

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. Melure
Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F. J. L.

The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

Other Times, Other Manners!

In January, 1935, the present Premier of Nova Scotia, speaking of the "Conservative 'New Deal' program of that day, said, 'Before Mr. Bennett puts in reform measures affecting the provinces, he should consult them. It is not fair that he should stage legislation before the provinces with the idea that public opinion will force them in line, without respect to their individual needs.'

Similarly, in 1937, the present Canadian Prime Minister declared that any alteration of our constitution could only be undertaken as a result of united public opinion.

"Now," laments the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal), "Ottawa has abandoned the standpoint which only a few years ago seemed to be of paramount importance. Where we once saw the Rowell-Sirois Commission diligently studying the constitution over a number of years and coming to measured conclusions, today those conclusions are swept aside as relatively unimportant, and in the new Dominion proposals being promoted from Ottawa, only the financial aspect of our affairs is being highlighted.

"Even here old accepted theories are cast aside. It used to be held that if financial assistance were to be granted to individual provinces it should be granted according to their individual needs. Today all provinces, it is suggested, shall be subsidized on a flat rate without any reference to local circumstances or local necessities and disadvantages. Obviously, the scheme which might suit Ontario is not necessarily going to be acceptable in British Columbia or the Maritimes.

"There has been a shocking lack of candor and frankness on the part of Ottawa in the way in which the new proposals have been set forward. The provinces are being invited to give their prime attention to a set of financial propositions, when the still more vital question of the constitutional changes involved in the expected deal is ignored. Under the veil of the need for reconstruction and for social security, we are being inveigled into undoing the very fabric of federation."

This is strong language from a Liberal Party newspaper. Perhaps the case is not as the Chronicle fears. At any rate, let us hope that the question of fiscal need, which is the all-important one so far as the Maritimes are concerned, will not be forgotten. It was the basis of the Sirois report and Maritime representatives should insist that it be retained as a basis of Federal policy.

Where Is The Tariff Board

The Toronto Financial Post makes a good point when it says that the Government could have saved itself a good deal of embarrassment if it had had its Tariff Board in operation before it put into its budget those increased duties on steel tubing, diamonds and Diesel engines. That appraisal of applications for tariff increases—was what the Tariff Board was created for.

At the moment, the Tariff Board is in disuse; forgotten. This, during the war, was excusable; the tariff issue was not then important, and the Tariff Board chairman, Mr. Hector MacKinnon, was on other duties. Today, however, businessmen are trying to plan for the future, have a right to know what sort of tariff world they must plan for. Certainly they can't plan with much certainty if they are left in the dark regarding the Government's tariff policies, or are without a Government agency of any kind to examine tariff proposals and give decisions.

U. K. Long-Term Food Policy

In the King's speech at the opening of the present session of the United Kingdom Parliament, it was announced that it would be the policy of the Government to develop to the fullest extent the home production of food, to promote a healthy fishing industry, to do everything possible to provide and distribute food to the people at prices which the latter can afford to pay and to maintain and extend the new food services for workers, mothers and children established during the war. In reply to a Parliamentary question asking what arrangements were being made to implement this policy, the Minister of Food, Sir Ben Smith, made the following statement:

"During the war the Government exercised control over the procurement, distribution and price of most foods. This was necessary to ensure that the supplies available were equitably shared by the whole community and used to maintain the health and vigour of the people to the best advantage. The Ministry of Food which has been the department responsible for carrying out this policy will be retained as a separate and permanent department of government so long as food shortages continue; the wartime system of food control and rationing must in the main be continued. The Government's long term food policy as was indicated in His Majesty's speech at the opening of the session contemplates more positive measures than the mere elimination of shortages, necessary as that is. The Government accept the responsibility for ensuring that adequate supplies of food necessary to health are available to all members of the public at reasonable

prices and, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture held at Hot Springs in 1943, the responsibility for raising the standard of nutrition of the people. While it will be the government's objective to remove as rapidly as possible all controls which, with the passing of shortages of supply, labour and materials, operate merely as restrictions on consumers, traders and producers without contributing to a positive long term food policy, they will retain and adapt those controls which are necessary to the carrying out of such a policy in regard to all those foods which play an important part in the nation's diet. The Government will undertake such responsibility in respect of procurement, distribution and sale as is necessary to ensure that adequate supplies are available at reasonable prices and to implement such international agreements on commercial and commodity policy as may be concluded. The interest of the consumer will be protected. The needs of special classes will be provided for. The position of the Home producer in producing the goods required by the nation from home sources will be safeguarded. The trader who renders the community a necessary service will receive a fair reward. It would be wrong to assume that there will be an automatic return to all the conditions which existed before the war. Subject to the general principles already indicated the Government's long term food policy will be considered in relation to each foodstuff separately and detailed plans will be worked out. Consultation with non-official interests will take place."

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Despite modern inventions, the newspaper remains and will remain for some time to come the best medium to guide public opinion."—Most Rev. Norbert Robichaud, Archbishop of Moncton.

Premier J. Walter Jones has gone to Ottawa for the momentous Conference, taking with him his strong, silent fidus Achates, in the earnest hope and expectation of making an effective impression on the delegates from the other provinces and the Dominion.

As usual with British consideration and heroism, "women and children first." The Edinburgh Evening Dispatch reports that, at a local convention, a Leeds, Yorkshire, lady urged: "That the energy which goes into making the atomic bomb be put into making childbirth easier."

Government liability for municipal taxation is now the live question being discussed by Maritime members at Ottawa. It is long since the C. N. R. agreed to pay \$40,000 per annum for that purpose here. What became of the money, and why was not the agitation kept up once the right of the claim of the municipalities was admitted?

Tomorrow is the last Sunday of November which has lived up to its old-time reputation given it by Tom Hood: No warmth, no cheerfulness, no ease,— No comfortable feel in any member— No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no buds,—November.

Nova Scotia's beer quota has been increased from two to three dozen quarts a month, A. S. Mahon, chief commissioner of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission, has announced. Under present allotments Nova Scotians may receive monthly four quarts of gin, or two quarts of other spirits, or four bottles of Canadian wine, or two quarts of imported wine.

U. S. - U. K. negotiations, especially concerning tariffs, are the real test of whether nations are to co-operate or not. The vital question is whether the U. S. proposes to make a reduction in tariffs all around or not. If not, all the talk of co-operation is so much "bunk." A loan to Britain is, as the British have pointed out, no solution to this problem, especially if it is accompanied by a condition that Britain may not arrange trade treaties with even the other nations of the Commonwealth.

John Knox, Scottish ecclesiastic, died this date 1572; unequalled as a social reformer, combining both ecclesiastical and political policies to suit the objects and conditions of the time. In Scotland, inaugurating more thoroughgoing changes and discipline than hitherto experienced in the political and religious history of that country; he could not be considered a supporter of women's suffrage: "I have learned to call wickedness by its own terms: a fig a fig and a spade a spade. . . . Nature doth paint women to be weak, frail, impatient, feeble and foolish; and experience hath declared them to be unconstant, variable, cruel, and lacking the spirit of counsel."

Handling the greatest amount of grain in its history in the race against famine in Europe, the Canadian Pacific Railway is wearing its system to utilize West Saint John, N.B., in place of Montreal as its main eastern outlet for the winter. Bridges along Canadian Pacific lines east of Montreal have been strengthened to carry heavier locomotives and thus speed up traffic to the New Brunswick port. Since the beginning of the year, grain elevators at West Saint John have been delivering their load to ships at the rate of 2,400,000 bushels a month. As shipping is diverted to the port from Montreal with the freeze-up approaching, the rate is expected to become still greater. Much of the grain for West Saint John will be routed along Canadian Pacific lines from Port McNicoll, Ontario. Since the beginning of August the C. P. R. has carried 20,000,000 bushels of grain for Europe from the Georgian Bay port, 6,000,000 more than at the same date in 1944, a peak year.

Notes By The Way

From figures offered at Ottawa as estimated future costs of the Alaska Highway it will be paved with gold.—Exchange.

Two lines now being built in Britain will carry helicopters to fly off mail and urgent freight as they near port, reports London Daily Express. The United Kingdom aircraft industry is giving a great deal of attention to helicopter development.—Ottawa Citizen.

Hard to fathom is the fellow who throws old tin cans, bottles and other refuse along the highways. Evidently tossed out from moving cars, these unsightly accumulations show up all too often along main roads and country byways. This type of person needs to have impressed on him the fact that orderliness is a first rule of beauty.—Kitchenner Record.

Brigadier A. W. F. Mallaby, commander of the 48th Indian Infantry Brigade in Java, was murdered by the Japanese in 1942. Details of a cease-fire order. Is this the kind of thanks the Indo-nesians are going to have in return for friendly fashion in which they have been asked to show an interest in the war? If so, they can expect a painfully un-friendly reaction. Bramford Expressor.

The British began evacuating 50,000 children from the cities to rural localities where they will have a better chance of surviving the winter. The move—called Operation Star—is being carried out by the many Germans who never tire of speculating on when the Anglo-Americans are going to light the fuse in the atomic bomb. "See, the war against Russia is about to begin. The British always put their cards just before a war starts."—Newsweek Magazine.

Early this year a new series of Greenland stamps were issued, and philatelists all over the world eagerly bought up copies of the new issues. Now the philatelists who were the sponsors of these stamps, and who made the drawings, says Scandinavian News, are put in a predicament. The stamps were not aware of their issuance and Danish papers point to mistakes in the pictures such as an orange on the 30.00 stamp the dog team is a drawing of teams as used by Canadian Eskimos and not used by Greenlanders at all. Who were the sponsors?

In Britain, many new industries have been created through the processing of coal. The by-products include 2000 made from coal tar and a host of other products including aspirin, local anaesthetics, modern antiseptics, perfumes, essences and flavorings, plastic bottles of many kinds, ammonia and agricultural fertilizer. While Britain has been obtaining all this wealth from a coal seam, the rest of the world is still in its primitive condition, with little or nothing done to extract its hidden values.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Last year the export of Italian honey across the Swiss border was prohibited, much to the pain of a Swiss trader. This trader managed to get a permit to import supplies and in response, according to the Geneva correspondent of the London Times, brought close to the frontier and left open. Thereupon the Swiss trader moved his beehives to a police station and let his bees do the rest. The busy little Swiss bees are credited with bringing to the border duty-free in three days. Sweet are the uses of ingenuity, too.—New York Sun.

Jade, like the other semi-precious stones, is cut into shape by means of sawing, drilling and grinding, and for this preparation the craftsman uses drills, etc., actuated by a foot treadle. His tools have a stock of a series of tools consisting of water and fine sand. The hardness of jade makes this technique essential and the tools which remain fixed and the carving which is turned as required. The carver does not clamp down his tools and brings the jade block to work with it. The book-burning which demand the utmost nicety of judgment and skill.—Canadian Mining Journal.

A short time ago a Reuters despatch from Germany reported that a special Allied Commission had been set up to investigate the list of publications banned to German readers. Such a move is still highly dangerous. The Nazis themselves once set a full-scale example of book-burning and burning books, and the Nazis were by no means the first to make fables of themselves. The Nazis set the example of Hitler's fables, often incoherent but so often, ed, or put on a sort of index, and not been due to the fact that many people, a "must" volume to be secured and read at any price. That all is the simply psychology of their very purpose.—Bramford Expressor.

A picturesque figure in Bulgaria is Georgi Dimitrov, who has played an important part in the history of the Reichstag fire. He began work as a printer, became a leader in the ranks of organized labor in the Reichstag and moved to Germany. When the Nazis set the Reichstag fire and started a number of fraudulent trials of labor leaders, Dimitrov was one of the accused. He bore himself well during the trial and made a laughing stock of Goering. This was in 1933. Dimitrov was acquitted. After his release Dimitrov found himself in peril as an exile with no place to go. So long as he was in Germany his life was endangered. Nikola Mushanov, the Bulgarian Premier, refused the request of Dimitrov for restoration of his Bulgarian citizenship. Stalin intervened and granted Soviet citizenship to Dimitrov. In August, Dimitrov resigned his Bulgarian citizenship. Today he is a candidate for election to Parliament in his home-land, while in Bulgaria the Democratic opposition party.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume any responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

MRS. MALCOLM MACLEOD'S LETTERS

Sir,—It is an exceedingly encouraging feature of our life in Prince Edward Island when the women of the community exhibit a strong sense of citizenship, a convincing aspect of their interest in the public, by protesting the lack of employment on the Island for our returning men and women. Had the women of the two previous generations evinced a like feeling of discontent, the exodus of our young people might have been arrested by awakening the interest of the Ottawa Government sufficiently to make them realize their many shortcomings.

Whether or not readers of The Guardian are in agreement with Mrs. MacLeod's various suggestions is not a matter of moment. The main feature in the complaint is that to Islanders of both sexes and that they have been asked to show an interest in the war by sending their contributions to your Forum column.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the exhibition of public spirit is that a similar step has already been taken by a group of serious-minded, temperate workers who have organized a temporary work and while much needs to be done we will give our people financial security.

These returned men ask so little—just the privilege of making a living for themselves and their families.

Before the war our young people had to leave the Province to find the opportunities which were not open to them here, so how can we possibly find work not only for our young people but particularly for those of our returning personnel?

The answer is by building a new economic structure instead of perpetuating the lopsided affair which has grown up like Topsy through the years.

Let me make one specific suggestion. Some of our factories produce our necessities on a retail basis. Let us plan industries to make the goods we need. By so doing we shall keep our money at home and increase prosperity for us all.

We must have tanneries operated on modern lines to process our hides.

We must build factories to make our shoes, luggage, harness, school bags, etc.

We must have factories making overalls and children's clothing.

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A million dollars sent from the Province to Ottawa to buy war material is a million dollars gone never to return—gone to keep the wheels of industry turning in other provinces; but a million dollars retained here, paid out in wages and for raw material, kept circulating, means increased prosperity for us all.

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him how he thought wholesalers would react. He said that they would support such projects and handle our lines. Incidentally, another small manufacturer told me he found heavy co-operation on the part of the wholesaler, the only difficulty being inability to make all they require. That too need not be an insuperable obstacle as I shall endeavor to prove.

To industrialize our Province would be a costly business and since here it would be more or less an experiment, people would loathe to risk too much money, but may I suggest a way in which it could be done.

After the last war large sums were put into war memorials which were of use to no one. Today we realize that a war memorial must be a definite benefit to a large section of our population. Our soldiers fought to make the world a better place to live in and would it not be just for our war memorial to make our Province a better place for them to live in?

Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan share the unenviable reputation of having the lowest per capita financial returns from outflow of all the provinces of Canada. Do let us alter this some way.

I suggest that we make a province-wide drive for a gift of appreciation to, and remembrance of, our returned men who rendered such noble service to the cause of our country.

Let those who can, give \$5.00, and let those who can, give \$1.00, and let those who can, give 50 cents. Let those who can, give 25 cents, and let those who can, give 10 cents.

Then let this money be used by the Canadian Legion to establish factories in Prince, Queen's and King's Counties. Let them manufacture good quality work clothes for our customers always a customer can be their slogan.

Such a project would provide permanent employment for many of our returned men and the profits would be used by the Canadian Legion to carry out their activities on behalf of service men.

As a result of increased employment we should want more houses, more food, more shoes, more furniture—an ever increasing demand for goods and services and a consequent economy of abundance.

This is a goal worth aiming at but we must drive it to George or leave it to Mr. Jones. We, the people, you and I, have to put this idea into practice.

During the war Canada produced armaments and materials that

SKY-MEADOW in the fall, driving me cloudward for a windy hour.

is wild with the blue untall silver poplar and the gold clenched gentian and the gold witchhazel flower.

In this sun-hazy air the chequered bluejeans flash in the silver poplar and the gold clenched gentian and the gold witchhazel flower.

If foxes bark too loud, nothing is here in the juniper patch, curled under a lilac cloud, the ferns have a dream and tawny doe to true to heart.

In this high place, my heart—dreaming years' end, dreaming of autumn only—while the seed pods burst apart, runs with the shy happily and lonely.

—Frances Frost in The New York Herald-Tribune.

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