THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1945

The Japs And Mr. Gardiner

Just about the time Mr. King, in his opening campaign speech, was assuring the people of the Pacific Coast that they could "trust the present administration to carry on the war against Japan to the full" another Liberal parliamentarian was speaking away over here in Prince Edward Island. He was the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Gardiner may have assumed, from our extreme remoteness to the Pacific, that that kind of talk wouldn't go well here; or he may just have been voicing the real opinion and policy of the **King** Government.

At any rate he choose to strike a different note. "I don't like the stories going around," he said with reference to those who were demanding an all-out effort against Japan. "You would think we ought to fight ourselves into every war that is going on in every part of the **world**." Precisely what he meant by this statement **we do** not profess to know. But he made it, and it was obviously not intended to jibe with the assurances his leader was giving the people of British Columbia.

Nor does it jibe with the opinion of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, leading western Liberal newspaper. The *Free Press* reminds its readers that "the German nation of 80,000,000 has been beaten, and we must now turn our attention to the Japanese nation of 100,000,000. We turn to face a foe which regards death in battle as the crowning glory of a savage religion. We turn to an enemy which shoots its own wounded, which fights with a fanatical zeal unequalled even by cornered Nazis." Because we are fighting an enemy which is different from the one we have fought, it warns, we must not make the mistake of minimizing its menace. Even if we accept the doubtful proposition that the Japanese homeland can be destroyed from the air, it would not win the war in the east. The Germans occupied France for four years. The Japanese have been in possession of Manchuria for more than a decade. They have made it the base for their heavy industry. Korea and Manchuria alone cover an area greater than France and Germny combined. It is an area with more than 40,000,000 people and under Japanese occupation has been turned into the Ruhr of Asia.

In North China and Manchuria there is a highly trained army of several million Japs. To bring it to battle will necessitate the liberation of South China, where other armies must be annihilated. The struggle which is opening in the Pacific dwarfs anything that we have faced in Europe. It will not be a war in which our tanks will break through enemy lines and encircle whole Japanese armies which will surrender forthwith. If the experience to date proves anything, it is this: The Japanese monster must be beaten army by army, corps by corps, division by division, regiment by regiment, and company by company. To count on anything else would be to once again succumb to the folly of underestimating our enemy, which has brought us to the brink of disaster many times in this war.

Citing these facts, the *Free Press* denounces the irresponsibility of those politicians who talk as if this war in the Pacific was no concern of ours. "Canadians at Hong Kong," it reminds us, "were among the first to feel the touch of Japanese barbarity. The war against Japan is Canada's war, and Canada will be unfaithful to herself and ignore her destiny if she slackens or fails. Because Canadians know this, Canadians will insist that our country have her share of responsibility. Canadian armed forces must come to grips with the Japs to redeem the pledge to the boys at Hong Kong. We must fit into the struggle where we can best be fitted, wherever and however that may be. There can be no security for Canada until Japan is defeated, and the sooner these politicians realize this the sooner our political discussions will be clothed in the raiment of dignity and reality. The war for freedom and security for Canada is not over. For all we know, it may only now be beginning."

We wish Mr. Gardiner had read that editorial in the *Free Press* before he came to Charlottetown. He might have made a different kind of speech, or at any rate said something a little more inspiring about the job the Government is asking our veterans overseas to undertake, at the price of a month's furlough, so that the Zombies can be left at home.

Underwater Thieves

This is a little story about underwater thieves — Atlantic Coast hair seals. Smart crooks, too, these particular seals, for according to the *Fisheries News Bulletin*, they open the latched doors of lobster traps and make off with the bait! Reports of the depredations came recently to the Dominion Department of Fisheries from two of its inspectors in different counties in Western Nova Scotia. Truth to tell, the seals haven't been caught in the act, for lobster traps are set some fathoms deep and what goes on around them cannot be seen from above, but the inspectors say the lobstermen have no doubt who does the thieving. Perhaps a bump of the seal's nose against the fastening does the trick. Of course, it is not the value of the stolen bait that troubles the fishermen; that's a comparatively small matter. But lobster traps that have been robbed of bait catch no lobsters, and for fishermen in many parts of the Maritime Provinces lobsters are their best cash crop. Any man might be excused a cuss word or two if, after spending time and gasoline in two trips to the fishing grounds, first to set the baited traps and then to haul them up again, he found them empty because hair seals had gone off with the bait. As for hair seals themselves, they are of no commercial value in the Maritime Province fisheries though in some Quebec areas fishermen do catch them, finding a modest market for their skins and for the oil rendered from their bodies.

-EDITORIAL NOTES-

The last week of "The Merry Month of May."

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Nomination Day for Ontario, Cardigan, and Charlottetown City Council, Ward V.

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Property is worth something in Charlottetown, which would indicate the people here are in no way afraid of a C. C. F. victory at the polls.

* * * *

It is currently reported that though the Charlottetown Airport is slated to close down by the end of the month, a contingent of Commonwealth airmen will be in occupation till at least after the election.

* * * *

What a lot of Government-paid publicity for election purposes is coming through the mail these days. The Liberal Party must have found it almost unnecessary to put their hands in their own pockets to foot the bill for the super-abundance of printed material reaching the electorate almost daily.

* * * *

The North Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Regiment are to be into the finish in the Nazi war. They have been five years overseas, on the continent since D-Day, and now have the honour and distinction of being included in the Allied Army of Occupation. Some of the officers and men will be home on 30 days leave before taking up their new duties.

* * * *

Sir Humphrey Davy, English chemist and inventor, died this date 1829; did more in agricultural chemistry for the benefit of farmers than any one who preceded him; he investigated the alkalis and alkaline earths, and isolated potassium and sodium, also boron and other elements; he also invented the miners' safety-lamp bearing his name.

* * * *

A major disaster to Canada was Mr. King's absolute unwillingness to hold a Dominion-Provincial Conference, unless he could ask none but Liberal Provincial Premiers to it. As a result, we have the Dominion Government now trying to make an electorally popular tax system, with every possibility that what we have saved in payments to Ottawa will go in increased payments to the Provincial authorities. Mr. King has not been able even to muddle through.

* * * *

Admiral Count Heihachiro Togo, Japanese sailor who practically created the Japanese Navy, died this date, 1934; was sent to England in 1873 where he served on board H. M. S. Worcester, and studied at the Naval College, Greenwich, returned to Japan in 1883, where he rose to command the Naniwa in the Chino-Japanese War of 1894-95; and the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5 he was in command of the fleet, among his chief exploits being the bombardment of Port Arthur, the defeat and destruction of Rozhdestvensky's fleet at Tshushima, May 27, 1905; he received the British Order of Merit in 1906; was promoted Admiral of the fleet in 1912.

* * * *

The search is now on for Von Ribbentrop who really believed what he told Hitler—that Canada could be depended upon not to support Britain in a war with Germany. He gained this impression from the endless babbling of representative Canadians, starting with the present Prime Minister and going down to Professor F. R. Scott, Mr. Coldwell and Miss MacPhail. He noted the late Mr. Lapointe's removal of a Canadian representative at Geneva, for merely suggesting that sanctions should be applied to Italy over the Ethiopian affair. He saw Mr. King's refusal to permit Commonwealth air training to go on in Canada before the war, and hence concluded Canada was to default. But he had His Majesty's loyal opposition to reckon with, and they were his and Hitler's undoing.

* * * *

Not all the surplus Western horses come here, though a good many do. Establishment of a horse processing plant at Swift Current becomes an actuality with the announcement by Reconstruction Minister J. H. Sturdy that a contract has been signed with the Belgian Government for 10,000 tons of horse meat, at a price approximately $2,000,000. Mr. Sturdy's department initiated negotiations leading to establishment of the plant at Swift Current, and has backed the Saskatchewan Horse Marketing Co-Operative Association, operator of the plant, to the extent of $50,000. The Co-Op. has taken over a smaller horse processing plant at Edmonton. The Saskatchewan plant will be in operation within a few months. Between 40 and 50 men will be employed. There were some 250,000 surplus horses in southwest Saskatchewan, said Mr. Sturdy, using up pastures which could be better employed in the feeding of cattle and sheep. Farmers and ranchers got "ridiculously low prices" for horses they sold. Under the present arrangement, they will receive as high as $30 for horses for which they could get only from $4 to $6 previously. Among the valuable by-products of the horse processing plant will be a permanent supply of suitable meat for fur ranchers.

Notes By The Way

A Hartford, Conn., woman was arrested after spending four hours in a telephone booth. It seems rude to interrupt a description of a new hat.—Guelph Mercury.

Women used to wear collars — even stiffer and more unspeakable contraptions than the things men affect—and shored them up with strips of whalebone and straps of steel. Then, by a decree of Dame Fashion they were suddenly emancipated and found the new comfort so marvellous they never went back to the old neck-harness. What fashion did for women perhaps war can do for men. Being more conservative than their wives and sisters—more tied to tradition—men need something almost world-shaking to set them free. But with so many freedoms in the air it is ridiculous that they should continue to wear the halter of an outworm mode. — Vancouver Province.

In 1941 Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt sent his Nazi legions smashing into the Ukraine pillaging and killing military and civilians alike. His soldiers loaded freight cars with Russians, carried them off as slaves. Rundstedt is our prisoner now. And, in our hands, he is an old soldier, resigned to capture, musing about his forty-three years in uniform. As he puffs on a cigarette no one mentions to him the mass murder of the Russians, the torture chambers built behind his lines at Maidanek. One of our brigadier generals does sound a realistic note when Rundstedt asks him if he isn't surprised by the destruction in Germany. "No, sir," replied the American general. "We saw London first." There must be no graceful retirement, no homage in defeat, no post-war political honors for the military leaders of Hitler's Reich. — New York Post.

Columbia University will hardly seem the same without its incredible president, Nicholas Murray Butler, says the Christian Science Monitor. During the 54 years of his leadership, Columbia has become a truly great centre of learning, in quality as well as in magnitude. And thoroughout, Dr. Butler has been its peripatetic advertisement and ambassador extraordinary. He has been called "the most comprehensively decorated individual extant." He has known just about everybody, including every British Prime Minister since Gladstone, and has crossed the Atlantic over 100 times in keeping his contacts bright. He has "been in there" fighting vigorously on most national and world issues which have arisen during his career. He may, officially, leave the president's chair, but he cannot resign from the American scene. One cannot hide so cosmopolitan a luminary under the bushel of retirement.

To millions of persons the war has brought a reorientation of values. Simple, fundamental things have assumed a new importance. Prisoners of war, for instance, have learned how precious a thing is personal liberty. When released they have had difficulty realizing that they were free to come and go as they pleased, to eat and drink freely and to express exactly what was in their minds without fear of punishment. They have walked about in a spirit of exultation just to demonstrate that they really were no longer confined by barbed wire and threatened by searchlights, bloodhounds and machine-guns. They have ordered glass after glass of milk at their meals and revelled in feasts of white bread and butter. They have taken two hot baths in a day as their idea of real luxury. Most of the men who have served years in the army, navy or air force value home as they never did before. When on leave, they do not hanker much as for quiet evenings in their own homes with their own kin or in cosy corners with "the girl they left behind them." To a remarkable degree the girls have similar feelings. The sexes by common consent agree that there's nothing to equal happiness in a nest of your own with the one you love best and the raising of a family. The world always has shown signs of decay when it has neglected the simple life and fundamental needs. The home and the family are the foundations of national life. The future is bright when men and women are content with decent plain living, hard work and the building of a home. —Toronto Star.

Back to battle-scarred old Britain—fortress of freedom for the whole world in its dangerous days—go thousands of British children who were brought to this side of the Atlantic for safety from the German baby-killers. Canadian homes will be saddened by their going, but none of our people would have it otherwise. "East or West, home is best"—and these precious boys and girls from the savagely-attacked British Isles are "going home." Our American neighbors, too, have had a worthy share in harboring the war children of Great Britain—another lasting bond of Anglo-American friendship. The case is well stated by a leading U. S. newspaper, which asserts: "Nearly six thousand British youngsters who have spent years in the United States in safety from bombs and the injurious effects of underfeeding are now returning to England. Many will find that their former dwelling places are among the 186,000 demolished by German bombs. Many will be without kinship, except the warm-heartedness of surviving neighbors. These transplanted children have had the best of care from their foster parents here and have been looked after in the friendliest spirit by the United States Committee for the Care of European Children. Many of them are reluctant to leave the United States. The returning refugees will find many gaps in familiar scenes. Whole blocks of buildings will have been levelled to the ground. Churches, schools, shops, play-grounds will have vanished. Childhood acquaintances will have grown older; many will be missing; marks of savage destruction will be visible everywhere. But the indomitable spirit that enabled Britain to repel the invader in 1940 will be undismayed. Children who have been saved for the future of Britain by American generosity will enter into a heritage of which they will be the worthier for their sanctuary on these hospitable shores." — Stratford Beacon Herald.

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.

PEOPLE'S CEMETERY

Sir,—A meeting has been called for tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 7.30 in the City building, of all plot holders and those interested in the People's Cemetery.

This is a very important meeting and every person interested in this cemetery should be present.

The financial position of the People's Cemetery is bad. I understand that there are only enough funds on hand to maintain the cemetery until the middle of June and unless some arrangements are made at this meeting for the care of the cemetery, it will have to be left uncared for. In which case it will only be a short time before it will be in the same position as the old Protestant Cemetery on Elm Avenue was in a few years ago.

Some people may take the stand that they are only interested in their own plots, and that they pay for the care of them each year.

That is alright. But there are not enough people paying for the care of their plots, nor are they paying enough, at the present high cost of maintenance, to keep sufficient men and equipment to give it the care it requires, so that even those plots will be neglected after the funds on hand are used. This also applies to the roadways in the cemetery.

Mr. S. Gregory, who has been caretaker of the cemetery for so many years, deserves credit for the way in which he has looked after the cemetery, considering the financial arrangements under which he has carried on.

Personally, I have no shares in the People's Cemetery, nor any other interest, other than I like to see a cemetery well cared for and have for many years made suggestions for the care of the cemetery, some of which if carried out might have prevented the present condition.

It is of vital importance therefore, that every person, who is interested in the cemetery, whether they pay for the care of their plots annually, or have them under perpetual care, that they attend this meeting to see what arrangements can be made for the maintenance of the cemetery.

I am, Sir, etc.,
N. D. McLEAN.

LOBSTER CEILING PRICES

Sir,—On orders from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board there is a ceiling on canned lobsters of $38.00 to $42.00 a case. The packers pay the fishermen and factory help a price to enable them to show a profit, and not a small one, on operations at that ceiling. In a letter to The Guardian last winter Mr. Chester McCarthy told how he had obtained $56.00 a case for his canned lobsters, regardless of ceiling price.

I understand the Maritime Merchant, which is supposed to be an authority on prices, quoted canned lobsters $56.00 a case or higher during the last year. Where was the wonderful Dr. Grant (who is always preaching about all he has done for the people of Kings County) and his three Liberal colleagues at Ottawa when they would allow such an injustice to the fishermen to happen?

The packers tell us they cannot pay any more, that there is a ceiling on canned lobsters. Then they sell canned lobsters on the open market at prices from fifteen to twenty dollars a case above the ceiling price, and pocket the extra profit.

Fishermen of Prince Edward Island, it is time for a change; by all means let us vote Conservative.

I am, Sir, etc.,
NAUFRAGE HARBOUR FISHERMAN.

CANADA'S MEAT SHIPMENTS

Sir,—I note with interest an item in the news from Washington denying certain isolationist "fictions" concerning shipments of meat under lend-lease, intimating that Britain gets no meat from Canada, but gets it from the U.S. under lend-lease. The facts were set forth clearly: "Canada ships Britain one-third of her total production of meat, including 700 million pounds of bacon and 325,000 head of cattle."

It is curious, indeed somewhat pathetic, to see the cheap note monotonously struck by certain people on this side of the Atlantic, relative to these "lend-lease" operations? I have no doubt that, when the historian deals with the facts (and "fictions") of the past six years of struggle, between freedom and tyranny, a high place will be given to this lend-lease mechanism—aptly termed even today as "a flash of the Roosevelt genius—which played a central part in the destruction of the Axis power and, at the same time, saved the lives of myriads of Allied soldiers."

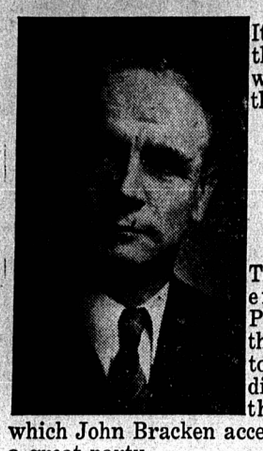
I see also a story from London, with the following rather grim lead paragraph: "The world is faced with a shortage of nearly 2,000,000 tons of meat, the ministry of agriculture said today, in connection with announcement of a new cut in food rations...."

It grows clearer, daily, that the farmer's work (like that of a good home-building mother,) is never done. In case the average busy urban reader hasn't the time or the desire to measure the above "meat shortage", it may help to say that every Caandian will have 130 pounds of meat in 1945, and that 2,000,000 tons would take care of the meat supplies for the Canadian people for the next three years

I would like to suggest to Hon. Mr. Bracken, our next Prime Minister, the desirability of keeping speculators away from this vital food-stream. Fair prices, stabilized at appropriate levels, can do this job, and save lives.

I am, Sir, etc.
"CERES"

John Bracken—The Administrator



It was John Bracken, the Administrator, who with firm hand wrote these words:—

"The right of the public to expect efficient administration of the funds it entrusts to the management of the State."

To-day, these words are embodied in "The People's Charter" — that ringing challenge to the faith of Canadians in themselves and their country, with which John Bracken accepted the leadership of a great party.

As Prime Minister of Manitoba, John Bracken administered the government of that Province for more than twenty years. For more than twenty years his phenomenal success as a far-visioned administrator won for him the lasting loyalty and support of the people. Through the long years he retained their trust; for they knew that it was to the furtherance of *their* interests, their hopes and aspirations that John Bracken devoted his great administrative ability.

Thus it was that in the years from 1922 to 1942 John Bracken won five straight elections as Premier of Manitoba. Thus it came about that through raging political and economic storms, against adverse gales of opposition and through the deep dark waters of the great depression itself, it was still John Bracken who held steady the helm of government, steering a straight progressive course, firm in his principles and profoundly aware of his high office.

You should know more about John Bracken, his deep earnestness, his all-embracing humanity and the almost startling simplicity and sincerity of this Lincolnesque man — who has never known defeat at the polls.

Listen to him as he speaks of Canada today — "Our civilization is at the great crossroads of its history — a revolutionary change in our approach to social problems. We are facing a threefold task . . . a war to win, a peace to make enduring and *a world to make more acceptable to the common man.*"

And does this farmer's son, this John Bracken born in a log cabin, know what the common man wants? Listen again — "The people want a national economy in which ALL can prosper. They want equitable prices — adequate rates of pay for workers." They want "to sever the bonds that tied us to scarcity in the past and release the forces that will give us abundance in the future . . ." And — finally . . .

"Had I not believed that we could succeed in this great purpose—*I would have stayed back home in Manitoba.*"

B-5

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Know John Bracken — the Progressive Conservative

War Against Japan

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.
(Associated Press News Analyst)

The war against Japan has reached approximately the same stage as that attained by the war in Europe at the beginning of 1944.

That is not to say that it will be over in 17 months. It merely means that the sons of heaven have been pressed back to their central core of defences, and that the process of softening by air is really getting under way.

Aside from mopping up actions in areas already penetrated, and a possible lopping off of Japanese outposts in such places as Borneo, Java and Singapore, the next several months are likely to be occupied largely by the burgeoning air offensive.

The recent raids on Japan stand about on a par with the early raids on Germany. They indicate that Saipan now bases just about as many Superfortresses as it will hold, that new bases have to be, and are being, developed.

The chief of these, of course, is Okinawa. From there bombers and fighters of every type will soon be taking off from every vailable space—and there is a lot of it.

They will be aided on the west and south from the Philippines, from China by the 14th Air Force, which already has done tremendous damage to Japan's communications with the continent, and probably from Burma by the R. A.F.

This aerial warfare probably will go on for several months—in fact, it will take some time to reach its peak with complete deployment of air forces from Europe and attainment of the heavy bomber production program in the United States. But there is little doubt that it will be in full swing before sufficient assault forces have been gathered for the invasion.

REMEMBER WHEN

By The Canadian Press

The great Suzanne Lenglen who three years previously had reached the pinnacle of her tennis career, collapsed at St. Cloud, France, 21 years ago today. Miss Lenglen turned professional two years later in 1926. She died of pernicious anaemia in 1938 at he age of 39.

JAMAICA'S POPULATION

Jamaica has about one-half the population of the British West Indies.

The Poets' Corner

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yell
wood,
And sorry I could not travel bo
And be one traveller, long I sto
And looked 'down one as far as
could
To where it bent in the und
growth;

Then took the other, as just as fa
And having perhaps the bet
claim,
Because it was grassy and want
wear;
Though as for that the passin
there
Had worn them really about t
same,

And both that morning equally l
In leaves no step had trodde
black.
Oh, I kept the first for anoth
day!
Yet knowing how way leads on
way,
I doubted if I should ever co
back.

I shall be telling this with a sig
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a woo
and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the differ
ence.

—Robert Fro

TRUSSES

To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a Truss, we ask you the question. Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style. If so, then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up-to-date one. All sizes and styles at prices to suit every body.

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