Poll asked: "If Hitler offered peace now to all countries on the basis of not going further, but of leaving matters as they are now, would you favor or oppose such a peace?" The poll" result was this:

	English Canadian	French Canadian
Approve	3%	31%
Oppose	93%	59%
Undecided	4%	10%

For all Canada the result was:

Oppose	86%
Approve	9%
Undecided	5%

Now no sensible person in Canada will take these figures seriously. The trouble is that certain outsiders may do so; and the further and far greater trouble is that certain outsiders may do so; and the further and far greater trouble is that they provide a choice morsel for Herr Goebbels' Berlin radio. Goebbels won't trouble to tell the German people that this poll is just a "stunt": he will tell them that a poll in Canada showed 31 per cent of Canadians wanting peace. What a Nazi morsel!

The Toronto Globe and Mail looking at these Gallup Poll figures, says that they seem to cut out work for the War Information Board. We think they cut out work for the Censorship Board.

The Poets' Corner

FROM: SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

Here is the test of wisdom;
Wisdom is not finally tested in schools;
Wisdom cannot be pass'd from one having it, to another not having it;
Wisdom is of the Soul, is not susceptible of proof, is its own proof,
Applies to all stages and objects and qualities, and is content,
Is the certainty of the reality and immortality of things, and the excellence of things;
Something there is in the float of the sight of things that provokes it out of the Soul.

—Walt Whitman.

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