

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1941.
Churchill At Washington

The tremendous ovation tendered Prime Minister Churchill in the United States Senate yesterday was a signal tribute to a great statesman and orator. But it was more than that. It marked a new chapter in Anglo-American relations, symbolic of the unity of the English-speaking nations in their war aims and strategy.

As did His Majesty King George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast, Mr. Churchill ended on a note of confidence in Divine guidance in this great crisis in human history.

What Of Canada?
What, asks The Legionary, has been the reaction of the Canadian people on the rude awakening they, in common with their southern neighbours, experienced on December 7?

We wish it were possible to record that, in full realization of the vastly increased, encompassing danger, this Dominion had risen as one man and, throwing aside every vestige of apathy and complacency, demanded of its Government the total mobilization of Canada's great reserves in manpower and all other resources necessary for the waging of Total War.

But nothing of the kind happened. True, Canada with commendable alacrity declared war on Japan; but so did Costa Rica, San Salvador and Nicaragua. What the majority of Canadians wanted to hear, what all the old fighting men of the First Canadian Corps wanted to hear when the Prime Minister made his announcement, was what the Government intended to do about it; how Canada was going to implement her declaration of war against Japan.

The Trend Of Retail Sales
Retail sales in both Canada and the United States, reports the Bank of Nova Scotia, have increased sharply since the beginning of the war: for the first ten months of this year the Canadian index has averaged 30% above the like period of 1939 while the American index has shown an increase of 27% for the same period.

While Canada will always be able to count upon the protection of the American navy in the Pacific, this country must look to her own army and air force, and even to units of her own navy, to stiffen coast defences. It is a joint defence project, but Canada will have to contribute a larger share of the human resources of human defence than previously. For these reasons the government is persuaded that an intensive application of the selective system is absolutely imperative, to get more men into the army for defence needs, more men and women into the munitions plants, more men for the farms. Through the operation of that system all men and women between certain ages will be called. They will appear before boards, and they will have their class of service designated, after a study of the work for which each is best fitted. Such a plan, if applied with energy and wisdom, will ensure every part of the nation's war effort, the most effective service.

While the increase in value of retail sales is in no small degree attributable to higher prices, there is no doubt, says the Bank report, that the actual volume of sales has increased substantially. The U. S. Department of Commerce has estimated that when the necessary allowances are made for price changes, retail sales in 1941 will reach a new record volume, roughly 10% above the 1940 level. A similar figure appears to be in order in Canada, according to the Bureau of Statistics' figures.

The largest increases, particularly during the period from June to August when retail sales reached their current peak, occurred in sales of durable goods (including furniture, hardware and electrical appliances) and in clothing. Similarly these same groups are largely responsible for the declines in the indices since August. Since priorities and controls are increasingly restricting civilian output of these durable goods, it may be expected that their sales will be similarly restricted in the future. The very sharp decline in American retail sales since August should not be regarded too seriously, as it represents to a considerable degree merely the failure of certain groups to rise seasonally from their extremely high August level—and seasonal corrections lose high August level—and seasonal corrections lose a good deal of their significance during wartime.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. John's Day.
Tomorrow post-Christmas Sunday when the Christmas music and Christmas-tide sermons will be the order of the day.

It is all over, except the bill-paying, the regrets, and above all, the fine feeling which generosity, sympathy, friendship and love leave behind.

The festival dinners at "The Charlottetown" are now features of our community life, where, as at Christmas and the New Year, friend greets friend over the festive board.

A long list of Canadians "doing their bit" in Hong Kong falls to be recorded; added to these soon will be another long list of reinforcements sent to the seat of war in the Pacific.

Bethlehem, (Pa), and Santa Claus, (Ind.) are having a dispute as to which should be termed "The Christmas City." The former was founded by Moravians in 1741, and has always been proud of its association with the Christmas spirit; but the latter, though only designated within the last 20 years, has the advantage of having thousands of letters sent there each year to have them date stamped.

A Newfoundland war revenue tax of 7 1/2 per cent ad valorem imposed a year ago on nearly all goods imported from non-sterling countries, including Canada, has been removed as from November 30, 1941, on various raw fruits and vegetables, including apples, pears, plums, currants, cherries, strawberries, pumpkins, beets, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, onions, potatoes, and turnips. Prunes, figs and fig cake, milk and cream preserved, sterilized or condensed, milk powders, and coal have also been exempted from this tax.

Due to increased import and export traffic in rubber and tin, the trade of British Malaya, now facing attack by the Japanese, was 37 per cent higher in value during the first six months of this year than in the like period of 1940. Its aggregate value was 1,022,507,000 Straits dollars, which is equivalent to \$530,816,000 in Canadian currency. Exports were valued at \$585,291,000, which is \$23,001,000 higher than during the similar period of 1940 and 3.3 per cent above the figure for the previous six months. Imports were valued at \$437,216,000, which is \$15,804,000 over the first half of 1940.

Charles Lamb, "Elia", English essayist, journalist, poet, died this date 1834; life-long friend of Coleridge with whom he had been at school at Christ's Hospital; has no one great work to his name, but his numerous essays and articles contributed to periodicals and collected in book form are unsurpassed by those of any other writer. He is recognized as one of the most lovable characters and writers in English literature, his essays, written in unique indescribable style, mingling quaintness and delicacy, humour and pathos: "A clear fire, a clean hearth, and the rigor of the game. This was the celebrated wish of old Sarah Battle (now with God), who next to her devotions, loved a good game of whist."

A recent edict has been issued by Cardinal Villeneuve, prohibiting profane music in Roman Catholic religious institutions in the Quebec diocese. The statement was made by the Cardinal in his capacity as head of the Archdiocese of Quebec. In the pronouncement His Eminence, basing himself on the recommendations of the Quebec diocesan sacred music commission, banned the playing or singing of music "composed in a profane style, or which is reminiscent of theatre motifs." Among the selections banned were Wagner's Lohengrin Wedding March, Mendelssohn's Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream, Schubert's Ave Maria, Faure's The Palms, Granier's Hosanna, Gounod's Nazareth, Verdi's Agnus Dei, and Le Crucifix.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King has given an explanation of the Communist Party which should be studied and understood by everyone. This organization is still illegal in Canada, and nothing that has happened in this war can have the slightest influence on that decision. It was not because Communism had its birth in Russia that it was placed under the ban. Neither was it because the Communist Party held cause the Communist Party toward that country. It was because the Communists in this country were a menace to our form of government, because they were a dangerous and subversive element. They still are. Russia is a military ally of Britain and Canada. That fact does not alter matters in respect to the Communists in this country. They are still justifiably looked on as enemies of the state. It is not a matter of nationality. It is one simply of the defense of democracy itself. — Windsor Star.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Taking it all in all it is perhaps extraordinary that there have been so comparatively few complaints against the operations of the Foreign Exchange Control Board. As a whole the people have accepted its restrictions in philosophic vein as a part and parcel of the war effort, and it can be said of the board that it has exercised its power with whatever restraint it was possible to employ, considering the vital purpose in view. — Victoria Colonist.

Not so much has been heard of them but Britain has been training parachute troops too. The time may be coming when they will engage in raids on any one of the many German held ports from Narvik to the West Coast of France. A raiding party landed behind the lines of these ports and their fall in the aftermath, could do an immense amount of damage. While the practice would keep many garrisons tied up in fear of the enemy's coming. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

The volume of printed material coming from Ottawa is of truly oppressive proportions. How many people actually read much of it is anybody's guess, but there is no time, even if there were the will to skim over more than a fraction of the output. It should be possible for responsible authorities to exhibit a more discriminatory judgment in this matter and save not merely paper but the heavy cost of distribution to the recipients. A great proportion of this deluge of mail "never would be missed," and does not justify the time and expense and effort of its production. — Hamilton Spectator.

That annual production report of the Vineland Growers Cooperative showing the sales in tonnage, is always of interest. No less than 22 products are marketed, including 4,607 tons of peaches and 197 tons of apples. The peach shipments were up by about 600 tons. The strawberry crop was down from 579 tons in 1940 to 392 this year, and when one speaks of tons of strawberries, it certainly means a lot of picking and packing. The tomato crop was also somewhat down, the year's crop reaching 197 tons as compared with 152 in the year before. The growers of Vineland, all told, shipped no less than 1,569 cars of stuff, which is 737 freight cars of ten tons each. — St. Catharines Standard.

Over a thousand additional workers a day are being required by Canada's expanding war industries. The armed forces must be maintained and new units added. Government restrictive measures tend to effect a transfer of essential tasks, but there is much talk of more mandatory measures to mobilize the manpower of the nation. The proposed new wage board may make effective the labour legislation and a revitalized co-ordination of the Labour Department has, of course, been long pending. The war program was primarily one of money, then of production facilities and materials. The approaching problem is to find men to man the machines and the guns. To do this we must sacrifice sterner action forecast but new labels may be necessary to avoid friction. — Canada: Business.

We know that we were asleep, and that we have been hurt — maybe badly hurt. Now we are awake. Let us be fully awake. Let us understand that our enemy is not simply Japan although Japan itself has shown that it is a more formidable foe than most Americans had complementarily manage. Our foes are the forces of conquest everywhere. Japan is simply a super-stooge in a game that is for bigger stakes than one ocean or one hemisphere. But let us take strength courageously, from the whole free knowledge in the world. To do this we must understand that we are not alone. We are with the nations that are fighting Hitlerism—in Europe, in the Pacific and in Africa and elsewhere. We are with the nations that are fighting now essential beyond controversy, now we must ask and need THEIR aid in OUR fight. — Mintoapolis Star Journal.

Years ago a troop bugler of the North West Mounted Police was placed under arrest when he failed to sound part of the officers' mess-parade at 6 o'clock one evening. His friend the bandmaster and told him to defend himself. "Just tell the old man that you lost your embouchure," counseled the bandmaster. "Don't say any more, and for the love of Mike, don't smile." In the orderly-room next morning the officer commanding the band of the mess-parade asked the sergeant-major for details of the case. Then he turned to the bugler. "What have you to say in your defence?" "Sir, I lost my embouchure." "The O.C. looked up and down, cleared his throat and a puzzled expression flitted across his rugged features. "Ah, yes, I see. Sergeant-major, put in a requisition for a new, ah—ah—attaché. And you, constable, be careful in the future. Government property. Don't lose any more; they are expensive. If you do you will have to make good for the er—ah—part out of your pay. Charge dismissed. What's that?" Oh, yes, Embouchure refers to the muscles of the lips and cheeks. It means mode of applying part of a musical instrument to the mouth. It looked it up. Mounted Police Quarterly.

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Dismay In Italy

Evidence of what may be further signs of disintegration in the Axis front comes from the Russian Embassy in London, which announces that a group of combative Italian anti-fascists and communists have organized a committee of action and have Italy make a separate peace with Britain, Russia, the United States and other Allies. The report merits credence inasmuch as it appears in the embassy's publication, Soviet War News, and states that the committee denounces Italy's pact with Hitler, calls upon Italian soldiers and sailors to unite for the purpose of bringing an end to the war, urges Italian industrial workers to obstruct war production by every possible means, and farm-ers to resist the compulsory sale of their products and refuse to pay the oppressive taxes levied upon them. This is an appeal that should meet with a sympathetic reception in Italy, as the world has known for several months that its people are disheartened and their faith in Mussolini's leadership shaken ever since the campaign in Greece and the reverses in Africa. If Duce has been no more than a puppet in Hitler's hands and Italy herself has long ceased to be an effective member of the Axis. She is really no more than another of Hitler's victims, with her economy and armed forces under his control, and the Gestapo compelling her to remain in the war. Had Italy been left to her own devices, it is more probable that she would have collapsed before this. For reasons of Axis prestige, and not unmindful of the morale of his own people, Hitler cannot afford to let Italy drop out. And he seeks to prop her up that she might make a pretence of fighting though her help as his ally has become a subject of contempt among Nazi troops. The Italian people are hungry and cold. Their diet is meagre because Hitler takes whatever he chooses of her food stocks for his own civilian and soldiers; they are shivering because Italy is largely dependent upon Germany for domestic fuel and Hitler has failed to deliver coal in anything like the quantity he promised. The Italian population believes that Mussolini has brought nothing but calamity upon them and that his fate, so long as the present course is followed, is to be crushed and devoured by Hitler. Ample evidence of that already exists. Their only hope to escape the Nazi bondage is a British and allied victory. The Russian Embassy's information is therefore of interest and may soon be confirmed by events.

The Poets' Corner. HARMONY

But O what art can teach, What human voice can reach, The sacred organ's praise? Notes that wing their heavenly ways To mend the choirs above. Orpheus could lend the savage race; And trees uprooted left their place. Sequacious of the lyre; But bright Cecilia raised the wonder higher; When to her organ vocal breath An angel heard and straight appeared, Mistaking Earth for Heaven. —By John Dryden.

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War
"Victory and security can only be won by a real consciousness of what is at stake and of what is required of each one of us. One isn't making sacrifices if one's life goes on as before with what we are giving not interrupting that life in any way." Sir Patrick Duff, Deputy High Commissioner for the United Kingdom.

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.

DEFENCE OF TOBACCO

Sir:—I read with amusement Mr. Muttart's dictatorial letter in The Guardian this morning on tobacco and cigarettes. I wonder if he stops to think that we are living in a free country where a man makes and spends his money as he sees fit? Is this not what we are fighting for today? Some of our greatest leaders such as Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and others are heavy smokers. I think it would be well for Mr. Muttart if he would stop to think before he tries to tell the rest of the world what they ought to do. What is the most you hear our boys call for from "over there"? Is it not tobacco and cigarettes? There is nothing can take the place of a good smoke after a strenuous battle or even after a hard day at drill; but let us thank goodness that all men and women are not as prejudiced as Mr. Muttart. Does he want us to give up smoking just because his conscience bothers him about others? Are they not sacrificing their life's blood for his freedom as well as others? I wonder if Mr. Muttart is so careful about saving on gasoline and oil to help the cause as he is about tobacco? We are fighting dictatorship today and ruthless aggression, that free people everywhere may live their own lives in harmony and peace. So let us not be narrow minded enough to believe that cigarettes or even an old pipe will do us any great harm. My boys, grandsons and also my father were heavy smokers and they lived to be very old men. I am, Sir, etc. P. T. J. W. BOYLE, Charlottetown.

Dickens In Sheffield

(Sheffield Telegraph) Our notes on Charles Dickens' visit to Sheffield in 1852 with a company of players in the Sheffield Music Hall, have brought us from a reader's family treasures a copy of the actual bill announcing the show. We learn from this that "the encouragement of life assurance and other provident habits, which mystified us in some amount, applied specifically to authors and artists. The additional object was given to "render such assistance to both as shall never compromise their independence; and to found a new Institution where honorable rest from arduous labors shall still be associated with the discharge of congenial duties." Incidentally, an additional attraction to the plays was a band performance of an overture "composed expressly for this purpose by Mr. C. Coote (Pianist) to His Grace the Duke of Devonshire." Dickens was not modest in his charges—10s. 6d. for the saloon and 7s. 6d.

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For the gallery, but he had a very good "house". A pleasant picture of the Sheffield street scene of those days is conjured up by the instructions: "Carriages to set down with the horses' heads towards Arundel Street, and to pass forward by Arundel Street. Carriages to take up with the horses' head towards Norfolk Street, and to come by Arundel Street."

CHECK YOUR BEARINGS! We travel fast on the journey of life, striving to reach a haven of independence, before the evening of old age overtakes us. The New Year comes, another milestone, and bids us pause to check our bearings. The road to independence is plainly marked—the highway of life insurance. Why take an unknown road? You can obtain a Great-West Life Pension or Endowment at age 60 or 65 by investing your savings for large or small amounts. It protects your family too. Let us send you particulars. HYNDMAN & CO., LIMITED Provincial Managers Offices:—Charlottetown, Summerside, Montague.

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