THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1940

France At Bay

A dispatch in yesterday's Guardian indicated that the German army was inside the gates of Paris, and later reports confirmed this statement. Unable to maintain the positions they were holding against the weight of armoured Nazi divisions, the French decided not to try to defend their beloved and all but depopulated capital. This, however, does not mean capitulation. They have fallen back in complete order, and are stemming the German drive southward with undaunted courage and determination.

There is no denying the gravity of the situation, or the fact that the fate of France, for the present, hangs in the balance. The superior forces which the enemy has mustered and the recklessness with which they are being thrown into each successive attack, have been beyond expectation. But so long as Allied solidarity continues the fighting will go on. Britain is pouring all available reinforcements into France. The Allied air power is being strengthened daily, with increasingly active co-operation from the United States. The Allied fleets are not only intact but supreme on the high seas, maintaining the blockade which is slowly but surely strangling Germany's economic life. And there are the vast resources in material and manpower of the British and French Empires yet to be reckoned with. But the time factor is all-important now, with Nazi forces pressing ever deeper into French soil. Britain has accordingly launched what is described as an economic blitzkrieg. She is throwing all her war funds into the scale and has ordered "the immediate wholesale purchase of every tool of battle available in North America." At Ottawa, the reaction to the crisis has been the conferring on the Government of virtually unlimited powers to mobilize Canadian trade and industry for war purposes. The French Premier has made a final appeal to President Roosevelt, in terms which leave no doubt as to the crisis France is facing.

The developments to date, disastrous as they have been to the Allies, must nevertheless be surprising to Hitler if he looked for an early clean-up, particularly if every victory is essential to him, which may be the case. He has found that the armies of freedom can and will fight; that, as the record of the evacuation of the beleaguered armies from Flanders shows, they have supreme qualities of steadiness and courage, with a capacity for initiative and resource to meet dangerous emergencies which is only possible to free men; that "capitulation" is a word not known to the Allied people; and that he is up against an intangible moral quality which he is not able to understand; the unconquerable resolution of a free people to die rather than yield —a resolution which will bring into play imponderables that, perhaps in the short run, certainly in the long run, will save them from the fate against which it has been invoked.

Hitler's Fate—A Prophecy

A prophecy in the Bible which seems singularly fit for Hitler has caught the attention of Mr. Ernest Brown, former Minister of Labor in Great Britain. Speaking to delegates to the Baptist Union Assembly at the City Temple, London, he gave the following from Moffat's translation in the 11th Chapter of Daniel, 21.

"A despicable creature shall arise, one on whom the royal honor is not conferred, but who comes when men are off their guard and gains the kingdom by means of crafty promises.

"He shall work deceitfully. He rises to power by aid only of a small party. When men are off their guard he attacks the leaders in each province.

"He shall scatter prey, plunder, and property among his followers. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself. For he shall magnify himself above all.

"He shall not heed the gods of his fathers or any other god, for he shall exalt himself above all gods.

"But he shall honor the god of forces.

"His favorites he shall advance to high power and make them rule over the masses.

"Yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him."

Germany's Air Strength

The estimate Lord Beaverbrook has made of Germany's airplane strength is considerably lower, and almost certainly much nearer the actual record, than most of the guesses which have been published from time to time on the authority of casual contributors to popular magazines. As British Minister of Aircraft Production Beaverbrook ought to be in about as good a position as anyone to ascertain the number, the models, the availability and distribution of the enemy's airfleet. In a statement issued last week, he said that his personal estimate of German air strength, based on official information available to him, was a grand total of 11,675 planes, of which two-thirds might be considered front-line aircraft. In addition to these war-service planes Germany, he said, had 505 Junker troop airships, "probably capable of transporting 25,000 men." He added that his information indicated that Germany had 16,000 pilots in all, of whom approximately 12,000 had been more or less seasoned by recent flying experience. He concluded his statement with a promise shortly to prepare an estimate of German plane production, declining at the same time to say whether or not production of aircraft for the Allies,—including the filling of Allied orders by United States factories,—now exceeds that of Germany.

This secretiveness, however, suggests an exchange, does not imply that the British and United States factories are not delivering more airships to the Allied forces than are being produced in Germany. All that it means is that Britain's Minister of Aircraft Production does not propose to give out information that might be helpful to the enemy. The general belief is that the Allies are getting more new planes than the Germans, and that the enemy's casualties in the air are so much heavier than those of Britain and France as to give a great advantage to the former in the strenuous competition for warplane predominance.

Buying A Bomber

Throughout Canada the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire have initiated a campaign to raise $100,000 for the purchase of a powerful plane of the bomber type to present to Canada, as a contribution to the Dominion's war effort. The Royal Edward Chapter, I.O.D.E., are co-operating by donating the proceeds of the annual Rose Day funds to this campaign, the importance of which need scarcely be emphasized at the present critical time. Rose Day is being held on Tuesday next, and it is hoped that our citizens will respond loyally and generously to this appeal.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

June is living up to its reputation of being the month of nuptials.

* * * *

The strain and stress of the times has taken the edge off holiday-making—yet, we must carry on in this respect as in others.

* * * *

The Archbishop of Canterbury representing the King, has called for special prayers in the churches tomorrow, on behalf of the hard pressed Allies.

* * * *

Tomorrow is the birthday of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Senator, who was born in 1874. It is also the anniversary of Quatre Bras when Wellington, by pre-arrangement retreated to Waterloo where he gave the coup-de-grace to Napoleon.

* * * *

It is significant that no sooner than attention was called in our columns to the practical ignoring of the Province in the matter of war work than announcement was made of our share in the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme. Another instance of Premier Lea's "Wheel that needs the greasing."

* * * *

Magna Charta granted by King John at Runnymede this date, 1215. Principal provisions: all accused persons to be tried by their peers; no taxes to be imposed without consent of Great Council of barons and tenants in chief; no imprisonment without lawful trial, and no delay or sale of justice.

* * * *

American newspapermen were told by Rt. Hon. Alfred Duff Cooper, Minister of Information, that aid from the United States even a year from now would not come too late. He said Germany had been forced to change its plans for immediate attack on England and added: "I do not believe in the invasion. I think we are able to handle parachute troops in great numbers and if an attack were made on land, over the coast, Germany likely would be disappointed." Mr. Duff Cooper said "we now are almost on a parity with the enemy in aircraft production." He mentioned anti-tank guns, sub-machine-guns and "planes and more planes" as the Allies' greatest need from across the Atlantic.

* * * *

The Coal Controller, Mr. J. McG. Stewart declares industrial relations in Eastern Canada are unsatisfactory and that despite an unanimous award of a conciliation board, negotiations between miners and mine owners still were being carried on and the results not clear. No domestic shortage of coal should be anticipated, if the mines are kept going. The mines of Eastern and Western Canada are capable of vastly increasing their output. It is likely all of Britain's extra production would be needed by France since Germany's invasion of Holland, Belgium and Northern France and Canada "must look less to Britain for our anthracite and more to our Canadian mines and to the United States." He advises householders to lay in their next seasons supply early.

* * * *

We hear or read mostly of the open onward rush of the Nazis on the battle fronts, but little of the steadily growing anti-Nazi campaign being carried on behind the lines. For instance Vienna Correspondent of the New York Times writes: "Even the most enthusiastic of the Austrian Nazis have become lukewarm or they have even joined the new 'illegal' Anti-Nazi movements in Austria. Proof of their disloyalty is the S.S. guard in Innsbruck, when has been dissolved to make room for more reliable S.S. troops from Germany. The will for freedom becomes stronger every day in Austria, and all the parties which seemed irreconcilable in their aims and purposes now begin to find themselves united in the one ardent desire—the independence of the country. The purgatory of their common sufferings has welded them together far more effectively than any cleverly thought-out political coalition."

* * * *

Notwithstanding its invasion and defeat by the Soviet, Finland is ready and anxious to pay the regular installment of $159,398 due on its debt to the Treasury of the United States on June 15; and probably will insist on making the scheduled payment even if legislation to waive the next two installments should be adopted by Congress. Senator Vandenberg introduced a resolution saying that the United States would be embarrassed to accept the payments from Finland in its present straits. He wanted to demonstrate that the United States has a friendly feeling toward scrupulous debtors, he said, and wants to acknowledge Finland's fidelity to its obligations. His resolution was referred to the Senate Finance Committee which is not likely to turn down this offer of payment on account.

NOTES BY THE WAY

To state the brutal truth, the impractical idealists who permit their love of peace to blind them to the rough realities and cold facts of life, are the very ones who are largely responsible for the lack of adequate defense that made the Scandinavian countries unwilling contributors to further bloodshed and practical allies of a brutal dictator whose policy is war and not peace. Pacifists in their blindness brought about disarmament in Britain to the point where she was not ready for war when it should have come, and might just as well have been advocating the disintegration of the British Empire and all that goes with it, freedom, democracy—and peace. — Sydney Post-Record.

The stock of professional politicians has dropped as sharply as that of many other somewhat inflated issues during the last few days, and for much the same reason. There will not be a solid market for it until the fundamental question now being fought out in Europe is decided. Then politics in the United States will come into its own again. But one may surmise, it will be a more impressive form of politics — less concerned with individuals of no importance except in their own estimation, more definitely connected with reasoned theories of government and their suitability to our people, our problems and our times. — Washington Post.

Under a statute, already in effect, which was enacted by the Legislature this year, so-called "week-end sentences" may be imposed by committing magistrates in all counties outside of New York city on culprits condemned to serve not more than sixty days for misdemeanors. The procedure is for the magistrate to specify that the sentence is to be suspended on certain days of each week, the purpose being to permit violators guilty of minor offenses to do their time on days when they are not employed, thus allowing them to hold their jobs and earn incomes for their dependents. — New York Sun.

The Times of London is editorially puzzled—as are some Americans—over the new United States three-cent stamp — bearing the "Three Graces" from Botticelli's "Spring" to commemorate the Pan-American Union's 50th anniversary. "The symbolism," says The Times, "is by no means clear. The equatio, presumably, is not Three Graces — 3 cents' — that would be too cynical a thought — but rather 'Three Graces — three Americas'. Can any of the world's nations, however, really be called graceful?....." According to the Post Office Department, both of The Times' guesses are wrong. The Three Graces are just the Three Graces inspirers of wisdom, love and good will between men and nations. — Christian Science Monitor.

Bicycles in Britain have recently taken unto themselves tiny air-cooled engines of one horse power. More than 10,000 of them were made last year and when war broke out a dozen British manufacturers producing these motorized bicycles were flooded with orders from overseas. These economical infants of the wartime roads are improved pedal cycles rather than inferior motor cycles, and are officially known as "autocycles," although they are often nicknamed "Wilfreds." Yet they are certainly not toys, for they will carry a 170-pound rider up a gradient of 1 in 15 without pedal assistance, travel up to 30 miles an hour, and achieve up to 150 miles on one gallon of gasoline and lubricating oil mixture.

Hitler need not bother to set up any post-war kingdom for Leopold, ex-King of the Belgians. He will find his realm ready-made for him. He will have as his people a great assemblage of ghosts. They will be the ghosts of his great and noble father, and of thousands and thousands of Belgian soldiers, of Belgian women and children, slaughtered by the German hordes of two ravening wars. Not that he will deserve or receive their homage, but this great kingdom of spirits will never leave him as he sits alone in the castle which he is to receive at the blood-stained hands of the Fuehrer. They will always be there, bowing mockingly before him, torturing his every waking hour and haunting him in his troubled sleep. The world may safely leave him in their hands. — Windsor Star.

Seaforth Main street has been improved. Immensely improved. All the telephone poles, that reminded one somewhat of dead tree trunks of a burned out forest, have been removed and the wires put underground. The Hydro lines have also disappeared and new iron standards for street lighting have been placed on both sides of the street. The difference these changes have made to the street are striking. So much so that for the first few days after the clean up, people stood and looked at it and wondreed just what was the matter with it. It looked so much longer, so much wider, so much more spacious, and so much cleaner looking. — Huron Expositor, Expositor, Seaforth.

Fritz Thyssen, exiled German steel baron, who predicts in a statement radioed to the American Magazine that eventually Germany is bound to lose the war. In spite of Hitler's astounding military victories, this industrialist believes the tide will turn because Germany despite all the signs to the contrary, was not adequately prepared to begin with. Thyssen, the millionaire who was duped into financing Hitler's rise to power, then forced to flee the country when he vigorously opposed what he considered to be an "unjustified" war, had warned Goering that Germany was not ready to fight, but his advice was ignored. "Never was a war so recklessly started and with less industrial preparation," he stated. —American Magazine.

The primary duty of those charged with the conduct of our relations with the rest of the world is the protection, at whatever cost, of the vital interests of the United States. If these vital interests can best be served by aloofness from any participation in the crucial struggle now in progress in Europe, then we should remain aloof and inactive. If, however, our vital interests are involved and we will be critically and perhaps disastrously affected by a defeat of the Allies, and a victory for Germany, then indifference to the outcome and pursuit of a policy of rigid isolation not only is cowardly and despicable, but is as well a betrayal of our vital interests. There are those, among them the editor of this newspaper, who hold that the future of Western civilization is being decided upon the battlefields of France and Belgium. — Chicago News.

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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.

REFUGEE CHILDREN

Sir,—Thousands of children will be brought out shortly from Great Britain and France, or should be, in order to lighten the load of those countries, which are carrying such terrible burdens, on behalf of all civilized nations, and I would respectfully suggest that the Provincial Government establish a Bureau for Refugee Children with adequate provision for maintenance and supervision. I am sure there are hundreds of families in this province that could take care of at least two children to a family. Suppose that one thousand homes take an average of two, that would mean homes for two thousand children who have lost their own homes and loved ones, through no fault of their own. A Government Bureau would make a survey and give our people in town and country an opportunity to offer their services in a most worthy cause. We could then, as a province, make an immediate offer, rather than waiting to be appealed to. These are times when quick action is required.

I am prepared, and will consider it a privilege, to take care of at least four of these children, and I am quite certain there are many more only waiting an opportunity to do likewise.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. O. HYNDMAN.

Charlottetown
June 14, 1940.

PIT PROPS

Sir:—I have received the following letter and as I know there are hundreds of your readers interested I thought you would like to publish same.

(Enclosure)

Hon W. H. Dennis
Minister of Agriculture,
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our correspondence and conversations in connection with the possibility of arranging contracts for the supply of pit props from Prince Edward Island, we are pleased to say that the Controller now finds that the allocations of tonnage might allow of his purchasing further quantities, and we should therefore be interested to hear what might be supplied for shipment this year from Prince Edward Island.

We should very much like to place some business in your Island, and if you would kindly ask any financially responsible contractor who would undertake to supply a quantity, and date of delivery, for shipment from a port of satisfactory draft (to be started L.W.O.S.T.), we will do our utmost to arrange business.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind assistance in this matter,

PITWOOD EXPORT LIMITED

P. S. As you are aware, the Controller's price is $21.00 per fathom f.o.b. and stowed in steamer, less 2 1-2% Commission.

We do not know anything about the conditions in regard to this matter except what is included in this letter, so that parties caring to undertake to supply this material and wishing additional information will please write direct to Pitwood Export Ltd., 700 Main St., Moncton, N. B.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. H. DENNIS
Minister of Agriculture

A ROTTEN BUSINESS

Sir:—Alcohol occurs in nature only in the process of decay. It is the product of "rottenness." Only in a rotting apple does cider form. Only in a rotting grape does wine appear. It is the result of decay, a breaking down of the normal life of the fruit

(1) The makers of alcohol are engaged in a rotten business. They take natural growths, grains, fruits, or other plants, nourishing food stuffs, and by a process of "breaking-down" their juices, rotting them, they produce a liquid that has a "deadening" effect on the human system. The brewers take good nutritious wholesome barley and rot it to secure beer. The distillers go a step further and evaporate the water out of this to secure the stronger liquors. In this way by rotting the useful grains, barley, rye, oats or wheat, we get a narcotic drug that deadens, depresses, disturbs and destroys the normal functioning of the human body. This is a "rotten" business.

(2) The traffic in alcohol is a rotten business. One of Canada's ablest statesmen once said: "The drink traffickers respect no law, human or divine....To make their sales and secure their gains, they violate the law on every possible occasion, corrupt the guardians and administrators of the law, and foul the very fountain of justice itself." If any body thinks this too severe a condemnation, let him read the findings of the Royal Commission of 1925-27, where he will find full confirmation. They spend money lavishly to influence the electorate, the politicians, the police and other public officers, even the press, and to this end do habitually lie, cheat, bribe, and otherwise violate law, human and divine, corrupting "the body politic."

(3) The drinking of alcohol is a rotten business. The unanimous testimony of modern science after prolonged and intense investigation is as follows: "Its habitual use as an aid to work is psysiologically unsound." "Alcoholic beverages are in no way necessary for healthy life." "The taking of alcoholic beverages to promote such efficiency (that is as a worker) is not only useless or even detrimental in immediate effect,but it is also likely to be, in its ultimate results, seriously injurious to health."

Booze in itself results from rot;
And so turns a man into a sot.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. W. A. NICHOLSON

Rumor Is An Enemy

Mr. Duff Cooper, the new British Minister of Information, seems to be tackling his new duties in a most realistic way. He is working in close co-operation with his opposite number in the French cabinet, and he shows complete recognition of the right of the British people to be as fully informed on military operations as is consistent with the national interest.

nI a recent statement Mr. Duff Cooper said it was his job to give the people "the maximum of information in the minimum of time"; that is, his objectives are accuracy and speed. When one interferes with the other accuracy must come first, and in that connection the Minister quoted with approval a remark of Lord Haig when the Germans broke the Allied line in March, 1918. "No news", said the Commander-in-Chief, "is ever so good or so bad as it sounds when you first hear it."

Mr. Duff Cooper spoke sharply about the rumor mongers:

"The poet Homer, two or three thousands years B. C., said then it was the most swiftly moving of all evils, and that was in an age when no news could travel faster than a sailing ship or a galloping horse. In these days of telegraphs, telephones, and the radio, rumor, like everything else, has been speeded up and is a million times more swiftly moving than ever before, and still as evil as it was 4,000 years ago. I would ask you, therefore, not only to refuse to believe rumor yourselves but also to discourage those who spread rumor and to see in them the enemies of public confidence, people who should be reproved and even punished."

That is advice as sound in Canada as in the United Kingdom. Rumors spread like the wind, to worry and alarm the population, or on the other hand to elate it without warrant, and they ought to be discouraged as definitely harmful to national morale.

Air Warfare Increases

(Winnipeg Free Press)

A little research shows how monstrously air warfare has changed during the past 25 years. The increase in fighting crafts, to say nothing of the increase in their individual effectiveness and the variations in aerial tactics, is spectacular. Mr. L. C. Tombs, in his authentically compiled volume "International Organization in "European Air Transport," cites the figures for the First World War.

In August, 1914, the British flying corps consisted of 1,844 officers and men, and seven squadron containing some 150 machines fixed for warlike purposes. However not even all these machines were in use on the Western Front that summer. Only 63 of them were active there. The French, on the other hand, had 156 planes in flight over Flanders in the summer of 1914. At the same time, the Germans had 258 planes active on all fronts.

By the end of the war, these figures had enlarged beyond all expectations. In November, 1918, Britain's air aim had expanded to nearly 300,000 officers and men, and 201 squadrons totalling 22,000 machines. At the Armistice, France had 3,608 planes in the air over her battlefronts.

France's achievement in this regard is worth noting. In order to have 3,608 active machines at the end of the war, she had had to turn out 41,500 aircraft and 64,000 engines, apart from 9,500 planes and 28,000 engines furnished to her by her allies. At a matter of fact, France's construction was only a mere fraction of the totals by all belligerents for the war: the warring countries had built some 200,000 planes and 250,000 engines before the Armistice terminated the fighting.

These figures make an interesting comparison with air strengths of the various European countries as at September 1, 1939. The prospects are that when the Second World War terminates, plane construction figures will be unbelievably huge.

The Poets' Corner

FROM 'ACADEMUS'

I cheer the games I cannot play,
As stands a crippled squire
To watch his master through the fray,
Uplifted by desire.

. . . . . .

Oh, better than the world of dress
And pompous dining out,
Better than simpering and finesse,
Is all this stir and rout.

I'll borrow life and not grow old;
And nightingales and trees
Shall keep me, though the veins be cold,
As young as Sophocles.

And when I may no longer live,
They'll say, who know the truth,
He gave whate'er he had to give
To freedom and to youth.

—William Johnson Cory.

HELP LICK HITLER

What have you done so far to assist Canada's War Efforts? Sympathy alone is not enough, Canada's War Services need funds badly, and need them now.

The Charlottetown Kinsmen are at present sponsoring a "Help Lick Hitler" campaign in order to raise funds for Canada's War Services. In this they ask the wholehearted co-operation of all our citizens.

Order you "Lick Hitler Stamp" today and place these on the back of your mail.

Each time you lick one of these stamps, in doing so, you are helping to lick Hitler, for you are contributing to Canada's War Services.

These are being sold in lots of 100 each for $1.00.

Send in your dollar to-day and help lick Hitler.

Proceeds to be divided as follows: Red Cross 25 per cent, Salvation Army 25 per cent, Canadian Legion 10 per cent, Y. M. C. A. 10 per cent, Knights of Columbus 10 per cent, Other War Activities 20 per cent.

Address your subscription to
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P. O. Box 219,
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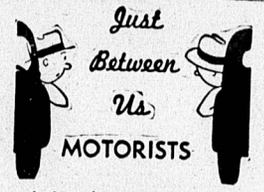
Registered under the provisions of the War Charities Act 1939 at Ottawa.

BROWNS TO PLAY UNDER LIGHTS

ST. LOUIS, June 14 —(AP) — Encouraged by the success of their first night game, St. Louis Browns tonight announced they would play 14 games under the lights this year, instead of the seven originally scheduled.

NAVIGATOR WETTED

LONDON —(CP) — When a submarine was forced to dive suddenly, the navigating officer was left on deck. He was missed at once, and the sub resurfaced, to find the navigator clinging to the periscope, quite unharmed.



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