

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1940.

The Fighting Men's Vote

While the vote of Canada's active service forces, announced yesterday, leaves the Liberal majority in Parliament unchanged, it was highly significant as indicating the attitude of our soldiers, sailors and airmen on the chief issue raised in the election campaign.

It is regrettable that of the 90,000 members of our service forces eligible to vote, only 56,942 voted. How much this was due to obstacles placed in the way of men on furlough, to the fact that no candidates' names appeared on the ballot and that the names and regimental numbers of service men had to be written on the envelopes containing their ballots, is a matter of conjecture.

In this Province every National Government candidate was endorsed by a majority of the service men. In Queen's County Mr. W. Chester S. McLure led with 326 votes, his colleague Mr. J. O. Hyndman followed with 306 votes, as against 210 for Mr. Douglas, and 229 for Dr. Cyrus Macmillan.

Our local contemporary to the contrary notwithstanding, the King Government would do well to take stock of the significance of the vote of our active service forces, with its plainly expressed desire that partisan politics be eliminated at Ottawa for the duration of the war.

Newfoundland's Example

Elsewhere on this page of today's issue appears a review by Canadian Press of the six years' experiment in commission government in Newfoundland. The system, it is claimed, has proved a failure "because government without opposition is impossible and because of the exclusion of the press from all discussion."

There is a lesson for every province in Canada in the circumstances that have led up to Newfoundland's present plight. A succession of extravagant governments brought the country in 1934 to a condition of bankruptcy. It became necessary to petition the British Government for assistance, with the result that a Royal Commission recommended, after investigation, the suspension of parliamentary government in favor of government by commission appointed by the United Kingdom until such time as the island again became self-supporting.

At the present time, with Canada committed to huge war expenditures, the need of practising economy in other directions was never more urgent upon the powers that be in this country. At the beginning of the last war, the Canadian people were paying about \$300,000,000 in taxes; at the beginning of this one about \$1,000,000,000.

The war must be paid for, and any expense necessary to ensure victory has to be met. What ought to alarm is the easy way in which its cost evidently is to be added to the heavy peacetime cost of operating. Unless Dominion, Provinces and municipalities cut down on normal expenditures, the \$1,000,000,000 will reach \$1,500,000,000 in the first full war year.

This emphasizes the necessity of practising the elementary virtues of thrift in personal and public affairs, and of ensuring that individual enterprise will not be strangled further in peacetime because governments take on new power during a war.

The fate of Newfoundland should serve our local legislators as an example of the difficulty

of regaining financial and economic independence, and even of maintaining existence as a democracy, once the stage of chronic inability to balance budgets has been reached. This is a matter which transcends party interests, and should appeal to the more independent supporters of the Government as affording an opportunity of doing real service to the province and their constituencies.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is now all over including the soldiers' vote.

If only the defenders of our country had votes, this Province would have four Conservative representatives in Canada's next Parliament.

Bishop Heber, hymnologist, writer of "From Greenland's Icy Mountains", and other well-known favourites, died this date, 1826. "When Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil."

The Federal parliament is not to be summoned till the middle of May. Provided there be a two months' session that will mean our legislators will be in Ottawa till half way through July, the hottest part of the year in the hottest city in the Dominion.

In proportion to population, Canada is second to the United States in the number of telephones in use, a Canadian Pacific Railway Express publication states. However, in the number of telephone calls per capita, the Canadian record is even higher than the United States. One million three hundred and fifty-eight thousand four hundred and seventeen telephones were in use in Canada during 1938, the highest since 1931.

The following letter of Mr. Harry Miller, Editor of "Youth Today" to the New York Times has local application: Can't something be done to clear up the situation in regard to the use of the word "youth"? It's getting us down—this business of picking up a newspaper screaming with "Youth" headlines, only to find the youths referred to with "bald and graying heads."

The total value of exports of fisheries products from Canada in 1939, according to an analysis issued by the Dominion Department of Fisheries, was \$2,018,800. This was an increase of \$2,112,900 over the corresponding figure of \$7,506,000 in 1938. These figures include some minor fisheries products which are classified otherwise in the trade returns.

Exports to the United States last year were valued \$3,650,300, which was an increase of \$941,000 over the sales to that country in 1938. Exports to Great Britain last year amounted to \$8,710,700, an increase of \$1,863,200 over the 1938 figure. Sales to other countries were valued last year at \$7,257,800, a decline of \$691,200.

What the average woman married for twenty years, with a family of six, has to do in the home in that period of time was calculated by Canon Arthur Sinker, former rector of Bermundsey, a poor quarter in London, who died the other day at Norwich. He calculated that she: Kissed the family 45,000 times (one kiss per head per day). Peeled 87,600 potatoes. Darned 10,400 socks and stockings. Made 29,200 beds. Buttered 175,200 slices of bread.

Exports of both butter and cheese from Canada showed gains last year. Exports of cheese were the largest since 1929. Exports of butter were not large but were three times those of 1938. Total exports of milk products rose in value by twelve per cent. Exports of condensed milk and of evaporated milk declined but milk powder exports recorded a marked gain. Canada is a large exporter of cheese and ranks third among cheese exporting countries. Her shipments of this product are not so great, however, as in the opening years of the century. Owing to the growth of the population the manufacture of cheese for export has been replaced by the making of butter for home consumption.

Although the rate of increase in the number of marriages registered in 67 cities and towns having a population of 10,000 and over has slackened somewhat since the sharp upswing in September, the uptrend was still in evidence in February when 3,052 ceremonies were registered as compared with 2,314 in February, 1939, a gain of 27.1 per cent. This brought the total number registered in these cities during the six war months to 31,866 in comparison with 20,645 in the same period a year ago. Births registered in these cities and towns in February numbered 7,007 and deaths 4,438 compared with 6,515 births and 4,570 deaths in February last year, showing an increase of four per cent in births and a decrease of six per cent in deaths, when adjustment has been made for the number of days in the month.

New Bank of England notes, blue for £1 and mauve for 10 shillings, will begin to pass into circulation in a few days. Harder to forge, but cheaper to print, the new notes will gradually replace the present green and rust-colored issues. For some time both old and new notes will circulate and both will be legal tender. Forgers will be faced with a new problem in a thread about one-fifteenth of an inch wide, of special composition, woven uniformly into the paper during manufacture. The present notes are plate-printed, but the new ones will be produced by a lithographic process which is cheaper and quicker. No alteration of size or design is introduced, except for the difference in color and extra emphasis on the component parts of the design—the old Bank of England building and the figures of Britannia and St. George and the dragon.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Summer Welles has ordered six suits from his London tailor, and if you know how long Mr. Welles wears a suit you could make as good a guess as anybody else how long he thinks the war will last—Toronto Star.

There was disagreement among Americans as to the kind and degree of help this country prudently might extend to Finland while the war was on. However, there can be no quarrel, except as to the amount possibly, on the extending aid for reconstruction work now that the war is over.—Detroit News.

When the chef on Minister of Transport Love's private car took ill at Long Lac, Mr. Ian A. Barton National candidate in Port Arthur, loaned his personal airplane to bring the man to the Port Arthur Hospital. Political life has its amenities, even in the midst of a campaign, and humanity transcends politics.—Windsor Star.

Dr. Charles Wharton Stork, Pennsylvania professor, has had an exciting six months. On September 3, he was on the Athena when she was sunk, being rescued after 48 hours. He is a poet and published poem about the disaster. Now a court has awarded him over \$300,000 from the estate of his great-grandfather who died 68 years ago. Tragedy, literature, money and adventure in this half-year venture.—Toronto Star.

In the midst of a Senate speech the other day Senator Prentiss Brown (D), Oregon, remarked to "ride" his good friend, president aspirant Robert A. Taft, a little. "I hear," said he, "that the other night Senator Taft went down to the railroad station and said, 'I want a ticket.' The station agent said, 'Where to?' The Senator replied, 'Oh, anywhere, I've got business all over.'—Christian Science Monitor.

The best text-book on geography of our day the most lively, the most up-to-date, someone wrote recently, is the newspaper. What are the newspapers, you think, it is inconceivable that the newspapers, particularly during the past year, have taught their readers a number of geographical facts on which school text-books have never been able to interest the pupils.—Montreal Le Canada.

The "opening" of the Yantse from Shanghai to Nanking is undoubtedly a landmark in the history of the development of the Chinese military invasion of China in relation to the existing interest of the Powers. It represents a considerable change of tactics on the part of the invaders. But this change of tactics does not in any way affect the old aims which have been in their mind since they were to destroy Chinese sovereignty, extinguish the treaty privileges of other countries, and institute the monopolist exploitation of China's resources.—Hong Kong Keelky Press.

Sometimes this war may seem muzzling. Sometimes it may seem bright. But it is none the less a bitter struggle against barbarism in which the British people know that they are fighting for their own lives and freedom. So said Mr. Atlee recently. He spoke as an old soldier who has spent many years of his life in the trenches in the last war. Now, as then, he declared, he believes that we shall win. That is the mood of the British people. That is the spirit that is going to decide, not for the first time, the fate of Europe.—London Herald.

Now that the peace offensive is under way by which Hitler hopes to hold the gains he has made so far in his effort to establish a Nazi empire in Central Europe, with Czechs, Poles and Jews as the aborigines, it becomes pertinent to inquire what part Mr. Summer Welles, the president's inquiring reporter, has had in all this. It is fairly obvious that the Germans have been obliged to believe that Mr. Welles was worth working on. Von Ribbentrop visited Rome as soon as he decently could after Mr. Welles had been there, and when Hitler met Mussolini, Mr. Welles' homework sailing was postponed. No wonder London and Paris fear that Mr. Welles is to be the vehicle for an American-financed submarine campaign for the benefit of Nazi success. Up to the time of Mr. Welles' journey American policy, as expressed in the speeches of the president, the elimination of the arms embargo from the Neutrality Act and of the British efforts to enforce their blockade, was clearly anti-totalitarian. Mr. Roosevelt's address of Saturday, in which he excluded as satisfactory peace results the results of oppression and conquest of small nations, has momentarily reassured the Allies as to American intentions. But Mr. Welles still gives them quite a jolt. They find this Welles more terrifying than Orson. Almost unannounced, he finds himself at the centre of a new Nazi peace offensive. What Americans will want to know is how he got there.—Baltimore Sun.

The story of the rescue of six sailors of the wrecked Canadian lumber schooner, the Chisholm, after they had drifted two weeks and lived on whatever floated up from the salt-watered gale is not a new story to the people who make their living by the sea or take a special interest in the sea from the rubber apartments far from the water's edge. But somehow in this latest rescue story in the column of seafarers' tales there was a hint which takes one back to the Chisholm, came in sight, and they drifted around and found a drum of gasoline and set it afloat. They lit one of their precious ever-burners and put it on a cork and moved it back and forth. It was

Commission Government Fails In Newfoundland

(By The Canadian Press)

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld.,—After six years of commission government the newspapers of this Newfoundland capital have weighed and found wanting the system inaugurated in 1934 after the island's status as a Dominion was voted out by its Parliament.

"The system has failed," writes one observer, "because government without opposition is impossible and because of the exclusion of the press from all discussion." In November, 1933, the Legislative Council and Lower House of Newfoundland passed a resolution petitioning the Government of the United Kingdom to re-open recommendations of a Royal Commission which had investigated the island's financial and economic position. Lord Amulree of London was chairman and Sir William Stavert of Montreal and C.A. Macgregor of Victoria, B.C., were members.

The Amulree report favored the suspension of parliamentary government in favor of government by commission appointed by the United Kingdom Government until the island again became self-supporting. The Mother Country would assist the solution of financial problems embarrassing Newfoundland. The effect of the change was to reduce the island from dominion to colonial status.

Even after Newfoundland's acceptance of the Amulree proposals the measure had a rough road in London. Laborites and left-wingers in the British Commons had a series of amendments ranging from three to eight that suspended dominion status on establishment in the ancient colony of a "socialist co-operative commonwealth." Finally the bill for commission government, passed the "mother of parliaments" by a vote of 208 to 38. It became operative on Newfoundland Feb. 1, 1934.

The "British Government" appointing three commissioners from the United Kingdom and three from Newfoundland to meet under the chairmanship of the governor. Renewing the six-year experiment the Daily News says: "There have been improvements on the administrative side. The commission has organized the civil service but in this respect the general impression is that it has gone too far. It has increased personnel and created a burden far beyond the ability of this small country to carry. There are good reasons for fear that the little talk of bureaucratic despotism have a good case."

On the economic side, the News continues, the commission must be adjudged a failure. It had contributed little or nothing to the establishment of a stable economy. Nor might the deterioration of the coal industry and effects of world conditions be accepted as "adequate condonation of failure." "That inspired leadership which was the one thing above all others that the people of Newfoundland had a right to expect has not materialized," the News says. "More and more money has been obtained but a program behind which every citizen might align himself with confidence and hope is not yet visible."

Looking to the future the News declares: "We must seek now to find a system which will enlarge our own system of responsibility, create a keener interest among the people in progressive government and establish a policy which all may support. It is the assurance that it will lead to the establishment of true happiness and contentment for the people of this island."

The St. John's Evening Telegram says the strongest objection to the commission system arises from the fact that the voice of the people, accustomed to making itself heard and felt for many generations, is virtually mute. "It may be heard in petitions, but even that form of expression has not been encouraged. It may be expressed through the medium of the press. In not a few cases this has proved effective, but its scope is limited, and it has been only too evident that much of the criticism, no matter how constructive, how well meant, and no matter how necessary, has been repressed merely as carping, produced by a truly censorious attitude. The 'governor goes on.' While it may be agreed that certain substantial benefits have resulted, are we materially nearer the restoration of government by the people of this island? "The general opinion would appear to be that the experiment in administration—the financial benefits, thanks to the good will of the United Kingdom, notwithstanding—has fallen far short of the expectations of those by whom it was instituted, and that even after six years of trial, there

is little to indicate that government by commission can either succeed in its purpose or compensate the country for the rights of which it consented for a time to be deprived."

In conclusion the Telegram's editorial says: "The war in which the country is participating, it is by no means unlikely, will call for decisions in which it may be more than ever important that the wishes of the public may find expression. Sacrifices have to be made. They will be made all the more whole-heartedly if they are self-assumed than if they are imposed. This is a matter that calls for serious consideration."

Sir John C. Puddister, of St. John's, is the only member of the 1934 commission still in the Newfoundland administration. Governor Sir Murray Anderson, first chairman, and former Premier F. C. Alderice, first vice-chairman, are dead. W. R. Howley is now registrar of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. Sir John Simpson, Thomas Lodge, and E. N. R. Trentham, who were appointed from the United Kingdom, have been transferred to other duties.

The present commission government consists of Governor Sir Humphrey Walwyn, chairman; Sir John C. Puddister, commissioner for public health and welfare; J. E. Emerson, justice; Sir Wilfred Woods, public utilities; J. A. Winter, home affairs and education; J. H. Penson, finance, and J. H. Gorvin, natural resources.

UNCLE SAM FINDS ICEBERGS BOTH

WASHINGTON, April 1—(CP)—The International Ice Patrol, which safeguards North Atlantic shipping from icebergs, is facing this spring and summer its most difficult problem since the service was started.

In the past the Naval Hydrographic Office has received, through the cooperation of the Canadian communications from trans-Atlantic vessels, prompt information of all ice hazards. This year most of this information will be available because of the war and the patrol will have to work alone.

In previous years vessels of the ice patrol had been based at Halifax, but this year Halifax is unavailable for such service, so the vessels will be stationed at New York as bases, greatly increasing the distance between bases and the ice fields.

The General Greene, one of the coast guard cutters assigned to the patrol service this year, will perform oceanographic services temporarily at St. John's, Newfoundland.

MEMORIAL TO THOMAS EDISON UNVEILED AT STRATFORD

STRATFORD, Ont., April 2—On the occasion of the Canadian Premiere of the motion picture "Young Tom Edison" a memorial tablet was unveiled yesterday in the Canadian National Railway Station here to the memory of the great inventor. The station stands on the site of the old Grand Trunk Station where

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The youthful Edison once worked as a telegrapher. The tablet, was unveiled by Dr. J. W. Browning of Exeter, Ont., ninety five years of age, who knew Edison personally and worked closely with him in the early 60's when both were telegraph operators. Dr. Browning is the oldest living telegrapher in America.

The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Thomas E. Henry and Aide W. P. Gregory, chairman of the Edison Memorial Committee, J. P. Fringle, General Supt., of the South Ontario district of the Canadian National Railway, delivered the address at the unveiling. Representing the Canadian National Telegraphs, successors to the old pioneer telegraph company for which Edison and Mr. Browning worked was D. E. Galloway Assistant Vice President.

MOVIE STARTED CAREER WOMAN

OTTAWA, April 1—(CP)—Katherine E. O'Connor, Third Secretary Trade Commissioner in Canada, here has had many opportunities to serve in other fields, but has declined them all because "Ottawa is the loveliest spot of all."

Miss O'Connor was appointed to the secretarial staff of the United States Trade Commissioner in Canada in 1925. Since then she has served here continuously except in 1928, when she studied for a year at the Sorbonne in Paris.

One of eight women holding important United States diplomatic posts, her duties are to report on trade and commercial development in Canada and the promotion of American trade here. She is tall and good-looking, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes.

A "movie" — a short urging Americans to write civil service examinations — led to her entering the government service. Her first gov-

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