

THE CHARLOTTE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1944

Nationalization Under Scrutiny

Following the candid criticism voiced by a New Zealander of the nationalization policies put into practice by the Government of that dominion, similarly adverse opinions are expressed in the report of a commission appointed by the Government of Australia to inquire into the advisability, or otherwise, of Government operation of a war plant which it is proposed to convert into a rayon factory.

In the first place, says Mr. Jensen, no business can be successfully carried on without profits, and to make profits there must be an adequate market. The selling of goods is a job for experts, and the Government employees put to the task would be lacking in the necessary experience.

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Curb On Profiteering

Profiteering in war industries it is stated is at a discount here. In the year 1943 655 Canadian companies earned net operating profits of \$799 millions, as against \$488 millions in 1939, says Winnipeg Free Press.

Education In Ontario

The responsibility of government for the standards, distribution and cost of education has been recognized outstandingly in Ontario where the administration of Premier George A. Drew has undertaken to assume 50 per cent of its total cost in the province.

Following newspaper advertising experiments in a variety of cities of different sizes and sections, Heinz & Co. proved that "consumer awareness" of the products affected was increased by 19.7 per cent during the 13 weeks of advertising, while the consumer buying of the product advertised increased by 33.7 per cent during the same period.

In addition to the tax relief thus provided there is another aim that outweighs it in importance — the recognition of the fundamental principle that every Canadian child should receive equal educational opportunity.

The school program, says the Montreal Gazette, is without doubt the most complex and the

most difficult of achievement of the twenty-two pledges made to the electors by Premier Drew last year. The success with which he has approached it has aroused the liveliest interest in Ontario; it has taken a potent political argument against him out of the hands of the C.C.F., and it will provide him with excellent electioneering ammunition for the next provincial campaign.

But beyond these practical political advantages, it is the children of Ontario who have gained the most from the adjustment. The experience of the forthcoming year will provide useful data for future improvement of the educational system, now under study by Mr. Justice Hope, and the other provinces of Canada will watch with the greatest interest the progress made in Ontario.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Boxing Day, a holiday observed in many parts of Canada as well as England.

It is all over but the pleasant memories and unpleasant bills. Now for the New Year!

Taking of the P. W. C. rink and playground for post-war activities looks very like stealing candy from a kid.

Canada is in as good a position as any other country to supply Australia with wheat should Australia find it necessary to import wheat next year. While ample demands exist for any wheat which Canada can move, stocks on the West Coast are available if needed.

Probably this is not the time to refer to political promises and expectations, but the latest rumour is that Mr. T. M. Linkletter, M.L.A., is in the running for the vacant senatorship. He has fought four elections and has seven children. Hon. J. A. Bernard, M.L.A., also mentioned for the position has run one election, and has 13 children.

In Ontario they are experiencing one of the coldest winters on record. At the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for instance, on Wednesday night last the low temperature of 23 degrees below zero was reached, and even at nine next morning the thermometer rested at 20 degrees below.

On military advice, the gallant defence of Hong Kong came to an end this date 1941, after 15 days continual fighting; on the same date, the Free French took over the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Addressing both Houses of Parliament, Mr. Churchill avowed his hope that the British and American peoples would walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.

Friends and relatives of boys overseas will be more than usually interested in the King's New Year's honours list. More than 450 Canadian servicemen will be included. While the lists are not yet complete, the navy estimated a list of 145, the army 140 and the R.C.A.F. 180. All the lists are expected to include a smattering of women. Accompanying the navy's list will be the traditional New Year's promotions, this year totalling between 500 and 600 names.

The word "logistics" has bothered a good many, as it has come to be used frequently. At one time it was taken to mean only "that branch of the military art which embraces the details of transport and supply," this being the definition in a fairly recent dictionary. But it is now being applied to all war planning, and in a recent speech Mr. Roosevelt extended it further when he said: "We are even now organizing the logistics of the peace just as Marshall, King, Arnold, MacArthur, Eisenhower are organizing the logistics of this war."

Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr—was one of the seven ordained by the Apostles to attend to the finances of the Church and distributed alms; on account of his spiritual power, he held a prominent place in the early Church, he was accused of blasphemy and stoned to death; his defence before the Sanhedrin is given prominence in the Acts of the Apostles, and contains the first statement of the universality of the gospel to Gentile as well as Jew; his death was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, and the scene made a vivid impression on his mind; Stephen was the first Christian Martyr.

Progressive Conservative Leader John Bracken, who was in Montreal last week conferring with leaders and staying at the Windsor, was prevented from taking a trans-Atlantic plane at Dorval Airport by news of the death of his mother at Saskatoon. The Progressive Conservative Leader had been on his way overseas on a non-political survey of conditions in England and among the Canadian armed forces overseas when word of the death of Mrs. Elnora Bracken, his mother, reached him. The rest of the party proceeded on their journey, and Mr. Bracken will join them overseas after he has attended to his mother's funeral. The late Mrs. Bracken was buried in the family plot at Olivet church cemetery at Ellisville in Leeds county, near Brockville.

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Notes By The Way

It is argued in favour of the post-war leap that by building it only a little lower it will pass under a box-car as a great crossing. This, it is felt, will lessen the work of coroners' juries.—Ottawa Citizen.

A French woman presented Churchill with a 100-long cigar which she had patiently kept for him for three years, hoping certain that he would eventually finish it. Soiling the one he had.—Sudbury Daily Star.

There is a move on foot, as the saying goes, to abolish the phrase "Everybody knows there's a war on" and the saying should not be used as an excuse for poor service.—Ottawa Citizen.

War brides arriving in Canada must think this country is anything but appreciative of their presence. Their applications are rejected by landlords who know they will be rejected because they have a child or children.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

The routine checking of a war bride's fingerprints at Ottawa results in his arrest in connection with a crime which took place in the United States nineteen years ago. The statute of limitations is long and its memory is no shorter.—Hamilton Spectator.

People in Canada who know something of the difficulty created in this country by the shift of population from rural to urban centres, can have some slight idea of what the conditions must be in England where a similar industrial concentration is multiplied a thousand-fold by the destruction of homes by bombs.—Galt Recorder.

In the tradition of Japanese politeness, perhaps, Premier St. Laurent intimates that he is grateful for the B-29 raids on Tokyo. Says he: "They lighten the burden of the Japanese and strengthen the unity of the nation." That being the case, it is not surprising that Nips to outdo us in not allowing their like our bombs we will just have to keep pouring 'em on.—(Chicago Daily News).

One of the briefest wills ever recorded was that of Charles Deloro, who died in June. It said simply: "In case of my death my wife Jenny Walton (Mrs. Charles Deloro) is the boss of my life." Deloro, an Italian, had been married for nine years and left personal property valued at less than \$5,000.—The Maple Leaf.

The New York Times Magazine remarks: Both capitalism and communism are fighting words, especially in the United States, have recently been examining past experience with great care in an endeavour to clarify the issues and avoid past mistakes and difficulties. They point out that the operation of floor-raising programs has been complicated by a confusion of objectives. Floor prices are not an end in themselves, but rather a means to an end, the end being the raising of farm incomes to a higher level. But when employed for this latter purpose they are likely to interfere with the function of the price system in guiding production and in balancing production and consumption. They involve the government in extensive administrative difficulties (notably those connected with the accumulation and disposal of surpluses), and to become a heavy charge on the income of the community as a whole.—(To be continued)

Development of "synthetic blood plasma" has been announced in Stockholm. A device described as an "artificial lung" was conspicuously publicized a few years ago. Now if somebody could just get busy and concoct synthetic bones and sinews, the world would be a different place. The only drawback is that they would have no brains and no soul, but even today you run across people like that.—Montreal Gazette.

Rabbits are thriving under war conditions in Australia because man-made and weathering are in short supply. Twenty million New South Wales pastured 33,000 sheep. In the subsequent period, the rabbit population increased and by 1943 flocks had increased to 100 million. The rabbit war is carried on graziers fear they will lose the ground won.—From Australian News Letter.

Perhaps the best answer to Mr. H. G. Wells' attack upon the Prime Minister Churchill is its Prime Minister's English weekly. Mr. Churchill would be a better equipped than a Boy Scout to lead his nation, he has served his purpose and should get out "before we forget the debt we owe him." If Mr. Churchill were a fustler, even in the world we stage something would happen to him. He is in retirement for such a long time that he has become a liability to the British public, or that of the United Nations, or that of the world reserves.—New York Herald Tribune.

A man we knew had finally got an office boy who would be an office boy and nothing else. He got the boy a desk and placed him there he would do the most good. Then he lectured the men of his department, told them that this office boy would be a real office boy, and that if they man down at that desk, then he would have to do the duties of the office boy. There was a slight anticlimax in the lecture waxed enthusiastic. While the oration was proceeding the boy had come into the office and was waiting for the something had sat down at the office boy's desk not realizing that he might be asked any moment to sharpen some pencils or go get the head of the department a coke.—W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

Two partners who run an engineering shop at Alice Springs in the centre of Australia have made a gas producer which burns wood. They fitted it to the utility truck and drove 1700 miles to Melbourne on 1700 lbs. of wood and one gallon of petrol. The wood they used cost them nothing. They gathered it on the roadside. Ashes had to be cleaned out twice on the journey and the filler once. For 1000 miles the track was rough with many sand drifts but on the good roads it was maintained at a steady 60 m.p.h. The engineers say that more useful gas comes from wood, particularly red gum and box, than from charcoal. Gas producers burning charcoal are common (but not popular) in Australia and have made a valuable contribution in conserving petrol, but this is the only wood burner known here.—From Australian News Letter.

Floor Prices For Agriculture

Last July, the Canadian parliament passed the Agricultural Prices Support Act giving the Government power to place floors under the prices of the main farm commodities as an important measure of post-war reconstruction. The Act provides for a three-man Board (Mr. C. G. Taggart has since been made Chairman) and can be applied to any natural product of agriculture except wheat, which is already dealt with by the Wheat Board.

Prices may be supported either by government purchases in the market at a prescribed floor price or by payments to farmers representing the difference between the average market price and the floor price. The Act sets forth the general objectives toward which the Board's operations are to be directed: it "shall endeavour to ensure adequate and stable returns for agriculture by promoting output by adjustment from war to peace conditions and shall endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those from other occupations."

Aside from wheat, the peacetime support of agricultural prices is a new venture in this country, unlike the situation in the United States, where extensive price-supporting programs were initiated during the thirties.

It is true that the immediate purpose of the Act is to deal with the transitional problem—to protect farmers against the possibility of possible surpluses before production patterns can be readjusted to meet peacetime needs. Nevertheless, in the debate on the Bill the Minister of Agriculture emphasized that it was impossible to place a time limit upon the operations of the Board and implied that they might be necessary for a number of years after the war.

The legislation does not commit the Board to a specific formula for establishing the level of price supports, but the support is committed to "parity." Rather, by omitting such formula, the Government has left its administrators free to work out a price policy suited to Canadian conditions and problems.

For these reasons, the discussion which follows is not narrowly confined to price floors as a temporary expedient, but rather attempts a broad survey of the possible objectives and the implications of the price-supporting measures for agricultural products. In the main, it draws together current economic discussion. Economists have recently been examining past experience with great care in an endeavour to clarify the issues and avoid past mistakes and difficulties. They point out that the operation of floor-raising programs has been complicated by a confusion of objectives. Floor prices are not an end in themselves, but rather a means to an end, the end being the raising of farm incomes to a higher level. But when employed for this latter purpose they are likely to interfere with the function of the price system in guiding production and in balancing production and consumption. They involve the government in extensive administrative difficulties (notably those connected with the accumulation and disposal of surpluses), and to become a heavy charge on the income of the community as a whole.—(To be continued)

Worth Watching

(Ottawa Journal) North Grey's election, where General McNaughton is to seek a seat in Parliament, will be worth watching closely by the most ardent supporters of the cabinet. Messrs. Crerar, MacDonald and Isley will be in the punchline to elect the man who was taken into the Cabinet to stop conscription, changing his mind when he (with the P.M.) had a gun put to his head by the said stout conscriptionists. It is an intriguing spectacle, to be sure, to see Messrs. MacDonald, Crerar and Isley making the case for the man who conspired and helped to throw from the battlements their old colleague, the man who destroyed their conscription, what a tale for tears it would be. It has been seen often to our sorrow what strange bedfellows are made by politics, what party expediency leads to the most chivalrous of souls, so we await North Grey without confidence. Messrs.



LETTER TO SAINT PETER

Let them in, Peter, they are very tired; Give them the couches where the angels sleep. Let them wake whole again to new days, not war. And may their peace be deep. Remember where the broken things lie. And give them things they like. Let them make noise. God give how young they were to have to die! Give swing bands, not sold farms. Let them love, Peter — they have had no time — Girls sweet the meadow wind, with flowering hair. They should have trees and bird song, hills to climb — The taste of summer in a ripened pear. Tell them how they are missed. Say not to fear. It's going to be all right with us down here. —Elma Dean in The American Mercury.

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GRAP ADAPTATION AND CULTURE

(Experimental Farm News)

Some crops grow better on some types of soil than others, but cultivation methods must be considered very different according to the type of soil. The classification and mapping of soil types by the soil survey provides facilities by which differences can be more systematically and closely studied. This allows for the securing of information on which to plan a more suitable cropping system and farm management program.

In crop productivity studies conducted by the Field Husbandry Division, Dominion Experimental Farms Service, following soil surveys in a number of localities, the production of potatoes, silage corn, sweet corn, rye, alfalfa and broomrape has been relatively good on the lighter sandy soils. On heavy clay soils some of these crops are not as well adapted, but crops such as oats, barley, wheat, peas, timothy, alsike, alfalfa are the more productive. It is fortunate that many areas fall into an intermediate group of loam soils. These soils when properly managed may be cropped to almost any of the commonly grown field crops with reasonable assurance that they will produce average or better than average yields.

With regard to cultural practices a great difference is necessary in the methods of managing the various types. Sandy soils do not present many difficulties from the standpoint of cultivation. They are very friable easy to work and ploughing or cultivating may be done at an early date which may be convenient in keeping with good cropping practice and weed eradication. The maintenance of fertility is usually necessary. Perennial crops must be maintained but this problem is not so great as with sandy soils. Loam soils again has a considerable advantage (as far as a cultural standpoint) in that they have many of the desirable features of both sand and clay without some of the undesirable ones.

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