THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1944

Col. Ralston's Resignation

Following with dramatic suddenness upon Mr. Bracken's charge that the Liberal party was "divided at this moment in its innermost councils on the really urgent question of providing reinforcements for our boys overseas and still playing politics with it," came the announcement of the resignation of Hon. J. L. Ralston, Minister of National Defense. At one stroke Mr. King has lost his ablest minister, and Prince Edward Island its only representative in the Government.

Nothing, we may be sure, but a matter of the greatest importance would have induced Col. Ralston to throw up his job at this time. The Canadian Press quotes "sources close to the government" as stating that the issue was the question of reinforcements for overseas, and there is no reason to doubt that this was the case. Col. Ralston had just returned from visiting our armed forces in France and Italy. He went there to discover whether there was any truth in the allegations of Major Smyth and Premier Drew of Ontario, to the effect that while 70,000 well-trained "zombies" were being kept at home for political reasons, many Canadian volunteers were being sent into action only partly trained. No doubt Col. Ralston made full inquiries at the front, and told his cabinet colleagues the whole truth of the matter. There seems little doubt, also, that he told them bluntly that he would no longer be a party to the farce the Government had made of the manpower question. His resignation followed his colleagues' refusal to heed his words. All honor to Col. Ralston for making the decision which he did, even though it comes lamentably late!

Other Liberal members of the House of Commons have made it plainly known that they see the handwriting on the wall, meaning defeat for the Mackenzie King Administration in the next general election. They will not again run for office. Hon. Thomas Crerar, Minister of the Interior, has announced that he will not contest his Manitoba seat. Fisheries Minister Michaud, from New Brunswick, is known to want an appointment to the Bench. Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, the Navy Minister, is reported by The Canadian Press as having told his party organizers in Kingston, which he represents, that he will not run again.

Mr. King and his party, (to the exclusion now of Col. Ralston) have one main problem in mind: how to hold Quebec Province Federally. At the last general election, in 1940, Mr. King won 64 out of the 65 Quebec seats. Now he is losing strength there after catering to that Province and defying the will of the rest of the country on the plebiscite. The only hope is in getting the largest single group, and that depends on winning the great majority of seats in Quebec. As was shown by the Duplessis vote, rural Quebec is not going to support Mr. King.

The seed sown and carefully watered for more than 25 years has flowered. Even now the report has come that a new political party has been formed in Quebec to oppose Mr. King in the Federal sphere.

There is every likelihood that, should Mr. King lose Quebec, there will not be a shadow of his party left after the next Dominion election.

Col. Ralston's resignation is indeed the handwriting on the wall.

Potatoes In 1944

According to the first estimate, the 1944 potato crop in Canada is placed at 47,540,000 cwt. from 543,900 acres with a yield of 89 cwt. per acre as compared with 43,541,000 cwt. from 532,700 acres with a yield of 82 cwt. per acre in 1943. In the Maritimes, both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island increased their production, largely as a result of much higher yields, although acreage planted to potatoes in Nova Scotia also increased. A reduction in yield per acre in New Brunswick resulted in a smaller production despite a planted acreage which exceeded that of 1943 by about 10 per cent. Production in Quebec is up, while the Ontario crop is about the same as last year. Flooded conditions together with late blight and rot in Manitoba nearly halved production, while the Saskatchewan crop is larger than in 1943. Alberta shows little change, but the out-turn in British Columbia is down.

By provinces, the production of potatoes is estimated as follows, with the 1943 figures within brackets: Prince Edward Island, 4,680,000 cwt. (3,321,000); Nova Scotia, 3,050,000 (1,380,000); New Brunswick, 9,032,000 (10,432,000); Quebec, 14,357,000 (11,256,000); Ontario, 7,320,000 (7,540,000); Manitoba, 1,251,000 (2,414,000); Saskatchewan, 3,619,000 (2,883,000); Alberta, 2,497,000 (2,153,000); and British Columbia, 1,734,000 (2,162,000); all figures in hundredweights.

Insult To Fliers

Perhaps the situation could not be avoided under which members of the Air Force in Canada are asked to transfer to other services. It is understandable, too, that they should be made subject to the draft if they do not choose to enlist voluntarily in the Army or Navy. But, says the *Windsor Star*, there can be no possible excuse for sending draft notices to men who are still in the service.

There seems little doubt that this vile system has been instituted. At least one young flier in training, not yet discharged, has told of receiving his call-up notice at the Air Force station where he is serving. Many other pieces of mail, obviously of the same nature, have arrived at the post.

"It is bad enough to enlist these men for air crew and then tell them that their services in this capacity are not required," says the *Star*, "but they are at least entitled to the opportunity to transfer voluntarily. Whoever is responsible for this atrocious practice of hasty call-ups—and it will probably turn out to be some officious underling—should be promptly fired, and a public apology should be made to the victims of the insult."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Of Hon. J. L. Ralston it cannot exactly be said on his last trip abroad *veni, vidi, vici*, but at least he saw ample justification for the complaints being received from the front why greater progress is not being made.

* * * *

The London County Council has approved a new grade of nursing staff to be called "Nursery Nurses." Women who undertake this work will be posted to Social Welfare Nurseries after a course at a training college.

* * * *

El Obeid (capital of Kordofoa, Sudan, Africa), a battle famous in African history as there on this date 1883, the Madhi defeated the Egyptian army under Hicks Pasha; the Madhi continued his successful revolt until the capture of Khartum in 1885 when he died, but the rebellion continued under Khalifa till 1898 when he was completely defeated by an Anglo-Egyptian army under Kitchener, who originated the phrase, "an army travels on its stomach."

* * * *

Large numbers of books have followed in the wake of the Allied Armies which have landed in Normandy. In one day recently, 1,000 parcels of books were despatched by the Services Central Book Depot. On another day, 40 parcels were sent by air in response to a special request. The books are collected through the Ministry of Supply's national book recovery and salvage campaign. Already 100,000,000 books have been collected, over 80,000,000 by 3,000,000 school children, who have been helping local authorities, Women's Voluntary Services and voluntary workers.

* * * *

Betting at races is greatly on the increase, reflecting the increased prosperity of the average man on the course. Official figures from the recent meeting of Dufferin race track brought the total pari-mutual take on Ontario race tracks this season to $22,588,114, an increase of $1,556,721 over 1943. Woodbine Park increased by $72,560 to $4,113,943; Dufferin by $339,195 to 3,850,030; Long Branch (at Dufferin) by $156,320 to $3,792,683; Thorncliffe (at Woodbine) by $133,398 to 3,746,307. Outside Toronto the Hamilton track showed a 1944 take of $2,767,831, an increase of $110,806 over last year. Fort Erie increased $579,671 to $2,527,934; and Stamford Park at Niagara Falls increased by $164,771 to $1,789,386.

* * * *

Official consideration now is being given an early resumption of Canadian beef cattle exports to the United States, halted since 1942. Under agreement with the United States, Canada can ship nearly 200,000 beef cattle annually under a special quota system. The shipments were halted two years ago when a beef shortage developed in the Dominion and exports of beef cattle could be made only through a permit system. Authorities said that new outlets for cattle had become necessary due to the inability of packing plants to handle all the cattle marketed by farmers. Some months ago it was believed that whatever quantities of beef were marketed could be handled because of the British readiness to take at least 100,000,000 pounds in the years 1944 and 1945.

* * * *

Betting Commissioner James J. Carroll, St. Louis, announces odds of 17 to 5 on the re-election of President Roosevelt and 3 to 1 against the election of Thomas E. Dewey, his Republican opponent. Under Carroll's odds the bettor must put up $17 to net $5 if he favors Mr. Roosevelt to win. If he favors Mr. Dewey he must put up $1 to net $3, or in other words Carroll is betting $3 of his money against $1 of yours that Mr. Dewey will not win. Carroll also released his first listing of odds by states which show Mr. Roosevelt favored to win in 32 states and Mr. Dewey to win in 16 states. The states in which Carroll says the money favors the President comprise 370 electoral votes while the states in which the money favors Mr. Dewey total 161 electoral votes. Carroll's previous odds were 3 to 1 for the re-election of the President (bet $3 to net $1) and 2½ to 1 against Gov. Dewey's election (bet $1 to net $2.50.

* * * *

A Scottish family's record as beadles of the Auld Kirk in Wigtownshire has come to light by the appointment to that honourable office of a discharged soldier whose father and grandfather, gave between them seventy-eight years' service as minister's man, in turn, at the same church and manse. Time was when Scots beadles ranked, in their own estimation at least, a close next to the ministers themselves. The late Rev. Dr. Bruce, Banff, told of a Morayshire beadle who invariably spoke of "Me and the minister," and of a Dunnottar factotum who boasted, "There's nae a day but the Reverend Mr. Silver consults me aboot a'thing and onything." Dr. Bruce admitted that "Where the beadle is a man of strong individuality he is, in every parish, a remarkable and valuable personage and one of acknowledged authority." It was a Banff beadle who, when asked if he could recommend a suitable minister's man for a neighbouring parish, replied in all seriousness, "If ye hid speirt aboot a precentor or even an assistant tae yersel' I could hae helpit ye. But a richt beadle, a' roun' richt, he's ane in a hunder. I ken nae sic buddy th' noo."

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.

AN APPRECIATION

Sir,—It has been my privilege to know the late Leith E. Brecken for over fifty years.

During his long career as Registrar of the Court of Chancery he served under the late Mr. Justice Hodgson, Master of the Rolls, the late Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, Vice Chancellor, the late Mr. Justice Hazzard, Master of the Rolls, the late Mr. Justice Saunders, Master of the Rolls, and myself, and was highly regarded by all of us and by the Judges of the Supreme Court as well.

The late Mr. Brecken was a gentleman of the old school, at all times most respectful, most attentive to the performance of his duties, and a most faithful public servant. In his long years of service he handled many hundred thousands of dollars of Chancery money and kept thousands of accounts. Not a single dollar ever remained unaccounted for, and his books of account were kept with meticulous care. Many thousands of decretal orders are inscribed in the records of the Rolls and Vice-Chancellor's Courts, all of them in his own clear hand-writing.

He at all times commanded the respect and confidence of the Judges of the Courts as well as that of the members of the bar. Even at an advanced age he gave to his duties the same untiring care and attention that he had exercised in his younger years.

During all the years that I have known him I never heard fall from his lips an unkind or uncharitable word about anyone. He was a most Christian gentleman.

I am, Sir, etc.

A. E. ARSENAULT.

Notes By The Way

After five years of war, Germany is less fully mobilized for the struggle than Great Britain. Only a few weeks ago the German people were told: "Women between forty-five and fifty must register for war work." In Great Britain all women up to fifty had been registered more than a year ago, and more than a million-and-a-half between forty and sixty are doing work of national importance. — Montreal Gazette.

It is traditional that war, famine and plague follow each other in succession. Europe has had five years of war. Multitudes of its people scattered over great areas have endured hunger to the point of famine. Now, we are told, it is being swept by tuberculosis. Dr. David Gould, an officer of the United Nations Relief Administration, says the "white" plague is rampant in parts of Europe, that the death-rate from the disease has doubled in the large cities of France and the Low Countries, that the situation in Poland and the Balkans is particularly acute, and that the disease is of a very malignant type. — Edmont Bulletin.

Suppose that the state withdrew its compulsion about people paying taxes? About filling in for jury work? Or the city its multitude of by-laws which make people, willy-nilly, do things they might otherwise neglect to do? The fact is a free state must have a lot of compulsion; otherwise there would be disorder and chaos. There is no breach of freedom in having people do their duty, military and all other, and voting is a responsibility of any good citizen. Discarding that responsibility only makes the vote of the unintelligent, the self-seekers, the venal and those with an axe to grind, all the more powerful. That is not democracy as it should function. — St. Catharines Standard.

Ships of the Royal Canadian Navy will sail into battle in future with a distinctive green maple leaf on their funnels, Naval Service Headquarters has announced. The order specifies that the use of the maple leaf emblem is "a means of identifying the ship as Canadian." Congratulations to Naval Service Headquarters. What they did is all they could do. Naval Service Headquarters could not order the use of the maple leaf upon a Canadian flag. It is to be hoped, however, that the Naval order is a forecast of what in our estimation should be the Canadian flag—namely, the Red Ensign (Union Jack on the upper corner) and the maple leaf on the fly. — Ottawa Journal.

Since the war the fine fleets of refrigerated banana freighters have been devoted to war purposes. To enable the West Indian plantations to be kept in being, the British Government has made grants to the growers; in addition, a substantial export trade has been established with Canada and the United States. The news now comes that the plantations have been devastated by hurricane, and Britain has decided to increase the grants to enable the banana plantations to be rehabilitated. Mr. Richard Williams, of Kingston, Jamaica, chairman of the All-Island Banana Growers' Association, is discussing post-war plans in London, and ventures the opinion that if the shipping is released Britain should get bananas by April next.—P.L.A. Monthly.

You might regard it as of little consequence whether the threads on your machine screws ran 16 to an inch or more or less, and whether they conformed to the standards of the American Society of Engineers. But to American manufacturers of machine screws it makes a lot of difference, and they view with alarm the reports of progress made by an international mission now in London, trying to work out a common standard for screw threads. British and Canadian standards are different from those in the United States. While a few American manufacturers make machine screws that conform to British standards, exports of such screws except in wartime, are negligible. Large quantities, however, have been sent abroad for use in American-made jeeps and tanks. But for their own battle equipment the British have to use their own machine screws. Most of the Canadian machine screws are made by American firms with branches in Canada. — Chicago Sun.

Fertilisers — Organic And Artificial

(By S. D. GARRETT, Broadcast in the BBC overseas short wave service)

My work as a research worker at the Rothamsted Experimental Station is to find out more about how and why plants grow. Some years ago, I realized that I couldn't do this properly unless I grew plants myself with my own hands, and learnt from my own mistakes. I soon found that it isn't always so easy to grow plants outside as it is in our experimental glasshouses, where the plants can have just the right sort of soil, just the right growing temperature, and an ample supply of water. I've always wanted a small farm of my own, where I could try out new ideas, but my wartime vegetable allotment—or "Victory Garden" as they call it in the United States of America—doesn't make a bad substitute, and it has the great advantage that my mistakes are less expensive on this small scale.

This year I took on a new piece of ground — too late to dig in any farmyard or other organic manure, though I could see that the soil needed it. It's been rather dry this summer, and my vegetables didn't do very well. As I was harvesting a very poor crop of shallots, I looked across at my next door neighbour's magnificent crop, and asked him what he'd put on the ground. "I give it three loads of sewage sludge three years ago, and it's had nothing since," he told me. I thought of the trouble I'd taken, weighing out artificial manures, and sprinkling them carefully along the rows for so little result.

The moral of this story is, of course, that organic manures have certain advantages over "artificials" for the vegetable gardener even more than for the farmer. Firstly, organic manures greatly increase the water-holding capacity of the soil, and in a dry season such as we've been having in England this year, this is certainly their most valuable effect. Secondly, organic manures bind the soil particles into crumbs, and so greatly improve the tilth of the soil. A soil in good tilth is easier to work, and can be worked sooner after rain than a soil in poor tilth. And a soil in good tilth offers the best possible conditions for seedling germination and for absorption of plant nutrients which are slowly set free over a period of several years as the plants require them.

Artificials, on the other hand, are best applied every year, and it's more important to put on exactly the right amount than it is with organic or "natural" manures. Too much sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda is wasteful, as the excess is washed down into the subsoil out of reach of the crop. Phosphate and potash, fortunately can't be washed down in this way as they are firmly held by the surface soil. Furthermore, too great an excess of any one of these artificial fertilizers will upset crop growth.

Perhaps you wonder why I — who work at the Rothamseed Experimental Station — should be praising organic or natural manures and pointing out the limitations of artificials. Rothamsted was founded by Sir John Lawes, who discovered superphosphate, and did more than any other man to bring about the widespread use of artificial fertilizers. But Sir John Lawes, I'm sure, never thought that artificials would do away with the need for organic manures. The two are really complimentary to one another, and should be used together. Organic manures improve soil tilth and water-holding capacity, and act as a reservoir of plant nutrients; artificials correct serious soil deficiencies and provide the additional plant nutrients required for a bumper crop. Their supply can also be easily adjusted to the requirements of the particular crop —a high potash fertilizer for potatoes and tomatoes, for instance, and phosphate but no nitrogen for leguminous crops.

England has been the cradle of the artificial fertilizer industry but as you know it's also the home of tradition and sentiment about the past; and so we still have a few English farmers — and many other less practical people —who listen to the cry that the new artificial fertilizers are bad for the land, and that the old way of the dung cart is the best way. It was the best way when it was the only way, but that's no longer true. For one thing, certain soil deficiencies just cannot be corrected by the use of natural manures alone. And farmers — just like manufactures — must take advantage of modern developments if they're to survive in a competitive world. This fact is conveniently ignored by the enthusiast for natural manures and nothing but natural manures on the land.

These people declare that crops grown on such manures are healthier than those grown on artificials and that if men and animals are fed only on crops grown on animal manures they will suffer from fewer diseases — or even from none at all. So far tho' no claims to immortality have been made for the consumers of such foodstuffs.

This very simple theory appeals strongly to those who would like to return to the good old days of the dung cart and the earth closet. But there is very little evidence to support it and much that goes strongly against it. So I can't promise you that next time you plough in a dressing of farmyard manure or the aftermath of a good temporary pasture, the crop you grow after it will be any healthier than if it had been manured with artificials alone. Nor can I assure you that you or your stock will be any better for eating the produce of crops manured only with natural manures. But what I can promise you is that a policy of keeping stock on good temporary pastures will certainly improve both your soil and the yields of your crops. And the easiest way to get those improved temporary pastures upon which the building-up of your soil depends is to make the fullest possible use of artificial fertilizers, some of which science and industry have provided for you literally from the air.

Don't go away though with the idea that you can't keep up the organic content of your soil and grow good crops without stock; you can, for I've seen it done on many English farms. There is Mr. F. W. Chamberlain — who farms by the side of the River Thames in Oxfordshire — he's worked out a very interesting system of continuous barley growing. Mr. Chamberlain sows a mixture of trefoil and rye-grass with his barley; after barley harvest, the trefoil and rye-grass make a strong growth in late summer and autumn, and this is ploughed in as a preparation for the next barley crop. Far from deteriorating, the yields of barley have actually increased under this system; on one field I saw, Mr. Chamberlain, the 11th consecutive barley crop yield 44 bushels per acre.

So you see that the ploughing in of a green manure crop is a perfectly good way of maintaining the organic matter content of the soil. This system, of course, will only work successfully in areas that have a late summer and autumn rainfall sufficient for growth of the undersown grass and trefoil.

Most farmers like animals about the place and I've yet to meet the farmer who is really interested in stock, and can't produce a variety of convincing reasons as to why it pays him to be so. But there's no getting over the fact that ingenious and skilful farmers manage to grow equally good crops and—over a long period of years — without a hoof on their land.

KING'S SURPRISE VISIT

LONDON — (CP) — The King paid a surprise visit to the Savoy Theatre to see Frederick Lonsdale's play "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney," and during the intermission received the stars, Jack Buchanan and Canal Brown.

Bert's Corner

THE TRYST

As you came up along the meadow
That lay as white with frost as snow—
Black behind you strode your shadow,
And all the east began to glow.

No wind was in the trees that glistened,
Spiked with crystal, crystal-sheathed;
The herd stood dark, and stared and listened,
Puffing twin vapors as they breathed.

You are not young or old; but slender
And straight and lithe; as you came by
You had the look of careless splendor
We lose long years before we die.

There was no singing bird to greet you;
I, and I only, watched you come—
But swift my glad heart ran to meet you,
Singing though my lips were numb.

And all along the roads of morning
The sun came out, as though it came
To crown you with the last adorning—
And bright you walked in silver flame.

—Audrey Alexandra Brown, in Montreal Star.

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