THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1945

Empire Preferences

A timely survey among industrial members is being undertaken by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association aimed at a current appraisal of British Empire Preferences. It is pointed out that total Canadian exports to Empire countries in the three years preceding the outbreak of war, exceeded by a considerable margin total exports to non-Empire countries.

There has been a tendency in some quarters to discount the value of Empire Preferences to Canada in the post-war trade world. That tendency the *Financial Post* deplores, and expresses the belief that the CMA survey will offer concrete evidence of the vital importance of these preferences to Canada and to Canadian employment.

"Until we are offered adequate and definite compensation for a system that has brought much trade and prosperity to Canada and its Empire partners in the past," says the *Post*, "there should be no thought of tossing Empire Preferences out the window."

Alas! this fails to take into account the fixed antipathy of Prime Minister King for these preferences, which are the result of the statesmanship of the Bennett Government and which have always been about as provocative to Mr. King as a red rag to a bull.

The legality of rationing will, it is hoped, remain an academic consideration long enough for Canada to meet its commitments. It is a fact, however, that many lawyers gravely question whether the War Measures Act is any longer valid. This makes it all the more imperative that the Government adjust rationing methods practically rather than theoretically. It is believed that coupon values should be more nearly in ratio to normal and relative money value. A careful adjustment will make life more difficult for black marketeers of porterhouse steak and help to prevent a glut of the cheaper cuts.

A Great Lesson

Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky recently completed a five-months tour of Europe as special consultant to the War Department. His assignment was to study the part played by the airplane in the defeat of Germany. His report, as might be expected from the author of "Victory Through Air Power", contains some startling suggestions and bold assumptions along with much sound thinking.

For example, Major de Seversky expresses great respect for German achievements in military research and urges that the scientists responsible be brought to this country as "a prize of war" so that they can carry on their work. Again, he declares that jet propulsion is only in its infancy and prophesies that within ten years "aircraft as we know it today will go out of existence." Nothing, he insists, can be "salvaged from the existing equipment for our future national defence."

But if there is room for argument on these points, it can hardly be denied that Major de Seversky is right in concluding that air power was the decisive factor in Europe. Bombers and fighters did not win the war unaided, but they made possible the invasion that broke down German resistance. So the concept of strategic air warfare that his book helped to formulate has been proved valid.

Major de Seversky puts his finger on the reason why this concept eluded the Germans. The Nazi dictatorship "froze" enemy thinking, he says, while in this country final authority is in the hands of civilians and that is "a guarantee against the perpetuation of military prejudice." That is to say that freedom fights for freedom.

A Problem In Surgery

While a deadlock has been reached at the five-power conference of Foreign Ministers in London, it is not necessary to assume that this initial failure to agree on such a vexed question as the Balkan peace treaties is permanent. Russia obviously is seeking to bolster her own interests in Europe; but there is no reason why those interests, broadly interpreted, should clash with other Allied objectives. We must assume that all the United Nations are seeking, according to their lights, to establish conditions of permanent world peace. All the disagreements have been with regard to the policies best likely to reach this goal.

One phase of the problem is summed up in the memorandum of the French Government at the London conference. This document urged, firstly, reconsideration of certain points of the Potsdam decisions on Germany in which the French Government did not participate. The second and most important point dealt with French ideas for the future of the Rhineland and the Ruhr.

The French thesis was bluntly stated by General De Gaulle when he complained, in an interview published on Sept. 10, that under the Potsdam decisions Germany was "amputated in the East but not in the West." The current of German vitality and potential aggressiveness, he meant, has been turned westwards, and there must be a settlement in the West counterbalancing that which the Russians have obtained in the East. Vital areas are the Rhineland and the Ruhr, for each of which special regimes should be worked out. It boils down, in De Gaulle's opinion, to a question of geographical surgery.

The special settlement which the French propose is for permanent Allied administration of the Ruhr. France would claim a predominant share in the administration of the Rhineland as far north as Cologne, and would propose that a corresponding preponderence should be assigned to Belgium, Holland and the United Kingdom in the area between Cologne and the North Sea. The Ruhr with its coal and vital industries should, the French Government urges, be placed under Allied control so as to ensure that the Ruhr should cease forever to be a potential German arsenal, and that its products should be used for the benefit of all Europe as well as Germany. Finally, the French propose that the Rhine waterway should be internationalized.

This matter was doubtless discussed at the conference of Foreign Ministers, but there is no indication that any agreement was reached. It is an admitted fact that the Potsdam Conference left the question of Western German frontiers in the air and the French plan has the merit of offering a concrete basis of discussion. Moreover, French anxiety about French security based both on a knowledge of German psychology and on the lessons of history commands the widest sympathy and understanding in the same way as a similar Russian concern is, by general consent, a vital factor to be taken into account.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The doctors may still make ethics and business join hands in the script dispute.

* * * *

A five-year scientific study shows that 95 per cent of all women read advertising each day in their daily newspaper.

* * * *

There is no salary attached to the office of President of the Divorce Court, but the Chief Justice will be entitled to certain fees regulated by the Court.

* * * *

Think of it! Only 16 of the R. A. F. pilots are left of whom Winston Churchill said at the outset of war, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

* * * *

There are riotings and insurrectionist outbreaks occurring in the Argentine. Can it be because the Government has passed a decree outlawing tipping in cafes, hotels and night clubs?

* * * *

The late Mr. John Anderson was an historian as well as a keen controversialist, and did much to keep on record by-time events and personalities. It may be worth the Government's while to acquire his collection of data.

* * * *

Mr. Duncan Campbell, historian, died this date 1886; he was born in Scotland in 1819, and came to Canada as a young man, settling first on a farm in this province, and subsequently entering into business with a firm of importers and exporters, where he found time to write "A History of Prince Edward Island"; in 1866 he went to Halifax where he engaged in shipping and studied the prospects of the development of the Maritimes along industrial and commercial lines; the outcome was the publication of his other work, *Nova Scotia in its Historical, Mercantile and Industrial Relations.*

* * * *

The United States officer who was so impressed with London taxicabs that he wants to ship a fleet of them to America has forecast a big U. S. demand for United Kingdom motor cars. In an interview with Mr. H. Simmons, United Kingdom motor manufacturers and traders, he said: "The American boys over here are just crazy about your cars and they should command a big sale over in the States." The United Kingdom models that he considered would attract the most attention with the American public include the famous sports car of average horsepower, the family saloon — the lines of which appealed to him immensely—and a second and more powerful sports car. He claimed he could easily sell at least a thousand of the last type. U. S. troops while in England have paid many tributes to British-made cars, but the highest praise so far has generally been reserved for "small types" in which United Kingdom leadership is acknowledged.

* * * *

More jobs for bureaucrats. The Unemployment Insurance Commission has inaugurated an advisory division to help boys and girls leaving school to select jobs in which they are most likely to succeed. Mr. S. H. McLaren, chief executive officer of the Commission, says the pupils need not act upon the advice, which is entirely voluntary. Mr. McLaren says the agency involved would be the national employment service of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, that is the successor to National Selective Service. "We feel that when these young people come out of school we can help them find the right job. After investigating their aptitude and abilities and assessing the labor situation, we advise them whether we think such and such a job is advisable. They don't have to take our advice if they don't want to." "If they decide not to take your advice," he was asked, "what happens then?" "We do everything possible to help them do what they decide they want to do." He said the commission had about 250 offices in Canada, some of them with staffs of only three persons. In the smaller ones it would be impossible to have an expert but there would be some one able to advise.

Notes By The Way

In overcrowded Washington, a new arrival managed to secure accommodations in a dingy hotel after hours of weary search. As he started to unpack his valise, he suddenly heard snores emanating from the tiny chest of drawers in his room. He investigated and rushed to the telephone. "Good heavens," he cried, "there's a midget up here snoring in my chest of drawers!" "Naturally," came the room clerk's reply, "who else could fit in there?" —Wall Street Journal.

The adoption of a systematic, continuous and intelligent policy of reforestation is urgently needed, for a white pine needs half a century for development, and white spruce almost as much—and these are the two most valuable trees that Nature has developed the world over. Where can we get a supply of white pine for carpentry, or white spruce for newsprint paper, if we continue the work of exhausting the supply of these woods and neglect to replace them by planting a new crop?

Unforunately, there is a good deal of truth in the contention of the Temperance Advocate that "parents are increasingly disinclined to allow sons or daughters to attend social events held in hotels" and that "Ontario hotels are fast becoming places to avoid." Unless the operators of these establishments start to clean house, if not themselves then under compulsion, this state of affairs must go from bad to even worse.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

The black bear which killed two goats on a farm four miles from the city seemed to have things his own way. The goats did not have much chance, it appears. And yet goats have been known to butt fiercely, says The Fort William Times-Journal. It may have been that sheer terror made the goats easy prey. No human eye saw the bloody battle, but there would be a certain amount of satisfaction in knowing that the victims got in at least one good blow.

If you are a small man you may be able to make use of the speech in one sentence spoken by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. At a meeting he attended there were many tall men. Someone said to the doctor, "You must feel rather small among these big fellows." "I do," replied the doctor, who always thought well of himself. "I feel like a dime among a lot of pennies." — Your Life Magazine.

One of the improvements in synthetic tires to which drivers may look forward is the use of inner tubes of butyl, a chemists' rubber that has been devoted almost entirely to war work, says The Cleveland Plain Dealer. Those who produce the material say an inner tube made of it is superior to the prewar ones of natural rubber, that its life is much longer than theirs and that it holds air so tightly that it needs inflation only three or four times a year. This may be one of the instances in which rosy prophecies of postwar improvements may come true. Bring it on.

In Russia, newspapers and magazines, their buildings and their equipment, not only are owned by the Government but are an integral part of it. In fact, the Russians have but one newspaper under different names. The opinions and information offered in that newspaper must satisfy the "people" and the "people" in Russia are the small group of party leaders and officials. Any other opinion or information is condemned. What would happen if some enterprising young man in Moscow managed to locate a printing press and published a newspaper criticizing Stalin or the Communist system? We all know the answer. Until a young Russian can do just that without disappearing into Siberia we cannot believe in Pravda's claims of freedom. —Editor and Publisher (New York).

Some of Holland's raw material needs for the last half of this year were sent by Dr. H. Vos, Minister of Commerce and Industry, at 231,800 long tons of chemical products, 160,000 long tons of raw materials for the paper trade, 500,000 long tons of iron and steel, 2,013,700 long tons of building materials, and 1,266,000 cu. meters of wood. These figures, he said, are in accordance with those of the new Netherlands Directorate for Recovery and Supply established by the Ministry. The directorate later will supply additional facts and figures on the Netherlands purchasing program for the last half of this year and for the period 1946-48. Information on the needs of Holland's industry will be submitted to foreign commissions who will sound the world market for possibilities, Dr. Vos declared. — From Netherlands Government Information Bureau.

The disclosure by the Public Utilities Commission that minute quantities of fluorine have been added to Brantford's drinking water supply during the last three months means that an important public health experiment is well under way. The purpose is to cut down the occurrence of dental decay among children. Researches indicate that where a sufficient quantity of fluorine is present in a natural state, the incidence of tooth decay is extremely low, whereas in places where fluorine is scarce or absent, the tooth decay rate is high. Similar experiments have started at Grand Rapids, Mich., and Newburgh, N.Y. The proceedings here have been and will remain under the supervision of the proper local authorities and under the general surveillance of the Ontario Department of Health. — Brantford Expositor.

Australians have found a peacetime use for mine detectors. With the war officially over, as far as they are concerned, Australian engineers in the battle-torn Wewak sector of northern New Guinea have turned to repairing the numerous wrecked bridges that cross the coastal streams. A great hardwood forest reaches skyward from hundreds of square miles of the ground that was formerly their battlefield. They knew the Japanese had been cutting timber, but there was no trace of their sawmill. Mine detectors found where the Japanese mill machinery had been buried. And, when the mill had been set up and the saws were whirring again, the Australians used their mine detectors to select suitable timbers. Iron bark? No—but the mine detector was more than useful in discovering cannon slugs, and bullets which would have played havoc with the saws and planers.—From Australian News Review.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MERCHANT SEAMEN

Sir,—Perhaps you will have noticed that a great deal is being written these days regarding ex-servicemen. But doesn't it appear to you as very strange that so little reference is made to ex-prisoners of war? I am in hearty agreement with any and all efforts being made on behalf ex-members of our fighting forces. In my considered opinion they are deserving of the finest and best this Canada of ours can give them.

I shall not forget that wonderful day, when, with several thousand others, I had the glad opportunity of welcoming some of the men of the Liberation Army. They arrived at the prison camp at midnight, but their very presence transformed that dark German night into brilliant sunshine. They came as conquerors, but they brought with them freedom, happiness and the fulfillment of a hope we had cherished for over four long years in captivity behind the barbed wire entanglements of a Nazi prison camp There are times when words fail one. They failed us at that hour; our gratitude was too deep for mere words. They fail me now when I try to re-live that occasion.

But what I really want to write about are the ex-prisoners of War, and in this letter only one class of prisoner of war—Canadian Merchant Seamen; that group of mean and low estate, but men, nevertheless, and likewise deserving of the finest and best that Canada can give. You may be interested in knowing that at one time during the war just concluded, an effort was made to have Merchant Seamen placed in the same category as the Canadian Armed Forces. The plan failed of acceptance by Ottawa with results that are not at all in keeping with the war services of the Merchant Navy. Here are some of them:

1. Non-inclusion on preferential basis for employment in the Canadian Civil Service.
2. Non-participation in Veterans Rehabilitation Scheme and War Gratuity awards.
3. Non-participation in educational training scheme, either professionally, vocationally or ordinary business training.
4. No reasonable and clear-cut War Bonus.
5. Obligation to pay full-rate Federal Income Tax on wages payable while in captivity. In no case was this period under four years. In most cases it was close to five.
6. Failure to recognize prison camp time as sea service as was done by the British Government for British seamen.
7. Failure to provide arrangements whereby Merchant Seamen, ex-prisoners of war, would receive raises in pay and bonus taking effect after the prisoners capture.

In summary it looks very much as though a prisoner is being penalized for becoming a prisoner.

Since my arrival in June of this year, I have made every effort to have the Government review these matters. So far, I have achieved little success, other than capturing the interest of a few local personages.

You are doubtless aware that seamen, as a class, are an easy-going crowd, and in all too many cases not well versed in pushing such matters as these I have outlined. They are a trusting lot as well, but in this case it is more than trust that is required.

I have recently been admitted to membership in the Caandian Legion, and at the first opportunity it is my intention to enlist their support in an effort to have this whole matter threshed out. In the meantime, I feel you would be doing some good if you could assist me in bringing this matter to the attention of responsible officials. Your efforts would be greatly appreciated by a splendid body of men whose war services you must know rank very high. It is hardly necessary to remind you or anyone else, for that matter, that during those terrible years of 1940 and 1941 when the life lines of the Empire were almost severed by the German U-Boat menace, Canada's Merchant Seamen still carried on in the face of unmitigated death traps with next to no armed protection, but with that unconquerable Canadian spirit to succeed. And succeed they did! With the result that our sea lines were maintained and we and our allies were enabled to cary on. The peace which today is ours is in no little measure to be credited to that unarmed body of men and their gallant little ships. That body of men knew how to die, but knew not how to surrender.

They are Canada's unsung heroes but they do not want to be sung about. All they ask is a fair recognition of the part they played in keeping this country free. And they, together with their British comrades want their thousands of dead to be remembered. And remembered they must be! Over 90,000 British seamen have found their last resting place beneath the ocean waves. They gave their all that their loved ones and their homeland might survive the perils they fought and conquered—but at such a cost! Let ue not forget that unsung and unhonored Legion at last called home to the bosom of their own Father Neptune:

"...My ship rolls on. Your heaving breast
Is throbbing as in angry mood,
While far beneath each silvry crest
Lie noble hearts. But now subdued
They know no more of earthly things,
Bound fast by Neptunes hoary chain,
Yet 'neath the waves I seem to see
The Dead march on, Is Death in vain?"

Here I will leave the matter, trusting that what I have written will provide an incentive to others to interest themselves on behalf that body of Canadians who did so much in the cause of Freedom and Humanity.

I am, Sir, etc.
WALTER RAYMOND SHAW, C.M.N.
Rockingham (Halifax) N.S.
October 5, 1945.

The heliotrope is a flower that turns toward the sun and its name so signifies; it comes from two Greek words, "helios," the sun, and "tropos," a turn.

The Poets' Corner

THE ONE HOPE

When vain desire at last and vain regret
Go hand in hand to death, and all is vain,
What shall assuage the unforgotton pain
And teach the unforgetful to forget?
Shall Peace be still a sunk stream long unmet—
Or may the soul at once in a green plain
Stoop through the spray of some sweet life-fountain
And cull the dew-drenched flowering amulet?
Ah! when the wan soul in that golden air
Between the scriptured petals softly blown
Peers breathless for the gift of grace unknown—
Ah! let none other alien spell soe'er
But only the one Hope's one name be there—
Not less nor more, but even that word alone.

—Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

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Will all P. E. I. men who have served in this active service squadron at any time report their names and addresses to this Headquarters, so that a complete Nominal Roll may be prepared. Complete names are required—initials are not sufficient.

Relatives of men not yet returned to P. E. I. are asked to report for them.

ADJUTANT,
17th (R) Armoured Regt. (P.E.I.L.H.)
Armouries—Charlottetown, P. E. I.

10-10-13-2i.

Attention Farmers Near Charlottetown

Our Charlottetown business has been seriously handicapped since the fire last December. We have almost completed building a frostproof potato storage on the farm, after that will dig our potato crop, then start to rebuild the Charlottetown warehouse.

The first floor will be for seed only and will be equipped with a grader, the second floor will be for table stock and turnips, and have a separate grader for table stock. Five weeks from now should see this new warehouse in operation. We will be in a position then to buy potatoes, field run, and grade them if you are short-handed on the farms. If you have anything to move now, call at the office. We are putting out table stock and seed bags. Regarding turnips we will only be handling same in carlots until the warehouse is completed. Any farmer or number of farmers who wish to go together to load a full car will be supplied with bags.

FRANK B. CLARKE.

10-6-3i.

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Richard B. Johnston
Attorney At Law
Commissioner for Deeds, Etc., for Prince Edward Island
(Successor to
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