THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1944

The Guards' Chapel

According to a recent London despatch, a robot bomb hit the 106-year-old Guard's Chapel, only a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace, during a service attended by 250 persons. The robot bomb came over the barracks area and its engine stopped, which meant that it was about to explode, while the King's Guard of 86 men was at attention ten yards from the chapel. Not a man moved when the bomb exploded, and strangely not one of the 86 was injured.

But the chapel itself was a victim. There was a reason for the authorities singling this incident out for special reference, for the historic chapel has a peculiar appeal to Londoners, because of its military associations with the Iron Duke. The Guards' barracks are situated in Birdcage Walk, which leads from Buckingham Palace to Queen Anne's Gate, near Whitehall. The Nazis' missiles are, therefore, falling perilously close to the royal residence.

The quaint name of Birdcage Walk is derived from the practice of King Charles II of keeping song birds in aviaries stretched along the south side of St. James's Park. Birdcage Walk used to be closed to all traffic except that of royalty and "the Hereditary Grand Falconer" until the year 1828. Wellington Barracks were occupied by troops just prior to the battle of Waterloo.

The Guards' Chapel was opened in the year 1838. In it were kept the torn standards captured by the Duke of Marlborough, Prime Minister Churchill's ancestor, at the battle of Blenheim and also the colours carried by the Grenadier Guards at the battle of Waterloo. It is to be hoped that these had been removed or, at least, that they have suffered no harm.

They Had To Have A Newspaper

People who talk loosely about radio and television, etc., etc., being likely to displace newspapers should read a despatch that came from Cherbourg last week. This:

"The first newspaper to be printed in liberated France rolled off the press yesterday and news-hungry Frenchmen tussled in the street outside the hastily repaired printing plant for the first copies."

These Cherbourg Frenchmen, says the Ottawa Journal, were well supplied with radio: The BBC, the Vichy radio, the Berlin radio. That didn't satisfy them. They could listen to all the war communiques and to all the "commentators", but still they were hungry for a newspaper; something in print they could read and study—not something which, heard for a moment, could not be checked or thought about because it vanished from memory.

And that precisely is why radio can never be a substitute for the newspaper; the spoken word substituted for the printed. The radio is too ephemeral, too impersonal; too much of something that can't be checked, or audited, or talked or written back to. It is, at most, an auxiliary of the newspaper.

Liberal Press Is Critical

From Liberal propaganda headquarters there issues weekly an "Ottawa News Letter" for publication in Liberal newspapers. The latest issue attempts to deal with the draftee problem. It endorses Col. Ralston's statement that there is no need for conscription and says: "The fact seems to be that draftees can be usefully employed in defense work on Canada's two coasts, Newfoundland and the British West Indies, and that there are plenty of volunteer reinforcements for Canadian army units engaged in victorious but heavy fighting abroad."

This is an extraordinary statement indeed, in view of the almost hysterical pleadings in Government notices that these men should "Go Active." Why should they go active now, if they are on essential military work and if they are to be used immediately the need arises?

The Halifax Chronicle, a Liberal paper, finds that it cannot swallow this propaganda. It is refreshingly outspoken on the subject, too.

"If all this is the case," says the Chronicle, "why has Brigadier Mess been permitted to conduct his vigorous campaign to persuade these men to change their status? Furthermore, if the N. R. M. A. men are on a solid job, what is to be done about the District Recruiting Officer of Military District No. 10, who in a letter which he is sending to all impending draftees, pleads with them all to "come over into Macedonia and help us" and who goes on to say "if, when you report you elect to be enrolled in the Home Defence Army rather than volunteer for the Active Army, you will be subject to all the discipline and routine of Army life, but will be rendering no service to your country in this hour of crisis. You will be in the Army, but not of it'."?

"Mr. Godbout, too, got seriously out of step the other day when he either "got reported wrong" or else was "carried beyond what I actually wanted to say," so that his words did not reflect his thought. The Quebec premier, it would appear, was too busy scoring a provincial goal to notice that he was causing very serious Federal interference.

"Mr. Ralston may be said to have made the best of a bad case. But it is not sufficient merely to say that these draftees are on essential duty. The main question is whether they are men who should be on coastal defence and such allocations, or whether such jobs should not fall to the lot of the men who have fought overseas and whose medical categories have deteriorated in consequence. Nor is it any argument to say that volunteer troops do not care to fight side by side with conscripts. The whole British Army and all United States troops are conscripts, but no one ever heard of Canadians feeling superior to them on that account, or refusing to collaborate with them. While it is satisfactory to know that N.R.M.A. men are to go overseas "if the need arises" the question still remains as to who is to be the judge of the crisis. Military men in Canada are acting in respect to these troops as though the crisis was already upon us. Political expedience apparently says 'No!' and there, for the moment, the matter rests."

EDITORIAL NOTES —

Destruction of the Bastile this date, 1789.

* * * *

It is interesting to recall that Wing Commander George Keefer and the late Sergt. Pilot Niall Burnett were the first Islanders to enlist in the R. C. A. F. in Charlottetown. Prior to that enlistment had to be made at Moncton or Montreal.

* * * *

By March, 1945, 160,000 daily meals will be served in London County Council schools, an increase of 80,000. This will mean that 75% of the children attending those schools will be provided with meals.

* * * *

British Aircraft Production. It is revealed that in the year ending March 1944, major repairs were effected to 18,130 aircraft. If this figure is added to the total of 27,273 new aircraft produced, it is seen that in this year 45,403 were made available.

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Sergt. Navigator McInnis, now posted to operational flying overseas, is the well-known and popular Boy Scout who, previous to enlistment, was the executive secretary of the P. E. I. Boy Scouts Association.

* * * *

Sir Henry William Perkins, English chemist, died this date 1907; when only eighteen years of age he prepared aniline black and mauve by oxidizing aniline, thus laying the foundation of the coal-tar colour industry; he also prepared the first artificial perfume from coal-tar, likewise artificial indigo.

* * * *

In Quebec the Liberals still think that they will retain power. The bitter struggle going on between the Bloc candidates and those of the Union Nationale is entirely to the advantage of the Liberal party. Similarly, the presence of eleven Social Credit candidates serves the Liberals well, since in Quebec Province the Creditors are wholly or chiefly recruited from among the Nationalists.

* * * *

An amusing literary hoax has been perpetrated by two Sydney poets whose collection of what they themselves describe as "nonsensical sentences" was accepted by an Australian literary magazine as representing the work of a "poet of tremendous power." The autumn number of the magazine Angry Penguins devoted 30 pages to the Australian poet "Ern Malley", but it is now disclosed that "Malley" never existed and the "works" attributed him were written in a single afternoon by Corp. Harold Stewart and Lt. James McAuley, who deliberately concocted the nonsense "to see if it would get past." The authors reveal that the first three lines of the poem were lifted straight from an American report on drainage of breeding grounds of mosquitos. A co-editor of Angry Penguins said that Malley "worked through a disciplined and restrained kind of statements into the deepest wells of human experience."

* * * *

This is how low politics has fallen in Quebec in the present provincial election. Premier Adelard Godbout speaking during a thunder storm found in his own county of L'Islet time to declare that all farmers' sons and young men of rural parts who could be useful on the farm, could, even if they were army deserters, obtain exemption from military service, with possibly only two or three days punishment. This, said the Premier, was due to the fact that he was friendly with the Ottawa government. Three of Mr. Godbout's colleagues, Hon. Leon Casgrain, attorney-general Hon. Hector Perrier, provincial secretary, and Hon. Valmore Bienvenue, minister of game and fish, were on the platform with the Premier ready to speak, but the platform itself became rainswept as the Premier was speaking and the meeting had to end.

* * * *

Here is what Mrs. Dorise W. Nielsen, M. P., advocates for the energies of womenfolk when war time occupations cease: I was thinking only the other day of the marvellous work done by women's groups all over Canada in support of the war effort. We have Canadian clubs, the I.O.D.E., the Red Cross, church groups, the Y.W.C.A., little tiny clubs of women everywhere who have been giving of their time and energy to provide comforts for our soldiers, sailors and airmen. I have often thought to myself, what is going to happen to the energies of all these women when the war is over? I believe that many of these women's groups would welcome the idea if the department started to organize these many things which are needed on behalf of mothers and children in Canada. So far as the work which is being done for the soldiers, sailors and airmen is concerned, the women do not care what rank a man has so long as he is in uniform. Then comforts and all kinds of things are provided for them. So it is with children; there is no difference between them. Whether they come from the homes of the poor or from middle-class homes, there are many things which need to be done for them, and I believe that this department which is being set up could help to give the women of this country something to go on fighting for and working for after the war is over rather than letting all their efforts and energy and initiative lapse for want of stimulation, co-ordination and organization from a government department.

Notes By The Way

A new instrument combining the trumpet, alto horn and trombone is announced at the worst time. When can the neighbors find another house to move into.—Victoria Times.

All honor to the young lady, blind since her thirteenth year, who has received from the University of Toronto the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This is further evidence that human nature provides compensation for such handicaps. Other faculties are developed; and this is particularly noticeable among the blind. — The Globe and Mail.

In recent years a special type of economist and theorists of a particular species have been born. Their great dream is to divide up wealth. They never think of the creation of wealth. For wealth is created. What would our gold mines, our asbestos mines, what would our waterfalls be worth if we had not had courageous and enterprising men to exploit them?—Montreal Le Jour.

Concrete evidence that the war is going more favorably is the London announcement that British manufacturers anticipate Government permission soon to start making a number of motor cars for export mainly to colonial markets. They will call them "X" models, either ten or 12 horsepower family cars of small build.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Rules and regulations which har-ass the tradesman and the consumer are designed by worthy if tortuous officialdom to provide a basis of fair trade in the midst of wartime scarcity. These regulations assume that there are dishonest people about who are cut to catch the unwary. Unfortunately, in preventing dishonesty, they also trap honest men who find difficulty in keeping abreast of all the Whitehall Orders.—London Daily Express.

A Swift and Company man solv-ed the problem of shipping meat to the South Pacific in unrefrigerated ships, says the Wall Street Journal. He lines the sides of the cargo space with cases of lard that had been held at very low temperatures. Then alternate layers of frozen meat and lard were put in. The lard warmed up slowly and kept the meat from thawing. The thing seemed like an "artificial whale" with a coating of blubber protecting the meat inside.

One of the most difficult prob-lems which will come up for solution in the post-war period is that of tariffs. As between those who argue on the one hand in favour of the total abolition of tariffs and the establishment of a world-wide system of free trade, and those who maintain that the abolition of tariffs would throw a monkey-wrench into the world's economic machinery, the world has been well tried for years. In this, as in most problems affecting the welfare of humanity and inseparably linked with world trade, the "via media" seems to be still the safest and sanest way.—Montreal Star.

The idea of super-rockets aimed at American cities and war industries from the coast of Europe is fantastic to anyone familiar with rockets and jet-propelled aircraft, points out Science Service. It explains: It would require 400 gallons of fuel an hour to carry a twelve-pound bomb by jet propulsion across the Atlantic. The flight would take about seventeen hours. The fuel weighs eight pounds a gallon. This means that it would take 3,200 pounds of fuel an hour, or about 55,000 pounds of fuel for the trip. The weight of the fuel would be greater than the weight of the explosive charge. The fact that the weight of the craft as a whole decreases as the fuel is used up would have little or no advantage as far as its military effectiveness is concerned. Should the Germans decide to use radio-controlled rockets to bomb the United States, it would be a simple matter for us to tune in the rocket frequency and cause them to drop harmlessly into the ocean, or turn about and head back to Germany like boomerangs.

A bankrupt bank in Michigan is reviving a transfusion of oil which is restoring it to healthy life. The bank is a private institution at the small community of Sterling and was the only service of its kind for 350 people. Less than six years ago the bank closed its doors and some customers were in despair. Two of them committed suicide. The liabilities were $160,000, and the cashier, Joseph Martin, figured that the assets might provide 15 cents on the dollar. Among the assets was a farm in which the bank had only a one-eighth interest. Two years ago a man rented this farm and got an idea there was oil on the land. He began drilling, and recently oil began to spout. News reached the people of Sterling and they gazed pop-eyed on the scene. They cried for joy. State police had to be called to hold back the excited spectators. The new well is considered one of the best in Michigan, and even the one-eighth interest is bringing money in so fast that the bank will be able to pay all depositors in full — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

From its inception the Soviet State has spared no efforts to create favorable conditions for the birth and rearing of children. The widest attention and consideration are given to maternity welfare by State and public institutions. Expectant and nursing mothers are protected by the Soviet Constitution. The law forbids the lowering of wages of pregnant women; when transferred to lighter tasks they retain their previous salary. From the fifth month of pregnancy no woman employee may be transferred to another town or city for work. After the sixth month no overtime work is permitted. Pregnant women and nursing mothers employed in the lumber, cotton, tobacco or similar industries are protected by special regulations. Thirty-five days before confinement, women are given maternity leave with full pay. After confinement they are allowed 26 days of rest. Women in military service and wives of servicemen receive a special bonus from the State during their maternity leave. Collective farm women are released from work one month before and one month after confinement. At present extra allowances of butter, sugar, cereal and milk are given to pregnant women, and the local Soviets provide numerous privileges for future and nursing mothers. — From U.S.S.R. Bulletin.

THE NATIONAL LIFE

By

"John Of The Lilacs"

(Concluded from yesterday's issue)

There is also another policy the writer would like to outline here, "An Educational Policy" of say five hundred dollars, for each child in each family, where this coverage for educational purposes would begin at birth at a small monthly sum advancing slightly each year until the period of fourteen or fifteen years has elapsed, then the aforementioned amount or that which would be decided upon would mature and be released for carrying on the education of each child in each family.

This would be the money already provided through the years for carrying on the education at that time where through many not being able to finance their children in the ordinary way they would be compelled to leave off any higher education or training and go out into the world ill equipped for the various activities in which they have to engage in order to establish decent living conditions for themselves and their children — the coming generation.

Post-war conditions may be such a highly specialized field that a higher type of education than average will be necessary, also it will be a much easier plan where the future is concerned by having the necessary amount of money, already saved, than by trying to find enough at one time to finance a boy or girl through college or specialized training which in many cases now is impossible.

This would place every child in the country as nearly as possible on an equal educational basis by having financial means on hand to complete the education. Should a child so provided for not live to take advantage of this system then the money already paid would be refunded with interest added.

Let the writer give a resume of the foregoing. First, a pension policy for each one in the country, beginning at birth at a small monthly sum and increasing slightly yearly until a determined time when said policy will be fully paid up and to which accruing interest will be added until that time when the policy holder begins to draw the payments.

This would be a pension plan for every one without drain on the country, produced and saved from the money of each individual thereby saving the country billions of dollars and helping reduce taxation to an enormus extent, definitely meaning that each individual was providing for him or herself through the years to be refunded later on; where anyone not living to participate would have beneficiaries as is customary.

The premium on policies for each child in the family being paid by the parents until each one was self-supporting after which each one would be required to produce the payments on their own policy, in this way the individual invests in his own future security and welfare; at the same time he invests in the national expansion and development of his country.

Secondly, an educational policy for each child in the country beginning at a low payment monthly and slightly increasing each year until that would mature when the child was ready for high school and college; when the money would be paid back before maturity only in case of death; where there would be no financial loss and great educational gain.

The head of any family would not begrudge, say five cents per day, for the higher education of a child, this might be worked out on a basis much less, and where interest for money over the period till maturity would complete the policy to full face value.

Let Canada lead where other nations will follow until this becomes the basis of security for everyone within one generation, when they have reached the age where usefulness in many fields of endeavor is looked upon as a thing of the past.

A time when children will have a real start in life by having the full advantage of educational facilities by funds already accumulated; where the enormous continuous flow of money into government channels within our own land will mean prosperity in the highest degree, and where taxation will begin to decrease instead of multiplying by leaps and bounds.

The writer has not the space for any tabulated figures in connection with this outlined policy, this is merely a concentration of facts and suggestions of two essential needs for future requirements which should be investigated and worked out by those who are elected by the people to plan for the stability, security and prosperity of the Dominion of Canada.

This would not infringe or conflict with any pensions plan for veterans or those who are entitled to pensions for war service or other special services for their country, all of which has to be taken into consideration in the near future.

Soon we will be entering upon a new era, one for which we have fought two wars in a quarter of a century. We have fought for security in life, freedom from want, self preservation and lasting peace. Let us then have in mind a plan which will be broad enough in its scope and magnitude, to encompass everyone within the Dominion; which will not mean retrograde activities whilst trying to go forward, but where each one will press on with confidence along the pathway of the future, with the assurance that they are building up the necessary reserve as they go along which will enable them to live comfortably throughout the evening hours of life, without the perplexities, worries, and the thoughts of having to accept charity which under existing conditions many have to do.

It is mighty easy to have revolution,
Not so easy to have evolution.

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.

SCRIPTS AND PROHIBITION

Sir,—In reading a recent editorial in your paper in which a British Columbian exponent of Prohibition philosophy is quoted as attributing many of the blessings which Prince Edward Island enjoys to our retention of Prohibition. I note that the said gentleman overlooked stressing the point that Prince Edward Island is the healthiest spot on the globe.(Page an article in The Guardian of some months ago—a reprint from the London Daily Mail.) Now scientists need not enter into any exhaustive investigation to determine the cause of this healthy condition. It can be found in the fact that, under our present liquor regulations, so many of our citizens are destined to visit their doctor with predetermined regularity. You have noted editorially too, that the truth of the ancient maxim. "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." has been called into question. I may say, Sir, it has been superceeded and has its modern counterpart in this: (A favourite among Island Doctors) "A script a day won't keep patients away."

I am, Sir, etc.

READER.

P.S.—These lines are from the rhyme: "Prohibition A La Farce"

An ailing man must have a doctor's script;
A busy Doc must have a dollar tip.
And mean the man to grudge one dollar bil
For such a show of hom'opathic skill!
The dying man performs his own diagnosis,
Prescribes his cure for dreaded halitosis;
He cashes Script with speed unlike a tortoise,
For Vendor's all twix him and rigor mortis.
When complications show with bulging hip,
The dose prescribed will oft exceed a sip.
It cures a fallen arch or broken nose;
Consigns the sickly man to sweet repose.

POETA SPIRITI FERMENTI.

The Poet's Corner

ROSE-DROWNED

Roof-deep in roses stands the town
Under the metal of July.
The golden and unchallenged crown
Burns in the foamless sky.

Roses, red acid and cerise
And all pink shallows of pastels,
Drift everywhere in blazing peace
Measured by drifting clock-tower bells.

Lacking a tidal wave to swallow
White gables into turquoise cold,
Roses can wash a town and hallow
Its doorways, if the town is old.

—Elizabeth Bohm, in the New York Herald Tribune.

Britons Under The Swastika

(By P. W. LUCE in the Vancouver Province)

Four years ago tomorrow the white flag of surrender was raised in the Channel Islands. The Union Jack was hauled down from the mastheads. The Swastika floated arrogantly in its place.

The first bit of British territory had been captured without battle, without resistance.

It could not be otherwise. Situated as they are from eight to thirty miles from the occupied coast of France, it was a choice between capture or annihilation by the big German guns.

Before the enemy arrived, 35,000 Channel Islanders had been evacuated to Britain. The 65,000 who remained have passed a strange unhappy four years under the cold scrutiny of their temporary masters.

* * *

The Germans have formulated so many rules and regulations that the inhabitants inadvertently break many of them every day. Jail sentences are the penalty for serious offenses, and the prisoners are not only filled to capacity, but there is a long waiting list. Men under sentence are left at liberty until there is room, and then they are sent a postcard to report at the jail by a certain date.

The prisoners must pay rent for the cells they occupy, the rate being based on the size of the cell.

For the first two years radios were allowed, but the possession of one today renders the owner liable to a fine of $15,000 and two years' imprisonment. A few, well hidden, still bring in B.B.C. news.

In normal times most of the foodstuffs, except fruits and vegetables, are imported. Rations have been very slim since July, 1940, but there has been no starvation. Latest reports showed eggs selling at $1.25 each, potatoes at $40 a hundredweight, butter at $5 a pound, whisky at $60 a bottle, hens at $12 each, and other items at equally fantastic prices.

* * *

Many commodities have been unobtainable for years. There is no salt, but sea water is sold inland at two cents a quart. There is no sugar, so beetroots are pulped for their sweetening juices. There is no tea or coffee, so substitutes are improvised from willow leaves and parsnips. There is nothing for dessert except carragheen moss, gathered from the cliffs along the sea shore.

In spite of many privations and insufficient clothing, the general health remains good. There has been an average loss of 18 pounds in individual weights; some have lost as much as 70 pounds.

Newspapers continue to publish, under German censorship. Part of the newspaper is taken up with lessons in elementary German, but the Channel Islanders have failed to profit by this opportunity. Attempts to have German taught in the public schools also met with singular lack of success, in spite of offers of attractive scholarships and money prizes.

* * *

The number of Nazis on the Islands has varied from 4000 to 10,000 active troops, 3000 to 5000 invalided soldiers in rest billets, and several hundred civilians, including many women brought in as experts to teach the Jersey and Guernsey housewives how to make the best use of the ersatz foods and materials they "enjoyed" under the New Order. The fraus were very coldly received.

About 25,000 alien laborers were brought in to build fortifications, roads, and railways. These included Poles, Norwegians, Danes, Dutch, Frenchmen, Italians, Czecho-Slovaks, Austrians, Hungarians, Greeks, and anti-Nazi Germans.

* * *

Ill-clothed and half - starved, these men were practically slaves, and suffered extremely brutal treatment. Most of them have been moved back to the Continent. Their work was finished, and their presence a potential invasion danger.

Although arrogating to themselves the right to veto any legislation passed by the states of Jersey and Guernsey, the Germans have not interfered to any great extent with the civil administration of the Islands. They have tried very hard to cultivate the goodwill of the inhabitants, and they have failed utterly.

The day of their departure will be a day of unbounded rejoicing for Britain's oldest possessions.

Churchill Poems

From (Yorkshire Post)

About 1890 Winston Churchill tried his hand at poetry with some lines on influenza which eventually saw light of day in "The Harrovian."

It is interesting to study these verses now and pick out vivid phrases which would not ill fit a Churchillll speech of 1944. This young man clearly had imagination his description of the "cruel inconquerable foe" of influenza coming across Europe is no obviously crude schoolboy effort.

O'er miles of bleak Siberia's plains...
It moved with noiseless tread;
And as it slowly glided by
There followed it across the sky
The spirits of the dead.
The Urali peaks could not turn it from its way. Upon "Moscow's fair and famous town" it made a direful swoop....
Nor adverse winds, nor floods of rain
Might stay the thrice-accursed bane;
And with unsparing hand,
Impartial, cruel, and severe
It travelled on allied with fear
And smote the Fatherland.
Across France then the Channel
Though it passed the streak of brine
And penetrated this thin line,
It came with broken force.
Young Churchill was writing about influenza, but 50 years later Luftwaffe.

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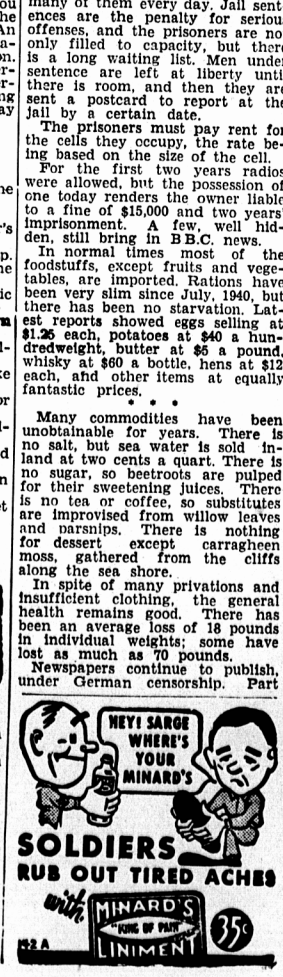

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