

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1944

Lest We Forget

A timely booklet on Canada's "Chapel of Remembrance", the memorial chamber in the Peace Tower at Ottawa, has made its appearance. It was prepared by Mrs. Charles H. Thorburn, O.B.E., and Miss Charlotte Whitton, C.B.E., and is dedicated to the undying memory of our nation's dead, who, in the three wars of this century, have rendered up their youth in far-off lands in witness of their faithfulness to the ideals of their own.

Today, with so much talk of disunity, it is well to be reminded of what this memorial stands for. One passes through an iron grille out to the great vaulted entrance of the House of Commons. Descending there the vistas open on the corridor leading to the Commons, and to the Senate, to the Library of Parliament, and down the broad stone staircase of the Tower to the green stretches of Parliament Hill.

The whole, to quote our authors, "is a soft by flowing unity, each unit giving of its strength to sustain the structure of which it is a part, each drawing from that structure some of its own grace and power. Thus in a harmony of stone has Canada sought to express, in the very heart of her Houses of Parliament, her concept of the abiding and inseparable unity of life and purpose of the component parts of the British Empire, for the single central column represents the force and strength of the central idea of the British Empire, and the auxiliary columns, the states of the Commonwealth. All are based on a pavement in which marble insets portray the circumference of the world, washed by all the oceans, and within which the main column stands firm fixed. It thus suggests the indestructible central truth of the community of responsibility and of liberty of the British peoples, and upon it the lines of dedication have been engraved. That dedication is not only to the memory of those who brought these ideals to this land, nor alone to those who died in defense of them. Holier and higher still is that consecration for here, in the name of both her living and her dead, Canada, within the Empire, has made her solemn pact in stone—one and indivisible, she stands with the British nations, united for all time in service to the ideals of peace and freedom that are our common heritage."

Would that all our Parliamentarians at Ottawa could draw this inspiration from their surroundings!

In A Nutshell

A British journalist, Mr. Noel F. Newsome, now director of the European broadcasts of the B. B. C., in reply to a correspondent in Spain, gave an answer worth repeating. "Answer me this question—if you can," the latter demanded: "What is England fighting for?" Canada, like the Motherland and her Allies, is fighting in a common cause, so that what Mr. Newsome had to say is relevant to all the United Nations. "England has always fought, and fought successfully, against the endeavours of continental despots—whatever their nationality—to subject the peoples of Europe, including the English, to a physical and mental straitjacket which would crush the desire and capacity for ordered progress which depend on the freedom of the individual within the known and established limits laid down by laws accepted by the majority of individuals," he asserts. But the defeat of totalitarianism is only half the task. Having accomplished that, the great work of reconstruction must be undertaken. That is defined as clearing away "the obstacles to human progress with which human folly (largely inspired by German philosophy) has encumbered our paths, and to release the creative energy of human beings."

Great Show Of Sable

Communism may be all right for Russians at home. Abroad the government appeals to the world's wealthy ones by a great exhibit of sable.

Two million dollars worth of rare natural Russian sable skins—said to be the largest and finest single collection in the world—went on exhibition this week in the fifth floor fur salon at Saks, Fifth Avenue, New York City. The store has participated in a syndicate, headed by Moty Blitgton, which made the purchase in co-operation with the Russian Government.

The pelts, bought in the raw state, come by

from Barguzin, Kamchatka, Yakutsky and Tuvinsky, in the U. S. S. R., and include nearly 10,000 skins. This is the first time such a quantity of rare fur has been made available to women of the U. S. A., and the first time the prices per pelt have been so low.

New York men and women will be the first to see the select skins from the exhibit, but the distribution of pelts will be made to other fur salons in the States.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is Christmas month.

Do not neglect to send that Christmas wish to the boys overseas—there is still time by air-mail.

The women of Charlottetown are taking the lead in public affairs, leaving the men to follow in their rear. A deputation will soon wait on the School Board to urge them to waken up to their responsibilities in the interest of succeeding generations.

The battle of Austerlitz was fought this date 1805 in the Napoleonic war, when Russia and Austria were defeated by France; the former lost 27,000 men, while France lost 7,000; now Russia is fighting her former ally, and is on the side of her former enemy.

Is President Roosevelt to join General de Gaulle on his visit to Stalin at Moscow? He disclosed at Washington that he might go away on a vacation and said he might surprise everybody. Answering a news conference question, he said he might go to most any point, north, east, south or west and that his plans were somewhat in a state of flux.

A new outlet for Canadian meat. The supply department of the Office of Co-ordination of Economic Mobilization, Brazil, approve the request of Rio de Janeiro Hotel Union for permission to import meat from Canada. The meat situation in Brazil at present is "tight", with strict rationing and sales being made only twice weekly and that is mainly meat imported from the Argentine.

"No one really knows whether individuals and business concerns will be willing to spend their enormous purchasing power freely after the war," says Sumner H. Slichter, Harvard economist, in the Atlantic Monthly. "It is conceivable that the swift drop in government buying will leave people too frightened and dazed to spend their money. But if this happens, man will be behaving in a new way. Never before have millions of people with a huge excess of liquid assets been unwilling to use their purchasing power freely to feed and clothe themselves and to buy shelter, education, travel and amusement, provided goods could be had at more or less customary prices."

More than 80,000 unemployed in Montreal alone in the post-war period was the problem exposed by Mr. Valmore Gratton, director of the Montreal Economic and Development Bureau, at a luncheon meeting of the Business Editors of Canada in the Mount Royal Hotel. Non-convertible war industries would thrust out 50,000 employees, he said, while others who will be forced to curtail production will throw another 30,000 out of employment. Only the manufacturers of radiophonic apparatus, electrical refrigerators, railway equipment and similar industries will keep up their high standard of employment, he said. He declared he hoped for post-war prosperity based upon Canada's transportation services, the customs rates, the monetary system, and the opening of new markets throughout the world as factors of interior and exterior economy giving impetus to the natural resources development of the country.

Sidewalks for pedestrians and not vehicles, declared Mr. Justice MacKinnon, in a judgment in Montreal Superior Court. Holding that pedestrians have preferential rights on sidewalks, he said that an individual was not bound to watch for vehicles backing from the roadway onto the sidewalk. In the action before the court, Henry Rosen, junk dealer, of Outremont was awarded \$650 on a claim against Louis Philippe Thibault for \$1,200 damages he suffered when the driver of defendant's motor truck, in attempting to enter a lane, backed the vehicle on to the sidewalk on which plaintiff was walking on Charlevoix street, June 8, 1943. Rosen was pinned by the truck against the wall of a building. The court held that the accident was due solely to the fault of the driver of defendant's motor truck, whose duty it was to give a pedestrian the right of way.

Changes in the war situation make possible the publication of British agricultural statistics about war-time production. The figures deal in detail with agricultural history between 1939 and 1944, and show that agriculture has not merely produced a large proportion of home-grown food, but has specialized in vegetables—apart from allotments, which are not included. The total area of grain crops in England and Wales has been greater in 1943 and 1944 than at any time in the period of agricultural statistics. Even the "seventies" have been bettered here. The arable acreage for England and Wales has risen from 8,935,000 in 1939 to 14,588,000 (preliminary) in 1944, or 63.3 per cent increase over the last year of peace. The maximum wheat acreage was reached in the "crisis year" of 1943 (3,276,000). The highest recorded acreage was 3,553,000 in 1899. The acreage under potatoes has more than doubled, and is far greater than at any time in the country's history—507,000 acres have been added since 1939. The pre-war imported fodder crop of between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 tons has been reduced to small dimensions. The number of cattle has increased in England and Wales between 1939 and 1944 by over 400,000 to 7,209,000; and sheep and lambs have declined

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of the issues of the day. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

A SHOCK TO FARMERS!

Sir—In my last letter I gave in detail, as prepared by the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, the cost of producing one acre of oats whole province. Let it be remembered that, like all the other Experimental Farms work, it was instructed by Ottawa to price main labour and horse labour at twenty-two cents and ten cents per actual working hour, which figures I am bound to state are very low. I also contended that an insufficient allowance had been made for contingent expenses.

Now, in order to obtain the net cost per single bushel the above cost per acre must be divided by the average number of bushels harvested per acre throughout the whole province. Let it be remembered that I am estimating on the average cost to all of the farmers of the Island, and not on the soil will of course vary in respect to proportion to the number of their livestock and to the amount of fertilizer used each year. On our very best farms as many as 65 bushels are harvested from one acre. On the poorest the run is from fifteen to twenty bushels. After making many inquiries from farmers in all parts of the Island and from experts, I believe that the average output of oats per acre in Prince Edward Island does not exceed thirty bushels, in which case the net average cost per bushel is \$1.25, while the cost on the best farms is fifty-eight cents.

I am, Sir, etc.

H. K. HEMMING.

Nearing Final Phase

(By DeWitt MacKenzie, Associated Press War Analyst)

The fierceness of the fighting on the northern battlefield opposite the Rhine land particular point to War Secretary Stimson's latest statement. He stated that Gen. Eisenhower had to delay his general offensive until enough artillery ammunition accumulated. The developing battle of the Cologne plain is a grim business. It is the heaviest and most sanguinary engagements of the war—for it's the final phase of the expansion of the front of life and material on both sides will be great.

So the giant guns are one of the greatest safeguards of the lives of Allied boys. That's why, as Col. G. B. Smith said, we insist on an overwhelming artillery power for the support of our infantry. The specific reason for Eisenhower's delay is that the enemy's strongholds weren't reduced by his explosive bombardment. The enemy's strongholds, running from 10 to 20 miles in depth, isn't one of the most formidable defenses ever devised. It's a veritable labyrinth of death.

There is, of course, no solid line of fortifications but the defenses are saugered, like the trees of a dense forest. The Nazi heavy artillery is as thoroughly concealed as possible and strongly shielded with concrete. Between batteries is a field of concrete redoubts armed with anti-aircraft and machine-guns which can sweep a wide area of ground in front of them.

THE DOCT'S CORNER

WINDLESS DAY

Almost I hear the dying leaf Unclasp itself and flutter down To find a grave that knows no dead.

For violets have already blown Their fragrance on the misty bed Where Summer in old days lies dead.

So silent is the world that none Dare sound a note except that bird Whose breast gleams in the morning sun.

His privileged and holy word Adds to the hushed earth and air A memory of sacrifice.

Moments like this, though they may come Upon a mind distraught with sorrow.

Remind the sufferer that some Mystery may redeem to-morrow: Yet, by their beauty set apart, They'll nearly break a happy heart.

—By Richard Church in the London Observer.

Notes By The Way

Ontario rural newspapers report that the winner of a beauty contest at a country fair this autumn wore a long white gown, while her competitors wore in abbreviated bathing suits. Perhaps the fall weather had more to do with the results than any change in beauty contest fashions. Good-looking show up in a bathing suit.—(Edmonton Journal.)

Why should we not ask to have Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, South Africa, made the next representative of Ottawa? It would not be possible for us to have a more distinguished or a more capable or more colorful governor general. And his appointment would set a new precedent.—(Vancouver Province.)

The feed required to keep one cow sufficient for a half dozen sheep. For a considerable part of the year sheep require no grain. The returns for wool come at mid-summer and there are often few sources of revenue. The cost of turns usually cover the cost of feed for the year, leaving the lamb to cover wool and other incidentals. In wartime, a greater profit can be expected as the sheep develop during the summer when feed costs are lowest and can often be sold to advantage in the fall without grain feeding. Aside from the shearing and lambing time, sheep require very little labor in proportion to the value of their livestock.—(Canadian Wool Grower.)

The Chinese reorganization of the Cabinet may have been induced by American pressure, but the very fact of the shuffle suggests that Chiang Kai-shek is amenable to suggestion, even in respect to internal affairs. Two matters still remain for settlement before China can resume her normal course. Some reasonable accord is required with the Communists, such as will unite their somewhat inimical Chinese fighting forces. On the Allied side, preparations still have to be pushed to increase war production, supplies of equipment and arms. Once these things can be done, the Chinese armies brought into effective opposition to the Japanese, a clearer picture of the final stages of the war in the Far East may be gained.—(Halifax Chronicle.)

It took cows a long time to learn that the horn of the motor car indicated that a powerful mechanical vehicle was prepared to dispute the right of way. Cattle would move along sublimely indifferent to the desires of the driver of the gasoline buggy. Indeed it was often remarked how completely one cow could block even a fairly wide roadway. Yet it is Algonia's experience that here, too, the cows have eventually learned. The later generation of cows have a more pronounced spirit in conceding a right of way on the roads than did their predecessors. So now the frequently seen sight of the cow, dumb though they may be, are less dangerous on the highway than are the swifter pedestrians.—(Sault Ste. Marie Star.)

The debt the world owes to the Soviet fighters has been expressed at various times by Allied statesmen. Every Soviet family has paid a high price in lives and possessions for victory. An Allied leader recently said: "If it were not for the enormous sacrifices of our Russian allies, the odds would be roughly four to five to one against us." Soviet battle casualties have run up into the millions. Their major cities have been destroyed and tens of millions are homeless suffering extreme deprivation. The Soviet people have at no time been dismayed. They are celebrating their 27th anniversary with pledges to increase war production, to make certain that the enemy, Fascism, will be irrevocably destroyed. At the same time their eyes are turned to the future with hope and confidence. The spirit of youth animates them; they have made plans to build fine cities on the sites of the destroyed ones. Something great was added to the world when the Soviet Union was founded.—(Toronto Star.)

Mr. Churchill sang "Waltzing Matilda" aboard a British cruiser during one of his visits to Norway. The story is told by Lt. Peter Taylor, R.A.N.V.R., of Western Australia. Mr. Churchill was in the captain's cabin and using the cruiser as his headquarters when he was attracted to a wardrobe by sounds of extreme merriment during a sing-song. He heard a number of officers referring to Lt. Taylor. Mr. Churchill, after asking the cruiser's captain if he would like to hear you sing "Waltzing Matilda," Lt. Taylor sang the song, with Mr. Churchill and other officers lustily joining in the chorus. Mr. Churchill, grinning all round his cigar and looking like a real old British bulldog, Lt. Taylor said: "He said to me—'That's the song the Australians sang entering Bardia. Those days we were all alone. I then somewhat cheekily replied:



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Not alone. The Australians were always there. Winston just grinned and wined me on the back. Mr. Churchill then asked everyone to sing "Erie, Britannia", and he led the chorus.

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