

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1945

Strange Bedfellows

One of the oddest things to appear in that odd by-election of Grey North, notes the Ottawa Journal, was the spectacle of the Communist party—it now calls itself the Labor-Progressive party—supporting General McNaughton, with the support welcomed. Thus when the Communists published an advertisement denying the right of the C.C.F. to speak for labor, General McNaughton's supporters blessed it (and clearly paid for it) by attaching this tagline: "Published by the authority of the Grey North Liberal Association."

The "Labor-Progressive" party is led by Tim Buck, the old Communist leader who, during the first year of the war, was a fugitive from justice, his party having been banned under the Defence of Canada Regulations, and most of its leaders interned. The Communists, then, were against the war. They said it was an "imperialist war," that Canada was being led to the slaughter to feed "imperial greed." It was the old Communist note.

With Russia attacked and come to our side, the Communists changed. Overnight they discovered that the war was against Fascism; whereupon one by one their leaders were released, and Tim Buck came out of hiding. To get over the ban against Communism, which continued to stand, they called themselves "Labor-Progressives."

Recently, they have been all-out for Mr. King. Rebuffed and repudiated by the C. C. F., which, all things considered, should be their most natural ally, they have turned to the Government with a zeal and passion that is all but amazing. Even when nearly everybody in the country was up in arms against Mr. King's manpower policy Tim Buck rose up in Toronto to give it his unqualified blessing. Tim, in fact, became Mr. King's most loyal captain, some of his ministers not excepted.

What Communists can find in common with the present Liberal Ministry, deriving its chief strength from Quebec, which is bitterly anti-Communist, is one of the things that passes understanding.

Mr. King Helped

Analyzing the results of the polling at Grey North, the Sydney Post-Record suggests that one of the reasons for Defense Minister McNaughton's overwhelming defeat may well have been the ridiculous open letters which Prime Minister King sent to the electors. Those letters, consisting as they did of cajoling, entreaty, threats of an immediate general election unless his candidate were given an acclamation, and insolent attacks on the Conservative and C. C. F. parties for having the audacity to contest the election, are without parallel or precedent in Canada's political history. That Mr. King could have brought himself to issue such a barrage of sheer nonsense and expect it to produce any reaction but one of ridicule and contempt, is the most convincing proof that he knows next to nothing of the psychology of the free and independent electors of Canada. If, it may be added, Mr. King does not realize that Grey North has sounded the doom of his detestable Government, he stands alone in the valley of unreality and delusion.

Holding Down Prices

The Dominion Government has issued a little booklet, with the title, War-time Economic Stabilization to Keep Down the Cost of Living in Canada: What It Is, How It Works, Why It Must Be Supported. It is prefaced by a message from Prime Minister Mackenzie King, addressed to the people of Canada over a year ago, impressing them with the duty of "holding the line." Today, in the sixth year of the war, the Government feels that there is a need for re-emphasizing one's individual responsibility for maintaining a stable economy. The history of the early days of the war is given in brief, how prices were rapidly rising before the price ceiling and wage control legislation were introduced. The danger of having too much money for too few goods is pointed out, and the pressure of higher costs of production. In a word, the evils of inflation are explained in convincing language and the measures taken to prevent them, in the interests of the national war effort and in pursuance of its duty to safeguard the welfare of citizens. Uncontrolled inflation is described as "a severe and unfair form of taxation." The special hardship caused people living on pensions, annuities and other forms of saving is referred to, and the fact that wages and salaries in general can never keep abreast of increases in the cost of living. Post-war problems are then given consideration, with the reminder that the deflation invariably follows inflation, producing a dislocation severely wrenching the economic system. Moreover, there is the question of protecting the savings of the Canadian people. The huge investment in Victory Bonds and War Savings Certificates must be protected by keeping inflationary tendencies under control. "Victory on the military and home fronts demands joint effort and joint responsibility in the common cause," concludes the argument; "selfishness on the part of any single group will jeopardize not only the welfare of the Canadian community as a whole, but, in the long run, will invariably react against the interests of the group responsible."

EDITORIAL NOTES

February's snow flurries are a little too much for Provincial snow ploughs.

The expected happens. Prime Minister King is reported to be of opinion now that the General election may very well be delayed till October. Was there ever such a Machiavelli or Hitler outside of Italy or Germany?

Charles Lamb, essayist and poet, born this date 1775; one of the most popular writers of short articles on a variety of subjects; used non-de-guerre Elia, he being in the Government service, a clerk in India House, London; as a literary critic he held a foremost place, and was especially fascinated by Elizabethan and 17th century poets; had many devoted friends, of one of whom he wrote: Free from self-seeking, envy, low design, I have not found a whiter soul than thine.

Over 30 years ago the late Senator William Dennis of the Halifax Herald put up a most strenuous fight to have the Halifax light and power plant municipalized. He lost out, Montreal interests buying up the stock. Now public ownership of the power system there and other areas served by the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company will be recommended to city council by Mayor Lloyd following a conference between Premier MacMillan and the mayor. Following the conference the mayor said, "It was specifically intimated that when the city was ready to take over the electrical distribution system the province would move to acquire the power generation and main distribution system" of the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company.

Formal recruiting for the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service ended Wednesday when the last scheduled class of Wrens reported at the training ship H. M. C. S. Conestoga, at Galt, Ont. However, the Navy has said that if recruits are needed in special categories they will be trained later at H. M. C. S. Cornwallis, Cornwallis, N. S. The Wrens are thus the second women's service to complete its recruiting requirements. The R. C. A. F. Women's Division stopped recruiting some time ago and has been discharging its married members as need for them ended with the curtailing of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The Canadian Women's Army Corps is expected to renew its recruiting campaign as soon as more C. W. A. C.'s are needed to deal with paper work and other non-combatant activities.

Ranchers and farmers are not the only people who are finding the present income tax system producing serious effects. Mr. Justice Lyster's Royal Commission has to consider the case of "family corporations." These companies, owned by one or two members of a family, have often been built up by the re-investment of profit, with practically no capital contribution, except the original small amount with which the founder started. Should it now become necessary to liquidate an estate, chiefly consisting of holdings in such an outfit, present income tax rules argue that the proceeds of such a liquidation have to be treated as income of the estate for the year in which liquidation takes place. Obviously, that simply means that the owner of such a company is, like a rancher or a large farmer, likely to know that his estate will be wiped out as soon as he dies. This means a reform in our whole system of taxation is urgently due.

Three thousand children whom the Germans forcibly deported to Polish territory have been returned to Soviet Byelorussia. When the Fascists were being driven from Byelorussia, they staged a hunt for children, surrounding the villages, breaking into houses and seizing children in the streets. They sent them by trainloads to "donor camps", where German doctors drained their blood for wounded Hitlerites. Thousands of Byelorussian children perished from excessive loss of blood, and the survivors were scattered throughout Polish towns and villages. Representatives of the Byelorussian Government are now trying to locate and repatriate these children. They find them extremely exhausted, barefoot and ragged. Special departments have been opened in hospitals in Brest, Baranovich and Stolbtsy for treating the children, and measures are taken to locate their parents or to place them in good homes.

If we are correctly informed, says Press Information Bureau, Mr. Maxime Raymond, M. P., for Beauharnois, will refuse to run at the coming elections and the Bloc will be officially dissolved. Already Mr. Pierre Gauthier, defeated in the Provincial elections of last August, and Mr. Emmanuel D'Anjou, M. P. for Rimouski, have broken with the Bloc and signed their adhesion to the group of Independents. It may also be recalled that Mr. Ligouri Lacombe, M. P. for Deux-Montagnes, Leader and only member of the Canadian Party, has just teamed up with the Dorion-Roy-Lacroix group. As for the nationalist wing of the Liberal Party which takes its orders from Mr. P. J. A. Cardin, M. P. for Vercheres, political observers are expecting it to line up with the anti-King coalition which is in process of formation. It is even being said that Mr. Cardin will take over the leadership of the group of Independents and that two Liberal members—Mr. Sarto Fournier, M. P. for Maisonneuve-Rosemont, and Mr. Lucien Dubois, M. P. for Nicolet-Yamaska—will campaign at his side. This means to say that the Independents will start the fray with a count of eight members: P. J. A. Cardin (Liberal), Frederic Doiron (Union Nationale), Ligouri Lacombe (Canadian Party), Emmanuel D'Anjou (Bloc Populaire), Sasseville Roy (Conservative), Wilfrid Lacroix, Lucien Dubois, and Sarto Fournier (Liberals). Such a coalition will be all the stronger in that it will not have to fight against the Bloc which will officially disappear; that it will have the backing of Mr. Duplessis; and that it is composed of men coming from all parties who have become allies for one purpose only: to overthrow Mackenzie King.

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Notes By The Way

The chirping note of the field cricket is produced by the insect raising its brown leathery wings covers over its body and rubbing them one against the other in a quick sawing motion.

The legless and the armless heroes are coming home from the war. This country's sacred duty is never to be more needless toward them than the other in a quick sawing motion.

The Chatham News urges its readers to leave their bedrooms windows open at night, in order to escape the danger of coal gas. The Fuel Controller urges every one to keep windows closed, in order to save coal. Perhaps these advisers are not together on the subject! — Brantford Expositor.

British scientists have evolved a new treatment based on penicillin which will make the common cold. The new treatment will not be available until after the war. This is the first time that the British discovered the use of penicillin for bacterial diseases and special disease.—Frederick Gleaser.

The rubber controller advises: "If tires are beginning to wear out, very much the same as they have been for some time to come." That sums up completely the critical tire situation. The wise driver will motorist: will take the very best care of his present tires, if he hopes to continue to drive. — Niagara Falls Review.

General Franco lays it down as a 1945 dictum that what Spain and what we want to be concerned only Spaniards alone. Such a nationalistic sentiment is in significant contrast with the attitude when the Axis was in its heyday. Then the Spanish cause was being sold as a panacea to everybody's business, slandering the democracies, and rejoicing in the defeat of the Allies. Now, however, and would like to have done, is a large—Halifax Herald.

Ottawa continues to maintain its reputation of being a city where the number of the male, according to the disclosures made by the census. It is interesting to note that up to the age of five, the males outnumber the females. By the twenties, war or no war, those same young males will certainly have gone and left the girls behind them, dateline—Ottawa Citizen.

A college girl came into the public library and said, "I'm trying to find a well-known poem that has been quoted, but I don't know the name of the poem or the poet. Do you know you could help me?" The librarian asked what the name of the poem was. "The ship that goes down to the sea in ships," the girl answered. "Why that's the name of the poem," the librarian said. "Oh, it is, but it's not in some well-known book, I'm sure." — Ontario Library Review.

Prevention is still better than any cure. If the world would spend more time in the prevention of disease, there would be a great deal less to spend on the products of ignorance—war amongst the nations. A sound body promotes a sound mind. The best chance we have of attaining a full and rational life is to keep our bodies healthy in thought and deed. Summing up the matter, there are few human ills in the social order that could not be cured in the classroom, and such cures are apt to be permanent. — Victoria Colonist.

A Chinese friend gives us this example of the American manufacturer's inept way of dealing with foreign customers: "In China, the color of joy and happiness is the color of yellow. Before the war—American-made goods continued to be sold in China. The American paper, whereas German packages were of firecracker red. And no amount of arguing with the Americans could make them see red." The good old American feeling of superiority is not so good business.—Detroit Times.

Everyone, more or less, has read articles about the masterpieces of organization and transportation that it is for a big circus to keep its organization in the country, all under modern conditions. The organization it must be to keep fed, rationed and fueled Russian armies of millions, and the armies of already 200 miles or more. For such a task, it is a 24-hour day. The great task of the schools of the future, West Point, Sandhurst, R.M.C., will have to secure standards of war—From the St. Catharines Standard.

The British Minister of Education has announced that three of the emergency colleges for the intensive training of teachers would probably be more than a thousand applications had already been received from men and women anxious to enrol under the new training schemes. This is an encouraging sign, a program that will inevitably provide education. At the moment education is hampered by acute shortages on every side. The next great problem will probably be to find enough and teachers to teach the intending teachers.—Frederick Gleaser.

Live sharks avoid water where dead, decomposing fish were found. Armed with this clue, naval researchers found that dead sharks gave out a odor which caused hungry sharks to turn tail and swim away. Chemists proceeded to experiment with the odor, and found that it was a chemical. The American Calco Division then prepared the shark-repellent for military use and manufactured thousands of small units which are used in five-ounce chemical briquets fastened to the neck of a canteen. The chemicals are released in the water by a ripcord attachment. One dose from the potent briquette scares off any shark.—From the New York Times.

EXCERPTS FROM "AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF P. E. ISLAND"

By Dr. J. E. Laitman, Professor of Agriculture Economics, MacDonald College

OUR NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Sir—In our last letter we endeavored to show how the failure of our school curriculum to provide elective courses is responsible for a deplorable falling off in attendance during high school years.

When you consider that, according to law, Prince Edward Island has compulsory education in reality our schools have the lowest attendance record in all of Canada, you will doubtless ask if equally discouraging conditions do not exist in the elementary school.

We have mentioned earlier that Prince Edward Island teachers taken as a whole have less training and less experience than those of any province in Canada. This is due to the very beginning to put both teacher and pupils in an unfair position.

Let us take as a typical case, a teenage girl in her first teaching position—mistress of a rural school. She has the average training—only one or two months of schooling than some of her pupils. This inexperienced young-ster, facing the hopeless task of instructing ten grades of pupils. She realizes that her success as a teacher will be measured by the number of her grade ten students who are admitted to Prince of Wales College. It is not surprising then, that she feels obliged to concentrate her main efforts on the higher grade pupils; for is it not the higher grade pupils who are by her lack of training and experience she finds it beyond the human capabilities to give to the early grade pupils the time and instruction that is their due.

The position of Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan suggests that the standard of living in the latter province is largely dependent on farming to the smallest portion of the population and the lowest annual earnings available from the land as the census figures for 1941 show when the difference between rural and urban figures are compared.

There is a great variation in the standard of living of workers provincially. This is a great difference in the cash earnings of a worker in farming as compared to the urban worker. We know why this difference in returns to farming occurs. It is due to the fact that the rural worker is not a farmer. This difference is due to the variation in the returns to the business of farming in different areas. The returns to the business of farming are not uniform in the different areas. It is probably similar among the rural workers of the province. As to this we would not care to say as that is other people's affairs. What concerns us here are the results.

Provincial variations in 1941 in the cash returns per agricultural worker in the business varied from \$304 in one province to \$294 in another. The pre-census year returns in the rural districts varied from \$228 in one province to \$270 in another. For the urban workers the variation was from \$971 in the rural districts to \$1,209 in the urban districts.

The earnings of the urban female worker were 40 per cent of the highest in the lowest province. The earnings of the rural female worker were 74.9 per cent in the lowest of the highest province.

Only in the highest province, the male wage earner was the lowest average over that of the highest province. The rural wage earner was 74.9 per cent of the highest in the lowest province. All other classes were less than half in the lowest province. The comparison is in the Appendix.

It may be fortunate that annual earnings in cash is not a complete yard-stick to measure the standard of living. Annual earnings are however a fairly useful measuring stick to gauge the relative position of the wage-earner and employer workers. It may be observed that the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, where 61 per cent of the gainfully occupied in 1941 were engaged in agriculture, were well down in the list in annual earnings. There were three provinces in the list where the rural wage-earner was the highest. These were Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The provinces of Ontario and British Columbia are the two most completely industrialized provinces. The difference between the rural wage-earner and the urban wage-earner is greater than the total earnings of the rural wage-earner. In other words the rural wage-earner did not get half as much as the urban wage-earner.

In family earnings the rural wage-earner was the same. In both Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island the family earnings of wage-earners in the rural districts was less than half that of the urban districts. This result occurred during the year beginning with the tenth month of the present year. The post-war depression, which began in the second year of the war, the picture is not as bright as might be desired. It indicates that in the reconstruction and rehabilitation there may be considerable improvement to be brought about locally and before we take too prominent a place in trying to bring about great alterations in the outside world. (To Be Continued)

AIX LA CHAPELLE

The city of Aachen in Germany was called Aix La Chapelle by the French.

FOUNDED IN 1766 The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by George III in 1768.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of subjects of general interest. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

HOUSE BLESSING

We pray God's blessing on this house; May nothing evil ever pry About its doors and windows; May ill-fortune pass by.

May kindness abide within And peace walk softly through each room. May loveliness be here enshrined As fragrant flowers bloom.

And may this hearth when winds Blow cold be here a shelter. Fulfill our hearts desire, That any homeless one may find True warmth beside its fire.

May faith shine through these windows-paneled. To keep out every fear. And laughter echo through these halls. And love dwell always here.

—Constance I. Heald.

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