THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1942

The Dieppe Awards

In official recognition of the spirit shown by our Canadian soldiers at Dieppe, no fewer than 178 decorations have been awarded, including one Victoria Cross—the Empire's highest decoration for valour—which went to Lieut. Col. C. C. I. Merrit, officer commanding the South Saskatchewan Regiment, who is a prisoner of war. 12 officers received the Distinguished Service Order, and 12 non-commissioned officers and men the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The Military Cross was awarded to 16 officers and its equivalent non-commissioned award, the Military Medal, to 45 men, while 24 officers and 68 other ranks were mentioned in despatches. For official purposes, this latter honour is also a decoration although no badge or medal is issued. The recipient gets a certificate and is entitled to wear a sprig of laurel on the ribbon of his general service medal.

As Prime Minister King has well said, the list of these awards, large as it is, does not begin to cover all who proved themselves heroes. In the heat and fury of battle, much gallantry and self sacrifice inevitably passes unnoticed. "We are fully conscious of this," he said, "as we pay our special tribute to the brave officers and men whose names have been selected for signal honours. Of all we are profoundly proud."

By way of comparison, it may be noted that the list of Canadian honours in the last war begins with 62 Victoria Crosses. That, of course, represented three and a half years of almost continuous fighting, in which 59,544 Canadians made the supreme sacrifice, 18,000 of these being commemorated not by a headstone in a cemetery but by a carved name on a monument which stands for an undiscovered grave.

A Picture Worth Seeing

Many who are not customarily "movie fans" will be delighted to have an opportunity of seeing, even more than once, the great picture featured at the Prince Edward Theatre next week, viz., "Mrs. Miniver." It is a reproduction of a story which appeared originally in the columns of the weekly edition of "The Times," London, and we cannot give a better appreciation of it than a quotation from "The Times" itself:

"It seems a long time since Mrs. Miniver, now the heroine of a film at the Empire, graced the Court page of "The Times" with her musings and comments on her cultured, comfortable, charming family life. There was always something so safe and serene about her, a suggestion of the Queen Anne tea-service, and cucumber sandwiches on the lawn, with Rupert Brooke's clock standing at ten to three. The Minivers were well-off, without being rich. Clem knew about shooting and fishing as well as architecture; Vin was at Eton; Mrs. Miniver herself could be trusted to find the technical phrase for the latest ballet; but there was nothing ostentatious about them. It was brave of a Hollywood film company to have chosen the Minivers as a means of illustrating to Amercia the way in which the English behave under the impact of war. It must be made clear that the Minivers on the screen are by no means the Minivers of the book —Vin, for instance, has obviously never been to Eton—and the picture of England at war suffers from that distortion which seems inevitable whenever Hollywood cameras are trained on it. Miss Greer Garson is always at hand to cloak with the virtue of her acting the flaws in the production. She gives a performance which lifts the screen to the level of the best traditions of the stage, and Mrs. Miniver in her hands becomes a warm, human, and altogether admirable human being. Mr. Walter Pidgeon overcomes the handicap of an American accent and intonation in giving his account of Clem, and Dame May Whitty and Miss Theresa Wright are more than competent in their contrasting parts."

When "The Times" commends thus strongly we may unhesitatingly take it that "Mrs. Miniver" is worthy of being classed at the top of the ten best pictures released in the current year.

Statutory Holidays

The Dominion Government has reduced the year's statutory holidays to six by an Order-in-Council specifying those to be observed, as follows: New Year's Day, Good Friday, the first Monday in July (in lieu of July 1), Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. These, of course, are in addition to Sunday or an equivalent weekly day of rest.

Thousands of good citizens will be shocked, and rightly so, predicts the Globe and Mail, at the Government's wartime choice of national holidays to be eliminated. These include Victoria Day, the King's birthday, and Remembrance Day, as well as Easter Monday. With Victoria Day is linked Empire Day, which has become a notable patriotic occasion in the schools. Victoria was the good Queen who signed the Act of Confederation giving Canada an opportunity to celebrate Dominion Day, and her birthday has been revered by successive generations. It was proper that Empire Day should be associated with this event, and that Canada should join with other parts of the Empire in observing it. But it is the view of our Government of the day that it is not desirable to commemorate the birth of the Confederation Queen, the birth of the reigning sovereign, or pay tribute to the gallant soldiers who died in the Great War. As for Dominion Day, it is not the event that is to be observed now, but the first Monday in July.

The reason assigned for abolishing these holidays during the war is doubtless the need of wartime production. It is valid in principle, and if the Government had followed Australia's example and done away with all statutory holidays during the war it is to be doubted that complaint would be heard. Canada should be working wherever possible on a schedule of twenty-four hours a day throughout the year.

But what can be said for the selection of those days which contribute to the tie with the Crown and the Empire? They are the ones on which the King Government's axe has fallen.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Warner Oland, American actor, known by the stage name of Charlie Chan, born this date 1880; great reputation as Oriental detective, beloved of movie fans, died August 6, 1938.

* * * *

Judge Trainor, who is to be congratulated on assuming office in King's County, will no doubt be anxious to visit the scene of the "second front" at Montague on the earliest possible date.

* * * *

Can any one here possibly, positively claim they personally have experienced any ill effects of the war apart from bereavements? We are for the most part crying out in anticipation of what may never happen, while all the time living in comparative luxury.

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An order-in-council has been published prohibiting the importation in 1943 of farm equipment and machinery, from any British possession or the United States, or the manufacture for exportation to such countries more than 25 per cent of the tonnage exported by any manufacturer during 1940.

* * * *

The usual words set to the chimes of Big Ben are:

Lord, through this hour
Be thou my guide,
And through thy power
No foot shall slide.

Try them next time you hear the Westminster call on the radio.

* * * *

Bryan Waller Procter ("Barry Cornwall"), English poet and biographer, born tomorrow's date 1787; wrote "Dramatic Scenes", "Mirandala," "Memoirs of Edward Kean," "Biography of Charles Lamb", "English Songs," etc.:

"I never was on the dull, tame shore,
But I loved the great sea more and more."

* * * *

Mr. R. E. Spillett will be greatly missed throughout the Province, especially in Queen's County, where he was known and respected by farmers generally. Of a quiet unostentatious disposition, he was 100 per cent genuine as a loyal friend and business executive. We can ill afford to lose citizens of his kind, especially in a time of transition like the present.

* * * *

With the warning that a long war will bring on rationing of medical care, Dr. Samuel Binkley, medical director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, told the first group of officers at a training school for the Women's Field Army in Manhattan that "people may be asked to take their medical problems to centralized hospitals where remaining local physicians can pool their resources."

* * * *

Here is vigilance worthy of a better cause. Informed that Three Rivers had obtained some $22,000 from the Dominion Government for local improvements around federal buildings in that city, Montreal's executive committee authorized Finance Director Lactance Roberge to learn the nature of the works thus allegedly compensated. Should it be found that Montreal has herself paid for similar local improvements the administration will seek to collect from Ottawa in the same way.

* * * *

The manufacture of concentrated milk and by-products in August totalled 28,355,110 pounds, a decrease of 1,044,633 pounds or four per cent from the previous month's total, but an increase over August last year of 3,775,815 pounds or 15 per cent. The whole milk products accounted for 23,793,961 pounds and the by-products for 4,561,149 pounds. During the eight months ended August the combined production of all items aggregated 186,971,245 pounds compared with 173,733,340 in the corresponding period of 1941.

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Mrs. Pierre F. Casgrain announces that she will be a candidate for the Charlevoix-Saguenay seat in the House of Commons vacated by her husband, Hon. Pierre F. Casgrain, former Secretary of State, when he was named to the Superior Court of Quebec as soon as a by-election is called in that riding. There has not as yet been any indication of the probable date of such by-election. Mrs. Casgrain prominent in women's activities, and one of the leaders in the movement which recently succeeded in securing votes for women in Quebec, did not elaborate on her announcement.

* * * *

Dr. L. B. Pett, Canadian director of nutrition who has been loaned to Bermuda for a brief time to advise that colony on diet problems, told the Bermudians that Canadian war industry in 1942 will lose 9,000,000 man hours, the equivalent to 2,000 bombers, from labor absenteeism attributed to improper dieting. He said the main characteristic of Canadian dieting was insufficient use of milk products, and remarked that Canadian women generally ate much poorer lunches than men. The reason, he added, was they were more concerned with their figures and wanted to spend more on cosmetics. From now on this should remedy itself, only it will be less food as well as less cosmetics.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Travel in Germany will be greatly restricted this winter But the Nazis probably can see a lot of home fires burn by staying right on the ground. —Kansas City Star

It should not be forgotten that the battle in the Caucasus is not merely one to defend the Baku oil fields. It is also a battle to defend the oil fields of Iraq and Iran — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The six-year-old son of a friend of mine went to Sunday School for the first time. The next morning he remarked thoughtfully: "Mummy, you know church is God's house?" "Yes, dear, that's right," said the mother. Then, with a rush came the real subject of the little boy's thoughts: "Hasn't He got a lot of chairs?' —Leeds Yorkshire Post.

She had applied to join the Women's Land Army. On being interviewed it transpired that she was terrified of cows, but despite this was most anxious to learn to milk. "I'm sure I should be all right," she said, "if only I could start on a calf!"—London New Statesman.

It is noticeable how intuitively in age we go back with strange fondness to all that is fresh in the earliest dawn of youth. If we never cared for little children before, we delight to see them roll in the grass over which we hobble on crutches. The grandsire turns wearily from his middle-aged, careworn son, to listen with infant laugh to the prattle of his infant grandchild; it is the old who plant young trees; it is the old who are most saddened by the autumn and feel most delight in the returning spring. —Bulwer-Lytton.

The long-distance flights of two pintail ducks from the southern United States to the Canadian Arctic, a distance of more than 2,000 miles, is revealed by bird-banding recovery records received recently by the department of mines and resources. The birds were recovered near Queen Maud gulf on the Arctic ocean by an Eskimo named Ohokak, and subsequent investigation of the officially-numbered bands they wore showed that one of the ducks had been banded in California in the spring of 1933 and the other had been marked in Kansea in 1937—(Canadian Resources Bulletin).

I mentioned the other day a friend who was (officially) reduced to going about in bathing trunks; here's a reader who says, "Why not?" In warm, wet weather, he suggests, we might save our clothes by donning swim-suits for all occasions He thinks the city would be wonderfully brightened if this plan were adopted. "Imagine," he says, "the gaiety of the street scene during a rush hour.' Yes— and imagine going home in the bus in a wet bathing costume. —Glasgow Bulletin.

We are horrified by the waste of war. Curiously enough, we are not nearly so much horrified by the waste of peace and prosperity. We are only just learning to see the wickedness of employing men to grow rubber and coffee and then destroying the crops to keep up prices; of burning tobacco that has not paid duty because it would be commercially unsound to find a use for it; of discouraging men from growing and making things for themselves, lest they should interfere with the tradesman's profits We are fond of priding ourselves on our conquest of nature —but we ought not to treat nature as the Germans treat a conquered province, by spoiling, ravaging and destroying for our own greed. A truly creative society knows only two kinds of value: The produce of the earth and the labor of man. By Dorothy L. Sayers in Bulletins from Britain.

The phrase "too little and too late" has become common coin in our debate about effective prosecution of the war. Who said it first? Readers of American Notes and Queries, a little "journal for the curious," have been delving into the origin of the phrase, and have traced it back to May, 1935, when Allan Nevins, an American history professor at Columbia, wrote in Current History magazine: "The former Allies had blundered in the past by offering Germany too little, and offering even that little too late, until finally Nazi Germany had become a menace to all mankind." Note the date again: May, 1935. It took free men a long time to see and face the fact that Nazism couldn't be dealt with by "too little and too late" methods. Happily, the phrase is now beginning (perhaps) to become obsolete. —Minneapolis Star-Journal.

A report from Kitchener says it is impossible to buy a baby's buggy there, and that mothers will have to carry their babies around in their arms. The same situation will probably become general soon. But will that matter very much? There are millions of people around who never rode in a baby buggy in their baby days. They were always carried. Well-to-do people had baby buggies, baby-carriages, perambulators, or whatever they were called, but until about the turn of this century at any rate the great mass of parents never thought of indulging in the extravagance of a wheeled vehicle for their children. Mothers carried their babies wrapped in shawls. They enjoyed the "cuddly" feeling of having their babies so close to them. The modern baby-buggy, which is often a luxury vehicle, came into vogue with the post-war luxury period of electric refrigerators and other household devices. However, times change. How long is it since babies were rocked to sleep in cradles? —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Private Ora Foster of Rockester, Mich., thumbed a ride on an English country road the other day from a lady who turned out to be Queen Mary. Unaware of the identity of his hostess, Private Foster admitted that he did most of the talking. But if he had known who she was he would probably have talked just as freely. It's a habit we have with strangers that the English seem to like when they get used to it. The hitch-iker, especially, feels a kind of social obligation to be chatty in return for a lift. Far from being embarrassed, the doughboy from Michgan might be expected to exert himself more than usual to entertain a Queen. Apparently the Queen Mother was entertained. When he told her affably "there's no place like home, but this is a nice place for a vacation," she remarked that the Americans and British should get to know each other better. So they should, and so they will as hundreds of thousands of Private Fosters, unawed in royal limousines and loquacious in buses, thumb their way along the lanes of rural England. It will be strange if the doors of British reserve can prevail against the gate-crashers from America. —New York Times.

Winsloe South

Notes of Past And Present

(By Old Timer)

Glancing over the Guardian last Saturday I came across some South Winsloe Notes of Past and Present. This writer began at Highfield and continued up the Winsloe Road to the Horne properties and I will endeavour to continue these notes further.

Beginning at the Horne properties we pass through the Line Road which connects with Winsloe near the school. Here live two prominent farmers and here we see two beautiful homes, both freshly painted and on opposite sides of the road. The one to the south is owned by Harold Prowse, formerly from Union Road, who bought the property from Edmond Horne, now of Charlottetown.

The other farmer, Hammond Rodd, lives on the homestead formerly owned by his father John Rodd. This affords an excellent view as the name "Highview Farm" suggests. In this vicinity is the second highest point on the Island: the airport, Charlottetown and parts of the mainland can be seen from here.

As we continue up the road we come to the residence of Harry Slackford one of our good farmers, son of William Slackford, now retired stationmaster of Summerside. Here we see one of the most beautiful and well-kept lawns in Winsloe South. This was once James Holman's property.

* * *

Just over the fence from these buildings we come to the former William Bryenton homestead, on which we now see a new house and outer buildings, the work of one of our enterprising dairy farmers, Earl Rodd, son of the before mentioned Hammond Rodd.

Crossing the road on a lane leading to a sheltered valley we come to the snug home of Edward Bryenton, former property of James Holman.

From the top of Breakheart Hill we have an excellent view of the district to the north and the brook wending down through the valley to Roy Cole's mill-dam.

The first property which arrests our attention is a cluster of newly erected buildings and a large new house. This splendid property has been built and is owned by our well-known cattle dealer and butcher, Fred Turner. The property was formerly owned by Nathaniel Peardon, well-known local preacher of his time.

Adjoining it is that of Nelson Locke, on which also lived his father James Locke. Mr. Locke has built himself a neat cottage just across the road from the property of Earl Diamond, son of the late Thomas Diamond, who had been a very faithful mail-driver and farmer. The late Mr. Diamond spent approximately 26 years serving his community as a mail driver and served it as well as his son who carries on after him. The route is a 26 mile one and no matter how big the storm the mail comes through as regularly as the proverbial overland mail.

* * *

Below the well kept buildings the babbling brook wends its way after flowing through the adjoining farm now owned by Harry Coles. These buildings are among the newest in the district.

Across the road we come to the home of Harold Crawford, one of our young and energetic farmers. This is the former property of the late John Diamond, a one time Justice of the peace.

On the adjoining farm we come to the property of another young farmer, Emmerson Ford, once owned by leading citizens of their day. Such names as Pickard and Boundy are plentiful on our church records.

Across the road we come to the Manse which is being newly painted and where now resides our newly-come pastor, Rev. Thos. Constable, following the departure of one of the greatest ministers of our day, namely Rev. J.R. Skinner, now in Cornwall. The doorstep of this manse has resounded to the tread of many footsteps as the centre of our community life. Our church, which is one of the few brick churches on the Island has a history of its own. At the time of the building in 1880, the farmers with horses and sleighs started for Rocky Pt. for the bricks. Meeting in Charlottetown at an early hour they startled the sleeping population and quickly some policemen were on the trail. Some thought the town was being invaded, but after explaining their mission, they were allowed to go on. There has been a lot of work done on the grounds and church this year, by Mr. George Auld, one of our oldest residents.

Next to our church on the north comes the property of the Holmans. To this rich and prosperous district came James Holman from Devonshire, Eng., grandfather of B. Roy Holman who is now mayor of Charlottetown. This well-known property has passed into the hands of another young farmer, Ivan Turner, who is doing dairy farming and is doing considerable work on the outer buildings.

Adjoining is the old Turner property where now lives George Turner, one of the oldest residents of our community. He is a retired farmer still living on the farm to which his father George Turner came from Devonshire, Eng.

* * *

Across the road is the property to which James Saunders came from England. His son Isaac then passed the farm on to Mr. A.B. Sellar of New Glasgow, who married his daughter and is a successful farmer. Mr. Sellar has finished painting his house and it looks very lovely.

Adjoining is the property now owned by John Ford, passed on from his grandfather, John Ford. Mr. Ford has built a new barn to replace the one he lost by fire not long ago.

Next we come to the property owned by a Mr. Buxton, a rich Englishman who built himself a very lovely stone house known as Barton Lodge. The cellar itself was as large as an ordinary house and here Mr. Buxton kept his wine. When it was built a gold piece was put under each corner. Part of the large mansion has been torn away but it is still as beautiful as ever, commanding an excellent view to the road and down to Breakheart Hill. This was a 300 acre farm at the time but since has been divided into six smaller farms.

This estate is now in the hands of several farmers. Beginning south one part is now owned by William Hambly who hails from Cornwall Eng. Next is the farm of Ira Auld, who lives in Barton Lodge, and who is an industrious farmer. Adjoining is the farm of Harold Diamond, son of the before mentioned Thomas Diamond. Here was the site of the old post office where the youth of an earlier time gathered in the evening for the mail and planned their evening's fun.

Next is the farm of George and Archie Auld, two industrious farmers. Mr. Geo. Auld does a good deal of fruit farming and is a very remarkable man for his age. He and his wife seldom miss a Sunday in church. Mr. Archie Auld is a veteran of the Great War and such names as Vimy Ridge are bright in his memory.

The last farm of the Buxton estate is that of Oliver Saunders, who possesses one of the oldest names of the district.

Across the road we see a lovely new barn and house which is being made modern inside, all the work of Kenneth Moreside, who does all the carpenter work himself. Mr. Moreside is a good all-around man and can lend a hand in almost any kind of work. This land was once the property of George Smith.

The next homestead to the east is that which formerly belonged to John and Joseph Kennedy, but since has passed into the hands of two farmers one Elijah Saunders, who has a freshly painted house and a neat lawn to the front and Reigh Ford who has lately erected a large new barn and fixed the house.

Between those two houses is situated the Winsloe community hall, which resounds to the sounds of concerts, school fairs, Y.P. groups, and chicken suppers, the centre of community life. This hall was built by our forefathers on condition that there would be no dancing there, which helps to maintain the moral ideals of the community.

Here I think I will end my little stay and leave it for some abler pen to finish to the end of the district.

Some Things Rhodes Overlooked

(Toronto Telegram)

When the great Empire builder planned the Rhodes Scholarships, he apparently thought that it would be good for young men of the English-speaking nations to mingle at Oxford in a brotherhood to which each could bring his own contribution. It does not appear to have occurred to him that for many of them this would be their first absence from home, and that they would be unhappy in being away from contact with their fellow-countrymen. Nor does he seem to have thought that each visitor from abroad would need to be surrounded by people from home who would adjust any difficulties he might encounter.

Yet these are the reasons which have been given by Air Officer-in-Chief Edwards of the "Canadianization" of the R. C. A. F. in Britain. He fee's that members of the R.C.A.F. will be happier if they are among fellow-Canadians than if they are among fellow-Britons from England, Australia and New Zealand, and they will pine for a chance "to talk to other boys from Yarmouth or Mont Joli, or Auroro or Portage or Chilliwack. In some-cases Canada will appreciate the opportunity of fellowship with comrades from distant parts of the world.

There may be some valid reason for separating the R.C.A.F. from contact with the R. A. F., but it is not to be found in the reasons given either by Gus Edwards or Chubby Power. Otherwise it would be necessary to believe that these gentlemen havea wider outlook than that which made Cecil Rhodes an Empire figure. That, somehow, doesn't seem possible.

Canadians are quite capable of standing on their own feet in whatever company they find themselves. The lads of the R. C. A. F. will naturally appreciate any assistance from Ottawa, but it must not be thought that they are in need of nursemaids. If mingling with men from other parts of the Empire is such a hardship, the next thing to expect will be a plan for the Canadianization of Oxford to protect Rhodes Scholars from the disability which prevents them talking with other boys from Yarmouth, Mont Joli, Auroro, Portage or Chilliwack.

PRINTED COTTONS DRAPERY FAVORITES

NEW YORK, August 27—Judging by demand, the best-liked draperies at the moment for the home that is not definitely of any period are textured cottons printed in floral designs, and three is a notable swing to bright colors.

Many of us, it would seem, are instinctively endeavoring to offset the dark picture of war by making our homes gay and vivacious. Those "in the know" say, however, that with the uncertain dye situation, high colors may be expected to give place before long to softer pastels. This is already noticeable in wallpapers.

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The Poet's Corner

COUNTRY IN AUTUMN

The tide of station wagons now recedes,
The fields take on a lax and happy air,
Gardens leave the challenge to the weeds,
The trees let down their thinning, dusty hair,
The countryside removes its stays. It knows,
As any hostess does, the bright release,
When some nice guest puts on her hat, and goes,
And leaves a place of shabbiness and peace.
For now the brown and golden days are here
When ragged lavender and scarlet run
In frowsy splendor, and the lazy year
Takes time for playing hooky in the sun,
And cloud on tattered cloud, blue shadow spills
Across the lapis-lazuli of hills.

—Blanca Bradbury in the New York Herald Tribune.