

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1, 1943

Talking of Nationhood

The Prime Ministers of Australia and Canada have lately found occasion each to speak of his country's role as a nation among nations. Mr. King spoke, welcoming Mr. Ray Atherton, first U.S. Ambassador to Ottawa, Mr. Curtin spoke, welcoming a press delegation to Canberra. Characteristic quotations from both speeches are cited by "News". They provide a contrast worth studying.

Mr. King said: "This is a milestone in Canadian affairs. The armed forces of the Dominion in this war and the last have established Canada as a world power and the Dominion must be recognized as such. It is incongruous that Canada, the fourth war producer of the United Nations and, I am told, the third United Nation in world trade and exchange of war material, should not take her proper place in international affairs."

"The armed forces of Canada in two wars and the place the Dominion has achieved in this war in the making, production and furnishing of supplies unquestionably entitled the Dominion to recognition as a self-governing world power. To bring to fruition the Dominion's place in world affairs, similar steps will be taken with other countries."

Mr. Curtin said: "Australians are anxious that their war effort shall be examined and reported on. We want to hear how we may do better and how we can assist materially to expedite the war programmes of the United Nations. Now that we have reached the stature of full nationhood we wish to share with the people of Britain on a basis of complete equality the burdens and problems of war and the solution of the problems it will leave behind."

"Whatever may be the problems of the United Kingdom in relation to the rest of the world, Australians want to be regarded as available to help in their solution. We believe the British Commonwealth is more important than any one Dominion, or any part of the Commonwealth by itself. We believe that men united by goodwill can find an association for constructive purpose. As the war has united us for common protection, so can good judgment unite us for decisions in the future for the common good."

Canadian Corps

With the formation of a Canadian Corps in Italy, this Dominion now takes its place in the line as a major factor in a fighting army. The new status, says an exchange, has a significance that may be missed by the layman. Although there has been no official confirmation of the fact, what has actually happened is the abandonment of the idea of Canada maintaining an Army. That project definitely goes by the boards when we set up a Corps to form part of a British Army in action.

The Canadian Corps in Italy is expected to be a component of the British Eighth Army. As such, it will come under the command of General Montgomery, apparently with Lieutenant-General H. D. E. Crerar in direct command but serving in a subordinate role to the Army chief.

This ending of a rather grandiose dream is not entirely to be regretted. The decision to form a Canadian Army overseas was based more on enthusiasm than on reason and logic. It was something to which the people at home gave vociferous approval, but it is doubtful whether any experienced soldier ever took the proposition seriously. Canada is simply not big enough to support an Army. Such an organization must necessarily be made up of at least two Corps, and usually there are more than this. The Dominion, it is true, could recruit that many men, but it was idle to expect to keep them up to strength. We do not have the necessary reserves of manpower.

With a Canadian Corps functioning, we are virtually on the same basis, in respect to land forces, as we were in the last war. Our situation is that we now have one Corps in action another in reserve, from which necessary reinforcements may be drawn. We may even call on divisions still in Britain to increase the basic strength of our Corps, but it will take all our resources to keep such an establishment up to strength.

Post War Planning

Estimates reveal that the ending of the war will release more than 1,500,000 Canadian men and women from war jobs in munitions plants and in the armed services. Even allowing for the maintenance of a peacetime military establishment greater than that of pre-war years and reckoning upon the return to domestic life of many women war workers and the retirement of many over-age men, Canada must still be confronted with the greatest employment problem in its history.

In view of these facts, it is interesting to note that an organization known as the Heavy Industries Federation has been formed, specifically for the purpose of planning employment at high levels of productivity after the war. This is industry's own acknowledgement of the fact that only by planning boldly and effectively can a bridge be forged strong enough and broad enough to carry the national economy safely and smoothly through the post-war period and

set it upon an unbroken road of peacetime economic stability.

Organization of the Heavy Industries Federation involves the establishment of a central industrial committee, of regional boards and of regional sub-committees for research, field development and particularized planning. The Federation will act as a clearing house for all post-war projects involving the capital goods industries. Contact is being made with other agencies concerned with post-war problems—industrial, governmental and municipal—with a view to cooperation and avoidance of duplication.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The month of peace to men of goodwill.

The Rotarians are holding their annual Radio Auction on behalf of the Red Cross Crippled Children's Fund this evening.

Tax-payers, who numbered four million in 1939, in Great Britain, now number twelve million.

Smolensk Region, where last spring the farmers were forced by the Germans to cultivate 67,000 hectares with spades and rakes, is celebrating the return of its modern agricultural machinery. Machine and tractor stations are being restored to prewar dimensions, and plowing with tractors is in full swing.

The out-put of saucapans in Great Britain is one-third of the pre-war production, and this third rusts and blackens quickly and does not last. Egg-whisks are no longer manufactured. The Board of Trade says "use a fork" to whisk your monthly egg.

Henry (Beaulieu) I, King of England, died this date 1135; youngest son of William the Conqueror, succeeded to the throne in 1100; defeated his elder brother Robert at Tenchebrai in 1106, and took possession of Normandy; he subsequently championed the English nation against the dominance of the Norman barons, who, like the Scots at a later date, thronged into England and proceeded to direct its affairs.

There was a time when the Fritzes sang: Everything passes, everything goes away. After every December, at last comes May.

Now they have somewhat amended this song: "Everything passes, everything goes away. Hitler and his Party will also go away." But Hitler will not "go away"; he will be put away in due time, and the Fritzes will realize this before long.

According to the Bank of Montreal Monthly Business Summary, wholesale and retail trade in the Maritimes continues brisk and while storages in merchandise exist, the volume of sales compares favourably with a year ago. Collections are good. There is a strong demand for lumber, and stocks on hand are low. Logging is under way but rains and the shortage of experienced woodmen have interfered with operations. The catch of fresh fish during October was slightly below normal; prices are satisfactory, with demand exceeding the supply. There is a brisk demand for pickled fish, with prices holding firm. Manufacturing plants are busy and in most cases are operating at capacity. Shipyards continue to be fully employed. Coal output in Cape Breton in October was up somewhat from the previous month, but lower than in the same month last year. There is an active demand for potatoes, and shipments to the domestic market have been heavy.

The celebration of St. Andrew's recalls the Halcyon days of the Caledonian Club when it was a centre of light and leading in the city. Here is the programme of its weekly lectures for the season 1925-6:

- Nov. 5—"Caledonia Stern and Wild," Rev. W. Bruce Muir.
Nov. 12—"My Impressions of Scotland," Mr. John Anderson.
Nov. 19—"Tubercular" or "Life in a Sanatorium," Rev. J. B. Daggett.
Dec. 3—"Progress of Medicine and Surgery During the Last 100 Years," Dr. G. F. Dewar.
Dec. 10—"Recent Rambles Abroad," Hon. J. H. Bell.
Dec. 17—"My Life in the Great North Country, Including Alaska," Mr. Hammond Ince.
Dec. 31—"Eighteenth Century Development in Municipal Government," Mr. K. M. Martin, K.C.

- Jan. 7—"Sir Walter Scott," Professor J. F. H. Fleming.
Jan. 14—"Some Old Time Literary and Other Institutions in Charlottetown," Mr. W. L. Cotton.
Jan. 21 and 22—Burns Concert.
Jan. 29—"High Spots in My Reminiscences," Mr. J. E. B. McCready.
Feb. 4—"The Letters of Charles Lamb," Prof. G. D. Steel.
Feb. 11—"Scotland's Part in the Development of Canada," The Hon. J. A. Mathieson-C. J.
Feb. 18—"Some Phases of Educational Work in Prince Edward Island," Prof. J. H. Blanchard.
Feb. 25—"My Visit to Europe," Rev. J. J. Macdonald.
March 4—"R. W. Service, the Poet of the Yukon," Mr. D. Edgar Shaw.
March 11—"The Life and Influence of Lord Shaftesbury," Rev. H. D. Raymond.
March 18—"Thomas Moore, Poet Biographer and Author of the Song of the Canadian Boatmen," Mr. H. F. McPhee.
March 25—"Ourselves and the World We Live In," Mr. Percy Pope.
April 1—"Some Recent Medical Discoveries," Dr. J. Wendell MacKenzie.
April 8—"My Trip Around the World," Mr. A. E. Morrison.
April 15—"Musical Evening—Mr. James Paion, Rev. F. H. Littlejohn and Prof. W. E. Fletcher.

Notes By The Way

One Belfast family has lost 12 of its 13 members in the present war. The real "fighting Irish"—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

"To get rid of squash bugs place a shingle on the ground by each squash vine. The bugs will crawl under the shingle at night and you can kill them next morning."—From horticultural handbook. We tried it and the dab-bled bugs ate up the shingles. —Chicago Sun.

The new synthetic plastic inner tube is said to retain air so well that tubes made of this material have travelled more than 8,000 miles without needing a pound of additional air. It looks as if another old American institution, free air, is needed for the roads. —Buffalo Courier-Express.

In York County we observe that assistant school janitors receive \$200 a year more than the minimum salary of a married teacher. Ambitious young teachers will aspire to change the ruler for a loom handle. These are the days when ignorance pays, must be the motto of York. —Peterborough Examiner.

In an effort to save gasoline, the Germans are now commandeering Brussels streetcars which they are using instead of trucks to transport workers to the railway station for deportation to Germany. The streetcars are used after curfew has sounded, about 30 prisoners are assigned to each car which is escorted through the town by an armed motorcycle squad. —Montreal Star.

Navy nurses are now pistol-packing marmas of a sort. Their pistols are air-cooled and electric, and they shoot ultra-violet rays. What we have, then, are miniature ultra-violet lamps which can be used in the treatment of slow-healing wounds, abscesses, ulcers and some skin diseases. The Acrolamp pistol lamps can reduce the skin in a minute. The burner is a transparent quartz tube in which the source of the rays is contained. The whole pistol measures three inches in diameter and ten and a half inches long. —Exchange.

The other day, a resident of Gananogue had reason to reflect on the old tale about frogs and toads being created by lightning falling from the sky. It seems he found two large and lively frogs in an eaves trough 20 feet from the ground. He discounts the theory that children have put them there. He doubts whether the frogs could have hopped that high. He is skeptical over the suggestion that lightning might have got up there as a couple of young pollywogs and stayed while they grew to amphibious maturity. So he is driving back to the barnyard to get a yarn about it some time raining frogs. Nor need he be so reluctant to confess his suspicions. Such things do happen now and then, strange and unaccountable world. For instance: during a thunderstorm on August 17, 1921, innumerable little frogs appeared in the streets of the northern part of London, England. —Brantford Express.

Dr. T. K. Cureton of the University of Illinois made a test among the freshmen which revealed a surprising lack of athletic fitness among them. The test was a mile run in four minutes and two seconds, while a man has walked a mile in six minutes 21 seconds. Yet 70 per cent of the 2,628 failed to run one mile in 26 minutes. The record for running 100 yards is nine and one-half seconds. The record for a 200 yard race is 29 seconds. The record for a 400 yard race is 1 minute 14 seconds. The record for a standing broad jump is 11 feet, five inches, by 35 students. The record for a 50 yard dash is 10 seconds and one-half feet. At gymnastics nearly 78 per cent could not "chin" themselves 10 times, and 7 per cent could not do 25 sit-ups. The record for the floor while lying on their backs and then do 20 "sit-ups." A fit man can do that several hundred times. —St. Thomas Times Journal.

Instead of cutting down the trees to make way for the building of the Allied Works Council, which is building Queensland's largest hospital for the U. S. Forces, is shagging it, where necessary by the use of dynamite. Caves which would strike tree trunks are being cut away to guarantee that all buildings go the maximum distance from the trees. Other parks, wards and buildings have been built in position to allow the trees to cover them. Layout of the buildings is being done in such a way as to make walking easier for patients. One and a half miles of cover connecting ways. —Australian News Letter.

If the soldier, sailor or marine comes back, Business Week magazine asserts, he is entitled by law to his job if he wants it, even if it means firing the substitute. Selective service has the responsibility of getting honorably discharged men back to their jobs and they are coming back fast to the United States. Disability discharges from the army and navy are now running about 7,000 a week. By the end of 1943 they will reach 800,000 and for the year 1944 returning servicemen will number around 1,000,000 the magazine estimates. Most of the work of the re-employment program will fall to volunteer committees attached to local boards. Many "British problems" are involved, which, for example, a butcher has refused the stiff because of the price of the meat. Not all of the returned soldiers are inexperienced. They are being trained in the day they took the oath. —Exchange.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondence of subjects of general interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

A FREE PORT IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Sir—The qualifications of an ideal Free Port having been outlined, readers of the Guardian naturally will ask themselves whether Prince Edward Island has a harbour that will measure up to the requirements. Personally I believe that we have, but feel that the following points are the most suitable port in which to establish a Free Zone is a matter to be determined, not by a single individual, but by the Government in consultation with business men of the highest standing.

Possibly, however, some comments regarding the claims of the Island as a whole will act as an incentive for action of a specific nature. The following points seem to be some at least of the more outstanding features. GEOGRAPHIC. A study of the map of the world, with compass in hand, points surprisingly to the fact that this humble little Province, "away down East in the salt water zone," was placed by the Creator remarkably close to the centre of the whole world, from an ocean going standpoint. Where you will find North, South, East or West, and you will find all the great producing and densely populated countries, on an average, equally distant from what we in Canada call the Maritimes. Of the three Ocean Provinces, Prince Edward Island enjoys the most advantageous advantage of being situated in the Northumberland Strait and of being protected by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia from the storms and shoals of the Atlantic.

CLIMATE. Apart from harbours on the Pacific, such as Vancouver, there is no part of Canada, so greatly blessed with a moderate climate, summer and winter, as Prince Edward Island. The climate is not only pleasant for about ten months in the year ships can come and go, and to and from all our ports without let or hindrance. Some harbours are open during most of the winter, and when ice forms it could readily be broken by an ice breaker. It therefore is claimed that Prince Edward Island is in a position to provide a Free Port, open for twelve months of the year.

DOCKS AND FACILITIES FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING. Admittedly these are almost a foregone conclusion. This may be just as well in one way, for only the very best would satisfy the promoters of a Free Port, and their selection would be a matter to be financed either by the Dominion Government, who control all ocean water lots, or with their consent, by the Province of Prince Edward Island.

MANAGEMENT. Because this Province is small there is no reason that it should make the mistake of the management of a Free Port, for those who invest money in such an important undertaking should be satisfied with the highest grade of management possible to obtain. THE ISLAND'S RIGHT TO A FREE PORT. The inherent right of this Province, which for fifty years has suffered so heavily from the Canadian Customs' Protective Tariff, is the right to a Free Port in a position, that in common fairness should appeal to a sense of justice from our fellow citizens in Ontario and elsewhere. I am, Sir, etc. H. K. S. HEMMING

The U. F. O. Passes

(Ottawa Journal) There was a convention in Toronto last week, the 30th annual, of the United Farmers of Ontario, with 150 men and women present. It was the 30th and last, because the U. F. O. has formally voted itself out of existence, and merged with the non-political Ontario Federation of Agriculture. It brings back memories and sends us to the Parliamentary Guide, where the political fortunes of the U. F. O. are inscribed in a few lines. The U. F. O. was elected in 1914 was mostly Conservative and had no member with U. F. O. after his name. When came the revolution of 1919, the legislature saw U. F. O. with 45 members and the largest group, although in a minority against combined Conservatives, Liberals and others. The United Farmers were invited to form a government, which they did with Mr. E. M. Drury as premier. In such circles as now hail the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. At last the common people were on the march. No more would privilege rear its ugly head, and the capitalists had better look out. Up and down the other eight provinces the old parties look grim, and the dissenters raise their voices in rejoicing. We were in Ontario, to give the world a demonstration that the arts of government had lost their mystique. We were to show the world that this little band of embattled farmers, even without experience in administration, would show up the Liberals and the Conservatives as stupid bunglers.

Well, as we have said, Mr. Drury went ahead, formed a government, proceeded to rule Ontario. The other groups, who could have voted him out at any time, let him rule but somehow the millennium evaded him. He had cabinet trouble. He was too conservative for some of his followers and too advanced for others. He has to make the terms of jobs and contracts. Quickly the U. F. O. found that government was not all a matter of honey and roses, and the people, disillusioned, tired of the experiment. Thus after four years of the United Farmers, the people turned them out, put the Conservatives back in office, save the United Farmers one or two members. The election in 1928 out of the U. F. O. group to three, and never thereafter did the Farmers elect more than one member. The power and the glory had departed.

Thus assisted by the voters the U. F. O. largely went out of business and in co-operative trading found new scope for its energies. That branch of its work is being continued outside the new member with the destruction of it. It is proving very successful. But as a

Who is getting NEILSON'S CHOCOLATE BARS? Neilson's Quality remains as always - the highest! NEILSON'S LIQUID FOUR FLAVOR

The Poets Corner LIE IN THE DARK AND LISTEN Lie in the dark and listen. It's clear tonight, so you're trying to be high. Hundreds of them, thousands peering in the night, moonlit sky. Men, machinery, combs, and maps. All meters and guns and charts. Coffee, sandwiches, rice - lined boots. Bones and muscles and minds and hearts. English saplings with English roots Deep in the earth they've left below. Lie in the dark and let them go. Lie in the dark and listen. Lie in the dark and listen. They're going over in waves and waves. High above villages, hills, and streams. Country churches and little graves. And little children's worried dreams; Very soon they'll have reached the sea. And far below them will lie the days. And cliffs and sands where they are used to be. Taken for summer holidays. Lie in the dark and let them go. There's one debt you'll forever owe. Lie in the dark and listen. — Noel Coward in Atlantic Monthly.

Petaim Again (Winnipeg Free Press) The world will make what it can out of the rather contradictory Vichy reports that Marshal Petaim has formulated a democratic constitution, that he is trying to rid himself of Laval, and that he has resigned. It will not make much for this bamboozled and bamboozling old man is no longer a figure of the slightest importance to anyone. The Vichy government's function has been reduced to that of the daily minutiae of administration, the provision of ration cards, the policing of routine government services, posts, telegraphs, public health and the like. For a year now, ever since the Anglo-American forces landed in Africa and the Germans swept down to the Mediterranean, Petaim has been titular agent of the slave-dealing activities of Laval and his political force the U. F. O. is extinct. The C. C. F. might perhaps like to study its history.

SOLDIERS RUB OUT TIRED ACHEs NEVI SARGE WHERE'S YOUR MINARD'S? MINARD'S RUB OUT TIRED ACHEs

German friends, who have been transporting Frenchmen to forced labor in Germany. Vanity, however, has always been a powerful factor in the operations of this old man's mind. Perhaps, as word has reached him of the growing authority of the Committee for National Liberation, and of the prestige it has acquired in Vichy France, he has wanted to try and set himself up as the savior of the free France which in 1940 he helped to kill. Perhaps vague, muddled hopes of displacing — by a sudden gesture — Gaule as the mouthpiece of France have won dominance in his sclerotic mind. No matter, Petaim, who has assumed the round title of Marshal of France, has lived too long. He is now off his stage, and if he now lets off a gas and into the wings of oblivion, it would be the kindest fate that could be found for him. But whether a vengeful France will find it in her heart to forgive the Vichys, of which he is necessarily the chief, is another matter altogether.

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