

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887) President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure

Subscription Rates By Mail in P. E. I., \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at Hotel's News Agency, Times Square, New York; Old South News Agency, Corner Milk and Washington, Boston

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

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1941

Lobster Advertising

Just before Parliament adjourned for the Easter recess Hon. J. E. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries, gave out some information on some phases of the lobster industry which had been sought by Hon. Percy Black, M.P., for Cumberland.

Answering Mr. Black's questions, Mr. Michaud stated the Dominion Government had spent \$5,514.39 up to Jan. 31, 1941, to merchandise 4,410 5-8 cases of lobster at a value of \$81,079.20.

In other words, Mr. Michaud supervised advertising and marketing expenses that amounted to 13.8 cents a tin to sell a product retailing at 27 cents!

"Needless to say," comments the Moncton Times, "the advertising expenditures were not in daily and weekly newspapers. At the time the advertising was sought, the publishers were told other mediums would be used which would permit the use of color, which it was said, would stimulate sales better."

"Canadian newspapers made a successful effort to increase fish sales; they aided in marketing more apples when the English market was lost; they were not used to push marketing of lobsters with the result shown above."

"The lobster fishermen of the Maritimes will probably now hold the opinion that Mr. Michaud knows as little about advertising as he does about the lobster industry."

Well-Merited Tribute

Prince Edward Island owes much to the Canadian Airways service which has now been replaced in the Maritimes by the Trans-Canada Air Lines. The Canadian Airways pioneered this route, and furnished a service unexcelled in any part of the continent for safety, speed and convenience.

The seriousness of the situation is making itself felt more and more over the border. A report that Mr. Willie was planning for renomination as Republican Presidential Candidate for 1944, brought this instant denial from him: "This is no time, with the world in flames, to engage in the nonsense of talking about candidacies. I have no political plans of any nature. With the nation confronting what may be its greatest crisis in history, it is ridiculous for any one to make any plans for six weeks ahead, let alone years ahead."

Rewriting The Text Books

The suggestion has been made in London, Eng., that the history books of the United States and Great Britain be revised and rewritten to give the youth of both nations a juster appreciation of events affecting both countries. No more constructive work could be undertaken than this, suggests an exchange. A joint committee of competent historians, having access to the official archives of both nations, could agree on the facts. Viewing those facts in perspective after the lapse of time, and discussing them in an atmosphere of sympathy and good-will, much of the bitterness would be removed when the histories came to be rewritten.

In the days to come, while the war lasts and afterward, the British and American people must work in close association, first to preserve, and then to extend the frontiers of liberty. The first thing to be done is surely to bring each of them to a better understanding of the other, and eradicate whatever prejudices have embittered their relations. It is not good that American children should be taught that the British are a nation of tyrants and oppressors who would have forced the United States into perpetual slavery but for the great military genius of the colonial generals under Washington, and the cowardice and ineptitude of the British forces sent to suppress the rebellion. Nor is it good that British children should be taught that the United States is a country where lawlessness and political racketeering are prevalent, where Negroes are lynched, politicians are bought and the drug traffic flourishes as big business. A joint committee of historians rewriting the textbooks of both countries would make it much easier for their people to work together harmoniously in the future.

T. C. A. In The Maritimes

The Financial Post makes the following comment on a subject of current interest.

"Canadian Airways Ltd. has been forced out of the Maritime Province after 13 years of service in the area. The circumstances leading up to its withdrawal merit consideration. Last year the company secured two contracts from the Post Office Department for the carriage of mails from Moncton to Halifax, Saint John, Summerside and Charlottetown and from Charlottetown to Magdalen Islands during the winter months.

"On the strength of these contracts Canadian Airways invested \$200,000 in aircraft, radio and other facilities. The contracts contained a 30-day cancellation clause. On March 15 last the Postmaster General informed the company that, from April 15, Trans-Canada Airlines would take over operations from Moncton to Halifax. This part of the contract represented 35 per cent of the company's revenue. Without it, Canadian Airways could not carry on Maritime operations which, incidentally, resulted in a loss of \$17,636 for 1940. Attempts to arrive at a compromise were unsuccessful.

"The service provided by Canadian Airways was never questioned. On the other hand Halifax has protested long and loudly because the T. C. A. terminated at Moncton. The city's 'prestige' was involved, apparently. Seemingly it was politically expedient to meet this demand, war or no war. The air-mail contract was transferred to T. C. A. The economics of the move do not seem to have influenced the Postmaster General's decision.

"It is hard to see how the capital expenditure involved in replacing Canadian Airways service can contribute to the war effort. And it does not seem to be good business for Canada to destroy its pioneer airlines one by one to put all our commercial flying eggs in one government basket, at all times subject to political influences."

EDITORIAL NOTES

H. R. H. Princess Elizabeth's birthday, born this date, 1926. Princess Royal and heir to the throne, gave her first address over the Radio to the children of the Empire last Christmas.

We boast of the agility of many of our oldest inhabitants, but have we any to equal this? A 12-year-old boy tried to snatch the purse of Mrs. Irene Button of Toronto. Mrs. Button is 97 years old. She chased the youngster up a lane and held him until police arrived.

We have been advised that two reasons for the non-activity of the Junior Board of Trade are (1) That 22 of this number have patriotically enlisted, leaving only nine married men to carry on; and (2). The closing down of the Board of Trade room left them with no meeting place.

Henceforth British raisers of livestock may not dispense native-grown wheat to their poultry, etc., unless a modest grower of wheat is also a raiser of poultry, in which case he may make domestic use of his cereal produce and sell the surplus, for the same object, according to a new Home Grown Wheat Control Order issued by the Minister of Food. Approved buyers only will be permitted to use or sell home-grown millable wheat for flour milling or seed, and this restriction applies to any stocks in their possession.

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The proposed alterations on the Market Building would apparently be a distinct asset to the City. Improvements have been badly wanted for years but the Council has not been in a financial position to undertake them. According to the plans submitted by the F. G. Spencer Co., Ltd., all it is going to cost the city now is an immediate \$1,500 to be repaid in additional rental at 7 per cent on the outlay, spread over a period of 13 years. But the Council is acting wisely in taking time to consider the proposal from all angles.

The paper recording the marriage of the parents of the late President Calvin Coolidge has been found after being "lost" for seventy-two years in misplaced files of the town clerk of Plymouth (Vt.). The yellowed document, dated 1868, is in the handwriting of the late President's grandfather who as a justice of the peace performed the ceremony for his son—Calvin's father—John Calvin and Victoria Josephine Moore. Half a century later it was the same bridegroom, as Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, also a justice of the peace, who by lamplight administered the oath of office to his son as President of the United States.

NOTES BY THE WAY

He was not a day under eighty. He was small and frail, but with lungs of leather. Why do old and often frail people often have very strong voices? He was not only audible to everybody in the railway carriage; the platelayers on the line must have caught some of his words. He roared at his neighbor in all seriousness. "They were not taking any notice of me," he said. "I was selfish old man, but if I was going to live to see this chap beaten I'd go to take a great care of myself." After making this point, he then turned to the speaker and said: "Even then it's going to be a struggle."

Mr. Adams, in his suggestion that the United States take over Bermuda and other possessions near the American Continent in payment of the debt due from the United States to forget a "self-evident truth" set forth by our Declaration of Independence, namely that "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Does Mr. Adams suggest a plebiscite among the peoples of Bermuda and other possessions? Or does he believe that the conquest of a people by force is justified when it is done to protect the rights of the people? (Senator) Johnson has howled about debts due the United States as though it were the United States that owe hundreds of millions of dollars to European creditors. It would seem that a lot of us are calling the kettle black and serving the turkey hot.

An interesting little list has been issued of London statues on behalf of which it has been thought proper to go to the expense of erecting a monument. The objects in view have been to protect statues which are valuable as works of art rather than for the merit of the originals, so that James II gets protection denied to more popular monarchs, and even that most ardent of modern Cromwells who looks after the interest of Oliver in the House of Commons is not to be forgotten.

When in 1897 it was found that the statue of Queen Anne in front of St. Paul's was inconveniently placed for the plan of bringing Queen Victoria's carriage to the foot of the steps, someone proposed the "obvious" plan of removing Queen Anne altogether until the carriage had been brought to the foot of the steps. The matter was turned over to Queen Victoria first and she dealt with it very summarily. "Move Queen Anne," she cried. "Certainly not! They may be wanting to move me one of these days!"

A curiously circumscribed German mentality is revealed in the lengthy official explanation of Hitler's invasion of Greece. As usual, the invasions came first and the explanation afterwards. The model is always the same and denotes a lack of originality in the cabinet of the High Command. The mentality has become stereotyped and the matrix is becoming worn through over use. The inability to think in a convincing way is inconsistent with the theory of German efficiency. The High Command is incapable even of telling the old lie in a new pattern. Probably the only effect of this constant adherence of a fiction formula is to puzzle millions of intelligent people in every part of the world, even those Germans who may be presumed to be still doing their own thinking. The lie has always been the same and so the only way to utter it therefore is a waste of time and a waste of effort, and totalitarianism has been represented hitherto as exemplifying the elimination of waste.

For the two other meals I could always get soup, a slice of meat, a portion of each potato vegetable, a dessert of some kind, a salad, and tea or coffee. In private homes the situation was the same, and the only trouble arose from the fact that one day's dinner might be quite like yesterday's because of the absence of a variety in the markets. Yet clearly no one was going hungry.

As a matter of fact, there was a surplus of certain types of food—like (The British eat by habit, only about half as much as we do in Ireland; they regard carrots as something to be fed to rabbits, rather than human beings.) Therefore the government is faced with the problem of educating the British people to eat more of certain foods than they have eaten in the past.

Just now, in the papers and the radio, the Food Ministry is trying to bring about changes in the British diet. But this is a very hard task, because of the reluctance of people to change their eating habits. The tendency of most people is to regard different and even more nourishing foods as mere substitutes. Moreover, there is still a marketed prejudice to canned foods which government is trying to overcome.

The meat problem is only partly solved. Meat is rationed according to price, that is, an individual may have oneilling and two pence worth a week (about 25 cents worth.) However, the term "meat" has a special use; ham and bacon are classed separately; so is poultry; so are such things as liver, kidneys, calves' brain etc. Meat, then, comes to mean beef, lamb and fresh pork.

"Meat" is rationed; the other classifications are not rationed, but are government controlled. That is to say, distribution and price are regulated. But in spite of such regulation, poultry, liver, bacon, etc. are relatively high priced, and it farmer, the practical agronomist, the conservationist who does not merely talk about the land but who works with it and for it, it is the kind of love which makes a gully as exciting as a gun, and even more important. There is a place for "The Land" in these times.—New York Herald Tribune.

Britain Sees It Through

"I Bring You Good News"

PAUL A. TIERNEY—War Editor, New York Post (Copyright, 1941, By New York Post, Inc.)

It is perhaps no exaggeration to say that meat has disappeared as an article of daily diet in the home of the average British workman. When winter began, meat was rationed at two shillings worth per person per week. Then the ration was progressively cut, to one shilling ten pence, to one shilling six pence, and finally to its present level, in order to curtail consumption and permit such cattle as Britain has to fatten up for spring killing. However, if the submarine war takes on its expected scope, there is a great likelihood that meat consumption will be reduced still further.

Not only with respect to meat, but indeed for all foods, the Food Ministry has an enormously complicated job, first to see that available shipping tonnage is put to the most advantageous use; second, to see that the food which reaches England is fairly distributed and not profiteered in.

Many commodities may no longer be imported at all. Canned fruits are banned, for example, because they contain such a high percentage of water and so little nutritive value. Dried fruits are shipped instead, and as far as possible, in categories of foodstuffs the shipping space is given to those articles which give most nourishment for the least weight or bulk.

As far as distribution and prices are concerned, the government prefers when possible to leave the job in the hands of the market. Food is organized in groups of several varying types, given general instructions by the government, and left alone as much as possible. Thus far, the cooperation between dealers and government has been satisfactory in the vast majority of cases. Where the government isn't satisfied, it has full authority to step in and does not hesitate to use that power.

Take, for example, the price of turkeys last Christmas. The supply was naturally short, and consequently there was considerable bidding by middlemen for the available stock. In the midst of this bidding the Food Ministry issued a warning that it thought the price of turkeys was unsound. The warning was unheeded and the price in the wholesale markets went still higher.

Thereupon Lord Woolton acted in a manner which taught the trade a severe lesson. He fixed the price at which turkeys might be retained, and he fixed it so low that virtually all the middlemen who had been speculating lost money.

As a matter of fact, the government makes great efforts to avoid even the appearance of profiteering in food. Eggs, for example, are sometimes hard to get. But whether they are hard to buy or easy to buy, the price is fixed. No food dealer, suddenly acquiring a stock of eggs, can make a financial killing. Similarly, because food imports are so carefully checked, the cornering of any commodity has been impossible. The Ministry knows not only what stocks are on hand but also who has them. If the trade did not distribute its wares, the ministry would promptly step in.

All of this regulation adds to public confidence. A housewife may not be able to buy all the butter she wants, but the bit she can buy is pure. During the World War, when butter was just as scarce as it is today, the available supply sold at four shillings, but it is stabilized at about 35 cents and the ration for all purposes is fixed at two ounces a week per person. So the middle class family, learning to eat margarine, knows that every one in England is having the same experience.

Justice the Objective In the distribution of foodstuffs to the various sections of England and Scotland, justice rather than absolute equality is the objective. Let me explain that by citing the distribution of cheese. In most of England, cheese is very scarce. As a rule you cannot have cheese at any meal if you have eaten meat. In the best hotel in Manchester, while I was there, you could get no cheese whatever. But in Wales, cheese is fairly cheap, fairly plentiful, and the reason for the discrepancy is simple.

The Food Ministry has taken the position, which is really the only fair one, that in Wales cheese is a main article of diet; the Welsh miners have virtually lived on bread and cheese for generations. Therefore, whatever cheese is available should go first to Wales, where it is an essential need because of the dietary habits of the people. Anything left over may be distributed elsewhere, where cheese is merely an auxiliary dish—something to be eaten with crackers at the end of a meal.

Moreover, the rest of Britain has to cut down on cheese because all of the available milk is needed for the children. Consequently, there hasn't been any real scarcity of milk for those really needed it.

New Steps Needed I have written enough, I think, to give an idea of the complexities of the food situation and of the steps the government has taken to meet it. Thus far, the steps have worked. But they probably won't work as well this summer.

Meanwhile several things are being done to cope with the expected shortages. Much English land which had lain fallow is now under cultivation. Even the Army has been ordered to cultivate its lands in the vicinity of Army stations. The Army will be compelled also to cease a mild-form of chiseling which it admittedly has been guilty of in the Army practice of making purchases in the civilian markets.

(This last is an old Army custom. I recall clearly that in France in 1917 and 1918 we used to take Army company funds and go out into the French farms and buy up supplies.)

Henceforth, in England, those Army units which have been competing with civilians in the general markets will have to discontinue the practice.

Summer Is The Problem The leakage to the Army, how-

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PROTEST FROM "ORIGINALS" Sir,—In reading over your paper of April 17, 1941, we ran across a speech made by Col. J. L. Balfour on the subject of the "originals" who were some very nice compliments about the island and its people, but we regret to inform you that after we were through reading it we felt as if we weren't doing our bit because we aren't even noticed by the people back home or the men who represent us in our Federal Government.

Perhaps you are wondering just who we were and who we are now. We started out on the second day of September, 1838, the day before war was declared. Since then we have been stationed in many different places and had many different kinds of jobs to do and they were done very satisfactorily. Some of the well known boys of Charlottetown both in our colleges and in our Army and Navy make up the boys that are left together. Some of them are in England, some in New Brunswick and some in Nova Scotia. Many of them have been transferred to many different units. And along with this we helped many of our boys in England.

We started out as the original 6th District Signals, of which nothing is heard nowadays. We read penny papers and District Signals, but where are the boys of the 6th Regiment. Some of us are at present in 3rd Division Signals, some with the 4th Division Signals, some with the 5th Division Signals, some with the 6th Division Signals, some with the 7th Division Signals, some with the 8th Division Signals, some with the 9th Division Signals, some with the 10th Division Signals, some with the 11th Division Signals, some with the 12th Division Signals, some with the 13th Division Signals, some with the 14th Division Signals, some with the 15th Division Signals, some with the 16th Division Signals, some with the 17th Division Signals, some with the 18th Division Signals, some with the 19th Division Signals, some with the 20th Division Signals, some with the 21st Division Signals, some with the 22nd Division Signals, some with the 23rd Division Signals, some with the 24th Division Signals, some with the 25th Division Signals, some with the 26th Division Signals, some with the 27th Division Signals, some with the 28th Division Signals, some with the 29th Division 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