THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1945

Comparison

As against the pitiable spectacle of 6,300 Canadian males failing to report for duty after embarkation leaves, place the decision of the British Parliament for compulsory assignment to foreign posts of members of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. Here, according to the *Ottawa Journal*, is what happened:

The British Government recommended, and Parliament overwhelmingly approved, sending A.T.S. girls overseas because they can relieve men for actual combat service. Army ranks in Britain and abroad, said Sir James Grigg, Secretary for War, "have been combed thoroughly for every available man" for the fighting units; women must do the work these men have been doing at the bases and along the supply routes.

Britain's manpower pool literally is dry—what remains is the thin trickle of boys who reach service age and are promptly absorbed into the defence of their country. Industry has been combed and recombed until there are none left but those on essential tasks. That is the situation in Britain today.

Meanwhile, in Canada we have some thousands of young men skulking in hideaways, dishonoring their uniform and our national pride—many thousands of others in the "Home Defence" army, trained soldiers or partially trained, who refuse to volunteer and who have not yet been put to the test of embarkation leave.

Also in Canada we have a Defence Minister forced out of the Cabinet because, after personal investigation overseas, he urged the need for compulsory military service for men to meet urgent demands for reinforcements.

It is a comparison which does not put our "all-out" war effort in a very good light.

Education In Great Britain

In Britain the new system of free education for every child from kindergarten until the age of 18 or 19 will go into effect on April 1, of this year. Over in Northern Ireland the Government has just issued a White Paper very similar to one previously issued for England and Wales, which aims to bring secondary education and university education within the reach of every child regardless of his or her parents' means, if Parliament approves.

The British system of free education to the age of 19, which includes technical classes and evening schools, is part of the Education Act passed last August. It does not affect the fee basis of the old "public" schoos, in reality private schools. And there is some speculation as to how many parents will seek to move their children from these rather expensive schools to the state schools after April 1.

Britain has become extremely education-minded in the past four years—and of necessity. British leaders appreciate the fact that in this streamlined age of machinery and applied science, a nation must possess adequately trained men and women if it is to hold its place in world trade, production, invention.

One example of this new sense is seen in the action of the London County Council, the largest employers of teachers in Britain, which has just decided to raise teachers' salaries by $8,000,000 annually. The basis of this action is thus stated by the council—"if teachers are given higher salaries, then the community can and will demand more and better service."

Luzon And Blockade

A puzzling feature of Japan's attitude in Luzon is her failure so far to offer a stout defence of what is recognized as her most strategically important holding in the far Western Pacific. The land, sea and air defence of the enemy in that theatre, notes and exchange, is showing signs of deterioration; the central plains of Luzon, and even Manila itself, are being evacuated. Japanese troops are taking to hideouts in the hills and mountains, which suggests that their commanders feel they have a better chance of defending the island with jungle and cave fighters than by standing in open battle against the American armoured column.

The Japanese are believed to be short of fuel on Luzon. Many vehicles have been captured which were burning alcohol instead of gasolene. Bicycles and pushcarts have been commandeered to move material out of Manila; artillery has been observed being drawn by horses through winding passes. Those are not the signs of a foe who is well equipped. Enemy resistance in the air has also been feeble at Luzon, and the Japanese navy has failed to fulfil the promise of Navy Minister Yonati that it would fight to the end in blocking any attempt to invade Luzon.

Once the forces of General MacArthur have made good their capture of Luzon, and got a strong grip on the island, their possession of it should provide an effective blockade of the Japanese homeland by sea and air. Admiral Kinkaid, who directed amphibious operations in the early phases of the invasion, believes that, with Luzon wrested from the foe, the Japanese sea routes from the homeland to her empire of conquest would be strangled and the enemy lose his mastery of the South China Sea. Cut off from Formosa to Singapore, Java and Sumatra, Japan proper would be deprived of oil, rubber, tin and other essential raw materials. She doubtless has succeeded in getting large reserves of these materials to her homeland, but the flow of them is necessary if she is to wage a vigorous war. Her only remaining chance of doing that will be completion of the trunk rail line from China's coastal area, via Indo-China, to Singapore.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

The I. O. D. E. have added to the Island's laurels by putting their Book Campaign over the top—the first in Canada to do so.

* * * *

R. A. F. Bomber Command's record breaking Lancaster, "M2" has been 97 times to Germany, 5 times to Italy and 37 times to other targets. All the trips have been made from the same bomber station and the aircraft has used 193,800 gallons of petrol on operations and flown 969 hours.

* * * *

The Mackenzie King Government, not satisfied with ignoring Queen's County Members, including the Assistant Minister for Air, add to their official iniquity by failing to acknowledge communications from His Worship the Mayor of Charlottetown and the President of the Board of Trade.

* * * *

Huge blocks of concrete constructed on the coast of Southern England in 1940 as anti-invasion defences are being built into a sea wall to protect the coastline against heavy seas. The blocks, which weigh from eight to nine tons each, are being split up with gelingnite and crushed by compressor machines to construct a wall three metres high capable of withstanding the fiercest gales and heaviest seas. The whole project is being carried out by 15 men. In order to complete the wall before th Spring tides in March, workmen and engineers began operating on a beach which had not been fully cleared of land-mines.

* * * *

"Most of the jokes you hear about civil servants actually happen (writes Mr. W. Shelton Smith in BBC) or are made up, in the service. Typing errors are a constant source of joy when they are apt—as they so often are—and they're passed around with great glee. I saw a letter from a high official of the Treasury which said: 'I have given your letter the dullest possible consideration.' What he really said was 'fullest'; and it serves him right he ought to have known better—you can't have anything fuller than full. Another civil servant—a colleague—wanted to thank a member of the public who'd made some quite unpractical suggestion. He set out to write 'Thank you for sending me yet another product of your fertile imagination' but the typist made him say 'another product of your futile imagination'."

* * * *

The 42 Norwegian pastors and bishops who have been living in banishment at Lillehammer have now been transferred, apparently with their families, to Helgoya in Mjosa where the "authorities" believe they can exert better control over the clergymen. Meanwhile the explanation for the establishmnt of the Lillehammer "pastor colony" has become known. Originally pastors banished from their congregations were permitted to select their own place of new residence. As a rule, however, they selected communities from which loyal pastors had previously been banished, and thus the result became little else than an exchange of pastors for the individual parish. To put a stop to this the Nazis began sending all banished pastors to Lillehammer. At present there are 25 pastors interned at Grini concentration camp.

* * * *

Ben Jonson, English dramatist and poet, born this date 1573; originally a brick-layer, he later entered the Army, and served in Flanders; returning to London he married unhappily, so he became an actor-playwright; was tried for killing a fellow-actor; pleaded "benefit of clergy" and so escaped death, but was branded and his property confiscated; his first play, *Every Man In His Humour* was written in 1596 and taken over in 1598 by Shakespeare, who produced it at the Globe Theatre—a bright play abounding in variety of interest; this was followed by numerous others, his masterpiece being *The Alchemist;* his poems are many and varied from graceful lyrics to scurrilous epigrams; his prose is expressive without being ornate; his last years were spent in poverty and disease, though ultimately his body found a last resting place with the great in Westminster Abbey, his tomb bearing the inscription *O Rare Ben Jonson*: "True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends, but in the worth and choice."

* * * *

When rodents replace Mail on a Trans-Ocean plane and ride high with priority and comfort thereby hangs a tale, says the Post Office Circular. Some days ago it was essential for the first time to transfer 430 pounds of surface mail from a T.C.A. trans-ocean plane at an Eastern Airport to a bomber of the R. C. A. F. Transport Command to provide a heated compartment for a consignment of live rats required urgently for scientific purposes Overseas. As it was absolutely necessary that the rats should reach their destination quickly and in good health, and not succumb to the cold en route, heated surroundings were required and could only be found on the T.C.A. plane which was already loaded with mail. That was why 430 pounds of surface mail had to be removed and transferred by mutual agreement to an R. C. A. F. bomber. The mail so transferred consisted of Armed Forces letters which were prepaid at ordinary surface rates, but which were being given air transportation to speed delivery overseas. No delay was caused, as both planes with their loads departed on the same date for Overseas. Doubtless the important shipment of rats may serve to save the lives of our Fighting Men as they were required for use in testing serum.

Notes By The Way

A free and easy discussion around the supper table of news and current events is admirable education for young and old.—Farmer's Advocate.

Mistake-of-the-month: There's an ad on the back cover of the new Chicago telephone directory showing a woman telephoning. What you may not have noticed—and what dozens of proofreaders, printers and executives apparently didn't notice either—is that the woman is holding the mouthpiece of the 'phone to her ear, and talking into the receiver—a good trick if you can do it.—Chicago Sun.

By the time the First Great War was over, as Mr. Churchill himself wrote, "Torture and Cannibalism were the only two expedients that the civilized, scientific, Christian States had been able to deny themselves—and these were of doubtful utility." In this war the Germans have reduced the exceptions to one. Torture they have employed wholesale as a deliberate policy; and they would even resort to cannibalism if they figured its utility to be less doubtful in this war than in the last.—Halifax Herald.

This tipping business has long been a nuisance and one that should not be tolerated. It is a degrading thing to the servant and a source of irritation and discomfort to the giver. Employees would much prefer to have a decent wage upon which they could live without the necessity of fussing around for the welcome gratuity, and the average tipper is often in a quandary lest he tip too little and be thought mean, with the result that he often gives more than he need. The tipping habit is much less prevalent in this country than abroad, but it is universal to a large extent, and is so much woven into the fabric of service that it would be impossible to eradicate it altogether. —Chatham (Ont.) News.

Ten co-operative buildings have been completely destroyed and 700 shops damaged (many of them on several occasions) during the flying bomb attacks on London. Out of the South Suburban Society's total of 145 shops 140 were damaged; 250 shops of the Royal Arsenal Society suffered to a greater or lesser extent from blast: Enfield Society lost its central premises and 10 branches; the other societies in the Metropolitan area also had a large number of shops and branches damaged. London society had 222 shops put out of action and its educational centre damaged. The decision to postpone the magnificently planned Centennary Pageant in London was taken after 200 of the Pageant costumes had been destroyed.—I.C.A. News.

It is well that we should remember the limitations of U. S. power when we dispute the proposed territorial settlements in Europe with the British and the Russians. Americans, who lived so long isolated among the splendid resources of their empty continent have something of a spoiled-child complex in regard to having their own way. In fact, however, we cannot by force compel the British or the Russians to take our advice. Nations have only two courses of conduct open to them; they must either accept one another or go to war. If we went to war with Russia we should have to fight on her soil, and should almost certainly be defeated. As for war between the United States and Great Britain, it is doubtful whether any casus belli would persuade the people of either country to fight. Certainly they would not do so over the boundaries of Poland or Germany.—The New Republic.

Why London restaurants print their menus in French has mystified some of our most recent French visitors—particularly when not all waiters, and new waitresses, understand the language, says The Brandon Sun. The other day M. Pierre Cot, former Air Minister of France, was lunching at a London restaurant. He choose to begin his lunch with "oeuf froid," and for the benefit of the waitress, translated it, asking for "cold egg." "Sorry, no cold eggs," said the waitress. "It's hot eggs on the menu." M. Cot, who speaks good English, though rather slowly, broke into Voluble French, finishing up by reiterating in English that "oeuf froid" could mean only cold egg. The waitress listened patiently, then said: "I can't help that, sir. It's hot egg—I know, because I've seen it." M. Cot decided on soup.

The world is full of great issues, but there still is room for a word about illegible signatures on letters. Many business letters nowadays have the name of the writer typed below his signature, and that permits him to indulge in the wildest flights of penmanship. Handwritten letters are something else, and The Journal gets letters with signatures which would stump an expert on heiroglyphics. — Ottawa Journal.

A Japanese broadcaster says military scientists have developed a bomber triple the size of the B-29 to control pilotless flying bombs and boats; a ray that could blow up Washington in a flash and a chemical which can be spread in the air to cripple Allied bombers. Somewhere along the line, it appears, a Nip propagandist indulging in a little too much saki must have come across one of those "comic" books the troops like, believing in an official paper.—Montreal Star.

The extent to which the horse has come back into transportational use as a result of the severe Winter is indicated by an editorial in The Orillia Packet and Times, which points out that while every church and hotel once had its shed for horses, the present emergency finds Orillia without any shelter for them. So "the council's budget may well include an item for horse sheds on the market square." Hitching posts on the streets as well? —Toronto Daily Star.

This year seems likely to be an active one for the Alberta oil industry. According to the Alberta Petroleum Association, at least 125 wells are planned, and there may be as many as 175. This is far in excess of the figure in any previous year. It reflects the increasing urgency of Canada's demands for oil, both for her war machine and for civilian industry. With Turner Valley production declining, and with foreign sources hard pressed, the opening of new fields is becoming more and more necessary. —Calgary Albertan.

Family Allowances

III

HOW WILL THE PLAN WORK?

Registration—

1. Q. Why did the Government start registration in Prince Edward Island?

A. Never in Canada, nor in any other country have we had anything exactly like the administrative problems involved under the Family Allowances Act. For this reason it was thought desirable to learn by experience as much as possible and the best way to do this was to start registration and other precedures in one province. Prince Edward Island was chosen because it was the smallest. Here it will be necessary to register 10,000 families with about 30,000 children. It is hoped that the experience gained here will provide a valuable background of experiences for the considerable job of registering the three and a half million children in Canada between now and the first of July.

2. Q. Where can one obtain registration or application forms?

A. Forms will be delivered through the Post Office to every household in which children under 16 are known to be living. Further supplies of forms, for anyone who may be missed, can be obtained at any post office.

3. Q. Are birth certificates required with the application?

A. No, not unless specially requested. Through the cooperation of the provinces, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is obtaining the record of all birth in each province. The birth noted on the registration forms will be checked against this record. In some cases a further inquiry may have to be made to the parent or other applicant.

4. Q. Should Indians register?

A. In some cases this will be done for them by the Indian Agent, but in Prince Edward Island Indians should register and will be paid like anyone else.

5. Q. If there are any people who cannot write, what should be done in their case,

A. The registration form should be completed for them and they should sign with a mark in the presence of two witnesses.

6. Q. Are forms in the French language available if desired?

A. Yes, they can be obtained at any Post Office or from the Director of Family Allowances, Charlottetown.

7. Q. What about children born after the initial registration?

A. First of all their birth should be immediately registered with the Provincial Vital Statistics authorities in the usual way. If the child in question has been born into a family where there are other children under 16, in respect of whom an application form has already been filed, all that is necessary is to send a letter to the Director of Family Allowances, Charlottetown, notifying him of the details of the birth and requesting a Supplementary Family Allowances Registration form.

If the child is the first born in the family, and no previous Family Allowances Application form has been filed, this form should be obtained from the nearest local Post Office, and, when completed, mailed to the Director of Family Allowances, Charlottetown.

8. Q. Are birth certificates required in these cases?

A. No. We will check those registering against the actual records of birth in the vital statistics office in Charlottetown.

9. Q. Do deaths have to be reported?

A. Yes. In addition to the registration of deaths of children with the Provincial Vital Statistics authorities, immediate notification should be given to the Director of Family Allowances, Charlottetown.

Method of Payment —

10. Q. How and when will payment be made?

A. Payment will be made by cheque each month from the Dominion Treasury. The first of these will be issued, we expect, around the 20th of July.

11. Q. To whom will the cheques be payable?

A. It is expected that in Prince Edward Island the payment will be made in most cases to the mother.

12. Q. Will there be one cheque for each child or one cheque for the entire family?

A. There will be one cheque for the entire family.

13. Q. What happens when a cheque is not received?

A. Immediate notification should be given to the Director of Family Allowances, Charlottetown.

Special Groups—

14. Q. Will a family allowance be paid for a child above the age of 6 who is not attending school or receiving equivalent training?

A. No, unless he is physically unable to attend school.

15. Q. Will family allowances be paid to any person whose children are not mainly dependent on him for support?

A. No.

16. Q. Are adopted children covered?

A. Yes. Adopted children are covered just like other children. In fact there does not need to be any legal adoption, just qualification as to whether or not the parent or other relative or person is actually maintaining the child.

17. Q. Are allowances to be paid in respect of children in institutions?

A. No. Allowances are not to be paid to institutions because the purpose of the Act is to help parents provide properly for the health and welfare of their children, not to relieve institutions of their responsibilities. Where, however, a parent is maintaining a child in an institution the parents will be paid the allowance in respect of the child because the parents is actually maintaining the child.

18. Q. Do people receiving mothers' allowances, dependents' allowances, war pensions, merchant marine allowances, rehabilitation grants, unemployment insurance, and workmen's compensation, receive family allowances as well?

A. Yes. Family allowances are paid as a right to all families in Canada. Of course the decision as to whether or not there will be any deduction in the amount of the mothers' allowance being paid in such cases is a matter to be determined by the provinces which pay mothers' allowances.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Important Message to Parents

On or about July 1, 1945, the Dominion Government at Ottawa will start making payments under the new Family Allowance Act. If births of any of your children have not been registered in the Vital Statistics Office, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO SO IMMEDIATELY, OTHERWISE PAYMENTS TO YOU MAY BE DELAYED.

ACT NOW!

Don't wait another day. It is in your own interests to look into this matter AT ONCE! If you are not sure whether births have been registered, simply write to Department of Health and Public Welfare, Division of Vital Statistics, Charlottetown. Give name, date and place of birth of each child, also names of parents. Fee for this necessary service is 50c per search per child. Please remit with requests.

Department of Health and Public Welfare

HON. WILLIAM HUGHES, Minister

Residence Qualifications —

19. Q. Can children living elsewhere move to Canada and receive the allowance immediately?

A. No. They must have lived in Canada for at least three years before they can receive the allowance except for the children of service men or women and the children of Canadians temporarily out of Canada.

20. Q. Do the children of a Canadian service man or woman overseas get an allowance upon their return to Canada?

A. Yes. Children of any Canadian man or woman serving overseas get an allowance immediately upon their taking up residence in Canada. No allowance will be paid except in Canada to a resident of Canada.

Misuse of Allowance —

21. Q. What is going to be done about the small percentage who misuse the allowance?

A. If the money is wrongfully used, the matter will be reported to the Director of Family Allowances in P.E.I. and, if on investigation it is established as desirable, payment will be paid to someone who will handle the money for the benefit of the child.

22. Q. How will the government get to know about these cases?

A. The Federal Government hopes to co-operate with provinces, municipalities, churches, and community and welfare organizations in order to see that these cases are reported.

Right of Appeal —

23. Q. If any person feels that there has been any injustice done him regarding his right to receive the allowance, the amount of the allowance, or any other matter arising under the Act, what can he do?

A. He can appeal to a tribunal which will be set up for this purpose.

24. Q. What kind of tribunal will this be?

A. This will be a committee of men and women having experience in social welfare questions and the other qualifications of character and experience to make them good people to decide such questions fairly and without red tape.

The beneficial effect of family allowances upon the nation will be increasingly great as the years go by. Children reared in an atmosphere of health and security will become active, productive members of society. Family allowances will help reduce sickness, disease, crime, illiteracy, inefficiency, and other social ills that have their roots in child upbringing. They will also reduce the cost of these social evils to government treasuries and to society as a whole. They will steady the peacetime flow of spending, production and employment. In the long run they will actually cost less, in terms of human life and money.

Family allowances are the simplest, fairest, cheapest and most effective way in which we can ensure a greater measure of well-being to the Canadian citizens of the future.

The Poets' Corner

JANUARY RAIN

Rain, on the granite of a city day,
Falls like a sorrow; like an old regret.
But beauty walks the hills of showery gray,
And leaves a glow in forests newly wet.
The chariot clouds that ride the peak, and drift
In streamered grandeur down the deluged pass;
The thunder-foaming torrent, race-horse-swift,
The valley great with flood in one wild mass,
All chant with exultation; while the trees,
Ghost-giants ranged amid a twilight hall
Of ever-changeful floating tapestries,
Seem bowed in worship to the source of all,
And, from the houseless canyon, wood and plain,
Welcome one guest, the dear life-giving rain.

—Stanton A. Coblentz, in The New York Times.

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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.

THE POET'S INSPIRATION

Sir,—The attention of the writer was directed to a letter in The Guardian of the 19th instant signed "Mrs. Reader", in which reference was made to Poetry and to her appreciation thereof.

Here the writer would like to express the immutibality of what a poet feels in writing; whether it be the simplicity of a blade of grass, or the glory of a star within the Heavens; whether of things in a plasmic state or that of the highest perfection; though the mode of expression and the metric form may be varied according to the subject matter the depth of feeling is far greater than even that which may be expressed in words.

For "Mrs. Reader" this is written, and to her is dedicated the following poem in appreciation:

I am, Sir, etc.,
"John Of The Lilacs".

"WHY A POET WRITES"

"Swords may fight the battle, tho' a pen signs the peace."

A poet writes to ease his mind:
To eulogize some deed:
To brighten up a saddened heart,
Defend in strength a creed.

To paint a picture fast—in words—
Before the glories fade
Whilst all the momentary charm
Before him is portrayed

To speak of loveliness so great—
Within a garden wall;
To glorify the King of Kings.
Omnipotent o'er all.

To visualize within a flower—
The petal'd beauty shown:
Of wonders there awakening,
To fellowmen make known

To laud the heroes of the fight,
Immortalize the brave:
To closer knit in brotherhood—
The ties—that "Empire gave."

To speed, straight as the arrow flies—
A thought—someone to find:
That with the brightness of a star
Will live within the mind.

To plant a seed in fertile soil,
Which through the years will grow
To be a tree—so glorious:
And wondrous beauty show.

Within poetic art it seems
The soul's expression lies:
With that great light which never dims
To shine within the skies.

From those great mansions there on High,
Where knowledge vast is stored.
A Heavenly Hand guides on the pen:
"'Tis mightier than the sword."

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