THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1944

Dr. Weir's Findings

An interesting report on the post-war inclinations of many Canadians now in uniform has been prepared by Dr. G. M. Weir, acting director of training in the Federal Department of Pensions. An outline of the report appeared in The Guardian recently. Its contents are based on the wishes expressed by men and women of the services, and also on the judgment of representative Canadian business men as to what, in their opinion, conditions may be in Canada during the period of transition. These business leaders are quite hopeful and believe that full employment in this country should be feasible and attainable.

Dr. Weir's findings indicate that there may be from one million to a million and a half persevering jobs available after the transition from war to peace has been largely completed. Opportunity in professional vocations are expected to be increased by 50,000, particularly in medicine and dentistry. A preponderance of young women in uniform show a preference for stenography and office work, with homemaking ranking a close second, which suggests marriage. Many students in training centres of the Royal Canadian Air Force lean toward electrical engineering and radio work; the preferences of numerous men in the Royal Canadian Navy follow a similar bent. A majority of 9,435 soldiers who were questioned desire to have trade training, a substantial number are eager to improve their educations, and 21 per cent ask for both types of training. Those in the armed forces who would like to take university courses are expected to range from 30,000 to 40,000.

Between 100,000 and 130,000 service men wish to avail themselves of the Veterans' Land Act, which reflects a wide-spread love of the soil among a fairly large percentage now serving their country. Others are disposed to remain with the armed forces; it is estimated that the permanent post-war needs of the army, navy and air force, and also including the munition and equipment workers to maintain those services, will call for 135,000 persons. That number appears to be conservative, if anything.

Empire Conference Delayed

A London despatch says that the proposed conference of Empire Prime Ministers in London may not be held until June. That is understandable, says the Ottawa Journal. Prime Minister King, who undoubtedly will be a key figure at the conference, will be busy with Parliament until then, and South Africa's Marshal Smuts and Australia's Prime Minister Curtin have home things on their hands, too. Also, it is a mistake to imagine that a conference of Empire Prime Ministers can be called together in a casual sort of way.

An Imperial Conference, which is what this coming gathering will be, doesn't merely mean that the Empire Prime Ministers sit down in a room at the Foreign Office and talk things over informally. An agenda has to be prepared, and the Prime Minister briefed on its topics by an expert secretariat, and an endless number of things with all sorts of complications studied with care. It is a question, the Empire's problems being what they are, of making haste slowly.

No Time For Complacency

Defense Minister Ralston, notes the Globe and Mail, recently sought to dilute the optimism of the House of Commons by underlining the realities on which victory must be calculated. He pointed out that Germany still dominates the potentially great powerhouse of Europe; that she has been able, with the resources won, to absorb terrific punishment. Last year, while suffering defeat after defeat on the Russian front and in North Africa, she was able to replace her losses and do better. In that year she raised more than 60 new divisions, he said, which lacked nothing in the way of equipment; indeed, which have been armed with new and improved equipment, equal to and in some cases better than that of the Allies.

Those are facts which, presumably, the Allies have learned the hard way. In his report to the British House of Commons recently, Prime Minister Churchill added to them. He took full credit for the gains the Allies have won. He measured the effect of those gains on the enemy in manpower and resources. Germany is fighting entirely on the defensive. Certainly she is on the defensive in the air; but, as Mr. Churchill carefully pointed out, she has taken that "defensive according to plan", and much of the effort of Allied bombers today is aimed at interrupting and destroying the plan.

As the fighting progresses there are many things in her favor. On the west she is strongly emplaced behind massive defenses. Of the east the Prime Minister said: "It must be borne in mind...that as the German troops retreat westward they will find many opportunities of narrowing their fronts, and if they choose to cut their losses in the Balkans or in the Italian Peninsula at any time, a considerable number of divisions can be made available for the purpose of strengthening their central reserve." That they have not yet moved to cut their losses is further evidence of their power of absorption.

Calmly appraised, the cold facts of what lies ahead must be calmly accepted. We must readjust our mental sights; we must get back to concentrating on the war that has still to be fought. We must realize the urgency of doing everything and anything which possibly can reduce the cost of the battles which lie ahead. To do so does not require abandoing postwar planning, neglecting the important problems at home. It is important that there be postwar plans, that we approach the reconstruction period prepared to act constructively along co-ordinated lines. But it is most important that we keep a balance, and that we do not allow these secondary problems to bsess us to the exclusion of all else.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

St. David's or Dewi's Day. He is Wales' patron saint, lived in 6th century, and was cannonized in the 12th century.

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No more linen sheeting or table cloths are made in Britain. The manufacture of quilts and bed spreads has been cut to a minimum and no more table cloths at all are produced.

* * * *

A total of 4,618 disability pensions worth $1,700,334 annually have been awarded to members of the Canadian armed forces for service outside Canada during the present war and 1,556 pensions worth $604,580 for service in Canada.

* * * *

Isaac Todhunter, English mathematician, died this date 1884; was senior wrangler at Cambridge in 1848 and admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1862; was compiler of the standard Euclid now in use, and the author of many treatises on mathematical subjects.

* * * *

Cost of the new hospital planned by the Pensions Department in place of the Christie St. Hospital, Toronto, for construction at Sunnybrook Farm, Toronto, is estimated at $5,000,000, the Department said. A health and occupational centre to be built in conjunction with the hospital is estimated to cost $1,000,000.

* * * *

"I saw the article in the Daily Mail re the healthfulness of the Island. There is nothing extraordinary in that. It is just a straight case of happiness and contentment, radiated in old age. These are not things material, but something in the hearts of the people themselves." So writes a Charlottetown officer on active service overseas.

* * * *

Wish our City Council had some of the civic pride reported in yesterday's issue in the bulletin by Mel Most, Associated Press Staff writer, until recently interned at Baden-Baden, Germany: "The German policy is to sacrifice almost anything to maintain an individual feeling of superiority. Despite the terrific shortage in manpower, for example, the Germans will see his pavements clean, his parks swept."

* * * *

Disgraceful is a mild word to use regarding the condition of the city footpathes, drains and crossings. They have been left practically unattended by the City Council whose primary duty it is to look after them. Yesterday pedestrians in many instances had to wade ankle-deep to their work, although those in the happy position of having cars could drive over the hard surface of the streets. The City Council is reaching a stage when a city manager will become a necessity.

* * * *

"A British soldier, a German prisoner since 1940, followed Red Cross correspondence courses in law, wrote his examinations and has been received as a lawyer—while confined to a German prison camp. Only the activities of the Red Cross, particularly through its prisoner-of-war parcels, are keeping Allied prisoners of war alive in Germany, boosting their morale by providing medical equipment and means of self-education, the Red Cross being about the only thing the German has respect for."

* * * *

D.D.T., the nickname of a new insecticide which will probably become a household commodity after the war, was described for its effectiveness on the war fronts and in insect-infested swamps by experts of the National and of the Canadian Pest Control association at the final meeting in Montreal. The composition of this insecticide is not likely to be divulged until the war is over but its destructive power was described as potent. The association has reports of the effectiveness of the new gas from the armed forces who report mosquitoes were killed for two or three miles in swamps. Experiments with D.D.T. showed that traces of it in a room or on an invisible film on a window, will kill six months after it has been there, an expert said.

* * * *

Teaching a calf to drink from a bucket is a polemic process, says the crudite New York Times. The laws of learning must be recognized; he who is scornful of the psychological principles involved will rue his dogmatic attitude. Experience leads one to conclude that the tenets of the behavioristic school of psychology fit the situation more nicely than the assumptions of the eclectic school. Basically, there are two possible approaches to the problem. In the first, one gets the juvenile bovine between his legs. Choose the centre of the pen to facilitate movement. This is mobile warfare and space is of the essence. Place the bucket of warm skim milk on the floor, dip two fingers in it, insert the fingers in the youngster's mouth, and try to force its head down to the milk. The calf will attempt both flanking and frontal movements. The problem is one of logistics. Whatever happens, the bucket of milk must be kept upright and close to the scene of action. The second plan has less mobility; but in a decisive conflict the issue may, perhaps, be happily consummated in accordance with old-fashioned rules. Back the calf into a corner, straddle it and force its head downward to the milk, keeping a finger in the calf's mouth. The theory is that with the stern end anchored the bow is more readily controlled. Both plans operate on the basic assumption that as soon as junior or junior miss tastes the warm milk, instinct will assert its powerful force and the juvenile delinquent will begin taking the milk. In a day or so the human finger is retired from action. The countryman says he has tried both methods and each results in unpredictable actions before the laws of learning are established.

Notes By The Way

Sir William Burrell, 82-year-old trustee of the National Gallery of Scotland, has offered his art treasures, valued at $4,500,000, as a gift to the city of Glasgow. Sir William was for many years a member of a Glasgow shipping firm.—Fredericton Gleaner.

Then there is that Pennsylvania family of 11 members who live over a coal bed which has been burning for years A sort of eastern version of that western favourite, Home on the Range. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The chairman of the British Overseas Airways predicts that jet-propelled 'planes will be available after the war. Petneys! —Guelph Mercury.

A used tube is no longer necessary when purchasing tooth paste and shaving cream. By such little easements will the path back to normal living be retraced. —Hamilton.

From the proteins in blood plasma scientists have succeeded in making plastics, films and foams for clinical use, as well as the more familiar immune globulin for measles prophylaxis and isohemagglutinins in blood typing Dr. Edwin J. Cohn of Harvard Medical School reported to the New York section of the American Chemical Society in New York, according to Science Service. The plastics are made from fibrinogen, the substance in blood upon which the physical properties of the blood clot largely depend. In connection with thrombin this can be made into fibrin films used as membranes, and into the fibrin foams used to check bleeding in surgery on the nervous system. Albumin from blood, also available now as a stable, dry, white powder, is put in twenty-five percent water solution in the 100 cubic centimeter army-navy package and used for treatment of shock. This approximately three-ounce solution is equivalent to a pint of blood plasma —Exchange

The common cold is one of man's most bothersome ailments and one which may lead to serious complications if not properly treated. One disease closely related to the common cold is pneumonia. It is one of the most prevalent and fatal diseases. It ranked seventh among the leading causes of death in Canada a year or two ago. Pneumonia is peculiar to no climate but shows a distinct tendency to seasonal prevalance. It is most frequent in Canada and the United States during the winter and early spring months. Neither is pneumonia a respecter of ages, as it attacks young and old, with equal severity but the incidence is more marked at the extremes of life. Overcrowding in barracks and industrial plants, etc. is said to develop a susceptibility to an excessive prevalence of pneumonia, especially when a specific type of infection is present —Kitchener Record.

Now we understand the reason for the mild weather. American airmen have shot most of the zeros out of the air. — Midland Free Press Herald.

What has Mussolini to show for all his years of effort? asks a contemporary writer Well, he has a niche in the Hall of Shame. — Peterborough Examiner.

It has been reported in a Montreal despatch that "Canadian soldiers were disappointed last August when they landed on Kiska and found that the Japs had already moved out of the Aleutian Islands. And there it is again — the ridiculous suggestion that Canadians in this war are always "disappointed" when they move in and find that the enemy has fled Why under the sun do immature press writers attempt to "put that over" on a sensible Canadian public? No man in the field, at sea, or in the air is "disappointed" because his enemy runs away He leaves that idea with imaginative correspondents and perhaps a percentage of the folks back home It doesn't help the Canadian reputation a bit to have such absurd yarns spread out before the eyes of the world.—Halifax Herald

A chaplain back from the front says that America needs a few good bombings to stimulate morale. Maybe so, but one cannot help feeling that all the millions of Axis bombs that have not dropped on the United States are more important in winning the war. —Washington Star.

"Vengeance Committees" are being formed in occupied Belgium Eventually there will be vegeance committee delegates in every street, every district and every village, who will meet in secret to draw up lists of traitors These black lists will be handed to the Belgian judicial authorities as soon as the country is liberated. When Allied troops land, the patriots intend to arrest any traitors who try to escape to Germany. —Montreal Star.

The office of war information reports that the United States has lost four times as many workhours from industrial accidents as from wartime strikes; that industrial accidents have killed five thousand more people since Pearl Harbor than the guns of the enemy, and that 60 times as many people have been injured by such accidents as have been wounded in battle or reported missing in action —Edmonton Bulletin.

Mayor LaGuardia is strong for home environment and as firm as any wise Chinese patriarch in his insistence on parental authority and respect for elders He makes another plea for better manners —a plea which, though it may seem strange coming from him, is, we suspect, largely the crux of the whole matter He sees no reason why children should be above learning the intricacies of cooking, housework and washing dishes. He goes even further and makes the suggestion, so shocking to many of the moderns, that a spanking (sometimes known in these days of bogus terminology as "manuel guidance") is often precisely the medicine required — New York Herald Tribune

MECHANIZED PEGASUS

A small airborne motorcycle, about the size of child's tricycle, is being produced for use by British parachute troops.

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.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sir,—The opinion expressed by members of the Government who have referred to Rural Electrification seems to favor developing our own water power. As one considers the matter fully, the only problem that is likely to prevent anything being done is that of financing. Individual farmers, here and there, can easily install their own system, which for them would be quite satisfactory; but that does not benefit a dozen or more of his neighbors who cannot afford his own plant. I think it is agreed that the Government have to put up the lines and loan the money needed to wire the homes and purchase generators, motors and equipment. The Dominion Government, have a right to advance the money needed, as it will be spent in Central Canada, from where this equipment comes.

I am going to suggest that this district of Graham's Road be used to prove the wisdom of using local water power for generating electricity, as we have two dams, ideal power sites, with a good stream flowing idly through, capable of developing fifty horse-power or more, which would provide for great extention to the lines which should be erected throughout New London and the North Shore and carried through Stanley Bridge to the National Park As more power is needed, the heavier streams of Granville, Mill Vale and Hope River, where hundreds of horse-power of potential energy are continually wasted—can be used to generate the power required for all time to come.

A generation ago, the Dominion Government, recognizing the disadvantages suffered by this great section of the Island, proceeded to give them a railway. Due to some accident, this promised servant of the people was still-born. These natural disadvantages have never been overcome; and compensation for this disappointment and loss can at least be made by putting up power lines at a small fraction of the cost of a railway, and providing a greater service

Lest there should be a feeling that the cost of rural electrification will be too great, let me point out a few facts that might help to a just decision: The farmers of this New London Bay territory alone, have perhaps half a million dollars tied up in farm machinery imported from Central Canada Machines that are used on an average three days in the whole year. They have spent in Central Canada, a like amount for cars. They have perhaps half a million dollars of insurance policies, the premiums on which are not used at all to develop the country from which they are collected.

These statements are very conservative, and many more such claims can justly be made. What then, does the profitable investment at a few thousand dollars amount to from our Dominion Government, compared to the staggering burden of public and private expenditures borne by the once prosperous and now impoverished farmers of Prince Edward Island

If a good man is wanted to head a survey, and report to the Government, preparatory to undertaking any work, you have one of the smartest young men of the Province right there in Charlottetown, recently returned from overseas disabled for further military service, who I am sure would be glad to assist in getting under way this greatest project for post-war reconstruction.

I am, Sir, etc

HUGH CAMPBELL.

A Pagan Shrine

(Halifax Chronicle

It may bring a glow of thankfulness still to the hearts of some to know that, amid the fires of war which have destroyed so many relics of the cultured past, what is perhaps the most revered memorial of the pagan age still remains intact. This is the tomb of the Roman poet Virgil.

The master writer of Imperial Rome was buried at Naples, on the road to Puteoli, in 19 B. C. and his tomb, in the Middle Ages, was venerated almost as though Virgil had been a Christian saint, permitted by God to live before his time. The Fouth Eclogue of this poet, indeed, for centuries was believed by many to be a prophecy of the coming of Christ.

Nothing secular can give humanity more comfort these days than the contemplation of the permanent values that have been caught and preserved by the classic poets of the world. So Tennyson, perhaps, though when he wrote:

"Thou that seest Universal Nature moved by the Universal Mind;
Thou majestic in thy sadness at the doubtful doom of human kind;
Now thy Forum roars no longer, fallen every Caesar's gilded dome—
Thou—thine ocean-roll of rhythm sound forever of Imperial Rome."

GLEN WILLIAM SCHOOL

Following is the report of Glen William School for the month of January:

Grade X: 1. Mary Collins; 2. Mary Matheson; 3. Catherine MacPherson.

Grade IX: 1. Gordon MacDonald.

Grade VIII: 1. Jeanette Buchanan: 2. Elizabeth MacDonald.

Grade VII: 1. Barbara Matheson; 2. Victor Buchanan; 3. Sara MacInnis.

Grade V: 1. Lloyd MacInnis.

Grade IV: 1. Vincent Buchanan.

Grade III Sr.: 1. John M. MacInnis.

Grade III Jr.: 1. Randolph Buchanan.

Grade II, Sr.: 1. Charles Murchison.

Grade II, Jr.: 1. Margaret MacInnis; 2. Stuart MacDonald.

Grade I: 1. Donnie Eva.

Perfect attendance: Victor Buchanan. Vincent Buchanan and Charles Murchison.

Annie M. MacLeod, teacher.

FIRST TENNIS COURT

The oldest tennis court in England was built for Henry VIII at Hampton Court palace in 1530.

Lenten Meditations from The London Times

IN THE BEGINNING

Once again, the story of creation has been heard, with its great climax assuring man of the excellence of the Creator's work; "and God saw everything that he had made and benold, it was very good." Thus, at the very beginning of the Bible, there is good news. It has not been an easy thing to confess wholeheartedly that God is the Creator and that his creation is good; the history of religious and philosophical thought shows that quite clearly. Those who pursue that history will often find doubts or denials of God's full responsibility for creation, with depreciation of the value and goodness of the created world. Against all such tendencies, against the pessimism which, at its hirtnest extent, deplores the world's existence the faith of the Bible, and of the Christian creed which looks to the Bible, stand absolutely firm. The world is God's world, for he made it; to him it owes its whole existence; what it does not owe to him is the evil which has penetrated deeply into it, but not so as to destroy its essential goodness. The true vision of the world is that which is never concentrated on the evil which is in it to the point of losing sight of this deeper goodness.

From this Gospel of God the Creator, the believer may, in two ways, find at this time renewed strength and confidence. First, he has as an anchor of the soul the assurance that the evil forces which always and everywhere make for destruction are at war with something infinitely mightier than themselves. The creative purposes of God were not complete in one act of the past even though it be that great act, described in the magnificent poetry of the Book of Job as the laying of the foundations of the earth, "when the morning stars sang together, and all the Sons of God shouted for joy." There is, indeed, in God the power of destruction as well as of creation, but it is directed against evil, against that which does not belong to his original creation. It is in creation, the creation which has not ceased—"my Father worketh hitherto"—that the true and eternal nature of God is reveaed. For creation is the outflow of the love of God, and in that invincible love it is secure.

Seconaly, the good news about God as the Creator may be the inspiration of the creative activities of man. For man too has the power, according to the measure of his own nature, to create. Because he is man not God, what he creates is not perfect, without fault or flaw: nevertheless, it is in the exercise of this power that he rises to his highest. If ever he is inclined to be doubtful of the final value of his best creative labours, his may be the reassurance that whatever in human life corresponds at all with the pattern revealed in the making of the heaven and the earth cannot be in vain.

The Poet's Corner

REVERIE ON A DOG

How did it happen too, that in default
Of words you had a language all your own
With many modulations, many a tone?
How much of tameless fury for assault
Was held in the potential of your growl
Awakened by a distant timber howl?
Your notes ran the full gamut from a roar
That fell below the leonine
Down to the soft insistence of a whine
That begged admittance at the kitchen door.
And, in between, varieties of bark
Expressive of annoyance or delight.
With those domestic gutturals that mark
A mutual recognition and a fight.

—E. J. Pratt.

ANCIENT GAME

A game similar to checkers was played by the Egyptians as early as 1600 B. C.

"WORN OUT" AND WORRIED

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BOMB WAS NOT FUSED

A NORTHEAST TOWN, England —(CP)— A man here was knocked off his bicycle into a ditch by a 4,000-pound R. A. F. blockbuster and lived. The bomb rolled off a lorry and he heaved a sigh of relief whom he learned the bombs are quite safe until they are fused.

FIGHT BINDING