THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 29, 1944

A Fine Tribute

A fine tribute to the Canadian troops in Italy was paid recently by the Manchester Guardian's war correspondent, Mr. C. Ray. Mr. Ray writes to his paper that "they had fought toe to toe and blow for blow with possibly the best troops the German army has in Italy and had beaten them fair and squire. Compared with those Germans the Canadians are second to none."

Ray writes that if the Canadians fall short of any one quality compared with the best British troops it is in wiliness, in the quality of "old soldierliness." The Canadians, he thinks, are perhaps brash by the highest standards, they lack finish in the field. But he adds that is a matter of experience, and in spite of Sicily the Canadians "are still a little more raw than the very best."

Continues Mr. Ray:

"The Canadians' own special contribution to the art of war seems to be the flexibility and freedom from routine of their administration. It is said that the division's A.A.Q.M.G. has issued only two written administrative orders since they left England—one for the landing in Sicily, one for Italy. All else has depended on word of mouth and personal contact between the A.A.Q.M.G., his subordinates, and lower units and formations. This is combined with the utmost interest in the welfare and equipping of the front-line soldier.

"Such a system depends entirely on personality, on an adequate supply of administrative officers with ability and imagination, and on hard work and goodwill all round. Without any one of those things there is everything to be said for the letter of the law and for everything to go down on paper according to the book. But the Canadians make their own system work to a marvel.

"I doubt if any British soldier in the 8th Army is as well looked after as the front-line Canadian, gets his mail so quickly, such good food, or such support in the matter of ammunition and supplies. And that again—except perhaps for the matter of mail—is to judge by the highest standards."

To have an English correspondent write in this fashion to the altogether reputable Manchester Guardian is heartening indeed.

Thirty - Five Years Ago

Thirty-five years ago (February 23, 1909), the first air flight in the British Empire took place on Bras d'Or Lake, Baddeck, Cape Breton. Perhaps the best way of telling the story is to quote the telegram which appeared in the Times, London, Eng., and in most papers in America (through Associated Press) the next day:

"The first flight of a flying machine in Canada occurred here today when Mr. Douglas McCurdy, native of Baddeck, Nova Scotia, flew a distance of about one half mile at an elevation of about 30 feet above the ice on Baddeck, in an airplane of his own design, named the Silver Dart. (Signed) Alexander Graham Bell, Baddeck, Canada, February 23, 1909."

Dr. Graham Bell had been long interested in the possibilities of aviation. Indeed, he had been experimenting ever since he had completd the telephone, and the Silver Dart was the result of his planning. An eye-witness relates that the initial experiment very nearly ended in disaster. "Near the finish, two little girls skating in front of the descending plane, only 10 feet up, with spreading wings and whirling propeller blades. The pilot swerved, missed the children by a hair-breadth and converted what looked like a fatal crash into a perfect three-point landing."

Next day the trial over half a mile was extended to 4 1-2 miles and for the first time in Canada an airplane circled in the air. A cairn and tablet commemorating this first flight in the British Empire was unveiled at Baddeck on August 10, 1934, by Lieutenant-Governor Covert, when tributes were paid both to McCurdy and to his partner, F. W. ("Casey") Baldwin.

British Bankers Views

With belief in victory transformed from a dogged act of faith into a well-founded conviction, leading British bankers, acting upon the principle enunciated by the London head of Barclays Bank that "events do not wait upon plans", are now giving much attention to the aftermath of war and the problems that will follow.

Thus for the first time during the war the chairmen of all the larger banks in the United Kingdom, whose annual meetings have just been held, have devoted the general content of their reviews addressed to shareholders to a consideration of prospects and preparations in regard, first, to the transition period from war to peace, and, second, in respect to the long-term outlook for the recovery of world trade. The Bank of Montreal, in a special supplement accompanying the February issue of its monthly Business Summary, just published, has reprinted extracts from the annual addresses of the chairmen of six of the leading banks in the United Kingdom.

In an introduction it is noted that, as in Canada, the financial statements of the respective banks show deposit and other accounts at record high levels, with uniformly high liquidity of assets.

In respect to the post-war transition period, the view is expressed by Edwin Fisher, of Barclays Bank, that there will be no sudden or violent change-over, because the period following the war will be dominated by scarcity, emphasized by the latent demand which will then spring to life.

The Hon. Rupert E. Beckett, chairman of the Westminster Bank, expressed the opinion that some considerable time would elapse before the nations of the world could be envisaged as working peaceably together. The prime need of those who had undergone the miseries of invasion, starvation and slavery would be an adequate supply of food, shelter and clothing.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Wardington, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said, in connection with the transition period, that it would be a great relief to industry if some definite announcement could be made on an important point stressed in the report of a delegation appointed by the League of Nations last year, which report stated:

"The post-war problems created by the construction of war plants will be particularly serious if provision is not made to allow producers to amortize their plants adequately during the war. If, in the interests of national revenue, amortization rates are kept low, so that at the end of the war the unamortized capital volue of the plant greatly exceeds its capital value as determined by the income it can earn in the production of peace-time goods, a powerful factor of dislocation will have been created."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Leap Year extra; amongst the Romans it was the feast of expiation and purification.

* * * *

'Member those pre-war days when we used to laugh at the German slogan, "bullets for butter"?

* * * *

The Patriot gives a list of likelies for the vacant judgeship and prospective vacant gubernatorial appointment, but curiously enough does not include among them Messrs. Tweedy, Martin, Palmer, nor Dr. Yeo, Mr. Clark and Mr. Affan.

* * * *

It is worthy of note in our reference to the generosity of Messrs. Moore & McLeod to the Red Cross, that there are now three generations of the proprietors all actively engaged in the business. This is almost a record for the Maritimes, it certainly seems to be for this Province.

* * * *

Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Irish soldier, politician and conspirator, born this date 1763; fought in America 1781-2; travelled in Canada 1789-93; where he was made chief of the Bear Indians; on return home became M.P. for Kildare; joined the United Irishmen Party in 1796, and shared in organizing the conspiracy of Dublin two years later; on plot being discovered he was arrested, dying a fortnight later from a wound received during the struggle preceding his arrest.

* * * *

All ranks of the Army and C.W.A.C. now may wear civilian clothes on leave of seven days or more. Previously Army personnel could wear only clothing other than uniform for sports requiring special dress. The R.C.A.F. permits personnel, including members of the Women's Division, to wear civilian clothes on leave at the discretion of officers commanding. The Navy allows male ratings on long leaves and members of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service on leaves of 48 hours or more to wear civilian clothing.

* * * *

The New York Times said editorially that Prime Minister Churchill's war review in the House of Commons struck "a much-needed balance between undue optimism and undue gloom." "Perhaps the grimmest statement the Prime Minister has made since Britain emerged from the dark days following Dunkerque, though that grimness is no longer one of defiance of an overpowering enemy, but the grimness which prepares for the kill."

* * * *

Women's suffrage in U.S.A. has gone to unheard of lengths in the matter of competition with mere man. It is well-known, Mrs. Roosevelt pursues her own course, politically and otherwise, without respect to the President's plans and policies. Recently, a member of the House of Representative's wife challenged a bill introduced by her husband forbidding women to be served in bars. Now Robert Peterson wants to be New Mexico's next governor. So does Edna Peterson. Both have filed for the nomination, he as a Republican, she as a Democrat. They are husband and wife.

* * * *

Naval bombardment has provided a considerable part of the cover for Allied landings in the Mediterranean area since the landing in Algeria. It is made possible by Bombardment Units, a new type of force, which are formed from selected officers of the Royal Artillery, called Forward Observation Officers. These officers are the eyes of the naval artillery; they go into action with the forward troops in landing areas. Once on land, their job is to send wireless messages directing the fire of the naval guns. Bombardment Liaison Officers have to interpret the wireless messages and help the gunnery officer to lay his guns on the target.

* * * *

It is all very well to talk of reconstruction and post-war industrial development, says the Telegraph-Journal, and it is good to plan for these things; but if, in our planning, we overlook the all-important factor of where we are going to sell our products, we are foredoomed to failure. Geographically, New Brunswick is a long and costly rail haul from the major centres of population in Canada. But we are on the seaboard—have the Atlantic at our doorstep—are within an inexpensive water haul of the British Isles and our sister Dominions. Thus it is obvious that for material reasons — even if there were not other considerations — New Brunswick should do all that is possible to see Canada's relations with the Commonwealth strengthened. Mr. Mackay's suggestion in the Legislature that the province re-establish its own trade office in London, is well worth examining. Ontario recently re-established a trade office in London and expects it to pay dividends. British Columbia, our competitor province so far as lumber, fish and apples are concerned, has long had London representatives.

Notes By The Way

Spring will bring the usual number of optimists—folks who believe everything they read in a seed catalogue.—Victoria Times

The burden of the world rests on the shoulders of the average man regardless of the talk that you hear of leaders and supermen.—Guelph Mercury.

Why the name "Sten" applied to the rapid-firing weapon that British and Canadian troops have found so useful? It comes from the initials of Sheppard and Turpin, the two Englishmen who invented it in the dark days of 1940, with the E and N standing for "England." — Brockville Recorder and Times.

In a report published in the Stockholm paper Aftontidningen regarding German sixteen-year-old boys in service at the front, this paper says that their training with the Hitler Jugend is so thorough that they require only one month's further training before they can be used for front line service. About 100,000 boys of ten to thirteen years of age will shortly be trained for intelligence service.

If it can be conclusively shown that fluorine and phosphorus in the water supply check tooth decay it should be possible to put them in all water supplies, and presumably to give the coming generation good strong teeth. What an inestimable advantage that would be! The miseries of toothache, the painful hours with the dentist, and the ills which are attributable to decaying teeth could be avoided, and the acquirement of false teeth, which is a common necessity of middle age, would be rare. — Peterborough Examiner.

The Nazi-controlled Slovak radio said in a German-language radiocast reported to the office of war information recently that "the German ethnical group in Rumania" had introduced compulsory labor service for all sixteen-year-old girls. The radio-cast said that the girls would be drafted for six-month periods and would "do this service either in agriculture servide camps, or individual farms, or industrial establishments". It was recorded by United States government monitors. —Associated Press.

When repatriated prisoners arrive home they will have some gruesome stories to tell. They have been cautioned against repeating them publicly, but it is not within human nature for them to keep silent when conversing with friends and relatives. It is these latter who must have a guard on their tongues. It must always be remembered that there are still many of our people in the hands of the enemy and we know that the Axis thugs will visit vengeance on anyone within their power if too much currency is given to stories of abuses in the prisoner and internee camps. — Windsor Star.

A new excuse for growing cotton was put forward in the South recently. Dr Edward William Alton Ochsner, highly respected surgeon of Tulane University, wrote Governor Thomas Bailey of Mississippi that cotton is the best material for stitching up wounds. Doctors at the New Orleans Charity Hospital had found that wounds stitched together with "ordinary cotton thread" were less likely to become infected than those sutured with catgut or silk. Another advantage, cotton is not absorbed and will hold when a wound takes a long time to heal—catgut may disappear in a little over a week, especially if a wound is infected. Finally, Dr. Ochsner noted that at Charity Hospital the average cost of catgut per patient is $1.19, as against 93 cents for silk and only 1 3-4 cents for cotton.

Composer Edward MacDowell for a time held a music professorship at Columbia University. One day, as an exercise, he had his students write a page of music. One of the students found this an impossible task. Reluctant to hand in a blank sheet of paper, however, he filled the page with rests and an occasional note of music. When MacDowell returned the book, the student observed that the page was red with corrections—all except the rest. Around them MacDowell had drawn a line and had written in the margin: "These are the only correct passages in the exercise." —Milwaukee Journal.

Let us here speak frankly to the German people. Listen, you Germans! You are on the way out. Inevitable defeat faces you. Therefore stop your atrocities. Compound your felonies. You should now be working your passage in the hopes of getting better treatment than you deserve after this war which you unleashed upon the world. Stop the murders! Kill not another woman and child in all your occupied territories! Be mightily careful how you do away with the life of any civilian man. Certainly all these errors of yours will be added up against you in the period of retribution which is soon to come. The invincible armies are moving and marching. It is not hypocritical to say that this in our lifetime is the real battle against evil. Read, for example, the sentence in a book detailing the views of the German troops entering Paris 'We Germans do not know how to live", said a German captain. "And therefore the rest of Europe has got to die." —Daily Express (London).

Miss Betty Smith, the perspicacious author of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," was quoted recently as having made a rather remarkable discovery—that is to say she says the names of towns at which people laugh almost invariably contain the letter "o". To be sure, people laugh at some towns which have no "o" but Miss Smith says that usually these are towns which are dwarfed by, or considered inferior to near-by cities with greater pretensions. Of course, this is really anything to laugh about, but the laughs come just the same (Brooklyn is a notable example, winning both the "o" count and the fact that it is across the river from haughty Manhattan). George M. Cohan joked about Bridgeport, Conn; it has an "o" The list is fairly long: Hoho-kus, Hoboken, Yonkers, Kokomo; Kalamazoo, Oshkosh come to mind at once. But what of Dubuque? Miss Smith has hit upon an entertaining thought possibly unomportant subject, which we recommend for serious and intensive postwar study. —N. Y. Herald-Tribune.

Lenten Meditations from The London Times

"WORKERS TOGETHER"

There are two aspects of the divine will. In the phrase "workers together with him," St. Paul gives expression to this fact with characteristic boldness of conception. His words imply both the divine condescension and the necessity of human effort. The power by which God's purposes can be fulfilled must be from him: nothing can be accomplished apart from that. But, since he uses the human instrument, who is not a mere passive tool but a living cooperating agent, man's will must voluntarily unite itself with the will of God. God bestows upon man his grace, but this grace must be received, and the very receiving of it is an act of cooperation, though having received it men must rely upon it as an equipment which will fit them for responsible living and action. It is all too possible to "frustrate the grace of God."

The answer to the question "Does God control history?" must be both yes and no. There is an undoubted truth in the assertion that history is under God's control but not in the sense that all is arbitrarily predetermined, as though in seeking human cooperation God is simply paying man a meaningless compliment. In the large it may indeed be believed that God's purposes of love are being and ultimately will be accomplished, because his love is of its very nature omnipotent. But it is all too obvious that many things have happened in the historical process which are the very denial of God's will.

Even of the Christian Church it would be a distortion of the facts to affirm that God has throughout its history completely controlled this potential organ of his will. Always there has been the intractable human element, which, even if it has not thwarted his purpose, has at least obstructed it and retarded its fulfilment. The inadequacy and weakness of the Church's witness, its complacent acquiescence in sub-Christian standards, and perhaps above all its disunity, have always limited its value as an instrument, and so tended to hinder the progress of God's kingdom. The mystical experience of God may be a source of strength and inspiration, but it can never be an end in itself. No purely passive view of the spiritual life is adequate. The danger of pietism is that it may become an exclusively personal enjoyment of spiritual experience, and therefore self-centred and inimical to action. Faith, rightly understood, is more than receptivity; it is also cooperation. Eastern religions seem to concentrate too exclusively upon the experience of the individual; western religion upon action. The teaching of Christ sets before men the perfect balance between the two. In ideal the Christian not only loves God, he also loves his fellow-men; which means that he strives to work with God in the making man's corporate life the perfect expression of his will.

Wider Use Of Plastics

(Hamilton Spectator)

Furniture exerts an influence on environment; it is important to modern living and can either minister to one's comfort or lessen it, depending on the wisdom shown in choosing it. Most people today prefer comfort to stiff formality; they demand utility to mere elegance.

Many predictions have been made that the "home of tomorrow" will be such a departure from anything known to-day as to be scarcely recognizable. That may be true as regards architecture; but furniture men are not yet prepared to venture that the changes they visualize will be so revolutionary. A wider use of plastics in colors and wood tones will mark the furniture of the early post-war years, but traditional lines will be largely adhered to, according to the offerings displayed at Grand Rapids where new trends have often been determined in the past. Chairs seen at this show were built to provide comfort first. Tables which had four legs, straight to the floor predominated.

Bright colors, including red, green, blue and yellow, were used sparingly but effectively against neutral backgrounds. Bedrooms suites were varnished in turquoise, royal blue and red to blend with neutral walls, drapes and spreads. One bedroom designed for teen-age girls had a simple motif in green and black plaid and included individual bulletin boards over each bed to indulge the "pin-up urge."

Designed to meet the requirements of compact housing, especially where there is no dining-room, a combination table was shown which would serve for use as dining or for living-room purposes. One glass and aluminum dining table is built in sections which can be separated to form occasional and wall tables. Another oblong table is divided down the centre. When placed end to end against a wall the sections make for a long console table; when placed together they form a dining table and they can be adapted to a third use by arranging the sections in a U-shape for living-room gatherings. His majesty the baby has not been forgotten either. An improved type of crib has been fashioned, which is glassed-in sound-proofed and air conditioned.

By adhering to traditional lines, and avoiding the bizarre the modern trend toward more color has been attained unobtrusively. Designers have aimed to make homes more cheerful, without sacrificing comfort or utility. The day may come when furniture will be made wholly of plastics, glass and light metals, but the new styles, while approaching it under the necessity of war-time conditions do not appear to be trying to hasten it. Enhancement, without breaking too sharply from conservative patterns is the keynote.

"NERVES" SHE CALLED IT

Losing interest—losing friends—she never went out any more—always too tired. "Nerves," she thought — but it was her kidneys, the filters of her blood, that needed attention. Delay meant danger. She took Dodd's Kidney Pills at once. The improved action of her kidneys helped to clear away blood impurities and excess acids. Fatigue, headache, backache, lack of energy disappeared. 117

Dodd's Kidney Pills

In The Gloaming

(Montreal Gazette)

She was a very old lady—in her 96th year—when she died last Monday at her home in England's Berkshire. She was Lady Arthur Hill, the widow of Lord Arthur Hill, who had managed the finances of Queen Victoria's household. She had lived in close retirement from the disturbed twenty century world. When interviewed in 1939 she spoke of the songs she used to write. She had once written two volumes of them. They were called Holiday Songs and had been dedicated to Queen Alexandra. But it was all so long ago, she said. She had written nothing for some twenty years.

But she recalled how one morning in 1887 a friend had sent her a poem in a letter. It began with the words:

In the gloaming, oh! my darling,
When the lights are dim and low,
And the quiet shadows falling,
Softly come and softly go;
When the winds are sobbing faintly
With a gentle unknown woe.—
Will you think of me and love me,
As you did once long ago?
It was best to leave you thus, dear,
Best for you and best for me.

"I liked them very much," said Lady Hill, "and after breakfast went upstairs to the piano and wrote the music in fifteen minutes—or twenty minutes at the most. It just came to me."

Like many other effective things in composition, it had been easy. There had been for those few minutes a full opening of the heart, without the hinderances of conscious effort. "I think it was extraordinary," she said, "that an amateur should have the knack of composing a song that seemed to be liked so universally."

Yet perhaps it was just because she was an amateur that she was able to write so directly, matching the expressing with her music the simple poignancy of the words. And words and music together have an appeal that seems to be timeless; for they combine to waken the inevitable memory of the things that were longed for in the heart, but denied by circumstance.

Misplaced Humaneness

(Brantford Expositor)

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Lang of Lambeth and the Bishop of Chichester were quoted the other day as speaking in the House of Lords in criticism of Allied bombings of German cities. To the former Primate it seemed that these attacks had gone "a long way beyond what hitherto has been the declared policy of the government and the Bomber Command."

The declared policy of the government and the Bomber Command is to blast the Germans out of the war, if possible, or, in any event, to so smite them that the landing invasion armies will be able to force them into unconditional surrender. It may be difficult for a prelate who was closely associated with the ill-fated appeasement policy prior to 1939 to quite appreciate the existing situation. But this is total war.

For his part, the Bishop of Chichester an equally upright and conscientious Christian pastor, deplored what he called "the policy of obliteration" which he held to be "not a justifiable act of war." Judged by the standards of Crimea or of the South African campaign, perhaps it is not. But this is 1944, not 1653 or 1899. A combination of savage peoples has assailed the free world, crushing much of it under the yoke of slavery. Like it or not, the nations still free must fight fire with fire, if they would escape a like fate.

While appreciating their high motives, it would seem that, in this instance, the two Lords Spiritual allowed their sense of humaneness to obscure their senses of reality and proportion. Few practical people will disagree with Lord Cranbourne who in reply, said the R. A. F. had never engaged in terror raids, had tied up eighty per cent of German fighter strength and was devoting its courage, skill and energy to destroying the industrial areas which make possible Germany's waging of ruthless war.

Even from a purely humanitarian point of view, it should be apparent that the harder the Allied air forces strike, the sooner will the enemy give in and the carnage be ended.

Sometimes Scarce...

We are still making this luscious bar, but naturally in lesser quantities. That's why it seems so scarce. Soon, we hope, war-time restrictions will be over.

B244

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