

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1941.

Why Should We Tolerate It?

When Parliament reassembles, it is to be hoped that our representatives will bear in mind the rebuke recently administered to them by the editor of Toronto Saturday Night, for their failure to give utterance to the Island's needs.

Hon. R. B. Hanson, the Conservative leader, was the sole champion of our transportation grievances on the floor of the House of Commons last session. Since then, however, the Conference on the Sirois report had its brief and stormy session at Ottawa, and out of it emerged statements from the Premier of this Province which constitute a damning indictment of the King Government so far as its handling of our agricultural interests are concerned.

Premier Campbell maintained that the Sirois Commission to the contrary notwithstanding, this Province's transportation claims under the terms of union are not being satisfactorily discharged. He declared that we have been severely affected by the Government's methods in pegging pork and butter prices.

Even more obvious, said Premier Campbell, has been the effect in the same direction of the fixing of a maximum price for butter; because for the past twenty-five years it has been the policy of the provincial government to urge upon the farmers the desirability of producing more and better winter butter.

In short, Premier Campbell declared, "while agriculture is our principal industry, dairying and butter making in particular are the principal and most stressed branches of that industry; and yet at the single stroke of a pen of a Dominion commission appointed for a specific purpose the whole agricultural policy of the Province is completely overridden and reversed."

Could anything more harmful to the interests of our farmers be conceived, than this mischievous interference with our fundamental agricultural policies? Obviously the King Government and its appointees have not been considering our interests at all.

That is the situation under our all-Liberal administration at Ottawa, as viewed by the Liberal Premier of this Province. It is one which surely calls for protest from our federal representatives.

The Economist's Warning

The Economist, one of Great Britain's most reliable commentators on economic affairs, issues a sober warning in its issue of Jan. 11 against the delays which are to be expected in the execution of the American armaments programme and the dangers which are to be faced in the meantime.

"By January, 1943," it says, "America will be a giant among the nations. In January, 1941, she is the weakest of the remaining powers. Because airplanes and motor cars both run on oil and have metal bodies, there is a fatal temptation to underrate the difficulties of transfer of production from one to the other. Because tanks and locomotives are both heavy vehicles, made of steel plates on steel chassis, it is far too easy to assume that a shop experienced in making one can turn over to the other. Even for the diversified and resourceful engineering industry, the transformation takes a long time."

"In Britain," it continues, "it took four years of planning before the curve of aircraft production really began to rise, and a still longer period for army ordnance. Even as relatively simple a thing as a standardized merchant ship takes a year or 18 months to build when yards have first to be laid down anew or brought back into service."

"To the British people, then, the watchword must be patience; we must not expect more than a trickle of supplies—save perhaps in the air, where preparations date much further back—until next year. And to the American people the watchword must be speed; it is running a big enough risk in all conscience to expect the people of Great Britain to hold out with their own resources all through a year of such grim augury as 1941."

"If the British people must not set their expectations any earlier than Jan. 1, 1942, the American people must not set their promise any

later. It is to be hoped that the implications of the time table are being read, not merely into the execution of the American armament programme, but into the initial planning of it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The City Council is evidently becoming an organization to record the doings, or non-doings of bureaucrats.

The production of concentrated milk in December totalled 12,299,795 pounds compared with 11,886,839 in the previous month and 11,307,016 in December, 1939. Output during the calendar year 1940 aggregated 195,475,734 pounds compared with 166,596,841 in 1939.

This has been an unusually severe winter, and hard on traffic. The ploughs are doing good work, but in the city something will have to be contrived, especially in the narrower streets, to prevent congestion. At present the snow piles are so widened on both sides that it is dangerous for two cars to meet. In some of the streets the city employees are carting away snow, but it would be an expensive experiment doing the same all over.

Miss Edna A. Clarke of Penticton, B.C., is studying engineering at the University of British Columbia. She is the sole representative of her sex in the course of applied science, and the fourth girl in the history of U.B.C. to elect engineering. As a pioneer her name will go down as the first theoretical engineer to qualify during the world war, when the demand for men engineers shows a tendency to exceed the supply.

"Who Killed Cock Robin?" "I said Hepburn, with my little hammer, I killed Cock Robin." "I say to the Dominion," he said, "that we are ahead of you and if you want to do something as a war measure go ahead and do it. But don't smash this confederation and stir up possible racial feud in your efforts." Then he went home, having "pulled out a plum, saying, what a good boy am I!"

The process of secret voting is a heritage from early Greek civilization, according to a bulletin from the National Geographic Society. While the Greeks voted viva voce on most matters, such questions as exile called for secret balloting. "Secret ballots used at Athens 2,400 years ago, in the days of Themistocles and Aristides, have been unearthed," says the bulletin. "They were broken bits of pottery or potsherd, on which the secret ballot was scratched, casting into exile for years citizens thought inimical to the young Athenian democracy. Election days in ancient Rome were days of general assembly and those unwilling to make the journey to Rome did not vote."

Another "blind eye" feat has been accomplished and rewarded in this war already. British army orders say a gun cannot be fired without an order from an officer, but Gunner A. E. Bennett, who had been left with another gunner at an anti-aircraft post, saw a Nazi plane flying over low. Bennett fired, saying, "I can't let that chance go." He brought down the plane. For firing the gun without orders he was court-martialed, but the finding of the court was "no punishment." Mr. Bennett will soon receive the Military Medal for his unorthodox feat.

Queen Victoria died this date, 1901; showed herself strictly impartial in politics, while clearly recognizing that the Crown was the central tie which bound the empire together. Her wisdom, knowledge of foreign politics, unselfishness and uprightness were remarkable traits of her long reign, the chief events of which were: granting popular constitutions to Canada, and Australia, suzerainty in Egypt, popular franchise for Britain, repeal of Corn Laws, Crimean war, Zulu war, Sudan war, Boer War, Afghan war, Sikh war, and the first appeasement conference with Germany from which delegates, D'Israeli and Salisbury returned with the slogan "Peace With Honour". Alas!

Toronto University is granting degrees to advanced technical students who may be desirous of joining the Active Forces. Dr. George J. Trueman president of Mount Allison University on being interviewed declared that the plan was a very sound idea. He stated that Mount Allison would in all probability do the same if there were any students there who would fall into that category. He pointed out that senior engineers at Mount Allison would only be considered second-year students at Toronto since Mount Allison gives only a pre-engineering course leading to a certificate. "The only students we have here that might be released are seniors in physics and chemistry and those receiving both B.Sc. degrees and chemical engineering certificates," he said. "If any national need for men with specialized knowledge arises, I feel quite certain that the university board of regents would grant them their degree and standing providing their work to date has been satisfactory."

To help ease the burden of those with relatives serving overseas, the Post Office Department announces the special parcel post rate of 12 cents a pound (limit 11 pounds) now applies on parcels mailed in Canada addressed to the following: Members of British, Canadian, Dominion or other Colonial troops serving in the United Kingdom, and His Majesty's Forces serving in the Middle East. Members of the official Auxiliary Services. Members of the Forces of General de Gaulle serving with the British forces in the United Kingdom. Members of Belgian, Polish and other allied forces serving with British forces in the United Kingdom. Members of the Canadian army on duty in Iceland. Parcels for those serving on H.M. and H.M.C. ships abroad. The rate of 12 cents a pound applies on parcels sent members of the Canadian forces on duty in the West Indies (limit 20 pounds). The rate on parcels to members of the Canadian forces on duty in Newfoundland is 10 cents a pound (limit 20 pounds). Nurses attached to units of the forces mentioned are classed in the same category as soldiers and are entitled to the respective cheap rates.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There has been considerable criticism among school teachers of the probe of Communistic activity in the Brooklyn area in New York city. The teachers who do not like the probe claim that it is restricting their freedom of speech. But we do not see how it is possible for teachers to feel that freedom of speech supplants their duty to American children and to the taxpayer. Subversive doctrines can be aired in public and on the soap-box, but freedom of speech does not mean that they can be taught to trusting American children. — Boston Post.

Many an American is wondering and asking how the British people can "take it" the way they seem to be doing. There is a hint of explanation in some comments made by a London writer. It seems to be because Britain has "cast out fear." They were terribly afraid for a while. Then they summoned their resolution. They marched up to the peril, faced it, and started doing something about it. Since that, they have not been afraid. It seems to be a good remedy for any fear. When you have once honestly faced the worst and defied it, no harm can come to you. That is, no real harm. Because it is not loss or death that harms you. It is the fear of them. — Corning, N. Y., (Evening Leader).

We do not know to what degree aerial attacks are slowing up production in Britain, and there are good reasons for not making that information public. We do know, however, that ordinary citizens sense tells us, that the bombings must have some adverse effect, as it also tells us that our retaliatory bombings have some adverse effect. Here we have one great advantage over the Nazis — outside sources of supply, with American chief among them. The advantage is not all on our side, however, for America gets a good share of it. As Sir Walter Citrine, the American Federation of Labour Congress: "United States labour can defeat Germany without firing a shot — if the production of war material is speeded up." If that be true, as there can be no reason to doubt, the advantage is immeasurably on the American side, for she has only to work in peace for victory, while we must fight, fight, suffer, face and meet death. — R. yal Gazette (Hamilton Bermuda).

Today the success of a large-scale land invasion appears fantastically improbable. Hitler's only alternative — a raid — seems incapable of doing anything but inflicting damage or of upsetting the nerves of the British people. Not only that, for the first time in this war or in the history of the world, the people are beginning to feel the sting of offensive action. For the first time, the war is being taken into the heart of the enemy camp — a new and incalculable factor. Already Britain's courage and pluck in the air, and her manifest determination to go on fighting until the Nazi menace is crushed, are producing a revolution in neutral opinion. French colonies in Africa have been inspired to desert. The American press no longer talks tragically of a British Empire in danger, but of an Empire which stands an excellent chance of winning the war, and which in any case cannot be defeated. Today there is new hope in the world. — Times of India (Bombay).

Here is what Edward Hulton, editor of World Review, London, has to say about Canada's top-ranking soldier: "More should be known about General McNaughton, a Canadian hero and the greatest living Canadian. He is a fine soldier of progressive type, and adds to this much of the ability of a statesman. He was probably the first to use a dive-bombing as an artillery weapon. Several radio inventions stand to his credit. The new weapon that was the war may be due to him. After victory, he wants him back quick — can't do without him. He is semi-officially described as a very dynamic sort of duck. He has insisted on a comprehensive scheme of education for his troops here. Men will be able to qualify for diplomas which will be of service to them in their life after victory." And here is the Tribune's own prophecy: "We have a hunch that the people in Great Britain are going to hear more and more of General McNaughton. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Strategically Japan's position is favourable. Invasion by any possible enemy is almost out of the question. She might be attacked from the sea; but the geographical difficulties would be tremendous, except, perhaps, from bases in China. Her position on the seas would be strong, but she would not have quite the same immunity. In foodstuffs and many raw materials Japan is independent of outside goods. But in several commodities vital for modern war she is perilously weak. She produces not more than about half her needs in copper and zinc; she has comparatively little petrol, and no rubber. Japan's finances have not been too sound; how they would stand the strain of a great war is a matter of speculation. Her man-power is admitted by all to provide good material for fighting on land or on sea; but her officers are reputed to be under the European standards in education and professional training. There is, too, the very uncertain factor of the effects on her financial and military machinery of the war in which she has been engaged, with the Chinese for three and one-half years, a war in which the Japanese have not been conspicuously successful in notwithstanding the limited resources of their opponents. — Irish Independent (Dublin).

As Great Britain has explained, the Hoover scheme would aid the German war effort. Hitler, of course would permit our food and supplies to be distributed to the populations of Finland, Norway, Iceland, Belgium and Poland. He has systematically plundered these countries and he would be delighted to have us replenish their stocks. If the United States will keep the Norwegian fishermen well and happy by feeding them and their wives and babies, Hitler can continue to command the major portion of their hauls. Dutch peasants, furnished with American foodstuffs, can continue to work on their farms producing food for the Nazi army.

Who Was Responsible?

(Ottawa Journal) It would be an odd outcome of this Sirois Report conference if the delegates, safely packed, decided to read the Sirois Report. Quite a number of them apparently hadn't taken any trouble up to the time they arrived here, and judging by some of the speeches they made they didn't take the trouble after they got here.

Mr. Hepburn, quite plainly, has never read the Report. More surprising, whoever it was that prepared Mr. Hepburn's opening speech to the Conference hadn't read the Report. Not at any rate, with any care; otherwise how could he have made Mr. Hepburn say such things which, in the light of the Report, were foolish?

Of the provincial premiers who addressed the Conference, only two appeared to know the Report. Manitoba's Mr. Bracken, had clearly read it and studied it; and Prince Edward Island's Mr. Thane Campbell seemed reasonably familiar with it. Mr. Godbout of Quebec, contenting himself with a general statement (and an admirable one), may have read the Report, or may not have read it; he had with him some expert advisers. Of the British Columbia delegation, the one member who probably knew the Report was Mr. John Hart. New Brunswick's Mr. McNair, a student, should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Why wasn't the Report read more widely? A lot of blame, we think, must go to the Government. Here was a Report which, according to the Government, was vital to war effort, yet nobody in the Government (with one belated exception) took the trouble to try to tell the country about it. It had taken a Royal Commission, aided by the ablest economists, historians, financiers and business men in the country two years to get out this Report, and more than half a million dollars had been sent on it, yet when the Government got it, they wouldn't do anything about it. They wouldn't want to write a book and have this Government be its publisher. Not if we wanted people to buy it.

PAINTING DAMAGED TORONTO, Jan. 17. — Paul Peck's famous oil portrait, The Return of the Harvesters, which hangs in the city council chamber and is insured for \$50,000, was discovered by Ald. Nathan Phillips yesterday to be a deeply cut right calf muscle. Property Commissioner Graham Bland advised the alderman that funds to renovate the portrait will be requested in his 1941 estimates.

90 P.U. FOR DEMOCRACY READING, England. — (CP) — Alfred Edwards Labor M.P. says "If we destroy Nazism and Fascism that will satisfy 90 per cent of the world, so do not let us disturb the people who can achieve this great goal to carry through the reconstruction."

OUT FOR SEASON BUFFALO, N.Y., Jan. 20. — (AP) — Art Simmons, 24-year-old defence man of the Buffalo American League hockey club, who suffered a deeply cut right calf muscle in last night's game against Indianapolis, will be out of action for the rest of the season, club physician Dr. Kerin P. Lyons said today.

And so with Finland, Belgium and Poland. As long as their people are healthy, Hitler can force even the children into the armament factories to fit caps on bombs earmarked for London. — New York Post.

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The Poet's Corner LET NO CHARITABLE HOPE

Let no charitable hope Confuse my mind with images Of eagle and of anellope: I am in nature none of these.

I was, being human, born alone; I am, being woman, hard beset; I lived by squeezing from a stone The little nourishment I get.

In masks outrageous and austere The years go by in single file; But none has merited my fear, And none has quite escaped my smile.

— Elzoiner Wyle.

A new symphony concert hall in Moscow has been named after Tchaikovsky, the composer.

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