THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Mail in P.E.I., $4.00 per year; $2.50 for 6 months
$1.25 for 3 months; 50c for one month
City Delivery $5.00 per year; $3.00 for 6 months
$1.75 for 3 months; 60c for one Month.
By Mail to other Provinces and U. S. A. $5.00 per year
Saturday Weekly: $2.00 per year; $1.00 for 6 months, 50c for 3 months

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at Hotaling's News Agency, Times Square, New York; Old South News Agency, Corner Milk and Washington, Boston; Metropolitan News Agency, 1248 Peel St., Montreal; J. Fine, 854 Bay St., Toronto; News Stand, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa; Wolfe's News Stand, Sudbury, Ont; Hub Tobacco Shop, Moncton N. B.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1942.

A New Register — What For?

In the first year of the war it will be recalled that a national registry was taken of all the citizens of Canada, together with their qualifications for performing war work of any kind. It gave the Dominion Government—which drafted the questions—all the information it desired or required to put Canadian manpower on an all-out war effort basis.

Next year came the Census, with still more elaborate questions to be answered by every Canadian citizen under penalty of fine or imprisonment. To those who argued that the preceding registry should be sufficient for wartime purposes, it was explained that this was not so, that the Census was also necessary. And so again the Government got all the information it desired or required to put our manpower and womanpower 100 per cent behind the war effort.

Millions of dollars were spent in gathering these statistics, and hundreds of thousands more in analyzing and digesting them at Ottawa.

Here is the sequel: Last week in the House of Commons the Minister of War Services, Hon. Mr. Thorson, was asked to table answers to the following questions:

"1. *Has the government used the information obtained in the national registration to compile statistics which will show, (a) the number of skilled man-hours of work which are available; (b) the extent to which these hours of work are being utilized; (c) the manner in which they are being utilized (d) the number of unskilled man-hours of work available; (e) the manner in which and the extent to which they are being utilized; (f) the extent to which the unskilled labour is being trained?*

"2. *If, so, what statistics are available?*"

And here is Mr. Thorson's reply:

"1. (a) *No; (b) See answer to "a"; (c) See answer to "a"; (d) No; (e) See answer to "d"; (f) No.*

"2. *None.*"

Now two new registrations of Canadian manpower have been announced at Ottawa. The first, to be completed this month, is to include all the employed persons, of whatever order, including the 2,500,000 persons already registered and described and cardindexed for the purpose of unemployment insurance and also all the employed persons not covered by that plan. The second registration, to include all the people not registered in the first, and "with special emphasis on married women," will be taken in July.

The people of Canada will want to know what this is all about, and why it should be necessary in view of full and complete information already on file at Ottawa, to take another national registry at this time.

Russian Guerilla Tactics

The Russians are fighting with imaginative and daring leadership. When the Nazis moved into Kiev, they were agreeably surprised to find that some of the finest hotels were little damaged. They switched on the lights and the hotels blew up.

As winter came, the Nazis desperately sought shelter in towns, villages and farm houses. Holed up as snugly as bugs in rugs, they were all set to wait for spring and the new offensive. But while they slept, things were thrown through the windows—things like grenades and flaming pieces of oil-soaked rags. So widespread did this sort of guerilla warfare become that thousands of German soldiers sought shelter in snow-banks rather than brave the terror of a night indoors.

German language street signs became mysteriously jumbled. Hundreds of soldiers went blind from drinking vodka discovered in abandoned villages. Books exploded when opened. Oil drained from crankcases of abandoned Russian vehicles destroyed the bearings in Nazi trucks. Greased rails sent ammunition trains crashing into troop trains. These tactics carried out throughout the whole winter campaign, have had not a little to do with the brilliant success achieved by the Russian armies.

Assisting Medical Students

The Federal Government is giving consideration to the question of assisting medical students wishing to join the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Nearly a year ago, recalls an exchange, President Roosevelt appealed for 1,000 young doctors to go to Britain and help in caring for the victims of Nazi assaults. At that time apparently no thought was given in Canadian official circles to meeting the deficiency. Subsequently the college term was lengthened from seven and a half to ten months to speed up training, and the Medical Council of Canada called attention to the fact that students accustomed to depend on vacation earnings for expenses would be greatly handicapped. It was suggested that the Government establish a loan fund on which to draw at a moderate interest rate. Although others enlisting for army, navy or air force received pay, uniforms, board and lodging, medical students looking forward to service in the Army Medical Corps were obliged to train at their own expense. The British authorities asked for 800 medical officers before the present month. The necessity for recruiting and speeding up medical training had become evident.

At last there is a prospect something may be done, although apparently it required a visit to Ottawa from Dr. Gallie and Dr. Ryerson of the University to explain the requirements. Surely it will not be said of medical service that it is too little and too late.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Tomorrow week Palm Sunday, following Sunday Easter.

* * * *

Premier Campbell is as adroit as a prize pugilist in avoiding onslaughts, and comes back smiling every time.

* * * *

Only big men mentally, and culturally apologize when they make mistakes —Fisheries Minister Michaud evidently is not in that class.

* * * *

Today marks the twenty-fourth anniversary of start of the great German offensive in the last war, which turned out to be the prelude to victory for the Allies.

* * * *

Some of Mr. Mackenzie King's chickens coming home to roost. Mr. Rene Chaloult, Liberal M. L. A., supporting a resolution in Quebec legislature advising the electors to vote "no" in the Plebiscite said: "I believe that during the past 20 or 25 years the Liberal Government has educated the people against conscription. It won its elections that way and now it must suffer the consequences."

* * * *

The British Ministry of Labor has notified the managements of the leading London hotels that they must limit their permanent guests to 25 per cent. of their available space, keeping the rest for transients. These are defined as persons who stay the maximum of four days. In addition, the hotels are supposed to give priority to diplomats, business men, soldiers and journalists, although in what order is not clear.

* * * *

Better late than never. The Prince Edward Island Travel Bereau, of which Mr. B. Graham Rogers is supervisor, is issuing an attractive calendar which should be popular with visitors, depicting as it does, "The Lillian E. Kerr" in full sail leaving the harbour last August, while a little boy sits on the seawall pensively watching its movement. The calendar is in colours, and the tabs cover twelve months from March 1942 to February 1943.

* * * *

What the average man does not know about shipbroking and kindred business would fill many volumes, and they must admit being puzzled reading in Hansard that the Federal government paid $83,900 for the Sankati and another $97,000 in altering her to suit their purposes. If they pay $400,000 for a similar steamer for Summer service at Borden will it imply another $470,000 in alterations, etc., to make her suit our particular service?

* * * *

Robert Southey, English poet and man of letters—a greater prose writer than poet, though his poetry shows a magnificant command of language and careful craftmanship; he is remembered rather in his clever ballads than in his longer poems, for which he was appointed (1813) poet laureate:

"You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the days that are gone:
Now tell me the reason I pray . . . ."
"In the days of my youth I remembered my God,
And He hath not forgotten my age."

* * * *

An important memorandum deploring the lack of co-ordination of Canada's medical services with respect to the war and recommending to the Dominion Government a "central committee" plan such as has been evolved in Great Britain for dealing with the distribution of medical men is published in the March issue of The Canadian Medical Association Journal. The memorandum, which opens with a survey of the part taken by the Association in Canada's war effort since the outbreak of hostilities and then goes on to point out the fresh problems developing with regard to the supply of medical men and their proper selection and placement, heads the Journal's regular "War Section" of the current issue and is introduced editorially as a "sobering reflection that with more than two years' experience behind us, there should still be such a lack of integration of our efforts . . . no co-ordination of medical enlistments for the three fighting forces, to say nothing of providing for the needs of civilians in case of raids or other grave emergencies."

* * * *

Here obviously is the city householder's point of view as expressed by Mrs. J. Leslie Hodges, chairman of the regional advisory committee of the War Time Prices and Trade Board. "The Board put potatoes under the price ceiling again because there had been indications of speculative trading, the situation was similar to that which prevailed in the onion business when these vegetables were released from the ceiling months ago; price increases started immediately. Of course, a certain amount of this increase was fully justified, it was due to special marketing and crop conditions. However, when the prices went above a level which these condition warranted, the Board took action. Onions were the first to be placed back under the ceiling, and just a few days ago, the potato situation reached a point where the Board felt it necessary to stop further increases." Mrs. Hodges explained that both these new ceilings were based on earlier prices than those which prevailed at the time action was taken. Onions were set back to the highest price at which they sold between January 5 and January 10 of this year, and potatoes cannot now be sold at any higher price than they were during the week ending February 4.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Hotel towns are springing up throughout Great Britain around the new factories, some of them covering a square mile of land, for making munitions and other war material. The factories have to be built well away from congested areas, and, instead of traveling long distances backwards and forwards, workers can now live on the spot in huts built in parts elsewhere and assembled where required along with canteens, refrigerated stores, emergency hospitals and shops. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt went into the Office of Civilian Defence as a pinch hitter, to try to pick up some of the loose ends Mayor LaGuardia, had left all over the place. She got nothing out of it—except a lot more work and abuse. Yesterday, her pinch-hitting job finished, Mrs. Roosevelt resigned. We feel that the nation owes her a debt of thanks for a thankless task completed. — Chicago Sun.

Ottawa's way of doing things is well illustrated by the reports concerning the installation of air raid sirens here. There was, first of all, the question of the type of sirens to be used. A committee of engineers after careful investigation decided to install one type. Ottawa immediately awarded a contract for another type. After protest that was cancelled and orders placed for the kind recommended. Then the sirens began to arrive. The local A.R.P. committee sought to began the work of installation. Dr. Manion, here at the time, promised immediate authorization when he returned to Ottawa. He has been in Ottawa more than three weeks. Urgent appeals have been going forward to Ottawa, but the sirens remain in storage. The question is apparently just how the work of installation is to be paid for. Ottawa is wrestling with it. — Vancouver Province.

An increase during the last 10 years of almost 50,000,000 in India's population is the final computation made by the census commissioner as a result of the 1941 census. Total population of India is 388,800,000, of which British India's share is 296,000,000. The previous ratio of three to one between the populations of British India and the States is maintained. The 1931 census recorded an increase in the population of about 10 1-2 percent., while the 1941 census shows an increase of 15 percent. Ten years ago India's population of 352,000,000 included 14,000,000 of Burma's inhabitants, and if Burma had been included in India's total again — it is now a separate country —the population would have exceeded 400,000,000. In the past 50 years the number of India's inhabitants has increased by 100,000,000. — Indian Press Union.

Sgt. Observer R. Bruce Peterson, of Toronto, baling out over England one dark night, found himself, on contact with land, a prisoner of war. Peterson's descent was apparently ill-timed, for the 108-pound navigator waited slowly to earth, to descend within the barbed wire confines of a prisoner-of-war camp. "I never saw so much barbed wire in all my life", said Peterson. "How I missed tangling up in it is beyond me. Even my 'chute did not tangle in it, and I landed light as a feather". Parachuting into a prison camp might be a risky business, but Peterson had to do a lot of shouting before he could claim attention and ascertain his whereabouts. Even at that he felt much better off than one of his Nova Scotia 'plane-mates, Sgt. R. G. Stewart. He landed in a pasture in the darkness, and was almost immediately in flight again—with a goat in hot pursuit. — Canada's Weekly (London).

Mr. Walter Harrap, president of the Publishers' Association, who announced last week that books would be printed on thinner paper, thinks that economy in paper will lead to a more adventurous spirit in publishing. When a publisher's output is as limited as it is now, he explained to me, he can sell anything he cares to publish. The potential "best seller" is no longer the attraction it was because he cannot publish at "best seller" rates; therefore he may as well publish the best material obtainable — even taking risks with experimental work, — knowing that he can sell it and believing that he is building up goodwill and prestige for the future. Many people ask why books should not shed their board or cloth backs and appear in paper covers. The answer is that only a few printing firms have the necessary machinery for putting on paper backs. Other firms would have to have the work done by hand. More staff would be needed, and the workers cannot be found. — Leeds Yorkshire Post.

Dr. Goebbels has been replying constantly to Britain propaganda. He keeps telling the German people that any suggestions from Great Britain about an overthrow of government in Germany must be taken with the knowledge that the British desire to conquer the Reich. In that way, Goebbels attempts to defeat any efforts we make at causing unrest within Germany. At the same time, we must watch that Goebbels and the Nazis do not lull us into complacency by reiterating tales of dismay and revolution within the Reich. The Nazis would like us to ease up on our war activities and so not gain the supplies and materials we need so badly. That would suit the Germans, who are working feverishly to build up new armaments to launch a spring offensive on one or more fronts. The Nazis have studied political warfare with all the cunning of their gangster minds. They have a subtle way of soothing enemies into sleepy satisfaction. Then when the blow is least expected, it is struck with fierce energy. We have been caught so often in the past two years, that we should be awake. But, Goebbels keeps trying. The worst of it is, he is having some success in getting the United Nations to think the war is already in the bag without fighting for victory. — Windsor Star.

The announcement made by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, that he proposes to introduce measures to lift some of the heavy tax load on real estate off the shoulders of those who think they are substantial citizens when they buy realty will be received with both general interest and approval. The burden real property has had to bear for years has been too great. With this legislative effect goes, also, an effort to equalize assessment throughout the province. Again that is a long-awaited move. "I think," he said before the Ontario Association of Real Estate Boards, "that all real estate can stand is a 25-mill rate based on a reasonable assessment." — Peterborough Examiner.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CIVIC EXPENDITURES

Sir:—The citizens of Charlottetown were treated on Monday evening last to a most amazing piece of news. The estimates were hatched in secret, and after providing for the City services for the year they added the following items viz—Miscellaneous expense $2,361.00. Special expenditure $168,420.00, contingent fund $1,760.00. Those items total about $172,500. For a comparatively small municipality like Charlottetown and in war time this seems like a very large sum of money for the City Council to play with this year. Taxpayers naturally want to know what is in the wind. Is there a raid in prospect? There should be among the members of the Council enough public spirit and sense of duty to compel the Council to come out and tell the public what they propose doing with this money.

I am, Sir, etc.,
TAXPAYER

Tax Or Levy?

(Halifax Chronicle)

Some people are going to get a rude awakening when they start to make up their income tax returns. This year the deadline is the end of March, not the end of April as in former years. So if you've been putting off the evil day, fearful to figure out for yourself just what you owe the Government, you better begin to get busy.

Perhaps you are one of those sensible people who have been paying their income tax in advance, in monthly instalments. If so, apart from the necessity of filing a return, March 31 need hold no terrors for you. You've got more than half your tax paid already, and you have six months to finish up your payments, without interest.

But most of us have hesitated to even look at the new tax rates. We vaguely remember that when the Minister of Finance brought down his budget last year there was a walloping big jump in the income tax rate. National Defence tax, too, took an upward jump. But the day of reckoning was still a long way off. "We don't have to worry about that yet," some of us thought thankfully. "Who knows what may happen between now and March 31?" "I may get an unexpected windfall that will take care of the whole business. "Anyhow, paying high taxes is my patriotic right and duty in time of Total War."

Keep that last thought in mind when you are making out your returns in the next week or so. Remember what your hard earned dollars are being used for. Remember they are only dollars. Some have given their lives! And even if the total takes your breath away, feel thankful that it is taxes to the Canadian Government that you are paying, and not a levy imposed by a brutal army of occupation.

Just a word of warning. There may be, there probably are, a few people who call themselves Canadians, who would stoop so low as to try any stunt to avoid payment of their taxes. Let these people remember that there is such a thing as conscience. Let them remember that by withholding taxes which they know are justly due, they may be withholding bullets, or guns, or tanks, or planes which might save the lives of Canadian soldiers risking their lives in battle. Let them remember that even if their conscience never catches up with them, the Government collectors probably will.

The penalties which will then be theirs will be severe. But they will be as nothing compared with the shame and degradation, the utter scorn, with which they will be regarded by their fellows.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"Victory must be our one clear purpose." — Lt. Col. G. A. Drew, Ontario Conservative leader.

TO BANISH POVERTY

PRETORIA —(CP)— The South African Labor Party has called upon the government for a select committee to frame a social security code "that should daterly and absolutely remove from the life of every citizen the menace of poverty and want."

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