

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FR. DAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1940.

The By-Elections Campaign

The Conservative candidates, Messrs. R. R. Bell and Philip Matheson, have reason to feel gratified at the cordial reception tendered them at the campaign meetings in Second Queen's. The anxiety of the Government over the outcome is evidenced by the activity shown by Premier Campbell, to whom his candidates are giving a major portion of their speaking time at the meetings.

The Premier, however, as Hon. Dr. MacMillan pointed out at the Kingston meeting—is under a considerable disadvantage as a campaign speaker. His past performances in this line are unfortunately against him. It will be recalled, for example, that in the Souris by-election last February he assured the voters, in reply to a question from Dr. MacMillan, that when the 1939 Public Accounts were tabled they would show that the Government had not exceeded its estimated deficit of some \$80,000. With less than two months to go before the Legislature met, it was to be presumed that the Premier, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Province, knew whereof he spoke. Yet when the Accounts came to be tabled in April they revealed a deficit not of \$80,000 but of \$154,677—practically one hundred per cent greater than the Premier had divulged. They also showed increased liabilities of \$1,768,985, about which the Premier was careful to say nothing in the by-election campaign.

In regard also to other issues the Premier's assurances are falling somewhat flat on the ears of intelligent voters today. For example, those fish meal plants, for which our fishermen are still waiting. The scheme, he says, is "still feasible," but the finding of a suitable place is difficult. To jog his memory, Dr. MacMillan quoted the following statement which the Premier broadcast in May, 1939, in an election-evening appeal: "For several months," said the Premier on that occasion, "we have been considering the feasibility of establishing such plants. We have not only investigated, as they (the Conservatives) propose to do, but we have come to the conclusion that such a plan is not only feasible but desirable and when this Government is returned to power on the 18th of May, the construction of the first of these plants for the manufacture of fish meal and fish products will be immediately commenced."

That was seventeen months ago; and though nothing whatever was done to implement this promise, the electors are expected to rejoice over the assurance that the scheme is "still feasible." Same with the Premier's farm rehabilitation policy, which also was to be proceeded with "immediately" after the May, 1939, elections, and which, like his "balanced budget" pledges of an earlier campaign, never got beyond the stage of wishful thinking.

Lest We Forget

Once again, as the week of Remembrance Day, November 11, draws near, the Canadian Legion is preparing for the Poppy Sale campaign which has become an inseparable part of the observance of this solemn anniversary. The poppies are made in the veterans' shops, and are sold under Legion auspices, the proceeds going towards the relief of veterans who have been incapacitated in the last Great War, or to their dependents. We are now in the midst of another and still more momentous struggle, and calls upon the public purse are many and urgent. Nevertheless we cannot afford to forget the sacrifices made in the last war, and it is hoped that the same generous response will be made this year to the Poppy Sale campaign as in the past. The sale of wreaths starts on Monday and the campaign will be continued all next week.

Too Many Experts

A writer in Maclean's Magazine is authority for the statement that notwithstanding the tremendous increase in bureaucracy at Ottawa since the war, progress in many important war directions has been far from what the public has been led to believe. An example is cited in the case of national registration. The public has been given the impression that as a result of this registration the Government already has a clear, statistical picture of the country's manpower, and can put its finger on mostly anybody for any class of war service at any time it pleases. The actual position, it is claimed, is that they are only now putting up a new building for the classification of the cards (tenders for the building were let after the registration was completed), with the likelihood that the cards will not be classified until January or February.

As for the increase in bureaucracy, it is described as truly staggering. "Dollar-a-year" men; ten and twenty-dollar a day men; controllers of this and that; business executives, buying experts, technical advisers—the Chateau Laurier

lobby, Ottawa's clubs, Wellington Street and Sparks Street are full of them. The Maclean's Magazine writer expresses doubt whether the Cabinet, collectively, knows what these committees are doing, how or why they are doing it, or at what cost. "A stiff wager," he says, "would be that the Prime Minister himself doesn't know the names of one tenth of them." He probably knows, however, their party affiliations.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Saint's Day, commemorates martyrs and canonical saints.

The battle of Coronel, off Chile, was fought this day, 1914. There is no minimizing the fact that our arms under the gallant Admiral Cradock received a serious reverse at the hands of Admiral Von Spee but which was more than compensated for subsequently at Falkland by Admiral Sturdee.

No Park—no Ring—no afternoon gentility—No company—no nobility—No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, No comfortable feel in any member—No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds—November!

The Provincial Government will soon begin making alterations on the old Bank of Nova Scotia building which they acquired from the W. K. Rogers estate as additional accommodation for their steadily growing staffs. Mr. W. E. Bentley, K.C., who long has had his law offices there, has acquired the late Rev. J. M. McLeod property, Prince Street, which he is having reconstructed for his occupancy.

With the re-opening of the Burma-Yunnan highway Burma's transit trade with China assumes greater importance. Munitions, motor cars, electrical machinery, medical supplies, sugar, tea, woolen and cotton piece-goods, tinned food and metals are again exported by land to China. Transit trade with China for the 12 months April 1 to March 31, 1939-40, was Rs. 3,00,92,338 (about £2,250,000). The Japs are attempting to wreck this by bombing the transports as well as the road.

This being a Prohibition Province necessarily not many people will be familiar with Mr. Hiram Walker. He was a distiller who made his name known wherever toasts are pledged in the old fashioned way, and built up a town called Walkerville round the distillery founded by his family. He has just died at the advanced age of one hundred, having enjoyed good health, and attended to business until shortly before his death. His most fitting epitaph: "Before Prohibition no distiller or brewer saw the need of newspaper advertising; after prohibition every distiller and brewer did."

Empire substitutes for goods from Continental Europe, now unobtainable, are flowing in a greater stream into Ceylon's shops. Among them are wines from Australia and South Africa, hardware, cigars and paper from India, spaghetti and macaroni from Great Britain and dried milk from Australia. A newspaper man touring Colombo's shopping centre was surprised at the number of foreign articles successfully replaced. Australia has come to the rescue in regard to a number of foodstuffs as well as footwear, drugs, toys and stationery.

Professor Samuel Levine of Toronto University has appealed from his sentence of six months imprisonment under the Defence of Canada Act and Regulations. Communist literature had been found in his house. Magistrate J. L. Prentice said he disbelieved the evidence of Prof. Levine, a fellow in geophysics, and his witnesses. "It is in my opinion incredible for the accused to have 11 different documents on Communism in his desk and dining room and have two well-known Communists in his home for two weeks and not know it," Mr. Levine had denied knowing of the Communist literature, claiming it belonged to the two men in his home. The two have since been interned.

Regardless of what political or economic upheavals may ultimately take place in unhappy France, it is virtually certain that the traditional French system of education will be drastically reorganized. Mr. Andre Maurois, famous biographer, historian and scholar, predicts. For the last century and more French education has been static, avoiding experimentation, following a smooth, narrow path, the noted French author observes. A premium was placed on memorization, on the accumulation of facts, irrespective of their value to the student. Stress was laid on scholarship rather than character. Moral training was sidetracked for intellectual development. When his country is finally restored to a normal existence, new values will arise, placing character and moral education above subject-matter, M. Maurois asserts. Accumulated pedagogical cobwebs and encumbrances, he predicts, will be swiftly swept aside with a modern, vigorous educational broom.

"Frenchy" Boileau, the 18-year-old Montreal lad who sang "Roll Out the Barrel" while waiting to be rescued from the wreckage of the Canadian destroyer Fraser in June, is among the victims of the sinking of the Margaree. "Frenchy" Boileau—his right name is Joseph Philias Lauren Boileau—was sound asleep when a collision sent the Fraser foundering off the French coast. A few minutes later—after companions had aroused him—he led the survivors in choruses of the popular ditty until the shipwrecked Canadian sailors were picked up. On Sunday night his sorrowing mother pointed to the last letter she had received from "Frenchy." In it he proudly told her he had just received his first-class papers as electrical artificer. The young French-Canadian observed his 18th birthday in August. He enlisted in June, 1939, two previous rejections because of his youth failing to daunt the lad who had dreamed of going to sea ever since his boyhood.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If there is, as some people believe, a prospect of a power shortage in Ontario, why does Hydro continue the circulation of literature urging people to use more power in their homes? — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Retail sales of gasoline in Canada are reported to have reached 365,437,000 gallons during the first six months of the year against only 146,739,000 during the corresponding period of 1939. Military demands probably account for a good share of the large increase but any gains in the taxable volume of sales ought to be much appreciated by the Provincial Government imposing gasoline taxes. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

It is reported by the Basle National Zeitung (says Reuter) that even any German name in connection with a French Christian name is a name must Germanize it in accordance with a recent decree. The decree provides, says the newspaper, that if there is a new name cannot be Germanized a new name must be chosen. All inscriptions on tombstones must henceforth be written in German instead of French. — London Times.

The opportunity provided Japan by the German conquest of Holland and France, and by the British, German and Italian involvement in a hand-to-hand struggle, is a glittering one; but it cannot take on its full golden lustre while the American battle fleet is based on Hawaii and is forever going out on secret manoeuvres for periods that might bring it into Japanese waters if the Japanese battle fleet were off on some such gorgeous adventure as, let us say, the reduction of the Singapore base. Japan cannot contemplate any big military move to the East without major naval support; and the navy cannot divert much strength from home defence while the bulk of the critical United States fleet is centred in the mid-Pacific. — New York Herald-Tribune.

The other day in Ottawa a young man dashed into a doctor's office to be examined for the 30-day training period, which had already started. When asked why he was so late, the youth replied he had not seen any need for military regulations sent him had said to report for examination within "three clear" days of receiving notice and that the "clear" day since getting it, the rest having been "overcast." Outraged officialdom failed to see the joke and packed him off to camp. The news dispatch did not state whether any disciplinary measures had been taken, but we hope not — a touch of humor in Ottawa is a good thing these days. — New Glasgow News.

One of the things about the Channel front, along which we are lined up against the hordes of Hitler strung out along the French coast, that few people realize is the shallowness of our "moat" of the Strait of Dover is merely two or three times the length of a cricket-pitch, varying from 20 to 60 yards. Lower St. Paul's Cathedral into the sea, for example, would take less than half the building, including all the dome, would be above water. Between Newhaven and Dieppe it is hardly less shallow, though there is a hole about 200 yards wide that is 24 feet deep between the Isle of Wight and Le Havre you need another five-and-twenty feet to take a sounding at the deepest spot. Not until you get to near Alderney you find a hole in which St. Paul's would be completely submerged; but within three miles of that the water shallows again to 76 yards. The whole water way is, however, deep enough to drown in, as some of the German barges must have already discovered. — Manchester Guardian.

Nothing, naturally, arouses more eager and earnest interest than suggestions that an answer to the night-bomber will soon be found. There is little doubt that it will, but the more the more than ordinary reticence is desirable, and writers who had pretty accurate knowledge of what the hoped-for answer was have preferred to say less than they would have liked rather than run the risk of saying more than was wise. Even as it is I shall refrain from doing more than quote two recent statements.— In last Sunday's Observer, The Air Corps Chief of Staff, Lord C. G. Oliver Stewart wrote: "The new barrage system, although important was but one step towards this end (an answer to the night-bomber). The big step remains to be taken, and is imminent." And the Editor, Mr. J. L. Garvin, in another column, adds more explicitly: "There is a remedy. It is well worked out, not only in theory, but in preliminary experiments. To bring it into full operation as a war-instrument may take some time, as in the case of the brilliant reply to the magnetic mine laid sea. When applied the new device will enable our fighters to intercept the night-bombers and kill them." All this, I have good reason to believe, is strictly true. — London Spectator.

Since the outbreak of war a famous London pottery firm has shipped one million porcelain telephone insulators to markets overseas. When the electric telegraph was introduced a hundred years ago, they were one of the few able to meet the earliest orders from the British post office. Then came the telephone with its further demand for insulators, and a specially designed robust insulator was designed to support the live rails of electric railways, a design which has been almost universally adopted in Britain and to a large extent abroad. These London potters are now making porcelain insulators for supporting overhead telephone and electric power lines; for the rigging and support of broadcasting towers; for ship and aeroplane wireless equipment; for the overhead lines of tramway and trolleybus undertakings; and for electric sub-stations. Many of the more elaborate insulators are thrown, shaped and lathed by hand in this historic pottery, examples of brilliant craftsmanship accurate in dimension and identical to a fraction of an inch, which may be said to have been prized as examples of twentieth century design and skill. — By Robert Williamson.

This slogan, "Be Bright, Be Brave, Be British," prize-winner in the patriotic slogan contest conducted by the Publicity and Morale Committee of the Whittby War Effort Organization, by a young local

Hindering War Co-operation

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal) The Canadian Press carried a despatch from Ottawa quoting "Hindering War Co-operation" as the name of a new organization to be formed to urge the government to give greater yet careful consideration to various private buy-a-bomber funds and to suggest the value of such contributions. Several supposed objections of these money-raising efforts are listed, including the following: "Money contributed in this way towards bombers is not contributed towards auxiliary services"; "It is not available to pay the taxes which go for bombers through government channels"; "Bomber aircraft to buy-a-bomber funds must come from money that otherwise would go into war savings."

At the first place a pronouncement of this importance should be backed up by the name of the official making it. Secondly, there are many ways in which the government can be urged to give more attention to the argument against these buy-a-bomber funds. Errors made by this newspaper to suggest the name of the official making the statement have been fruitless.

While it is true that there are only a certain number of aeroplanes and the government is getting them all, the fact that the cost of some of them is raised privately relieves the government of just that much expenditure, and lessens the amount to be raised by taxation or borrowing. It is drawing rather a long bow to suggest that money which contributes to these funds will be backward about paying their taxes; and in any event, the government has the means to enforce tax collection.

The officials at Ottawa should endeavor to get together on this matter. The announcement one day that the minister of finance or the minister of defence has approved a certain project for public assistance to the war effort, and a statement a few days later from some nebulous "informed quarters" raising possible objections to the procedure, indicate a lack of co-ordination which, if it exists, in times like these, is particularly unwelcome. The Canadian authorities act differently from the government in the Motherland where every offer of assistance is warmly welcomed, and have even urged? After all, both Great Britain and Canada are fighting the same war. The name of the person referred to in The Canadian Press despatch should be made public.

The Poet's Corner

HOME-COMING

When I stepped homeward to my hill Dusk went before with quiet tread; The bare laced branches of the trees were as a mist about his head. Upon its leaf-brown breast, the rocks Like great gray sheep lay silent. Between the birch trees' gleaming arms, The faint stars trembled in the skies. The white brook met me half-way up And laughed as one that knew me well. To whose more clear than crystal voice The frost had joined a crystal spell. The skies lay like pale-water deep. Dusk ran before me to its strand And touched its feet far to touch The moon's slow wonder with her hand. —Leonie Adams.

citizen is first of all, the expression of a boy's faith, and second, a timely injunction to all local citizens, and in fact to all Canadians. It will take brave hearts, bright minds and the highest British courage and faith to carry all of us through this war. The slogan is a sermon in a nutshell, and one that the Committee on Publicity and Morale should consider ways and means of using this and some of the other slogan entries in connection with various phases of Whittby's effort. — Whittby Gazette and Chronicle.

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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.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR SURPLUS?

Sir:—There is logic in what your correspondent "John Turnip Seed" says regarding Island farmers who lack storage facilities for growing potatoes for export. Each year they are compelled to sell their tubers as soon as they are dug, and that naturally forces upon the market a supply in excess of the early demand, resulting locally in low prices. Your correspondent, however, apparently blames this year's 10 p. c. increase in Island potato production over the 1939 crop for the whole drop of about 50 p. c. in price. In deciding upon the starting off price, the Island's surplus has in reality acted as but a minor factor; the real sales value of potatoes, like all other farm products, is one entirely of the relative supply and demand, not simply in Canada but throughout the whole North and South American continents. The effect of the war upon the demand has no doubt also been taken into consideration. Later on, when actual quantities of sound and saleable potatoes in storage have become more exactly known, competition between the potato buyers in the large Cities of the Continent will decide new prices from day to day, higher or lower than the present.

There is an aspect of your correspondent's letter that is worthy of special note. It will be generally agreed that it is most desirable that a feeling of cooperation and assistance should exist between the farmer and business men of the Island, and that, if those who are in a position to help farmers who are short of cash in the Spring to buy seed and fertilizer are to be termed gamblers, or accused of taking an unfair advantage for their own benefit, only harm can result. There are other, and much more important reasons why so many of the farmers of Prince Edward Island are needlessly poor, and these reasons can be discovered and remedied only by the country people and the City people getting their heads together, and formulating plans that can be carried out, with

and without Government assistance. With our wonderful Summer growing conditions, farmers of this Island should be the most prosperous in the Dominion. I am, Sir, etc. H.K.S. HEMMING

OTTAWA, Oct. 30 — (CP) — Carrying on the tradition of leadership in social and charitable activities created by the wives of former Governors-General, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, has been instrumental in founding a society for the succor of French refugees in Britain.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 30 — (CP) — Proposals of Premier John Bracken of Manitoba for a non-partisan government have been rejected by the Manitoba Social Credit League. At a convention, which adjourned at 1 a. m. today, delegates adopted a resolution against the Legislature joining the proposed administration. Conservative and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation members have endorsed the proposals of Mr. Bracken. In

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