

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1945

New Deal For Agriculture

The keynote of a new declaration of policy and viewpoint of organized agriculture was sounded yesterday by Mr. H. H. Hannam in his annual address as president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Addressing the ninth annual meeting of the organization in progress in Regina, Mr. Hannam dealt with both national and international aspects of the subject, and his statements are well worth heeding.

Farmers in Canada are not seeking increased prices for farm products, so much as the establishment of a proper balance between their income and those of other groups. That proper balance has not existed in the past. Yet it is fundamental to the establishment of security and stability in agriculture, which in turn is vital to the welfare of the whole nation.

Such a balance or stability, Mr. Hannam insists, cannot ever be attained by a reversion to the old pre-war planlessness under which agriculture dragged along at the bottom of the economic scale, with privileged groups maintaining a high economic level. Nor is it by any means the best programme to subsidize agriculture to lift its economy to the higher level. The soundest method would be to use the agricultural economic level as the basis and to lower other groups which are out of line.

It is interesting to note how closely this view coincides with the statements of Hon. John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, in his speech at Lethbridge, Alberta, in October 1943. As a first and foremost objective for agriculture Mr. Bracken named "equality in the Canadian economy." His proposed steps toward recovery for agriculture were meant to be "a rational approach toward placing those engaged in that industry in a position of equity with other Canadians who make comparable contribution to our Canadian welfare."

As one means of preventing wide fluctuations of farm prices Mr. Bracken advocated a floor price measure, which was subsequently adopted by the Dominion Government and which Mr. Hannam in his address yesterday commended as a piece of pioneering legislation of great importance. In Mr. Hannam's words, "to have a remunerative contract price or guaranteed minimum price one or two years in advance transforms farming from little more than a gamble to a business with some foundation and future."

Reviewing the present position of agriculture in Canada, the Federation president declared that the past year, by and large, in spite of handicaps and restrictions, had been a fairly satisfactory one. With less than 65 per cent of their pre-war labor, farmers had achieved a record in food production for the nation. But there were exaggerated notions concerning the economic position of the farming industry as a result of so-called wartime prosperity. Using figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, with unofficial estimates for 1944, he pointed out that while the total national income of Canada during the five war years, 1940-44, had increased 68 per cent from the average for the 1926-29 period, the value of farm production had risen only 13 to 12 per cent. These figures speak eloquently for themselves.

In "continuing and improving as we go, the new proven policy of systematic, co-ordinated production, and orderly, organized, nationally-directed and supervised marketing," lies the future of agriculture, Mr. Hannam believes. Implied in this policy, and fundamental to its success, is the application of the same principles in world markets. And here again may be noted the striking unanimity between the views of the Farmers' Federation and those voiced in Mr. Bracken's Lethbridge speech of 1943, in which he advocated, among other things, the setting up of a special export agency charged with the responsibility of promoting international trade, maintaining and expanding export markets for primary products, ensuring that domestic prices shall not be depressed and developing a "positive program of international collaboration," on the part of both exporting and importing countries.

The Cry Of The Children

"In the war-poetry of the United Nations (says Montreal Gazette) the sufferings of the children have roused indignation and compassion. One of the most poignant voices raised for the children's sake is that of the Welsh poet, Eiluned Lewis. Few modern poets have felt more deeply than she the beauty and fragility of childhood, or have reacted more poignantly to the harshness of the time. Her feeling for the children lost 'in this black night of sleet and frost' appears in her Song of the Refugee Children:

In this black night of sleet and frost, If any be who still are kind, Help us, we pray you now, to find The thing which we have lost . . . We carry nothing but our fears, Remember nothing but our loss; Christ's mother stood beside the Cross, But we have none to wipe our tears.

"But Eiluned Lewis sees the hand of the enemy not only stretching out to clutch the children of those lands it has been able to occupy but reaching out to claim the lives of those children still beyond its grasp. The children who now play in the sheltered nurseries may be claimed by the enemy in yet another war. This

is the fear expressed in her poem, The Children's Party. She begins by describing the children moving through the lighted room where candles are aglow and flowers scent the air. But the light mood of her opening verses changes with these lines:

Out in the night, over the snow, Grimly the dark gun-carriages go, Where are they bound for? No one knows, But the curtain shakes, Oh, draw it close!

"The mood of these poems is a mood that is near to the spirit and purpose of the United Nations—the feeling that the world will never be safe or sane until it is fit for children to live in."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rocket-firing Beaufighters made their first appearance in the south-west Pacific on November 17th wrecking a large stone building housing a Japanese garrison in Portuguese Timor. This building had previously, owing to its solidity, been impervious to air attack.

New Brunswick Government ended its financial year with a surplus of \$82,102, more than double what was estimated, but only a fraction of the record-breaking 1943 surplus of \$1,742,950. Revenue in 1944 hit an all-time high of \$12,691,236, which was \$460,509 above the 1943 figure of \$12,230,727, and \$1,292,293 in excess of the return of \$11,398,943 anticipated by the budget. Expenditure likewise hit an all-time high and was \$12,609,133. This was \$2,121,357 more than the \$10,487,776 spent in 1943 and exceeded 1944 estimated expenditure of \$11,363,991 by \$1,245,142.

British chemists in the laboratories of Imperial Chemical Industries have evolved a new fibre. It is made from ground-nuts, more popularly known as monkey-nuts, and has the soft, warm feeling of wool. The material, known as Ardi, has been ready for development since the beginning of the war but has been held up. It is hoped that Government approval may soon be given for the process to be developed in the British textile industry. Ardi is regarded not merely as a substitute for wool, but as a complementary fibre which may enable lighter woolen fabrics to be made. Added to cellulose, cotton, or rayon, it gives the fabric a new resilience and crease-resisting property besides warmth.

Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C., M.G., C.B., LL.D., D.Lit., British officer, born this date 1871; served in Tirah, 1898, South Africa 1899-1900, Great War I, 1914-18; was Director Military Operations from 1915 to 1918; Principal of the Working Men's College, 1922-33, and Queen Mary's College, 1933; Professor of Military Studies, London University; Chairman of the Board of Education, Adult Education Committee, Senator of London University; President of the British Legion in 1932; publications include: The Russia-Turkish War 1877-8; Robert E. Lee; Governments and War; The Life of General Lord Roaldson of Trent; The 16th Foot, History of the Scots Guard; Life of Lord Halldane, The Armistice, 1918.

An Islander now in Montreal writes: "I must say Montreal has a great system of snow removal. They had practically bare streets in most sections of the city next day after that first heavy fall. Then yesterday six-and-a-half inches fell and they had to go to work again. The Council has small bulldozers which can clean off the sidewalks at great speed, and larger ones for the streets. These pile up the snow at the sides, then huge machines come along and frisk up this snow and load it in trucks. A good deal of the snow is dumped down sewers through manholes, and I thought this might be a good way for Charlottetown, if the drainage would stand it."

Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey, as C. C. F. candidate in North Grey, introduces new factors. Our information is (says Letter Review) that he is a serious and honest patriot, not a Coldwell-Lewis opportunist, a Scott-Grube fanatic, nor a Noseworthy blundering believer in some vague sort of Socialism, but one of those well intentioned and kindly citizens who want to see a planned economy tried, without having quite enough knowledge of the economic functioning of our society to know how difficult this would be. It is to be hoped that Mr. Bracken, as soon as he returns, will go into North Grey and tell the people there what his economic policies really are. It would be a very serious thing for the C. C. F. to win that seat, and A. V. M. Godfrey's personal reputation will quite overcome the liability to the C. C. F. of all its pacifist and anti-British nonsense in the past.

Here is a lead for our Government to follow. For the next four years farmers throughout Britain will know well in advance what prices they are to get for their crops, milk, livestock and eggs. Prices will be fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture each year after a review of the findings of independent advisory economists such as the staff of agricultural universities who have examined certified costings from about 4,000 farms of varied types, sizes and efficiency. These costings will be collected by the Farmers' Union, and the plan has the support also of the land-workers' unions. The Government has offered a guaranteed market over the next four years for all fat pigs and eggs, but the Minister of Agriculture, in announcing the price plan, foreshadowed a gradual change towards more livestock and less cereals and potatoes as the progress of the war reduces the need to grow so much food at home. Beyond this no definite Government plans for the future of British agriculture have been announced. The questions eventually to be decided are to what extent Britain should rely on home-grown food when peace returns and what markets for their primary food products the Empire producers may expect.

Notes By The Way

Mr. John Bracken, seeing the war at first hand, sends back word that our fighting men face a great unfinished job, that they need even greater effort and support from the folk at home. That is the sound conclusion to be drawn and competent observer. — Ottawa Journal.

A librarian has devised a method of projecting his books on the wall so that he can read without getting out of bed. He has added an attachment to turn the pages by button while his hands are still under the covers. All we need is a similar kind of typewriter and we can all go to bed. — Moncton Transcript.

Amidst all the tragedy of the war in Europe, there are humorous incidents. In Holland, where the man soldier who attacked a British tank armed only with a rifle was struck by one of the tank crew from the folk at home. The German was a 16-year-old boy. Then the tank crew led the prisoner to headquarters and ordered him to go to a prison camp. This was too much for the young Nazi who demanded to be executed. Instead he went to a prison camp. — Moncton Times.

On December 8 came a remarkable note from New York City. It was the first death from diphtheria in that city for the year, and the almost only case of immunization. If a great cosmopolitan city with many races, can show such a record, there is no excuse for the almost complete lack of immunization to ever report diphtheria. In this respect, St. Catharines is going to be a shining example of vigilance by the health department. — St. Catharines Standard.

A bishop is distinguished from the common run of clergy by his dress, but a cleric who is raised to the rank of bishop has a tickle problem. The Right Rev. R. M. May, recently created Bishop of Buckingham, apologized to a church gathering for his spick and span appearance, it being considered an ostentatious display of wealth and ostentation for a British man of letters to be smartly dressed these days. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

So the war was just about over! Of course it was. Weren't the Germans practically through, bled white of manhood? Weren't they going to be bombed to helplessness from Saipan? In these past 24 months have had their armies in the Western Front, a German counter-offensive on a scale and of a kind never known since the Normandy landings. In the Orient, the statement of an Air Forces commander commanding B-29's, that the Saipan based bombing campaign alone destroyed the Jap military potential. "We expect that Japan will be on the verge of collapse by 1946." This is not the first reckless cheerfulness has been killed by events. — Detroit News.

We talk of "re-educating" the German people. That re-education cannot be accomplished by a mere censorship of textbooks, and simulated by example, and stimulation of the democratic habit. It is not the path to prosperity—a prosperity which they, too, can enjoy when they are no longer a slave nation. The path to prosperity is the economic nationalization and the war-mongering industrialist will be patient. — London Daily Herald.

So far as we are concerned, this is the year of the "great slaw." The venerable ancient can have their memories and their cracker barrel yarns. For us, we have the snow here and now. We watch it at night and we shovel it in the morning breeze. We stagger through the snow, and we shove it into our cars and buses, still trains and weigh down flat roofs. In our minds, we have the small is snow. All we can do is to shovel it. The only qualification for shoveling is that the shovel is invariably "colder with bloodiness" than the shovel. However, there may be compensation. One day we shall, in our minds, be grateful for the shovels and the ancient. We shall then grate and re-grate the youngsters of the year. We won't believe us of course, but we know—don't we? — London Free Press.

In a world at total war, the impetus of whole oil is not obvious at first glance. But it is used in making glycerine for explosives, and in margarine—both needed in time. Although pre-war statistics were mainly a Norwegian pursuit, most of the scientific research conducted with it since 1928 has been carried out by the British Discovery Committee, which acts under the aegis of the Colonial Office. When the war began, the Discovery Committee had to cease its operations. The men who manned its ships look up work more directly connected with the war, although a small staff has continued the work of studying and reporting on the mass of oil which the Research Ships have collected. — Halifax Herald.

Scottish children are ahead of Americans educationally. A test of 87,000 school children throughout Scotland, carried out by the Council for Research in Education some time ago, revealed that the intelligence quotient of the children was, practically exactly one hundred. The boys were slightly ahead with 100.51, the girls stood at 99.7. At the request of the Council, the director of education in Fife tried certain achievement tests in writing, mechanical arithmetic, and problem arithmetic, spelling and language usage which had been produced in America where the West States the compulsory school starting age is six. From these it was found that the eleven-year-olds were sixteen months ahead of the American children of the same age. In language usage the Fife children were twenty-four months ahead, and in spelling they were twenty-nine months in advance of the Americans.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

POETRY APPRECIATED

Sir,—I should like to express my appreciation to the writers of the very fine poems which appear from time to time in your paper. My favorite is Constance I. Heckerbert, also greatly admired Lucy Gertrude Clarkin and John of the Lilacs is splendid, also Mr. F. J. MacArthur. We have many talented poets in our midst. I am, Sir, etc., MRS. READE, Summerside, P.E.I.

COL. HOOPER EXPLAINS

Sir,—The misleading reference in the advertisement of Mr. W. R. Dennis appearing recently in the Guardian that the Mobilization Board does not consider the work of Mr. Dennis's step-son essential to the war effort, when he was called for military service, is a gross misstatement. The Mobilization Board was asked to recommend to the military authorities an extension of such leave but found no basis for such a recommendation. On the application of the Board, the step-son was granted indefinite leave to gather his hay crop during the period of this military leave and then supported application for indefinite extension of his leave as an essential assistant to the farm. As such essentially, if he had been in the army, he would have been granted a further recommendation either way and military authorities who have the power to grant the application, soldier should not at this time be granted indefinite leave.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Sir,—At present there is talk about setting up a factory on the island to handle our own juvenile delinquents. They are becoming so numerous that the children are being sent them to other parts of the island for correction. It sounds to suggest such a plan is to attack the problem from the wrong end. First of all we should try to find out the causes of delinquency. We fall in this, then go ahead with the plan for a house of correction in the Prince Edward Islands. Other means have been exhausted. Delinquents are the ills of society and the cause must be applied to remedy the cause. It is a waste of money to send a child to a doctor to recommend a casket for a sick patient. It is a waste of money to recommend a delinquency home to cure our delinquency problem. I think it is about time for our organizations and the Government to abandon this silly chatter about "cure" training programs. Let them get down to business and do something about the problem of delinquency. If they are not going to do something let them say so and then we can get behind a move to procure a 200 acre farm and fill it with delinquent children. Each year there will be a new graduating class released from this home. In years to come a large part of our citizens will be pointed out as graduates of the Prince Edward Island delinquent school.

The Poet's Corner

AGLAI'S BIRTHDAY Twenty today! The years have swiftly flown, With shade and sunshine chequering them the while, Since nurse and doctor told me I had another daughter of my own. Too soon you bowed before Dame Fashion's throne. Long clothes were shortened with the scissors, and long and lousy skirts became the style. Till, presto! baby is a woman grown. The Hebrew sages held that seven were perfect numbers. It escaped them all That twenty also sometimes perfect means. When it relates to birthdays, Daughter Mine, out of my mind. At least, I think so, did I not recall Your baby years and all your winsome ways. — Archibald MacMachan.

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Today each and every school, college and convent in this city should have a rink of its own to provide winter recreation for its boys and girls. Then there would be an opportunity for our people to get together and have some wholesome healthy recreation and thus advance along the road to good citizenship. Then we would have few gangs roaming the streets in search of excitement. The surplus energy of youth would be expended in pleasant surroundings, and parents would not have to worry about their boys and girls getting into harm around the streets.

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The situation is such in some homes that many boys and girls never get a chance to take part in this winter sport. The result is that they resort to the demoralizing practice of begging coppers on the streets in order to get a little skate. The older boys and girls roam the streets, run in and out of the houses, and make their entrances to dance halls, in hope of getting some fun or entertainment. Very often they meet someone who is a better skater than they are and are soon classed as delinquents. They had nowhere else to go and nothing else to do, and as a result they fall into the ranks of delinquency.

One can easily see that hundreds of boys and girls are not getting a chance to become clean and healthy citizens. Today they are latent and very often they become outcasts to be sent to reform schools because they were if we are going to improve the



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Hands Off Potato Exports

(Saint John Telegraph Journal) Ontario wholesalers have complained to the war time prices and trade board that potato shortages have developed in some areas of their business. Apparently they are trying to blame the situation on the fact that New Brunswick is exporting potatoes to the United States. They would like these exports stopped. And the fruits and vegetables administration of the war time prices and trade board has gone the length of sending out letters to the United States asking whether they are refusing to fill Canadian orders but filling orders from the United States. The threat is implied that if the case export licenses will be cancelled. It strikes us that the fruits and vegetables administration of the war time prices and trade board has started his investigations closer to home and that his first aim is to get the potato prices why, if there is actually a shortage, prices have not risen to the fairly low ceiling figure—a ceiling which is implied that this is the lowest to protect the consumer without bearing unfairly on the producer. We have not yet been able to get the ceiling price for our potatoes either in Ontario or Quebec, although we have been able to get it in some United States cities. If we are to take advantage of the market across the border while the Canadian price remains below ceiling, the result would be exactly the same as though the ceiling were intolerable. Such an action would be intolerable.

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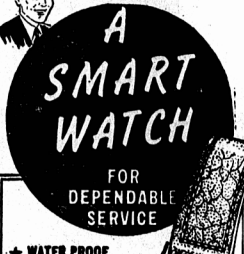
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