THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1944

The Legislature Opens

Owing to the early opening of the Legislature and also to "delays in making reports and in printing reports," only interim reports of the activities of the various governmental departments will be presented at this session. This announcement in the Speech from the Throne delivered by his Honour the Lieutenant Governor yesterday, was accompanied by the statement that there would be a change in the fiscal year, which will bring our provincial book-keeping into conformity with the practice in other provinces.

The Speech forecasts a "particular study of agricultural education" to be undertaken in conjunction with the other Maritime Provinces. An Apprenticeship Bill is to be introduced in connection with technical training. Legislation preliminary to a land survey of the Province is also to be introduced. The Speech states that "an intensive study of electrical development will be made forthwith," and refers to the proposed Sanatorium extension for which plans have already been approved.

The Speech promises that "a Department of Reconstruction to promote and co-ordinate plans for provincial health development and post-war employment will be established." This is not quite what the electors were told in the Jones Government's election platform. They were promised, not only a "Ministry of Reconstruction," but also that "a non-partisan committee of members and citizens on Reconstruction will be set up". Where is this non-partisan committee of members and citizens, and why does no reference to it appear in the Speech?

The Speech also is silent on the subject of storage plans for grain, fertilizer and potatoes, on further encouragement of the Irish moss industry, on extension of air, railway and steamship services, on the Government's pledge to "continue to urge upon the Federal Government the necessity of improving the Charlottetown harbour and waterfront, and that the dry dock for which a site has been surveyed be built at once", on the exploration of "new avenues to keep our people employed in the urban centres and to introduce and develop new industries in the Province", and other matters which formed part of the Liberal platform of September, 1943.

There is a stronger opposition in the House this year than has existed for many sessions. This should add a spice of interest to the debates and keep the Government members and supporters on their toes. Let us hope that the session will not be too long. The Speech is optimistic with regard to an early finish of the war; but let us remember that the war is by no means won yet, and that it is with the war effort that our people are primarily concerned at this time.

Brave Padres

Padres on the front lines today are as in-bred to the rigors of war as the men whom they accompany. They are trained to jump with paratroops and even go on combined operations with Commando forces. Unarmed, they face all the hazards of invasion beaches, of warfare in jungles and deserts. Seven British Chaplains are missing, thirty-eight of them have been killed in action or died of wounds, and 120 have been taken prisoner. In battle they perform first aid and serve as stretcher-bearers; behind the lines they act as welfare officer, censor, spiritual adviser and friend.

Discussing this feature of the current conflict, the Hamilton Spectator gives an excellent example. Major the Rev. J. E. Gough Quinn was typical of the valor of front-line padres. He was killed during the precarious landing at Salerno in Italy last September. Before that he won the M.C. at Dunkirk, was among those besieged for five months at Tobruk in North Africa, was later wounded in Tripoli and taken prisoner, but escaped.

Post-War Employment

The magnitude of the adjustments which Canada will face in maintaining high employment after the war is discussed on the report of Mr. G. F. Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, in his report at the Bank's meeting yesterday. Mr. Towers noted that in 1939 about 4,000,000 Canadians were gainfully occupied and at least 300,000 who were available for work were not employed. By the end of 1943 the gainfully occupied population had risen to approximately 5,100,000 but about 1,900,000 of these were engaged in the armed forces, in supplying the weapons of war, or in producing the food required for special wartime exports. The number available to meet civilian needs had therefore fallen to about 3,200,000, but at the same time the average standard of living had risen materially and was probably higher than it had ever been. This increased output of consumption goods by a smaller working force can be accounted for in part by longer hours of work, favourable crop conditions and the abnormally small number now employed in private capital development and maintenance work. Another important factor, however, has been the improvement in production techniques worked out under the stress of war.

After the war, some of those who are now employed will voluntarily withdraw from the working force, and the armed services may be maintained at a level considerably above their pre-war strength. It seems likely, however, that at least 4,700,000 workers will be available for employment in civilian jobs, or at least 1,500,000 more than the number employed in that sector of the economy at the present time. A working force of this size, at present rates of efficiency, will be able to produce a vastly greater volume of civilian goods and services than Canada has ever known before. By the same token, a vastly increased volume of consumption and capital development will be necessary if this output is going to be fully absorbed and high employment maintained. The adjustments required will clearly be of unprecedented magnitude, and bold planning on the part of labour, farm and business organizations, as well as governments, is urgently needed.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Because of the shortage of manpower, a Suffolk woman, Mrs. Ada Riches, has become a chimney-sweep and cleans chimneys in her own and neighbouring villages. Dressed in an all-enveloping suit and headgear, she starts out at 7 a.m. on her bicycle, and by noon has cleaned ten chimneys.

* * * *

It is perhaps not generally known we have not a few Navy recruits in training regularly on H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte. These boys for the most part are from Ontario and places West, and long for welcome in the homes of our citizens. The R.A.F. while here have been bountifully treated in this respect, would it be too much to ask our citizens to extend their hospitality to the boys in Navy Blue? We feel sure if our good citizens would weekly send in requests for boys to join them at dinner or supper, Commander Mackenzie would see that such requests were made known and graciously complied with.

* * * *

George Macaulay Treveleyan, O.M., C.B.E., F.B.A., LL.D., Litt.D., litterateur and historian, born this date 1876; was Regius Professor of History, Cambridge University; trustee of the British Museum and Portrait Gallery; Hon. Member of Massachusetts' Historical Society; Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; saw service in Italy, Silver Medal for Valour; numerous publications including "The Poetry and Philosophy of George Meredith"; "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic"; "British History in the Nineteenth Century"; "Must England's Beauty Perish?"; "England Under Queen Anne."

* * * *

City Treasurer MacDonald, (isn't this a better and more appropriate title than "Chairman of the Finance Committee of the City Council") gives fair and much-needed warning to ratepayers that increased expenditures for current needs involves increased taxation—provided that already strict economy is being observed in the administration in the city's affairs. Of course, where a large necessary capital expenditure for the benefit and advantage of future citizens, the growth and development of the city, and the provision and attraction of new industries to keep our population at home, is concerned, then a well thought out plan must be prepared, but have we any one in the City Council at present sufficiently competent to handle such a project?

* * * *

Quebec has made the lowest contribution to our military forces but on the other hand, has purchased the most used cars of any province. Throughout the whole Dominion in the used car field, the number of units financed in December declined by nine per cent, but the dollar volume involved was seven per cent greater than in December, 1942. These comparisons reflect a substantial increase in the average financed value per vehicle. Sharp contrasts are revealed in results for individual regions. Among eastern sections of the country, an increase of thirty per cent in Quebec was outstanding. Ontario recorded a sixteen per cent decline, while used vehicles financed in the Maritime Provinces dropped forty-three per cent. Used cars financed in Alberta were twenty-five per cent greater, while declines of two and thirty per cent respectively occurred in British Columbia and in combined figures for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

* * * *

Somewhere in Canada is the uncle of LAC. Ronald Stuart Murray, R.A.F., an Englishman now stationed at Pennfield, N.B., and if possible, the R.A.F. man says, he would like to get in touch with that uncle. The only clues he has are the uncle's name, William George Warburton, and the fact that he is a fox rancher of about 50 years of age. Mr. Warburton has lived in Canada for most of his life, LAC. Murray says, and he is hoping that perhaps he will be able to get in touch with his Canadian uncle, perhaps through some fox rancher who remembers his name, or has come across it in ranching association lists. Canada is a big place, LAC. Murray agrees, but just possibly there is someone who will read his appeal, and know Mr. Warburton. If anyone does, the Saint John police department has arranged to relay the information to LAC. Murray at Pennfield.

* * * *

How vitamins were discovered. Proteins, fats, and carbohydrates are the three basic compounds in food from which the body is built up, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins gave some young rats a diet which at that time was considered "balanced"—it was not ordinary food, but consisted of proteins, fats, and carbohydrates in their pure chemical state. The young rats failed to put on weight—in fact they looked pretty wrecked, although they were receiving what was reckoned to be an adequate diet. The next step Hopkins took was to add small amounts of milk—under an ounce—to this daily diet. Though this small amount of milk did not appreciably increase the amount of carbohydrate, fat, and protein, the effect was remarkable. The animals rapidly put on weight—started growing again in fact. Hopkins thus proved that a chemical substance, which the body could not form itself and so must be included in the diet, was vital for growth to continue and therefore for life itself, and also that only very small quantities of that substance were needed. The conception of vitamins was entirely due to Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins. He says: "I feel sure that we have not yet reached the peak of what can be known concerning nutrition. It is quite possible that further studies may revolutionize the subject as unexpectedly as did progress in earlier subjects I have investigated."

Notes By The Way

"Miss Pomp at Opening of Parliament"—headline. Never heard of the lady.—Brantford Expositor.

The day is coming when we may all eat horse meat says Hepburn. But what makes Mitch think we haven't eaten it already? Some of the stuff we get on our plates when we order beef looks and tastes mighty suspicious.— St. Thomas Times-Journal.

From a letter by the mother of a six-year-old girl to the head mistress of an infants' school: "Could you recommend a good German book that Molly can learn German from, as we are going with the Army of Occupation after the war?"—Lucio in Manchester Guardian.

The problem of "freezing up" of aerial camera mechanisms at suzzero bombing and combat altitudes has now been solved by experimental laboratories of the U. S. Army Air Forces. A new ultra-low-temperature grease recently developed by Texas Company chemists permits cameras to operate at temperatures down to 100 degrees below zero.

A good story comes from Copenhagen, where great crowds gathered to watch the departure of Nazi Marshal Rommel. After he was gone, the crowds remained. When the police told them to move on, they retorted: "We are waiting for General Montgomery. He always follows right after Rommel." — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

In the last fifty years a population equivalent to that of the United States has been added to the resident population of India by natural increase. The human family there is increasing at the rate of 5,000,000 people yearly at the present time. That is sometimes forgotten when famine is the topic and Great Britain the target for those who speak first and think afterwards.—Victoria Colonist.

What may go down as the greatest case of dismay in Britain's history was recently reported in The London News Chronicle, relates Newsweek. The victim was an unnamed Canadian soldier. An ingenious citizen of Edinburgh named Robert Thompson was sentenced to prison for thirty days for selling him a bottle of tea as whisky. Sheriff Jameson of Edinburgh provided the appropriate comment: "Such an act is calculated to produce dismay and discouragement among His Majesty's forces."

With the aid of a new mercury-vapor quartz lamp, the Charles Bruning Company, Incorporated, has developed a new high-speed printer that produces prints of engineering plans 120 times more rapidly than is possible with ordinary light. The prints are direct positive black and white copies of the kind which are superseding blueprints. The new light tube with which high speed is obtained is equivalent to six to eight powerful carbon arc lamps.

Is there anyone who keeps to the straight and narrow way better than our elevator man? Consider the numbers of ups and downs in his life, yet he never jumps the track or strays from the straight and narrow path. He goes the limit and sinks to the lowest depths, but always comes up again and under his skillful guidance lands up at the top. If you are English, he lifts you. If Canadian, he elevates you. —C. W. H. in Hamilton Spectator.

Moving staircases at city street crossings and railways directed by radio-location were two post-war possibilities for the reduction of traffic accidents mentioned by Mr. P. J. Noel-Baker, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of War transport, in an address at Leeds. "I threw out the idea of a moving staircase as a suggestion," he said afterwards. "I want somebody to try it, but it must be where there is heavy traffic, otherwise it would be too costly."—London News Chronicle.

The line-up ran for a full city block and ended near a street window bearing a sign in block letters of red: "Blood Donor Clinic." The old gentleman on the tram turned to his wife, "There, my dear, is an illustration of what I was saying at breakfast. It's a bitter morning, but the need is great and those people are quick to respond. There lies our national strength—in the spirit of our people." At times even age and failing eyesight can be a blessing. The line-up was for the Liquor Commission shop next door.—The Printed Word.

British public schools begin the new term this week with full classes and long waiting lists. This is largely the result of wartime influences. While many incomes have risen considerably during the war, school fees have remained at peace-time levels, making the great public schools available to an increasing number of families. One headmaster expressed to me the view that the public schools were more popular now than they had been for years before the war.—London Daily Telegraph.

The idea of having a cause worth fighting for is closely connected with the thought that citizens should join the party they believe in. Most of the criticism heard of parties comes from the sidelines, from those who have done nothing to correct what they think is wrong. Nevertheless, a party is an association of interested individuals, a majority of whom can influence its policies if they wish. It surely is preferable to sitting back and complaining, and wishing some one would start another party. Nothing that a third, fourth or fifth party can do cannot be done within the old parties if people with faith and confidence will get into them and help to determine policies.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

It may be asked: "Why Berlin?" Because Berlin is not merely the capital of the Reich, but the core and kernel of all its warlike activities. Along its roads and railways there flows the life-blood of the German state. And the bombing "season" for Berlin is restricted more or less to the winter months when the nights are longest. So to Hitler's first city, and with Hamburg for its pattern, goes Bomber Command: (1) to blast beyond repair every factory, great or small, which contributes to the enemy's war machine; (2) to isolate the plague spot of Europe from the world outside: (3) to bring home to a now despairing people the certainty of a lost cause. And that is the process which is to persist until, on the assurance of Sir Arthur Harris, "the heart of Nazi Germany ceases to beat." Who shall call it reprisal? For the cause of civilization it is the only way.—News of the World.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

SNOW PLOWING THE COUNTRY ROADS

Sir,— For a number of winters now, we, who reside along the south shore have been having the same difficulty in getting a snow-low to open up our road so that we might ship our produce during the winter months by truck as do our neighbours in Kings and Prince Counties and also our own County (Queens) if we are fortunate enough to live along the railroad, as these highways are opened first.

With the above situation in mind there must be someone with authority that can answer the following questions.

1. Why is it that the snow plows have to open the highways along the railroad first after a storm, rather than the highways that have no means of transportation other than by car or truck?
2. Why do the residents along the road from Charlottetown to Victoria have to spend so much money in phone calls before they can get the Department of Public Works to send a plow out?
3. When the snow-plow was sent out from Charlottetown Feb. 10, to open the road from Bonshaw to Victoria, was the operator given the order to leave the impression of the plow in the first snow bank and return to town?
4. On this particular occasion was the plow away from Bonshaw to DeSable one hour before she returned on her way back to town?
5. Why is it a similar plow from Summerside on her way to Borden can go through so much more snow?

I am, Sir, etc.
ONE INTERESTED.

THERE AND HERE— THEN AND NOW

Sir,— In the Charlottetown Guardian, Feb. 10th page one, column four, is an item which reads as follows.

"Toronto Has Liquor Problem"

TORONTO, Feb. 9—(CP)— Jail officials said here today consumption of alcoholic face lotions is increasing, with persons arrested for drunkenness and suffering from acute alcholism admitted to the jail hospital almost daily. Three Toronto deaths have been blamed on the lotions."

Will Earl Riggs and the others who wrote to the Forum wanting government sale explain how this can happen in a province where government sale is in force? Is it not a condition of the mind? In fact all drinking is. One wrote it was a habit like smoking. Well smoking is a habit but not to be compared with drinking. The person who smokes does not injure anyone but him or herself, for smoking to excess will injure the heart, while drinking injures the brain, and, in fact, most all the vital organs of the body. In driving along the road you can always tell by the look of a place if you will find inside bottles and rags or a sleek well cared for herd.

One wrote about seeing young girls in the back seats of cars, drunk. I believe him, but there were no cars forty years ago, but there used to be teaparties before the Scott Act was passed and if you would pass by the grounds next morning you would see about a dozen young men roll out from under the trees and fences where they had been sleeping off the effects of good liquor. Or if you went for a ride on the train in those days you most always had the company of two or three drunks, who, if not annoying you, were often vomiting over the aisle. After the Scott Act came in travelling was much better. It was enforced at first.

At least I do not like the way our prohibition law is enforced, I do not believe it can't be done. I am told that those who should enforce it have too much stock in the breweries, and therefore cannot jeopardize their own gains. Anything can be done if there is a will. And surely there is enough wills to rid P.E.I. of this evil, while rounding up the cause of spreading V.D.

I am, Sir, etc.
DISTRANT.

Asset To Democracy

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mr John R. MacNicol, the Progressive Conservative member of Parliament for Toronto Davenport, is surely one of the most useful private members of the House of Commons. Last week he made his annual speech on the address from the throne, and as usual it was full of meaty and interesting facts and observations.

In the last few years there has been much grumbling in Ottawa over the decline in prestige and power of the private members. Yet if the other private members worked as hard at their job as does Mr. MacNicol, there would not only be little grumbling, but democracy in Canada would be in a much healthier condition.

Mr. MacNicol is elected by the people of Toronto, but his interests encompass all of Canada. He probably knows Western Canada as well if not better than most western members. He makes it his business to know what is going on in the country. He travels around and gets his information first hand. The information he soaks up in his travels is produced in the House of Commons. Thus we have seen in his speech this year a discussion of the irrigation and power potentialities of the West and a sincere plea for western agriculture.

Mr. MacNicol is clearly doing his best to represent all Canada in the House of Commons. If more members would follow his example, if they would get out and see this country of ours, talk to the Canadian people and discuss their problems with them, we would have a much better country. Instead of hurrying home when the session ends, Quebec members could spend a month in the West and western members would well be repaid for investigating conditions in Quebec and the Maritimes.

FO. H. D. Pattison of the Bison Squadron got a nice Christmas present from home.... It was a gramophone record from his wife at Guelph, Ont., and it brought him her voice as well as those of a large group of friends.

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A shadowy dawn brings ghostly wandering shapes
The harbor's a drab bone-chilling place.
And in the deceptive half light heading for the gates
Minesweepers go following their leader's pace.

They go at dawn to their appointed stations
These small but sturdy terriers of war
Ships with a special job, one of war's creations
And the men aboard ask only for action, nothing more.

All day these terriers of the sea go worrying.
To and fro, searching for the eggs Hitler's carrion laid.
Through calm and moderate seas and windy gales ahowling
Lessening daily the tribute that war demands be paid.

At dusk the gates swing open, for them, wide.
And in the sunset's glow up harbor they throng.
Not waiting for the weather nor for a rising tide
Opposite berth the skipper lets go the siren's wailing song.

The siren's wailing song that seems to shout:
All day we've sailed with death on every quarter
We're glad we're in, but, come morning let us out
Out again to return or meet the great Commander.

—Graham Kent in Quebec Chronicle.

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