

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1939

Federal Election Prospects

The Montreal Gazette's resident correspondent at Ottawa, Mr. F. C. Means, places the federal election day in the early fall, probably in the first half of October. "There is a strengthening view," he writes, "that the general election will be held in the fall, probably in October. No member of the Government, for obvious reasons has made any statement that would warrant a definite prediction although Finance Minister Dunning came dangerously near it a few days ago in the House, during discussion of an item in the new trade agreement.

"Final decision as to the time of an election is one of the closely guarded prerogatives of the Prime Minister. The generally accepted prediction that Premier King will name voting day some time in October is based on two or three considerations. "Firstly, Premier King has a notable weakness for anniversaries, October 14, 1935, was a memorable day for the Liberals for on that day they were returned to power with the largest majority in Canadian political history.

"Secondly, Premier King is not one of those who consciously places himself on the spot or who robs himself of an alternative. If he were to wait until 1940 he would be obliged to go to the polls that year no matter what were the economic conditions; there would be no alternative.

"A respectable programme of caring for all parts of the country in the supplementary estimates, early completion of all the necessary electoral machinery, including promises of a drastic reform in the relations between candidates and electors, and a generous sprinkling in the sessional programme of what might be called New Deal measures all contribute to a state of preparedness, from the Liberal standpoint.

Assuming, as nearly everyone now does, that the Dominion election is to be held this year, the Government has but little scope for the exercise of its preference with respect to the time when it shall take place. The present Parliamentary session will probably be concluded in May, the Royal Viti will absorb the following month, and a midsummer election campaign is obviously out of the question. September and October are the two most likely months, with the balance of advantage pointing to the latter.

Citing Nova Scotia

There was one method, said Premier Campbell, by which he could have shown a surplus instead of a deficit last year. That was by reducing the sinking funds. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the sinking fund provision was much smaller in proportion to the bonded indebtedness, and if we had followed the same practice it would be no trouble to show a balanced budget. It was annoying, the Premier said, to see the favorable publicity Nova Scotia was getting for balancing the budget, while this Province, because it was making more adequate sinking fund provision, was ranking year after year as an "unbalanced budget" Province.

All this is very true, but the same condition applied to the previous Conservative administration, as Hon. Dr. MacMillan pointed out in his budget speech in 1935. We do not recall that it received any consideration from the Liberal Opposition, which continued to insist on a balanced budget regardless of the fact that the then sinking fund provisions were the highest in all Canada.

While the situation in this respect remains unchanged, there is one aspect which has changed, and that is that while Nova Scotia last year was able to show a surplus on ordinary account, in 1934 it had a deficit of over a million dollars, notwithstanding its comparatively low sinking fund expenditures. Nor was there a province in Canada able to balance its budget during those years of world depression. The MacMillan Government's showing in this Province, compared with Nova Scotia, was exceptionally good financially. The Campbell Government's showing compared with Nova Scotia is, on the other hand, exceptionally bad. The Premier hasn't attempted to explain that fact, which is much more to the point than his reference to sinking funds which, as pointed out, have been high under both party administrations in this Province in recent years.

Nazi Reverse in Belgium

The result of the general elections in Belgium, notes the Montreal Star, will be another blow to Hitler's pride. Not only did the Fascist party lose in all directions, —17 of the 21 seats they held in the Chamber and seven of their 12 Senate seats, —but the pro-Nazi party in the canton of Eupen and Malmédy, the two districts ceded to Belgium by Germany under the Versailles Treaty, did not secure a single seat in either House, despite the fact that they ran full tickets throughout the entire region.

Thus Belgium rejects the Nazi movement which at one time it was feared was destined to gain some ascendancy, and the Pro-German elements represented by the German minority

in the border States will have no voice in the new Houses of Parliament. The King's recent appeal to the Belgian people has certainly not been without its effect, and the pro-German forces have been taught a salutary lesson, which may also give the German Fuehrer additional food for thought.

It constitutes additional proof that the Nazi policy of expansion in all directions, regardless of the rights of other nations, is likely to meet with stiffer resistance from now on than in the past. The reclamation of all territory formerly belonging to Germany is admittedly part of Hitler's fixed policy; but he is not likely to find it such easy sledding as at one time his bloodless triumphs may have led him to believe would be the case.

Editorial Notes

American Civil War began this date, 1861.

Design of the menu for the Royal banquet to be tendered to Their Majesties the King and Queen when they visit Montreal is to be done by Clarence Gagnon, R. C. A.

It now transpires two full-fledged representatives are to be sent by the Campbell Government to represent us at the New York Exhibition, handing out advertising data in the Federal section, "work" that could easily be done by a junior on Mr. Leo Dolan's staff. But "to him that hath shall be given" is evidently the policy of the Government in these appointments.

Canada's \$50,000,000 loan floated in London last July was sold at a discount of \$730,000, and costs of the floatation amounted to \$583,476, Finance Minister Dunning said in a return to the House of Commons. Brokers' fees amounted to \$370,616. The remaining expense was taken up with printing, stationery, telegraph tolls, advertising and lawyers' fees. The certificates were sold to the public at 98.50 per cent., to yield 4.34 per cent.

Some idea of the importance of the maple sugar industry to Quebec is to be had from the fact that last spring, the output of the industry was 2,354,000 gallons of syrup and 3,212,000 pounds of sugar. Syrup retailed at an average price of \$1.10 per gallon and sugar at \$0.10 per pound, for a combined total value of \$2,910,600. In 1937, maple syrup production totalled 780,000 gallons and sugar, 4,020,000 pounds. The average prices were \$1.11 per gallon of syrup and \$0.11 per pound of sugar. Last year therefore the value of the industry's total crop exceeded that of 1937 by \$1,602,600.

Queen Elizabeth heard Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's announcement that the strength of the territorial army would be doubled from the Speaker's gallery on one of her rare visits to the House of Commons. She had gone to hear debate on a bill for permanent camps to which children would be sent in wartime. King George cannot enter Commons because constitutional practice and tradition debar the sovereign. Queen Elizabeth and the Commons so agreed in the sixteenth century in order to insure the right of free speech in the House, including the right to criticism of the Crown. King Charles I broke the tradition when he entered the House and tried to arrest five of the members.

Will it be possible for the Government to raise a sinking fund for hardsurfacing roads when water and lye are substituted for gasoline? Mr. Henry Garrett, 76, electrician, inventor and supervisor of the Dallas, Texas municipal signal system, has patented an automobile carburetor which uses water and ordinary lye instead of gasoline. "The only adjustment necessary in present automobile," he said, "will be to adapt the piston chambers to the more powerful explosion. One gallon of water mixed with a can of ordinary lye, sodium hydroxide, will, with my carburetor, do the work of 2,000 gallons of gasoline." The carburetor, he said, breaks the water into explosive hydrogen and oxygen gases eight times more powerful than the vapors condensed from gasoline in orthodox carburetors. Its operation, he said, is simple. When the water is reduced to hydrogen, it is carried into the intake manifold, thence to the piston chamber where it is ignited by the spark plugs.

One change in the Criminal code, which the Minister of Justice intends introducing this week, would prevent persons without proper credentials from loitering about plants making defence equipment, such as war planes, the Bren gun and other weapons. The onus would be placed on persons found on or near such premises to show that their presence was necessary. Other provisions, it is believed, would bring the existing Canadian law more closely in accord with the British Official Secrets Act. While the actual provisions of the amending bill have not yet been disclosed it is known the Government is determined to check effectively subversive activities, especially where these imperil the scheme of national defence and manufacture of war instruments. The Justice Minister has introduced what is described as in reality a history-making measure dealing with the sealing of royal instruments. This bill relates to the coming royal visit and also provides for a permanent arrangement affecting solely Canadian or domestic procedure. "During His Majesty's presence in Canada," Mr. Lapointe explained to the House, "under existing laws and practice it would not be possible to issue royal instruments under the great seal or the signet. This bill provides for passing such instruments under the Great Seal of Canada, of course in relation to Canadian affairs; for instance, in connection with giving full powers for the signature of treaties. Those are royal instruments, and the Great Seal has to be used."

NOTES BY THE WAY

A magistrate thinks that examples should be made of people who drive old motor cars upon which no insurance is carried and who are financially unable to make settlements for accidents for which they are responsible. Many people who have suffered from such accidents of circumstances will thoroughly agree with him. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

During the 40-odd years of automobile making in America, about 1,000 companies have built cars at one time or another. The names of their products contributed an interesting mish-mash to the youthful industry. Among the names of passenger cars of yesteryear were: Auto-go, Anger, Bugmobile, Club Car, Crouch, Crow, Darling, Dewabout, Farmobile, Gasmobile, Harvard, Imp, Kidder, Mighty Michigan, Pneumobile, Red Bug, Stallic-Super, Zip. —Automobile Facts.

Nova Scotia's entire pack of dried apples, exceeding 300,000 pounds, has been purchased by Germany at \$12.10 per 50 kilos (110 lb.), a figure which repeats the 21 cents a pound over the market price. Some Canadian journalists fear that this order will mean a shortage in Canada, but such fears appear groundless when one recalls that Canada exports in recent years have exceeded 1,250,000 pounds annually. —Sydney Post-Record.

On Easter Monday (April 10) the English village of Halton, in Leicestershire, engages in the peculiar custom of "Hare Pie Scrambling" and "Hare Pie Local" legend attributes to the former old custom to a thank-offering made by a woman after her escape from a bull. At the critical moments a hare has sprung up and so diverted the bull's attention. Be this as it may, it is a fact that at some remote period an unknown benefactor bequeathed to the rector of the village, withered and decrepit as he was, and his successors should provide annually "two hare pies" — together with a quantity of ale and two dozen penny loaves to be scrambled on Easter Monday. —Hare Pie Bank, a prehistoric encampment about a quarter of a mile from the village. —Thoughts of some of its ancient trimmings the custom is still vigorously maintained and Halton men come home from all over England to join in the celebration of the village's red-letter day — Events in Britain.

It now appears that the reason 50 Senators were ready to introduce the war profits bill was because they had not read it. They were told that it was a bill to tax the profits resulting from war, and they were all for that, so they signed it. They were not investigating. This may be shocking, but it is also human. Long ago was learned that people will sign pretty much anything that is presented to them. There is a law in America large enough to be spotted in the atlases that hasn't a legend of how some fellow of the baser sort got up a petition that began with "I demand that vice be forthwith abolished, and persuaded a hundred or so of the best citizens to sign it, although down at the bottom of the petition was a clause demanding that the Rev. Dr. Goodfellow, the town's most beloved ecclesiastic, be hanged without trial. If ordinary citizens sign such traps, they should, perhaps, not judge too harshly Senators who fall into a more elaborate trap. —Baltimore Sun.

The entertainment of an agreeable German aviator six years ago by kind people in good homes in Winnipeg links with the news that the German seek air bases in Greenland, and, incidentally, it gives a clue to how aviation events in the year 1933 changed the situation in the North Atlantic and lowered the defence barrier that ocean was thought to be against attack on Canada. The visit paid to Winnipeg by Commander Wolfgang von Gronow, the Germans who they could do if they dominated the Greenland air route. The Germans have been neither lazy nor short-sighted. They saw that air routes opened for them the backdoor into Canada, and they now find that backdoor defenceless. Six years ago, when the Greenland air route was dismissed so cavalierly by Ottawa experts in defence and in aviation, offered other advantages to the Germans. They see in the North Atlantic an even greater strategic advantage, than unimpeded entrance into Canada. They see how by dominating that air route they can give counter-stroke to the supremacy in the air over the North Atlantic gained by the British through events that took place in the year 1933. —Free Press.

The President has exercised the right given to him by the Naval Expansion Act of 1938 and has given the navy authority to proceed with the construction of two 45,000-ton battleships. Behind the debate over the Naval Expansion Act lay an Italian newspaper story to the effect that Japan had laid down two 42,000-ton battleships. That story, printed in the Fall of 1937, has not been confirmed from Japanese sources, but how successful the details of their naval building program may be judged from the following: In a recent compilation of information relating to the navy of the British Empire, prepared by the British First Lord of the Admiralty, under Japan, battleships, building and projected, is found the terse entry, "Not known." Presumably the British navy advisers have discovered more evidence than the Italian newspaper article of 1937 affords that Japan or some other Power is building battleships larger than 35,000 tons. What the 45,000-ton battleship means to national defence the layman perhaps is not qualified to say, though he may be inclined to think that it approaches it. It does not touch the policy of putting all your eggs in one basket. Since the cost of naval construction increases disproportionately to the increase in tonnage, battleships of 45,000 tons may be expected to cost in excess of \$100,000,000 apiece. So far as available information goes, the two

Mirror Of The Nation

By "Commoner"

OTTAWA, April 10.—A blinding snow storm ushered in the long winter season on foreign policy which Prime Minister Mackenzie King had promised to open on Thursday afternoon. Not for many years has the month of March exhibited such lull-like tendencies as she displayed on March 30th of this year. However, not even the weather could effect the determination of the general public to find out at last Canada's attitude on foreign policy, and her exact position in the Commonwealth of Nations. Long before 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon a constant stream of people could be seen wending their way to Parliament Hill and all corridors were filled to overflowing before the bell rang to assemble the commoners to hear the ministerial declaration. If they expected a definite statement from the accredited Leader of the Canadian people they were doomed to disappointment. All his previous demonstrations of vacillation were completely overshadowed by the performance of the Prime Minister on Thursday afternoon. Imperialism, isolationism, pan-Americanism, Canada-United States axis, League of Nations, Canadianism, Empire, and all that they all failed to disclose if his intentions were serious towards any of these matters. His speech is a little cough in the minds of many experienced parliamentary observers that it is his effect on domestic politics rather than as an exposition of Canada's attitude on imperial policy. Western newspaper sungs up the speech as follows: "To some extent Mr. King's re-orientation of foreign policy, which in turn will be again sold and bought in for the taxes, and then handed out to another for from \$1 to \$70, to again create in the vicarious circle.

And those properties which are being sold, and many others which owners retain with difficulty, have been, and are being, taxed to the chafe of extinction, to supply the funds with which the city yields these implements of real estate death. There is talk of "Farm Rehabilitation" which (after next general election) will become a reality. Why not try a sound system of tenancy and property rehabilitation, a system by which, instead of public structures, the run-down, publicly ruined city houses may be transformed into suitable homes for those wanting a residence at the public expense? I am, Sir, etc.

Canada's surplus butter is to be given to families on relief. No announcement has yet been made as to the amount the Dominion Government will devote to this purpose, what the price will be per pound, or that there will be an exemption for this purchase of butter. The provincial governments are to be consulted and their operations in this respect will be remembered that in a previous issue of the Mirror of the Nation attention was drawn to the fact that important quantities of butter during 1938 were over five million pounds.

On April 1st the doors were again opened to the export of cattle to the United States. It is reported that some exporters shipped the cattle over in bond, previous to that date, in order to get the advantage of the reduced duty on the regular quota. In other quarters the story is that the full amount of cattle permissible under the quota was assembled at Winnipeg ready to be shipped over the line on Saturday. Mr. Lockhart, the member for Lincoln has already told the House: "I know of a cattle raiser who has fattened about forty head of cattle, and he has been selling in Buffalo. He made inquiries and the reply was, 'Well, the only chance you have to take advantage of the lower rate of duty is to wait until after April 1st, then watch your step and get in ahead of Mexico.'"

Mr. Lockhart's friend shipped his cattle over at midnight Friday, it looks as if he may now have to wait until July 1st. Last week's threat by the Minister of Finance to muzzle the press was carried further this week when the Prime Minister of Canada objected to reports of his speech from the press gallery. It has been many years since a political leader has objected to reports of his statements in the House of Commons. Mr. King was on delicate ground and his statements were subject to various interpretations. The only way his statement could have been correctly reported was by a verbatim account which would have precluded any conclusion as to a single part of it. He has since expressed regret for the incident.

There in the darkness lie friend long to be sought, Drake's English pinnace, the great Armada's host; Quiet they lie in the silence of the sea, waiting the call that shall sound from coast to coast. Warship and merchantmen, lying in the slime there, Galleys of the Algerine, and traders of Almayne, Hogs (3) of a Dutchman, and haughty ships of Venice, Never shall the sunlight gild their sails again. —Norah Holland, one of our own poets.

battleships authorized by the President would be the world's biggest, exceeding by almost 3,000 tons the British battle cruiser Hood and by 1,000 tons the battleships which the French and British have under construction. —From the New York Sun.

AIRMEN KILLED IN CRASH SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 10.—(AP) —Lieut. C. G. Gruber and Lieut. G. L. Dunagan died in their United States Navy scouting plane today when it crashed and burned after a wing cracked. They had circled for landing on an emergency navy field at Del Mar. Keep Minard's in the home.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE TAX ROBBER

Sir.—"Robbing Peter to pay Paul" was once a matter for contempt. It is now developing into a public virtue. The scheme is to deprive the frugal earner of his property, to exploit it for those who never did a stroke to earn it. In the residential suburbs of Montreal, St. Laurent, and L'Assommoir, lots assessed at \$500 to \$800, bought in by the municipalities, because no one else could buy and pay the taxes, are now offered at public sale, to all comers, lots 50 x 100 feet, at \$1.00 per lot, to anyone building on them.

In Ville St. Pierre, all such lots are offered at \$25 on the same conditions. In Ville La Salle \$70 per lot is asked, but not many sales, while in the "classy Montreal West" none are sold so low as \$25. I have personal recollection of a property, lots assessed at \$11,000, in a Canadian city, which was sold and did not realize enough to pay the taxes for which it was sold.

These are only small samples of the death-dealing systems of exorbitant taxation, and in which this city and province is so surely and swiftly drifting. And the above give-away prices have the edges of a two-edged sword, in that for every \$1 lot sold, a government-financed building is placed, emptying some other person's property of a tenant, which in turn will be again sold and bought in for the taxes, and then handed out to another for from \$1 to \$70, to again create in the vicarious circle.

And those properties which are being sold, and many others which owners retain with difficulty, have been, and are being, taxed to the chafe of extinction, to supply the funds with which the city yields these implements of real estate death. There is talk of "Farm Rehabilitation" which (after next general election) will become a reality. Why not try a sound system of tenancy and property rehabilitation, a system by which, instead of public structures, the run-down, publicly ruined city houses may be transformed into suitable homes for those wanting a residence at the public expense? I am, Sir, etc.

LEWIS P. TANTON.

FARMERS' FRIENDS

Sir—I was much surprised to read an article by the National Anti-Steel Trap League of Wash. D.C., on the humble and much despised skunk. Now during the month of April when the skunks are emerging from their winter dens seems an opportune time to see what the Biologists' research at the University of Michigan reporting after examining stomach contents of 1700 skunks, found not a trace

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of game birds' eggs, and the finding is here given as follows: Insects ----- 87% Rodents ----- 10% Fruits ----- 17% Grain ----- 12% Birds ----- 2% In June beetles were the staple food during August and September. In summer, insects formed 80% of the skunks' diet, while in cold weather rodents were largely eaten. Among the grasshoppers was largely of the white grub, army worm and cut worm, as well as caterpillars and grasshoppers.

One farmer's bulletin claims that if left alone skunks will clean up the rats and mice around the farm, and advises farmers to leave them alone as they are the farmer's most valuable servant. To add our own word to this report, the survey we might say that we found here on this Island many of our most valuable servants are being very unjustly treated. We were much pleased such a fine body of young men and women who follow the teaching profession on P. E. I., moved from their homes to this report, the fact the writer has seen whole orchards almost ruined; and yet we would seek to take the life of the one bird who is helping us when we sleep at night, when our guard neither slumbers nor sleeps. During the day when the great owl is resting we have a wonderful ally in the marsh hawk and many others of his kind. We hope the farmers of our land will see the need of protecting these servants of ours, who work for us so cheaply, asking perhaps not more than one chicken or hen in the course of a year. Isn't that cheap wages? I am, Sir, etc.

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